



# Collie Just Transition News

Keeping you informed about Collie's future

Issue 4, June 2023

## Collie's Jobs and Skills Centre open for business

The new Jobs and Skills Centre is now officially open in the heart of the community!

Based on Forrest Street, the new centre is a one-stop shop for free and practical career, training, and employment support for transitioning workers, the community, and small businesses in Collie.



Manager Natalie Cook with the Minister for Training Simone McGurk MLA, Former Premier Mark McGowan MLA, Local Member for Collie-Preston Jodie Hanns and Minister for Regional Development Don Punch MLA at the opening of the Jobs and Skills Centre

The team will offer services and advice on building resumes, upskilling, retraining for new careers, and much more. The Centre will also be home to South Regional TAFE's Training Transition Team, who will provide free skills assessments and training plans for local workers that will be directly impacted in the coming years.

If you're a local business, you can also find specialist support for your training needs, address skills gaps and identify training solutions, and work with the centre to help recognise future opportunities to upskill workers.



Be sure to listen to the Centre Manager Nat Cook unpack all the opportunities available in the newest episode of the **Collie Just Transition Podcast** - available for streaming now!

The opening of the centre is part of the wider WA Government's initiative to help provide opportunities for workers and the community in Collie and ensure there continues to be well-paid, local, jobs in the region.



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## COLLIE'S NEW INDUSTRIES

### Paving the way in sustainable manufacturing

Collie's industrial transition is powering ahead, with Magnium Australia announcing plans to build a pilot plant to produce high-purity magnesium metal in Collie.

Once operational, the plant will use new, CSIRO-developed technology, with jobs offering workers a rare opportunity to gain exposure to next-generation technologies and skills that are set to pave the way in sustainable manufacturing in Australia.

Commencing construction later this year, the pilot plant is a major stepping-stone in Magnium's aspiration to bring a proposed net-zero magnesium refinery to the region. If developed to full scale, the refinery could offer up to 350 permanent jobs in town.

The WA Government has awarded a \$5 million grant towards Magnium's \$18 million pilot plant, the first project to receive funding from the Collie Industrial Transition Fund. Magnium's pilot plant has also secured \$6.25 million in funding as part of the Federal Government's Critical Minerals Development Program.



Magnium CEO Shilow Shaffier presents plans to the Former Premier, Local Member, and Minister for Regional Development in Collie's Light Industrial Area.

## Turning waste into fuel

The construction of Collie's \$10.4m Collie Resource Recovery Centre is now complete and a next-generation solution to waste management will be demonstrated in Collie, which will see household rubbish and biomass turned into industrial and energy inputs instead of ending up in landfill.

Using WA-built technology, the plant has a potential to revolutionise the way waste is managed across the State and beyond, placing Collie at the forefront of the negative-emission bio-based economy. With the facility creating up to 12 jobs, Renergi completed construction on the project in partnership with the Shire of Collie, with support from the WA and Commonwealth Governments.



*Opening of Renergi's Collie Resource Recovery Centre.*

## Australia's first Green Steel Mill

Another game-changing industry is ready to call Collie home, with Green Steel of WA looking to establish its proposed Green Steel Recycling Mill in the region.

The sustainably operated steel mill would see WA scrap steel used to produce green steel reinforcing bars for wide-scale consumption and export. Featuring the latest technologies and powered by renewable energy, the plant is set to be Australia's most efficient and environmentally friendly steel mill.

The WA Government will provide \$2.7m to support Green Steel to move ahead with their bankable feasibility study, which would determine the best way forward in bringing Collie's steel mill to life.

## Beefing up Collie's Jerky industry

Collie's Gibson Country Style Jerky will be taking growth plans to the next level with an increase in production capacity, helping the small family-owned business to meet demand for its tasty beef jerky products and open wholesale opportunities.

Owner Michelle is thrilled to have the opportunity to expand after starting the business from home and is confident the increase in production will lead to continued growth in the future. The WA Government awarded a small grant to the business, as part of an initiative that supports local-level projects that help secure a bright future for Collie.



*Owner Michelle (left) and staff at Gibson Country Style Jerky*



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE REGION

### New Wellington Dam walkway celebrated by visitors

A brand-new walkway above Collie's iconic Wellington Dam mural is now open to the public!

The walkway, which runs along the top of the 367-metre dam wall, offers walkers a unique view of Guido van Helten's huge 'Reflections' mural, and was available to explore just in time for the Easter long weekend. The town saw an influx of visitors after the opening, clocking a whopping 5,600 visits to the National Park across school holidays alone!

The WA Government is pleased to see the opening of the walkway, which formed part of the \$10 million Collie Adventure Trails initiative, designed to establish Collie as a premier trail and adventure destination, creating new local jobs and boosting the local economy.

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