

TOWNSVILLE

Iplex reopens Townsville pipe plant, Adani one of first customers

Pipe maker Iplex has restarted manufacturing polyethylene pipe in Townsville, creating more than a dozen jobs, with one of its first clients being Adani's Carmichael coal mine.

TONY RAGGATT, Townsville Bulletin

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PIPE maker Iplex has restarted manufacturing polyethylene pipe in Townsville, creating 14 jobs, with one of its first clients being Adani's Carmichael coal mine.

Iplex is a supplier of Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) pipe being manufactured in Adelaide for the city's new Houghton water supply pipeline.

But it is also reopening a polyethylene (PE) manufacturing plant in the Bohle which was closed three years ago because of reduced demand.

Iplex Pipelines general manager Nicole Sumich said the company was now seeing demand return including, but not limited to, Adani.

“With the recent Adani approval, it has also meant that we have been able to respond to a tender to produce 100km of PE pipeline, most of which will be produced at this Bohle plant, further demonstrating our commitment to North Queensland,” Ms Sumich said.

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The plant employs 20 people, including 14 because manufacturing has restarted.

Ms Sumich said four more jobs would be added when a second production line was opened.



Mayor Jenny Hill with Iplex Pipeline general manager Nicole Sumich and Townsville operations manager David Morrissey at the company's reopened pipe plant in the Bohle.

“We are seeing plenty of green shoots and Adani is only one of them,” Ms Sumich said. “This pipeline project with council came at just the time (when) we were starting to see green shoots and some increased momentum in the area.”

Ms Sumich said they were “100 per cent” ready to supply more GRP pipe should funding for a second stage of the Townsville water pipeline be confirmed by the Federal Government.

Mayor Jenny Hill toured the plant yesterday, praising Iplex for keeping to a commitment to reopen the facility.

Iplex had also opened another site nearby where fittings for the Haughton pipeline were made, she said.

“These (polyethylene) pipes will be made right here in Townsville and can be used in building and infrastructure projects right across the country,” Cr Hill said.

“Council is committed to delivering crucial infrastructure projects that create local jobs and boost our economy.”

The council is awaiting a decision by the Federal Government on whether it will fund the second stage of the Haughton project.

Cr Hill defended a council decision to proceed with pumps and associated work for stage one but which might not be needed if stage two proceeds.

She said the council could not afford to stop planning for Haughton stage one.

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