



Mine delivers message of hope

After many years of poor returns from farming and grazing, Linc Energy has offered the district a glimmer of hope.

Last week almost 200 people attended an information session conducted by the Brisbane-based company, which recently announced the discovery of a significant coal deposit following exploration drilling on the Walloway Plain about six kilometres north of Orroroo.

Linc Energy chief operating officer Stephen Dumble chaired the session and explained that the relatively small ASX-listed 13-year-old company is new to South Australia and the northern agricultural area in particular.

Mr Dumble said that he and his team - Matt Buchanan, Nick Cox, Lorri Teepa, Simon Gossman and David Carroll - had flown down from Brisbane earlier in the day and were in town to inform interested locals about the company, its vision, its technology and proposed plans for the Walloway area.

The informative presentation covered Linc Energy's vision to provide cleaner energy, Underground Coal Gasification (UCG), Linc Energy's Chinchilla demonstration facility in Queensland and the company's approach to the community and the environment.

Mr Dumble said that the recent announcement that the Walloway Basin project has the potential to be a world scale coal project (1.3 billion tonnes) and is able to support 500MW of high efficiency 'syngas'-generated power and produce 20,000 barrels of ultra clean synthetic fuel per day has

the company very excited.

He added that this excitement has rubbed off on the Orroroo and district population too.

Mr Dumble said that in the past he had been involved in large -scale operations, some of which were seen to be in competition with existing local industries, but not at Orroroo.

He added that it was refreshing to have the support of the State and Local Government (Orroroo Carrieton Council) and said how good it was to walk around town and get positive feedback about the planned project.

Linc Energy has already acquired some land in the Walloway area and are interested in purchasing more if a further 30 exploration wells at 12 sites further west of the original five, planned for early next year, locates more coal seams.

Whilst he valued this support and encouragement, Mr Dumble advised locals to be patient, as the project has a long way to go yet, but a pilot plant transforming brown coal into power generating gas could be up and running within 12 months.

With the world screaming out for a new cleaner form of energy, Mr Dumble believes that UCG will be the new source of world energy and admitted that in this era of climate change, this was a "big statement."

Currently coal, which today is often seen as a dirty word, exceeds 80 per cent of the world reserves of hydrocarbon fuel and is one of main sources of thermal and electric energy in many countries, including Australia.

Mr Dumble pointed out that the mineless method of underground gasification or UCG is most ad-

vanced and a safe method of extraction.

UCG has a number of advantages over coal extraction from pits and open cut mining and Linc Energy's Matt Buchanan highlighted the environmental advantages, particularly the fact that it is not visually intrusive, as basically UCG consists of "a pipe in for air and another pipe out for gas."

Coal transportation, loading and unloading are excluded and no fuel is lost in transportation to the user and the atmosphere is not polluted with coal dust.

The Orroroo site has the potential to be Linc Energy's first commercial UCG site in the world.

Following the information session a number of questions from the floor raised a number of issues including concerns about the local water table, seismic activity in the area, dust on the Johnburgh Road and where the electricity from the pilot plant would be used.

Chairman of the Orroroo Carrieton Council, Mrs Kathie Bowman said that she was optimistic about the project, particularly as the local area could no longer rely solely on primary production for the population to grow and prosper.

Mrs Bowman was realistic however in accepting that Linc Energy had not promised the earth, but that she was prepared to wait and see.

Overall, the feeling of the session was very optimistic with Linc Energy already investing in the well being of the area by agreeing to be a gold sponsor at the forthcoming Carrieton Rodeo.



Linc Energy's Matt Buchanan with Rob Gibb, acting CEO of Northern Regional Development Board, and his wife Carol at the Orroroo Football Club on Tuesday evening.



Port Augusta-based economic development officer and SA Country Labor candidate for Stuart Sean Holden (left), Linc Energy's Stephen Dumble, Orroroo/Port Augusta businessman Tim Froling and South Australia Works regional co-ordinator Renee Castrillon, of Port Augusta, at Linc Energy's Orroroo Information Session last week.