
NEWS

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SA's "DEFENCE HUB" ECONOMIC BOOM TO BENEFIT FROM NEW CONCRETE PLANT

The forecast multi-billion dollar economic boom on Le Fevre Peninsula – the hub of the \$6 billion Air Warfare Destroyer contract - took another step forward today with the official opening of a concrete batching plant at Osborne.

The new plant - owned by Readymix - is the only plant of its kind on the entire Le Fevre Peninsula, in Adelaide's north-west.

Located at the Osborne headquarters of Penrice Soda Holdings, the new facility will provide significant benefits to the many businesses expected to be part of the region's development boom over the next decade.

Developers and construction companies on the Peninsula will benefit from quicker access to concrete supplies for major construction projects.

The plant was officially opened today by South Australia's Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry and Trade, and local MP, Mr Kevin Foley.

"Today represents a significant milestone in the continued growth of our Company," Penrice Holdings Chief Executive Officer, Mr Guy Roberts, said.

"Penrice has shown a strong emphasis on growth into new areas, in co-operation with other industries, that benefit the South Australian economy, and our stakeholders," he said.

"This plant will provide concrete requirements for the many projects and housing developments that will be part of the anticipated economic boom of the greater Le Fevre Peninsula and its surrounds.

"We are very pleased that through the co-operation of industry, and with the foresight of the State Government's initiatives – especially in the defence precinct – we can play another new role in the development of this region."

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The concrete batching plant took two years to plan and develop, and has created five full-time jobs.

Mr Roberts said Penrice - as well as being a major chemical plant company - also operates a major limestone mine at Angaston, in the Barossa Valley, which produces more than one million tonnes per annum of limestone products for a large variety of uses including cement production, as well as about 500,000tpa for its own needs.

Aggregate produced from its mining operations will be used at the new Osborne concrete batching plant.

Readymix is already a major supplier of concrete to significant projects in the region and throughout the State, including the state-of-the-art Port River Expressway, the new Adelaide Airport, several wind farms, and the mining industry at Roxby Downs and Whyalla.

The new batching plant is the second major development at Penrice's Osborne site in recent times, following the construction of a reverse osmosis water treatment plant by Osmoflo for Penrice.

The new treatment plant has significantly cut the Company's high reliance on Adelaide's normal water supplies – from formerly the second largest user in the entire State to seventh - by utilising the region's strong supply of bore water. This is a reduction of 1095 ML per annum equivalent to 9000 households' annual usage.

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