



Chris Oughton, Director KIC

So much to do, so little time....

Well the new decade has brought a great deal of activity and interest in the industrial area. There's lots going on, and I wanted to share some brief snippets with you.

- **Lithium value chain conference.** Yet another lithium industry international conference came to Perth this month. KIC was invited to give a presentation on industrial symbiosis – dimensions and value. The presentation is available on our LinkedIn site. In the presentation I explain the four types of industrial symbiosis – product/by-product exchange, the skilled workforce synergy, the secondary industry synergy, and the governance synergy. A good read, I'm told.

- **Lithium battery cell.** Recently I posted on LinkedIn about about the possibility of a battery cell manufacturer coming to the Rockingham Industry Zone. If this region does end up hosting this new manufacturing facility, it will be the icing on the cake for the lithium industry value chain (mine site to battery export). Its mere presence will be the catalyst to fill out the value chain. This equals new jobs for the region!

- **The Port decision is coming.** Won't be long now folks. The Westport team has finished its work and is finalising its report. Minister MacTiernan is scheduled to make her announcement about the preferred option and according to the Westport

newsletter (The Beacon #7), it's all pointing toward the land-backed port located between Kwinana Bulk Terminal (KBT) northwards up towards the Alcoa Jetty. The great thing about the Westport process is that it has been very thoroughly, consultatively and objectively carried out.

- **Gender diversity in industry.** The first intake of our all-female program, KIC Introduction to Careers in Industry (Cert II in Engineering) kicked off this year for Year 11 students from within the 17 high schools partnering with KIC. The girls have been allocated a mentor from the industries that will host them for their work experience until the end of their Year 12. We hope that by running this new course each year we'll see the numbers of young females entering the industrial workforce steadily increase faster than it is doing now.

- **Industrial land availability.** Who thinks the Rockingham Industry Zone (RIZ) has a long way to go before it's filled up with industry? The RIZ lies north of Ennis Ave, from the coast across to Old Mandurah Road, and north to Office road. It looks empty, but did you know that it is well on the way to being fully allocated to new industry entrants. Many of these new companies are a part of the lithium industry value chain, not all, but most. There are



no large industrial lots available in the Kwinana Industrial Area now, so in essence if we aren't bringing on new industrial land in the very near future, we'll run out. That means we will have to turn new companies away. Who would have thought we could be in this position only three years ago?

- **Wind turbines, solar farm.** It's interesting that there is a solar array and two wind turbine proponents looking at the

industrial area for sites to build their renewable energy farms. I am in contact with each and am giving whatever assistance I can to helping to facilitate their entry. It's very early stages yet but I'm hopeful that in the future we'll see the industrial area's net carbon emissions reduce as a result of these sorts of initiatives. Personally, I think this is a very good thing.

- **Hydrogen.** As a source of fuel energy, liquid hydrogen gas could

become a reality if an idea for a proposed manufacturing facility in the industrial area gets 'up a head of steam'. The gas is made when water is split into hydrogen and oxygen. The process needs a lot of electricity to make the split, but maybe if there was a solar array and a wind turbine farm nearby to tap into for renewable energy, it might all come together. How good would that be! I might just know a bloke...

50 years of nickel



In September this year, BHP Nickel West's Kwinana Nickel Refinery will celebrate 50 years of producing nickel metal in the form of high purity briquettes and powder.

Nickel was first discovered in the Goldfields in the mid-1960s. Western Mining Corporation quickly developed nickel mines and built a small nickel concentrator at Kambalda in 1967.

The Kalgoorlie Nickel Smelter was opened in 1968 to process nickel concentrate to nickel matte at around 68 per cent nickel grade.

Construction of the Kwinana Nickel Refinery began in June 1968 and the first nickel

metal was produced in May 1970, with the first nickel briquettes dispatched on 29 May 1970.

The plant was officially opened in September 1970. The refinery cost A\$36 million to build – a substantial sum at that time.

The nickel briquettes and powder produced at the Kwinana Nickel Refinery are 99.8 per cent nickel grade.

Nickel is a key ingredient in the lithium-ion batteries that power electric cars around the world, driving a surge in demand for high quality nickel.

Nickel West now sells more than 75 per cent of its nickel metal to the battery material market.



The Kwinana Nickel Refinery's 50-year milestone will be recognised with a community event.

Watch this space for more information!