

NEWS

Premier indicates support for KCA plans

By Caroline Hammat

During a tour of Kimberly-Clark Australia (KCA) Millicent Mill last Thursday Premier Peter Malinauskas was shown how investment in technology is improving productivity at the site.

Speaking to the South Eastern Times following the tour Premier Malinauskas was asked about the importance of KCA to the economy.

“Obviously it is a major employer here within the Limestone Coast but more than that it is a significant contributor to the supply chain both for consumers and also for people who produce goods that KCA require,” Mr Malinauskas.

“This is a good employer, they pay good wages, they make a very significant economic contribution to the region and to the State.

“It’s a demonstration how investment in technology can improve labour productivity which benefits the economy at large.”

During the tour mill manager Adam Carpenter briefed the Premier on the proposal to build a new \$70m hydrogen plant at the Millicent site in partnership with Adelaide based diversified renewable energy company entX (formerly known as PhosEnergy).

“The visit by the Premier and Deputy Premier gave us a great opportunity to share with them our current operations, challenges and our future vision for sustainability,” Mr Carpenter said.

“These were very well received by the Premier and his team and we will continue to work with them on how government can support our Millicent Mill operations into the future.”

Premier Malinauskas responded positively to the briefing saying: “What KCA understand, is what the government knows and that is that hydrogen represents a massive opportunity for industrialisation in our state.

“We’ve got a \$596 million dollar commitment that we are making to hydrogen oppor-

tunity in South Australia and we will actively pursue opportunities with the private sector to help facilitate their investments.

“We applaud them on their examination of how hydrogen can help fuel growth at this site, and reduce costs for the business and also make a positive contribution to the environment.

“It’s the exact sort of innovation that our investment is trying to spur on.”

KCA uses about 5.5 terajoules of energy daily and annually this is around two thirds of the South East’s total gas consumption.

This consumption makes KCA one of the three largest energy consumers in South Australia.

Reducing this reliance on natural gas through the proposed hydrogen plant would initially see the mill reduce its consumption by 10 per cent and assist their aim to achieve a carbon neutral status by 2030.



Site tour success: Deputy Premier and Environment Minister Susan Close, Millicent Mill Manager Adam Carpenter, Premier Peter Malinauskas, and KCA Managing Director Belinda Driscoll following the successful Millicent Mill tour last Thursday.