



# Collie Just Transition News

Keeping you informed about Collie's future

Issue 9, July 2024

## Funding boost for graphite processing plant in Collie



Above: International Graphite pilot plant in Collie's Light Industrial Area

International Graphite continues to push ahead with plans to establish in town, with \$6.5 million in new funding from the WA Government to support the next phase of the company's proposed graphite micronising processing facility in Collie.

With International Graphite beginning production at its pilot plant less than 6 months ago, the new funding marks a significant leap forward in the company's journey toward scaling up to full commercial production.

\$4.5 million of this new funding will help support the development of a commercial scale micronising plant, which will enable local production capacity to be boosted from 200 tonnes to 4000 tonnes per annum and secure another 20 new full-time jobs for Collie workers.

Graphite is an essential material for producing anode materials, which are used in lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles and large-scale energy storage facilities.

The remaining \$2 million of the new funding will support International Graphite move forward with a feasibility study to determine the best way forward in bringing a purpose-built battery anode material (BAM) facility to Collie. The proposed facility, which has the potential to offer strong downstream processing opportunities, would see WA become home to the first fully integrated battery anode graphite processing facility.

With global demand for battery materials continuing to increase, the two projects have the potential to create a long-term pipeline of industrial jobs in town, and place Collie at the front centre of WA's wider plan to become a global clean energy powerhouse.

Scan using your smart phone's camera to stay up-to-date!



## Local worker builds on pathway to transition

Collie local and small business owner Adrian Taylor is building on his pathway to transition by continuing to soar to new heights with a new family business venture.

Adrian, who currently works full-time at one of Collie's coal-fired power stations, explored the opportunities and resources available to him in the earlier stages of the transition to adapt his career pathway to Collie's evolving future, to help secure a strong future away from coal.

Sharing his story on the latest episode of the Collie Just Transition Podcast, Adrian blended his love for drone technologies with an identified gap in the Collie market for industrial aerial services, helping his personal transition journey to take flight. Navigating the process behind retraining and upskilling, Adrian had the support of both his employer and other resources available to help equip him with the tools and knowledge for the industry he chose to move into. Only 18 months on, Drone Elevation continues to go from strength to strength, and was recently awarded a funding boost from the WA Government's Collie Futures Small Grant Program.

Speaking openly about the achievements and challenges of his own transition journey to date, Adrian's chat with Podcast host John Kearney covers some local resources that helped along the way and offers words of advice for other workers looking to retrain or upskill as part of their own transition.

Be sure to scan the QR code to hear Adrian's journey on the latest episode of the Collie Just Transition Podcast.



Below: Adrian and Sharen Taylor, owners of Collie local business Drone Elevation.



## Synergy hosts battery jobs fair

With developments underway on the Synergy Collie Battery Energy Storage System (CBESS), a local jobs fair and information session was recently held in town to offer more information on the upcoming opportunities to come out of the project.

With the CBESS project set to become one of the largest grid-scale batteries in Australia, locals were given the chance to speak directly with representatives working to deliver the project and learn more about how Synergy is working to maximise opportunities for Collie workers during the construction stages and for when operations commence.

Local earthworks and rehabilitation specialists Cardinal Contractors were awarded the contract to complete site preparation and earthworks for the project, with Perth-based company SCEE Electrical contracted to undertake civil, electrical and major equipment installation works in the following months. This will include installing about 640 battery container units, 160 inverters and 220 kilometres of high-voltage cabling, as well as managing a laydown facility at the Port of Bunbury.

Estimated to be complete by 2025, the Synergy Collie battery will offer new levels of security to WA's main power system, with 500MW/2000 megawatt hour capacity across approximately 640 batteries. Considered one of WA's most significant renewable energy infrastructure projects and one of the largest batteries in Australia, the battery will help improve the security of the grid and secure Collie its place the heart of WA's energy system well into the future.

Interested to learn more but couldn't make the event? Visit [synergy.net.au](http://synergy.net.au) and search 'Collie Battery'.

*Left to right: David Gray, Tara van Beuningen, Vanessa Glover, Natalie Cook, Grace Burnfield, Carol-Ann Bennard, John Kearney.*



**Acknowledgements:** Department of The Premier and Cabinet, Collie Delivery Unit is proud to develop this newsletter in collaboration with the Just Transition Working Group, South West Development Commission, Synergy, Tourism WA, Shire of Collie, International Graphite, Drone Elevation, and Commercial Dive Academy.

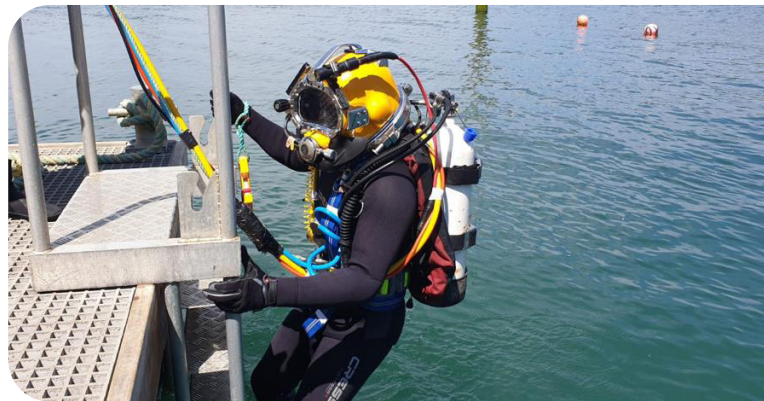


## Tassie tour to boost Collie offerings

In May, local representatives from the Shire of Collie and Adventure Connections had the opportunity to embark on a trails town tourism familiarisation trip to Tasmania, thanks to Tourism WA. This initiative offered the chance for Collie's tourism sector to see first-hand what it's taken for Tasmania to build a global reputation as an adventure-lover's playground.

With a focus on Tasmania's iconic mountain bike trails, a key component of the state's thriving tourism industry, Collie representatives were able to hear the experiences and learnings from the visionaries behind Tasmania's transformation to a top-tier tourism destination. The trip offered practical examples and strategies that Collie can adopt to enhance its reputation as a premier trail town, and an insight to developing a roadmap for continuing its growth and investment in tourism. The trip forms part of the ongoing local efforts to build on Collie's tourism offerings and help boost the town's status as a must-see adventure destination in WA.

*Above: Tasmania famil attendees, hosted by Tourism WA. Below: Commercial Dive Academy, Tasmania.*



## Dive School puts Collie on the map

The Commercial Dive Academy, expanding from Tasmania, will establish a permanent facility in Collie to cater for the national demand for occupational diving training and help further diversify the town's economy.

The facility will bring students from around the country to Collie to earn diving certifications and build careers in scientific research, aquaculture, as well as underwater construction, and inspection. Training will include practical sessions at Lake Kepwari, equipment familiarisation, and classroom-based theory lessons. The project, made possible by a \$572,000 grant from the WA Government, will put Collie on the map and create local jobs, attract visitors, and provide significant benefits to local businesses.

