

HD Power giant up for grabs **Sale** of key asset no surprise to region

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Government looking for buyers with a cool \$1.3 **b**

THE State Government has slapped a “for **sale**” sign on one of the **Chinchilla** region’s biggest assets — CS **Energy**’s Kogan Creek Power Station.

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The plan was made public on Tuesday as part of the government’s tough budget, but insiders say the move had been coming for some time.

One senior employee at the Kogan Creek site, who spoke to **Chinchilla** News on the condition of anonymity, said the news “didn’t come as a surprise”.

“We’ve been talking about it and expecting it for a couple of years,” the worker said.

“The **company** has been trying to position itself to be as competitive as possible.”

Between the **coal** mine and power station, the asset was worth an estimated \$1.3 **billion**.

Built in 2007, it is the newest **coal** fired generator in Australia and employs about 150 people – the majority of whom reside in **Chinchilla**.

“There will obviously be some trepidation in the workforce,” the worker said.

“Until you see a concrete plan in front of you there is always concern.

“But as far as job fears go, it’s a very low risk in my opinion.

“It doesn’t matter who owns us – people still need electricity.”

Chinchilla Community Commerce and Industry (CCCI) president Rob Hart said the **sale** of State Government assets was “inevitable”.

But he doubted a buyer would **purchase** the facility to shut it down.

“If it’s going to be sold I think it would be bought by someone who will run it and try make money out of it,” he said.

CS **Energy** chief executive officer Martin Moore said his management team was focused on running the business safely and efficiently to create value for its shareholders.

“And this will not change,” he said.

“Questions relating to the future ownership of CS **Energy** are matters for our owners, the Queensland Government to address.”

Member for Warrego Howard Hobbs moved to reassure workers, saying the **sale** could even work in their favour.

"I would think it would be sold as a working operation," he said. "Governments don't always run things to best practice so if it's sold, private enterprise might even find new opportunities."

Mr Hobbs said \$197 **million** for the Warrego Hwy was a major win for the region and also that he would approach the Department of Main Roads to investigate upgrades to the Wambo St rail crossing in **Chinchilla**.

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