



# We're making coal history

**The South Burnett could be home to the first underground coal gasification plant in the Western world with 73 million tons of coal deposits located 7 km south of Kingaroy.**

The technology has been utilised in Russia for four decades but Cougar Energy plans to put the region on the map with a plant in the future.

In mid-September the company began putting the coal-rich area under a site characterisation to find out the viability of constructing a full-scale plant.

The process involves drilling more than 200m underground and will ascertain the coal quality, coal seam depth and the inclination of the deposits.

A pilot plant is scheduled to begin operation in Winter of next year.

The test-run will allow Cougar to gather the needed data for the construction of a full-scale power plant.

Site manager Andrew Brown claims coal gasification technology has a number of advantages over conventional coal power stations.

"It has lower green-house gas emissions and there is minimal disturbance because the process happens underground," he said.

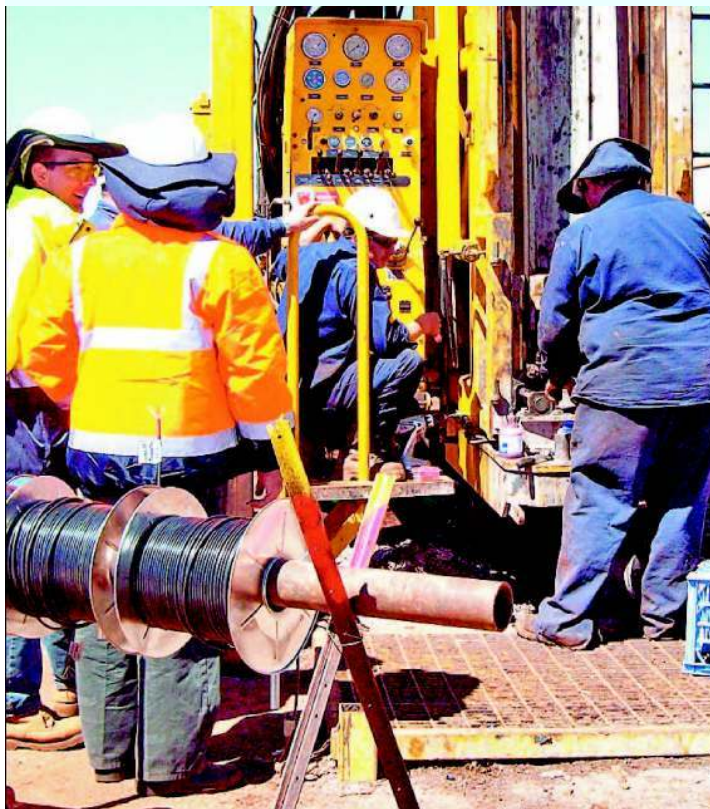
"Similarly the ash or waste from the process remains underground and does not have to be disposed."

Cougar is confident the pilot plant will prompt construction of Australia's first underground coal gasification plant.

"We would envisage establishing a full-scale operation in coming years," he said.



LEFT: The Goss Drilling team installed ground water monitoring equipment to asses water quantities at the site



Site manager Andrew Brown watches over a drilling crew at the Kingaroy site