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# Dragline project gets underway at Ensham

THE second biggest dragline in the world will be built right on our doorstep.

Ensham Resources will be procuring and constructing a Bucyrus 8750 dragline in an effort to reduce the production costs at the mine near Comet.

Weighing in at almost 7000 tonnes, this dragline will utilise a 110m<sup>3</sup> bucket.

The \$100 million contract with Bucyrus Australia was commenced in December 2004, with the dragline expected to be commissioned in the first quarter of 2007.

Work on preparing the site for construction started on June 15.

The Bucyrus 8750 will increase dragline stripping capacity by about 30 million bank cubic metres (BCM) per annum at about one-quarter of the unit cost currently spent using truck and shovel operations.

A key feature of the dragline project is the high local content involved in the steel fabrication and cast components - 85 per cent of which will be supplied and manufactured within Australia.

Ensham Resources general manager - projects Chris Greig said components would be procured from around the

world to assemble the dragline on site.

"It has a very high Australian content," he said.

Manufacture of the dragline is well underway and involves steel manufacturing, heavy engineering, fabrication and casting components produced in Adelaide, Newcastle, Albury, Mackay and Brisbane.

Other components are currently being manufactured in North America, Italy and Germany.

There will be a peak workforce of 90 people employed as part of the project, who will be accommodated in a temporary accommodation facility in Comet and will travel to and from the site by bus.

The accommodation facilities are being designed to offer workers a more homely environment with three man ensuited accommodation blocks, recreation facilities, gymnasium and attractive landscaped surrounds.

Mr Greig said Ensham Resources had been working with the local residents of Comet on a number of initiatives that would benefit the local community.