



# Villagegreen

WITH BRIAN WILLIAMS

## Queensland in pictures

MORE than half a football field long, the 53.3m boom of a giant coal stacker dominates the skyline at Xstrata Coal's Rolleston mine in the Bowen Basin, central Queensland.

Designed by consulting engineers Connell Hatch, the 150-tonne behemoth has just been commissioned and will handle output from the new eight-million-tonne-a-year mine.

Coal is mined, crushed to 50mm or less, screened and washed before being stacked in 20m high stockpiles ready for rail transport to Gladstone for export and domestic use.

Apart from its impact on the skyline, the stacker is also making a statement about Australian engineering and design.

Twenty to 30 of these machines are used in mines around the country, and virtually all are manufactured in Asia or Europe.

Built in Brisbane by construction and engineering company Monadelphous and assembled on site, the stacker proved 20 to 25 per cent cheaper than if bought offshore.

Monadelphous spokesman Dave Mutch was coy about prices, but said local design and construction expertise was a better alternative to the imported product.

Connell Hatch electrical engineer Gerry Randell said the machine was almost completely automated and ran with a single operator.

Mr Randell was part of the small design team that included Hugh McKay, Jim Durack and Paul McIlvenna.

Connell Hatch spokesman Leon Carter said his company was one of few Australia-based consultants able to offer in-house design for such a structure.

"The stacker looks sensational and the design team deserves to be congratulated," Mr Carter said.

The stacker uses 300kW of power and is essentially a giant auger or distributor of the mined product.



HUGE against the hues of the evening sky ... the 53.3m boom of a giant coal stacker dominates the landscape like a giant sci-fi monster at Xstrata Coal's Rolleston mine in the Bowen Basin.

Picture: Monadelphous