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Major investment secures beverage manufacturing in South-East Queensland

A \$55 million investment in an upgraded manufacturing site outside Ipswich will secure Asahi Beverages as a major manufacturing presence in South-East Queensland for the long-term. It brings Asahi's investment in the beverages plant to around \$100 million in the past five years.

The Asahi plant in Wulkuraka will now produce 300 million litres of non-alcoholic beverages each year.

Some of Queensland's best-loved drinks including Schweppes, Solo and Pepsi Max are already made at the site. The new upgrade means other leading beverages will be produced there too including Cool Ridge water, Lipton Iced Tea and Pop Tops juice.

The upgraded plant was officially opened today by Mr Atsushi Katsuki, global President and CEO of Asahi Group Holdings, Mr Roland van Bommel, Chairman of Asahi Holdings Australia, and Mr Robert Iervasi, Asahi Beverages Group CEO.

Mr Iervasi, said:

"Our \$55 million investment has created a world-class Queensland manufacturing site. It has also nearly doubled the sites annual production capacity to 300m litres. It shows Asahi Beverages' confidence in the long-term future of manufacturing in Australia and in Queensland specifically.

"Perhaps the upgrade's most exciting part is the new hot-fill and blow-fill line, which will make Lipton Iced Tea and Pop Tops. The line's innovative design means these drinks will be made without preservatives and using bottles inflated on-site from small pieces of preformed plastic. These are more sustainable than pre-inflated bottles because many more can be delivered to site per truckload – significantly reducing truck trips and carbon emissions.

"This will help Asahi Beverages reach its [sustainability goal](#) of reducing Scope 3 carbon emissions across its entire supply chain by 30 per cent by 2030. Asahi Beverages will also reduce carbon emissions in its operations by 50% by 2025."

The upgrade includes two new bottling lines and a 39-metre-high warehouse from where drinks are transported across Australia. The facility will operate 24/7.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk welcomed the company's vote of confidence in Queensland.

"We are about promoting and providing good jobs, better services and the best lifestyle," the Premier said.

"This decision provides all of those things."

Mr Iervasi added: "This upgrade brings the number of quality full-time manufacturing jobs at Wulkuraka to around 130, with more than a dozen new full-time jobs created. Our investment at the site to around \$100 million in the past five years. In addition to new jobs within the facility, more than 170 jobs were created during construction with dozens of Queensland companies involved.

“We are unbelievably proud of this new facility, the many Asahi employees who made it happen and the jobs we provide in Wulkuraka and other parts of Queensland.”

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About Asahi Beverages

Asahi Beverages is Oceania's leading beverage company. We produce some of Australia's favourite alcohol and non-alcohol beverages – many with histories stretching back to the 19th century. We have an ambitious innovation and sustainability agenda and plan to keep producing the very best drinks for many years to come. With a multi-beverage portfolio that is unrivalled in Oceania, our beverages bring enjoyment and connection to everyday moments in life regardless of the occasion.

Asahi Beverages is comprised of three business divisions: Asahi Lifestyle Beverages (formerly Schweppes Australia), Carlton & United Breweries and Asahi Beverages New Zealand. Premium fresh coffee business Allpress Espresso is also part of Asahi Beverages.

It is also a member of Asahi Group Holdings, one of Japan's leading beverage companies.