

Randy Drake-Brockman of Seeley inspects a roof unit cover with ETSA's Bob Cooper.

Insulated plant nets cool savings for Seeley



Well-known South Australian manufacturer Seeley International Pty Ltd, a world leader in evaporative airconditioning under its Breezair, Braemar, Convair and Coolair brands, is reaping the benefits of an energy management strategy undertaken with the help of ETSA Power.

The project involved insulating the barrels on six large injection moulding machines, ranging in size from 400 to 850 tonnes.

Annual savings well exceeded the predictions made at the start of the project. Other benefits included greater safety and reduced start up time, as the outer layer of the insulation only reaches about 40 degrees, compared with a sizzling 200 degrees or more uninsulated.

According to Maintenance Coordinator at Seeley, Mr Randy Drake-Brockman, the results of the project were well above expectations. "We were confident the results would be good, due to the tests carried out by Insul-Vest, the supplier of the insulation, but we are very pleased with the extent of the savings," he said.

Seeley International was founded in South Australia 25 years ago and, in addition to its original site at St Mary's, now has plants at Lonsdale and Albury, New South Wales.

"We are a fast growing company with a world-wide market to supply, as well as keeping up with our national market here in Australia," Mr Drake-Brockman said. The company is quick to investigate new technologies which will help to produce a better and more costeffective product. Many of the large injection-moulded components are produced using state-of-the-art aluminium moulds, some of the most sophisticated in Australia.

"The heat transfer is much quicker with aluminium, so the plastic sets quicker, resulting in much improved economics and very high quality," Mr Drake-Brockman said. "We had the dies made here in South Australia."

The barrel insulation is only part of a total energy management strategy being implemented at Seeley International.

"We have been very happy with the advice and assistance from ETSA Power," Mr Drake-Brockman said.

If you would like advice on energy management strategies for your business, please call Tony Pfeiffer on (08) 404 5189.