



West Australian
Wednesday 23/02/2022

Page: 55
Section: General News
Region: Perth, AU
Circulation: 135996
Type: Capital City Daily
Size: 465.00 sq.cms.



slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip

Hub of the future



Smart green design in Kwinana for EcoGraf

KIM MACDONALD

Most processing plants comprise stick-built sheds in hot industrial zones, but EcoGraf's long-awaited hub breaks new green ground, much like its revolutionary technology.

Hunt Architects is finalising the design for the \$100 million hub in Kwinana, which includes laboratories, workshops and administration buildings, alongside the processing plant, in a semi-bush setting.

The company is renowned for pioneering new technology that avoids the use of hydrofluoric acid in producing battery-grade graphite.

EcoGraf called on the architects to produce a hub that reflected its green credentials, and which could showcase its "HF-free" battery anode material products for clients across the globe.

Steven Smyth, principal at Hunt Architects, said modules were used to cut down on waste, while sunlight and cross-ventilation guided the design of the buildings and placement of

windows.

"We have taken a modular format and tried to create buildings that have some merit as buildings, as opposed to just being sheds," he said. "The planning of the modules have been set up to create internal courtyards, which create greater access to daylight and also around natural cross-ventilation."

Mr Smyth said the hub would host clients from across the globe, who would visit to ensure its supply processes.

"We are delighted to be working with EcoGraf as it cements WA's strategic role in the world's clean-energy future, meeting demand for battery and critical minerals products," Mr Smyth said.

The WA Government has a Future Battery and Critical Minerals Industries strategy to guide the development of a sustainable sector.

"While lifting the aesthetic was a challenge given the modular technol-

ogy, we have delivered a bespoke architectural response that also pays respect to the context and character of the site," Mr Smyth said.

"Helping achieve this is the street presence, enhanced by a bespoke veil of perforated metal shrouding the buildings and unifying the individual modules into a cohesive whole."

The WA-based company recently announced it would enter a formal off-take agreement with South Korean steelmaker Posco.