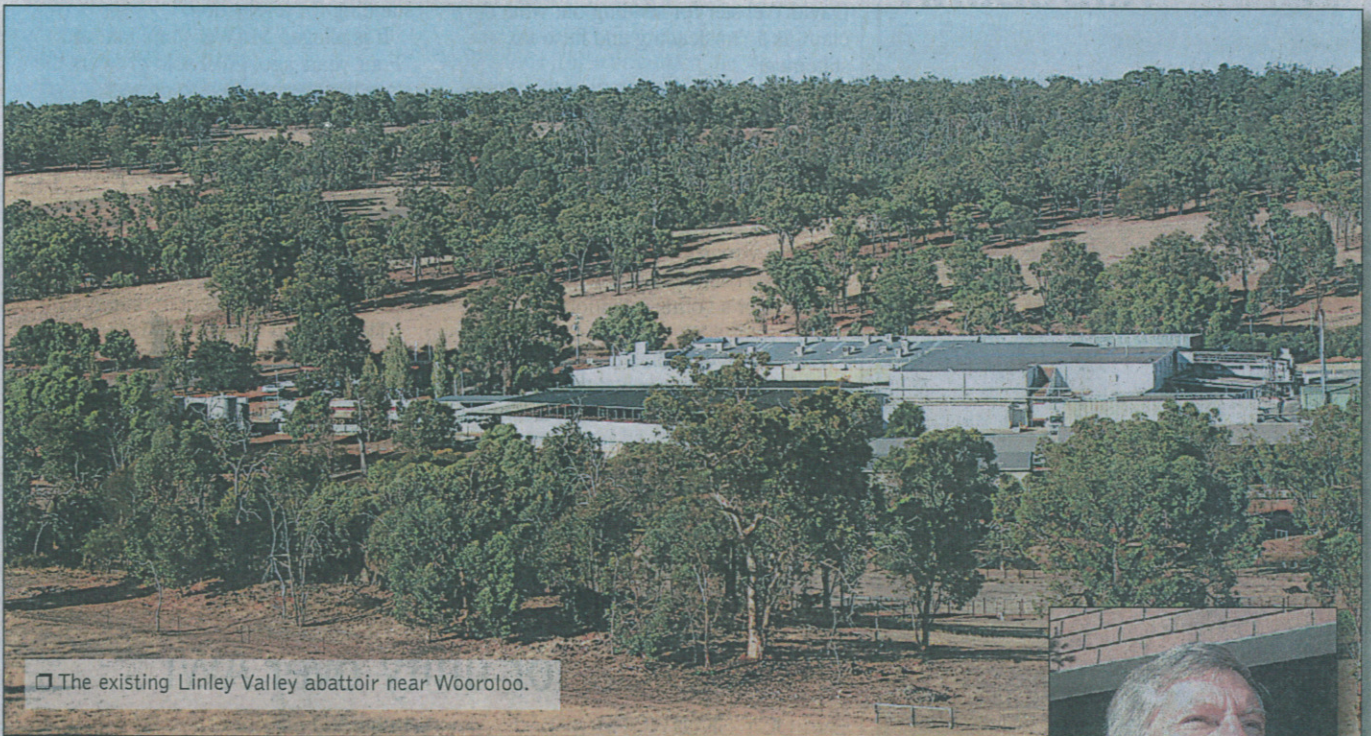


Green light for new abattoir



□ The existing Linley Valley abattoir near Wooroloo.

By LAURA LUDGATE

CONSTRUCTION of the first new abattoir to be built in WA for 35 years has been approved.

Craig Mostyn Group's (CMG) new beef and sheep abattoir near Wooroloo, east of Perth, will be operating by 2011 and is expected to generate 100 jobs.

CMG chief executive officer David Lock said like the company's existing pork plant at Wooroloo, the new facility will have state-of-the-art production equipment.

"The plans were approved some time ago and will adjoin the existing Linley Valley site," Mr Lock said.

"Assuming the Department of Environment gives the all clear, we will start construction in the next six months."

Mr Lock said CMG had been to New Zealand to look at sheep and beef processing plants.

"We have invited a NZ

manufacturing company to take care of the building," he said.

European and NZ technology will be used.

"It will be state of the art all the way through to the chiller," Mr Lock said.

"At this point we may also build a boning room, but we are still evaluating it."

CMG will not build a rendering plant.

Rendering will be outsourced to a Kalamunda facility.

The new abattoir will also be Halal-certified.

Mr Lock said it would be a challenge filling jobs created by the new plant.

"Recently, we bought George Weston Foods and were unable to attract workers from there," he said.

"We are anxiously awaiting the Government's re-evaluation of the 457 visa program."

Modelling for the new plant is based on replacing the old

and inefficient abattoirs in WA.

"We will service kill and the existing owners of those abattoirs will continue to market the product," Mr Lock said.

"It will help support sheep and beef producers across the state."

The Pastoralists and Graziers Association (PGA) has been in discussion with CMG about the proposed construction of abattoirs.

"It is really a case of whether the abattoir will be up to export standard," PGA meat committee chairman Tim D'Arcy said.

"If it is up to standard they can target the higher priced overseas markets."

Mr D'Arcy said the new facility would be good for WA.

"We will be very supportive and hopeful that an efficient plant will improve the price of beef which is particularly low in WA," he said.

"Any form of competition in



□ CMG chief executive officer David Lock.

the market will help prices."

WAFarmers also supports CMG's project.

"We will be supporting any group that builds a new abattoir," meat section president Jeff Murray said.

"It was a big loss when WAMMCO had to sell the Linley Valley plant.

"It was the only place in WA for cattle chains and works.

Mr Murray said WAFarmers was happy WA was on the threshold of having a new abattoir.

"It should increase the price of beef with a bit of luck," he said.