

Media Release

EMBARGO UNTIL 12.01am, Tuesday 4 December 2018

CHEERS TO LAST PRODUCTION LINE @ THEBARTON

AMATIL "HERE TO STAY IN SA" WITH 150+ LOCAL JOBS

Sixty-six years of Coca-Cola bottling at Thebarton will end today (Tuesday 4/12/18) with the last production run to come off the line at the iconic Amatil site in Port Road.

Cheered on by local employees the last batch of 1 litre bottles of Coca-Cola No Sugar rolled off the production line, marking the end of a manufacturing era which started with Coke's century old 'contour' bottle in 1952.

General Manager for Sales, Jarrad Mortimer said the company had been a big part of Adelaide history for the last six decades, and would retain a strong employment presence in the state.

"After 66 years and around 10 billion bottles produced, it's time for this plant to retire. But despite that, we're here to stay in SA," Mr Mortimer said.

"We're keeping a local team of more than 150 including in sales, distribution, warehousing, cold drink equipment and IT, plus Statewide Recycling.

"So we're proud to have been a big part of South Australia's history, and equally proud to be a big part of its future.

"To everyone who's worked at, or even visited the Thebarton plant, thanks for being on this journey with us, and we look forward to the next era for Coca-Cola Amatil in SA."

The Coca-Cola Amatil plant in Thebarton has been a major employer, and a popular location for school visits between 1955 and the mid-2000s. Originally on the outskirts of town, the Thebarton site has become increasingly constrained and was identified in 2017 as no longer suitable for modernisation.

Bottling at Thebarton has progressively been relocated to new or expanded Amatil facilities in Western Australia and Queensland. No Australian production will shift offshore.

Mr Mortimer said Amatil had also worked closely with all employees over the two year transition period, to help them find new work or be redeployed elsewhere.

"The wellbeing of our staff is our top priority, and most of those who've left have achieved their goals in employment, study or retirement," Mr Mortimer said.

“We’ve had good support from the South Australian Government through this process, including financial support through a co-payment to help staff transition to new jobs. That’s paid off with the solid rates of re-employment we’ve seen since February 2017. ”

Coca-Cola Amatil continues to manufacture beverages around Australia at Kewdale WA, Moorabbin Victoria, Northmead in New South Wales and Richlands Queensland.

Some equipment from Thebarton has been redeployed to other Amatil sites including the ‘blowfill’ line to Papua New Guinea. Other equipment has moved to Richlands which now supplies all glass bottled beverages for Australia. Thebarton’s alcohol tank farm will be relocated to Moorabbin Victoria next year.

Coca-Cola Amatil at Thebarton – historical points:

- Prior to 1952, SKF Bearings, Bushels Tea and Rofe & Co occupied the Thebarton site.
- The line running on Tuesday 4 December is a glass bottle filling line originally installed in 1972.
- From the mid 1950’s to the early 2000’s the majority of year 7 students in Adelaide visited for an educational tour.
- The Thebarton facility was once the sole bottler in Australia for Powerade, and for Jim Beam.
- At the time of closing, the longest serving manufacturing employee was Craig Bollenhagen who started on site fresh out of school on 5 December 5 1977. His father Ross also worked at Coca-Cola Amatil from when the site first opened in Adelaide. Between the two of them, they have been here from start to finish with a cumulative total of 76 years of service.
- The Adelaide Collector’s Club is one of the most active Coca-Cola Collector’s Clubs in Australia, meeting monthly.
- More than 580 million cases of drinks have been made at Thebarton since 1952, comprising around 6 billion litres of beverages.

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ABOUT COCA-COLA AMATIL

Coca-Cola Amatil is one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of ready-to-drink non-alcohol and alcohol beverages, coffee and ready-to-eat food snacks in the Asia Pacific region. Coca-Cola Amatil is also the authorised manufacturer and distributor of The Coca-Cola Company’s beverage brands in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Samoa. Coca-Cola Amatil directly employs around 14,000 people and indirectly creates thousands more jobs across the supply chain, partnering with key suppliers to manufacture, package, sell and distribute its products. With access to around 300 million potential consumers through more than 950,000 active customers Coca-Cola Amatil is committed to leading through innovation and building a sustainable future and delivering long-term value to shareholders. For more information, visit www.cccamatil.com