

Oswal fires up Burrup as gas flows

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Indian fertiliser tycoon Pankaj Oswal has begun restoring production at his Burrup Holdings ammonia plant near Karratha after the resumption of gas supplies, six months after the Varanus Island explosion forced the plant's shutdown.

A spokesman for Mr Oswal confirmed last night that Burrup had received "sufficient gas supply to resume minimum, safe production".

It is understood that Burrup is receiving about 65 terrajoules of gas a day but it remains unclear how long it will take for the plant to reach its 800,000 tonnes-a-year capacity.

Mr Oswal's family owns 65 per cent of Burrup and was forced to axe float plans earlier this year in part because of the sudden gas outage.

Norway's Yara International, which has been cutting output at its other fertiliser plants around the world because of dwindling prices, owns the remaining 35 per cent of Burrup and has a 20-year offtake agreement.

An Apache spokesman said an extra 70tj/day of gas production had been restored on Varanus Island yesterday, taking the plant's total output to 310tj/day. Varanus Island's capacity is 350tj/day.

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