

# \$15m ethanol project approved

## ▶▶▶ Sarina

THIRTY two million litres of fuel-grade ethanol a year will be produced at CSR's Sarina distillery following approval of a \$15 million project.

Upgrading of ethanol to fuel quality at Sarina will cut out re-processing at CSR's Melbourne

plant.

The new works will include installation of a molecular sieve, or dehydrator, and allow Sarina to produce 99.5% pure anhydrous ethanol (with .05% water), the quality needed for fuels, Robyn Wells, bio-still general manager said yesterday.

The project, awarded to Bilfinger Berger Services, one of

Australia's most respected process engineering, project management, construction contractors and maintenance services provider, will be completed in July.

The Sarina bio-still, which converts molasses to ethanol, currently produces 60 million litres a year.

As the Australian demand for fuel-grade ethanol grows, exports would contract, Ms Wells said.

She said the company would continue to produce other grade ethanol for markets such as confectionery, dyes and alcohol-based drinks.

The Sarina bio-still, owned by CSR since 1972, is one of the two largest producers of ethanol in Australia currently supplying over 160 petrol stations.

"This project significantly in-

creases our fuel ethanol production," CSR Ethanol general manager Gavin Hughes said.

"CSR sees itself as a major player in (fuel ethanol) and this project is the first stage in CSR's strategy to meet expected demand over the next 12 months.

"Additional projects to further expand capacity are under review," he said.