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Petro Diamond Australia held community information sessions in Whyalla recently. Pictured are Petro Diamond Australia director Shinya Shiotsuki, Jack Velthuizen and Petro Diamond Australia chief operating officer.

A Port Bonython fuel terminal project is on schedule to start site preliminary works by the end of the year in preparation for construction.

The \$110 million fuel terminal facility will be located 20 kilometres north of Whyalla, close to existing energy distribution facilities at Port Bonython.

The project, being undertaken by Petro Diamond Australia, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Corporation, will comprise of 2.5 kilometres of pipeline utilising the existing port structure and then have 2.7 kilometres of on land piping.

The pipes will be used to deliver fuel from three tanks with 81 million litres storage capacity.

While visiting Whyalla recently to tour the site with a contingent of Mitsubishi Corporation staff, Petro Diamond Australia chief operating officer Rick Conti said construction was close to beginning.

“We hope that construction will start towards the end of this year,” Mr Conti said.

Mr Conti said in the next few months, the company would be crossing the final ‘t’s and dotting the final ‘i’s as it finalised the technical design and developed construction tenders.

Construction is scheduled to take 20 months to complete with the anticipation of utilising local suppliers and the local workforce.

Mr Conti said during the construction phase, 130 to 150 jobs would be required at its peak.

“Wherever we can we’ll try to use local content,” Mr Conti said.

The project has been subject to a development application that extensively addressed environmental matters as well as state government environmental assessment.

Commercial operations would be expected to begin not long after construction is completed in the second quarter of 2016.

Daily operation of the terminal would require minimal staffing with six to eight people required for ship loading.