



Geelong can go thermal

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GEEELONG'S potential to be a green energy goldmine rests in the hands of the city's major industries.

Greenearth Energy managing director Mark Miller said the company was trying to get a share of the Federal Government's \$50 million put aside to help those wanting to drill for emission-free geothermal power.

He said Geelong, the Surf Coast and the Bellarine Peninsula had all been identified as potential hot spots.

"The potential here is significant." Mr Miller said.

"We are seeking to take advantage of the Federal Government fund so we can continue our investigative work.

"What we are trying to do is find a location close to major industries, the power grid and sizable communities."

Geothermal energy taps into natural underground hot water reservoirs and, unlike solar and wind power, it can be used 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Mr Miller said Greenearth Energy could receive up to \$7 million to test for the renewable energy but whatever the grant handout, it needed to be matched dollar for dollar by an industry partner.

"It's technically do-able and economically feasible because, unlike other areas, the Geelong region is not 500km from a power grid," he said.

"We drill (underground) between three to five kilometres, so it's a long and initially expensive process, but given the potential contribution it can make and being emission-free it's well worth it."

The State Government last year granted Greenearth Energy three permits covering 18,800 square kilometres to test for green power.

The permits stretch between the Latrobe Valley through to Lorne, taking in Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula.



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What a circus

STUDENTS watched in awe as scientists stood on light bulbs, threw slime and created explosions at Corio South Primary School this week. The scientists performing in the Shell Questacon Science Circus educated pupils on the science behind slime, bubbles and liquid nitrogen during a one-hour act. Mayor Bruce Harwood and Shell representatives joined in the engaging educational experience.