

Geelong community supports geothermal power project

Tue, November 17, 2009

Greenearth Energy's Geelong Geothermal Power Project has gained the support of local policy makers, industry and environment interest groups.

The project is targeting a Hot Sedimentary Aquifer (HSA) geothermal system, and is planned for development 9 km northwest of Anglesea, on the outskirts on the City of Greater Geelong.



Those who have indicated support of the power project include the Committee for Geelong, Federal Member for Corangamite Darren Cheeseman, the Geelong Manufacturing Council, environmental geoscientist and media consultant Rob Gell, and City of Greater Geelong Deputy Mayor Councillor Rod Macdonald.

Federal Member for Corangamite Darren Cheeseman said "There is absolutely no doubt that Australia must invest in alternative energy processes."

"One of the most promising base-load technologies is geothermal power, and there is clearly very significant potential for geothermal energy generation within the Otway Basin."

Environmental geoscientist and media consultant Rob Gell described the Power Project as "probably the most exciting renewable energy project in (Victoria)".

“This project should be supported as an energy design, generation and delivery breakthrough by governments, businesses and the community alike,” Mr Gell said.

Mark Miller, Managing Director of Greenerth Energy said that the company was delighted with the support from the Geelong community.

“The past twelve months have been a busy period for the company and we are encouraged and delighted by the way the Greater Geelong community has welcomed and supported us in our endeavours to see this project commence,” Mr Miller said.

The Geelong Geothermal Power Project involves the design, implementation and demonstration of an initial 12 MW geothermal power plant, using 180° Celsius fluid drawn from an HSA with an inferred geothermal resource of 17,000 PJ.

Mr Miller told delegates at the recent Australian Geothermal Energy Conference in Brisbane that the reservoir targeted for the project is more than capable of supporting 140 MW base load power plant for over 30 years of production (excluding geothermal field recharge).

The Weatherford 2,000HP 828 geothermal drilling rig has been secured for the project’s Stage 1 Proof of Concept drilling, with drilling to commence in August 2010.

Greenerth Energy has applied for second round funding for the Federal Government’s Geothermal Drilling Program, which is expected to be announced shortly. The company’s application to the Victorian State Government under the Energy Technology Innovation Strategy (ETIS) program for the demonstration stage of the Geelong Geothermal Power Project is currently undergoing a full assessment. ETIS grants are expected to be announced late 2009/early 2010.