



## Geothermal plant action time

FUNDING for research into the development of a geothermal power plant in the Latrobe Valley is needed.

Greenearth Energy Limited yesterday revealed underground heat flow in the region could run a renewable energy plant and said it was time to start lobbying for its development.

Greenearth Energy managing director Mark Miller said a collaborative approach was needed to push for funding to research the potential of a plant and ultimately for development.

The company has been testing 10 wells throughout the region and has recorded elevated heat flow.

A well at the Loy Yang

Power Station has recorded the most significant readings.

Mr Miller said further investigation was also needed to determine the area's ability to act as an onshore carbon dioxide storage site.

"The potential to generate emissions free baseload renewable electricity, heat for industrial processes as well as onshore CO<sub>2</sub> geosequestration at the point of generation represents a unique opportunity for the state that requires a collaborative approach to funding for research and ultimately development," Mr Miller said.

Geothermal power involves drilling and harnessing natural heat flows underneath the earth, turning it directly into

energy.

Temperatures recorded in the Latrobe Valley were about 150°C and only 90°C is required to run reliable baseload power from a geothermal generator.

"This modelling shows excellent temperatures at around 3km beneath the Latrobe Valley," Mr Miller said.

"Any porous sandy sediment at that depth in the Latrobe Valley area should exhibit sufficient permeability to yield adequate fluid flow for the generation of electricity utilising an Organic Rankine Cycle geothermal power plant. The Loy Yang two well has established high heat flows in the heart of the industrial power generation hub of Victoria."