



Geelong groups throw their support behind geothermal energy project near Anglesea, DENIS CRAVEN reports

# Leaders fly energy flag

GREENEARTH Energy's flagship geothermal project near Anglesea has received substantial support from Geelong leaders.

Greenearth Energy managing director Mark Miller said the company was encouraged by the way the greater Geelong community had supported the company's endeavours to get the project underway.

Letters of support from the Geelong Manufacturing Council, Committee For Geelong, MHR Darren Cheeseman, the City of Greater Geelong and environmental geoscientist Rob Gell were yesterday presented to the Australian Stock Exchange.

Mr Gell said the Geelong geothermal power project was probably the most exciting renewable energy project in Victoria.

"The potential to generate 140MW of green energy adjacent to major industrial energy demand sites represents a new design concept for

Victoria," he said.

The Greenearth project is focused on a hot sedimentary aquifer geothermal system development 9km northwest of Anglesea.

Mr Miller said the project had gained the support of local policy makers and industry and environment groups in the past 12 months.

Greenearth Energy was eagerly awaiting the outcome of two grant applications for the project, he said.

"The first one is from the Federal Government for \$7 million under the GDT program and that is for proof of concept drilling," Mr Miller said.

"That is for stage one of the project. We hope the decision on that application will be announced before the end of this year," he said.

The second grant application is for \$20 million under the State Government's ETIS program, which stands for Energy Technology Innovation Strategy.

"That grant is specifically for

demonstration plant for \$20 million. We understand the ETIS grants will be advised late 2009-early 2010," Mr Miller said.

The future of the project didn't hinge on either grant, he said.

"If both grants are successful, it would certainly help the project financially and it would potentially fast-track the project," he said.

Greenearth Energy was "certainly optimistic" in the long term the project would go ahead, Mr Miller said.

Greenearth Energy had paid a deposit to secure a drilling rig and had two slots set aside to begin drilling sometime during the second half of 2010, he said.

Geelong people had been fantastic in their support.

Geelong Manufacturing Council executive officer David Peart said it was imperative that a range of alternative energy sources were actively pursued.



EXCITED: Rob Gell says the Geelong geothermal power project is probably the most exciting renewable energy project in Victoria