

MEDIA RELEASE

Geothermal energy public information session in the Mildura region 19 March 2010

The State Government of Victoria, via the Department of Primary Industries has granted exploration permits to Earth Solar Power Pty Ltd to conduct test drills in the Millewa: Werrimull/Lake Cullulleraine area.

Geothermal energy is a green energy, and is produced from hot rocks and water reservoirs deep beneath the earth's surface, which may be used to produce electricity.

Further information about geothermal energy can be found at:

<http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/earth-resources/community-information/landholders-information/geothermal-energy-in-victoria---landholder-information>

Mildura Development Corporation's CEO, Anne Mansell, said, "We are delighted to have Earth Solar Power visit the Mildura region to explore the potential for geothermal energy".

"The Mildura region is becoming known as a place of future for renewable energy and the green economy", said Mrs Mansell.

Representatives from Earth Solar Power will be in Mildura and Lake Cullulleraine holding public information sessions on Thursday 25 March 2010:

2pm – 3pm, Mildura Development Corporation, 101 Lime Avenue, Mildura

3.30pm – 5.30pm, Lake Cullulleraine Recreation Reserve, Lake Cullulleraine

Please refer to DPI media release on the next page for further information.

END OF MEDIA RELEASE

For further information please contact the Mildura Development Corporation office.

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From the Minister for Energy & Resources
Peter Batchelor
Tuesday, 19 January 2010

Explorers to drill down into Victoria's surface

Twelve companies will share in \$700,000 Brumby Labor Government funding to assist them explore for new geothermal and mineral resources.

Energy and Resources Minister Peter Batchelor today announced the third round recipients of the Government's \$2.5 million Rediscover Victoria Drilling Project.

"We are standing up for Victorian jobs by driving investment in communities across Victoria and that's why we are supporting companies search for undiscovered resources below Victoria's surface," Mr Batchelor said.

"The grant recipients' exploration sites are spread across the state, from East Gippsland to northern and western Victoria."

Mr Batchelor said the grants would help industry search for a range of minerals, including gold, silver, copper, and nickel, as well as geothermal resources.

"This round is the first time Rediscover Victoria drilling grants have been offered to geothermal companies," he said.

"Geothermal energy is a clean and green renewable energy source generated from naturally occurring heat from hot rocks deep beneath the earth's surface. It is one of the few renewable energy sources that has the potential to provide base-load power to the state's electricity grid and has the potential to create regional investment and new jobs.

"This funding round received the strongest level of industry interest to date, with a total of 44 applications received. We have more than doubled the number of grants offered this round compared to the initial round of grants in early 2008.


"This record level of interest is a vote of confidence in Victoria as a successful investment destination with a wealth of untapped resources."

Mr Batchelor said there had already been promising results from the previous two rounds of grants announced since February 2008, such as BCD Metals' copper find near Hamilton.

"We know the exploration phase often holds the most risk for resource exploration companies. These grants encourage drilling in areas where little exploration has occurred," he said.

"Information generated during the exploration activities will also contribute to the development of a state-of-the-art 3D geological model of Victoria.

"The earth resources industry is vital to the Victorian economy, contributing more than \$5 billion each year. A robust industry will not only boost Victoria's economy but will also increase employment opportunities, particularly in regional Victoria."

 [Download a brief audio clip 237.38 Kb](#)

A list of grant recipients is attached

Company name	Grant	Search location	Prospect
Torrens Energy	\$100,000	North of Lilydale	Geothermal
Granite Power	\$32,500	Tynong (north-west Gippsland)	Geothermal
Earth Solar Power	\$60,000	Shepparton	Geothermal
Earth Solar Power	\$30,000	Wangaratta	Geothermal
Earth Solar Power	\$30,000	Mildura	Geothermal
Austpac Resources	\$14,000	15 km south of Horsham	Copper/gold
BCD Metals	\$66,000	10 km south of Ararat	Gold
Dart Mining	\$80,000	Corryong region, (North- East)	Molybdenum/copper/ silver

DMS	\$50,000	40 km north-east of Horsham	Gold
Goldsearch	\$80,000	Jamieson Valley (North-East)	Gold/silver/base metals
Mantle Mining Corp.	\$45,000	45 km north of Bairnsdale	Gold
Navarre Discovery No1	\$17,000	30 km west of Horsham	Copper/gold/nickel
Oscar Mining	\$24,250	Murray Basin, west of Echuca	Gold
Providence Gold and Minerals	\$70,000	Murray Basin, west of Echuca	Gold