

## \$70 Million To Boost Alternative Energy

**W**A Government-owned energy utility, Western Power, will spend up to \$70 million over the next 10 years acquiring renewable energy certificates from 'green energy' projects to help it slash greenhouse gas emissions by 80,000 tpa.

The certificates will be 'earned' by accredited renewable and alternative energy generators such as wind, solar, and biomass. WA Energy Minister Eric Ripper said about 90,000 renewable energy certificates a year were needed to help Western Power meet national targets for energy utilities to buy or earn their own certificates.

This was equivalent to between 10 MW and 30 MW of electricity each year - enough to power about 20,000 homes. "Western Power's own projects are unlikely to generate enough certificates to achieve the targets set by the Office of the Renewable Energy



*The Albany windfarm is the largest windfarm in the southern hemisphere and one of four in WA. The State Government is hoping to increase the use of renewable energy sources from 1% currently, to at least 5% by 2010. Picture courtesy: Western Power.*

Regulator, which will increase every year until 2010", Mr Ripper said.

He said only 1% of WA's energy generation was from renewable sources and the

Government wanted to see that figure increase five-fold by 2010. He said the investment would create an opportunity for the expanding WA renewable and alternative energy industry to develop new projects.