

## Sustainable Power Energising Remote Qld

Hydro, hi-tech solar and geothermal projects are helping to meet the challenge of providing sustainable power to remote and regional Queensland, according to Energy Minister John Mickel.

"Stanwell Corporation's Barron Gorge Hydro in far north Queensland is again generating clean, green electricity, with the recommissioning of its two generators following an upgrade programme to extend the life of the power station", Mickel said.

The \$28 million upgrade has extended the life of some major components of the facility for another 40 years and enables the power station to be operated remotely, if required.

Ergon Energy is investing \$2.5 million to trial innovative solar power technology at Windorah in southwest Queensland and is conducting a feasibility study into expanding and improving Australia's only geothermal power station at Birdsville.

"It's expected the Windorah solar farm project will involve five sun reflecting dishes concentrating sunlight onto a high capacity solar cell in front of each mirror", Mickel said. "The project aims to generate about 360,000 kW hrs of electricity a year by 2008, enough to provide all Windorah's daytime electricity needs."

The Birdsville geothermal power station uses hot water pumped from the Great Artesian Basin to supply about a quarter of Birdsville's energy needs. The Ergon Energy study is investigating expanding that to provide 100% of the town's power, eliminating the need for diesel or other fuel. ■

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