

80 MW Wind Farm To Power \$387 MM Desalination Plant, Claims Premier

Western Australia's second biggest wind farm, consisting of 48 turbines that can generate 80 MW of energy, 30 km from the coastal town of Cervantes has been opened by Premier Alan Carpenter.

In a possibly disingenuous bid to highlight the government's green credentials, Carpenter claims the \$180 million Emu Downs windfarm is set to power Perth's new \$387 million desalination plant, more than 200 km south at Kwinana, although project developers Griffin Energy and Stanwell Corporation say the electricity generated from the project "will be retailed to residential customers".

In any event, Carpenter said the wind farm was a significant step towards meeting the state government's 6% renewable energy target for WA's main electricity grid by 2010. "The Emu Downs wind farm will produce electricity equivalent to powering 50,000 homes and will reduce greenhouse emissions by about 220,000 t each year - the same as taking over 50,000 cars off the road", he said.

"As part of our Renewable Energy policy, we have set a renewable energy target of 6% in the South-West Interconnected System (SWIS), the State's main electricity grid, by 2010." Carpenter congratulated Griffin Energy and Stanwell Corporation on successfully commissioning the facility and delivering on



The Emu Downs windfarm, near Cervantes, can generate 80 MW of energy, enough to power 50,000 homes.

their commitment to use local labour and services where possible.

Meanwhile, three new cyclone-proof wind turbines will be built at Coral Bay, further north, costing \$9.6 million. Energy Minister

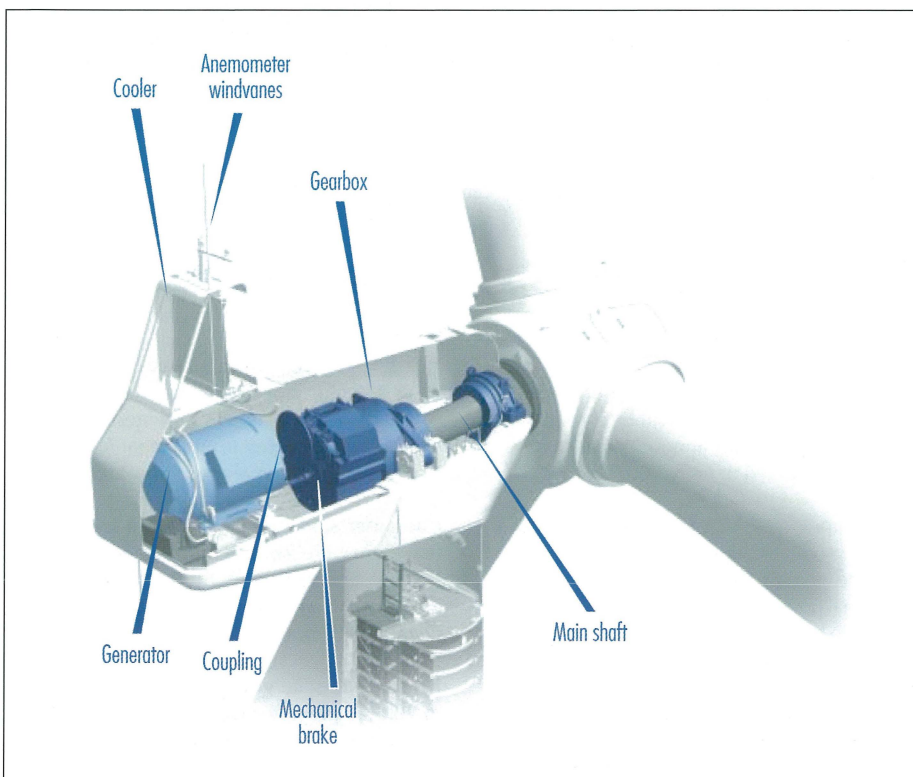
Francis Logan said the 275 kW turbines were expected to supply 40% of Coral Bay's energy needs by the end of 2007. Logan said the \$9.6 million wind-diesel project would involve new technologies developed in WA.

"The power system will use Verve Energy's technologically advanced control systems and low-load diesel generators which maximise the use of wind energy", he said. "It will also involve the use of wind turbines that can be lowered in the event of a cyclone. This will be the first large-scale application of its kind in Australia and has good potential to be used in other cyclone-affected areas."

Since 2001, eight new wind farms have been installed around WA, with a total generating capacity of 195 MW. These include Esperance, Rottnest Island, Hopetoun, Bremer Bay, Albany, Emu Downs, Exmouth and Walkaway.

Carpenter said the state government had a number of other initiatives in place to further the growth of renewable energy in WA, in particular the development of a renewable energy strategy, due to be released by the middle of 2007.

"The strategy will target practical actions to overcome barriers to renewable energy, assist project proponents, encourage innovation, increase community understanding of renewable energy and demonstrate the benefits of its greater use", he said. "It will also include a renewable energy target for 2020." ■



The Emu Downs project comprises 48 turbines (each with 1.65 MW generating capacity), a substation, interconnection to the main 132 kV grid, an administration/stores building and a network of access roads.