

## New Australian Geothermal Energy Association To Lead Industry

**A** new peak industry body, the Australian Geothermal Energy Association (AGEA), has been launched in Adelaide by South Australian Energy Minister, Patrick Conlon.

The Adelaide-based Association has been formed by geothermal companies to represent the interests of the geothermal industry across Australia. In particular, it will provide a unified voice to key stakeholders, notably governments, on matters of policy affecting the embryonic geothermal industry.

Prior to the formation of AGEA, the industry was very active in advocating through the Renewable Energy Generators Australia (REGA) to the Federal government and opposition on industry policy. Specifically, an industry discussion paper containing key policy and program funding positions was advocated for the industry by former REGA CEO Susan Jeanes, and REGA Director Terry Kallis, Managing Director of Petratherm Limited, who have both been praised by companies such as Hot Dry Rocks for their tireless effort and enthusiasm in championing the geothermal cause.

The new Association will complement other major geothermal initiatives, such as the Australian Geothermal Energy Group (AGEG) and the Australian Geothermal Industry Development Framework (AGIDF). The Geothermal AGEG is an initiative of the South Australian Government under the leadership of Barry Goldstein, PIRSA Director of Petroleum and Geothermal resources. The AGEG formed early in 2007 and now comprises over 60 parties, including some 25 geothermal energy companies, academic and research institutions, and government departments both state and federal.

Ten major collaborative work groups, known as technical interest groups (TIGs), have been formed to progress common industry issues. Each TIG is led by a member of AGEG and notably, AGEA was formed as a result of one of those TIGs. Other areas covered by the TIGs include; reserves and resources, enhanced geothermal system (EGS) technologies, geothermal power generation and connection to markets.

The Australian Geothermal Industry Development Framework (AGIDF) is an initiative of the federal government under the

Council of Australian Government's (COAG's) technology roadmap process that aims to "support the growth of Australia's geothermal energy industry through strategies agreed by stakeholders from government, industry and the research community."

The AGIDF process was launched by Federal Ministers, Ian Macfarlane, Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources and Malcolm Turnbull Minister for Environment and Water, late in March 2007. The process is being led by the Federal Department of Industry, Trade and Resources, Energy and Environment Division, with the support of independent consultants Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM).

A Project Reference Group has been established to guide the AGIDF process. Petratherm Managing Director, Terry Kallis, is one of two industry representatives appointed to the reference group. SKM commenced a series of workshops in November that will continue over two months, ahead of the release of a major report *Australian Geothermal Industry Framework* by April 2008 that will contain a number of recommendations to assist the growth of the geothermal industry. ■