

## Premier Jay Weatherill

## Minister Ian Hunter

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation  
Minister for Water and the River Murray  
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation

Sunday, 2 November, 2014

### Snowtown's \$450 million wind power investment

Stage 2 of the Snowtown wind farm will officially come online today making it South Australia's largest wind farm.

Premier Jay Weatherill and Sustainability and Environment Minister Ian Hunter will switch on Stage 2 of the Snowtown Wind Farm - which has more than tripled the capacity of the operation.

The Snowtown Wind Farm spans more than 30kms, and has been sustainably generating electricity on the Hummocks and Barunga ranges, 170kms north of Adelaide, since 2008.

Mr Weatherill said the \$450 million addition of 90 direct drive Siemens turbines will increase the Snowtown Wind Farm capacity from 99 MW to 369 MW or 1,350 gigawatt hours per year – enough to power 230,000 homes.

“South Australia is the leading state for wind energy investment with 1,473 megawatts (MW), equivalent to 43 per cent of the nation's installed capacity,” Mr Weatherill said.

“This wind farm has become a landmark for the Snowtown community and the mid-north, directly supporting more than 350 jobs since 2008.

“I would like to thank the developer Trustpower on its work in Snowtown, ensuring the community has been engaged throughout the project, and for their consideration for the local environment and Aboriginal heritage.”

Wind farms in South Australia have attracted more than \$3 billion in capital investment.

Since 2003 there has been \$5.5 billion in renewable energy investment, with 40 per cent of this occurring in regional areas.

Mr Hunter said that South Australia's resources, energy and renewable assets play a key role in supporting the state to be a place to do business, create jobs, develop industry and attract investment.

“South Australia is a clear example that rather than blocking economic growth, transitioning to a low carbon economy can drive investment and create jobs,” he said.

“In 2013-14, renewable energy contributed to 39 per cent of total electricity generation in South Australia and, in September, we announced we will increase our target to 50 per cent by 2025.

“The Abbott Government's refusal to rule out abolishing or reducing the Renewable Energy Target (RET) is putting South Australia's future renewable energy investment in serious jeopardy.

“The future of the \$1.5 billion Ceres wind farm proposed for the Yorke Peninsula is now under threat as a result of uncertainty created by the Abbott Government on the RET – putting hundreds of regional jobs at risk.”

The new turbines have been placed adjacent to the existing Stage 1 turbines on the Barunga Range and also to the south, along the Hummock Range, and will be connected by an electrical and communications network to a substation at Barunga Gap.

Last month, Parliament passed legislation making it possible for a wind farm developer to apply for a licence to build a wind farm on Crown land subject to pastoral lease, and for that wind farm to co-exist with a pastoral leaseholder’s activities.

The legislation also expedites access to pastoral land for solar energy projects and will ensure the benefits of renewable energy continue to flow to regional South Australia.

“As the first of this type of legislation in Australia, it sends a strong message to industry that South Australia is a competitive place to invest,” Mr Weatherill said.