

# MEDIA STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**RenewablesSA**

**West Beach Trust**

South Australia is poised to take its next step in renewable energy innovation with an Australian first mini wind turbine trial due to commence at the West Beach boating precinct at the end of October.

The 12 month trial will test four mini wind turbines which are up to 40 times smaller than typical commercial wind farm turbines.

The four turbines differ in size, power output and design, and include one vertical axis machine. The diameters vary from 2m to 5.6m and the turbines are capable of maximum power output ranging from 1 kilowatt to 6 kilowatts.

The trial is an initiative of RenewablesSA and is being delivered in partnership with the West Beach Trust.

“South Australia is a leader in renewable energy and trials such as this one are instrumental in shaping our framework around these new technologies,” said South Australian Commissioner for Renewable Energy Tim O’Loughlin.

“Mini wind turbines are already in use around the world on multi-story buildings, factories and farms – in short anywhere capable of accessing uninterrupted wind. They provide top-up power in much the same way that solar does for households, however they are less widely used in Australia, in part due to the lack of test data on how they perform in Australian conditions.”

The trial at West Beach builds on lessons learned from the Government’s earlier trial of building-mounted mini wind turbines, which commenced in 2006 but was discontinued due to issues with the supplier. Since this trial, the mini wind turbine industry has expanded and there are now a number of reliable suppliers producing a broader range of mini wind turbines.

The power output of each of the four mini-turbines will be monitored for different wind speeds and directions over the course of the trial, providing comprehensive and objective data on energy production.

The community will have ongoing access to information from the trial with data about the performance of each turbine published on a website.

“This is one of a range of environmental initiatives supported by the Trust at our tourism and recreation precinct over recent months as part of our ongoing commitment to a sustainable community,” said West Beach Trust spokesperson Kate Williams.

“The site was chosen due to its open space, access to uninterrupted on-shore winds and the fact it is bordered by commercial facilities, not residential areas,” Ms Williams said.

“Importantly we’ll also be encouraging people to visit the installation, with a range of interpretive and educational displays forming an important part of the project on-site,” Ms Williams said.

“We’re expecting strong interest from school groups and also South Australian families interested in learning more about renewable energy.”

The project will also measure and evaluate the energy produced by solar panels elsewhere in the West Beach precinct and will provide important information about how solar and wind energy may work together to provide renewable energy in a range of weather conditions.

“The West Beach Trust is committed to being a leader in conserving the environment and supporting this trial is another way in which we are fulfilling that mission,” Ms Williams said.

Construction works will commence on-site early September. Installation of the turbines and commencement of the 12 month trial is expected to occur in late October 2011.

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**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

1. For more information, please contact:

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2. Additional information:

Mini Wind Turbine fact sheet

Visual impression of mini wind turbines at trial site