



# MEDIA RELEASE

**MARTIN FERGUSON**

**SID SIDEBOTTOM**

Minister for Resources and Energy  
Minister for Tourism

Member for Braddon

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## KING ISLAND RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT UNDERWAY

The Minister for Resources and Energy, Martin Ferguson AM MP, will visit King Island tomorrow to sign the deed of contract for the King Island Renewable Energy Project and participate in a ceremony with Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom, marking the start of project construction.

The project to integrate wind, solar and storage with a biodiesel generator received \$15.28 million from the Australian Government's Renewable Energy Demonstration Program, which is part of the \$4.5 billion Clean Energy Initiative.

The project will provide baseload and peak power for the King Island mini grid system which currently uses diesel generators for its primary energy supply. It is hoped that up to 90 per cent of King Island's power will be from renewable sources by the end of the project.

Visiting the site on King Island tomorrow, Minister Ferguson will congratulate all those involved in the project. Minister Ferguson said the Australian Government was committed to maintaining a strong and internationally competitive economy with lower greenhouse gas emissions.

"The Government is committed to the development of renewable energy technology and the King Island Project will be a showcase for technological innovation," he said. "It will integrate wind energy, solar energy and energy storage with a biodiesel generator to provide both base-load and peak power for the King Island mini grid system."

Hydro Tasmania will also integrate a smart grid system at the consumer end of the grid to assist in load control and decrease overall energy requirements. If successful, this technology will help to refine similar projects in regional and remote locations across Australia.

"What happens here forms an important part of a much bigger picture," Minister Ferguson said. "Projects such as this one will help to deliver the Australian Government's expanded Renewable Energy Target of 20 per cent by 2020.

"To help us achieve that target, the Renewable Energy Demonstration Program is helping to accelerate the deployment of new power-generating technology for Australia. Overall, the program will deliver \$235 million to the demonstration of renewable energy projects in Australia."

Mr Sidebottom said King Island was a prime location for a project such as this, which can provide benefits for many communities which have faced high costs for energy over many years.

"We hope it will eventually result in cleaner and cheaper power for the people of the island," Mr Sidebottom said.

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