



MEDIA RELEASE

MARTIN FERGUSON

Minister for Resources and Energy
Minister for Tourism

SID SIDEBOTTOM

Member for Braddon

6 November, 2009

RENEWABLE ENERGY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FUNDING FOR BRADDON

The Australian Government today awarded more than \$15 million to a commercial-scale renewable energy project on King Island under the Renewable Energy Demonstration Program (REDP).

This funding – combined with money from successful applicant - will deliver more than \$45 million to clean energy development. The REDP will support the commercialisation of new renewable energy technologies in Australia and help deliver the Government's expanded Renewable Energy Target of 20% by 2020.

The Minister for Resources and Energy, Martin Ferguson AM MP, and the Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom, said the Bass Strait Islands project, being developed by the Hydro-Electric Corporation (Hydro Tasmania), will demonstrate the integration of wind, solar and storage with a biodiesel generator.

This will provide baseload and peak power for King Island's mini grid system and reduce the Island's reliance upon diesel generators.

By facilitating the integration of renewables into the grid through elements such as frequency and voltage control, the project aims to reduce dependency upon baseload fossil fuel energy sources and will demonstrate integrated technologies that can help integrate renewables into electricity grids.

This project has the potential to refine technologies that will have widespread application in rural and remote Australia.

The REDP will deliver approximately \$810 million in renewable energy investment in Australia and deliver almost 80 MW of new renewable generation.

Minister Ferguson said: "The competition for REDP grants was very strong and the successful projects will demonstrate technologies with the potential to diversify Australia's energy supply and add to our overall energy security."

Mr Sidebottom said: "This is a very exciting project for North West Tasmania, which will see our region play a major role in helping Australia transition to a cleaner energy future."

Media contact: Michael Bradley (Ferguson) – 0420 371 744
Eliza Young (Sidebottom) – 0439 342 159