

VRET a step in the right direction

MEDIA RELEASE, Monday 17 July 2006:

The Australian Wind Energy Association (Auswind) has welcomed plans for a renewable energy target scheme, announced today (Monday) by the Victorian Government.

Auswind's CEO, Dominique La Fontaine, said the Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET) would help to ensure that the wind energy industry has a future in Victoria for at least the next decade.

"The VRET is good news for our industry and good news for Victoria, as it guarantees clean, emission-free electricity as well as all the economic benefits that wind energy brings, particularly to regional areas," said Ms La Fontaine.

"No clean energy source can survive and thrive without investment incentives and the VRET illustrates how governments can effectively promote renewable energy without penalising existing electricity providers or spending taxpayers' money."

"This announcement sets an example for other states and the federal government to follow," she said.

The siting of wind farms that will be built as a result of this initiative will be governed by a rigorous state and commonwealth approval regime. Auswind's Best Practice Guidelines will also ensure that wind farms are sensibly and sensitively located.

Wind energy is the fastest growing energy source in the world and is already worth \$1.7 billion to Australia, but without incentives to invest the industry will be overtaken by the rest of the world as it moves toward a clean energy future.

Auswind congratulates the Victorian Government and calls on the Federal Government to continue the good work it began five years ago with its MRET scheme.

A national response that provides incentives for wind power will reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions and help position our economy for a carbon constrained world.

For a full list of existing and proposed Australian wind energy projects, visit:
<http://www.auswind.org/auswea/projects/projects.asp>