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Norman Moore

Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Fisheries; Electoral Affairs

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New permits release geothermal potential to State's energy investors

Portfolio: Mines and Petroleum

The State Government has granted 10 new exploration permits to companies looking to develop geothermal energy projects in Western Australia.

Mines and Petroleum Minister Norman Moore said the new permits would increase the State's potential to generate significant new renewable energy supplies.

"Last year, I awarded WA's first-ever geothermal exploration permits covering the Perth Basin," Mr Moore said.

"These new permits granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) enhance what is becoming a robust geothermal exploration sector."

Eight of the new permits were granted to companies exploring the greater Carnarvon Basin in WA's north. The remaining two permits focus on the south-east region, near Esperance.

The Carnarvon Basin was the second area of WA released to competitive bidding for geothermal exploration.

New World Energy Ltd received seven of the eight permits awarded in this region while Geothermal Energy Pty Ltd received the other.

"These permits cover a combined work area of 34,556 square kilometres and involve a total work program expenditure of \$62.6million across the six-year life of the permits," the Minister said.

The south-east area was the subject of WA's third geothermal acreage release. The two permits in this area were granted to Greenpower Energy Ltd and cover a combined area of 10,732 square kilometres, with total work program expenditure of \$42.9million planned across six years.

"Geothermal Energy and Greenpower Energy are both new explorers to WA in this sector," Mr Moore said.

"It is encouraging the geothermal sector in this State is gaining new members at the same time as increasing its geographical spread."

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