

# Media Release

Hon **Wendy Duncan** MLC

Member for Mining & Pastoral Region | Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Regional Development; Lands | Parliamentary Leader in the Legislative Council

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## **GEOTHERMAL POWER HAS POTENTIAL TO GIVE GREEN ENERGY BOOST TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Support for demonstration projects would be an important step towards full scale geothermal power production, ultimately creating up to 700MW of low emission power generation, according to the Member for Mining and Pastoral, Wendy Duncan MLC.

Ms Duncan supports a proposal intended to promote development of geothermal energy projects in the State. Such a move would ultimately boost WA's energy output and see a reduction of carbon dioxide emissions of up to 127 million tonnes over the assumed life of the projects.

Development of the industry would generate jobs at the same time as power, creating employment for over 1200 West Australians.

The proposal was presented to the WA Energy Minister, Peter Collier, by the Australian Geothermal Energy Association (AGEA), Geothermal Power, New World Energy and Green Rock Energy. Proponents argue the case for tapping into the supply of geothermal energy, stored as heat in the earth, with projects currently under consideration in WA based on extracting energy from both hot dry rock and hot sedimentary aquifer resources.

Ms Duncan said that demonstration projects would enable development of skills and knowledge essential to take the industry to the next level.

"The proposal is one with not just inherent economic benefits, but is one which will also benefit the environment and provide a boost to education and development in WA."

"It will also promote the State's clean energy image," Ms Duncan said.

"Geothermal energy has very exciting potential to provide consistent and clean energy to very remote locations in WA, reducing the dependence on diesel generators and the need to transport fuel huge distances over difficult roads."

Proposal proponents have called for funding support for the industry in the vicinity of \$50M for drilling for regional electricity generation projects and direct use applications in regional and urban areas.

Ends.

*For more information, contact Wendy Duncan on 0438 782 034.*

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