



Sustainable Energy Now

Sustainable Energy Now Inc.
PO Box 341, West Perth, Western Australia 6872
www.sen.asn.au

MEDIA RELEASE

14 September 2008

NEW GOVERNMENT MUST LOOK TO NEW ENERGY INITIATIVES

The new minority Liberal Government must adopt renewable energy sources, including solar thermal, geothermal, wave, and wind, says Sustainable Energy Now.

The community group, formed last year (2007) by professionals from the engineering, physics, geophysics, geology, renewable energy, computer science and communications fields, says it is time to drop plans for more coal-fired power stations.

“There is growing public recognition that governments and political parties must do more to adopt sustainable energy initiatives as shown by the swing in votes in this election to minor parties, including the Greens,” SEN spokeswoman Amanda Cowie said.

“The Liberal Government now has the perfect opportunity to show it is worthy of the leadership, by taking WA forward towards a sustainable energy future. The technology to do this is here now, or right on the horizon - the challenge is to act now and to become the party of the future.

“Far from damaging our economy, choosing renewable energy for WA will protect it. For example, transitioning to renewable energy will create a **net gain** of between 33,000 and 57,000 new jobs in Australia in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors.¹

“Other countries, such as Germany and China, are already moving into this area, and WA should not be left behind. Businesses understand this: corporations such as Worley Parsons, AUSRA, Carnegie and Geodynamics already announcing major solar thermal, wave and geothermal energy developments in Australia.

“Simple maths shows us that WA, with its abundant natural resources, is fully capable of meeting *all* of its current energy needs – and more – from entirely renewable sources. For example, a possible energy mix would be 1,000 MW from Geothermal, 1,300 MW from Wave and 1,800 MW from Solar Thermal, totalling **4,100 MW** generation, and this doesn't even

¹ See www.greenpeace.org/australia/resources/reports/climate-change/energy-r-evolution-scenario; Sven Teske and Julien Vincent Date; June 16, 2008: page 7

include existing and future wind energy. The average maximum electrical load for the SWIS (South West Interconnected System) is approximately **4000 MW**.

“This energy combination would require, in simplistic terms, areas of only approximately 100 cubic km of a hot rock field for Geothermal, 150 km of coastline underwater for Wave, and a 5 x 5 km surface area for Solar Thermal.

“The new Government of Western Australia has a duty to create the frameworks needed to support and develop these important opportunities. The time for action is now.”

MEDIA CONTACT: Amanda Cowie. Mobile: 0431 046 408

Background:

SEN (Sustainable Energy Now Inc.) is a volunteer organisation formed in 2007 to promote practical, affordable strategies for the adoption of renewable energy and a sustainable future. SEN is working on a simulation of the potential renewable energy in Western Australia. The available renewable energy is much greater than our current consumption. Using a computer simulation showing locations for potential renewable-energy power plants and comparing that to the energy consumed by the South West Interconnected System (SWIS), SEN will demonstrate that diversified, carbon neutral, reliable, clean energy is a real option for base-load and load-following capability for residents, industry and business