

ASX RELEASE AND MEDIA RELEASE 9 AUGUST 2011

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## GREENEARTH ENERGY'S LONG TERM STRATEGIC GEOTHERMAL FOCUS

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Greenearth Energy Limited (ASX:GER) is committed to developing its suite of prized Victorian Geothermal assets to the benefit of shareholders, potential investors and Victorians alike. Yesterday's announcement regarding the mutually executed Deed of Termination with the Australian Government for the Geelong Geothermal Power Project's (GGPP) Geothermal Drilling Program (GDP) grant funding and the subsequent announcement by the Commonwealth regarding the \$126 million *Emerging Renewables* program will pave the way for the company to seek more flexible funding arrangements with the Australian Government.

The GGPP was competitively assessed and selected through rigorous technical and financial merit processes that saw the company being awarded both Commonwealth and State funding for Victoria's flagship conventional geothermal energy project. The GGPP remains Australia's most awarded Hot Sedimentary Aquifer (HSA) geothermal project. The company will continue its comprehensive community and stakeholder engagement and site selection process as well as seek to continue its current negotiations with the State Government in regards to its \$25 million Energy Technology Innovation Strategy (ETIS) grant for both exploration and demonstration stages of the GGPP.

Geothermal energy remains the country's only potential large scale, zero-emission, renewable, base-load (24/7) energy source, and this has been recognised with the announcement by the Minister for Resources and Energy, Martin Ferguson AM MP within the Australian government's *Emerging Renewables* program.

The *Emerging Renewables* program aims to reduce the costs of new technologies, improve skills across the renewable energy industry, and leverage finance from the private sector as well as state and territory governments.

The *Emerging Renewables* program will have funding of \$126 million with geothermal companies well placed to benefit from the new program design with at least one third of the total program funding expected to be available to support the development of geothermal energy in Australia.

Managing Director of Greenearth Energy, Mark Miller said; "We congratulate the Minister for his continued support of the geothermal industry and look forward to working with the Commonwealth within the *Emerging Renewables* framework.

"Our plans for the Geelong Geothermal Power Project and Latrobe Valley region remain unchanged. We look forward to the State Government's continued support in concluding our current ETIS grant funding negotiations. Our Victorian permits and project areas remain amongst the countries most strategically attractive to develop.

"With twenty two percent of our nation's greenhouse gases emitted in the Latrobe Valley alone, our proposition to develop base-load, zero-emissions renewable energy in that part of our State remains at the core of our company's long term strategic objectives".

Please find attached a copy of yesterday's Australian Government announcement regarding its *Emerging Renewables* program



**Mark Miller**  
Managing Director  
Greenearth Energy Limited



# MEDIA RELEASE

## MARTIN FERGUSON

Minister for Resources and Energy  
Minister for Tourism

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8 August 2011

### APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR EMERGING RENEWABLES FUNDING

The Australian Government today opened its *Emerging Renewables* program to applications from promising renewable energy technology projects such as geothermal, solar and ocean.

The *Emerging Renewables* program aims to reduce the cost of new technologies, improve skills across the renewable energy industry and leverage finance from the private sector as well as state and territory governments.

“With this program the Government is taking on an innovative design for merit-based grant programs following the Australian Centre for Renewable Energy’s (ACRE) extensive consultation with the renewable energy industry and financiers,” the Minister for Resources and Energy, Martin Ferguson AM MP, said at this morning’s launch..

“It allows a flexible approach to funding across the technology innovation chain, in line with stakeholder feedback to improve the sector’s competitiveness.

“For emerging technologies this flexibility is critical. It will help ensure government support is tailored to the needs of industry as they evolve over time, while also putting in place the appropriate safeguards for taxpayer funded investments.

“On this basis we have also increased funding by \$26 million for the *Emerging Renewables* program with funds returned from the *Geothermal Drilling Program*.

“This takes the total program funding to \$126 million. Geothermal companies will benefit from the new program design with at least one-third of the total program funding expected to be available to support geothermal energy.”

The program design is based on the independent ACRE Board’s *Strategic Directions* and provides a streamlined applications process as well as the opportunity for greater collaboration amongst applicants. It employs a continuously open application model allowing companies to submit applications as and when they need to with no arbitrary cut off dates or set funding rounds.

ACRE will administer the program until the \$3.2 billion Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) is established.

“Opening the program now is important to keep up momentum in the industry and continue providing government support for renewable energy technologies as we introduce a price on carbon and establish ARENA and the \$10 billion Clean Energy Finance Corporation,” Minister Ferguson said.

The *Emerging Renewables* program will fund promising renewable energy and enabling technologies under two categories: ACRE Projects and ACRE Measures. More information on

these categories and a copy of the *Emerging Renewables Program Information Guide for Applicants* is available at [www.acre.gov.au](http://www.acre.gov.au)

Minister Ferguson opened the *Emerging Renewables* program at the launch of a new rooftop solar research project, supported by a \$3.2 million Australian Solar Institute grant. The project based at the Australian National University aims to improve the efficiencies of rooftop solar by providing a cost effective, all-in-one solar energy system for heating, cooling, hot water and electricity to supply households and businesses.

“Projects such as the hybrid system launched today demonstrate that there is still a huge amount of innovation potential in solar technology for researchers and companies to develop,” Minister Ferguson said.

“They will pave the way for the next generation in solar technology, and through the Government’s Clean Energy Future package these next generation projects will have access to more support than ever before.”

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