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GREENEARTH ENERGY CONDUCTS COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

On Saturday 27 February Greenearth Energy held an "Open House" Community Information Session for the Gherang, Wensleydale and neighbouring communities, to provide information on the Geelong Geothermal Power Project. Over 160 people registered on the day and met with members of the Greenearth Energy team to have the questions answered directly.

Chairman of Greenearth Energy, Mr Simon Molesworth said "We are very grateful to the people of the community for taking the time out of their personal schedules to meet with us and ask questions. It is important for us to provide the community with as much detail as possible about the project as it comes to hand.

"Understandably the community has questions about our project. By explaining the detail of our project, we are hopeful that we have gone some way to assuring the community that we have the plans and processes in place to deliver this substantial renewable energy opportunity, while at the same time minimising project impacts. We believe this can be achieved by way of ongoing engagement with the community as our project progresses."

The project is currently in its preliminary works stage and is moving to establish the Stage 1 Proof-of-Concept and Stage 2 Demonstration.

Mr Molesworth said "Ensuring that the community is confident that Greenearth Energy will continue to engage them and minimise impacts is central to the company's philosophy and policies.

"We made a clear statement in writing at Saturday's meeting as to what the company would and would not do in developing one of Australia's first hot sedimentary aquifer geothermal energy plants. These statements were made in response to the concerns the community raised with the company."

Some of the questions raised by the community relate to compulsory acquisition, desalination plants, earthquakes and contamination of water.

Mr Molesworth said "We can categorically state that the company does not have the power to compulsorily acquire properties, and even if it did, the Board has taken the position that it will neither do so, nor lobby the Government to acquire property on its behalf.

"There is also absolutely no suggestion that this project involves the construction of desalination plants.

"Regarding the issue of seismicity, the area does not have a history of substantial seismic events. There is a long history of groundwater, oil and gas drilling and production in Victoria with no known induced seismic events of significance. This geothermal project will be extracting water from a hot sedimentary aquifer and our system utilises exactly the same techniques used for extracting drinking water from near surface aquifers.

"Finally in regard to the issue of ground water contamination, our project is a completely closed system with no water exchange between aquifers nor any exchange of geothermal fluids with the external environment.

"We are committed to continued community engagement which aims to engage all stakeholders and in particular, local communities as the project progresses. We will continue to engage the community in an open and transparent manner and provide them with factual information so that they can make informed decisions."

Members of the community are encouraged to contact Greenerth Energy by either telephoning 03 9620 7299 or by sending an email to ggppenquiries@greenerthenergy.com.au outlining any project queries.

All queries will be responded to in a timely manner. Members of the public can also register their interest in receiving regular project updates.



Simon Molesworth AM QC
Chairman
Greenerth Energy Limited

