



# Media release

The Place To Be From the Minister for Energy and Resources

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Friday, 6 November, 2009

## **BRUMBY GOVERNMENT WELCOMES FUNDING FOR WAVE POWER**

The Brumby Labor Government has welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that a Victorian renewable energy company has received \$66.4 million to develop an ocean energy project in Portland.

Energy and Resources Minister Peter Batchelor said Victorian Wave Partners had shared in \$235 million Federal's Renewable Energy Demonstration Program, ensuring Victoria continued to be a leading renewable energy investment location.

"We are working with the Commonwealth to address climate change and this grant builds on our efforts to drive investment in renewable energy projects across Victoria," Mr Batchelor said.

"The grant will allow Victorian Wave Partners, which involves Ocean Power Technologies (Australasia) and Leighton Contractors, to build the first commercial scale ocean energy project in Australia.

"The 19 MW Victorian Wave Power Demonstration Project will be a staged construction and demonstration of wave power generation using Ocean Power Technologies PowerBuoy technology off Portland in western Victoria.

"This is fantastic news for all Victorians who will see not only the environmental benefits from cleaner electricity generation, but the economic benefits from new renewable energy jobs.

"This further strengthens south west Victoria as an emerging cleaner energy hub."

Mr Batchelor said the announcement built on the significant work and investment already being done by the Brumby Labor Government to cut greenhouse gas emissions and change our energy mix.

"Strong communities need a clean environment and this project will contribute to Victoria's changing energy sector as we look at new ways of delivering energy that cut greenhouse emissions," he said.

"Victoria has strong sustainable energy opportunities, which is why we have already committed more than \$260 million to drive advances in sustainable energy technologies, such as solar, energy storage, biomass conversion, geothermal and wave energy.

"We were the first state to introduce a Renewable Energy Target which has already helped attract \$2 billion in renewable energy investment and will create more than 2000 jobs."

"The Brumby Labor Government has also committed up to \$100 million funding for a large scale solar plant, introduced a premium solar feed-in tariff scheme for households and small business, and is helping Victorians cut their energy use through a range of initiatives including Energy Saver Incentive."