



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

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\$1 MILLION FOR SMALL WIND TURBINE TESTING CENTRE

Federal Environment Minister, Peter Garrett today announced funding of \$1.05 million to the Research Institute for Sustainable Energy at Murdoch University to build a national Small Wind Turbine Test Centre.

The Small Wind Turbine Test Centre will be funded under the Australian Government's Renewable Remote Power Generation Program.

Mr Garrett said that the Small Wind Turbine Test Centre will provide a one-stop-shop for certification, standards and training to develop a stronger small wind turbine industry in Australia.

"There is increasing interest in small wind turbines for homes and farms, particularly in remote areas.

"This testing facility will provide consumer confidence in wind technology as well as enhancing our understanding of the potential for this type of technology, not only in remote areas but more broadly as a means of reducing energy consumption and carbon pollution," Mr Garrett said.

"By working together with remote electricity generators, the Centre will take a leading role in helping to develop small wind turbines specifically suited to Australia's climate.

"Wind is an abundant and inexhaustible source of renewable energy in many parts of Australia and the industry response to embrace renewable electricity generation is outstanding.

"This project will expand the development of independent renewable power generation in the Australian electricity market.

"The Rudd Labor Government is committed to produce 20 per cent of Australia's electricity from renewable sources by 2020 and this project will make a real contribution to the achievement of that target."

Mr Garrett yesterday announced \$13.9 million Perth Solar City, which will see around 6,000 homes and businesses trial energy and water saving products including smart meters and solar hot water systems and panels.

The announcement of Perth Solar City came as the Rudd Labor Government advanced its commitment to assist Australian households in taking practical action on climate change in the transition to the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

"I have commenced a series of roundtables with key stakeholders, including yesterday in Perth, to identify practical action households can take to save on energy bills and reduce their environmental impact.

"These discussions with representatives of the community, NGOs, business groups and industries will inform the development of household assistance measures to complement the Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme."