

News Release

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Premier Mike Rann

Minister for Economic Development
Minister for Social Inclusion
Minister for the Arts
Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA COMMITS TO 33 PER CENT RENEWABLE TARGET BY 2020

Premier Mike Rann today announced that this week's State Budget will outline plans to create an even greater renewable industry in South Australia, and to increase the state's **renewable energy production target to 33 per cent by 2020**.

Mr Rann, who is also Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change, and Economic Development, announced a new \$20 million Renewable Energy Fund to accelerate investment in this sector.

"We already lead the nation in renewable energy production, but we want to create a new industry in South Australia so we become Australia's green energy powerhouse," Mr Rann said.

"Our fund will help foster innovation and investment in renewable technology, to **create green jobs in a renewable energy industry alongside our defence and mining sectors**.

"The Economic Development Board identifies renewable energy as an important industry for South Australia's economic future.

"In its recent Economic Statement, the Board recommended that South Australia establish itself as Australia's clean energy state.

"The Renewable Energy Fund will also support the State Government's new target, which aims for one-third of South Australia's electricity generation to come from renewable energy by 2020.

"The Rudd Government has asked every state to reach a 20 per cent target for renewable electricity generation by 2020.

"We had a much more ambitious target in South Australia to reach that 20 per cent by 2014.

"We are going to reach our target ahead of our 2014 deadline, and years ahead of the national deadline.

"So we're now announcing an even tougher target of 33 per cent by 2020 which will keep us at the forefront internationally of jurisdictions supporting renewable energy."

"South Australia is home to 56 per cent of the nation's wind power, 90 per cent of its geothermal investment and nearly 30 per cent of its grid-connected domestic solar systems, by far the highest in Australia.

“We have taken advantage of our world-class natural renewable energy resources and cut red tape to support renewable energy investment in Australia to make sure we create new jobs from this booming industry.

“To those who say you can’t look after our environment and drive economic development, they need only look at the renewable energy sector to see how the two can be brought together.”

The first project to be funded from the Renewable Energy Fund will be the South Australian Centre of Excellence for Geothermal Research at the University of Adelaide, which will receive \$1.6 million over two years.

The new Centre is a natural outcome of the concentration of geothermal investment into South Australia.

Recommendations on the application of remaining funds will come from the new RenewablesSA Board lead by Bruce Carter, the Chair of the Economic Development Board.

This independent group of experts will create a new framework for attracting investment and oversee its implementation.

The RenewablesSA Board will be supported by a new Renewable Energy Commissioner who will advise the Government on policy and planning and ensure that the State’s leadership position in renewable energy translates into benefits for the economy.

The Board will be comprised of:

- Bruce Carter (Chair)
- David Klingberg AO, Chair of the Climate Change Council
- Ian Chessell, Chief Scientist
- Amy Kean, Managing Director, Pinpoint Earth
- Mohan Kolhe, Director International Energy Policy Institute, University College London
- Fiona O’Hehir, Principal, Renewable Energy Services
- Monica Oliphant, President International Solar Energy Society.