



NEWS RELEASE

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WIND-POWERED DESALINATION COULD PROVIDE JOBS BOOM FOR PORT PIRIE

A wind-powered desalination plant could solve the power and water needs of Port Pirie and at the same time provide a jobs boom, according to green energy and water pioneer Windesal.

The company's Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Whalley – who is visiting Port Pirie today to explore the potential for a wind-powered desalination plant in the region – said a secure power and water supply has the ability to unlock the full potential of regional economies.

“Establishing a wind-powered desalination plant in Port Pirie would not only help the town tackle its power and water problems, but would also provide a major boost to the local economy in terms of jobs,” he said.

“We have plans to establish wind-powered desalination plants in areas along the South Australian coast crippled by water and power shortages, and in doing so create a whole new green industry for the State.

“Given Port Pirie's close proximity to Adelaide and other major centres, we believe it has the potential to become a regional hub in terms of service and supply chain opportunities.”

The Adelaide-based company's environmentally-friendly plants are designed as 'modules' which are each capable of producing between 3-5 gigalitres of fresh water a year through power generated by wind turbines. During periods when wind is insufficient to drive the turbines, they are run by a modified generator powered by bio-fuels and other renewable energy sources.

Depending on power and water requirements, additional turbines or desalination modules can subsequently be added to each plant as necessary to enable power to be fed into the electricity grid and/or greater water production.

Mr Whalley said Windesal and its Danish supplier have a similar operational plant providing power to an island community in Northern Europe. Working with the State Government and local councils, the company is performing feasibility studies to install plants along the coast of South Australia to provide additional supplies of potable water and power close to where they are consumed.

“Windesal has an immediate wind-powered solution for communities with poor water and power supplies and we are keen to explore options for its use with ETSA, SA Water and the South Australian Government to ensure consistent power supplies and additional water resources for regional communities,” he said.

“Wind-powered desalination plants can be built almost anywhere provided wind conditions are suitable – which they are in Port Pirie – and importantly they’re relatively quick and cheap to establish.

“South Australia is in a unique position to lead the global application of this technology and simultaneously establish a new green industry in this State.

“A plant at Port Pirie would also be a powerful symbol for the town and an example to the nation and the world of South Australia’s leadership in water technology and green energy solutions.”

For more information visit www.windesal.com

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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