



**Australian**  
**25/05/2009**  
**Page: 24**  
**By: Giles Parkinson**  
**Section: Busine**  
**Region: Australia Circulation: 137000**  
**Type: National**  
**Size: 92.00 sq.cms**  
**Frequency: MTWTF**

**GILES PARKINSON**  
GREENCHIP



## Salisbury to the wind

ADELAIDE-BASED entrepreneur Barrie Harrop hopes to finalise a deal within a few weeks to install the first of his innovative wind-powered desalination plants near the city of Salisbury in South Australia.

Harrop is touting his small-scale desalination plants as a cost-effective solution to the state's potentially disastrous water shortage, and preferable to the large-scale plants being contemplated by state governments across the nation. Windesal was created last June by Harrop, a group of investors and the inventors of the technology, a Danish engineering family.

The small plants would typically produce 3-5 gegalitres of drinking water a year (compared with large-scale desal plants of 50-100Gl) and are powered by wind turbines with backup from a diesel (biofuel preferred) powered generator. The entire package — apart from standard wind turbines — and including monitoring equipment comes in a 40-foot container and can be established within 12 weeks.

Windesal can process sea water, but by targeting brackish water in large aquifers such as those that lie under Salisbury, Harrop says it can produce drinking water in a cost-effective manner and without having to deal with the massive amounts of brine produced by large seawater plants.

Harrop says the first contract with the Salisbury Council would allow a \$35 million plant to tap into the massive brackish aquifers below the city, which have been augmented by the council's visionary storm-water recycling program.

Windesal hopes that will be the first of up to 20 plants, worth up to \$2 billion, that Harrop boldly asserts could "drought-proof" the state and remove the dependence of local towns and industry on water for the River Murray. He says the potential market in Australia is for up to 600 such installations, including those in mining and other remote communities.