

## Geelong factory tests new 'silent' wind technology

# Turbines on trial

MARTIN WATERS

THESE unusual-looking wind turbines could soon be dotted above factories across the country. If a Geelong trial of the technology is successful,

Marketed as having a "near silent" operation, the Eco Whisper turbine is designed by Renewable Energy Solutions Australia (RESA) to sit above factories and industrial land to help companies slash their power bills.

The Brisbane-based company chose Geelong to trial the turbine in a joint venture with North Geelong manufacturer Austeng.

Austeng will help build the turbine and within weeks will install the first model above its Douro St plant with the hope

### ECO WHISPER LOWDOWN

**Size:** 6.5m diameter

**Height:** 21m

**Power generation:** 20kW (potential to power equivalent of three Geelong homes).

**Features:** 30 blades, derived from a 1940s patent almost silent operation, lightweight, can be raised and lowered during extreme weather.

of drawing the attention of other companies keen to cut their carbon footprint.

Each turbine has the potential to power the equivalent of three Geelong homes but RESA business development manager Michael Le Messurier stressed the fans did not have approval for suburban areas.

But the units could be installed at factories, airports, warehouses, industrial parks, war-houses or carparks, or even at

schools and university campuses due to their quiet operation.

Mr Le Messurier said a typical manufacturer would not use the turbines to power their entire operations but use a handful of fans to power operations such as office buildings or carpark lighting.

"It depends on the number of turbines and the amount of wind but we're looking at 10-20 per cent (energy bill) reductions

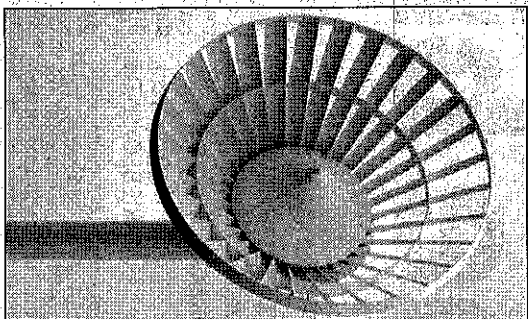
and some companies will be looking for more," he said.

"A key reason for (selecting) Geelong is there are a lot of industrial areas and, in addition, there's a lot of wind there."

Mr Le Messurier said he expected the recent carbon package announcement would help his business with industrial firms looking for ways to cut emissions.

"The carbon tax was quite prevalent in the (decision) as before companies were interested but they might have still been sitting on the fence now they can move forward with some surety," he said.

"We don't pitch ourselves as the silver bullet but in Victoria you have a lot of wind and on some sites it might be best to use a combination of wind and solar."



The Eco Whisper turbine.