

A new spin on wind turbines

SHANE FOWLES

A GEELONG-BUILT wind turbine which is spruiked as the quietest in the world has been placed at Tullamarine.

It is the second commercial installation of the Eco Whisper Turbine, following a pilot demonstration at Geelong manufacturer Austeng's North Geelong plant last October.

The turbines are being made by Austeng for Renewable Energy Solutions Australia, with aims to produce up to six more for Victorian customers this year.

They are not aimed at the wind farm market but for mid-sized businesses or organisations, with the turbine to produce about a third of the power requirements for the Austeng plant.

RESA chief executive officer Tony Le Messurier said the 20kW turbine was placed just outside Tullamarine's airport precinct.

"This is our second commercial installation in Victoria, which marks a crucial milestone in our evolution and the adoption of renewable energy," he said.

After two years of development and testing, RESA believes its quiet turbine has the ability to capture up to 30 per cent more energy than traditional three-bladed designs.

Western Victoria MP David O'Brien is advocating for the technology to be given greater government support, finding it falls in between subsidies offered to households and larger wind farms.

"If we can cut red tape or provide targeted assistance to small manufacturers, it will help fully help companies such as Austeng employ more Geelong workers," he said.

shane.fowles@geelongadvertiser.com.au

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