
The Future

Wave Power From the Sea Bed

A machine that is able to generate power from waves while sitting on the sea floor has successfully produced electricity and fresh water in a year-long trial on the seabed off Fremantle.

The technology, which was invented by Perth businessman Alan Burns, allows a unit to sit on the seabed and use the power and movement of the waves to force highly pressured seawater to shore through a small pipe. Once ashore, the water is used to drive a turbine generator to produce electricity.

WA Energy minister Francis Logan, who witnessed the re-floating of the 10 metre prototype CETO, said “I am informed that the CETO prototype has met all design and concept challenges and successfully produced clean power and fresh water from the ocean waves.”

A wave farm of 125 CETO units would be able to produce 18 megawatts of electricity with no greenhouse gas emissions, enough for 10,000 households or a desalination plant producing 45 billion litres of fresh drinking water each year, said the minister.

Mr Logan said the CETO prototype would be replaced by CETO II pre-commercialisation units, which would be installed in 2007.

“The CETO technology is being developed by the Perth-based company Seapower Pacific and they are aiming for full commercialisation by 2010,” he said.

Seapower Pacific is a Perth-based subsidiary of UK-based Renewable Energy Holdings. The Perth-based clean energy company Carnegie

Corporation co-developed the technology before selling it to REH. Carnegie remains a shareholder in REH and has participation rights in future REH projects.

“I am very hopeful that wave energy will become an important addition to the suite of renewable energy generators in this State,” said Mr Logan.