



# Energy companies take heart from Labor win

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WA sustainable energy companies are hoping that the new Federal Labor Government's aggressive environmental policies will bring a boost in business.

Carnegie Corporation managing director Michael Ottaviano said the clean energy company had been in touch with the incoming government and would talk to it next year about support for Carnegie's CETO technology, which uses wave power to generate zero-emission electricity and desalinated water.

Late last month, prime minister John Howard pledged \$5 million in the form of a grant to complete the final development phase of the CETO technology.

Dr Ottaviano said the West Perth company was eyeing the Labor Government's proposed \$1 billion fund for desalination and water technology, as well as a \$500 million renewable fund, which "we will be actively seeking to tap into".

Carnegie, through its link to Renewable Energy Holdings plc, has plans to commercialise CETO technology globally.

"Now that we have a government that strongly supports these technologies, the likelihood of us doing something domestically has increased," Dr Ottaviano said. "We're a WA company. We want to do as much as we can in Australia. Just from logistical perspective it makes sense."

Troubled Welshpool sustainable energy products company Solco also applauded the coming change in policy, with chairman Steven Cole saying "it certainly augers well for sustainable energy".

Last week Solco tapped businessman and former WA Senator Ian Campbell as non-executive director in part to help open doors for the company in the political realm. It also named Alex Lamond to take over from David Richardson as chief executive next month.