



Energy project designed to work with waves

By ANITA McINNES

A WAVE energy project that will pump water ashore for hydro-electrical power generation is being built off Garden Island.

Carnegie Wave Energy chief executive officer Greg Allen said a jack-up rig went to the site west of Garden Island on January 3 so a drilled and grouted pile using conventional drilling equipment could be installed.

Mr Allen said the jack-up rig was expected to leave the site within the next few days.

He said CETO technology, named after a primordial sea goddess in Greek mythology, differed from other wave energy technology in that the units were designed to operate in harmony with the waves rather than attempting to resist them.

"It is fully submerged (so there is no visual impact and it is away from surface storm activity), and

'It is fully submerged and pumps water ashore to use in conventional hydro-electric power generation.'

— GREG ALLEN

pumps water ashore to use in conventional hydro-electric power generation," Mr Allen said.

"Other wave technologies generate power offshore and use sub-sea cables to bring the power ashore."

The benefits in addition to zero-emission power production and less visual impact included higher availability and predictability than other renewable energy sources.

He said the 5MW project, worth between \$50 million and \$55 million, would not pose any problems for recreational boats and shipping, including the navy.

"The CETO installation will es-

entially form an artificial reef therefore, for safety reasons, it is a closure area for marine navigational activities," Mr Allen said.

On November 26 last year Carnegie signed a financial assistance agreement with the State Government for \$12.5 million in funding under the Low Emissions Energy Development fund.

At an official launch at Fremantle at the weekend, Environment and Conservation Minister Donna Faragher said the project signified a major step towards developing a successful, environmentally-friendly energy source.



The jack-up rig Carnegie Wave Energy is using to build its wave energy facility west of Garden Island.