

## MEDIA RELEASE ... MEDIA RELEASE ... MEDIA RELEASE

### Community to celebrate wind farm

Saturday 19 March – Daylesford

A small town in central Victoria is setting a powerful example by building the first community owned renewable energy project in Australia.

On Saturday, Australia's first community-owned turbine will be raised to a final height of 110 m. Many of the 1,600 proud owners of the wind farm will be there to watch and celebrate the event in Leonards Hill, 10 km south of Daylesford. The day's festivities will be attended by members, supporters, school and community groups, and will include a picnic and local musicians.

This event marks the most spectacular phase of construction for the co-operatively owned wind farm. It's a monumental achievement for a community that has held a vision to build a wind farm for the benefit of the local area. To build the \$13m project, the wind farm co-operative's members have collectively invested more than \$8.7m, a clear indication of enormous local support for renewable energy.

The project was born out of frustration with the pace of action on climate change – the community's project is expected to generate more energy than is used by Daylesford in an average year, and will displace an estimated 12,200 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.

Hepburn Wind was conceived in 2005 and launched its membership and share offer in July 2008. Members will share in the proceeds of the sale of electricity and a portion of profits will be returned via a community sustainability fund. Through the fund, Hepburn Wind plans to fund more than \$1m of sustainability initiatives in the local community over the next 25 years.

Built from the start with the community in mind, the locally controlled wind farm is the first in the country to allocate more to the community than to the landowner of the wind farm.

Hepburn wind has inspired more than 40 communities around Australia to begin development of their own solar, wind and mini-hydro initiatives. Community owned projects will play a vital role in driving the inevitable move to a low-carbon economy.

Supporters and interested members of the community are welcome to attend the picnic day. RSVP at [turbinepicnicday.eventbrite.com](http://turbinepicnicday.eventbrite.com)