

## **MEDIA RELEASE ... MEDIA RELEASE ... MEDIA RELEASE** **Hepburn Wind goes 'live'**

**Daylesford, 17 May 2011**

For the first time at 12.30pm on Tuesday 17 May, the Hepburn Community Wind Farm was connected to the local electricity network.

After thorough inspections by two independent inspectors, local distributor Powercor and contractors REpower and Consolidated Power received the all-clear for the connection.

Martin Taube from local contractor Central Power had the honour of closing the switch that separated the wind farm from the grid. Operating at 22,000 volts, Martin and the team were very careful to ensure that the connection was made safely and without interruption to Daylesford's supply.

Martin stated "I've flicked many a switch, but never one to a wind farm – everything went according to plan".

For the past six weeks the blades have been feathered to avoid catching wind, however with the hubs 'free wheeling', the blades have occasionally been seen slowly turning. The electrical team has spent the last month preparing for connection to the grid. With power now on, the commissioning team is ready to start preparing the turbines for generation.

Over the next month, each part of the wind farm will be tested, with the final stage being energisation of the individual turbines. Hepburn Wind, the community group behind the project, expects to be generating clean, safe energy before the middle of the year.

Once the wind farm is generating, Hepburn Wind will establish a community sustainability fund which is anticipated to put over \$1m into local projects over the life of the project. Hepburn Wind will provide additional community support to our Leonards Hill neighbours as part of this initiative.

### **Media Contacts**

Taryn Lane, Community Officer, 0458 048 287 [taryn.lane@hepburnwind.com.au](mailto:taryn.lane@hepburnwind.com.au)

Photograph caption 'Martin Taube from Central Power flicks the switch to Hepburn's wind farm'