

MEDIA ALERT ... MEDIA ALERT ... MEDIA ALERT **Hepburn Wind wins Premier Sustainability Award**

Daylesford, 10 June 2011

Hepburn Wind has received top honours at the Premier's Sustainability Awards in the community category. In making the award, the state government has recognised the outstanding leadership, creativity and innovation displayed by the local community of the Hepburn Shire in forging a sustainable Victoria, both now and for the future.

This award formally acknowledges the pioneering model that is Hepburn Wind – Australia's first community owned wind farm. State government acclaim for the project is sure to propel the movement of community renewable energy projects nationwide.

The judges commented that Hepburn Wind scored strongly across all areas of assessment and praised the project for its strong vision, long term strategy, strong local focus and engagement. Hepburn Wind Chairman, Simon Holmes à Court said "More than 1650 people have come together to build this optimistic project."

"We've created local jobs and a renewed sense of pride in our community. Rather than endlessly debating or calling for the transition to clean energy, we just accepted the challenge and got on with it."

"More than 45 communities around the country are actively looking at how they can adapt the Hepburn Model in the own areas so that they too can benefit from local clean energy."

Hepburn Wind's community officer, Taryn Lane, said "The award comes at the culmination of more than six years of work by dozens of local people and shows the power of community working together."

The Premier, Ted Baillieu said "Being smart with our resources makes economic and social sense."

At the project's core is a shared desire to take constructive action against climate change and in the process directly benefit the whole community. Hepburn Wind is due to begin generating pollution-free electricity for the local area in the next couple of weeks.