



1 May 2012

STATEMENT

WARATAH POWER RECEIVES \$600,000 GRANT FROM AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

Today, Federal Minister for Resources and Energy, Small Business, and Tourism, Martin Ferguson, announced in Perth a grant for \$600,000 to Waratah Power for our \$1.1m small hydropower research and development program.

The text from his speech is extracted and copied below.

Waratah Power

The \$126 million Emerging Renewables Program is also helping to develop other sustainable and innovative renewable energy technologies.

To that end, I am pleased to announce that the Australian Government will be providing more than \$600,000 to Waratah Power to develop practices to minimise the impact of small hydropower facilities on fish.

Working with government and university researchers, Waratah's \$1.1 million initiative will collate and analyse data on the rate of death and injury of native fish during downstream migration.

This will lead to the design of low-head turbine hydropower technology that can improve the health and survival rate of these species.

There are many thousands of low-head irrigation structures and weirs that might be used for hydropower in this country alone.

Environmental factors have so far proven to be a significant barrier to their deployment – and this grant aims to overcome one of these.

It also poses significant export potential with hydropower a growing sector internationally – the largest untapped markets being in nearby Asia.

Waratah's research could help deliver on this potential as well as contribute to the Government's renewable energy and emissions reduction targets.

Waratah Power is currently working in Australia, Laos, and Indonesia.

The full statement can be found here:

<http://minister.ret.gov.au/MediaCentre/Speeches/Pages/AnnouncementRenewablesProgram.aspx>

Media Contact:

Andrew Jones
Executive Director