



Media release

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Tower powering sustainability

The Strand Wind Project promises to inject technical and educational benefits into Townsville, as well as electricity.

Acting Mayor Ann Bunnell officially launches the joint Townsville City Council - Ergon Energy project today, (Tuesday 26 Oct).

The centrepiece of the \$70,000 project is an eight metre high wind turbine built near the rockpool on the Strand.

Acting Mayor Ann Bunnell says the Strand Wind Project is the flagship of the Sustainable Townsville Program, which aims to maintain a high standard of living through sustainable development.

“The wind turbine signifies what we are trying to achieve,” says Cr Bunnell. “It is renewable energy technology that is environmentally neutral and benefits the economy by adding to our tourism stock.

“At the same time, the project provides a valuable educational instrument which will be accessed by both schools and the general community.”

Ergon Energy has supported the Strand Wind Project by linking the turbine into the electricity grid and developing a detailed interpretative facility.

It features on-site access to meteorological data and information about renewable energy technology and is linked with Townsville State High School’s Centre of Excellence - Renewable Energy Program.

Cr Bunnell says the partnership with Ergon Energy is the most satisfying aspect of the project.

“We will have a successful sustainable community in partnership with both the community and business,” she says.

“Ergon Energy contributed significant financial and technical resources to the Strand Wind Project and I thank them for both their practical and symbolic support.”

Ergon Energy's Area Operations Manager Alan Newman says the wind generator would produce enough power for an energy efficient home.

"That's about 16 kilowatts of electricity on average a day. Over a 12 month period the turbine could make a significant contribution to renewable energy generation and to sustainable development," Mr Newman says.

Mr Newman says The Strand Wind project was another example of Ergon Energy's commitment to the environment through renewable energy.

Media information: The wind turbine is located near the Arcadia Surf Lifesaving Club at the rock pool cnr Howitt St and the Strand. The event runs from 10:30 to 1230. Cr Bunnell and Mr Newman are available for comment. Media Liaison Robert Dark is on 0417 623 156. Ergon Energy Manager of Corporate Communications John Fowler is on 4727 6271.