

It won't be easy – but we can be 100% green

SCIENCE REPORTER

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A VISION of the state powered by 100 per cent renewable energy is no fantasy, says a visiting German expert.

Dr Harry Lehmann, from Germany's Federal Environment Agency, has more than 25 years of experience in sustainable energy policy.

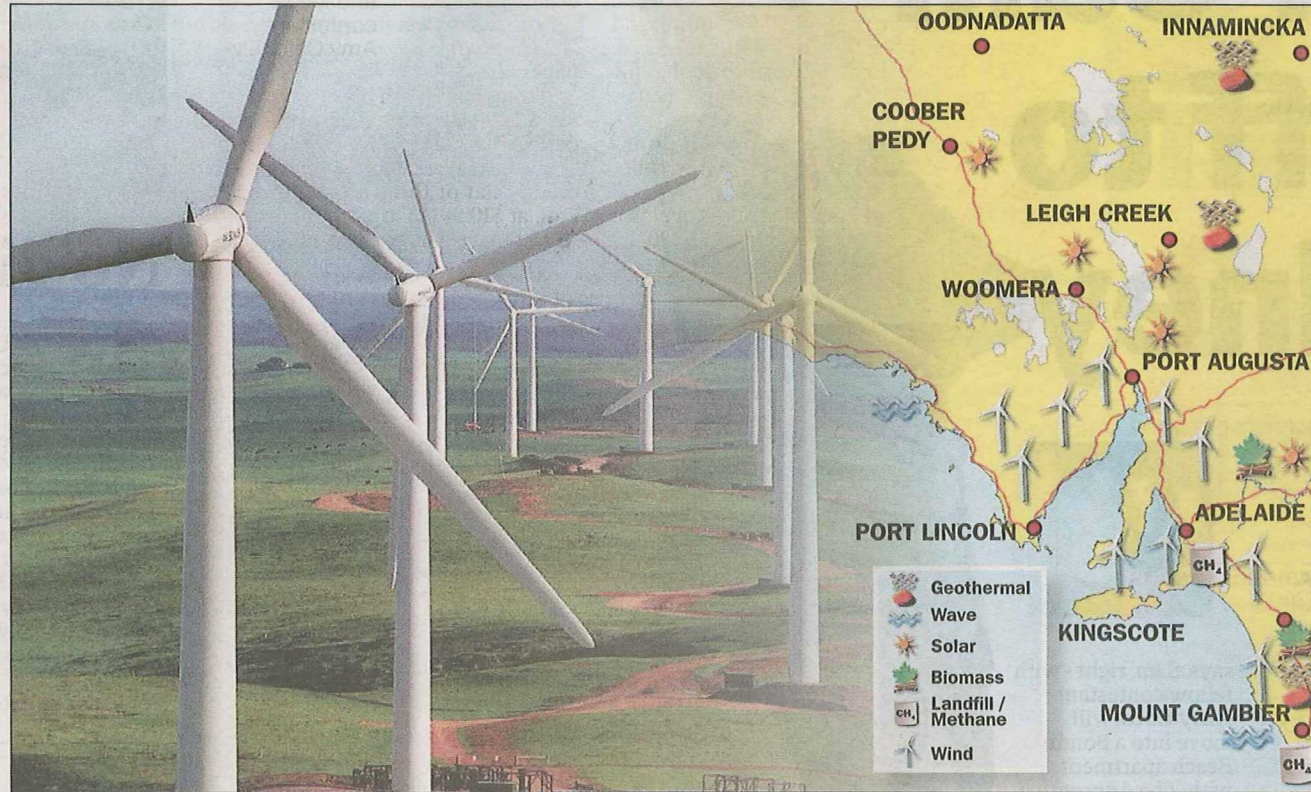
He is in town for the state's first Clever Green Conference and Showcase in the Adelaide Convention Centre.

Tomorrow, he will lead a workshop "sketching a 100 per cent renewable electricity supply model for South Australia" at the invitation of Renewables SA.

Dr Lehmann helped convince his own government that a future powered by 100 per cent renewable energy was not only possible, but desirable, considering the rising cost of fossil fuels.

"It is clear energy will be more expensive in the future, whatever scenario you take," he said. "If you take a fossil fuel (scenario) and you don't introduce any renewables, then you will have even higher energy costs."

A combined power plant would link and control wind, solar, biomass and hydro-power installations to balance out short-term fluctu-



POWERFUL VISION: A State Government example of how 100 per cent renewable energy could be achieved for South Australia.

ations in supply and demand. The project is a clear demonstration of a mix of technologies that serves to silence critics who claim renewable energy is unreliable.

"It reminds me of the days when the people didn't believe that an aeroplane can fly," he said. "As long as you don't see that it flies, you

don't believe the science behind it. And that's the same with renewables."

Renewables SA board member and key independent adviser to the State Government Monica Oliphant said she invited Dr Lehmann to Adelaide because she was "sick of hearing solar and wind are intermittent and

could never provide reliable power here".

"Let's start now, moving towards the 100 per cent renewables goal," she said.

Premier Mike Rann said SA was on track to achieve a goal of 33 per cent renewable energy by 2020, with close to half the nation's wind power capacity and 20 per cent of

residential grid-connected solar panels.

Dr Lehmann said it would be possible to achieve 100 per cent renewables by 2050 if planning started now.

Dr Lehmann will give a free public lecture in the Centenary Building at UniSA City East Campus tomorrow at 7.30pm.