

26TH MAY 2006
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News

The power of plastic

By Marg Stork

A DANDENONG South company will use a State Government grant of \$51,000 to develop technology that converts plastic waste into energy.

Transpacific Industries in Ordish Road plans to use the grant to develop and install a fuel chip, which will cut fuel costs and reduce greenhouse pollution.

The technology will be the first of its kind in Victoria.

Transpacific's business manager Michael Nashman said the initial phase of development of the fuel chip was under way.

"The alternative fuel chip has a 50 per cent higher calorific value than brown coal and



Plastic energy: Michael Nashman with a fuel chip made from plastic waste.

Picture: Lucy Di Paolo

twice the calorific value of woodchips. Potential users of the fuel could reduce their fuel costs by as much as 50 per cent by using the Transpacific fuel chip."

Mr Nashman said the fuel chip trial would take 18 months.

Announcing the grant, Dandenong MP John Pandazopoulos said the tech-

nology would cut greenhouse pollution by 1400 tonnes and divert more than 3000 tonnes of plastic waste from landfill each year.

"The new technology will significantly reduce waste going into landfill and provide income for the company through the sale of recycled plastics and fuel briquettes," he said. "The other positive benefit is that as many as 15 Victorians will gain employment through the use of a supported employment service [formerly known as sheltered workshop] to separate the plastic for reuse."

The funding is being provided under the Business Energy Innovation Initiative, managed by Sustainability Victoria.

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