

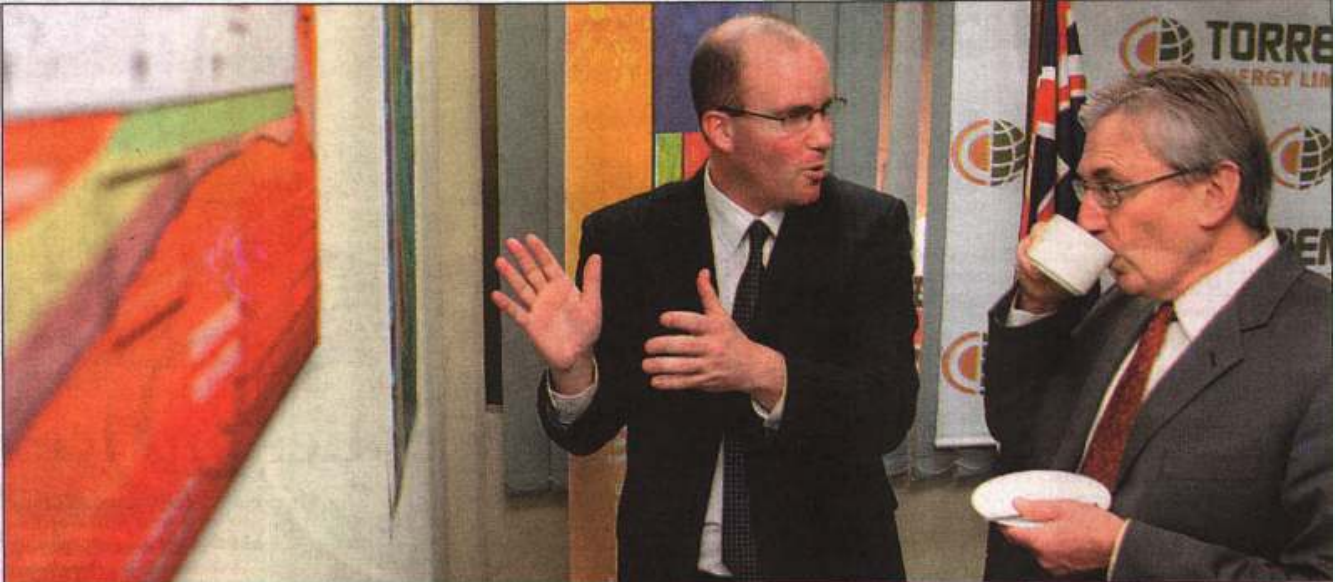


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Brief: TORRENS  
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## THE \$3m CUPPA

Federal Finance Minister Nick Minchin enjoyed tea yesterday morning with Torrens Energy chief executive Chris Matthews and left \$3 million on the table for the hot-rocks explorer.  
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# Hot-rock hunter gets \$3m grant

## CAMERON ENGLAND

A GEOTHERMAL energy project near Parachilna in the state's north has been given a \$3 million boost from the Federal Government.

Torrens Energy will use the Renewable Energy Development Initiative grant it was awarded yesterday to develop a modelling process allowing it to locate geothermal "hot spots" in the earth's crust.

Chief executive Chris Matthews said by drilling shallow holes over a 15km grid, the company believes it can develop a three-dimensional temperature field model to help predict the best places to drill for geothermal energy.

"The two things you need is a heat source, and something to trap the heat in," he said.

"If we can pinpoint where the best geology coincides with the best temperature, the next progression is we can model how much heat, how big,

and what shape it is."

Mr Matthews said this meant companies looking for hot rocks in Australia and overseas would not have to spend millions of dollars drilling wells 4-5km deep to test whether an area was prospective for geothermal energy.

"For a fraction of the cost of one of these deep holes we can explore areas, and we're talking about areas next to cities," he said.

Drilling at the Torrens project between Port Augusta and Leigh Creek should start in October.

Finance Minister Nick Minchin, who presented Torrens with the grant yesterday, said the research would lead to more efficient identification of geothermal resources.

"This innovative software will give the renewable energy sector a vital tool to more accurately and efficiently identify the best areas to extract natural energy," he said.

Torrens shares closed 3c higher at 55c.