



**DIFFERENT APPROACH:** Chris Matthews . . . geothermal technology can be "applied directly to existing fossil fuel-powered production".

## 'Hybrid' geothermal process

### CAMERON ENGLAND

TORRENS Energy has secured a geothermal exploration licence covering two South Australian power stations, which it says opens up new options for geothermal energy use.

The Perth-based company said yesterday the proximity of the licence to the Northern and Playford power stations at Port Augusta, which supply up to 20 per cent of SA's electricity, mean

"hybrid power production" could be an option.

"Technical studies completed overseas show that geothermal energy can conceptually be harnessed and applied directly to existing fossil fuel-powered power production," chief executive Chris Matthews said.

"This process has been termed 'hybrid geothermal pre-heating' and involves elevating the water temperature prior to being injected into the steam turbine process

common to coal power generation."

Such geothermal energy use differs from the hot fractured rock process being pursued by the other energy companies operating in SA, which are seeking to drill wells deep into hot granites, then circulate water through them to capture heat which can be turned to electricity at the surface.

Torrens Energy's shares closed 5.5c higher at 86c yesterday.