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RENEWABLE BEER? CHEERS TO THAT!

PAUL GILDER
EXCLUSIVE

FORGET St Patrick's Day — an Aussie brewer is bringing a whole new meaning to green beer.

Listed company Broo will today unveil plans to build the world's most environmentally friendly brewery in Ballarat, creating 100 jobs in the process.

Broo aims to power the \$100 million brewery entirely with renewable energy, using a mixture of solar, wind and biogas.

The site will also include a museum chronicling the history of beer in Australia as

well as a restaurant, visitor centre, wetlands and amphitheatre.

Chief executive Kent Grogan said the facility would champion "green brewing", with spent grain husks from the brewing process to be recycled as feedstock for a biogas plant at

the site.

"We are committed to integrating a raft of state-of-the-art environmentally sustainable technologies that

will ... enable carbon-neutral beer production," Mr Grogan said.

The brewery will source water from an underground aquifer at the site, and aims to use just 1.2 litres of water instead of the industry-standard five litres to produce a litre of beer.

Broo's plan builds on the Sorrento-based company's bond with regional Victoria, after it forked out \$1 million for the Mildura Brewery earlier this month.

The Ballarat site will be funded through debt and

government grants and produce at least 480 million bottles a year — supporting Broo's distribution network in China and at home.

Mr Grogan said the site, scheduled to be opened in the

second half of next year, was likely to be the nation's third biggest in terms of annual production, surpassing the Coopers Brewery operations in South Australia.

"We've got some of the largest distributors in the world chasing our product and this gives us the scale to meet that demand," he said.



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