



**BLADE RUNNER:** Tropical Energy Solutions owner Frank Dallmeyer is delighted with the replacement wind turbine at Rowes Bay Sustainability Education Centre.

Photo: FIONA HARDING

## Green energy given a fresh spin

CYCLONE Yasi may have destroyed the city's wind turbines but it hasn't blown away Townsville's renewable energy dreams, with a new cutting edge unit built at Rowes Bay Sustainability Education Centre.

The 10kW turbine replaces the old 6kW units at Riverway and The Strand and was built with the insurance payout from the cyclone-damaged models.

Should another cyclone set its sights on our city, the new state-of-the-art turbine can be

dismantled within half an hour.

The turbine was installed by Townsville company Tropical Energy Solutions with the guidance of an engineer from China whose company made the unit.

Tropical Energy Solutions owner Frank Dallmeyer said taking into account wind speeds in the area, the turbine would power the equivalent of just over three homes a year.

"With technological developments, I think there could be a future for wind turbines in the

North Queensland region," Mr Dallmeyer said.

"Only five to 10 years ago people were questioning whether solar power would ever make a meaningful contribution to our energy consumption because it was so expensive, but look at it now."

The 10m turbine will be used to demonstrate alternative energy to students and community groups who are visiting the education centre.

**Emily Macdonald**