



Media release

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Townsville shines in Solar City win

Townsville's successful Solar Cities bid would put the city at the forefront of sustainable energy use in Australia, Mayor Cr Tony Mooney said today.

Welcoming Townsville's Solar City win, Cr Mooney said Townsville's abundant sunshine, large regional population and strong community support made the city a perfect location for the seven-year trial.

"This is an exciting announcement that will put a national focus on Townsville." Cr Mooney said.

"I want to congratulate and thank Ergon Energy, Townsville City Council staff, and other consortium members the Queensland Government, Delfin Lendlease and Honeycombes, for putting together a fantastic bid and getting Townsville over the line against strong entries from cities around Australia.

"This is a major achievement to be named the only solar city in Queensland, the Sunshine State.

"Over the course of this seven year project Townsville can show the rest of Australia that we are a community that is committed to energy efficiency and the principles of sustainability."

Cr Mooney said the Solar City project presented a golden opportunity for long-term sustainable change in the community on energy usage and this would benefit the region both economically and environmentally.

"Townsville is one of the fastest growing regional areas in Australia and the opportunities to incorporate energy efficient practices are enormous, especially for new development as the city expands into the green field site at Rocky Springs," Cr Mooney said.

During the trial, the Council will partner with Ergon Energy on using energy efficient methods and products such as solar photovoltaic (PV) systems installed at homes on Magnetic Island, the selected solar suburb within the Solar City of Townsville.

Magnetic Island as an island suburb is seen as an ideal area for the trial for the management of the project and collection of data.

The project will also include a number of new homes at Serene Valley, a commercial site in the Townsville CBD as well as Riverway.

Positive benefits of the project for the Townsville community include the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by about 50,000 tonnes over the seven years – about the same as taking 1,700 cars off the road – and savings of up to \$1 million on electricity.

A major part of the Solar City project is the Townsville City Council's Citisolar Community Capacity Building Program, which will build on the solar trials by engaging residents, businesses, and schools across Townsville through a range of local projects.

The program will raise community awareness of energy efficiency and sustainability through education, promotion, incentives and demonstrations of cutting edge solar technologies.

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