

MEDIA RELEASE

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BUILDING FEE BONUS FOR SOLAR CITY TRIAL

Households participating in the *Townsville: Queensland Solar City* trial on Magnetic Island need not worry about council building charges for fitting solar panels.

A Townsville City Council planning report is recommending City Hall treat the panels in the same way as it does solar hot water systems and waives the \$382 in fees as a community service obligation.

Neighbourhood and Strategic Planning Committee chairman Cr John Robertson said the move was a common sense approach.

“The Solar City trial is an exciting Australian Government initiative that will encourage alternative energy use and we want to encourage people on the island to participate,” Cr Robertson said.

“The City Council, Ergon Energy and other consortium partners lobbied extremely hard to have Townsville selected from cities around Australia to take part in the trial.

“As a major partner, it’s fair enough that the council foregoes the building fees as we do with solar hot water systems as part of our commitment to encouraging the use of alternative energy and energy efficient practices.”

During the trial, Ergon Energy will supply and install roof mounted solar photovoltaic systems (solar panels) to approximately 500 homes on Magnetic Island.

Information on participants’ energy usage will provide valuable data on the effectiveness of solar energy in an urban environment.

The recommendation on the building fees was approved at the Council’s Neighbourhood and Strategic Planning Committee on Wednesday.

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