



Hon. Geoff Wilson MP  
Member for Ferny Grove



Minister for Mines and Energy

30 August 2007

### State seals deal with Ergon Energy for Solar City funds

The \$30 million *Townsville: Queensland Solar City* project is a step closer to implementation after the signing of a funding agreement between the Queensland Government and Ergon Energy.

Minister for Mines and Energy Geoff Wilson, Speaker and Member for Townsville Mike Reynolds and Ergon Energy Chief Executive Tony Bellas recently held a ceremonial signing of the \$5 million agreement at Parliament House.

“The State Government has already given Ergon Energy \$2 million for the project and will provide a further \$1 million a year over the next three years to help pave the way for this ground-breaking project,” Mr Wilson said.

State Government-owned corporation Ergon Energy will provide a further \$7.2 million to the project, with the Australian Government contributing \$15 million.

The *Townsville: Queensland Solar City* project will adopt solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, smart meters, energy efficiency, demand management and cost-reflective pricing.

“It will help us create better large-scale sustainable energy strategies for the future,” Mr Wilson said.

Mike Reynolds said the *Townsville: Queensland Solar City* project was a landmark trial that would draw international interest.

“The project involves 1700 free energy assessments and the installation of 2500 smart meters and 500 solar PV systems in selected homes and public buildings in the solar suburb of Magnetic Island.

“It will demonstrate the effectiveness of solar power, smart meters, energy efficiency and demand side measures in an urban grid-connected context,” Mr Reynolds said.

“And it’s expected to generate 11 gigawatt hours of renewable energy over its life to 2013, and in doing so, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 50,000 tonnes.

“That’s the equivalent of taking 1,700 cars off the road each year,” Mr Reynolds said.

Tony Bellas said the *Townsville: Queensland Solar City* project will showcase the future of sustainable urban living in Australia.

“This project will encourage greater use of renewable energy sources, deeper

community engagement and involvement, efficient use of electricity and sensitivity to escalating energy consumption,” Mr Bellas said.

“It will lower the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the Townsville region’s energy use and make it an even more attractive place to live and work,” he said.

The *Townsville: Queensland Solar City* project is part of the Australian Government’s \$75 million Solar Cities program. Ergon Energy leads the Townsville project in a consortium with the State Government, Townsville City Council, Delfin Townsville, HIG Riverway and Cafalo.

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