



## press release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Blacktown City – ready to meet its energy challenges**

Blacktown City today moved a step closer to becoming a Solar City following the official signing of the project's funding agreement with the Australian Government.

Solar Cities is the Australian Government's \$75 million programme designed to bring together solar technologies, energy efficiency, smart metering and better electricity pricing to create more sustainable communities.

The agreement between the Australian Government and BP Solar, the leader of the Blacktown Solar City consortium, was signed at the Blacktown City Library.

The consortium from the Blacktown City Solar Cities project, the third Solar City to be announced, is excited to now move forward with the final preparations and rollout of the programme.

"Since Blacktown City was announced as a Solar City last November, the consortium has been actively engaging with the local community to provide information on what this project is all about, and how it will help them meet their energy challenges," said Brooke Miller on behalf of the consortium, which also includes ANZ, Integral Energy, Big Switch Projects, Blacktown City Council and Landcom.

"With a growing population and an increasing demand for air conditioners, we were convinced that Blacktown City community would be keen to understand how we can help it save both energy and money. We have already received over 500 registrations of interest, a tremendous response from local residents and proof that Blacktown City is an ideal choice for a Solar City," she said.

With the funding agreement signed, the Blacktown Solar City consortium will now work hard to finalise its suite of packages including solar power, smart meters, energy efficiency and new approaches to electricity pricing and financing for the community. The project team hopes to have all of its packages finalised and on offer by July of this year.

By the project's end, it is estimated the community will be preventing 25,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere each year, equivalent to taking 6,000 cars off Sydney's roads.

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For any inquiries please contact:  
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## **Notes to Editors**

### Blacktown Solar City

- Covering 45 suburbs, Blacktown City is the biggest Local Government Area in NSW and the third largest in Australia, behind Brisbane City and the Gold Coast.
- Blacktown City is in western Sydney, is 35km west of the Sydney CBD.
- Blacktown City has a population approaching 300,000 people and is a young, culturally diverse community.
- The Blacktown Solar City project will run from 2006 to 2013.
- A range of different packages will be provided featuring solar PV, solar hot water, energy efficiency, free energy audits, smart meters, demand management, cost reflective pricing and innovative financing
- The project will seek to help residents, businesses and community organisations save money by using energy more wisely, saving energy and generating their own energy.

For further information on the Blacktown Solar City project, visit [www.blacktownsolarcity.com.au](http://www.blacktownsolarcity.com.au) or call 1800 619 322

### Solar Cities Project – Australian Government initiative

- Solar Cities is a \$75million initiative announced by the Prime Minister in the Energy White Paper, *Securing Australia's Energy Future*, in June 2004.
- Solar Cities will be implemented by the Department of the Environment and Water Resources through trials in Adelaide and at least three other electricity grid-connected urban areas around Australia.
- Solar Cities is an innovative programme which is designed to demonstrate how solar power, smart meters, energy efficiency and new approaches to electricity pricing can combine to provide a sustainable energy future in urban locations throughout Australia.
- It is a partnership approach that involves all levels of Government, the private sector and the local community.
- The program will run from 2004/05 to 2012/13, with the focus on programme design and site selection in the first year.

To learn more, visit [www.greenhouse.gov.au/solarcities](http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/solarcities)

### BP Solar

- BP Solar is Australia's largest manufacturer of solar photovoltaic products, with almost 300 employees at its Sydney Olympic Park facility.
- In 2005, BP Solar annual PV production capacity in Australia was expanded by 25% from 40MW to 50MW in an effort to cope with growing demand.
- BP Solar's Sydney Olympic Park facility is the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere and recorded over A\$90 million in export sales in 2005

To learn more, visit [www.bpsolar.com.au](http://www.bpsolar.com.au) and [www.bpalternativenergy.com](http://www.bpalternativenergy.com)