



The Place To Be

Media release

Geoff Howard MLA, Member for Ballarat East

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CONSTRUCTION OF BALLARAT SOLAR PARK CREATES JOBS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Geoff Howard MP, State Member for Ballarat East, today announced the beginning of construction of a Solar Park in Ballarat, bringing the reality of locally generated green power and jobs one step closer for local residents.

The Ballarat Solar Park, part of the Central Victorian Solar City project, is supported by a grant of \$2.5 million from the Victorian Government Sustainability Fund and Sustainability Victoria.

“The Solar Park’s panels track the movement of the sun, maximising the amount of local renewable energy generated and creating a green economy,” Mr Howard said.

The Ballarat Solar Photovoltaic¹ (PV) Park is one of two in the Central Victorian Solar City. The other is located in Bendigo.

Both these parks are large-scale, concentrated 300kW facilities, and will each generate enough renewable energy to provide 150 households with the same amount of solar power generated from individual roof mounted 2 kW household PV systems.

“The PV Parks will be Australia’s largest ground mounted, flat plate, grid-connected Solar Parks, and will incorporate the use of tracking solar panels, maximising their energy generation potential,” explained Mr Howard.

Sustainability Victoria supports the energy efficiency services and technologies incorporated into the Solar Park, and the Victorian Government Sustainability Fund supports the monitoring and evaluation elements of the project.

Consortium member Origin Energy is responsible for the construction of the Solar Park on behalf of the Central Victoria Solar City Project and has selected its preferred subcontractor to assist with the supply, installation, commissioning and maintenance of the 300 kW solar photovoltaic (PV) facility for the life of the project.

The City of Ballarat is providing a 1 Ha site at the airport in Ballarat to house the new Solar Park. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank is providing finance over a four year period to cover the cost of construction for both the Ballarat and Bendigo Solar Parks for Central Victoria Solar City. Powercor will connect the energy generated from the Park to its electricity distribution network.

The \$42 million Central Victoria Solar City project is funded by the Australian Government’s \$94 million Solar Cities Program, the Central Victoria Solar City Consortium and other supporting organisations.

Consortium members include Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA), Origin, Powercor and ZC02e. The Victorian Government, through Sustainability Victoria and the Sustainability Fund, is also a key funding contributor. Fourteen local municipalities in Central Victoria support the project.

For more information go to: www.centralvictoriasolarcity.com.au

¹ A solar panel that generates power

Contact: Geoff Howard MLA Member for Ballarat East 5331 7722