

# Blacktown leads the way in solar cities for NSW



The Prime Minister John Howard joined with Louise Markus in the announcement of Blacktown as New South Wales' first Solar City

Louise Markus has welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement of Blacktown City as the first Solar City in New South Wales.

The Prime Minister announced up to \$15 million in funding under the Australian Government's \$75 million Solar Cities initiative and is part of the Australian Government's long-term energy policy announced in 2004.

"This is an exciting announcement for the area. This is an initiative many households in the community will benefit from" said Louise Markus.

The Blacktown Solar City consortium is

working with industry, businesses and the local community to rethink the way they produce and use energy.

The Blacktown Solar City consortium is joining with the Australian Government in delivering this innovative new trial. The consortium is led by BP Solar, with consortium members including Integral Energy, Blacktown City Council, ANZ, Landcom and Big Switch Projects.

Through this innovative new trial the community will save over 22 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually, and will reduce greenhouse

emissions by more than 24,000 tonnes each year, will save \$3 million in electricity bills annually for the Blacktown City community. The valuable information and lessons learned will inform energy and greenhouse policies. This project will affect many suburbs like Second Ponds Creek.

"Blacktown is an area experiencing enormous growth which in turn increases our demand for energy. This trial will give us the opportunity to install solar technologies, save money, improve our energy efficiency and set a path which will lead to a new energy future for all of us" said Louise Markus.