



Blazing a trail

BLACKTOWN'S solar city status advanced another step last Thursday.

The Blacktown Solar City consortium sealed its agreement with the Federal Government to begin funding the project.

Last November, the Government named Blacktown as NSW's first solar city.

The federal solar cities program aims to increase the use of solar power and maximise energy efficiency.

The consortium comprises Blacktown Council, BP Solar, Integral Energy, Big Switch Projects, ANZ and Landcom.

Its spokeswoman, Brooke Miller, said Blacktown's solar city program aimed to cut 25,000 tonnes of global warming emissions each year.

"We have already received more than 500 registrations of interest, a tremendous response from local residents," Ms Miller said.

Greenway federal MP Louise Markus said residents would benefit.

"The community will save more than 22 gigawatt hours of electricity annually," Mrs Markus said.

"This trial will give us the opportunity to install solar technologies, save money and lead to a new energy future."

Ms Miller said projects should be ready for funding by July.



Done deal: Greenway MP Louise Markus oversees the signing by Commonwealth Environment and Water Resources secretary Dr David Borthwick and BP Solar's Brooke Miller.

Picture: Elliott Housego