



Solar power is on its way

BLACKTOWN Council has moved a step closer to becoming a solar-powered city after the signing of a funding agreement with the Federal Government.

Solar Cities is a \$75 million federal program to encourage the use of solar technology, energy efficiency, smart metering and better electricity pricing for a more sustainable community.

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

The Blacktown project is the third Solar City to be announced.

Partners in the consortium include ANZ, Integral Energy, Big Switch Projects, Blacktown Council and Landcom.

Consortium spokeswoman Brooke Miller said Blacktown's growing population made it an ideal candidate for the program.

"With a growing population and an increasing demand for airconditioners, we were convinced that Blacktown City community



(From left) David Borthwick, from the Environment Department, with Federal MP for Greenway Louise Markus and Brooke Miller at the signing.

would be keen to understand how we can help it save both energy and money," she said.

"We have already received more than 500 registrations of interest – a tremendous response from local residents and proof that Blacktown City is an ideal choice for a Solar City."

With the funding agreement signed, the Blacktown Solar City consortium will now finalise its different 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 packages finalised and on offer by July.

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 6000 cars off Sydney's roads.

The Blacktown Solar City project will end in 2013.

Details: www.blacktownsolarcity.com.au or phone 1800 619 322