



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

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PAVING THE SOLAR HIGHWAY FOR BUSINESSES IN BLACKTOWN, NSW

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett today opened the largest single roof mounted solar power system in New South Wales.

“The rooftop solar highway here at Cadbury Schweppes is truly spectacular – if you stood its 640 solar panels end to end they would tower above Sydney’s Centrepoint Tower,” Mr Garrett said.

“This is the way of the future – it’s what fighting climate change is all about.”

The Cadbury Schweppes factory in Sydney’s Blacktown is the first business to take up the commercial solar power offer under the Blacktown Solar City project.

“This solar system is a great example of the innovative approaches Solar Cities is enabling across Australia,” Mr Garrett said.

“Under the Solar Cities trials, we are bringing together industry, power companies and households to combine solar power, smart meters, energy efficiency and market reform. We’re laying the foundations of a sustainable energy future.

“The Rudd Government has already started work to create two new Solar Cities - bringing cleaner, greener energy to homes and businesses in Perth and Victoria’s Coburg.

“Blacktown is a shining example of what they can look forward to.

“We’re also working on a range of new measures to help Australians make existing homes more sustainable - through green home loans, energy efficient insulation and cost-saving new standards for household appliances.

“These initiatives will make a practical difference in the fight against climate change in homes and communities around Australia,” Mr Garrett said.

Mr Garrett congratulated the Blacktown Solar City consortia - BP Solar, Integral Energy, Blacktown City Council, Landcom, ANZ and Big Switch Projects – for helping to set a new benchmark for commercial solar power, and urged other companies to follow their lead.

The Australian Government’s \$15 million investment in the Blacktown Solar Cities project is expected to leverage a further \$19 million from industry and other partners. The Blacktown Solar City trial will run over six years, and information gained and lessons learned from the project will help develop future climate change policies.

Blacktown is joined by Adelaide, Townsville, Alice Springs and Central Victoria as Solar Cities.

[For more information visit www.greenhouse.gov.au/solarcities](http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/solarcities)

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