



SPEECH

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

CADBURY SCHWEPPE'S 'SOLAR HIGHWAY'

Peter Garrett opens New South Wales' largest ever roof-mounted solar array,
at the Cadbury Schweppes factory in Blacktown,
as part of the Blacktown Solar Cities Project

Speech by Peter Garrett
Cadbury Schweppes factory
Huntingwood NSW
10:30am, 1 February 2008

I am very pleased to be here to launch Blacktown Solar City's first commercial solar power installation here at Cadbury Schweppes, as part of the Australian Government's Solar Cities program.

I'd like to also acknowledge the Mayor of Blacktown, Councillor Leo Kelly – and of course recognise this is a tough day for residents here in Blacktown who've suffered storm damage, and we commend those emergency services workers and volunteers who'll be on the ground lending a hand.

I'd also like to acknowledge Brooke Miller, Regional Manager, BP Solar and John Christophersen from Cadbury Schweppes.

And it's a pleasure to welcome today international representatives from Cadbury Schweppes, here to lend support to its Australian efforts.

And to see here today all the members of the Blacktown Solar City Consortium.

Today we're opening the largest roof mounted commercial solar power system in New South Wales. This is an exciting milestone for a fantastic project – this is what seriously addressing climate change is all about. The Solar Cities program is a visionary energy concept.

Together we're combining solar power, energy efficiency and market reform to lay the foundations of a sustainable energy future. Our Solar Cities trials are collecting data to help Australia's households, industry, energy companies and governments cut our greenhouse gases.

We're looking at what works – and what Australia can do in the future to build a sustainable energy economy. These trials will help consumers better manage their energy use and save money. They'll help industry to test sustainable energy options in a low-risk environment. They'll help electricity companies to better understand the extent of cost savings in servicing peak energy demand periods. And they'll help governments to develop future energy and greenhouse policy.

Cadbury Schweppes is now a part of this exciting partnership - a powerful opportunity for industry to trial new business models and to engage with communities to help them make environmentally friendly energy choices while also saving on their energy bills.

I'd like to congratulate Cadbury Schweppes on its commitment to environmental leadership both here in Australia and internationally.

The Government brought a substantial policy commitment to solar power to the election, and it's a commitment we're now advancing. We're a huge supporter of tried and tested solar technologies – and of programs like Solar Cities that take this technology further through a more holistic approach.

We've announced a range of measures to help Australians make existing homes more sustainable.

We're looking at green home loans, energy efficient insulation and cost-saving new standards for household appliances. We'll be broadening and extending the Solar Cities concept. We'll be making every Australian school a solar school. And much more.

I can tell you I'm incredibly excited that we're now in a position to roll these programs out to make a practical difference in the fight against climate change. My Department is hard at work on these measures, and we'll have a lot more to say in the coming months.

But today we're celebrating a community that's already well on the way to sustainability through a project that's setting a new benchmark for commercial solar power.

I look forward to Perth and Coburg joining you and the other Solar Cities in Adelaide, Townsville, Alice Springs and Central Victoria.

So congratulations to everyone involved in the Blacktown Solar City project – you are making an invaluable contribution in Australia's transition to a cleaner energy future.

Your achievements demonstrate how successfully government, industry and the community can work together to achieve a common goal.

Your efforts to lower Australia's emissions will contribute to the global reduction in emissions needed to avoid dangerous climate change.

Congratulations again and I look forward to our ongoing work on this landmark project.

Thank you.

* * **END** * *
