



# MEDIA RELEASE

**The Hon Peter Garrett MP**

*Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts*

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## **\$13.9 MILLION FOR NATION'S SEVENTH SOLAR CITY IN PERTH**

\$13.9 million in Commonwealth funding will go to Australia's seventh Solar City in Perth, Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett said today.

"I am delighted to welcome Perth on board in this \$94 million program. It makes an exciting final addition to the program and further expands the types of trials for households and businesses that these cities are all about - providing practical research into energy efficiency," Mr Garrett said.

"More than 6,000 homes and businesses are expected to take part in the Solar City trial and will receive access to low flow shower heads, energy efficient lighting, insulation, home energy assessments, smart meters and discounted solar panels and hot water systems.

"The Perth Solar City project is expected to deliver carbon pollution reductions of more than 15,000 tonnes – equivalent to taking 3,500 large vehicles off the road – and cut energy use equivalent to that of 3,200 homes."

Member for Hasluck, Sharryn Jackson said the Perth Solar City delivered on a Rudd Labor Government election commitment.

"This project will be delivered in partnership with local councils, industry and the Western Australian Government and I am pleased that this initiative is being rolled out in my electorate."

Mr Garrett said the information and data collected through Perth Solar City would complement the work being done in the six other Solar Cities in Central Victoria, Adelaide, Blacktown, Townsville, Alice Springs and Coburg.

"Together, these Solar Cities will provide us with invaluable information that will bolster our understanding of how homes and businesses can reduce their energy use, save on energy bills and take practical action to help tackle climate change.

"Combined, the seven cities are expected to reduce carbon pollution by more than 76,000 tonnes each year, with over 3,200 solar photovoltaic panels expected to be installed on private and public housing and other buildings."

Mr Garrett said the announcement of Perth Solar City came as the Rudd Labor Government advanced its commitment to assist Australian households in taking practical action on climate change in the transition to the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

"I have commenced a series of roundtables with key stakeholders, including here today in Perth, to identify practical action households can take to save on energy bills and reduce their environmental impact.

"These discussions with representatives of the community, NGOs, business groups and industries will inform the development of household assistance measures to complement the Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme."

For more information about the Australian Government's Solar Cities program please visit [www.environment.gov.au/solarcities](http://www.environment.gov.au/solarcities)