



**Carmel Tebbutt MP**

**Deputy Premier**

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment | Minister for Commerce

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### **Solar Tourist Park sets a sustainable example**

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Carmel Tebbutt, will today flick the switch on a grid-connected solar generation system at Lane Cove River Tourist Park.

Ms Tebbutt said the unique solar panel installation at the park in Sydney's north included 60 individually ground-mounted panels covering 400 square metres.

"This is the largest National Parks and Wildlife Service solar panel array of its type and one of the few tourist park systems that is connected to the commercial grid," Ms Tebbutt said.

"It will not only reduce the Tourist Park's carbon footprint but will provide financial benefits by offsetting some of their operating costs and complimenting the existing mains power supply.

"The system will mean that the Tourist Park achieves 19 per cent renewable on-site energy which is well on the way to their production target of 25 per cent by 2015.

"It is no small feat for a business to be making these sorts of contributions to reducing carbon emissions and it provides a wonderful model for other businesses to adopt.

"It is also a good example of the sorts of projects that will be encouraged under the Commonwealth's Renewable Energy Target, which was passed on Thursday."

Andrew Daff, Manager of the Lane Cove River Tourist Park, said the project involved installing 60 individual solar panels mounted on frames with low-impact engineered footings to accommodate the panels on an embankment.

"Landscaping and native surround plantings compliment the station and incorporate habitat and a permanent water source for local bandicoots," Mr Daff said.

"We've also installed large interpretive signs to illustrate the operation of the system on the conversion process of solar radiation to usable electricity so that we're not only doing our bit to reduce carbon pollution but are also educating our visitors on the importance of energy efficiency."

The solar generation plant project was a joint initiative with local sustainable utility company Earth Utility, which also provides additional solar capacity to the park.

Koovashni Reddy, Managing Director of Earth Utility, said that the project will highlight the savings and look and feel of solar to their substantial client base.

"This is a great example of how solar power can be incorporated in to a small space to achieve significant environmental outcomes and save money on power bills," Ms Reddy said.



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The project is considered the next step in the ongoing implementation of the park's whole of business environment strategy and demonstrates the park's commitment to a sustainable future.

The Lane Cove River Tourist Park is a multi-award winning facility and was the only Australian tourism operation nominated for the Global Tourism for Tomorrow Awards as part of the World Travel and Tourism Council's Global Tourism Summit held in Brazil.

Lane Cove River Tourist Park also won the inaugural Qantas Award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism (NSW) at the 2008 NSW Tourism Awards.

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