



City of **HOBART**

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Solar array to cut Council energy costs

As part of the City of Hobart's program for solar panel installation on Council buildings, the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre is the latest site for the installation of 1,040 solar panels.

The Lord Mayor of Hobart, Alderman Sue Hickey said this installation followed the successful fitting of a 100kW system on the Centre's roof in December 2015.

"We anticipate that the Aquatic Centre system will produce 12 per cent of the Centre's current electricity needs and make a substantial reduction in the Centre's energy bills.

"The success of the earlier installed system at the Aquatic Centre has been the catalyst for the Council resolving to proceed with a larger project of rolling out panels on 11 of our buildings.

"More and more Hobart residents and businesses are making the switch to solar energy and we see this as an opportunity to not only create savings for our ratepayers but to set a good example by installing panels on our public buildings.

The project involves the installation of solar photovoltaic systems being installed at the following sites, some of which have already been completed:

- Cleary's Gates Council works depot
- McRobies Gully Waste Management Centre
- The Bushland works depot
- Hobart City Hall
- North Hobart Oval
- Mathers House
- Mornington Nursery
- The Hobart Town Hall annexe
- Centrepont Car Park
- Hobart Central Car Park

The net installation costs of the panels for all 11 sites is around \$570,000 and at the conclusion of the roll out, a cost savings of \$80,000 per annum are expected, giving a payback period of seven years.

The projected energy savings are about 450,000 kWh per year which is equivalent to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 100 tonnes of CO₂-e per annum

“Reducing our carbon footprint through initiatives that save energy, water and reduce waste is something the Council is firmly committed to.

“Financial savings are not the only benefits of course. Using solar energy is a clean and sustainable source of energy which is good for the environment and is reducing our carbon footprint,” said the Lord Mayor.

ENDS

For interview:

Ald Sue Hickey, Lord Mayor: 0427 351 987

Media enquiries:

Kerry Baker: 0437 775 484