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Coburg Solar Cities to create new energy for Moreland

THE Hon. Peter Garrett, Federal Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts today announced the Coburg Solar Cities Project at the Coburg Civic Centre, Coburg.

The project will receive up to \$4.9 million in funding under the Australian Government's \$94 million Solar Cities initiative.

"This is a terrific announcement for Moreland. The Coburg solar cities project, the sixth in Australia will help us create a sustainable vision for our community and a practical example for Australia," says Moreland Energy Foundation Chair Mike Hill.

The project will engage all levels of the Moreland community to bring about community-based sustainable energy solutions, with a specific focus on assisting low income households to improve energy efficiency and reduce costs.

"Clever responses to climate change can create a fairer Australia, by helping to cushion disadvantaged households from its impact and by assisting them to make the most of fresh opportunities," says Tony Nicholson, CEO Brotherhood of St Laurence.

"The Moreland community is an active participant in international efforts to reduce our impact on climate change. Our objective is to establish those necessary foundations to be carbon neutral by 2030," Mayor Joe Caputo said.

Key components:

- A community-wide campaign which will assist 5000 households, 500 business and 50 community organisations throughout Moreland to reduce carbon emissions and work towards carbon neutrality by 2030
- Establishment of a community enterprise to deliver energy efficiency services including 1000 energy efficiency audits and retrofits for low income households
- Redevelopment of Coburg City centre to become an internationally recognised sustainable urban redevelopment, integrating sustainable urban design, innovative technology and distributed generation (part of the Coburg 2020 initiative)
- A not-for-profit Energy Services Company to coordinate the installation of distributed power generation within the municipality

The Coburg Solar Cities project is led by the Moreland Energy Foundation in partnership with the Moreland City Council, Sustainability Victoria and the Brotherhood of St Laurence, along with a range of other key supporters.

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