



MEDIA RELEASE
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Zoo becomes home to Perth's largest solar PV site

The elephants at Perth Zoo will be the latest supporters of a solar powered future when the largest solar site in Perth is officially unveiled at Perth Zoo today.

More than 300 solar panels have been installed across eight Zoo buildings including the elephant barn, Reptile Encounter building, conference centre, reception building, retail shop, operations building and maintenance workshops.

Perth Zoo CEO Susan Hunt said Perth Zoo dedicates itself to sustainability and conservation and the solar installation will assist in demonstrating the economic and environmental benefits of wiser energy choices.

"The Zoo's 90kW solar PV installation is an environmentally sustainable source of energy that will reduce carbon emissions," Ms Hunt said.

"This 90.9 kW installation will produce over 120,000 kWh of energy per year for use by the Zoo," she said.

"The 303 solar panels are stage one of a two stage, \$2.7 million project.

"Perth Zoo will be well positioned to showcase sustainable ways of living, with on-site educational material for its 630,000 annual visitors," Ms Hunt said.

Western Power is managing the Australian Government's Perth Solar City program, and worked with the WA State Government, Perth Zoo and SunPower to install the solar site.

Western Power Managing Director Doug Aberle said the installation is one of five large scale systems being installed on identifiable buildings around Perth.

"The Midland Atelier and Central Institute of Technology are already enjoying the benefits of solar power production, while systems are planned for Kings Park and Perth Arena," Mr Aberle said.

As well as these iconic solar installations, Perth Solar City is undertaking a series of energy initiatives throughout the Perth Eastern region

"Perth Solar City offers over 100,000 households in Perth's Eastern region the opportunity to not only understand how they can save energy but also the means to put efficiency into practice.

"Residents have access to free home eco-consultations, free energy education services, valuable discounts off solar hot water systems, solar energy systems and access to unique energy saving technical trials" Mr Aberle said.

The Perth Solar City program is part of the Australian Government's \$94m Solar City initiative and is challenging industry, business, governments and communities to come together and change the way they produce, use and save energy.

For more information on Perth Solar City visit: www.perthsolarcity.com.au

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