



## Hervey Bay City Independent

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# Sun shines on solar projects worth \$4m to Bay community

A Brisbane-based company was awarded Hervey Bay's \$2.7 million solar farm project last week but immediately promised local contractors would be used.

"There will be trenching works, mechanical construction, we have kilometres of cable and all of that work will be done by local contractors," Rodger Whitby, general manager of the successful tenders, Ingenero, said.

"We will provide the qualified people to train local people.

"We expect to begin the project in early November."

Fraser Coast Mayor Mick Kruger was at the 2,600 square metre solar farm site on the corner of Boral and Hebblewhite Roads last Wednesday to officially turn the first sod with Energy Minister Stephen Robertson.

"The solar farm will generate approximately 630 megawatt hours of energy annually – enough to power approximately 100 homes – and save around 600 tonnes of carbon emissions every year," Mr Robertson said.

"It's also the first time in Queensland a stand-alone solar



An artist's impression of how the solar farm will look once finished.

farm has been integrated with a major commercial and industrial sector business."

The farm will comprise 1,584 individual solar panels that will face north, away from Boral Road and sit about one metre off the ground.

"This is an exciting development for Hervey Bay and for the Wide Bay Water Corporation," Cr Kruger said.

"Incorporating such a significant solar energy system into our business as usual practices,

demonstrates WBWC is at the forefront of adjusting to a carbon constrained business environment."

The \$1.3 million, 266 kilowatt solar panel system project at Hervey Bay Hospital was contracted to international company ABB Australia.

"The hospital project is a personal favourite of mine," Mr Robertson said.

"They are probably the biggest users of electricity on the Fraser Coast."

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**Mayor Mick Kruger and Energy Minister Stephen Robertson turned the first sod at Hervey Bay's \$2.7 million solar plant farm on the corner of Boral and Hebblewhite Road at Nikenbah.**