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Solar farm begins

WORK has started on installing nearly 1600 solar panels at the Fraser Coast Community Solar Farm, in the first community-owned project of its kind in the state.

The \$2.7 million farm is expected to generate about 630 megawatt hours of energy annually – enough to power about 100 homes – and save about 600 tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

Energy Minister Stephen

Robertson said the installation of the first solar panels was an exciting step for the project and Wide Bay Water Corporation.

“Each of the 1584 mono-crystalline silicon solar panels being mounted will be 250 watts and collectively cover an area about 2600 metres squared,” Mr Robertson said.

“Solar energy generated will help offset the energy use of Wide Bay Water Corporation’s operations.” He said Queensland

solar company Ingenero and Wide Bay Water Corporation sought to use local contractors on the project and it could boost the Fraser Coast economy by up to \$570,000.

“It’s also the first time in Queensland a stand-alone solar farm has been integrated with a major commercial and industrial-sector business,” he said.

Weather permitting, installation should be completed in February.



GROUND-BREAKING: The first solar panels installed at Nikenbah solar farm.

PHOTO: INGENERO