

Canberra Stadium flicks the switch on solar energy

Released 03/12/2009

Up to 16 night sporting matches are set to be powered by solar energy each year thanks to the installation of 72 new solar photovoltaic panels on the roof of Canberra Stadium, Minister for Energy, Simon Corbell said today.

"Canberra Stadium is one of Canberra's iconic buildings and a popular sporting venue for a range of codes, and this is an excellent way we can promote the clean energy message to a large group of people, but also significantly reduce the venue's carbon footprint," Mr Corbell said.

"The Government allocated \$314,000 for the installation of the panels and marks the stadium out as one of the most sustainable sporting arenas in the country.

"Based on an average of six hours daylight per day throughout the year, these panels will generate almost 23 megawatt hours of clean energy annually, enough to power all the lights for 16 night matches and save 25 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year."

The project marks the successful completion of Action 39 of the Government's climate change strategy, *Weathering the Change*, in which it committed to using community buildings and public spaces to showcase adaptable and renewable energy technologies.

"An additional feature of the panels is that they are attached to an architect-designed steel frame which themselves form a series of six shade structures for the visitors below," Mr Corbell said.

The solar panels are an integral part of the stadium's longer term Sustainability Master Plan, which will incorporate environmental thinking at every point in its future development.

"The ACT Government has been actively promoting the uptake of solar PV panels, through the renewable energy feed-in tariff and increasing general awareness of clean energy," Mr Corbell said.

"We now have more than 1,000 solar PV panel installations, an increase of 76% since the start of the feed-in tariff March. The addition of these panels to Canberra Stadium will help stimulate awareness around renewable energy.

"This awareness is going to be critical as we move towards realising this government's goal of Canberra becoming carbon neutral by 2060."

Media Contact:

Patrick Cronan

6205 0401

0432 758 224

patrick.cronan@act.gov.au
