



## MEDIA RELEASE

**Friday 2 December**

### **CENTRAL VICTORIA SOLAR CITY HELPS NEWSTEAD RESIDENTS TAKE CHARGE OF THEIR ENERGY USE**

Around 100 local residents turned up to hear how they could reduce their household electricity use and work towards making their town 100% Renewable at the launch of the Renewable Newstead Project last night.

Renewable Newstead is an innovative partnership between Central Victoria Solar City (CVSC) and community Group Newstead 2021. CVSC has provided \$110,000 to support the employment of a community engagement officer, who has begun conducting free home energy assessments in the town, and will offer a series of free community workshops on ways to save energy. CVSC will also support a feasibility study to examine which forms of renewable energy will offer the greatest benefit to Newstead residents.

According to Central Victoria Solar City Project Director Leah Sertori, the partnership acknowledges Newstead's ability to identify opportunities such Renewable Newstead, which positions it to become one of the first Australian towns to take charge of its energy consumption.

"The energy industry is changing very rapidly, with both challenges and opportunities for regional communities," Ms Sertori said.

"Central Victoria Solar City believes that the Newstead story is an important one because it lights the way for other local communities to create and manage their own energy use and generation."

Central Victoria Solar City provided a 1.5kW household solar PV system, which was given away at the launch. The winner, local Newstead resident Brian Rebecchi, was thrilled with the win.

Highlights of the night included a short video presentation by local Newstead filmmakers canvassing opinions of Newstead residents on energy use, electricity costs and how a move towards a more renewable energy town might work.

Central Victoria Solar City is part of the Australian Government Solar Cities program and it is providing home energy assessments, at no cost, as well as other local energy creation and management products and services, to 3000 households across 14 Central Victorian municipalities as part of their research trial.

To find out more go to [www.centralvictoriasolarcity.com.au](http://www.centralvictoriasolarcity.com.au)

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