



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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Newcastle Wins Smart Grid Smart City

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, today welcomed the news that Newcastle will become the site of Australia's first commercial-scale smart grid.

To commence in mid 2010, the \$100 million *Smart Grid Smart City* demonstration project in Newcastle is expected to lead to Australia-wide advances in energy efficiency.

"This is a proud day for Newcastle," said Ms Grierson.

"Awarding the Smart Grid Smart City project to our bid recognises the capacity we have built over the last decade around clean energy innovation and enterprise, and will be of direct benefit to all Novocastrians.

The project will help Australians to save energy, connect renewable energy to the grid and to tackle climate change.

Ms Grierson said the project would give Newcastle households the ability to manage and better understand their own energy use.

"The Smart Grid will give households in Newcastle the ability to manage their own energy use, as they give consumers information about how much energy they are using and the costs at any time.

"Novocastrian consumers will also be able to use Smart Grids with energy efficient 'smart appliances' that can be set to run on off-peak power.

According to Ms Grierson, that the Energy Australia and AGL consortium includes a water grid makes this bid exceptional.

"The energy sector and those who genuinely want to tackle climate change will monitor the Smart Grid Smart City pilot closely as they develop locally a model for global action," said Ms Grierson.

Ms Grierson extended her congratulation to the winning consortium, led by EnergyAustralia and including IBM Australia, AGL, GE Energy, TransGrid, Newcastle City Council and the NSW Government.

"The Newcastle community has worked hard for this over a number of years and it is a fantastic achievement for all of us."

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“The task now for the successful consortium is to develop the technologies, processes and products which will make our energy grid more secure, our energy usage more efficient reducing energy emissions and costs.”

Delivery of the project is expected to start in mid 2010 and continue until June 2013.

“Although a great win for Newcastle all Australians are set to benefit from this project with the results of the demonstration to be shared with consumers and the energy sector more widely.”

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