



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Media Release
31 May 2007

FEDERAL LABOR COMMITS \$50 MILLION FOR A NEWCASTLE SOLAR INSTITUTE

Sharon Grierson says our region will be at the forefront of a Rudd Labor Government's fight against climate change, with a \$50 million commitment to an Australian Solar Institute in Newcastle.

The Institute will incorporate the CSIRO's National Solar Energy Centre and will create a global solar energy hub to fast track the development of solar thermal technology.

"The Australian Solar Institute announcement shows Federal Labor's commitment to the energy future of our region and our nation," Ms Grierson said.

"Federal Labor recognises that Newcastle is ready, willing and able to lead the fight against climate change."

"We have great potential in our region to contribute to the fight against climate change as a centre for smart energy - the Institute will help us to realise that potential."

Over four years under Federal Labor, this substantially increased funding will allow the Solar Institute to demonstrate solar gas technology, integrate solar into alternative fuels production, develop solar for hybrid applications including integration with existing coal fired power, develop other advanced solar technologies and expand the number of solar arrays at the CSIRO.

"While John Howard pushes a 1950s nuclear option that people don't want, Kevin Rudd and Labor are committed to the clean energy future that Australia needs."

Canberra
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Ph: 02 6277 4221
Fax: 02 6277 8461



Newcastle
427 Hunter Street
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
Ph: 02 4926 1555
Fax: 02 4926 1895
www.sharongrierson.com