



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
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## **Media Release**

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### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY: NEWCASTLE SHOWS THE WAY**

Newcastle City Council was last night presented with a Special Award for Outstanding and Sustained Innovation at the National Awards for Local Government 2005.

The Award recognises the long-term benefits to the Council, the community of Newcastle, and businesses of the Greenhouse Action in Newcastle (GAIN) Plan that has been developed for the city.

I was fortunate enough to be present at the Awards Ceremony in Canberra last night, and I congratulate NCC wholeheartedly.

Last week, Federal Parliament debated the Energy Efficiency Opportunities Bill, which will require Australia's 250 largest business energy users to identify areas where they can improve their energy efficiency and publicly report on these opportunities.

The contribution of local community action, such as that taken by Newcastle City Council, in reducing energy use should not be underestimated in our overall strategies to combat greenhouse gas emissions. Nor should the outstanding work being undertaken by the CSIRO's Energy Headquarters in Newcastle, which is undertaking vital research into energy efficient building design and clean coal technologies.

With Newcastle recognised as the national leader in energy efficiency and greenhouse abatement projects, it is clearly well placed to be selected as one of the four Solar Cities to be announced next year.

As a Solar City, Newcastle would share in \$75 million in federal funding, and would be able to establish around 40 new sustainability and energy efficiency projects.

I strongly support Newcastle's Solar Cities submission and look forward to a favourable response from the Federal Government.

**For more information or copies of Sharon's speech on the Energy Efficiency Opportunities Bill:  
contact Sharon Grierson on 4926 1555**

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