

WORK STARTS ON FIRST SOLAR INFO CENTRE



solar energy information centre

Construction has started on a \$1.2 million state-of-the-art solar information centre in South Perth.

The centre, to be built on the corner of Canning Highway and Dyson Street, is a first for Australia and possibly the world.

To mark the start of construction the first sod of soil was turned by Welshpool MLA Bill Thomas last Wednesday during a special ceremony to mark the occasion.

Opposition spokesman for minerals and energy

Richard Court also attended along with many other guests.

The Solar Energy Information Centre steering committee is supervising construction.

Those on the committee include Murdoch physicist Dr John Barker, Solar Housing Interest Group member Geoff Corrick and Homebase representative Ray Moss.

Architect Garry Baverstock said the centre would provide permanent display space for members engaged in every aspect of the solar energy industry.

Also, a housing appraisal and energy rating service will be made available to the public," he said.

"I'm enthusiastic about solar energy use in the future. In fact, it's happening right now."

Mr Baverstock said there had been great leaps in solar technology in recent years and he was convinced the centre would help the public make the most of these advances.

"Centre membership will be open to solar product manufacturers, solar designers and architects,

retailers and government departments related to solar energy," he said.

Mr Baverstock said that with the right design of a house there could be potential energy savings of 60-80 per cent.

For commercial buildings the savings on power could be 30-60 per cent.

The centre itself will use design for maximum solar efficiency.

Mr Baverstock said the project was an innovative one and would be a great service to West Australians.