



GKI Resort to Run Off Solar Power - Australia's First Carbon Positive Resort

Central Queensland could become the home of Australia's first ever 'carbon positive' resort.

Great Keppel Island (GKI) Revitalisation Plan proposes a number of leading edge techniques, products and innovations which would enable the new Resort to exist in a 'carbon positive' way.

The Resort would produce more clean energy than needed to keep it operational, enabling excess energy to be offered back to the grid.

At the heart of this proposal is the premise to harvest Australia's most abundant resource – the sun.

"This is an opportunity for the Central Queensland region and Australia to demonstrate a commitment to environmentally sustainable principles that we can all be proud of," said Anthony Aiossa, GKI Revitalisation Plan Project Manager.

ARUP Engineers, a world leading firm of sustainability engineers, has developed a strategy to achieve this ambitious target of making the Resort 'carbon positive'. This would be achieved through the installation of more than 23,000 solar panels installed on building roofs within the Resort, able to produce approximately 11,200 megawatt hours of clean renewable energy each year.

"This harvesting of renewable energy would equate to a reduction of 2,672 cars off the road each year," said Mr Aiossa.

"We want to take an approach to energy consumption that reflects community expectations of sustainable resource management," he said.

"Sensitive design is one of the keys to development of a truly sustainable project. All elements of design and construction need to consider the long term environmental benefits that can be achieved with today's technology," he said.

Part of being able to make the Resort carbon positive rests in designing buildings and facilities so that they demand less energy in the first place.

Facilities within the proposed development would take advantage of energy saving techniques within their design and construction. This includes a range of techniques and well thought out design considerations ranging from site orientation to energy efficient lighting.

Correct site orientation results in many environmental benefits and reduced impact. By ensuring correct site orientation, a building requires less artificial lighting, less cooling in summer and less heating in winter.

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