

## **Old Solar First**

Cloncurry in remote north-west Queensland will become the first town in the state to use solar power for all of the town's electricity needs. Premier Anna Bligh says Cloncurry was chosen for a ground-breaking, solar thermal power station. "We're investing \$7 million to build a 10 MW solar thermal power station. It's a real breakthrough for electricity generation," says Bligh. "The technology we're going to use in Cloncurry will ensure the power station keeps generating electricity even when the sun is not shining. 8000 mirrors will reflect sunlight onto graphite blocks. Water will be pumped through the graphite blocks to generate steam that will operate a conventional steam turbine electricity generator," she adds. Bligh explains that the heat stays in the graphite, allowing the steam to power on through the night and on overcast days. The solar thermal power station would deliver about 30 million kilowatt hours of electricity a year, enough to meet the needs of the entire local community. Bligh also says the project is a "winner" because it reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

[Source essa news]