CANNING VALE

Sun shines on Canning Vale

Natalie Nazzari

CANNING Vale is among the top 10 suburbs in Australia for the installation of solar panels, according to data released by Solar Citizens.

Figures showed 4717 Canning Vale households installed solar panels for the production of power, making the suburb the 10th largest adopter of solar power in the country.

Local solar panel provider Regen Power chairman Chem Nayar said solar power had become popular as electricity prices soared.

"This is really true in a mortgage belt suburb like Canning Vale where the income levels for households are lower than the state average," Mr Nayar said.

Mr Nayar said 3kW and 5kW systems were the most common.

"In many areas, the electricity grid can easily accommodate significantly large amounts of PV (photovoltaics) without any investment in additional infrastructure," Mr Nayar said.

"Rooftop solar can be a win-win for power companies, consumers and policy makers."

However, Solar Citizens national director Lindsay Soutar said big power companies were making it hard because they were making solar-powered homes pay higher fees to connect to the grid.

"Many solar users don't get paid the full value of the power they put back into the network," Ms Soutar said.

"And now the big power companies are trying to stop other people getting better power deals by reducing the Renewable Energy Target (RET).

"If they cut the RET, they will cut out the people who don't yet have solar but who still want to take back control over their power and how much they pay."

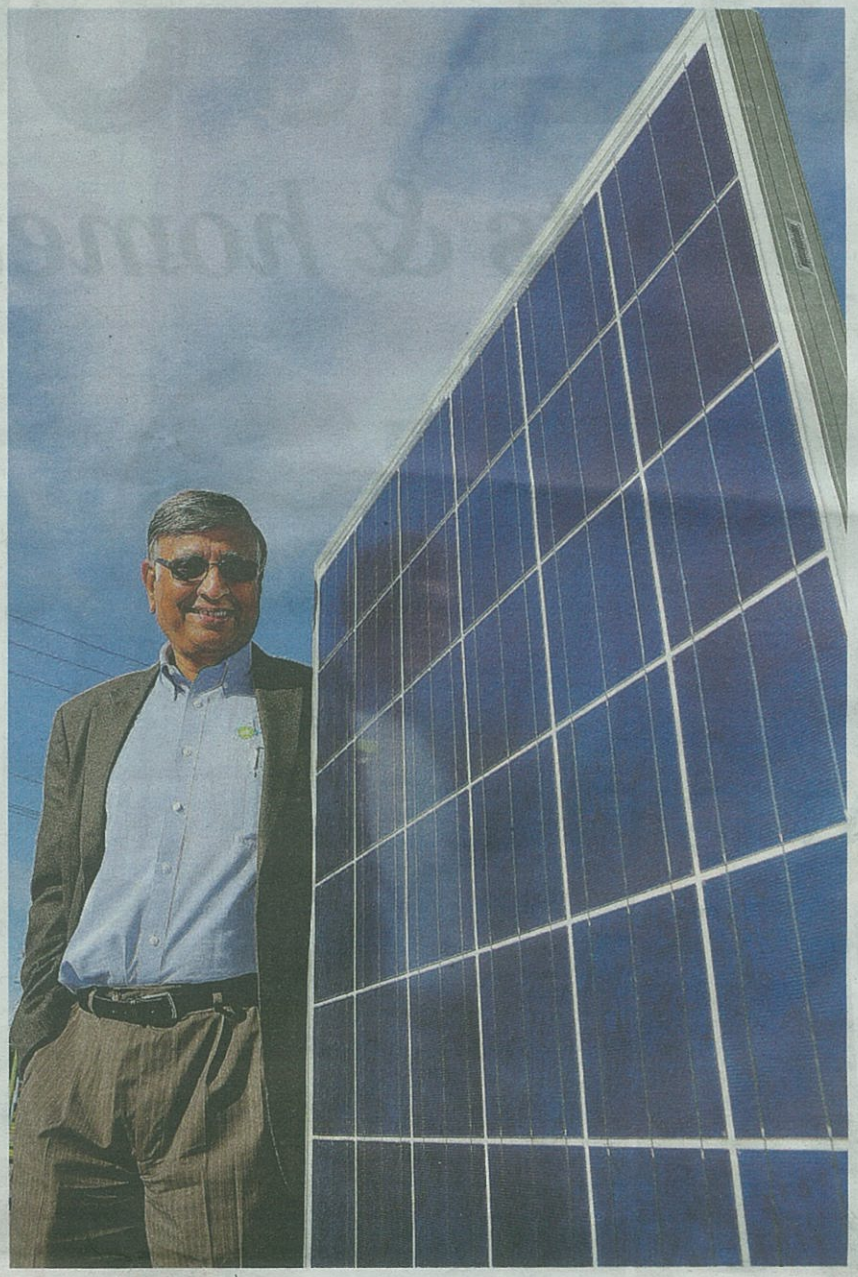
Energy Minister Mike Nahan said there was no doubt Canning Vale residents had embraced the opportunity to install solar panels because of the State Government's Feed in Tariff (FID) scheme.

Mr Nahan said more than 35 per cent of all solar panels installed in Canning Vale were connected to the FIT, with the scheme providing a subsidy for the use of renewable energy.

He said when considering energy related issues, it was imperative to consider the WA regulated market in isolation.

"In the deregulated National Energy Market, power companies may charge specific fees for the installation of solar panels," he said.

"However, in WA there is no specific network connection fee applied for the installation of residential solar panels."



Regen Power managing director Professor Chem Nayar.

Picture : Martin Kennealey www.communitypix.com.au d418975

QUEENS PARK

Park plans win support

QUEENS Park residents showed support for development of Cunnington Park at a recent City of Canning community consultation meeting.

Canning acting chief executive Tania Trengove said there were 21 public open spaces within Queens Park and East Cannington owned by the City.

Ms Trengove said Cunnington Park was considered the highest priority for development in the area because it was surrounded by residential homes.

"The park will include a children's play space, picnic area, mini- bike track for children, garden beds and exercise equipment for adults," she said.

"There will also be an area with kick-about space and basketball half court."

Ms Trengove said the City was progressing with design and planning of the project, with work expected to begin in the second half of the year.

"The City has $120,000 in its current Capital Works program which is being utilised to fund the initial project planning and design activities, together with the investigation and the establishment of water and electrical services to the site," Ms Trengove said.

"It is estimated that further funding to the approximate value of $200,000 will be required to facilitate the construction of the park to a standard consistent with the conceptual design"