

THURSDAY MARCH 30 2006

KIM BEAZLEY VISITS SOLAR RESEARCH LABS

The solar energy research facilities at the Australian National University received their fourth high-profile VIP visitor in just over a month when federal Opposition Leader Kim Beazley visited today. The visit followed tours of the solar facilities by Governor-General Major General Michael Jeffery, Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, Leader of the Australian Greens Senator Bob Brown, and Member of the German Parliament, Mr Herman Sheer.

Mr Beazley, who was accompanied by Mr Anthony Albanese MP, visited the Centre for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSES) at ANU, where there are a number of research projects under way to develop sustainable solar alternatives to non-renewable energy sources.

He was shown advanced research and development in solar cell design and device characterization, luminescent concentrators and solar air heaters.

ANU has a significant renewable energy research program, with a number of projects in the commercialisation stage, including the solar SLIVER cell and the Big Dish solar concentrator. The SLIVER cell technology, in commercial development by Origin Energy, has won a number of awards, including the Aichi World Expo Global Eco-Tech 100 Award, the Banksia Award for Environmental Leadership in Infrastructure and Services, and an Australian Institute of Energy Excellence in Energy Award.

There are 40 staff working on solar energy projects at ANU, ranging from fundamental science through to commercialisation.

More information:

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