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Queensland Country Life, Brisbane

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## Old mine site comes alive

KIDSTON has “struck gold” for a second time in more than 100 years but this time it’s with renewable energy.

The 50 megawatt phase one of a \$120 million solar project - to be built on the tailings storage facility of the former mine, 270km north-west of Townsville - will generate 145,000 megawatt hours of electricity per year from 540,000 solar panels.

This will provide more than 26,484 households with renewable energy, and increase renewable energy in Queensland by 5.5 per cent.

Genex managing director

Michael Addison said reaching this point had been a “long hard process”.

He said the site was a “dream site” for a renewable energy project.

“As an old mine site it comes with an enormous amount of infrastructure which would have otherwise cost us millions and millions of dollars more,” Mr Addison said.

“There is a dam 17km up the road and a pipeline from that dam to the site so we have access to water.

“It comes with two large voids - 54 hectares and 52

ha in surface area and one of those is 300m deep.

“There is a substation on site, transmission line to the coast, accommodation camp which in its peak hosted 300 people, roads, bridges, rock dumps, river sand just down the road - it’s a dream site.”

— LEA COGHLAN



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Energy Minister Mark Bailey, Genex chairman Dr Ralph Craven and ARENA CEO Ivor Frischknecht break the soil to celebrate the start of construction.