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# Grazier welcomes solar farm as neighbour

## Kidston

A GRAZIER who is neighbour to a new \$120 million solar farm at a former gold mine site in Etheridge Shire believes other decontaminated mine sites could do the same.

George Ryan runs cattle on around 20,234 hectares (55,000 acres), across two properties that have been in his family for two generations, including Ballynure, a neighbour to the Kidston

Solar Farm.

Mr Ryan said it was “fantastic” that a decontaminated mine site could be used to produce clean, renewable energy.

“I think it is groundbreaking and is the first time its been tried on a mine site, to my knowledge,” Mr Ryan

said.

“I think it’s something that companies could build into their exit plan because it’s always a big problem.”

Mr Ryan is very familiar with site – where hundreds of North Queenslanders were employed during its heyday – having worked there himself for 12 years.

“I was heavily involved in revegetation of both the tailings dams and waste dumps,” Mr Ryan said.

“A lot of the trees I took part in planting are now they are going to be mulched.

“The surface has been carefully engineered and

grassed up, so it’s a good use for that land.”

Mr Ryan said the developer, Genex, showed forward thinking in developing the project on the site.

“When the Kidston mine closed down a lot of locals were employed here and it left a vacuum,” Mr Ryan said.

“This project will throw them a lifeline. There going to be modern-skilled jobs that will be available for locals.”

– LEA COGHLAN



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**GREEN POWER:** George Ryan, Ballynure, worked at the Kidston Gold Mine for 12 years and has welcomed its revival as a renewable energy hub.