

## Ergon in deal over transfer of power

NICK DALTON

11 May 2016

Cairns Post, 21

A DEAL between the company behind a large solar farm southwest of Cairns and Ergon Energy has been described as a key milestone in the \$300 million project.

Genex and Ergon have signed agreements in relation to upgrading a substation and terms and conditions for the transfer of the first 50 megawatts of electricity from Kidston into Ergon's network for 25 years.

Genex managing director Michael Addison said after the substation was upgraded Genex would be able to connect to Ergon's distribution network and export electricity from Kidston directly into the National Electricity Market.

"The company is now focused on project funding arrangements, finalising, pro-curement, engineering and construction contractor arrangements and in securing an advantageous power purchase agreement," he said.

"The execution of the establishment and ongoing connection contracts by Genex represents one of the biggest milestones achieved so far for the company's first phase 50MW solar photovoltaic project," he said.

"Genex has now completed all key technical milestones required for its solar project, having received development approval, acquisition of the freehold site and confirmation from the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Heritage Protection that the existing environmental approval does not require amendment." Genex will continue with fast tracking of development. The company is now squarely focused on narrowing down its financing options with the appointment of

a project finance bank expected in the short term as well as progressing discussions with a number of -equity partners to fund all or part of the project construction equity.”