

# The Courier Mail

News

## Solar farm lighting way in clean energy project

JOHN MCCARTHY

15 February 2017

Courier Mail

9

The Kidston name has made a comeback after Genex announced financial closure for its 50 megawatt solar farm north west of Townsville.

The project, which sits on the old Kidston gold mine, bears the name of former Queensland premier William Kidston, who was in power when the mine was developed.

His descendant, Simon Kidston, is the executive director of Genex. Genex has \$100 million in funding from Societe Generale and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation to develop Kidston, which will generate enough power for 26,000 homes.

The solar farm is the first stage of the project, with plans to use the old mine pits as a 250Mw hydro-electricity scheme.

Kidston is expected to start putting electricity into the grid at the end of the year.

Clean Energy Finance Corporation spokeswoman Gloria Chan welcomed the deal. "With the cost of solar generation continuing to decline we are committed to working with developers such as Genex to finance opportunities that can complement Australia's renewable energy capacity by adding energy storage and grid stability services."