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HD **Solar** power lights life at luxury apartments
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A \$450,000 **solar** panel installation will cover five roof faces of the \$112 **million** six-storey luxury retirement apartments under construction at Fullarton, offering incoming residents a **stake** in green power.

Two hundred of the 800 panels making up the 200 kilowatt system have been installed on the former Julia Farr site with South Australian retailer **Solar** Depot hoping to have the rest completed by mid-September.

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The installation is believed to be the second largest in the state – behind the Adelaide Showground's \$8 **million**, 1 megawatt rooftop generation.

The 1ha Fisher St site includes 142 one, two and three-bedroom apartments, ranging in price from \$470,000 to \$1.5 **million**. The **solar energy** generated will not be enough to offset all consumption on the Living Choice site but will power common areas and allow partnering residents to offset some of their power.

The "theoretical ownership" of the system has been offered as a package into the long-term lease on the apartments for those residents that want it.

A third-party managing the internal power network for Living Choice, Embedded Network Solutions Australia, will read individual apartment meters and bill tenants, offsetting some costs for those signed up to the system.

The panels on the Fullarton site are made in **China** while the inverter is imported from Germany.

Solar Depot general manager Scott Limbert said it was one of the largest commercial contracts for the **company** – packaged with the installation of **solar** panels on other sites of Living Choice owner Eureka Group.

The Eureka Group, which owns 26 pubs nationally, including 16 in the state, has also commissioned **Solar** Depot to put panels on the roofs of its office and two pubs.

"The domestic market has been tough for **solar** operators because there is no feed-in tariff any more," Mr Limbert said. "But the commercial market is quite strong and we are doing quite well in that space." **Solar** Depot, which has an annual turnover of \$10 **million** and employs about 29 staff, has completed installations worth close to \$400,000 for aged care facilities group Padman Healthcare in SA and has other commercial projects in NSW.

"We have some good quotes on our books in terms of future projects, so we are looking good," he said.

Living Choice director Graham Hobbs said a green offering was always intended of the group's first village in SA. "We have seen great demand for the apartments and nearly half of those signing up have elected to take a share in the **solar** power system."

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