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**BEST WESTERN Ballarat Suites goes solar with \$0 outlay:
Hire Solar partnership announcement**

BEST WESTERN Ballarat Suites, one of Ballarat's newest four star accommodation providers, is proud to announce its latest partnership with commercial business supplier, Hire Solar. The 26-room property on Main Road is installing a 10 kilowatt (kW) Solar PV (photo-voltaic) system to offset up to 3,300 tonnes of carbon emissions over the next 20 years.

"It's the equivalent of taking 83 cars off the road for one year. It's a great environmental initiative and cost saver for businesses," Hire Solar's Director Pete Miller said.

Danny and Natalie Marwood of BEST WESTERN Ballarat Suites said the transition to solar power is a new way to become more environmentally friendly – a rising request from hotel guests – and a smart way to reduce rising electricity costs.

"Going solar is the first part of our power reduction strategy. Over the next six months we aim to reduce energy consumption by 75% to 80%," Mr Marwood said.

"Working with Hire Solar we aim to achieve these energy and cost savings. Reducing energy is important to our business and community because we are educating our children in good environmental practices and showing other businesses how they too can save a substantial amount of money by going green."

Many businesses want to utilise solar power but don't own their premises so are not interested in paying for an expensive solar system. Hire Solar's program partners with businesses, sporting clubs, local government organisations and property owners to offer solar power for \$0 capital outlay and help reduce electricity costs while drastically lowering emissions.

Danny and Natalie's other energy saving measures include:

- Replacing around 410 Halogen downlights in all 26 rooms to 5W LED globes
- Replacing around 70 external Halogen downlights and fluorescent tubes to 5W LED globes

"Once it's complete, we estimate our paid power usage will be 15,000 to 20,000 kilowatts per year. This is well down from our current yearly usage of around 90,000 kilowatts," Mr Marwood said.

The total offset of 21,000 tonnes of carbon emissions over the next 20 years is equivalent to taking 529 cars off the road.

At the end of the day, Hire Solar's program benefits everyone with cleaner, sustainable energy that's good for the environment and costs less to manage," Mr Miller said.

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