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## Barker fuming over Origin

By DAVID COHEN

Claremont mayor Jock Barker hopes a deluge will ruin the New Year's Eve Origin music concert at the Showgrounds.

Mr Barker was steaming about residents being affected by concert organisers' attempts to manage the expected 32,000 crowd.

"I'm not anti-music, but a wash-out would be fabulous," he said.

"I condemn the Royal Agricultural Society for allowing concerts like this to come in and disrupt residents.

"This is going to cost us \$15,000 in rangers, overtime, and clean-up."

Concert organiser Origin Presents upset the Lorenz family in Graylands Road when it distributed resident parking passes for December 31.

The pass said in part: "Anyone who is found in possession of an incorrect pass will be removed from site and the owner will be dealt with by management."

Helen Lorenz said each household would receive only two parking passes.

"The festival ... will prohibit any more than two people visiting me on the night," she said.

"We always have a party with my parents on that night and this festival will ruin our New Year's Eve.

"I can see all of us blocked on the night and not being able to lawfully visit my mum."

Bjorn Anderson from Origin Presents said the permits were part of the traffic management plan that had been developed with Claremont and Nedlands councils and Main Roads.

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Sunny days ... Alan Jones is looking forward to saving \$195,000 a year.

## Schools put faith in sun

By DAVID COHEN

Christ Church Grammar School says it will have Australia's biggest school solar-powered system by July next year and save about \$195,000 a year in energy costs.

The Claremont school will

install 2047 panels - a 670-kilowatt photovoltaic system - on its roofs.

Scotch College is also going solar and will install 1600 panels on 18 buildings.

Christ Church school chairman John Poynton said going solar was a sound business decision and an ethical one, with the savings to be put into teaching and further campus development.

"Christ Church Grammar School has made an investment in solar power because not only do we want to reduce our carbon footprint for the benefit of future generations, we know that it will deliver financial benefits of around \$195,000 per year," he said.

School principal Alan Jones said: "We are clearly conveying to our students that everyone has a part to play in creating a more sustainable world.

"Christ Church Grammar School is setting a new benchmark for the scale of solar deployed on a school campus and I expect more schools will follow."

Scotch headmaster Alec O'Connell said the \$1,132,000 project at his school would return savings of about \$2.3million over 10 years.

"We expect to see a reduction of 460 tonnes of CO2 a year, thanks to the 485kW system," Dr O'Connell said.

"Verdia Pty Ltd has been appointed head contractor."

CCGS chose Perdaman Advanced Energy to install its system.

Perdaman managing director Dominic Da Cruz said CCGS's carbon footprint and CO2 emissions would be reduced by 655 tonnes a year - equivalent to saving 16,982 trees over 10 years, or preventing 326 tonnes of coal being burned.



Powerful ... Headmaster Alec O'Connell says part of Scotch's solar system will be connected by April. Photos: Paul McGovern

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## Neds rejects corner block subdivisions

By BEN DICKINSON

A last-ditch bid to avoid wholesale density increases in Nedlands by allowing the subdivision of corner blocks has been defeated.

Faced with the prospect of state-imposed R80 zoning on some streets in Dalkeith, ward councillor Ian Argyle moved at the December council meeting to direct council staff to examine other ways to satisfy the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) that it can meet a target of 4400 extra dwellings by 2050.

Nedlands council believes its plan for high-rise on Stirling Highway and Broadway will meet the target, but the WAPC

imposed extra density around Dalkeith's Waratah Avenue on top of the council's plan.

Two suggestions in Mr Argyle's motion were "allowing corner block subdivisions", and "shifting and spreading the burden of increased densities over other areas of the city where it is acceptable".

"It's up to us to try to find some spots and negotiate on a level playing field," Mr Argyle said.

But councillors voted 7-4 against the move.

"We did a comprehensive strategy, and none of that involved subdividing corner blocks," councillor Nikola Horley said.

"Now at 10 o'clock at night

... we're going to suddenly consider this radical change in our policy?"

Deputy mayor Bill Hassell, who voted in favour of considering subdivisions, said it was about finding a way to satisfy "predators" at the WAPC.

"There's a very deep sickness in the way they approach these matters," he said.

"They claimed we had been consulted, but that is simply not true.

"What we've had is discussions between our officers and some of their relatively junior officers, who had no decision-making power, telling us what we can't do."

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