

# Top green rating defies convention

MELBOURNE's new convention centre has been awarded a six-star rating by the Green Building Council of Australia.

Premier John Brumby said the rating for the centre, being built near the Melbourne Exhibition Centre, set a new standard for convention centres worldwide.

"The new Melbourne Convention Centre's green credentials are a major selling point for international businesses — many who are keen to show they are taking steps to reduce their environmental footprint on the planet," Mr Brumby said.

Environmental features include solar panels to deliver all public hot water require-

ments; recycled waste water plant to supply toilets, cooling towers and to irrigate landscapes; and natural light and energy-saving lighting.

Mr Brumby said many of the building materials were sourced from renewable and sustainable industries.

"It is the biggest convention centre anywhere in Australia with 5000 seats.

"It opens for business in 2009 and we've already booked something like 18 major conventions that are coming to Melbourne because of this convention centre, which will generate business worth hundreds of millions of dollars for our state," he said.