Solar energy to play big role in new apartments

Marissa Lague

An aerial view of the coming MARQ apartments will reveal the key role played by solar energy in the centrally located West Leederville building.

Designed to deliver low-cost living for residents, the building’s 1500sqm roof will be covered in solar panels that will supply the energy needs of the 58 apartments.

Developer, Psaros Building, said based on the building’s life cycle assessment, it has secured a silver rating from eTool, a company that provides tools and services to design and build with low environmental impact and the best return on investment.

Psaros chief executive Danny Psaros said the $38 million development was the company’s first foray into a building with the twin aims of delivering cheaper living costs while minimising the long-term environmental impact, with the carbon footprint for each apartment expected to be half that of the average Perth home.

“It’s been a great way for us to make our mark and we plan for all of our future projects to go this way, it’s a really significant point of difference for us as a mid-sized builder and developer,” he said.

Selling agent Jo-Anne Chin from Colliers International said 42 of the 58 apartments had sold since marketing started on February 9, with local owner-occupiers the biggest buyers.

“This has been one of Perth’s most successful releases in several years,” Ms Chin said.

The apartments will be built on the corner of Cambridge and Kimberley streets and brisk off-the-plan sales have brought forward the construction start to next month from June.

Psaros managing director Mike Enslin said the apartments would have an average 6.5 star thermal rating and individual meters to track energy use.

Buyers will also have the option to connect their apartment to the solar system for a fee of between $4000 and $5000.

“We set out to create a building that offered low-cost living and also had long-term low environmental impact,” Mr Enslin said.

“We also wanted to develop a complex that would be enjoyable to live in and one that would last a long time.

“The important aspect of the life cycle assessment is to see what the life cycle of the building is and by future proofing it, there’s a much better chance the building will last longer and won’t get knocked down in 50 years.”

Big balconies, high ceilings, energy and water efficient appliances and double glazing have been included in the six-storey building, which includes one, two and three-bedroom apartments starting from $449,000.