

Be a green traveller: it's cruisy

ECOBOATS HAS been launched at Northbridge Marina to sell and hire electric boats. The company is the brainchild of Steven Mullie, 32, who says there needs to be a better alternative to petrol-hungry cruisers.

Mr Mullie was born in Holland and said that, in his homeland, electric boats were common.

"They have been popular for a number of years because there a lot of narrow canals and they are close to residential areas, which means people like to use the electric boats because they are quieter," he said.

"I came out to Australia and noticed there are a lot of little tinnies that you can buy for a couple of grand and then a lot of luxury cruises that are expensive and gas guzzlers. We thought there must be a green alternative and we started looking at electric boats."

EcoBoats, launched seven months ago, has its first boat in the water and a second coming next week.

"The boats recharge from the mains but you can also have solar panels installed to make it more eco-friendly," Mr Mullen said.

"The cruising speed is about four knots [8km/h], and the top speed is six knots [12km/h]."

The first boat is the 6m Solarboat Woolwich 20, which seats up to 10 people, runs on battery for up to nine hours and takes 12 hours to charge.

"A lot of Australian people are interested in speed, but we are trying to provide something else." Mr Mullen said.

"The boat is very quiet and very fun and can be driven by anyone."

Details: phone EcoBoats on 9929 8834.



QUIET ACHIEVER: Steven Mullie is promoting an alternative to harbour gas guzzlers.