



MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW secures \$923 million world class solar power station

Minister for the Environment, Robyn Parker together with the Minister for Resources and Energy, Chris Hartcher and the Federal Minister for Resources and Energy, Martin Ferguson AM today announced NSW had been successful in securing Commonwealth funding to build a \$923 million solar power station under the Solar Flagships Program.

The project, which on completion will be one of the world's largest solar photovoltaic plants capable of running 45,000 homes, will be located near Moree in northern NSW.

Ms Parker said the 150MW Moree Solar Farm will create as many as 400 jobs during construction and put NSW on the map as a global leader in solar technology.

"This is a huge win for NSW and it shows we are in a strong position to harness the sun for large scale solar projects," Ms Parker said.

"I am delighted to announce that as part of the successful application submitted by BP Solar, Fotowatia and Pacific Hydro, the NSW Government will contribute up to \$120 million towards the construction of this world class facility."

Mr Hartcher welcomed the news, saying it was a terrific win for large-scale solar energy development in NSW.

"The project will drive regional investment, create jobs and ensure NSW is well-positioned to meet its future energy targets.

"Moree is an ideal place to host the plant, with good links to the national electricity grid and a climate that will deliver strong outputs from the plant," Mr Hartcher said.

The project involves constructing a 150MW solar power plant and a transmission line that will link the plant to the electricity grid through the Moree substation.

When operational, the plant is expected to generate over 400 gigawatt hours of electricity a year.

Information provided to the NSW Government by BP Solar indicates that:

- **The capital expenditure on the plant will be \$600-700 million.**
- **The project is expected to contribute around \$210 million to the NSW economy, of which between \$100-125 million will have a direct impact in the Moree area.**

- **The construction phase will create 300-400 direct jobs plus 500 indirect jobs in the Moree area.**
- **The plant will produce enough electricity to supply 45,000 homes and could save 360,000 tonnes of carbon pollution per year. Over the 30 year lifetime of the plant, this will avoid 10.8m tonnes of carbon pollution.**
- **As part of the project, \$66.5 million will be provided by the Commonwealth Government to NSW research institutions for solar research. The institution is CSIRO.**

The Moree Solar Farm is the winner of round 1 of the Solar Flagships program, which aims to support the construction of two large scale grid connected solar power stations in Australia – one using solar thermal and one using PV technology.

“This is a significant step towards making sure we continue to capitalise on the potential we have for renewable energy in NSW, particularly wind and solar,” Ms Parker said.

“Alongside our energy efficiency programs, this will help make a practical difference to tackling power bills and greenhouse emissions in NSW.”

Mr Hartcher said the solar project was telling of the NSW Government’s support for the development of clean energy with a focus on sensible, sustained and affordable progress for renewable technologies.

“This announcement rewards the NSW Government commitment to attracting solar investment to NSW.

“The Moree Solar Farm will be a cornerstone of our State’s Solar Action Plan, to be developed at the NSW Government’s Solar Summit 2.”

Moree falls under the NSW Government’s New England Renewable Energy Precinct.