

MEDIA RELEASE

MDC welcomes Premier's announcement on large scale solar project 21 September 2010

Mildura Development Corporation (MDC) rejoiced in today's announcement by Premier John Brumby, about the success of TruEnergy / First Solar's *Mallee Solar Park* in being shortlisted for the Victorian large scale solar project.

"We are very excited about this historic announcement. The *Mallee Solar Park* proposal will generate a range of local jobs throughout varying fields of The Green Economy, and will produce 180MW of clean electricity - enough power for approximately 60,000 households," Chief Executive Officer Anne Mansell said.

Chairman of Mildura Development Corporation, Dane Huxley, said that the announcement today is the result of many months of commitment by MDC in marketing the solar potential of the region to the world.

"MDC made a deliberate effort to target utility scale solar developers providing them with comprehensive information on the solar resources that we have here: 8.6 hours of sunshine per day; an annual temperature of 23.7 degrees Celsius; 132.1 clear days per year; 18.9MJ/(m*m) in solar exposure, access to the national grid and flat land." Mr Huxley said.

"MDC has worked very closely with the proponents in developing and supporting the Mallee Solar Park and I am thrilled that our efforts have led to this announcement." Mr Huxley said. "We will continue to work with the proponents as they prepare for the next stage of the proposal".

Representatives from both MDC and Mildura Rural City Council visited one of the consortia partners (First Solar) in the USA in October 2009 as part of a marketing campaign for solar developments. First Solar expressed great interest and enthusiasm for locating within the boundaries of Mildura Rural City Council and a good and lasting working relationship has been established.

First Solar's proven technology of thin film solar modules has ensured they have become the largest manufacturer of photo-voltaic modules, leading to the establishment of a number of utility scale sites already operating across the globe.

"The solar industry is growing rapidly across the globe. With this announcement today, Mildura is well on the way to playing a very important part in the growth of clean and green energy production and further diversifying our regional opportunities." Mr Huxley said.

MDC will continue to market the Mildura region's solar resources when Dane Huxley and Anne Mansell embark on a follow-up mission to the United States early next month. During this mission, they will also attend the 2010 Solar Power International Conference in Los Angeles, and will also be accompanied by local business and industry representatives.

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