

## Mildura delegation visit USA solar plants

Representatives from the Mildura region, including the Mayor Cr Glenn Milne and Chair of Mildura Development Corporation, Mr Dane Huxley, have spent the last week learning more about the installation and operation of solar generating facilities.

The delegation has been to four solar power plants all with differing technologies. The plants visited include Sunray One – one of the original solar thermal plants that was constructed in the 1980s; Nevada Solar One; Sempra Copper Mountain which utilises First Solar PV panels; and eSolar's Sierra Sun Tower.

“With engineering expertise as part of our delegation we have been able to gain a greater understanding of the opportunities for local content in the development and construction of large scale solar, particularly in regard to the proposed Mallee Solar Park.” Mr Huxley said.

A meeting held with First Solar in Phoenix was particularly positive with detailed information provided on construction from a senior Project Manager.

“First Solar have worked closely with local communities in accessing technicians and labour force for their projects. The Mallee Solar Park will provide excellent opportunities for installation work as well as electrical supervision.” Mr Huxley said.

Delegates have also gained further knowledge on policy issues and the various competitive mechanisms that each western state in the USA is enacting to attract large and small scale solar development.

“Arizona is particularly proactive in developing and attracting the solar industry, with the state legislature passing the Renewable Energy Incentive Bill which has provided a range of incentive packages that has encouraged the establishment of both the manufacturing industries associated with solar panels as well as large scale solar power development.” Mr Huxley said.

The delegation will spend the next three days attending Solar Power International which has attracted 25,000 attendees. Mildura Development Corporation will be promoting the Mildura region's solar capabilities at the Austrade stand.

### **END OF MEDIA RELEASE**

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