

## Solar, innovation and energy efficiency focus for Mildura

Mildura Development Corporation Chairman, Mr Dane Huxley, is pleased with the announcement by the Victorian Government, of funding for a Project Officer to assist with Innovation and Renewable Energy Development.

“This is further recognition of the importance of renewable energy, in particular solar, for the Mildura region. With the continuing interest and opportunities for large and medium scale solar development, MDC is keen to ensure that local labour and local industry sectors can maximise their involvement. The engagement of a specific Project Officer will assist with this.”

Financial support will also be provided from Mildura Rural City Council for the position.

Mr Huxley said that the Project Officer's role would also cover the issues of energy efficiency and sustainability in business practice, to enable businesses to become more cost and energy efficient.

“From our consecutive visits to the United States we have seen the fast growth of the clean technology sector. It is important that we work with our industry sectors to facilitate innovation and energy efficiency so that they can remain globally competitive”, Mr Huxley said.

The \$75,000 in funding will be utilised to:

- Identify sustainable and innovative practices to assist industry growth
- Encourage the uptake of energy efficient solutions for business and industry
- Work with local industry sectors in being able to assist with the growth of the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors
- Research workforce needs for the developing solar industry, including attraction and retention
- Promotion of Mildura's clean and green image including local industry and the renewable energy industry
- Work with the Industry Capability Network to understand the industry needs required for the renewable energy sector.

The Innovation and Renewable Energy Project Officer will work on industry engagement and development, particularly for medium and large scale solar but will also be able to work closely with the Solar Hubs project, which will focus on smaller scale domestic solar development.

“These two programs, both funded by the Victorian State Government, along with the Premier's recent commitment of \$100 million to the TruEnergy proposal for 180MW of solar, really do emphasise the importance of this new industry sector for the Mildura region.” Mr Huxley said

Both projects will commence early in 2011.

### END OF MEDIA RELEASE

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