

MEDIA RELEASE

Deferral of Solar Flagships

Chairman of Mildura Development Corporation, Mr Dane Huxley, today expressed his disappointment with the announcement by the Prime Minister that Solar Flagships funding will be deferred as part of the Government's flood recovery program.

"Solar Flagships is integral to developing large-scale solar in the Mildura region. Mildura Development Corporation has worked extremely hard in attracting solar investment to this region, based on the policy of Solar Flagships by the Federal Government. Comprehensive applications, which required months of work, have been submitted to this program and we have all been looking forward to an announcement in the first part of this year.' Mr Huxley said.

While little detail is yet available on what the deferral will mean, Mr Huxley is concerned that any delay to an announcement for Solar Flagships will impact on cost estimates, capital investment and investor interest.

"The State Government funding support of \$100 million for the Mallee Solar Park has been committed now for several months. TRUenergy, the proponent for this project, has committed a range of resources and time in complying with the Solar Flagships timeframe and MDC will certainly be doing what it can, including further lobbying, to ensure that any potential deferral or delay is minimised."

Mildura Development Corporation has already contacted Local, State and Federal politicians and departments in order to clarify the exact nature of the deferral.

"Whilst MDC understands the situation in regard to replacing infrastructure after these devastating floods, this particular program is focussed on assisting new and innovative infrastructure development in regional areas. The Mildura region will have much to gain if we are successful with a Solar Flagships application, with the Mallee Solar Park project worth \$700 million." Mr Huxley said.

Mildura Development Corporation will lobby the Federal Government for a speedy reassessment on the deferral of this important program, which has the potential to provide jobs growth and a new industry sector for north-west Victoria.

END OF MEDIA RELEASE

For further information please contact the Mildura Development Corporation office.

Anne Mansell
Chief Executive Officer
Phone: 03 50220722
Mobile: 0418 300 943
Email: anne@milduraregion.com.au
Web: www.milduraregion.com.au