



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Ian Macfarlane MP

*Australian Minister for Industry,
Tourism and Resources*

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*Australian Minister for the
Environment and Water Resources*

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\$12.3 MILLION FOR FIRST SOLAR CITY IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

The Australian Government will provide more than \$12 million in funding to support the first Solar City in central Australia, the Minister for Environment Malcolm Turnbull, and the Minister for Industry Ian Macfarlane, announced today.

International tourists and residents flying into Alice Springs will soon see two solar dishes at the Airport where solar energy concentrator dishes will be installed in up to four locations to harness sunlight for energy needs.

“I congratulate the Alice Springs community for embracing the Solar Cities concept. The Alice Springs Solar City project joins Adelaide, Townsville and Blacktown as the first four Australian Solar Cities,” Mr Turnbull said.

“Together these Solar Cities will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 76,000 tonnes each year. These Solar Cities will install over 3,200 solar photovoltaic panels on private and public housing and other buildings, conduct almost 7,000 energy efficiency consultations and assist more than 250,000 residents and businesses to learn how to reduce their energy use and save money.”

Mr Turnbull said the Alice Springs Solar City will install solar photovoltaic panels on 230 homes and businesses, 1000 solar hot water systems, roll-out 400 smart meters and provide solar installations to generate heat and power for the Alice Springs Airport, the Araluen Arts Precinct, the Town Pool and the Ilparpa Sewerage Treatment facility.

“Alice Springs has the ingredients for a successful Solar City - the highest concentration of sun in Australia, an international tourist hub with a rich natural and cultural heritage, and a committed and enthusiastic consortium willing to put the project into action,” Mr Turnbull said.

“Alice Springs is a town that has embraced solar energy technology; half of its households already use solar hot water systems, and this support is expected to deliver annual savings of around 10,500kWh in electricity demand and 12,000 tonnes in greenhouse gas emissions.”

Mr Macfarlane said the *Alice Springs – Australia’s Solar Centre Consortium*, will receive \$12.3 million in Australian Government funding to help change the way individuals, communities, businesses and governments think about and use energy.

The consortium, consisting of the Alice Springs Town Council, Northern Territory Government, Northern Territory Power and Water Corporation, the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre, Arid Lands Environment Centre, Tangentyere Council and the Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce will contribute an additional \$17 million to the project.

Mr Macfarlane said the Alice Springs Solar City project will boost many local industries, not only through the supply of products to consumers, but through energy efficiency and smart metering.

"Solar Cities is an innovative way to bring together solar technologies, energy efficiency, smart metering and better electricity pricing to create more energy sustainable communities," Mr Macfarlane said.

"The level of interest shown in Solar Cities highlights that business and the broader community are keen to examine all options to determine the best energy mix for the future."

The Alice Springs Solar City will receive funding through the Australian Government's \$75 million Solar Cities initiative and the Renewable Remote Power Generation Programme.

The Australian Government's \$328.5 million Renewable Remote Power Generation Programme aims to increase the uptake of renewable energy technologies in remote areas of Australia that presently rely on fossil fuel for electricity generation.

Both programmes are part of the Australian Government's climate change strategy that has committed more than \$2 billion to develop clean, low emission technologies; build an effective global response to the issue; increase understanding of climate change science; and help communities adapt to the impact of climate change.

For further information visit www.greenhouse.gov.au/solarcities

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