

WHITE CLIFFS

The White Cliffs facility was originally constructed by the Australian National University (ANU) to assist in the study of solar thermal technology. Solar Systems took over the site in 1997 and converted it to direct solar photovoltaic (PV) operation.



The original installation comprised of 14 parabolic dishes faced with reflective material. A solar thermal collector was mounted at the focus of the dish, heating water into steam, which was then expanded through a reciprocating steam engine to produce electricity.

Solar Systems removed the thermal collectors and replaced them with PV collectors, with 16 modules for each dish – this compares with 64 modules in the current CS500 dish. The output for the 14 dishes was 40kW.

The grid connected power station ran for around 6 years, generating valuable data on the long-term performance and efficiency of the modules. The site ceased operation in December 2004 and has been resumed by the owner of the site.

