

Large Scale Solar Power

Fact Sheet - Economic benefits

- The new solar concentrator photovoltaic (PV) power station in north-west Victoria will involve a total investment of \$420 million. \$295 million in private funding and \$125 in State and Federal Governments will be contributed to the project. The government funding is designed to assist in the development of low emissions technology and recognise the economic and environmental benefits that will result from the project.
- Australian and Victorian suppliers and job seekers will be the main beneficiaries; the vast majority of the power station technology is Australian and approximately 70 per cent of the total project cost is expected to be spent in Victoria
- North-west Victoria will benefit most, with 10 per cent of the project capital costs to be spent on direct labour costs – for local labour contractors and skilled labour
- The project will generate about 950 jobs at the peak of construction and 44 direct, ongoing jobs for operations and maintenance once the station is commissioned. These jobs will lead to a flow-on of economic benefits to local businesses and suppliers.
- Two new manufacturing plants will be required – one will potentially be located near the power station to assemble plant components and one in Melbourne to manufacture Solar Systems' proprietary solar concentrator components. In addition, Australian suppliers are expected to invest in significant plant upgrades to meet the demand generated by the project.
- Solar Systems' planned Melbourne manufacturing facility will be the highest capacity PV module manufacturing facility in the Southern Hemisphere capable of producing more than 50MW each year and with expansion capacity to more than 100MW.
- There will be a number of potential flow-on benefits to the regional economy from third party business opportunities in tourism and salt production, the latter through heat exchange to the salt-affected groundwater.
- The potential use of ground water will assist in the reparation of land damaged by salinity with longer-term benefits for increasing the level of agricultural production.

Further commercial opportunity

- The project will position Victoria to become a centre for growth of a new international industry sector - solar concentrator PV technology - for which an extensive worldwide market exists.
- Also, the project will enable a commercial pathway which will result in Solar Systems creating a new R&D and manufacturing centre in Victoria
- By 2030, nearly \$8 billion of commercially viable solar concentrator power plants, with a total capacity of over 5GW, will be rolled out across Australia. It is estimated that these will generate more than 10,000 new jobs in manufacturing and construction, as well as 1,870 new full-time direct jobs in maintenance and operation.
- Solar concentrator PV plant will be exported to the global market, conservatively estimated at more than \$500 billion, and where the solar concentrator technology will have a clear competitive advantage. Servicing these markets will require more manufacturing capability, increasing the number of high-tech manufacturing jobs created in Australia.