

## Media Release

26 November 2008

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### Mildura Solar Project Information Centre closing soon!

Clean energy technology company, Solar Systems, is encouraging local communities in the Mildura and Red Cliffs regions to visit its Solar Power Project Information Centre, which is open until the end of this week and located at 83 Lime Ave (Cnr Lime Ave and Ninth St), Mildura.

Solar Systems spokesperson Alice Thorpe, said the company established the Information Centre to provide local residents and businesses with a one-stop-shop for information during the four week community consultation period.

“The Information Centre is open until 12.00pm, Saturday 29 November, so we encourage residents and businesses to visit us this week and take this opportunity to find out about the first stage of the large-scale \$420 million solar power station to be built in the Mildura region,” said Ms Thorpe.

“We’ve had over 300 people through the doors already and we’re thrilled with the strong interest and enthusiasm the community is showing for this environmentally friendly solar energy project,” Ms Thorpe said.

Wednesday 26 November is an excellent time for farmers and their families to visit the Information Centre as Rural Skills Connect will also be on hand to speak about future prospects and opportunities.

“We also have a temporary information stand in Red Cliffs and at the Red Cliffs Country Market where we will have our project team on hand to provide information and answer questions,” she said.

The solar power project represents a significant investment in the Mildura region, and is expected to generate up to 950 jobs at the peak of construction, with around 25 percent expected to be local jobs and about 44 ongoing jobs after the power station is built. There will also be many opportunities for local suppliers.

The site selection process is quite complex due to the technical requirements of the project. Considerations include solar resource (sun-strength and cloud effects), community and stakeholder needs, electricity network capability, environmental parameters, physical site conditions, proximity to resources and economic viability.

Following detailed field investigations and environmental assessments, Solar Systems is considering three possible locations: approximately 10km west of Red Cliffs township at Thurla, approximately 8km south of Red Cliffs on the western side of the Calder Hwy at Yatpool South and approximately 15km south of Red Cliffs, west of the Carwarp township.

Once the community consultation process has been completed, Solar Systems will seek environment and planning approvals and it’s expected that this process could take some time. The first stage of the project is due to be completed in 2010, with full commissioning expected in 2013.

When completed, the 154 Megawatt solar power project will be the largest and most efficient of its kind in the world.

Further information is available at the Solar Systems Project Information Centre, located at 83 Lime Ave (Cnr Lime Ave and Ninth St), Mildura, which is open until Saturday 29 November, Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9.00am to 12.00pm.

Solar Systems will also have an information stand near the Red Cliffs Newsagency, Indi Ave, Red Cliffs on Friday 28 November, 9.30am to 12.30pm and Saturday 6 December 9.30am to 12.30pm. The company will also have a stand at the Red Cliffs Country Market on Sunday 7 December.

For further information contact Solar Systems on Free Call 1800 04 11 31 or

Email: [vicprojectinfo@solarsystems.com.au](mailto:vicprojectinfo@solarsystems.com.au). Interested suppliers visit: [www.regionalindustrylink.com.au](http://www.regionalindustrylink.com.au)

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