



DEPARTMENT OF
THE ENVIRONMENT,
CLIMATE CHANGE,
ENERGY AND WATER

FACTSHEET

ACT Solar Facility

What is the ACT Solar Facility?

The proposed ACT Solar Facility is key aspect of the ACT Government's strategy to diversifying the Territory's energy supply, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move towards a more sustainable future.

The facility will have a minimum capacity of 86,000 megawatt hours per annum, which would produce enough power for at least 10,000 homes in the ACT. The ACT Government has committed to investing \$30 million in this project.

When will construction start on the proposed solar facility?

The ACT Government called for expressions of interest for the solar facility on 15 May 2009, with a request for proposal due to take place in August 2009.

It is anticipated that the announcement of the successful proponent/s for the project will take place towards the end of 2009 or early 2010.

Where will the proposed facility be located?

The Government has identified two potential sites for the solar facility, one within Kowen Forest and other within the former Ingledene Forest. Naming these two possible sites for the facility does not in any way preclude potential solar power facility proponents coming forward with other suggestions, however the site must be located within the borders of the ACT.

Why solar over other forms of renewable energy?

The ACT averages more than seven hours of sunlight each day which makes for an abundance of potential for solar-powered energy. Further, the sun is a constant presence in the Territory which means solar power can be generated throughout the year.

What are the threshold criteria for the EOIs?

The Territory is seeking EOIs that demonstrate the following capabilities for the construction, ownership and operation of an ACT Solar Power Facility which:

- employs commercially proven direct solar technology;
- is capable of providing power to at least 10,000 ACT homes (10,000 ACT homes are estimated to require approximately 86,000MWh/annum);
- is located on a single site or sites within the ACT;
- is a commercially viable private sector operation over the next 5 to 10 years with sufficient own source equity financing and a robust business plan that demonstrates an ability to operate within the National Electricity Market;
- must cover any shortfalls in output in electricity production at the Solar Facility by using renewable energy;
- must be connected to the National Grid;
- must have an aggregate nameplate rating of 30MW or greater to meet the scheduled generator requirements under the National Electricity Market; and
- is neither directly owned, nor operated by the Territory.

What else is the Government doing to combat climate change?

The ACT Government's climate change strategy is *Weathering the Change*, which contains 43 separate actions on how the Government will help reduce the Territory's greenhouse gas emissions. The strategy targets a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for the ACT of 60 per cent of 2000 levels by 2050.

Where can I seek further information?

For further information on the ACT Solar Facility contact:

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