

Minister Ian Hunter

Minister for Climate Change

Wednesday, 14 October, 2015

Funding available for large-scale solar initiatives

Proponents are encouraged to apply for up to \$30 million in funding to support further cost reduction in large-scale solar photovoltaics (PV).

Climate Change Minister Ian Hunter said the State Government wants to leverage opportunities from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency's latest competitive round.

"This is a great opportunity for potential developers to bring the cost of solar PV down to a price comparable to wind energy," Mr Hunter said.

"Successful proponents will be eligible for up to \$30 million funding for projects sized between 10 and 50 megawatts.

"South Australia has a solar resource that is world-class and it is an ideal location for a utility scale PV project.

"A South Australian PV project of that size would make a contribution to our \$10 billion low carbon investment target and reinforce the state's position as a national leader in renewable energy."

Mr Hunter said it may also provide opportunities for local expertise to be involved in the build of any project.

"Across South Australia \$6.6 billion has been invested on low carbon generation and in particular renewable energy is an important economic driver for our regions," he said.

"In addition to the ARENA opportunity, the State Government is exploring new options for its electricity needs using low carbon generation, including solar generation.

"The government has made a major commitment to make Adelaide the world's first carbon neutral city and we are currently consulting on the Low Carbon Investment Plan Strategy which will help create jobs and boost economic development, particularly in regional areas.

"South Australia is well positioned to capitalise on its world class natural resources."

Other investment attraction initiatives include the Pastoral Land Management and Conservation (Renewable Energy) Act 2015 and the release of the Guide to Commercial Scale Solar Development.

Applications for the ARENA Large-scale Solar PV competitive round close on 2 November 2015 and the State Government's process for sourcing its electricity needs will be announced in the near future. For more information visit www.arena.gov.au

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