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SOLAR PANELS ROLLOUT FOR GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Solar panels will be mandatory for all new and substantially refurbished government buildings from July 1 next year, Premier Mike Rann announced today.

Speaking from Copenhagen where he is chairing the international States and Regions Alliance Climate Leaders Summit, the Premier said this is another action the government is taking to move South Australia towards even greater uptake of renewable energy.

“We have increased South Australia’s target for renewable energy generation to 33% by 2020, higher than the national target,” the Premier said.

“That puts us in a world leading position on renewable energy targets along with California.

“This decision means that government owned and operated residential buildings will have a minimum of 1.5kW of solar panels installed while all other new government buildings will have a minimum of 5kW.

“South Australia continues to lead the nation in grid connected domestic solar systems and this is the next step in the government’s long term strategy to promote and support solar panel use in South Australia.

“We were the first to introduce solar feed-in laws and have the largest solar array in Australia at the Wayville Showgrounds.

“We have already taken the lead by installing solar panels on our most prominent public buildings such as Parliament House, the Art Gallery, Museum, Adelaide airport and schools.

“We have committed to meeting 50% of the government’s own electricity needs from GreenPower by 2014.

“It’s already 20%, and this move will further support the renewable energy industry. It is yet another measure to provide economic stimulus and green jobs growth.

“Here in Copenhagen, like-minded state and regional government leaders are looking at various ways in which states and regions can make a difference.

“But what is agreed is that up to 80% of the decisions and actions that will be taken to address climate change will come from state and regional governments.

“Regardless of the outcome of this week’s discussions by national leaders, state and regional governments will continue to lead, not follow.

“Last year at Poznan, I lead the group to set hard targets and make specific commitments to address climate change within their jurisdiction.

“Now we are reporting back on our performance and challenging each other to do more.

“This includes building partnerships with regional developing nations to assist their climate change actions.

“States and regions have demonstrated leadership and are committed to carrying the heavy load.

“We’re now asking heads of nations to provide global leadership with a robust agreement and clear objectives to underpin our efforts,” the Premier said