



MEDIA RELEASE

Solar power opportunities continue 4 November 2009

Solar energy generation is an industry that is growing rapidly and Mildura has every chance to be at the forefront of large scale solar generation activity according to Mildura Development Corporation Chairman, Mr Dane Huxley.

Recently returned from the USA trade delegation, along with Development Corporation CEO Anne Mansell, Mayor Glenn Milne, Cr Nick Cavallo and Sunraysia Institute of TAFE CEO Win Scott, Mr Huxley said that the delegation was received very positively by a number of solar companies that are conscious of the opportunities of investing in Australia.

“Timing is everything and the time is right for an expansion of the renewable energy sector. Solar will play a large part of that worldwide. The Federal Government’s Renewable Energy Target has mandated 20% of renewable energy generation by 2020. This policy is extremely important to ensure a return on investment and solar companies are keen to meet that demand.”

“Mildura ticks all the boxes for large scale solar developments. We have access to the National grid, an abundance of flat land, and excellent solar resources. By promoting our solar credentials to US based companies, we have not only consolidated on our networks with the industry, but also ensured they consider Mildura first.” Mr Huxley said.

Attending the Solar Power International Conference at Anaheim, CEO Mildura Development Corporation Anne Mansell said that the information provided was extremely beneficial on policy developments and on the growth rates of the solar industry.

“The photovoltaic solar industry, comprising of panels primarily used for rooftop solar but also engaged in large scale production, has grown by a staggering 85% in the last year alone.” Mrs Mansell said.

While solar power generation worldwide currently only contributes less than 1% of total electricity generation, it is predicted to grow by 40% per year.

“Solar power generation is still in its early phases overall as an industry sector, and that’s why it is important for our region to be firmly engaged with large scale solar power production opportunities. This is an industry that has community acceptance, and is already quickly developing in scale. Mildura is well placed to house a number of utility size developments as well as implementing distributed generation of rooftop solar. Our vision is for the Mildura region to be a Solar Enterprise Centre.” Mrs Mansell said.

The delegation were continually made aware that the future of energy generation will comprise renewable energy solutions as opposed to the more traditional fossil fuel based power generation.

“There is no doubt that renewable energy generation is inevitable and Mildura is one of the best locations for solar power development.” Mr Huxley said.

Mildura Development Corporation are currently working on a comprehensive report from their trade delegation which they will be presenting to appropriate Government and trade representatives with strategies to implement for the continued attraction of solar power companies.

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