



Hon Tony Kelly MLC
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MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT APPROVES MOREE & MANILDRA SOLAR FARMS

The NSW Government has approved a further two solar farms at Manildra and Moree valued at \$330 million.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the **\$150 million 50 megawatt facility at Manildra** will be constructed on a 200 hectare cleared farmland site on Molong Road.

"Panels will take up about 120 hectares and consist of 36 photovoltaic array blocks arranged in rows two to five metres apart," the Minister said.

"The **\$180 million 60 megawatt facility at Moree** will be constructed on a 160 hectare site on the 265 hectare Weebollabolla property off Bullus Drive.

"A total of 42 photovoltaic array blocks will be arranged in rows two to five metres apart.

"These solar farms will be constructed by **Infigen Suntech Australia** have the potential to generate enough renewable energy to **power more than 20,000 homes** with a **reduction in greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to taking 30,000 cars off NSW roads each year**.

"Both projects are expected to generate **50 construction jobs and five operational positions** at each site."

The Department of Planning considered biodiversity, visual impacts, noise, traffic and transport, heritage in its assessment.

A total **55 conditions** have been imposed on the **Manildra** approval and **49 at Moree** including:

- Limiting the amount of clearing and the preparation of a biodiversity offset in consultation with DECCW and the landholder;
- Development of a landscaping plan (to provide visual screening) and a visual impact verification report to assess the effectiveness of the landscaping;
- Construction noise impacts to be minimised in line with DECCW guidelines and operational noise to be monitored once operation commences; and
- Preparation of a Traffic Management Plan prior to construction.

Mr Kelly said the projects were developed in response to the Federal Government's Solar Flagships Program which aims to accelerate the commercialisation of solar power in Australia, with the commitment of \$1.5 billion to support the construction and demonstration of up to four large-scale solar power plants in Australia, using solar thermal and photovoltaic technologies.

"The first two commercial solar farms in NSW were given approval earlier this year at Nyngan (\$300 million 100 megawatt facility) and Bungendore (\$150 million 50 megawatt facility)," the Minister said.

"These projects will positively contribute towards achieving Australia's Renewable Energy Target (RET) and the NSW State Plan target of sourcing 20% of electricity from renewable sources by 2020."

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