

Solar Systems To Power NT Desert Communities

Three desert communities in the Northern Territory will cut their diesel fuel use by more than 400,000 litres a year when they switch to generating power with state of the art solar power technology.

NT Resources Minister, Paul Henderson, said 30 solar concentrating dishes will be installed at Hermannsburg, Lajamanu and Yuendumu, providing the communities with a cleaner, more reliable energy source.

"These communities are all off the Territory's main power grid and depend heavily on diesel fuel for their power generation", Henderson said. He said the dishes will save more than 1,100 t of greenhouse emissions each year.

Solar Systems Pty Ltd will receive more than \$3.4 MM, half of the installation costs of the dishes, under the Territory's Renewable Energy Rebate Program. "The \$38.2 MM programme was designed and is administered by, the Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development, and is funded by the Commonwealth Government as part of its Renewable Remote Power Generation Program", Henderson said.

He said there would be a \$2 MM injection into the NT economy during the construction phase, with Solar Systems indicating they will use local contractors for the transport, construction, earthworks and electrical and

plumbing work. About 130 m² of curved mirrors cover each 14 m dish, concentrating the sun 500 times and generating 24 kw, a power level that could be readily upgraded.

"So far about 100 projects have been offered a total of \$7.5 MM in rebate funding under the program, but there is still funding to be tapped into by other communities and organisations looking to move to clean, renewable energy", Henderson said. "I encourage anyone interested in the project to contact my department to see if they are eligible and how they can help protect our environment."