



Minister for Energy

Media Statement

28/11/09

State Government welcomes interest in solar solutions.

Expressions of interest (EOI) are being sought for the development of a solar generation power station in Western Australia.

Energy retailer Synergy has called for solar generation projects up to 50MW in unit size and would consider commercially attractive offers up to 150MW by 2016.

Energy Minister Peter Collier said the EOI was not technology-specific and the electricity generated could be from direct (photovoltaic) or indirect (such as solar thermal) solar power.

“Synergy is keen to receive EOIs in potentially entering a commercial agreement for the capacity, electricity and renewable energy certificates from a solar generation power station, based in WA and feeding into the South West Interconnected System,” Mr Collier said.

“In particular, it is looking to receive competitively-priced renewable energy and renewable energy certificates as part of this process.”

Proponents will be encouraged to seek funding for their proposal under the Federal Government’s Solar Flagships program.

The Minister said the Liberal-National Government was dedicated to delivering a cleaner energy future for WA, which included increasing the use of renewable energy and improving energy efficiency.

“The Government is committed to the national target of 20 per cent of electricity generated from renewable sources by 2020,” he said.

“Working towards this target is a key objective of the Strategic Energy Initiative, which is being developed to provide a clear and co-ordinated direction for the State’s energy sector.

“Solar will be a vital source in achieving this important goal.

“WA has an abundance of sunlight and we should look to every opportunity to garner this renewable energy source to meet our growing energy demands.”

Synergy managing director Jim Mitchell said as a demonstration of the corporation's drive to increasing sources of renewable energy, it had reached agreement with its building owner to have solar panels installed on its building at 228 Adelaide Terrace Perth.

"We will be doing what many households across the State are already doing and that is using our rooftop to generate clean, emissions free, renewable energy for our building and to go back into the grid," Mr Mitchell said.

"This building will be one of the first commercial buildings in the Perth CBD to have solar panels installed."

An EOI information pack is available on the Synergy website <http://www.synergy.net.au/solarflagship> or by contacting Paul McCarthy on 6212 1165.

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