

Sunshine Coast Council

SUNSHINE COAST COULD BECOME THE Solar Capital of Coastal Australia

The Sunshine Coast could become the alternative energy capital of coastal Australia with Council set to build a solar farm to meet 50% of its electricity needs.

The Sunshine Coast would live up to its name by tapping into the energy of the sun to deliver a multi-million-dollar saving for ratepayers.

If our market sounding exercises stack up, we would be the first council to build a solar farm at utility scale in Australia, and it would be potentially the largest in the nation.

The solar farm is to be built at Valdora near Cooloom and would meet half of council's electricity needs for at least the next 30 years.

Council would also be well placed to leverage investment in the solar farm project by continuing to develop the 'cleantech' industry hub on the Sunshine Coast.

The region would be able to export the skills developed during construction to similar projects within and outside Queensland – further diversifying our economy.

Council will call for an Expression of Interest in the coming months, to confirm cost and benefit estimates – and while there are many challenges to be met council remains on track to begin construction of the farm in 2014.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

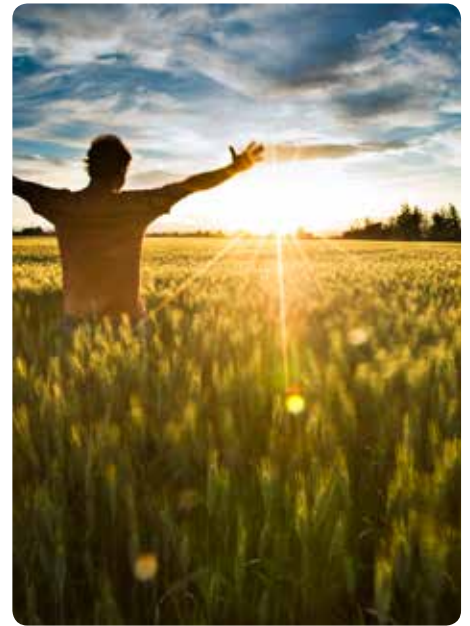


"This project has the potential to transform the Sunshine Coast. It would become the embodiment of everything we stand for; a region which is economically, environmentally and socially sustainable. It would save money, reduce our carbon footprint and take us another step closer to becoming the most sustainable region in Australia."

CR Mark Jamieson



QUIET, CLEAN ENERGY



"It would save money, reduce our carbon footprint and take us another step closer to becoming the most sustainable region in Australia."





SITE CONCEPT



Key Facts:

Cost: Depends on EOI – expected to be between \$24 and \$30 million

Savings: About \$10 million over the expected life of the project

Economy: About \$10 million boost over the expected life of the project

Jobs: About 40 directly created by solar farm

Green benefits: Reduce council's electricity carbon footprint by 50%

Where to from here?

- Ongoing due diligence
- Seeking expressions of interest
- Energex connection and report
- Funding applications explored
- Expressions of interest assessed
- Terms agreed

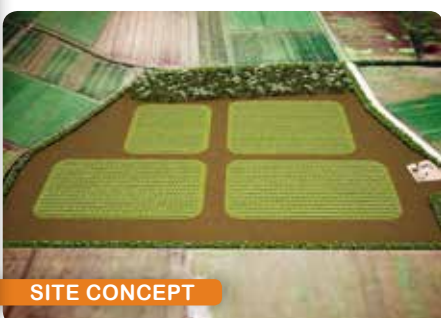
Development already approved

The Valdora solar farm development assessment was supported because:

- It provides a renewable energy source to address the region's targets for renewable energy production, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and peak power demand.
- It drives local capacity, awareness and investment in renewable energy provision and thereby assists in meeting the region's economic development goals.
- The rural site is appropriate given the nature of the use.

Why it's the right time to invest

- An ideal site has been identified and has DA approval for a utility scale solar farm
- Energy contract re-negotiation with current retailers is due in 2014
- Low solar panel prices are keeping the up-front capital costs lower
- The first utility scale solar farm on Australia seaboard, giving council first mover advantage



SITE CONCEPT

“The environmental benefits include council's greenhouse gas emissions caused by electricity to drop by 50% a year.”