



Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water

Minister for Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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SOLAR ENERGY PLANT TO SHINE JOBS AND INVESTMENT ON BROKEN HILL

Minister for Natural Resources, Lands and Water Kevin Humphries and Member for Murray Darling John Williams have announced the NSW Government has signed a lease with AGL Energy Ltd to build a multi-million dollar solar energy plant at Broken Hill that will create 150 jobs during construction.

Mr Humphries welcomed the granting of planning approval for the construction and operation of the solar power plant on a Crown Land site on the Adelaide Road, five kilometres outside of Broken Hill.

“This is a tremendous result for Broken Hill with an investment of up to \$150 million in the project and a whole range of new jobs during construction,” Mr Humphries said.

“Once up and running, around 650,000 solar panels at the plant will provide renewable energy for 17,000 homes in NSW.

“AGL Energy Ltd has been awarded a grant under the Federal Government’s Solar Flagships Program to develop a 53 megawatt solar plant at Broken Hill, and now that planning approval has been granted I look forward to construction starting soon.”

Mr Williams said the solar energy plant would be an iconic project for Broken Hill and the western region.

“The contribution of this development to the Broken Hill community and the State in general cannot be overstated,” Mr Williams said.

“This project will create jobs, provide thousands of households with cheap, renewable power and provide a significant boost to the local economy.

“AGL has advised that they expect to start construction very soon and the plant to be in operation in 2015.”

Minister for Resources and Energy Anthony Roberts said the plant would play an important role in the NSW Government’s push to provide power certainty and place downward pressure on prices.

“This project demonstrates that the NSW Government is delivering on the Renewable Energy Action Plan to support large-scale solar in NSW,” Mr Roberts said.

“The NSW Government is committed to increasing the use of energy from renewable sources at least cost to consumers and with maximum benefits to the State.”

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