

## LOCAL COMMUNITY LOBBYING SHINES

The announcement of the construction of a 150MW solar thermal plant near Port Augusta is welcome news for all the community, and can be attributed to the hard work of the local community group Repower Port Augusta.

Regional Development Australia Far North Chair, Dr Jen Cleary said “The construction of a solar thermal plant in Port Augusta will be a massive economic and social boost for not only the township but also the wider region, with it being located north of Port Augusta in the Upper Spencer Gulf region.”

“The Repower Port Augusta community group has worked tirelessly since before the closure of the Port Augusta Power Stations to attract investment into the region for the construction of a solar thermal power plant. The announcement made yesterday shows that a committed grassroots campaign can pay dividends” Dr Cleary said.

In recent months, Repower Port Augusta organised the erection of a billboard sign on the corner of Rundle Mall and King William Street in Adelaide as a reminder to all South Australians to continue to push for solar thermal in Port Augusta along with a greater commitment to renewable energy.

“The erection of the billboard in such a strategic location and the ongoing public education campaign of the group, including a state-wide vote where over 7,000 South Australian’s voted for solar thermal, along with campaign rallies on the steps of Parliament House show that the group never lost its focus and it’s great to finally reap the rewards.”

The project is supported by both the State Government via an announcement made yesterday, and by the Federal Government through a \$110 million concessional equity loan.

ENDS

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