
Solar City win a result of town's desert knowledge

Unique, specialist desert knowledge and the combined input from over ten local organisations have helped Alice Springs to win the bid to become a solar city, says Desert Knowledge Australia CEO John Huigen.

“Desert Knowledge Australia congratulates the Alice Springs Solar City Consortium and all the partners that contributed their knowledge to the bid process.”

“Whether locals recognise it or not, Alice Springs is a ‘desert knowledge’ town, and it is this combined desert knowledge that helped the town become Australia’s Solar Centre.”

“Alice Springs plays host to many organisations that each possess their own special knowledge about successful desert living, and Desert Knowledge Australia was pleased to facilitate the initial partnering of these organisations in 2005; a partnership that grew to successfully win its bid.”

“The partnerships created between Consortium members are a great example of how we can come together as a town, with each organisation offering to share their unique knowledge and expertise for the benefit of the community.”

The Solar Technology Demonstration Facility to be built at the Desert Knowledge Precinct will complement and help interpret other highly visible solar power installations to be installed as part of the Solar Cities program.

Solar powered installations, and initiatives to encourage residents to become savvy with their energy use, will no doubt help make Alice Springs a more economically and environmentally sustainable town.

“Solar Technology has the potential to be a lucrative and important knowledge-based employer in Central Australia”, says Mr Huigen.

“For example, the facility at the Desert Knowledge Precinct will also serve as a place to train students in the use and maintenance of solar installations. This knowledge could possibly see these students gainfully employed to maintain other new solar installations in the town”.

As part of its national mandate, Desert Knowledge Australia also has a role to support and advance activities and investments in Alice Springs that help it to become a smart, innovative and knowledge-based town, while maximising local economic and social outcomes.

“The expertise generated through Alice Springs becoming Australia’s Solar Centre will present the perfect foundation through which the town can offer expertise to other desert Australia centres, and potentially around the world”, said Mr Huigen.