



MEDIA RELEASE

The announcement of the SolarReserve project by Premier Jay Weatherill yesterday is a culmination of years of lobbying by Council, Repower Port Augusta and the Port Augusta community to become the renewable capital of Australia.

The construction of the \$650 million plant will provide Port Augusta and the region with significant job opportunities during the construction phase, and a number of ongoing full-time workers once the plant is operational. This will be the World's largest solar thermal generation plant of its kind.

Mayor Sam Johnson said Council has been working with SolarReserve to secure the project for Port Augusta and retain electricity generation as an industry for Port Augusta.

"Port Augusta has been a leading community in power generation since 1954 when the Port Augusta Playford A Power Station commenced operation. This announcement now gives the community of Port Augusta confidence that the SolarReserve project will provide clean energy production and will continue to be a leading energy industry within the City" Mayor Johnson said.

"We have had the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull and the South Australian Premier, Jay Weatherill, both openly promoting solar thermal in Port Augusta, in the past, as an opportunity for innovative, on-demand renewable energy with storage, and now the project has been supported by both levels of Government, with a contribution of \$110 million from the Federal Government and the South Australian Government contract to purchase 125MW of power" Mayor Johnson said.

Mayor Johnson said that the SolarReserve project will generate up to 150MW, enough power for 90,000 homes. The South Australian government contract with operator SolarReserve will last for 20 years.

"We commend SolarReserve for their vision in bringing this project to fruition and we thank them for believing in our region and investing in this \$650 million project", Mayor Johnson said.

"We know the project will provide significant economic benefits to our City and the region and is great news for local business, accommodation providers and local employment." Mayor Johnson said.

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For Interviews please contact Mayor Sam Johnson on 0419 423 777

JOHN BANKS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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