

Media Release

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SUNSHINE TO HEAT WATER IN NEW AQUATIC CENTRE

Alice Springs' most abundant and free resource will heat four of the pools at the new Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre via 275 Helicol solar panels installed on its roof.

The new solar heating system will on average meet 40% of the heating requirements for the indoor pools, increasing to nearly 100% of the heating requirement during summer.

With over 170km of vermin, cockatoo and UV resistant piping being used, the installation is one of the largest of its type in Australia.

It is the fourth of Alice Solar City's large scale iconic projects, after the Crowne Plaza PV system, the Airport solar power station, and the Uterne solar power station which is currently under construction.

Alice Solar City General Manager Brian Elmer says, "It is exciting to see solar considered as a first option for such a large and new development in Alice Springs and it will further enhance the town's reputation as a leader in solar technology."

"The system will reduce the Aquatic Centre's gas usage by an estimated 30% and save over 3450 GJ natural gas per year (equivalent to 350 tonnes of CO₂)."

The four pools to be heated by the new system include the outdoor toddler's pool and 'learn to swim' pool, and two of the new indoor pools – the lap pool and leisure pool.

The area of the solar collector panels is nearly equal to the total surface area of the pools to be heated.

The way it works is really quite simple, says Brian Elmer.

"The existing pool pump water is diverted to the solar pool heating system, passing through the boost pump to the solar collectors on the roof. When the water is heated by the sun's radiant energy, it is then returned to the pool to repeat the cycle until the pool is warmed."

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Australian Government
Solar Cities

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The total installation cost of the new Centre's solar heating system is \$300,000, with Alice Springs Town Council and the Australian Government each contributing \$150,000 as part of the Solar Cities program.

"Alice Solar City is pleased to work with the Alice Springs Town Council on the project and it is a practical demonstration of Council's commitment to Alice going solar", says Brian Elmer. Alice Springs Town Council has also recently committed to the installation of large solar PV systems on two of its buildings.

"The Alice Springs community can now enjoy the swimming pools in the knowledge that solar energy is heating the pool water and reducing emissions."

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For media enquiries please contact Laurelle Halford from Creative Territory on 0417 222 211 or (08) 8952 9412 or laurelle@creativeterritory.com

About Alice Solar City

The Alice Springs Solar City Consortium is led by the Alice Springs Town Council and includes broad community support from the Northern Territory Government, Power and Water Corporation, Tangentyere Council, the Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce, the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre and the Arid Lands Environment Centre. Funding sources include the Australian Government, the Northern Territory Government, Power and Water Corporation, and Alice Springs Town Council.

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