

# Media Statement

18 February 2010

## PEACE OF MIND FOR ALICE SPRINGS SOLAR INSTALLATIONS

Recent statements regarding the threat of house fires from rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) installations needs to be put in context, says Alice Solar City General Manager Brian Elmer.

“The Alice Solar City program has helped fund almost 200 household and commercial solar panel installations in Alice Springs and we take safety very seriously.”

“Out of 10,000 estimated house fires per year, none have been documented to be caused by PV panels and the safety record of the solar PV industry in Australia is very good.”

“I would like to assure householders and business owners in Alice Springs that the standard of equipment and installation used in our program meets and in many cases exceeds Australian and international standards.”

“The type of solar panel that was found to have a fault is not installed in Alice Springs through the Alice Solar City program.”

“All solar panels receiving government support, including under the Alice Solar City, must be installed by an accredited installer. The panels must comply with the Australian standard. All houses connecting solar panels back to the grid must also be installed by a licensed electrician.”

“We engaged the accrediting body, the Clean Energy Council, to undertake inspections on our behalf. The main sub-contractor under the Alice Solar City program also undertakes inspections for the Clean Energy Council (outside of Alice Springs).”

Mr Elmer says that Australia has lead the way in the development of standards for system design and installer accreditation and training.

“The accreditation program includes audits of installed systems to ensure compliance with these rigorous standards and consumer confidence is maintained.”

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“It was these inspections that revealed a very very small number of installations that might have been of risk.”

“PV solar panels remain an excellent choice for people looking to reduce their energy use, and therefore their greenhouse gas emissions.”

Ends...

**For media enquiries please contact Laurelle Halford from Creative Territory on 0417 222 211 or (08) 8953 7919 or [laurelle@creativeterritory.com](mailto: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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