Michael Gunner  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

**Solar Roll-out To Help Renewable Energy Targets and Create Jobs**

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Maningrida has become the first of 30 remote Territory communities to have PV solar installed which will save around 230,000 litres of diesel fuel a year, create more local jobs and boost skills during construction and operation.

Chief Minister Michael Gunner yesterday visited the site at Maningrida which is officially the first community to be commissioned through the joint Federal and NT Government $55 million Solar Energy Transformation Program (SETuP). The NT Government provides around $27 million.

SETuP will see the installation of 10MW of solar photovoltaic (PV) across 30 off-grid NT communities, with support from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and managed by the Power and Water Corporation.

“The Territory has one of the best natural environments in the world, and to keep it that way it is important we all do our bit to act on climate change,” Mr Gunner said.

“But good environmental policy is also smart economic policy – this means more jobs for Territorians. Our renewable target of 50% by 2030 will see more jobs, greater reliability and cheaper power prices.

“This project has also created local jobs and boosted skills – it’s another way we are helping empower the bush and building safer, stronger communities.”
PV solar which will enable the community to reduce its reliance on diesel fuel by 15 per cent, reduce pollution and cut back on trucks transporting fuel through the community.

Mr Gunner said 2,500 solar panels were installed over 20 weeks by a team of up to 12 contractors, enabling the community to produce around 4,000 kWh/day – or enough power to cover the needs of 130 households in Maningrida.

Construction of solar facility at 10 other communities will roll out this year, with the project integrating solar PV into remote locations with existing diesel power stations.

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