

**For Public Notice via Internet**

**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978***

**Title of Proposal:** North West Victoria Solar Energy Facility

**Proponent:** Solar Systems Pty Ltd

**Description of Project:**

Solar Systems Pty Ltd propose to develop a Solar Energy Facility with 154 megawatt capacity on a site at Carwarp (see attached Figure 1). Two types of solar concentration systems proposed to be used in the Solar Energy Facility, solar dishes (CS500) and Heliostat Concentrator Photovoltaic (HCPV).

**Decision:**

The Minister for Planning has decided that an Environment Effect Statement under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* is not required for the North West Solar Energy Facility as described in the referral accepted for processing on 24 March 2009.

**Reasons for Decision:**

- As the proposed site mostly consists of cleared agricultural land, the project will not have a significant impact on biodiversity and any impacts on scattered trees and other vegetation will be able to be offset in accordance with *Victoria's Native Vegetation Management – A Framework for Action* (2002).
- The project would have a low impact on external landscape and visual amenity values, because of the modified character of the surrounding area as well as the limited visibility of the SEF, which can be further mitigated by reflectivity management measures and vegetation screening.
- Potential effects on residential amenity, occurring as a result of construction and operational phases of the project, can be effectively managed by an Environmental Management Plan.
- The potential environmental effects of the project can be adequately assessed and formal public input enabled through the planning approval process under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

**Date of Decision:** 29 APR 2009