



MEDIA RELEASE

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State and Federal Governments must act to secure solar thermal for Port Augusta

State and Federal Governments must now work together to deliver the solar thermal project for the people of Port Augusta, says the state's peak environment body.

The call comes as news emerges that the deal to bring the Solar Reserve solar thermal with molten salt project to Port Augusta has collapsed.

"This is devastating news for the proud people of Port Augusta who worked so hard to get this exciting clean energy project to their town," said Conservation SA Chief Executive Craig Wilkins.

"The solar thermal project was a huge boost to a region hurting from the closure of the former dirty coal-fired power station.

"A range of politicians from all sides of politics have built their energy credibility on the back of securing this project. It's now time for them to step up and deliver.

"This project is too big to fail for the local community relying on the promised jobs.

"The collapse of this deal raises many questions. There needs to be full disclosure of who knew what when, and what steps, if any, were taken to help.

"South Australians, particularly those in the Upper Spencer Gulf, need to know their elected representatives did everything in their power to bring this project to life.

"The worst-case scenario from here is for the Marshall Government to pass over the government electricity supply contract to gas or coal – giving a lifeline to dirty energy options that have been steadily exiting the power market in SA in response to the growth in cleaner options.

"South Australians are incredibly proud of our world-leading transition to a cleaner energy mix.

"At a time of heightened awareness of the need for urgent action on climate change, the government's energy supply must continue to be supplied from clean, renewable sources," he said.

Release Ends

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