

Date - 26 September 2017

Councils Power Play

Mayor Hunt said, "Berri Barmera Council subject to the signing of the Power Purchasing Agreement with Accolade Wines has adopted the Capital Budget for the establishment of the solar farm on Moritz Road Berri. This is a very exciting project for the Council and the region".

The Solar Farm has been developed in alignment with the Council's Strategic Plan 2015-2020 and a consistent approach to develop a solar power generation facility in the area.

Berri Barmera Council CEO David Beaton said, "The increase in electricity charges and the reducing capital cost for the solar farm coupled with the 20% grant from the State Government and concessional interest rate from the Local Government Finance Authority make the timing of the project opportune to support local industry and adds an additional source of income for the Council".

The Business Case developed for the grant application was assessed by Treasury and the Department of State Development as being sound and supports the State's Strategic Plan in supporting Wine and Food production and new energy sources. The allocation of \$5.034 million was the largest grant under the State Local Government Infrastructure Partnership.

The Council has sought expert opinion to reduce risks to the project and the reports from CQ Partners supports the financial, physical and regulatory requirements to be addressed.

"The comprehensive Prudential Report completed by Norman Waterhouse Lawyers also supports the project as being within the capacity of Council", said Mayor Hunt. "Council staff have done the appropriate amount of due diligence to ensure the projects success, but the \$5 million contribution from the State Government underpins its viability and success".

For media enquiries:

Contact David Beaton, CEO on 8582 1922, or email dbeaton@bbc.sa.gov.au