

1 November 2021

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

**APA Group (ASX: APA)**

## **APA TO COMMENCE STAGE ONE OF MICA CREEK SOLAR FARM**

Leading Australian energy infrastructure business, APA Group (ASX: APA), today announced a staged plan to build an 88 MW solar farm at Mica Creek in Mount Isa, supporting customers in the North West Minerals Province with affordable, renewable electricity.

APA has reached Final Investment Decision (FID) to build the 44 MW stage one of the Mica Creek Solar Farm with an investment of more than \$80 million, which is underpinned by a new 15 year solar offtake agreement with existing APA customer and leading zinc miner, MMG Dugald River (MMG), to supply renewable energy.

APA also entered into a 32-year lease agreement with the Queensland Government to locate the solar farm on a site near APA's Diamantina Power Station Complex. The first stage of the solar farm is expected to be operational by the first quarter of CY2023, while APA is in advanced discussions with a number of customers to commit to the development of stage two.

APA CEO and Managing Director Rob Wheals said the FID and solar offtake agreement with MMG reflects APA's commitment to providing affordable, reliable and low emissions power to this minerals rich region of Queensland, further strengthening the region's economic activity.

"The Mica Creek Solar Farm will deliver lower emissions power underpinned by the reliability of APA's gas-fired power, while reducing the average cost and emissions of power across Mount Isa," Mr Wheals said.

"This solar agreement is the result of us working closely with MMG to ensure we meet their needs as a valued customer, so they can in turn continue to support a growing and leading zinc operation in Queensland.

"As always, we will continue to work with our customers to support their requirements, consistent with APA's purpose to strengthen communities through responsible energy.

"APA has been working with Economic Development Queensland in relation to a lease to support the solar farm, and is very pleased to work with the Queensland Government to support the ongoing development of the North West Minerals Province."

APA's solar offtake agreement has been negotiated at a commercially competitive tariff, consistent with utility solar pricing, and will reduce the average delivered cost of power for MMG.

### **About APA Group (APA)**

APA is a leading Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) listed energy infrastructure business. We own and/or manage and operate a diverse, \$21 billion portfolio of gas, electricity, solar and wind assets. Consistent with our purpose to strengthen communities through responsible energy, we deliver approximately half of the nation's gas usage and connect Victoria with South Australia and New South Wales with Queensland through our investments in electricity transmission assets. We are also one of the largest owners and operators of renewable power generation assets in Australia, with wind and solar projects across the country.



APT Pipelines Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Australian Pipeline Trust and is the borrowing entity of APA Group.

For more information visit APA's website, [apa.com.au](http://apa.com.au).

APA will also support MMG with its energy needs with the provision of firming gas power from its Diamantina Power Station complex, under its existing contract.

APA has proudly invested more than \$1 billion in energy assets in the North West Minerals Province, underscoring our commitment to delivering safe, reliable and affordable energy security to the region.

“We are proud to be providing our customers and the community with flexible, affordable, low emissions energy solutions.” Mr Wheals said.

### **Authorised for release by the Company Secretary**

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