



## Media Release

# STAGE TWO OF APA'S MOUNT ISA MICA CREEK SOLAR FARM POWERS AHEAD WITH SECOND CUSTOMER

*Friday, 17 December 2021*

Leading Australian energy infrastructure business, APA Group, today announced stage two of the Mica Creek Solar Farm in Mount Isa would power ahead in 2022, with APA entering into a variation to an existing offtake agreement for the supply of renewable electricity for 15 years with existing APA customer, Mount Isa Mines Limited (MIM), a Glencore Company.

The announcement of a second stage of works and associated offtake agreement follows APA's announcement in November 2021 of a 15-year solar offtake agreement with MMG Dugald River (MMG) to supply the initial 44 megawatts from stage one of the Mica Creek Solar Farm.

APA has reached a Final Investment Decision (FID) to build stage two of the Mica Creek Solar Farm, doubling the size of the project and taking the total investment for both stages to approximately \$150 million.

APA CEO and Managing Director Rob Wheals said he was pleased to be able to continue to provide APA's customers with energy solutions that support the North West Minerals Province with affordable and renewable electricity.

"We have worked closely with MIM to ensure we meet their needs as a valued customer, so they can in turn continue to grow and support the Mount Isa economy and minerals rich North West Minerals Province," Mr Wheals said.

"This investment will support APA's vision for a world-leading hybrid energy grid in Mount Isa and our aspiration to support the further increase of renewable energy penetration for the region.

"We now have two major APA customers supporting both stages of the 88 megawatt Mica Creek Solar Farm with agreements to supply renewable electricity to their Mount Isa operations, demonstrating the enthusiasm of customers in the region for integrated energy solutions that can both meet their energy needs and help reduce their operational emissions.

### **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.

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

“With supply of renewable energy for the two initial stages now under contract, APA is investigating a potential expansion for a third stage, following strong interest from customers.

“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.”

Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development Steven Miles said the speed of the expansion, having only just announced stage one last month, demonstrated the demand from business and industry for renewable energy.

“APA has a long-term, 32 year lease with the Queensland Government for a 198 hectare site in the North West Minerals Province for stage 1 and stage 2 of the solar farm,” Mr Miles said.

“This project will also provide a boost to employment and the local economy, employing around 300 people during peak construction.

“Queensland is leading the way as we move closer to our target of achieving 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030.”

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 MIM.

APA will also support MIM with its energy needs with the provision of firming gas power from its highly efficient Diamantina Power Station complex (DPS).

The Diamantina Power Station complex is one of the most efficient dispatchable power stations in Australia, with emissions intensity about half of the Queensland grid.

The development of the Mica Creek Solar Farm will reduce the emissions intensity from APA’s entire Mount Isa generation fleet even further, taking it well below the Australian average.

APA’s vision for a world-leading hybrid energy grid in Mount Isa can provide the region with affordable, reliable and renewable energy which is in contrast with other proposals for the region,” APA Group Executive Strategy and Commercial Julian Peck said.

“Importantly, our aspiration to support further expansion of renewable energy generation can be delivered without government subsidies.

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.

The second stage of the solar farm is co-located on the same site as stage one near APA’s Diamantina Power Station Complex on land which is leased from the Queensland Government.

The Mica Creek Solar Farm is expected to be operational by mid CY23.

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