

### **\$15 million solar thermal plant for Whyalla, SA**

What may be the world's first solar thermal power station is to be constructed in the South Australian town of Whyalla, with the first base load electricity expected to be produced at the \$15 million plant within 12 months. Construction of the solar thermal power plant, the Whyalla Solar Oasis, has commenced and will initially comprise four 'big dishes' while the technology is demonstrated, generating power for up to 1000 homes. The long-term plan is for 600 dishes to be built, each 500 square metres in area, in a two kilometre by one kilometre area at the town's northern entrance. The expanded plant is expected to generate about 130 GW of power a year, enough for 19,000 average homes and preventing 129,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions being produced. Whyalla Council deputy mayor Eddie Hughes says it is "incredibly exciting" for work to start after 12 years of planning and 30 years of research by the Australian National University.

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