



# Greenough River Solar Farm

Verve Energy is developing a 10MW solar farm in the Midwest in a joint venture partnership with GE Energy Financial Services, utilising thin film photovoltaic (PV) solar modules from First Solar.

This is the first stage of a 40MW solar farm that the joint venture hopes to install at this site. The project will be completed by mid 2012.

The Greenough River Solar Farm project will be Australia's first utility scale solar farm and the largest in Australia. It is the first step towards expanding WA's renewable energy away from the high reliance on wind farms and will pave the way for other utility scale photovoltaic plants in WA.

Solar photovoltaic is the fastest growing, proven renewable energy technology and the costs are falling.

The solar farm will also benefit the Mid West by creating jobs during construction as well as operations and maintenance, and will help the State Government meet its renewable energy target of 20% by 2020.



*Surveying the site.*

Construction of the Greenough River Solar Farm project began in November 2011 and will take nine months to complete.

The project site is about 80 hectares of private, cleared land 30 kms east of Walkaway and 50 kms southeast of Geraldton, on the Nangetty Walkaway Road.

This significant project for the State and for the joint venture will go ahead with substantial contributions from the Royalties for Regions scheme, and the Office of Energy.

The photovoltaic technology is being provided by US company First Solar. Using the latest technology, First Solar will supply more than 150,000 of its advanced thin film PV modules and provide engineering, procurement and construction services.

Through an agreement with local contractor WBHO Civil, and in the sourcing of local products, the project is expected to generate millions of dollars for the City Of Greater Geraldton's economy. Up to 150 people will be onsite at any one time throughout the construction phase, with jobs lasting for up to nine months.



*Grading roads at the solar farm site.*

The Greenough River Solar Farm will displace 25,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year, the equivalent of taking 5000 cars off the road.

The clean, affordable and sustainable energy generated by the solar farm will be purchased by the WA Water Corporation to offset the electricity requirements of the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant, near Binningup.

For more information about this project, contact [enquiries@greenoughsolarfarm.com.au](mailto:enquiries@greenoughsolarfarm.com.au) or see the website [www.greenoughsolarfarm.com.au](http://www.greenoughsolarfarm.com.au).

