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MAJOR COUNCIL ADDS VOICE TO GROWING CIRCULAR SOLAR MOVEMENT

Dubbo Regional Council has joined Circular PV Alliance, sending a clear signal to the renewable energy industry that circularity is a top priority for communities being impacted by large scale solar energy projects.

Circular PV Alliance (CPVA) is proud to welcome Dubbo Regional Council (Council) to the CPVA community as an Associate Member. This formalises an already productive association between the two organisations. In 2024 Council pledged support to CPVA Certified™, a world first circularity certification for solar energy projects that CPVA developed through the Taronga Hatch Accelerator Program. Council also played a critical role in the creation of CPVA Certified™, participating as part of the project's Industry Working Group.

Council's Director of Development and Environment, Steve Jennings, said Council is pleased to be involved with Circular PV Alliance. "With solar energy developments operating in the region and the fact that Dubbo has one of the highest take up rates for rooftop solar, Council is always exploring future-focused approaches and considering how circular economy principles can support better waste management," says Mr Jennings. "This collaboration presents an opportunity for us to contribute to wider conversations around sustainable practices and benefits for our community."

Council's membership with CPVA highlights a practical step that all local governments can take to convey to project developers that councils want to see projects striving for best practice outcomes. "We are thrilled to officially have Council on board," says Megan Jones, CEO and co-founder of CPVA. "As a Dubbo local myself, I see and hear first-hand the growing community interest around end-of-life practices for solar projects, particularly now that the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) is well and truly underway. I want to ensure that the energy transition my community is right in the middle of, leads to a more sustainable solar energy sector, and that the benefits of this change are enduring. The circular economy offers many opportunities for local businesses, and having Council as a CPVA member will help locals tap into new, emerging markets."

CPVA intends to build a coalition of local governments that encourages other councils to join the 'movement' towards circularity for renewable energy. "Dubbo is a large council in Australia's first REZ. I believe if other councils stand alongside Dubbo and we bring more local governments on board to CPVA, we can collectively drive positive behaviour change for the energy industry," says Ms Jones. "CPVA will continue to work closely with Council to optimise the impact and benefits we can achieve through our association for the local community."

Dubbo Regional Council joins an esteemed and growing cohort of organisations supporting CPVA. This includes PV Lab Australia, Rainbow Power Company, Molekulis, Climate Capital, ACEN Australia, Second Life Solar and the Association for the Battery Recycling Industry (ABRI).

CPVA is a not-for-profit industry body focused on transitioning solar energy to a circular economy through innovation, high standards and a sustainable approach to the renewable energy transition. CPVA Certified™ is a pioneering framework that embeds circularity principles into how a solar energy project is designed, funded, managed and decommissioned. Further information on CPVA Certified™ and the benefits of CPVA Membership is available on the CPVA website: www.circularpv.com.au

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