

## **\$1B ANNOUNCEMENT TO SUPPORT LOCAL MANUFACTURING WELCOMED BY ENERGY USERS**

Today's announcement from the Albanese Governments of a \$1billion package of support to develop solar panel manufacturing in Australia is welcomed by leading advocate for commercial and industrial (C&I) energy users, the Energy Users' Association of Australia (EUAA).

"We welcome support for local manufacturing that enables the transformation of our economy as we aim to reach net zero targets," said Andrew Richards, Chief Executive Officer of the EUAA. "Local manufacturing is a cornerstone of the Australian economy – supporting many critical jobs around the country. Supporting growth in new areas to enable business to pivot and expand is critical for our ongoing success."

The EUAA advocates for large C&I energy users, many of whom manufacture critical items used every day by the Australian community. However, Australia does not currently manufacture solar panels with most being imported from China.

"Manufacturing solar panels locally will not only ensure we do not lose important skills, but it will also enable Australia to modernise its economy into new growth industries," added Mr Richards.

"EUAA members look forward to participating in the development of this new industry in Australia."

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*The EUAA is the peak body representing Australian industrial and commercial energy users. EUAA membership covers a broad cross section of the Australian economy including significant retail, manufacturing and materials processing industries. Combined EUAA members employ over one million Australians, pay annual energy bills in the many billions of dollars and support the development of a lasting national energy and climate change plan that puts downward pressure on electricity and gas costs.*

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