



# SOLAR PANELS (PHOTOVOLTAIC)

The installation of photovoltaic solar panels is becoming an increasingly popular choice for property owners seeking to harness renewable energy.

## Do I need Council approval to install solar panels?

In most circumstances solar panels which meet certain criteria do not constitute development under the Development Act 1993, and therefore do not require Development Approval from Council.

Solar systems meeting the following criteria do not require Development Approval:

- Photovoltaic systems comprising solar photovoltaic panels which do not have a total weight exceeding 100 kilograms; OR
- Photovoltaic systems comprising solar photovoltaic panels which have a total weight exceeding 100 kilograms, if:
  - The weight is distributed so that it does not exceed 100 kilograms at any 1 point of attachment to the roof; and
  - The panels (and any associated components) do not overhang any part of the roof; and
  - The panels are fitted parallel to the roof with the underside surface of the panels being not more than 100 millimetres above the surface of the roof; and
  - The panels are installed by a person who holds an accreditation under a scheme recognised by the Minister.

However, regardless of the above, Development Approval is still required if solar panels are to be installed in either of the following circumstances:

- on a local heritage place in a location where they are visible from a public street; OR

- on a state heritage place, or in a location which would materially impact on the setting or locality of a state heritage place.

## How do I apply for Development Approval?

In order to obtain Development Approval, you must first lodge a Development Application with Council. Once lodged, a Development Application is assessed against the provisions of Council's Development Plan, as well as the requirements of the Building Code of Australia.

As the processing of Development Applications may vary significantly depending on the type and location of the development, it is suggested that further advice be obtained from Council's Planning Department on (08) 8551 0570 prior to lodgement of an application.

## Want to know more?

The above information is advisory only and intended as a guide to give you a general understanding of the key points associated with the development assessment system. It is recommended that you seek professional advice or contact the City of Victor Harbor regarding any specific inquiries or for further assistance concerning the use and development of land. Being properly prepared can save you time and money in the long run.

While care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of material contained in this publication, no responsibility will be accepted for any errors or omissions.

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