

SUMMARY:

Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels are a great addition to almost any building. However, there are some important things to consider before deciding to install solar panels. Not all solar panel systems require Development Approval from Council, in the cases where you don't need Council's approval it is always a good idea to get a builder's opinion to see if your building is capable of supporting the solar panels. If you're unsure, or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact the Building Department and we'll be happy to assist you.

DO I NEED APPROVAL TO INSTALL OR ALTER SOLAR PANELS?

Provided you meet the criteria listed below, you won't need Development Approval from Council before you install or alter your solar system;

- Must be attached to a roof of a building
- The solar panel system must not have a generating capacity of more than 5MW that is connected to the state's power system
- The solar panel system must not have a total weight exceeding 100 kilograms or if the solar panel system exceeds 100 kilograms it must:
 - Have the weight distributed so that no point of attachment exceeds 100 kilograms
 - The panels (and any associated components) do not overhang any part of the roof
 - The panels are fitted parallel to the roof, with the underside of the panels not being more than 100 millimeters above the surface of the roof
 - The panels are installed by a person who holds an accreditation under a scheme recognised by the State Government

All freestanding solar panel systems require approval regardless of any criteria listed above.

WHY DOES A FREESTANDING SOLAR PANEL SYSTEM ALWAYS REQUIRE AN APPROVAL?

Unlike solar panels systems installed to a roof, freestanding solar panel systems have their own structure to support the panels. That structure needs to be assessed to make sure it won't collapse. Also because they aren't hidden by a roof, Planning also need to conduct an assessment against the Development Plan.

WHAT INFORMATION WILL I NEED TO PROVIDE FOR AN APPLICATION TO INSTALL SOLAR PANELS?

In order to assess an application to install or alter solar panels the minimum amount of information required is:

- A completed application form
- A copy of the Certificate of Title for the allotment
- A site plan (drawn to scale), showing the boundaries and dimensions of the allotment, all buildings on the allotment, the location of any waste infrastructure if applicable and the proposed solar panel system with the dimensions clearly illustrated and the distances from the boundaries
- Elevation plans of the proposed solar panel system indicating the north, south, east and west directions (must be drawn to scale)
- Technical or engineering details of the solar panel system and any associated structure if freestanding
- If attached to a roof, engineers comment on the structural adequacy of the roof to which it is attached to

Sometimes more information is required to approve a solar panel system, in those cases we'll contact you.

ONCE I GET MY APPROVAL, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO DO?

Yes, once you've gained an approval for a solar panel system there are certain things you need to let us know as you progress throughout the installation all the way through to completion. These notifications you're required to provide Council are detailed in our Notifications Factsheet.

Applications can be lodged online using the Council's [electronic lodgement system](#).

You may also like to view the following resources on our website:

- [Notifications Fact Sheet](#)
- [Development Approval Process](#)
- [Applications and Assessments](#)

This fact sheet is provided as a guide only and is intended to provide our customers with information that will assist Council to make accurate and timely assessments of Development Applications. This information is subject to frequent change and so it is in the best interest of applicants to engage the services of a building professional or speak with Council directly for advice.

CONTACT

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Visit Playford Civic Centre to speak to a Duty Planner

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