

The Clean Energy Council 2008 Awards for Excellence in Grid-connected Solar Power Systems Design and Installation

I'm pleased to announce that **Going Solar** won both of the major awards at the annual Clean Energy Council ATRAA conference and dinner in Melbourne on Friday, August 1, 2008.

The awards represent 'the best of the best' and were presented by the Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources and Minister for Community Development, the Honourable Peter Batchelor.

☆ **2008 Best Grid-Connected Solar System under 5 kW:** Domestic system in Williamstown, Victoria.



This project features a solar array layout and orientation (for a new building) designed in conjunction with the client and his architect. It shows that an excellent outcome can be achieved with good planning, detailed preparation and regular consultation with the client.

Given the double storey design of the building, all of the usual OH&S precautions had to be taken and the normal care to make sure that the site was left in a tidy state. The original layout and design of solar grid connect system enabled pre-wiring of solar PV DC wires and solar inverter to the switchboard AC wires before the installation of new plaster boards. The result was the solar array and inverter to distribution board wiring was completed neatly and installed internally inside walls and ceiling cavities.

This installation, while typical of the standard that we strive to maintain, is an excellent example of a PV installation and a good model for our industry. Note that Going Solar also supplied and installed the solar hot water system shown at the far left of the photo.

☆ **2008 Best Grid-Connected Solar System above 5 kW:**
The solar sound wall on the Tulla-Calder Interchange, Victoria.



Australia's first solar noise barrier – while not the first solar sound wall in the world – is important because it is:

- The first solar sound wall in Australia
- Believed to be the first solar noise barrier of its kind in the world.
- A highly visible demonstration of photovoltaics.
- An example of photovoltaics integrated into the built form - acting as a sound wall while producing electricity.

The 500 metre PV system was designed and installed for the Tulla-Calder Alliance, a special government and industry consortium established to rework a major interchange between two freeways. The installation constitutes the first use of solar panels as a noise barrier on an Australian Freeway. The 24.36kWp amorphous silicon array can tolerate some shade, but clever system design was used to minimise even minor shading on the overall installation.

This system was supported by the Sustainability Victoria Renewable Energy Support Fund.

The judges were looking for “innovative, compliant and well-documented systems that demonstrate excellence in the design and installation of Grid-connected Power Systems.”

Previous Industry Awards won by Going Solar:

- ☆ **2007 Award for Excellence in Grid-Connected Solar Power System (Design and Installation) above 5 kW:**
Building Integrated PV System at Ballarat University, Victoria



Picture Credits: Warwick Johnston

- ☆ **2006 Award for Excellence in Grid-connected Solar Power System (Design and Installation) above 5 kW:**
The Solar Pergola, Albert Street, South Melbourne, Victoria

