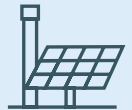




Image: APA Group

## INSIGHTS FROM ARENA'S LARGE-SCALE SOLAR ROUND



ARENA provided \$91.7 million funding to 12 LSS projects through a competitive funding round. You can read more about the objectives and impact of this round in the Showcase section of this report.

The round quickly drove down the cost of LSS so that it became commercially viable and companies are now entering the market without ARENA support. Through strong relationships with this cohort of pioneering projects, ARENA has been able to pinpoint key challenges to project delivery beyond price. These implementation barriers have the potential to impede the companies that are now entering the market without ARENA assistance. Using these insights, ARENA is working with key stakeholders to create and deliver solutions.

This year, ARENA worked with its funding recipients to track their experiences across the construction process to identify opportunities for improvement. In late

March, ARENA surveyed the projects in its LSS portfolio to understand their experience with construction and commissioning. Grid connection emerged as a topic for further discussion, and as such ARENA hosted a one-day workshop for all participants of the LSS funding round in Brisbane on 16 May 2018. The objective was to share grid connection experiences and brainstorm initiatives to improve the process for future projects. Potential solutions were developed to the issues raised, which will be used to further reduce barriers to deployment.

ARENA has also partnered with the Clean Energy Council on a social licence program to ensure the long-term viability of the industry. This has included a number of best practice workshops including an event at the Australian Clean Energy Summit. ARENA produced a public report that provides analysis and insights on the levelised cost of energy of the 12 projects funded in the LSS round.