

Building Advisory Committee



BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

POLICY NO. BAC/2011/001

INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS IN NON-CYCLONIC REGIONS

This policy applies to Class 1 and 10 structures in non-cyclonic regions of the Northern Territory (Regions A and B as per AS/NZS1170.2). Region B includes Lake Bennett, Adelaide River, Batchelor and Jabiru. Region A includes Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

The installation of photovoltaic panels in non-cyclonic areas is exempt from the requirement to obtain a building permit provided that:

- The installer is accredited with the Clean Energy Council of Australia; and
- The panels installed are approved by the Clean Energy Council; and either
- a) The roof is structurally sound, as certified by a structural engineer, building certifier or building contractor registered with the NT Building Practitioners Board; or
- b) A building permit was issued for the building in question within five years of the proposed installation.

On completion of the installation, the accredited installer must issue a written declaration that all these conditions have been met and provide full documentation to the property owner. The property owner will be responsible for keeping the documentation for future reference. PV panels shall not be installed in the local pressure exclusion zones for Region B, unless otherwise determined by an engineer.

Until there is greater certainty, through testing, of the ability of the panels to withstand high winds, there will be no exemption from the requirement to obtain a building permit in cyclonic regions.

ADOPTED BY THE BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON 7 APRIL 2011

Peter Russell
Deputy Chairman

Note:

Certification of PV mounting structure for wind loading in accordance with AS/NZS1170.2 is required by the Clean Energy Council Grid Connect Installation guideline in the form of an array frame engineering certificate and array frame installation declaration. Under verification of AS/NZS1170.2 installers are required to "obtain from their frame supplier a copy of the engineering certificate stating that the array frame is certified to AS/NZS1170.2 for their location. They must also obtain information on how the frame is to be mounted on the roof to maintain this certification."