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MEDIA RELEASE

NQCC ORGANISES 'SOLARdarity' WALK

A cheery and colourful crowd of renewable energy supporters are expected to join NQCC's 'SOLARdarity' Walk for Big Solar through Townsville on Sunday 30 September. The walk will start from Victoria Bridge forecourt, Ogden Street, at 9.15am.

NQCC is part of a national alliance that is working to see Australia's first coal-fired power station replaced with solar power. Its Townsville walk is timed to coincide with the end of a 300km walk from Port Augusta in South Australia to Adelaide; in which 100+ people walked day and night to show their support for replacing two polluting power stations in Port Augusta with clean safe solar.

"Time and time again the people of Townsville have shown they love solar. We now have many thousands of panels on roofs across the area – demonstrating that we are starting to make great use of the free energy source that is the sun. Now it's time to move to baseload power from Big Solar," said NQCC President and renewables campaigner Gerald Soworka.

"In Port Augusta in South Australia the local community is dealing with significant health impacts caused by two dirty polluting power stations on their doorstep. This is causing double the average cancer rates in the local town. But there is also a big opportunity to replace these coal plants with solar, and Townsville people are walking to support the change to solar.

"Australia is the sunniest continent on earth- it just makes so much sense to build plants that harness the sun to make electricity – especially here in Townsville. It is the future of energy generation and we would love to see the first plant built in Port Augusta and the second in the Townsville region," Gerald added.

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