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MEDIA RELEASE

SOLAR FIRE THREAT A BEAT UP

Industry responds to PV media reports

Recent claims regarding the threat of house fires from solar PV installations needs to be put in context, says John Grimes Chief Executive, Australian Solar Energy Society.

An issue has been raised by the PV solar installer's accreditation agency CEC and Standards Australia that AC breakers have been installed on the DC side of solar systems.

“This scheme has been enormously successful by any measure. What we are looking at are a handful of rogue installers who have failed to meet stringent installation standards, put in place by the government to safeguard against this very thing”, said Grimes

“While this could potentially create a fire danger, doing this is completely against the standards” said Grimes.

“This problem was detected over 6 months ago in a small number of inspections, and active steps were put in place to fix this potential problem as soon as it came to light”.

“For the vast number of installation companies, this was never a problem in the first place. What's more Australia has led the world in PV installation accreditation standards, and its inspection regime successfully identified the problem before any incident occurred”.

“PV solar panels remain an excellent choice for people looking to reduce their energy use, and therefore their greenhouse gas emissions. The Australian Solar Energy Society commends the government for their continued support of solar PV installations”, said Mr Grimes.

For additional information or to schedule an interview with the CEO of the AuSES, John Grimes please contact: 0400 102 396 ceo@anzses.org

About Australian Solar Energy Society

The Australian Solar Energy Society (AuSES) is dedicated to the promotion of solar and related R&D and the adoption of Solar Energy; compiling and disseminating information on solar and complementary technologies; education programs; and lobbying. AuSES is a non for profit organisation tracing its history back to 1954. Its primary membership consists of academia, solar related companies, research and development organisations, users, community groups and private citizens.