

Solar Panels

A solar panel, also known as a PV panel or module, is a device that collects sunlight and converts it into electric current. Panels can be fixed to existing roof structures or ground mounted on frames.

Is a Building Permit required for the installation of solar panels?

Yes. A building permit is required under the requirements of the *Building Act 2011* for the installation of any solar panels. They are exempt from needing a Building Permit in other parts of Western Australia, however as the City of Karratha is located within a Region D wind zone this exemption does not apply.

Who submits the application?

Generally the application should be submitted by the contractor undertaking the works, such that they sign as the nominated builder and therefore take responsibility for the works.

What plans and specifications do I need to submit with my application for a Building Permit?

The following plans and details are required:

- Roof layout plan – detailing the number of panels and the proposed location of them in relation to the edges of the roof
- Site Plan – for on ground arrays – to detail the location within a land parcel and provide setbacks to any other buildings on the site.
- Technical data sheet and engineering certification for the proposed panels
- Installation information and engineering certification for the proposed racking/fixing system

Note: Engineering certification needs to specifically reference compliance with AS1170.2-2011 for Region D wind loads.

Additional Information

- Approval is also required from Horizon Power prior to any works being undertaken.
- A registered builder is not required, however all installations are to be undertaken by a licenced electrician.
- Planning approval will generally only be required for on ground installations

Disclaimer

This information sheet is provided as generalised information. While we aim to keep the content of this document current and accurate, we accept no responsibility or warranties for actions based on the information provided. The City of Karratha encourages you to seek professional advice before acting on any information contained within this document. Please contact the City of Karratha if you wish to comment on the forms provided and information contained within. Any reported errors will be amended.

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