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# Light rays shine at Nikenbah

By **MAT NOTT**

THE company responsible for the \$2.7m solar farm at Nikenbah is on the verge of releasing its works inventory with expectations firming that at least \$1m worth of projects will be allocated locally.

Little has been done to date at the site since the project was launched in late September, as Ingenero finalises design works and waits for the first of the major components to arrive from overseas.

These design stages also include identifying projects and support works suitable for local suppliers.

"We have a strong expectation that locals will be well positioned to pick up a lot of work," Ingenero general manager of generation projects Roger Whitby said.

"We are putting all the docu-

ments and info packs together at the moment and the intention is to invite local companies to bid on the work.

"There will be a need for civil works such as earthmoving, mechanical work with the actual erection of the farm and, of course, the electrical works.

"We want to get local business involved but they have got to have the right qualifications and they have got to be cost competitive."

Mr Whitby said there will also be a range of minor support works required such as construction of a perimeter fence – which is expected to go up next month – signage requirements and waste disposal services, among others.

The Nikenbah solar farm is being touted as an Australian-first development for its capacity

to eventually to market its power generation capability to the community.

Consumers interested in investing in the solar market would buy an expanse of panels at the Nikenbah farm as an alternative to having a roof top installation at their residence.

There will also be methods utilised to construct the solar farm that have never deployed in building similar projects in Australia

One will be the use of heavy machinery to embed the posts used to support the panels directly into the ground.

Frequently used overseas, this method is considered quicker and cheaper than laying of a concrete slab and bolting the posts to this.



**SOLAR FARM:** The \$2.7m solar farm at Nikenbah is on the verge of releasing its works inventory with expectations firming that at least \$1m worth of projects will be allocated locally.

PHOTO: ROBERT RIDDER