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For immediate release

## **Safety First—Solar Panel Installation in Cyclone Zones**

More homeowners in cyclone-prone areas are investing in solar panels to save money on energy bills and contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

However, it is crucial to recognise that in an area susceptible to cyclones, such as Broome, solar panels can pose significant risks if not installed properly.

To ensure your investment is both safe and effective, here are key considerations to keep in mind:

### **Building Permit**

Before installing solar panels, ensure your contractor is aware that a building permit is required. This permit is essential to ensure that the correct materials and building practices are used on your home.

When the permit is issued by the Permit Authority— usually the Shire of Broome —you should receive a copy. If you have not seen it, request the permit from your contractor before any work begins.

### **Roof Condition**

The condition and age of your roof are critical factors in determining whether it can safely support the additional load and uplift forces created by solar panels, especially during a cyclone.

Your contractor should conduct a thorough inspection of your roof to assess its suitability for the installation. In some cases, roof improvements may be necessary to ensure it can securely hold the solar panels.

## **Electrical Certificate**

Once the solar panels are installed, it is essential to obtain a copy of the electrical sign-off from your contractor.

This certificate confirms that the installation has been completed according to the required electrical safety standards.

While solar panels are an excellent addition to any home, especially for those looking to reduce their carbon footprint, it is vital to prioritise safety in cyclone regions.

By following these guidelines, you can protect your investment and your home, ensuring that your solar panels remain a valuable asset.

For more information, contact the Shire of Broome at [shire@broome.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@broome.wa.gov.au).

**ENDS**

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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