

Solahart Industries

Manufacture Solar Thermal Water Heaters, Western Australia

Owner: Solahart is a subsidiary of Rheem Australia Pty. Ltd., which is owned by Paloma Japan/Rheem USA

Location: 112 Pilbarra Street, Welshpool, Western Australia

Demographic rating: Inner metropolitan

Manufacture: Solar Thermal Water Heaters including tanks, collectors & components.

Investment in Facility: \$90 million

Commissioned: 1953

Total production capacity: 100,000 water heaters & 400,000 m² collectors per annum.

Total renewable annual sales: \$80 million

Countries exported to: 70 countries including Spain, Italy, Portugal, U.S.A., China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand & Indonesia

Historical growth in renewable production: 20 per cent per annum

No. of staff employed (equivalent full time): 120 (at the Welshpool facility)

For more information:
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Company history and description

Solahart commenced operations in Australia in 1901 and manufactured its first solar water heater 50 years ago. Renewable energy products manufactured by Solahart include thermosiphon and split system solar and heat pump water heaters. These products are marketed in 70 countries around the world. International sales represent 40% of total business and in Australia Solahart enjoys a market share of 50%. This is complemented by Rheem's 10% share.

Plant description

Located on 4.5 hectares, the Welshpool manufacturing facility has undergone progressive upgrades over the past 5 years and now includes a Product Development Department with sales, distribution, service and administrative functions. Key manufacturing processes include press forming, welding, machining, enamelling, foaming, assembly, plating and blasting. Collectors are manufactured from both steel and copper with black chrome and sputtered selective surface treatments. Solar tanks are mainly manufactured at Welshpool, whilst vertical tanks are sourced from parent company, Rheem.

Solahart is a significant player in the research and development of solar thermal products and Solahart products are accredited under a range of national and international accreditation schemes.