



La Trobe University

Solar component of Net Zero initiative

Australian organisations, institutions and councils are increasingly embracing renewable energy as part of their dedication to delivering on sustainability goals.

In Melbourne, one of Australia's leading universities, La Trobe, has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2029 with its regional campuses set to hit their target by 2022.

As part of this initiative, La Trobe commenced a project to significantly reduce campus running costs and carbon emissions.

In 2019, to edge the university closer to achieving its ambitious goal of net zero carbon, it issued a tender to derive 720kWp of energy entirely from carport solar at its Albury-Wodonga and Bendigo campuses. That tender was awarded to Next Generation Electrical (NG/E): a large Australian EPC provider that specialises in renewable energy projects around the country, such as solar farms, rooftop solar and microgrids.

Project spotlight



Organisation La Trobe University

Project Solar component of Net Zero initiative

Locations Albury-Wodonga and Bendigo campuses

Power requirement 720 kWp

Scope Supply of 10 solar carport shade structures, installation of the foundations, structures and solar panels

Terrain Sloping up to 4 degrees

Challenge Working safely on a busy site with minimal disruption to staff and students

Project timeframe 5 weeks

With such a high-profile project and prestigious client, it was critical for NG/E to appoint a knowledgeable, dependable partner with extensive experience and a reputation for quality carport mounting and racking systems.

S-Rack Australia was the natural choice. Since 2009, the Sydney-based team has developed a track record for delivering successful small to large solar carport projects across the country. With its expert team based here in Australia; EPCs, commercial and utility-scale installers, wholesalers and councils enjoy the peace of mind that comes from having a dedicated local project team on the ground and on-call.

Clients can enjoy the confidence of knowing every project is 100% customised to both client and site requirements. From the foundations through to the clamping system, S-Rack offers solutions for even the most challenging site conditions.



On time and within budget

The project was delivered in 5 weeks; on time and within budget. The carport structures were designed by S-Rack in Sydney and manufactured in Bendigo.

"... the 3,300 solar panels already in place at our regional campuses [...] generate more than 1.1 Mw of renewable power across the regions, making up more than 18% of all regional consumption and contributing to a 14% electricity reduction at Bendigo and 21% electricity reduction at Albury-Wodonga."

- La Trobe University

(Source: <https://www.latrobe.edu.au/sustainability/net-zero/our-projects>)

Working with NG/E on La Trobe University's Albury-Wodonga and Bendigo campus carport project, S-Rack was responsible for the design, supply and installation of the systems, inclusive of foundations, structural steel and clamping system across all three sites.

S-Rack also provided project management services for the construction and mechanical installation at each site, covering civil works, steel erection and PV module mounting. The systems were individually analysed according to Australian standards and were provided with CPEng Certification.

S-Rack is committed to delivering quality results for clients, lowering risk and being highly adaptable on site. S-Rack is proud to have played an important part in NG/E's ability to deliver on La Trobe's broader sustainability journey.

About S-Rack Australia carport systems

S-Rack has successfully completed carport projects from 30kWp to 720kWp across ground level and multi-storey carparks.



Built for maximum durability

All components are constructed from high-quality, hot dipped galvanized steel, marine-grade aluminum with stainless steel fasteners for pleasing aesthetics, superior corrosion resistance and maximum durability.



Australian designed, engineered and fabricated steel structures

Efficient construction made possible by smart design, for faster, easier assembly.



A variety of configurations available

Framed & frame-less. Portrait & landscape.



10 year structural warranty for structural components

With a design life of 25 years, for peace of mind.



Module clamps designed to fix directly to purlins

Removes the need for additional mounting rails.



Waterproofing solution available

Waterproofing solution including full roof sheeting and guttering system design and installation available.

Superior support



100% Australian superior engineering support based here in Sydney, NSW

- Customised solutions.
- Robust structural engineering advisory at the early stages of the concept design provides significant construction savings and reduces documentation timeframes.
- Fast turnaround of design modifications.
- Dependably built to Australian standards.



Supporting local

S-Rack carefully selects fabricators and civil contractors wherever possible (local & regional).



Dedicated project manager

Timely communication for seamless project management.



Built for Australian conditions

Carport systems built for Australian site conditions.