SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

Business name

Document: SWMS-001 Rev 1
Prepared: 9 Nov 2026
Review by: 9 Dec 2026
Highest risk after controls: Medium

1. BUSINESS AND JOB DETAILS

Job	Solar panel cleaning	**Start date**	9 Nov 2026
Working hours	7:00 am to 3:30 pm	**Trade**	Solar

2. HIGH RISK CONSTRUCTION WORK COVERED BY THIS SWMS

YES	Risk of a person falling more than 2 metres		Work on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines
	Work on a telecommunication tower	**YES**	Work on or near energised electrical installations or services
	Demolition of an element of a structure that is load-bearing or related to its physical integrity		Work in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere
	Likely to involve disturbing asbestos		Work involving tilt-up or precast concrete elements
	Structural alterations or repairs that require temporary support to prevent collapse		Work on, in or next to a road, railway, shipping lane or other traffic corridor in use by traffic other than pedestrians
	Work in or near a confined space		Work in an area with movement of powered mobile plant
	Work in or near a shaft or trench with an excavated depth greater than 1.5 metres		Work in an area with artificial extremes of temperature
	Work in or near a tunnel		Work in or near water or other liquid that involves a risk of drowning
	Use of explosives		Diving work
	Work on or near pressurised gas distribution mains or piping		

3. JOB STEPS, HAZARDS AND CONTROLS

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
1	Set up roof access and edge protection or harness	Falling from a roof edge Falling from a ladder Rules: WHS Regulation 2011, Part 4.4 Falls	**Extreme Likely / Catastrophic**	1.1 Do what you can from the ground or from a scaffold at the gutter line, for example pre-assemble parts on the ground. [Eliminate] 1.2 Install edge protection or guardrails on all open roof edges before work starts. [Isolate] 1.3 Use a perimeter scaffold with handrails and toe boards along the eaves where practical. [Engineering] 1.4 Where guardrails cannot be fitted, use fall restraint on certified roof anchors so workers cannot reach the edge. [Engineering] 1.5 Only workers briefed on this SWMS go on the roof. Stop and review	**Medium Unlikely / Major**	Site supervisor

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
				the SWMS if the roof, weather or method changes. [Administrative] 1.6 Use one safe, controlled access point and keep others off the roof. [Administrative] 1.7 Stop roof work in strong wind or rain, and when the roof is wet, icy or covered in dust or frost. [Administrative] 1.8 Have a written emergency and rescue plan, tested before work starts, for any worker using a harness (WHS Regulations r.80). [Administrative] 1.9 Wear a harness clipped to a rated anchor when using restraint or fall arrest, and soft-soled non-slip boots. [PPE] 1.10 Use a platform ladder, mobile scaffold or EWP for longer jobs instead of a straight ladder. [Substitute] 1.11 Use industrial-rated ladders (AS/NZS 1892, 120 kg or more) in good condition. Remove any damaged ladder from site. [Engineering] 1.12 Set extension ladders at a 4 to 1 angle on firm, level ground, tied or footed, and reaching 1 metre above the landing. [Engineering] 1.13 Use ladders only for short, light work. Do not carry heavy or awkward loads up a ladder. [Administrative] 1.14 Keep three points of contact and your belt buckle between the stiles. Do not overreach. [Administrative] 1.15 Do not stand on the top three rungs of an extension ladder or the top step of a stepladder. [Administrative] 1.16 Check the ladder before each use: feet, rungs, stiles and locks. [Administrative] 1.17 Wear non-slip safety boots with clean soles. [PPE]		
2	Never stand on panels and watch for wet slippery surfaces	Slips and trips Glass handling and breakage	**High** **Possible / Major**	2.1 Plan walkways and keep them clear of materials, hoses and leads. [Eliminate] 2.2 Run leads and hoses overhead on hooks or stands, or along walls, not across walkways. [Engineering] 2.3 Fill or cover holes, and lay boards or mats on muddy access paths. [Engineering] 2.4 Clean up offcuts, packaging and spills as you go, not at the end of the day. [Administrative] 2.5 Keep work areas, stairs and access paths well lit. [Administrative] 2.6 Wear safety boots with good grip, laced up. [PPE] 2.7 Use suction lifters, glass trolleys or a glazing robot for large panes. [Engineering] 2.8 Store glass upright on racks and secure it. Never lay it flat or lean it loosely. [Engineering] 2.9 Use two or more people for large panes, and clear the carry route first. [Administrative] 2.10 Mark new glass with tape or stickers so nobody walks into it. [Administrative] 2.11 Clean up broken glass straight away into a marked container. [Administrative] 2.12 Wear cut-resistant gloves, arm guards, safety glasses and safety boots. [PPE]	**Medium** **Unlikely / Major**	Site supervisor

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
3	Check for damaged panels or cables before cleaning	Electric shock from live wiring Rules: WHS Regulation 2011, Part 4.7 General electrical safety	**Extreme Possible / Catastrophic**	3.1 Isolate the power before any work. Do not do live work except in the limited cases the WHS Regulations allow (r.157; in Qld, the Electrical Safety Regulation 2013). [Eliminate] 3.2 Lock out and tag the isolation point with your own personal lock and danger tag. [Isolate] 3.3 Test before you touch: prove dead at the point of work with a voltage tester, proving the tester on a known live source before and after (AS/NZS 4836). [Engineering] 3.4 Only licensed electricians do electrical work. [Administrative] 3.5 Check for back feeds from solar, batteries and generators that can keep a circuit live after the main switch is off. [Administrative] 3.6 If live work cannot be avoided, use a permit, a safety observer and insulated tools. [Administrative] 3.7 Wear insulated gloves, arc-rated clothing and a face shield when testing or working near live parts. [PPE]	**Medium Rare / Catastrophic**	Site supervisor
4	Clean with low pressure water and soft brushes	High pressure water jetting Electric shock from live wiring Rules: WHS Regulation 2011, Part 4.7 General electrical safety	**Extreme Possible / Catastrophic**	4.1 Set an exclusion zone around the jetting area. [Isolate] 4.2 Use a dead man's trigger that stops the jet when released, and check hoses and fittings before use. [Engineering] 4.3 Only trained operators use high pressure jetting gear. [Administrative] 4.4 Never point the lance at anyone or put a hand in front of it. [Administrative] 4.5 Treat any jetting injury as serious and go to hospital, even if it looks small. [Administrative] 4.6 Wear a face shield, waterproof clothing, gloves, hearing protection and safety boots. [PPE] 4.7 Electric shock from live wiring: see step 3 for the full controls [Administrative]	**Medium Rare / Catastrophic**	Site supervisor
5	Watch for birds, nests and wasps under panels	Bites and stings	**Medium Possible / Moderate**	5.1 Check work areas before starting, and get pest control to remove nests. [Eliminate] 5.2 Look before you reach into dark spaces. [Administrative] 5.3 Ask owners to keep pets away from the work area. [Administrative] 5.4 Know who has allergies and keep their medication, such as an adrenaline auto-injector, close by. [Administrative] 5.5 Know snake bite first aid: pressure immobilisation bandage, keep still and call 000. [Administrative] 5.6 Wear gloves, long sleeves and boots. Use insect repellent outdoors. [PPE]	**Medium Unlikely / Moderate**	Site supervisor
6	Clean up and remove access	Heat stress Poor housekeeping and waste	**High Possible / Major**	6.1 Schedule heavy work for the cooler part of the day. [Eliminate] 6.2 Provide shade over work and rest areas, and fans or cooling in roof spaces. [Engineering] 6.3 Supply cool drinking water close by and drink a cup every 15 to 20 minutes. [Administrative] 6.4 Take regular rest breaks in the shade, more often as it gets hotter. [Administrative] 6.5 Let new and returning workers build up to full work in the heat over	**Medium Unlikely / Major**	Site supervisor

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
				about a week. [Administrative] 6.6 Watch each other for dizziness, headache, confusion or stopping sweating. Stop work, cool down and get help. [Administrative] 6.7 Have a hot weather plan, including when work stops. [Administrative] 6.8 Wear light, loose, long-sleeved clothing, a hat or brim, and sunscreen. [PPE] 6.9 Order materials to size and send packaging back where you can. [Eliminate] 6.10 Put skip bins and waste chutes close to the work. [Engineering] 6.11 Clean as you go, and do a full clean up at the end of each day. [Administrative] 6.12 Keep exits, stairs and walkways clear at all times. [Administrative] 6.13 Stack materials neatly on level ground, away from edges. [Administrative] 6.14 Wear gloves when handling waste. [PPE]		

Risk key: risk = likelihood x consequence on a 5 x 5 matrix. Low, Medium, High, Extreme. Work must not start while the risk after controls is high or above. Controls are listed in order of the hierarchy of control: Eliminate, Substitute, Isolate, Engineering, Administrative, PPE.

4. PPE AND PERMITS

Required PPE	Permits and plans
Steel cap boots Safety harness and lanyard Work gloves Sun protection (brim hat, long sleeves, SPF 50+) Hard hat Cut-resistant gloves Safety glasses Insulated electrical gloves Arc-rated clothing and face shield Face shield Overalls Hearing protection (earmuffs or plugs)	Roof access permit Working at heights permit Electrical isolation permit

5. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Plant / equipment	Licence or training needed	Inspection needed	Rego / ID	Last inspected	Certificate / report
Extension ladder		Check before each use to the manufacturer and AS/NZS 1892; tag out damaged ladders			
Pressure cleaner					
Hand tools					

6. CREW COMPETENCY, TICKETS AND LICENCES

Crew listed at sign-on below, with ticket and licence numbers.

7. EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

Emergency number	000	**First aid kit**	In the work vehicle
Fire extinguisher	In the work vehicle	**Alarm and evacuation**	Shout for help and stop work. Make the area safe and go to the assembly point. Call the emergency number and send someone to meet the ambulance.
Reporting incidents	Notify the regulator immediately of any notifiable incident and preserve the site.		

8. IMPLEMENTING, MONITORING AND REVIEWING THE CONTROLS

How they are put in place	Controls are set up before the work starts. The person responsible explains this SWMS to every worker before they start, and workers sign to confirm they understand it.	**How they are monitored**	The person responsible checks the controls are in place before work starts each day and during the work, and talks to the workers about any problems. Stop work and review this SWMS if the work changes, the controls are not working, after any incident, or if a worker raises a concern.
When it is reviewed	Reviewed when the work or site changes, after any incident, if a control is not working, or if a worker or health and safety representative asks.		

Legal basis: Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011, Part 6.3 (Victoria: OHS Regulations 2017). A SWMS must be prepared before any high risk construction work starts. It must list the high risk work, the hazards and risks, the control measures, and how those controls will be put in place, monitored and reviewed. It must be easy for the workers to read and understand.

Keep this SWMS, and every revised version, until the high risk construction work is finished, where workers and inspectors can see it on site. If a notifiable incident happens during the work, keep it for at least 2 years after the incident.

9. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT RECORD

Rev	Date	By	What changed
1	9 Nov 2026		First issue

10. SIGN-OFF

	Name	Signature	Date	
Prepared by				
Person responsible (supervisor)				
Principal contractor review				Accepted for use: Yes / No

By signing below, each worker confirms they were consulted on and have read and understood this SWMS, and will follow it. If the work cannot be done as this SWMS says, stop as soon as it is safe and do not restart until the SWMS is reviewed.

Name	Role / company	Tickets / licences	Inducted	Signature	Date

Name	Role / company	Tickets / licences	Inducted	Signature	Date