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### **Creditors in the dark as DCM Green's light dims**

BY GRAHAM DOWNIE  
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ONE OF Australia's largest solar panel installers has gone into administration leaving debts understood to be worth millions of dollars and unfulfilled contracts with customers in Canberra, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

DCM Green went into voluntary administration on March 10. Administrator Alan Hayes said on Friday the company was insolvent, had ceased trading and all staff had been dismissed.

He was investigating whether it would be possible to resurrect the company but it was too soon to tell.

It is understood 15 to 20 Canberra residents have paid at least deposits to DCM Green for photovoltaic generating systems which have not been installed. Whether any of this money can be recovered is unknown.

DCM Green had an ACT electrical contractors licence, now cancelled. It was endorsed by the Retirement Villages Association as the exclusive supplier of solar energy systems to the retirement village sector.

Association chief executive Andrew Giles, said the endorsement was given late last year. The association, which represented owners and developers of retirement villages, had been directing members to the administrator.

Mr Giles could not indicate the extent of losses sustained by the association's members.

A Monash couple paid DCM Green a \$620 deposit on February 8 for a photovoltaic system. Their contract said the system would be installed on February 17.

The couple is now resigned to the likelihood that their money is lost. It was paid before the company inspected the premises because, a saleswoman had said, the company did not want to waste time doing inspections for people who did not go ahead. DCM Green was an associate member of the Clean Energy Council. Its membership has lapsed because only trading entities can be members. A council spokesman said it did not accredit companies but installers. He urged people to check if installers were accredited.

The Sunday Canberra Times is aware of several installers that have had their ACT licences cancelled.

People, particularly those with contracts with DCM Green, are advised to check with ActewAGL on the status of the installation of their photovoltaic systems.