



New South Wales Government
Independent Planning Commission

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING

RE: DINAWAN SOLAR FARM (SSD-50725959)

STAKEHOLDER MEETING

PANEL: SUELLEN FITZGERALD (Chair)
SIMON SMITH

STAKEHOLDER: ADRIAN PATERSON

LOCATION: ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

DATE: 10:00AM – 12:30PM
WEDNESDAY, 4th MARCH 2026

<THE MEETING COMMENCED

MS SUELLEN FITZGERALD: Great. Have we got you, Mr Paterson?

5 **MR ADRIAN PATERSON:** Yes, I can hear you, yes.

MS FITZGERALD: Terrific. We can hear you.

MR PATERSON: Thank you.

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MS FITZGERALD: Mr Paterson, before we get started with your submission, I'd like to read a brief opening statement.

MR PATERSON: Super.

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MS FITZGERALD: Thank you. Beginning with the acknowledgement of the Gadigal as the owners of land from which we're meeting, and I acknowledge the traditional owners of all the lands from which we're virtually meeting. I'd also like to pay my respects to their Elders past and present.

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Today we're meeting to discuss the state significant development application for the Dinawan Solar Farm. My name is Suellen Fitzgerald and I'm the Chair of the Panel. Joining me is my fellow commissioner, Simon Smith, and staff members from the office of the Independent Planning Commission.

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In the interests of openness and transparency, this meeting is being recorded, and a full transcript of today's meeting will be available on the Commission website in the next few days.

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So, with those opening statements, Mr Paterson, over to you. What would you like us to hear?

MR PATERSON: Thank you very much. I'm very happy to be recorded. I'd also like to add my acknowledgement and respect for the Gadigal people. The Gadigal people I know well, they were associated with the lands around the OPAL reactor at the ANSTO facility at Lucas Heights, and I had a very good relationship with the Gadigal people there and the Dharawal people as well. So, it's a great privilege to be able to talk about the challenges that I faced with creating a facility of this scale, and also the foregone opportunities if an alternative was chosen.

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40 So, just to put it in context, during the course of the last 24 hours, wind only provided 1.6% of the energy required for electricity production in New South Wales. A tiny fraction of the over 2 gigawatts, nearly 3 gigawatts of wind that are available in New South Wales, because the wind is not reliable as a source of energy. In fact, if you look at the figures for a well-established environment like South Australia, the wind over
45 the course of a whole year blows consistently if you took the whole year and divided it into a percentage, it's about 37% of the time. If we put that in a five-day week, that would be just less than two days a week.

5 If we look at solar, again using the South Australian example where there's a very extensive solar capacity, the figure is 19.7 or around that, up to 20%. That is over the course of a five-day week in South Australia, they get approximately one full day of solar if you had a 24-hour day of solar.

10 And so, I think it's really important that the proponents and the people supporting them, and the community, understands that the resource that is going to be built at Dinawan is actually going to produce much less energy than the so-called nameplate capacity, the big number that's stated for the facility as a whole; it'll be a tiny fraction of that. And that has the effect of really just creating a sense of reality about how much is going to be contributed from this resource.

15 In fact, over the last 24 hours, the wind as a whole has been performing rather poorly in New South Wales, and the solar was, as we speak now, with a cloudy day here in Sydney and probably in large parts of New South Wales because of the weather conditions we're under at the moment, is only producing just under 30% of what it would normally produce.

20 So, it's really important for the community that is accepting this massive change to their landscape, that the big numbers that are on the table are actually a tiny fraction of that number. However, this project in its scale is a very, very, very big project. And when you start talking about starting off with 357 megawatts of wind, the long-range plan as I understand it from studying the detail and document, is 1.2 megawatts of
25 wind. Now, 1.2 megawatts of wind is two really big nuclear power stations in France, okay, so that's what it really should be able to do, but it actually does something less than one-third of a medium sized nuclear power plant in France.

30 So, people need to understand that the big numbers at the top of the table are actually not an accurate representation of how the very large area of land that is going to be used, which is one-third of the size of the city of Brisbane and four times the commercial footprint of Sydney, okay. This is a –

35 **MS FITZGERALD:** Mr Paterson, just to let you know, we've got one minute left.

MR PATERSON: Yes, I understand. I'll make the point very, very quickly.

MS FITZGERALD: Thank you.

40 **MR PATERSON:** This is a terrible economic argument, and I think that it's also been undercooked from an ecological point of view. I think it will be very damaging to the community in the long term. And I won't say anything about batteries although I'm a battery expert, but they don't last too long.

45 **MS FITZGERALD:** Thank you, Mr Paterson, we really appreciate getting your point of view.

MR PATERSON: Thank you.

MS FITZGERALD: If you'd like to add to that submission that you've given us verbally today, you're most welcome to make a written submission to the IPC via our portal on the website or via email.

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MR PATERSON: Yes.

MS FITZGERALD: And the deadline for those submissions is midnight on Sunday the 8th of March.

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MR PATERSON: That's extremely helpful, thank you.

MS FITZGERALD: Thank you. We look forward to getting a submission from you, Mr Paterson, and thanks for being part of today's event.

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MR PATERSON: I really appreciate it, and my best wishes to everybody involved.

MS FITZGERALD: Thank you.

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MR SIMON SMITH: Thank you, Andrew.

>THE MEETING CONCLUDED