



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: IVAN KENNEDY

LOCATION: ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

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

<THE MEETING COMMENCED

MS SUELLEN FITZGERALD: Mr Kennedy, good morning.

5 **MR IVAN KENNEDY:** Yes. Good morning.

MS FITZGERALD: Good morning, Mr Kennedy, we can see you and hear you loud and clear. Can you see and hear us?

10 **MR KENNEDY:** Yes, I can. The sound is a little bit muffled but still it's fairly clear.

MS FITZGERALD: Okay. I'll just move ... How's that?

15 **MR KENNEDY:** Good, yes, that's better, okay. So, may I put my submission – go on.

MS FITZGERALD: Yes, great. Mr Kennedy, I just want to make a quick statement at the start of this meeting.

20 **MR KENNEDY:** Sure.

MS FITZGERALD: I'd like to acknowledge that I'm speaking to you today from the Gadigal land and I'd like to acknowledge their traditional owners, including all of the traditional owners from the land from which we virtually meet. I'd also like to pay my respects to their Elders past and present.

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

30 In the interests of openness and transparency, we'll be recording this meeting, and a full transcript of today's meeting will be available on the Commission's website in the next few days.

35 So, Mr Kennedy, over to you.

MR KENNEDY: Yes, thank you, very much. I welcome this opportunity and also pay my respects.

40 The title that I've given to my submission is "The complete lack of diligent field and environmental risk research prior to this development." Focusing on solar power, attention is drawn to several issues: lacking diligent prior research for environmental risk and its mitigation. That is my expertise for many years in my profession.

45 Firstly, the environmental toxicity of the solar panels employed to soil and livestock, subject to slow leaching or its acceleration by hailstorm damage. Recycling at the end of the lifecycle is no solution to this ongoing problem.

Secondly, and new information I'm presenting, possible interaction between grazing ruminants and rated degradation of solar panels. This is new information that I claim also needs research.

5 Thirdly, I have several specific questions that require answers as responses to these issues. Due diligence should be exercised in assessing risk to farmlands and environment when introducing renewable solar, wind or energy. The independent Panel should justify its independence by ruling whether the gaps in diligence I will reveal are valid, defining who is responsible.

10 In my professional opinion, based on years developing expertise in risk analysis, the IPCN could settle concerns I raised by requesting quality control analyses of soil and groundwater. Under existing solar facilities subject to more than 10 years of slow corrosion – I have absolutely no chance of getting through this in five minutes –
15 however, no such analyses have been commissioned elsewhere anywhere by authorities. Perhaps this is for scientific results that could halt development of solar power.

I certainly won't be able to get through all of my points. They're in my submission.

20 **MS FITZGERALD:** That's fine, Mr Kennedy. We will be reading your submission, but please continue. I'll let you know when we're running close to time.

25 **MR KENNEDY:** Yes, okay. I've had 30 minutes in Victoria on two occasions when I've made submissions. I have at least begun then to make my submission. Five minutes is ridiculous.

30 So, the inherent environmental toxicity, that's the heading of the 800 megawatts of solar panels. There should be 30 or 40 tonnes of metallic silver in these monocrystalline silicon panels. Only 0.1% of the total weight is silver, but nevertheless if only 1% of what's present in the panels gets into the soil, that soil can never be remediated. Concentration in the surface layer will exceed any possibility of returning it to agriculture.

35 Secondly, the harmful interaction between grazing ruminants and degradation of the solar panels. Sheep will cause H₂S and dimethyl sulphide to be emitted into the panels. Dimethyl sulphide is generally regarded as good from ruminants because it helps contain warming from carbon dioxide by increasing water in the atmosphere. On the other hand, H₂S and dimethyl sulphide will react with the silver, and we have no idea
40 what effect that will have on corrosion rate in the panels. Both of these [gosha 00:06:01] sulphide compounds readily form sulphides with silver, particularly where the high surface areas are weight ratioed in the solar panels.

45 **MS FITZGERALD:** Mr Kennedy, we're at the one-minute mark.

MR KENNEDY: Yes, okay, well, that just shows the absurdity of this sort ... Really, I present the document, I have various things highlighted that I would like to have gotten onto. I do criticise the IPCN's previous decisions in the sense that they're

relying on desktop analyses, not real-world research. My experience through a lifetime of research in universities has been to do risk research and then come up with remedies that have saved agriculture and the environment billions of dollars. All of this is recorded. I don't see this at all in this negligent hope that we can prevent climate change in a deleterious fashion. We can't. I also have plenty of research that shows that zero carbon is a futile exercise. Look up my publication record and try to disprove it.

So, this is why I'm so strong opposing this wasteful destruction of Australia's national capital in our wonderful agricultural land, river basins, and also the environment, the destruction that is being carried out in the name of governments. Thank you very much.

MS FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr Kennedy, and please do give us your full submission. I assure you read all submissions with a great deal of interest. You can make that submission via our website, the portal there, or via email. And the deadline for that is midday on Sunday the 8th of March. So, we really look forward to getting your submission. Thank you for making the time today.

MR KENNEDY: I've already sent it in, so you've got that.

MS FITZGERALD: Great.

MR KENNEDY: All right. Thank you very much. Yes.

MS FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr Kennedy, we appreciate it.

MR KENNEDY: Look forward to the future you're going to find if you approve this, you were wrong.

MS FITZGERALD: Thank you for making that point, Mr Kennedy.

MR KENNEDY: Okay, thank you.

>THE MEETING CONCLUDED