



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: JOHN MCBRATNEY

LOCATION: ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

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

<THE MEETING COMMENCED

MS SUELLEN FITZGERALD: Mr McBratney?

5 **MR JOHN MCBRATNEY:** Yes. John McBratney speaking, yes.

MS FITZGERALD: Mr McBratney, we can hear you loud and clear, and you can hear us, yes?

10 **MR MCBRATNEY:** Yes, I can hear you, thank you, yes.

MS FITZGERALD: Great. Mr McBratney, before we get started, I'd like to make a brief opening statement. I'd like to acknowledge that I'm speaking to you from Gadigal land, and I acknowledge the traditional owners of all of the lands from which we're virtually meeting today. I'd also like to pay my respects to their Elders past and present.

20 Today's meeting is 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.

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

30 So, Mr McBratney, I'll give you a bell at the one-minute mark, so you know where you are in your presentation. But from here, over to you, what would you like to tell us this morning?

MR MCBRATNEY: Well, firstly, my background, there's credibility in what I'm about to say, I'm a technical engineer, I'm retired, but I've had almost 50 years in heavy engineering, electronics, communications, so it's electrical transmission, worked for the Power Authority, so I have the background to make these comments.

35 I believe that the solar farm in general does not conform or meet with scientific evidence to date that says CO₂ is not a problem – that's one thing. The other thing is that the solar farm process is inherently reliable and no way they can do anything about it. You can't put more in and get it more reliable; that doesn't work. It's simply unreliable and therefore cannot produce a reliable grid circuit.

40 Now, I've looked at the Dinawan website to get the iteration on this, and the [unintelligible 00:02:18] in there doesn't stack up. They make a vast comment that it can feed 300,000 houses – that's errant nonsense. Because there's no reference as to how much per house, how often during the day, day and night, the whole thing is a misinterpretation, and I think should be called out for that reason.

The other aspect of all solar systems is that the storage of land and leaves, once they fail or moved away, it leaves the land toxic and impossible for use for farmers again. So, I think from that point of view, they should be stopped completely. The unreliability, toxic waste, and disinformation for public. Atrocious management by whoever's managing it. That's my comment.

5

MS FITZGERALD: Great. Thanks, Mr McBratney. Is there – we heard those three points. Is there anything else you wanted to see with your remaining time?

10

MR MCBRATNEY: Just that somebody needs – somebody in government, I suppose, they need to take due cognisance of the reliable, eminent scientists around the world who have proven beyond all reasonable technical doubt based on the scientific method, if you know what that is, that CO₂ is not a problem. So, the whole thing is a financial con, in my view. I think the whole jolly thing should be stopped, from that point of view. It doesn't work. It's never going to work. And no matter what Mr Bowen says, you can't just put more in and hope it improves it. It doesn't. Mathematical impossibility. I think that'll do me for the day, thank you.

15

MS FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr McBratney. And if you did want to make further comments, you can make a written submission, we do read all written submissions, and they can come through ...

20

MR MCBRATNEY: Okay.

25

MS FITZGERALD: ... our portal or via email.

MR MCBRATNEY: Thank you.

MS FITZGERALD: By the 8th of March.

30

MR MCBRATNEY: Okay. Thank you for that. Thanks for hearing me.

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

35

MR MCBRATNEY: Okay. Bye-bye.

>THE MEETING CONCLUDED