



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: RAMILA CHANISHEFF

LOCATION: ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

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

<THE MEETING COMMENCED

MS SUELLEN FITZGERALD: Good morning, Ms Chanisheff.

5 **MS RAMILA CHANISHEFF:** Good morning.

MS FITZGERALD: Good morning. Great. We can see you and you can hear us loud and clear?

10 **MS CHANISHEFF:** I can, thank you very much.

MS FITZGERALD: Great. Thank you. Ms Chanisheff, and hopefully I'm pronouncing that correctly?

15 **MS CHANISHEFF:** Yes, yes, yes.

MS FITZGERALD: Before we begin, I'd like to make a brief opening statement. I'd like to acknowledge first up that I'm speaking to you from Gadigal land, and I acknowledge the traditional owners of all of the lands from where we're virtually meeting today. I'd also like to pay my respects to their Elders past and present.

20 Today's meeting is about discussing 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 with me.

25 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 couple of days.

30 We've got 10 minutes for you to present your submission to us. I'll give you a nod at the 9-minute mark. And in the meantime, over to you.

35 **MS CHANISHEFF:** Thank you very much. I'm just calling from work, so I'm just going to put my phone on do not disturb so I won't receive phone calls. Thank you very much.

MS FITZGERALD: Great.

40 **MS CHANISHEFF:** Thanks for the opportunity. I've gotten some notes down, so let me start. State imposed enforced labour is not abstract is not too far away from the Australian shores. My name is Ramila Chanisheff and I am here to make you all aware of how our businesses, government, industries and consumers are complicit of grave human rights abuses in the supply chains of the very products we're discussing today – solar panels.

45 In 2017, I think Australia and the rest of the world was very well aware of the over 380 concentration camps that came up in China. Now, northwest China in the Xinjiang

region or East Turkestan as an Uyghur I will call it, have churned over a million (they're official numbers) and much more than that (unofficial numbers) that have taken in the Uyghur and the Turkic people of East Turkestan into these concentration camps.

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There is very slow and tangible and meaningful action that our laws are taking here in Australia. There hasn't been meaningful change, there hasn't been any actions that our government or our industries have taken to ensure that human rights and human beings are not exploited in the supply chains of the solar panel industry.

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Simple due diligence on the part of a council that approves this, the industry that profits from this, should not only be a tick-a-box or a disclosure exercise. Humans, the Uyghurs, are losing their lives, their livelihood to make the very cheap products you are bringing into this country from China. As a Uyghur activist, it should not be up to me or the residents or the consumers to hold all of these powerful organisations to account or to do the right thing.

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Human rights, modern slavery due diligence. UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has called on Australia to introduce mandatory human rights due diligence under the Modern Slavery Act. Urgency and expectations to reform from Australia to shift from disclosure to prevention, and to impose penalties for non-compliance.

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Before we are forced to comply to the UN's notice, our industries have to do the right thing and start auditing and ensuring to eradicate human rights abuses in the supply chains in the solar panel industry. As an Uyghur who has lost family members to the camps, who cannot communicate with my family members back home, I implore the Australian Government and your committee and organisations under local and state governments to stop bringing in these products coming into this country.

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Now, the Modern Slavery Act, as we know, has a very lax and very tick-a-box exercise currently, but the very human beings that my people and my family is losing, is grave. We are not only losing our lives; we are losing our livelihoods, our culture, our language, our identity under the severe conditions from the Chinese communist regime. And yet Australian industries are profiting from this. We are not only talking about solar panels; we're talking about the batteries and other components that make up the very product that are hitting our shores.

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Now, we have always stood up as Australians to do the right thing, to have strong values, not to use humans in our supply chains, and yet we see with credible evidence that every product that hits our shores, every consumable product that goes from solar panels to the apparel industry to the phones and laptops and everything that we use, does have human rights abuses in the supply chains.

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Now, I implore you as the committee to further investigate where these solar panels are coming from, and from seeing that the brands and the industries that supply the very solar panels that are coming to the industry, that there is credible evidence out there

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that Jinko, for example, has credible evidence that it is using Uyghur forced labour with state sanctioned, state enforced Uyghur forced labour into the supply chains.

5 Now, as an Uyghur activist who has spoken about this, I know that I am monitored, I am watched, and I am under grave transnational repression for being a voice for the Uyghur people in the current situation. So, I ask this committee to do the right thing and to ensure, investigate and stop these products from coming in, until China obeys, until China starts doing the right thing and stops from exploiting Uyghurs in their supply chains and using our very being to make the cheap products that are hitting
10 Australian shores.

And as the Anti-Slavery Commissioner has said, we do not want to be a dumping ground to take in every product that other countries are not allowing into theirs. The US has a Uyghur Prevention Act that prevents products made from Uyghur forced
15 labour into their shores. The EU, European Union has got laws in place now to ban products that's made by Uyghur forced labour. Our next-door neighbours, Indonesia and Thailand, are introducing human rights due diligence in their Modern Slavery Act.

20 Why is Australia lagging behind and why are our industries allowing this to happen, and industries profiting from the very human lives lost in the current situation?

Thank you.

25 **MS FITZGERALD:** Thank you, Ms Chanisheff. And thank for taking the time out of work to make, to bring those issues to our attention. We appreciate your time. If you wanted to make a further written submission, you can do so via the Commission's portal on the website or via an email. There's a deadline for those, for the Dinawan Solar Project, of midnight on the 8th of March.

30 So, I want to assure you we read all of those submissions that come through to us. So, please feel free to do that. And once again, thanks for taking the time out of your work to raise those issues with us today.

35 **MS CHANISHEFF:** Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity.

MR SIMON SMITH: Thank you.

MS CHANISHEFF: Thank you.

40 **>THE MEETING CONCLUDED**