



Dianne Burgess <contact@suttonsolaractiongroup.com>

Re: Inquiry into Sustainability of energy supply and resources in NSW

1 message

Dianne Burgess <contact@suttonsolaractiongroup.com>

Mon, Dec 9, 2019 at 12:27 PM

To: Environment Planning <environmentplanning@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Andy Hardwicke <andy.hardwicke@gmail.com>, "djjjehassall@bigpond.com" <djjjehassall@bigpond.com>, "greatarbie@gmail.com" <greatarbie@gmail.com>, "mark@kenroservices.com.au" <mark@kenroservices.com.au>, "ron.weston1@bigpond.com" <ron.weston1@bigpond.com>

Thank you for responding.

Twitter is not a medium that older Australians or many regional people would use. What this means is that number one they have to join up, and then filter through all the Twitter feeds to see what is relevant and what's not.

We would encourage the LA to as a priority put some money aside to implement a notifications ability for inquiries. This is not a once off inquiry, there are many government inquiries and the public should be able to be informed of progress on these matters only, not wade through a media platform that is irrelevant to them.

We will be in contact in the New Year regarding this inquiry.

Regards
Dianne Burgess
On behalf of the Sutton Solar
Action Group

On Mon, 9 Dec 2019 at 11:01 am, Environment Planning <environmentplanning@parliament.nsw.gov.au> wrote:

Dear Dianne

Thank you for your email and your interest in the Committee's inquiry into sustainability of energy supply and resources.

In regard to your question regarding notifications about the inquiry, the Committee does not have a mechanism for people to subscribe to updates. However, the Committee webpage is updated regularly as the inquiry progresses. Updates are also posted to the Legislative Assembly's Twitter.

The Committee will decide on hearing dates after Parliament resumes in 2020. Dates, locations and schedules will be posted on the Committee webpage once they have been scheduled. Your email will be provided to the Committee when they next meet.

Kind Regards

Madeleine.

Madeleine Dowd

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From: Dianne_mark@bigpond.com <Dianne_mark@bigpond.com> **On Behalf Of** contact@suttonsolaractiongroup.com
Sent: Wednesday, 27 November 2019 11:08 AM
To: Environment Planning <environmentplanning@parliament.nsw.gov.au>; ElectorateOffice Monaro <ElectorateOffice.Monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au>; ElectorateOffice Goulburn <ElectorateOffice.Goulburn@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: nicole.brewer@planning.nsw.gov.au; 'Natasha Homsey' <Natasha.Homsey@planning.nsw.gov.au>; anthony.ko@planning.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Inquiry into Sustainability of energy supply and resources in NSW

Dear Committee Manager, is there a way to subscribe to notifications in relation to this inquiry? We are particularly interested to know where and when any public hearings will be held.

The Sutton Solar Action Group (link to SSAG's submission) <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/ladocs/submissions/65529/Submission%20-%2020187.pdf> would be most amenable to hosting such a hearing as a Development Application has been lodged for a 100MW solar electricity generating facility in our region and the community is still waiting on the proponent to lodge the Response to Submissions (RTS). It has been 451 calendar days or 316 working days since submissions closed for Springdale Solar project State Significant Development (SSD) 8703 <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/9756>. In that time the proponent Renew Estate has not contacted anyone in the community. In an effort to support our community and try to alleviate some of the uncertainty that we live with constantly, the SSAG wrote to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) (on more than one occasion) to see if the DPIE could provide assistance or act as a facilitator to see if the proponent could provide advice on when the RTS would be lodged. The SSAG's letter and DPIE response is **attached** for your information. The proponent advised DPIE it will be lodged in late November 2019.

It is now late November 2019 and we await the lodgement of the RTS. Regardless of the lodgement of the RTS, our community has been treated with disdain by the proponents, Renew Estate and other than the obligatory initial site visit by DPIE staff, all other communication has been initiated by the SSAG and in the case of Renew Estate it is non-existent (since close of submissions).

We refer to Mr Alex Greenwich MP, Committee Chair's Media Release on 24 October 2019 where he said. *"To get this right, we have to hear directly from the people who will experience the most significant impacts of any change. This means understanding any concerns, and making sure communities are supported in a way that serves them and their local economy and environment best".*

As we have explained above we believe we have been ignored and disregarded by the proponent Renew Estate and the NSW DPIE has provided very limited assistance to the community in the SSD/DA process. This endless waiting game leaves the community feeling a sense of helplessness and loss of control over their lives and future which is grossly unfair and puts undue mental strain on their day to day existence. Unlike other SSD development (mining or other major infrastructure) there is **no assessment of the social impacts** for these types of developments. Why is this? Is it 'assumed' that there are no social impacts from large-scale renewable energy development? Why should this type of development be any different? From our perspective, it seems how we are impacted, doesn't matter.

Our situation is not isolated, I don't know if you are aware of the **Large-Scale Solar Energy Forums** that were held earlier in the year. The SSAG attended the last one on 3 July 2019 in Wagga Wagga, and two others were held previously in Dubbo and Armidale. The forums were run by the NSW Farmers Association with DPIE providing a presentation followed by a Q&A session. We were told on the evening that the proceedings from each of the forums would be collated, written up and an outcomes document would then be made available. It is now almost six (6) months since the last event in Wagga Wagga. To gain an understanding of how other communities reacted to large-scale solar energy in their region the SSAG has been chasing up the outcomes document with the NSW Farmers Association but to no avail. In our correspondence of 4 October the SSAG asked the DPIE if they could help shed some light on the outcomes document. We are advised that the 'Action plan' is being 'finalised' by the Department and the SSAG will be advised when it is publicly available. <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Renewable-Energy/Large-scale-Solar-Energy-Guideline>

The SSAG is eagerly awaiting the public release of the 'Action Plan' to see how the forums have been reported. It was clear at the Wagga Wagga forum that the DPIE had totally underestimated how large-scale renewable energy developments have impacted this area of regional NSW. There were approx. 120 in attendance and after listening to those who spoke it was clear that we all share the same sense of helplessness and loss of control over our lives and future. As we already stated this is grossly unfair and is putting undue mental strain on our day to day existence.

The SSAG strongly urges the Inquiry Committee to seek copies of the forum outcomes, or 'Action Plan' as the DPIE refer to it, to inform the Committee of key issues being raised by residents in regional NSW about proposed large scale renewable energy projects.

We would welcome an opportunity to address the Committee in due course.

Dianne Burgess on behalf of
Sutton Solar Action Group



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Yours sincerely
Sutton Solar Action Group