



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Peter Cain MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Reference: Planning

Hearing: 18 February 2025

In relation to: Wallaroo Solar Farm

Question received: 19 February 2025

Answer Due: 26 February 2025

- (1) What impact does the ACT government foresee the proposed solar development will have on the ACT?
- (2) What impact does the ACT government foresee the proposed solar development will have on the Belconnen District?
- (3) Does the EPSDD have a position on the progression of the Wallaroo solar farm?
- (4) How many times was consultation or correspondence between the EPSDD and NSW Planning Authority conducted in 2023-24?
- (5) Has there been any consultation or correspondence between the EPSDD and NSW Planning Authority in 2024-25? If so, how many times?

Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

- (1) – (3) The solar farm proposed by Wallaroo Solar Farm Pty Ltd is located in NSW, therefore the assessment process is conducted by the NSW Government. Given the close proximity to the ACT border, the ACT Government is an interested stakeholder in the proposal and has raised matters throughout the assessment process in relation to:
 - a) impacts on the adjacent Jarramlee Nature Reserve;
 - b) traffic management during construction;
 - c) noise impacts on ACT and water runoff; and
 - d) fire emergency services.
- (4) & (5) Since 2023, the ACT Government (through the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD)) has engaged with the NSW Planning Authority (NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and NSW

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Independent Planning Commission) on five separate occasions in relation to the proposal. This included:

- a) submitting comments to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment on the Wallaroo Solar Farm Environmental Impact Statement on 23 June 2023;
- b) submitting comments to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure on the Draft Conditions of Consent for the Wallaroo Solar Farm development on 5 and 7 June 2024;
- c) submitting further comments to the NSW Independent Planning Commission on the Draft Conditions of Consent on 31 July 2024, following the submission of further information for the proposed development;
- d) providing a submission to the NSW Independent Planning Commission on 12 December 2024 in relation to a Class 1 merits appeal filed in the Land and Environment Court following the Independent Planning Commission's decision on 11 September 2024 to grant development consent to the Wallaroo Solar Farm development; and
- e) attending a Conciliation Conference relevant to the Class 1 merits appeal on 13 December 2024, where EPSDD provided oral submissions outlining the key concerns for the proposed Wallaroo solar farm development.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date:

26 / 2 / 25

By the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Chris Steel MLA