



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY  
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Leanne Castley MLA

**Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by JO CLAY MLA: To ask the Minister for Climate Action

In relation to: Solar contracts

Neoen's contract with ACT Government commits to a solar PV recycling feasibility study.

1. When will that happen?
2. Could it also include a battery recycling feasibility study?
3. Will solar farms and big battery providers like Neoen and Next Generation and the Big Canberra Battery be required by their contracts to make their own recycling arrangements, until such time as a national scheme is available in the ACT?

ANDREW BARR MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Neoen are proposing to partner with Veolia and University of NSW's Advanced Centre for Advanced Photovoltaics (ACAP) on the PV recycling feasibility study. The project is anticipated to commence in 2022.
2. The scope for the feasibility study is PV recycling, though there is potential to work with these partners on a similar battery recycling study as a future project.
  - 3.1 Deeds require solar and wind generators to have a Safety, Health and Environment Plan that details the controls planned for the end of life treatment of the generation equipment. More than one solar farm is already recycling damaged PV panels via ReclaimPV. Neoen, as part of their Goyder industry development commitments are undertaking a battery and PV recycling feasibility study.
  - 3.2 End of life recycling arrangements for energy storage batteries are already being made in the ACT:
    - a. Retailers engaged through the ACT's *Next Generation Energy Storage Program* are required to follow best practice end-of-life processing operations, give priority to onshore recycling facilities and comply with the current Clean Energy Council and Australian Battery Recycling Industry guidance to the responsible packaging, recycling, and transport of the energy storage systems.

- b. In addition, through the government's procurement process for large, grid-connected batteries under the Big Canberra Battery project, potential service providers must have a social and environmental sustainability plan that includes a battery end-of-life recycling plan.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Signature: 

Date: 17.3.2022

By the Minister for Climate Action, Andrew Barr MLA