# Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter Reporting 2024

Spark Renewables | August 2024



Artwork created for Spark Renewables "Nhaway Buraadja - Today and Tomorrow", by Wodi Wodi and Walbunja artist Lauren Henry and Biripi artist Brittany Cochrane. Artwork copyright by Yirra Miya.

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#### Acknowledgement of Country

Spark Renewables acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which we operate, including the lands of the Dharawal, Gadigal, Gameragal, Gayemagal, Guringai, Gundungarra, Latji Latji, Muthi Muthi, Narungga, Paakantji (Barkandji), Ngiyampaa, Wodi Wodi, Wiradjuri, Yitha Yitha, and several smaller nations of the Murrumbidgee plains peoples, and all those upon whose lands we may work in the future.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, continuing beliefs, and connection to land, water and community, which we acknowledge as having continued importance to the Traditional Owners' and Custodians' descendants living today. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Meaning of symbols in the cover page artwork Nhaway Buraadja - Today and Tomorrow"



#### Meeting place and connected meeting places:

The meeting place element has people sitting around Spark Renewables, acknowledging the different communities we work with. The connected meeting places represent our commitment to continue to grow and remain teachable on cultural safety.

Yarning circles represent the staff at Spark Renewables and the different walks of life that each staff member comes from, as well as the safe space created for employees to come together, to be valued and respect each other. In this yarning circle are two layers of people representing our team members sitting around a yarning circle to share knowledge and hold space for each other.

**People:** the multiple people symbols represent the connections made through working on Spark Renewables' projects. People play an important role in Spark Renewables having a positive impact through up-skilling local community members, providing job opportunities and training.

**Meeting on Country:** This multilayered yarning circle represents the staff at Spark Renewables and their safe space for employees to come together, to value and respect each other. There is also a personal symbolic connection of the team to waterways represented by two flowing lines around the centre meeting circle with people sitting surrounded by the flow of water. On each side of the yarning circle are country lines to represent the different lands on which Spark Renewables works, lives, plays and interacts with community. The upside 'U' shape represents people and our commitment to caring for Country alongside community members.

**Solar panels and wind turbines** represent the forms of renewable energy that Spark Renewables harnesses within our projects to create sustainable energy and positive impact for energy consumption practices for the future.

**Emu ('Dinawan') tracks** represent the journey that Spark Renewables has undergone in the last few years and is a projection of our journey to come in the future.



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### About Spark Renewables

Spark Renewables is one of Australia's leading developers and long-term owners of renewable energy generation assets. Starting in 2018 with a single 120 MW<sub>dc</sub> solar farm, the potential generation capacity of our development portfolio has grown rapidly to span solar, wind and battery storage projects.

Our goal is to develop and build projects leading the renewable energy transition in Australia. We work with industry innovators and tertiary institutions to provide sustainable, socially acceptable solutions for the generation of electricity.

Spark Renewables is a member of the Clean Energy Council, and a sponsoring donor of RE-Alliance.



Spark Renewables team – RAP Launch Ceremony, July 2024



Spark Renewables is part of the leading Malaysian energy utility, Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), a group of companies owning and operating renewable energy projects in Malaysia, Türkiye, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Australia.

Backed by the ~A\$30bn energy giant TNB, we are expanding our influence across Australia's renewable energy generation market, while maintaining the culture and local expertise that has always energised us.

Spark Renewables' knowledge of the Australian sector has further been enabled by TNB's global connectivity, 75-year operating history with a proven track record and resources, underpinning our commitment to Australia's clean energy future.

TNB's renewable energy global footprint is not just wide but versatile, operating in extreme conditions and unique challenges.

TNB currently has a total of 10.5GW renewable energy assets at various stages including operational, in construction and under development. The company is leading towards a more resilient and sustainable energy landscape, aiming to be a leading provider of sustainable energy solutions.



TNBs international presence

### 1. Approach to consultation and engagement

As one of Australia's leading developers and long-term owners of Australian renewable energy projects, a big part of our operations involves managing our environmental and social impacts. We recognise the strong link between community acceptance and success of our projects – the importance of striving to have a social licence to operate.

Delivering renewable energy projects that are designed and built in close consultation with the local community and Traditional Owners from early on in project development is a priority for us. We do this by developing genuine relationships throughout the lifetime of our projects, for decades to come.



Drop-in session for a Mallee Energy Hub project at Mildura Field Days, May 2024

While our projects can bring significant, long-lasting benefits, we acknowledge that the nature and scale of these developments can cause disruption to communities. Therefore, we remain committed to sharing benefits with the wider community and mitigating project impacts, where possible.

Spark Renewables is committed to engaging respectfully and transparently with the community and stakeholders throughout the lifetime of a project, and in line with a fundamental commitment to reconciliation. We are committed to environmental, social and cultural sensitivity and to make a positive contribution to the regions in which we operate.

### 1.1. Engagement tools and methods to engage respectfully

For each project, Spark Renewables prepares a Community Engagement Plan, detailing the engagement strategy, stakeholder mapping, project key messages and schedule of consultation events. Methods to communicate effectively with all stakeholders include open engagement opportunities such as one-on-one briefings, information sharing and focus group workshops, consultation pop-up stalls and drop-in sessions, and presentations.

At our Bomen Solar Farm, located in Wagga Wagga, NSW, operating since mid-2020, our respectful, open and honest engagement with project stakeholders has resulted in strong support for the project. The Bomen project is highly regarded as one of the fastest-permitted large-scale renewable energy projects in NSW in the <u>Clean Energy Council's Benefit Sharing Guide</u>.

During the year, Spark Renewables held drop-in sessions to provide consultation opportunities on the projects developed in its Mallee Energy Hub, Dinawan Energy Hub, and Wattle Creek Energy Hub. Across our projects, we have hosted public community information sessions regularly (including at the onset of the project, at key project milestones, when key documentation is on public exhibition, when seeking advice from the local community on community benefits schemes), attended and sponsored local events such as field days, setting up temporary offices in nearby towns, and completed targeted consultations with neighbours, fire brigades, police stations, councils, local community groups and organisations, Indigenous Elders, town clubs, local businesses, and other groups. Consultation activities documented and made available on individual project websites are at https://sparkrenewables.com/projects.



A comprehensive program of stakeholder mapping and engagement with respect to Aboriginal community engagement in a culturally safe manner is done at each of our project sites. These activities have included advertising open registration for cultural heritage assessments, consultation on the cultural heritage assessment methodology used for each project, field investigations, and face-to-face focus group meetings to review draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment results.

The result of this engagement has been a clear understanding of First Nations groups' expectations for their engagement and beneficial participation in the projects. These key discussions have formed the basis of our First Nations Engagement Strategy. We are committed to prioritising First Nations People, cultural sensitivities and communities across all stages of the projects to help deliver a shared vision for a just transition.

### 1.2. Commitment to the Reconciliation Action Plan program

At Spark Renewables we are determined to ensure that as we take the decisions we need to grow and to progress our renewable energy developments, we do so in line with a strategy that incorporates a First Nations perspective of the land on which we are seeking to build our projects and in line with a fundamental commitment to reconciliation.

In 2023 Spark Renewables appointed a local Wiradjuri and Yorta Yorta woman as Aboriginal Community Engagement Coordinator, to build connections with community stakeholders, Traditional Owners and Registered Aboriginal Parties, and to guide the development of our First Nations Engagement Strategy.

Through this consultation Spark Renewables has gained a valuable insight on community opportunities and issues that impact First Nations peoples, and informing the initiatives we can design for a shared vision for change.

This year, we appointed a working group that led the preparation of a formal Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan, which was subsequently formally endorsed by Reconciliation Australia as being implemented in accordance with their formal program. Spark Renewables' inaugural Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan is available at <a href="https://sparkrenewables.com/reconciliation">https://sparkrenewables.com/reconciliation</a>.

An example of our commitment to First Nations includes the employment and training plan at the Bomen Solar Farm, where over 25 per cent of the mechanical workforce included individuals identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

### **1.3. Sustainable farming and agrivoltaics**

Spark Renewables partners with landowners at every stage of a project, from early investigation, through project development, construction, and during operations. Our goal is to own the renewable energy assets that we develop during their operational phase and our long-term partnerships with our host landowners are of critical importance. Minimising the impacts on highly productive agricultural land and exploring opportunities to integrate agricultural production serves to achieve that outcome.

We have a particular focus on supporting research and trials that drive the successful long-term colocation of agricultural and renewables projects to maximise the productivity of the land through coexistence of solar and agriculture work. This is also known as 'agrivoltaics' (used for renewable energy projects) and 'agrisolar' (specifically solar farms).

For our wind farms, we plan for grazing and agriculture activities to continue within the project areas throughout wind farm operation largely undisturbed. Spark Renewables avoids placing infrastructure in active productive cropping zones as much as possible, and locates turbines in areas where they can co-exist with grazing activities.



Spark Renewables' Bomen Solar Farm is an operational agrisolar farm hosting Merino wethers and dry ewes

Spark Renewables incorporates agrisolar early on in the development phase, allowing for sheep grazing during operations to also control vegetation growth.

At one of our solar farm sites on the Wattle Creek Energy Hub, the area is covered by an invasive Serrated Tussock grass, which is spreading to neighbours' farms. By improved weed control during construction, the project will have a positive agricultural benefit to its neighbours.

### 1.4. Partnerships with universities

Spark Renewables is committed to supporting educational opportunities through our projects by fostering partnerships with local universities, investing in research initiatives, and collaborating with local schools.

We do this by formal agreements and letters of support, which can involve offering graduate placements and internships, in-kind employee and data sharing contributions, and funding support.

To date, Spark Renewables has mutual partnerships established with:

- Charles Sturt University (CSU)
- Macquarie University (MU)
- University of New South Wales (UNSW)
- University of Sydney (US)
- University of Technology Sydney (UTS)

At grass-roots level, Spark Renewables participates in school-related activities relevant to renewable energy education and career development.



Spark Renewables team visit to the testing lab at UNSW School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering (November 2023)



### 2. Local economy and employment

Spark Renewables prioritises the local procurement of goods and services and engagement and training of local workers wherever possible. On each project, plans for procurement and accommodation depend on advice and guidance from government agencies, community, and service and education providers. Spark Renewables supports training in the local community that can directly connect the local community (including First Nations community members) with employment on the construction of our projects, preferably with transferrable skills that can apply to future job opportunities. At our projects, Spark Renewables has consulted with:

- Training Services NSW and Technical and Further Education (TAFE) NSW; to identify training
  opportunities that can better position people for employment with Spark Renewables' contractors,
  connect the local community with those training opportunities, and advocate for and support making
  those training opportunities accessible to the nearby communities where it is difficult due to the
  remoteness.
- Training Services NSW and Regional Industry Education Partnerships (RIEP); to understand how adults can receive training, and how graduating students can direct their end-of-schooling and initial employment training towards gaining employment with renewable energy projects.
- Local Aboriginal Land Councils' (LALC) active labour hire branches; requiring our major construction contractors to engage with the LALCs on matters relating to labour hire to fulfill their First Nations participation targets.
- Arup Group; to complete a study on key projects identifying work packages that can be provided by local suppliers and First Nations suppliers. The study identifies specific companies that are locally relevant in the project area; and to help identify additional businesses that can become suppliers.

Spark Renewables also has an open online portal for local businesses to register their interest in supplying the project with goods and services during construction and operations, creating a local businesses and capabilities register.



### 2.1. "Women in Solar" program at Bomen Solar Farm

We support efforts to combat traditional barriers to roles in the industry for those typically underrepresented. During the construction of our Bomen Solar Farm, Beon Energy Solutions, and Bomen Solar Farm's engineering, procurement, and construction contractor, partnered with Chandler Macleod to implement the "Women in Solar" program to encourage women to work in the construction of large-scale solar farms.

The program targeted those facing known barriers to employment, including lack of formal education, or sole child-caring responsibilities. The majority of participants continue to work for the company or in the wider solar industry and Beon is continuing its community employment program.

As a part of "Women in Solar" program at Bomen Solar Farm, 12 local women from a range of diverse backgrounds undertook a fourweek electrical training course, finishing the program qualified to install solar panels

### 3. Community benefit sharing

Spark Renewables is deeply committed to sharing the benefits our developments create. This commitment is reflected in our consultative processes we have established to involve stakeholders in decision-making.

We recognise that every local community is different, which is why we take a location-based approach, working with each community to co-design a community benefit sharing scheme that meets the unique needs of that community. It is important to identify common objectives and capture suggestions and worthy causes early in the development process.

Our consultation process is thorough and inclusive. We conduct regular workshops, public meetings, individual meetings, and focus group discussions to gather input from a broad cross-section of the community. These sessions are designed to be accessible and transparent, providing detailed information about the available options and how they can be tailored to meet local needs. We also ensure that all feedback is documented and considered in the decision-making process.

Our approach ensures that these programs are aligned with community needs and governed transparently and inclusively, fostering strong and positive relationships with all stakeholders.

However, there is no "one size fits all" program, and each project scheme is tailored to the individual needs of the local community. The process of establishing a community benefit sharing program includes regular meetings with community members, local clubs and groups, council, neighbouring landowners, and many other stakeholders, to understand community priorities and the best way to structure each program for the length of the project. These initiatives are designed to ensure that the economic benefits of the project are distributed widely within the community.

Governance arrangements for benefit sharing programs are established in collaboration with the community and funding partners to ensure transparency and accountability.

This includes setting up governance committees comprising community members, local government representatives, power purchasing partners, and Spark Renewables staff. These committees are responsible for overseeing the implementation of benefit-sharing initiatives, reviewing funding applications, and ensuring that the projects funded through the community benefit fund and other programs are delivering the intended benefits.

Spark Renewables is also committed to continuous improvement and adaptive management of our benefit-sharing programs. We review the effectiveness of our initiatives continuously and seek feedback from the community to identify areas for enhancement. This ongoing dialogue ensures that our programs remain responsive to the evolving needs and priorities of the community.

In co-designing its community benefit sharing schemes, Spark Renewables provides funding in line with the NSW Draft Benefit Sharing Guidelines (February 2024) recommended amounts of \$1,050 per megawatt (MW) for wind capacity built, and \$850 per MW for solar capacity built. Within these schemes, Spark Renewables offers a range of benefit-sharing initiatives (outlined in the following table).



Planted rows at the Bomen Revegetation Project (September 2021)



### Table 1: Set-up and examples of benefit sharing initiatives

Scheme	Set-up	Examples
Community fund	<ul> <li>Will provide annual grant funding to initiatives that are put forward by and benefit the local and broader community.</li> </ul>	• The \$1 million Bomen Solar Farm Community Fund established under Westpac and Bomen Solar Farm agreement (see section 3.1).
	<ul> <li>Can be administered by a committee of the relevant council to promote transparency.</li> <li>Agree clearly defined and informed objectives for sharing benefits to ensure that the funds are allocated to initiatives of greatest need and benefits are also provided to local First Nations initiatives.</li> <li>Downents linked to project size (installed measurette)</li> </ul>	• At the Mallee Energy Hub \$350/MW is proposed to fund community and local initiatives.
		<ul> <li>The Community Fund of the 2,300 MW (1200 MW wind, 800 MW solar, 300 MW BESS) Dinawan Energy Hub would provide over \$10 million (excluding CPI increase) towards a Community Benefit Fund over the life of the project.</li> </ul>
	alternate current).	<ul> <li>As a preliminary initiative to build relationships with potential community partners, a Pilot Community Grant scheme offering \$20,000 was launched, which attracted 16 quality proposals in</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Payments start when project construction commences and continue through the life of the project.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Funding typically provided on an annual basis.</li> <li>Adjusted in accordance with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as determined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, to mitigate the effects of inflation.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>the first month of advertising.</li> <li>For more information regarding the Dinawan Energy Hub community benefits scheme, read the Dinawan Energy Hub Community Newsletter #5, July 2024 available at dinawanenergyhub.com.</li> </ul>
Neighbour initiatives	<ul> <li>Voluntary initiative where neighbours can choose to opt in.</li> <li>Payment amount linked to the distance of neighbours' legal dwellings to project.</li> <li>Additional offerings include one-off amounts towards solar and battery energy storage systems and energy</li> </ul>	• At the Dinawan Energy Hub, initiatives are proposed to benefit neighbours, in order to serve as an energy rebate scheme within the area surrounding the project (over \$5 million, excluding CPI increase, over the 2,300 MW project lifetime).
	audits or audits to baseline on-farm emissions.	At the Discuss Freezewillich is serificil works for d
Critical capital works fund	<ul> <li>Typically agreed upon with the nost council to provide monetary support for local capital infrastructure projects to benefit the host community, and mitigate impacts from the construction and operation of the project.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>At the Dinawan Energy Hub, a capital works fund is proposed at an annual payment rate of \$735/MW of wind capacity and \$595/MW of solar capacity.</li> <li>At the Mallee Energy Hub, a capital works fund is proposed to be \$350/MW.</li> </ul>
First Nations initiatives	<ul> <li>Supports initiatives chosen by First Nations communities surrounding the project.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>At the 2,300 MW Dinawan Energy Hub, over \$5 million (excluding CPI increase) is proposed to go</li> </ul>
	• Typically includes an Aboriginal Community Fund, in which a committee of local Aboriginal stakeholders decide on projects to fund that benefit the community.	<ul> <li>towards First Nations initiatives.</li> <li>At Mallee Energy Hub, \$350/MW is proposed to go towards First Nations initiatives.</li> </ul>
	Funding typically provided on an annual basis.	
	<ul> <li>Other initiatives might be supported through this, such as installing solar and BESS systems on Elders' housing.</li> </ul>	
Community-owned renewable energy project	<ul> <li>Potential for community members to invest in a renewable energy project and receive a return on investment.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>We investigated establishing a community investment scheme around the Dinawan Energy Hub project, exploring both a community solar farm model and a co-investment model.</li> <li>The concept of a community investment opportunity was discussed with community members and a survey was distributed. However, as interest in the community investment scheme appeared low in comparison to other examples (e.g., &lt;10 people were interested at Dinawan Energy Hub vs &gt;500 at Sapphire Wind Farm).</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Can be either as part of an existing development or separately connected and separately financed, and structured as equity or debt.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Many different models available (e.g. cooperative or trust).</li> </ul>	
	Return would depend on risk exposure.	
	<ul> <li>Built at the same time as larger project and take advantage of bulk equipment supply (panels, trackers, inverters) and construction economies of scale.</li> </ul>	
	Electricity could be sold to retailer for return on investment or could be used to (partially) meet community investors' household / business electricity requirements.	

### 3.1. Bomen Solar Farm Community Fund

Spark Renewables is proud of the Bomen Solar Farm Community Fund, established under Westpac and Bomen Solar Farm agreement since 2021. At the time of its launch, this was the largest community fund of any solar farm development in Australia.

Bomen Solar Farm provides power to Westpac under a 10-year virtual power purchase agreement. The electricity generated by Bomen Solar Farm will contribute over 45% of Westpac's target to source the equivalent of 100% global electricity demand from renewable sources by 2025. The power purchase agreement underpins the \$1 million Bomen Solar Farm Community Fund and solar farm multi-use initiatives, such as beekeeping and sheep grazing on the solar farm.

The Community Fund is being distributed over ten years to support better social, economic and environmental outcomes for the local community, with the largest proportion of the funds being distributed to:

- Mt Austin High School; \$500,000 towards supporting two programs assisting young people to reach their potential within and beyond school. Each year up to 75 girls are supported through the 'Girls @ the Centre' program, which is run by non-profit children's charity, The Smith Family, helping to making a life-changing difference in the participants' lives. The Transition Program is designed to give year-12 students at Mt Austin High School the skills and tools needed to successfully transition from school into the next stage of their lives with meaning and purpose.
- Wagga Wagga City Council; \$350,000 towards supporting the Bomen revegetation project greening the Eunony Valley. The funding will support the revegetation of 58 hectares of local land. \$100,000 of this funding was allocated in grants to Eunony Valley landowners to support biodiversity and visual amenity projects on their land surrounding the Bomen Solar Farm.
- Charles Sturt University-led study; \$88,000 towards conducting research to identify an optimal
  pasture mix for use on solar farms in the Southern NSW region, specifically one which grows
  well under solar panels, is a good grazing pasture, and which is "green" thereby having lower
  fire risk compared to other pastures.

In 2023, six students who graduated year-12 at Mount Austin High School, were part of the 'Girls @ the Centre' program, which has places for up to 75 girls every year.





### 4. Approach to issues management

All of Spark Renewables' projects are State Significant Developments and require a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be submitted to the Department of Planning within respective states. The EIS requires several specialist assessment studies to be undertaken for the project. Once the EIS is provided for public comment, the local community can formally raise key issues and concerns relating to construction and operation of the project. These are individually considered and addressed as part of a Response to Submission, before the project can be eligible for Development Approval.

Avoiding, minimising and mitigating impacts continue to be key considerations throughout the development and assessment process of our projects, with feedback from on-site surveys as well as discussions with host and neighbouring landowners informing amendments to the design of the project layout.

We work to avoid vegetation clearance, maximise the use of previously disturbed land, protect significant heritage values, and minimise impacts on neighbouring landholders. For example, as a result of the on-site surveys, minor amendments were made to the Dinawan Energy Hub wind farm layout, resulting in 214 wind turbine locations (80% of the project) changing to further reduce or avoid impacts, in turn reducing the delivery risk of the project.

Spark Renewables has been focussed on developing projects that complement existing land use within the local community. For example, at Mallee Energy Hub, the wind farm's careful siting and design would result in the lowest land use impacts of any wind farm in the South West Renewables Energy Zone (SW REZ). Compared to other wind farm projects in the SW REZ, the project would have an extremely low level of impact on the environment or community. The site selection uses cropping land that is distant from local townships. While being well-connected with the local road network, the wind farm would have no neighbouring dwellings within 8 kilometres of wind turbines and only one neighbouring dwelling within 10 kilometres.

### 4.1.1. Biodiversity

Spark Renewables works with our consultants to thoroughly survey all of the development corridor and then use that surveying to maximise the avoidance of potential environmental impacts throughout the design of the project. Of note is the 24 months of bird and bat use surveys at the Dinawan Energy Hub and the Mallee Energy Hub, the only two projects in the SW REZ to have run the survey for this significant period.

### 4.1.2. Cultural Heritage

Spark Renewables works closely with independent archaeologists and the respective projects' Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) to safeguard cultural heritage across each site. Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments have been prepared in consultation with RAPs and other First Nations stakeholders.

Preliminary archaeological surveys are completed, followed by initial surveying to identify items of archaeological sensitivity for the project to avoid. A second round of surveys is then completed, after which further areas of archaeological sensitivity are identified and avoided through design modifications. The positive relationships established through our Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments have set up the projects for continued engagement promoting First Nations participation.

#### 4.1.3. Landscape value

Spark Renewables minimises impacts on neighbours through setbacks to infrastructure, consultations to address their concerns, and significant design modifications.

Spark Renewables completes landscape and visual impact assessments for the surrounding area, and uses vegetation landscaping as mitigation where there are significant visual impacts.

#### 4.1.4. Noise, traffic and other disruptions

Once specialist surveys, such as Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment, Traffic Impact Assessment, and Bush Fire Assessment, provide an understanding of issues and mitigation strategies, Spark Renewables engages with key stakeholders to ensure that key issues raised by the community are well-understood and impacts can be mitigated. Consultation will continue throughout the various approvals processes, construction and commissioning phase, and throughout operations.

### 4.2. Commitment to responsible decommissioning

At the beginning of the planning process of each project, Spark Renewables identifies the anticipated waste amounts and how we can maximise recycling waste. At the end of the project lifecycle, the facility will either be re-energised through a new permitting process or decommissioned. As part of mitigation measures, we commit to project-specific measures to be completed at decommissioning to return the land back to the original state and industry as much as reasonably possible, decommissioning and removing infrastructure, and revegetation.

### 4.3. Maximising opportunities for recycling

Spark Renewables has established several university collaborations and industry partnerships to drive the diversion of solar panel waste from landfill and find sustainable end-of-life solutions for solar panels:

- Collaborating with researchers at UNSW from December 2022 to January 2028 to provide solar panel testing data as part of a machine learning project, which was awarded funding by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency.
- Partnered with a specialist solar panel recycling and resource recovery company, PV Industries, to responsible recycling and decommissioning at end of project life. Spark Renewables provides solar panels from Bomen Solar Farm for solar panel processing and recycling at the PV Industries facility, where our staff has also toured.
- Since 2021, participating in PV Industries' Circular Solar Trial involving UNSW, to develop solar panel recycling and end-of-life solutions for the solar and lithium-ion battery economies. This project allows UNSW to use Bomen Solar Farm as a testing ground for its Solar Panel Triage Unit technology, and received funding under the NSW Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) Circular Solar grants program (April 2022).
- Provides data to the UTS at its Bomen Solar Farm to understand decommissioning practices and gather data on project end-of-life.



Processing of solar modules at the PV Industries facility. These photos are screen grabs from their website and do not necessarily relate to Bomen Solar Farm modules.



# **Contact Information**

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