

# SOLAR FARM DECOMMISSIONING

A common question we get asked about solar farms is what happens to them at the end of their life and are parts recycled?

## Decommissioning

Decommissioning is the responsibility of the solar farm owner.

As part of standard approval conditions, a decommissioning plan is required to be submitted to the relevant authority before construction can commence with a more detailed plan for rehabilitation submitted prior to decommissioning commencing.

If the solar farm does not continue to operate beyond its anticipated lifespan, in line with these plans, ENGIE as the owner will be responsible for removing all components of the solar farm and returning the land to its original condition.

## Recycling

As solar PV panels and counterparts come to their end of life, there is an industry-wide demand for PV recycling capacity. ENGIE has a dedicated Research and Innovation (R&I) division to help identify, explore, experiment, and deploy solutions that will make the energy transition possible and apply them to our industrial facilities or those of our customers and partners.

Based in Belgium, ENGIE's R&I team are working on recycling technologies and opportunities for the reuse of decommissioned materials. ENGIE is also looking to consolidate its research and practices to align with Australian vendors and agencies and meet local industry standards and capabilities.

As the peak body for the clean energy industry in Australia, the Clean Energy Council (CEC) is currently working with the industry to explore end-of-life and disposal processes for both the solar PV industry and the wind industry in Australia. The CEC has established a Manufacturing and Product Life Cycle Working Group to discuss issues and explore barriers to the reuse and repair of solar PV panels and help guide the direction of the CEC.

The ENGIE AMEA Sustainability Report conveys and discloses all aspects of our business on environment, sustainability and governance requirements. You can view and download the latest report at: <https://engie.com.au/about-us/our-values>

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## Hazelwood mine decommissioning and rehabilitation

ENGIE within Australia has experience in decommissioning and rehabilitation at its Hazelwood site.

The Hazelwood Mine and Power Station produced electricity in the Latrobe Valley for more than five decades until closure in 2017. ENGIE have undertaken the process of decommissioning and the demolition of major infrastructure.

As the owner and former operator of the Hazelwood Mine and Power Station and surrounding lands, ENGIE has a legal obligation to remediate and rehabilitate the site and as such, is committed to creating a safe, stable and sustainable final landform which can support productive future uses.

## Contact us

At ENGIE we recognise the value of open and transparent conversations with local community members. If you have any questions about the Goorambat East Solar Farm, please reach out to us via our toll-free phone number 1800 845 067 or email [goorambatsolarfarm.au@engie.com](mailto:goorambatsolarfarm.au@engie.com)