

# Consultation Submission Form

**COMPLETE**

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## Page 1: Planning and Design Code for South Australia

**Q1** Which part of the Planning and Design Code would you like to make a submission about?(Please click the circle to select which part of the Code you wish to comment on. You can also see which council areas are included in the rural and urban code via the links below.)

**My submission relates to Rural code. (click here for council areas)**

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## Page 2: Planning and Design Code for South AustraliaPersonal Details

**Q2** Please provide your contact details below (Name, Postcode & Email are mandatory)Please be advised that your submission will be made publicly available on the SA Planning Portal.

|                   |                                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name              | <b>Patrick Broughton</b>             |
| Company           | <b>Yates Electrical Services</b>     |
| Address           | <b>PO Box 677, Renmark, SA, 5341</b> |
| Your Council Area | <b>Renmark Paringa</b>               |
| Suburbs/Town      | <b>Renmark</b>                       |
| State             | <b>SA</b>                            |
| Postcode          | <b>5341</b>                          |
| Country           | <b>Australia</b>                     |
| Email Address     | [REDACTED]                           |

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**Q3** Which sector do you associate yourself with? **Business**

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**Q4** Would you like to make comment on **Respondent skipped this question**

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## Page 5: Planning and Design Code for South Australia

## Consultation Submission Form

**Q5** Enter your feedback for Rules of Interpretation

Respondent skipped this question

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**Q6** Enter your feedback for Referrals

Respondent skipped this question

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**Q7** Enter your feedback for Mapping

Respondent skipped this question

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**Q8** Enter your feedback for Table of Amendments

Respondent skipped this question

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**Q9** Please enter your feedback for overlaysclick next at the bottom of the page for next topic

Respondent skipped this question

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**Q10** Please enter your feedback for zones and subzonesclick next at the bottom of the page for next topic

Respondent skipped this question

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**Q11** Please enter your feedback for general policyclick next at the bottom of the page for next topic

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Infrastructure and Renewable Energy Facilities General Policy

As outlined in the Discussion Paper on Proposed Changes to Renewable Energy Policy in the Planning Design Code, new guidelines are being introduced which provide policy guidance for the construction of large-scale solar farms. These proposed policies introduce a 500 meter solar farm setback from conservation areas, a 100 meter setback from township boundaries and a 20 meter setback from neighbouring land, however notably does not make mention of solar farm size or location. With the uptake of renewable energy, there are currently various solar farm projects under development throughout South Australia, ranging from 30kW ground mounted systems being developed by small business owners, up to 100MW+ developments. It seems these proposed policies don't address individual requirement guidelines, instead offering 'one-size-fits-all' blanket policy which - while suitable for large-scale developments - in many cases would render smaller developments inviable. A 200kW site consisting of 800 solar panels with a footprint of 1 acre should not be held to the same stringent setbacks that a 100MW site should adhere to, particularly as the majority of these smaller scale developments (generally below 1MW) are being undertaken by land-owners, who are conscious of the acreage they require for any use of their land. For a 200kW development, an additional 30 meter setback from neighbouring properties would require a land-owner to clear an additional 3,300 square meters of land to accommodate the setbacks for the solar farm infrastructure, nearly doubling the amount of land-use required. In our experience, many land-owners who have undertaken solar farm developments in the range of 30kW to 1MW have done so with the intention of reactivating redundant land parcels which are no longer viable for traditional farming practices; and in many cases a 30 meter setback would be a barrier for the development moving forward. I would like to see the State Planning Commission take a closer look at the impacts of these setbacks on small business owners - particularly surrounding the use of the available land in rural areas - with particular consideration for the size, location and nature of the developments. A blanket policy will not work for smaller developments, which should have their own set of guidelines.

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**Q12** Please enter your feedback for Land use Definitionclick next at the bottom of the page for next topic

Renewable energy facility definition

**This needs to be made clearer, particularly in terms of size. Blanket policies which create a scenario where 30kW to 1MW solar farm developments are required to adhere to the same stringent setbacks and policies as those developed for 100MW+ projects need to be reviewed. This should not be a 'one-size-fits-all' policy arrangement.**

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**Q13** Please enter your feedback for Admin Definitionsclick next at the bottom of the page for next topic **Respondent skipped this question**

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**Q14** Please enter your general feedback here

Although it is fantastic to see the Planning Commission being pro-active in terms of providing guidelines for solar farm and renewable energy developments, there needs to be further consideration into the size, location and nature of these developments before these policies are set. These policies, while providing a more streamlined approach for the development of these projects, should also provide greater avenues for renewable energy uptake across multiple channels - from small scale to large - without restricting developments through unreasonable guidelines.

Providing blanket and general policies which hold small-scale developments to the level of scrutiny as large-scale projects will make these developments considerably harder for land-owners, who may be looking at solar as a way of diversifying their business while reactivating redundant land-parcels.

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**Q15** Do you have any attachments to upload?(pdf only) **Respondent skipped this question**

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