



ANTI-CIRCUMVENTION INQUIRY 685

HOLLOW STRUCTURAL SECTIONS

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File note - Meeting with Nextpower Australia Pty Ltd

Date: 12 February 2026 **Format:** Virtual (Teams) **Case No:** 685

Attendees:

Nextpower: Justin Leung (Director, Operations – Australia)

ADC: Justin Wickes (Director Investigations 2)
Michelle Remmers (Senior Investigator, Investigations 2)

1. Purpose of meeting

- This meeting with Nextpower Australia Pty Ltd (Nextpower) formed part of the importer verification for *Anti-Circumvention Inquiry 685* concerning the anti-dumping measures on hollow structural sections (HSS).
- The Anti-Dumping Commission (commission) noted that the applicant, Orrcon Manufacturing Pty Ltd (Orrcon), alleges certain HSS imports, such as torque tubes, are modified via drilling of holes and classified under alternative tariff items to avoid the application of duties.
- The commission also covered timing of the statement of essential facts (SEF), confidentiality and preparation of a meeting record for the electronic public record.

2. Company background and name change

- Nextpower supplies utility-scale solar tracker systems in which torque tubes are a core structural element.
- Nextpower advised that it rebranded from Nextracker in 2025.

3. Product characteristics – drilled torque tubes

- Nextpower stated that torque tubes are typically between 8.9 and 11.9 metres in length and are connected onsite to form arrays up to 200 metres.
- Nextpower claimed that holes are drilled in its torque tubes at specific distances to match module widths. This is a Nextpower product feature that enables the installation of self-locating rails, reducing labour and installation time.

PUBLIC RECORD

- Nextpower indicated that these drilling patterns vary by project and module supplier, and confirmed that it does not maintain torque tube inventory in Australia due to the wide variety of modules on the market.
- Following the meeting, Nextpower provided a list of over 700 torque tube types, each designed with drilled holes to match a unique module width.

4. Relationship with Orrcon and local manufacturing

- Nextpower acknowledged that Nextracker/Nextpower previously collaborated and continue to collaborate with Orrcon to support the establishment of local torque tube production capacity.
- Nextpower claimed that its tight straightness tolerances reportedly increased wastage in the production process, resulting in elevated wastage rates and costs, adding to uncompetitive costing for project-scale procurement when compared with overseas manufacture.

5. Imports, suppliers and documentation

- Nextpower confirmed that two main manufacturers in China supplied its torque tubes during the inquiry period.
- Following the meeting, Nextpower provided import documentation (bill of lading, commercial invoice, packing list, certificate of origin, packing declaration). The documents confirmed that the goods were entered under tariff code 7308.90.00.

6. Customers and channels

- Nextpower identified its customers as site owners, construction companies, and engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) firms, noting that EPCs are the most common.
- Nextpower disclosed the customers and projects in relation to Nextpower's sales during the inquiry period.

7. Industry and project impacts (as raised by Nextpower)

- Nextpower asserted that the imposition of duties on drilled torque tubes could materially increase project costs, potentially leading to project cancellations and associated job losses.
- The company further claimed that Australia has limited tube mill capacity and argued that any benefits from duties would accrue to a narrow set of suppliers.
- Nextpower raised concerns that sudden regulatory changes can disrupt major solar developments, citing an example from Queensland where a union proposal for a qualified electrician to oversee every solar panel electrical connection stalled projects for several months until it was rejected by the government.
- Nextpower also raised concerns that regulatory changes that target product specific, manufactured tubes can have further impact on other sectors outside of solar developments, specifically but not limited to building and infrastructure, mining and other product manufacturers utilising tube.