



**NEWPARK**  
MATS & INTEGRATED SERVICES

## PROJECT CASE STUDY

# DURA-BASE® Provides Improved Access and Reliability to Solar Farm

**Location**  
Sunshine Coast QLD  
Australia



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## BACKGROUND

The Sunshine Coast Council was the first local government in Australia to build, own, and operate its own solar farm (Sunshine Coast Solar Farm) to offset its entire electricity consumption by generating clean, renewable energy to power its facilities, as well as the wider community.

The site for the project, a former sugar cane field in Queensland, Australia, was chosen for its optimal solar perspective and complimenting the use of agricultural production, making it a great reuse of the land.

## CHALLENGE

Installation of the solar tables at this site was not a straightforward task and required some innovative thinking. As part of their wet weather mitigation, the solar tables were designed to be installed much higher off the ground, requiring longer piles (around 10 to 12 piles per 60 ft x 12 ft table), as well as two 100t cranes with a made-to-order lifting jig for the install.

One of the biggest challenges the council faced during the construction of the solar farm was ground stabilization, as the site was previously used for agricultural purposes, making the soil soft and unstable. These ground conditions made moving the equipment and materials required for construction difficult and potentially dangerous.

The Sunshine Coast Council required a solution to stabilize the ground and prevent heavy construction equipment from sinking into the soil.

## SOLUTION

To meet the client's objective of creating a safe, ground stabilizing, and effective work platform, DURA-BASE composite mats were deployed, providing the construction crew with:

- Temporary access for crawler cranes
- Crane lift platform
- Mud-free staging areas

Project by **JWA**



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## RESULTS

With the help of DURA-BASE mats, construction crews were able to move crawler cranes and other necessary construction equipment to and from the site as needed, for the duration of the project. This allowed the client to safely install challenging infrastructure to enable clean power production while protecting the environment.

The rapid interlocking feature of DURA-BASE allowed our client to deploy and redeploy the same mats over multiple locations, cutting down drastically the use of imported fill material.

**With the project delivered safely and on time, the customer is on target to save ~\$15M over 30 years.**

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