

PUBLIC STATEMENT

Respectful conduct and volunteer wellbeing

Dark Sky Hub is a community working group. The public campaign is Last Light at Siding Spring. We work to keep the Anglo-Australian Telescope (AAT) in useful service and to protect the jobs, skills and heritage at Siding Spring Observatory (SSO).

The simple rule

We have zero tolerance for abuse of volunteers, staff, visitors or members of the public. That includes shouting, personal attacks, following people, cornering people in shops or in the street, and any threat of harm. Hard news and strong feelings about the future of the AAT are not an excuse.

Why this is written down

The funding question after 30 June 2027 sits with the Australian Government. Briefing AAT staff sits with their employer. Our work is community support: a petition, local information, and a practical visitor pathway beside the science. Volunteers are not managers of the mountain, and they are not a substitute for a staff meeting. They should not be stopped in public and made to answer for decisions they did not take.

What we ask of everyone

- Speak about the issue, not about the person.
- Do not approach Dark Sky Hub volunteers at work, in shops, or at home to prosecute a grievance.
- If you have a concern, write or call the lead. Do not load it onto whoever you happen to meet.
- Staff of the observatory are welcome to talk with us. That conversation belongs in a meeting, not in an aisle.

What volunteers should do

If you are confronted in public, you do not have to stay and argue. A short line is enough:

"I am a volunteer. Please take this to Mark Osmond, lead of Dark Sky Hub, through darkskyhub.com.au or darkskyhubnsw@gmail.com. I am ending this conversation now."

Then leave. Tell the lead what happened as soon as you can. You will be backed.

How we will handle it

The lead will take the conversation. We will listen. We will keep working for the telescope and for the jobs on the mountain. Where conduct crosses from robust talk into harassment or a threat, we will record it and, if needed, refer it to New South Wales Police. That is a last step, not a first one.

Contact

Mark Osmond, lead, Dark Sky Hub / Last Light at Siding Spring

Web: darkskyhub.com.au

Email: darkskyhubnsw@gmail.com

This statement may be downloaded and shared. It names no individual incident, and it is not directed at the AAT workforce. We are on the same side as the people who keep that telescope working.