New England Solar Farm SSD 9255

Supporting document to submission from Neil Hanlon

Our main objective to the proposed Solar Farm is specifically regarding the access to the proposed site. Under the proposal Big Ridge Road will be the sole access for the development and this will impact the current value of land along this route as it will no longer be a ‘quiet country road’ – that being one of the attractions for us and many others in buying property in that area. Will there be compensation for loss value, especially if a resident wanted/needed to sell in the near or distant future???

There will also be a major impact on lifestyle as the people living along this route are able to utilise it as part of their daily life i.e. exercise, walking the dog and relaxation activity.

The safety and security of our area will be badly affected by the increase in traffic using this proposed access which again will have a detrimental effect on our lives. We fear that this will stop our ability in accessing our own properties and being able to move freely about either on foot or in our own vehicles not to mention children using this road with safety.

There is also an environmental issue with native wildlife in 2 areas of tree lined road along Big Ridge road, which will no doubt be destroyed during the widening process of the road, and then the high risk to that same wildlife being killed due to higher volumes of traffic. That is not to mention the reduction in trees that should not go ahead in consideration of current climate change issues.

We have seen similar developments in Scotland that have not used existing road access but have built new access to specific sites being developed which has had no impact on neighbouring people or any environmental effects. **Therefore we believe this proposed Solar Farm could be realised with no impact on the local people by building a new access road directly into the proposed site of the Solar Farm utilising the current Government owned land of the CSIRO experimental farm, namely Chiswick, which borders onto the proposed New England Solar Farm development.**

**Our thanks for being able to make comment and we do object strongly to the proposed use of Big Ridge Road as the access road for the Solar Farm** but at the same time do strongly agree with Solar Power being sourced for the future development of electricity for our country.