

17 February 2020

Mr Andrew Hutton, IPC Panel Chair
Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Re: New England solar Farm SSD 9255

Dear Mr Hutton,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a written submission on the New England Solar Farm as a part of this public consultation phase.

I am one of the landholders whose property had been included in the 'Southern Array' of this project. Although the Southern Array is no longer included in the application, I am still a strong supporter of the project.

I made a written submission during the EIS exhibition phase and would like to reiterate my comments made at that time. In particular, I feel that the ongoing benefits of this project far outweigh any adverse impacts which may have been raised. Further to this, it would seem that most – if not all – such impacts have either been addressed by the proponent or can be mitigated through conditions which might be placed on any approval granted.

The local benefits of the project reach beyond the employment prospects that are offered. The rental income flowing to the various landholders within the project will be significant. It will provide a much-needed boost to what is otherwise a highly erratic income stream for primary producers. The multiplier effect of this consistent income across the broader community will have a substantial and positive impact on the local and regional economies. The economic benefits of the long-term Community Benefit Sharing Initiative established by the proponent will provide a further boost to the district.

The broader benefits of the project extend to a national and global scale. This opportunity to enhance the availability of a clean and renewable energy source must not be missed. In the current climate – both economic and environmental – projects such as this should be encouraged and brought to fruition as a matter of priority.

I am happy to continue to lend my support to this project and look forward to the benefits that it can bring to our region to Australia.

Yours faithfully
Adam Edwards
"Lochiel" The Gap Road
Salisbury Plains NSW 2358