Professor Mary O’Kane

Chair Lewana Park

Independent Planning Commission Jindera, NSW, 2642

NSW Government

 2nd December 2020

Re: IPC Assessment of Jindera SF 9549

Dear Prof

It is 4.20am Wednesday morning and I have been up since 3am, I find myself tiring myself beyond belief in an attempt to make some sense of this drivel before me, just in an attempt to shed some light on and dispel some of the theory behind these massive industrial plants that you all think are okay for our area. This is a daily occurrence lately as I am steadily trying to wade my way through the garbage of Glenellen proposal also, then I have to go out and operate heavy machinery for the next 14+hours as that is what we do at this time of the year.

Once again I make the comment that the proponent and the department treat us with total disdain in relation to the timing of these submissions and it now appears the IPC has the same attitude, no one looks at what we do out here, or maybe they do and that is why everything to do with these proposals gets dumped on us at this time of the year, does anyone listen actively to our plight, not likely.

Currently I do not have the time available to dissect DPIE’s Assessment Report, from a quick glance just another 60 pages of drivel that appears to have a mandate to approve these developments with little to no accord for the locals and where we live.

As I have mentioned in previous dialogue with the department, we are not the polluters out here, we are not the carbon emitters out here, we actually process your carbon footprint from that concrete jungle you are all so fond of and turn it into oxygen and food. Solar panels don’t create oxygen or food, until any of you realise that fact we have a very long way to go and obviously for us out here as none of you are interested in offsetting your carbon footprint in your own backyard we have to bear the pain for where you live and to let you all feel better about yourselves.

Anyway, my apologies, I am overtired and starting to ramble, at least I am honest. I wanted to discuss a few issues with Mike Young’s letter of referral dated 27/10/2020

Paragraph 1 – done with very little input from the local residents affected by this massive proposal and well and truly hid behind the banner of 2020 (COVID)

Paragraph 2 – unique submissions over 50, at this stage of proceeding the parameters for objections was only set at 25, we have noted with interest the parameters to invoke IPC involvement have dramatically changed to assist developers not members or residents affected by any of these disastrous proposals

Paragraph 3 – 4 km to township of Jindera, does anyone check these statements, I have had this out with DPIE before, the nearest panels are only 2.6km form the outer residential street of Jindera, not 4km, this development dwarfs our town with its footprint, Solar plant footprint approx. 350ha, township footprint approx. 150ha, that is nearly double the size of our local town right on the outskirts, does that mean anything to anyone??

Stated 120MW instillation, not one solar plant today has produced anywhere near its stated capacity, its just playing with number, our local environment does not offer great solar irradiance especially during winter, June this year there were 22 days where they would not have produced 1 iota of power through thick cloud and / or thick fog, just an easy hook up to the grid is all that matters to the proponents and they have admitted to that numerous times. It should not be what decides the future of where we live.

We have seen no information or EIS for this proposed 132 kilovolt transmission line and its affects on the residents of Ortlipp Road, how many more trees to go for that? How high? More visual spendour for us locals to satisfy city based planners and assessors.

Paragraph 4 – Unique submissions, here we go again, under request from a number of residents that don’t have computers or access to such, or had age issues as we have many elderly residents out here, or issues with the very non user friendly DPIE site, we developed a submission proforma for those that required assistance, each individual that signed one of those is unique and was a concerned member of the local community, as earlier mentioned I notice that the department has changed the parameters in relation to this for the Glenellen proposal, we are losing our faith rapidly that not one thing is going in our favour. We are being bombarded by these industrial plant proposals and every step we take to defend ourselves DPIE place further obstacles in our way which just aid the proponent, it has been a very harrowing process to date.

Paragraph 5 – setting back from Glenellen Road how good of them, however this didn’t reduce their footprint as they filled in what was going to be an open transmission zone with panels surrounding residents on Klinberg Road on three sides

Removing 3.9ha, wow!!! How generous of them, as mentioned earlier their footprint is around 350ha

Minimum of 30m setback to all properties, once again how very generous of them, you would walk further than that for your morning coffee, instead of our beautiful landscape you now want us to see a steel and concrete jungle for 30+ years, if we wanted that we would move to the city.

Additional landscape screening = shadecloth? Sensational and will only last a couple of years, the arrogance of these companies. Landscaping at any other solar plant in the Riverina to date has been a total failure and not one iota of compliance to conditions of consent from DPIE

VPA is just a legalised bribe to local government, the money may in someway assist the local towns in some way, however it will never assist the residents who have to live next door to it in anyway shape of form, the VPA should be rated on impact to affected residents and compensation paid as such.

Paragraph 6 – I met Mike once, seemed like an okay guy however I am not certain what planet he is flying on currently if he thinks there is significant reduction in impacts, screening times and success of such, our visual splendour is to be replaced by an industrial plant

Nor JSF P/L or DPIE have paid any creedance to the majority of our concerns

Paragraph 7 – absolutely laughable on the social side, economic disaster for those of us who are neighbouring these developments as property values will plummet, no one wants to live next door to an industrial plant (an analogy is living in your leafy seaside suburb in inner Sydney and then having Silverwater Jail open up next door) I bet you would not like to see your life investment go down the drain, I know I certainly don’t, we have a lot of money invested and equity in these properties this is certainly not a just outcome for a lifetime of hard toil.

Local public interest was dead against the development, not sure where Mike is gauging his interest probably city based as usual as long as they don’t have to live next door to it.

Paragraph 8 – Conditions of consent, one of my biggest problems with DPIE as a department, I have visited every other solar plant constructed in the Riverina to date, not one bit of compliance or adherence to conditions of consent in relation to traffic control, dust control, hours of work, noise control and screening works are non existent

Department Assessment Report – another sixty pages of absolute drivel written by a department that has no resources to validate any of the claims from the proponent and appears to have total disdain for where we live. As mentioned earlier we are not the polluters out here at some stage you all need to start understanding that fact.

I notice that IPC have not knocked back any solar plant proposals, now is the time to show that you are truly independent and not just another government department (I spent 24 years in NSW Public Service, I know how it works) by showing some heart and respect for where we live and what we do for a living and why we choose to live in our environment and why we should have to pay a penalty for that so you can live in your environment, it is not just nor is it fair.

Thank you for your time

Kind regards

Jim Parrett

0428 609 835