“Oakridge”

Glenellen

I am writing to OPPOSE this Jindera Solar Farm development.

Although I am supportive of clean green energy, I feel this development has earmarked a landscape that is capable of so much more, and that a better geographical location should be sort.

I realise that it is within close proximity of the high voltage power lines and the substation, and for that reason it might seem the best place. But I would argue that our land is too productive agriculturally and receives a reliable rainfall. Properties in this area are sort after for agricultural productivity, with prices reaching $9000/acre for 1000acre holdings in the district.

I feel that instead of offering an exorbitant price to lease the land for 30 years, money could be better spent purchasing the land (or leasing if that fits the companies profile) in areas that experience drought conditions more frequently than 3-in-10 years. Some rural communities have been coming off the back of three or more years of uninterrupted drought, with that time again needed for businesses to recover. These large scale properties on marginal land would benefit from this type of income stream.

During these recent times of hardship and drought across Australia, this Murray region and in particular Greater Hume shire, was one of the only pockets of NSW that was able to produce crops and fodder SURPLUS to our own needs, and to be able to offer relief to other agricultural enterprises across NSW and Australia. I believe that has a lot to say about the agricultural importance and productivity of this land.

I feel that this developments footprint implicates too many direct and indirect residence, and that this could be minimised by targeting a more remote area, affecting minimal residence within a 5km buffer. I believe this proposal is inappropriate and will be a confronting injustice to residence along Glenellen Road /Urana road and their families. Not to mention devaluing their homes and smaller holdings.

Other reasons why I believe this project should be undertaken on a different site, is the thick fog that settles in Glenellen/Jindera through our winters, due to the public safety aspect of the increased traffic and heavy vehicles traversing these roads that are school bus routes for numerous buses and also cyclists, locally and further afield.

And I am concerned that the road was not formed to withstand this vehicle pressure, volume or weight.

I am worried that the solar farm will increase water shed, and with reduced ground cover (caused by diminished pasture, formed tracks, earthworks and tree clearing at the site), it will decrease water infiltration and increase run-off exacerbating any water-logging, salinity issues or erosion to the landscape.

The visual defacing of the landscape, which has been farmed sustainably for generation after generation. I don’t believe screening trees will be sufficient and I am saddened by the land clearing that will need to be undertaken if this project does go ahead.

Elizabeth O’Grady