Dear Panel,

I would like to comment on the proposed Walla Walla Solar farm project.

Everyone loves renewable energy and we need to reduce our carbon footprint as much as possible however I object to the Walla Walla Solar Farm for the following reasons;

1. It is situated on very good farming country. I note that in the DPIE Assessment Report that redundant data is being used to classify the land. It was original classified as 6 under the Land & Soil Capability Mapping in NSW (OEH 2017). A new report is due for release soon to indicate it should be at least 3 or 4. I invite you to see the crops on the area at present. They are magnificent.
2. Deleterious financial effect on neighbouring farms. Why not put the solar farm out west under power lines. Go to a large property eg 3,000 ha and put it in the centre of that property. The farmer would be delighted without impinging on the financial repercussions of having a solar farm next door. Let the company (foreign) pay for the upgrade of the transmission line.
3. Contrary to some people’s opinion Walla Walla is doing very nicely and I consider the economic benefits of the solar farm to be far outweighed by the mental and financial strain on the people adjacent to the proposed development. Is money more important than people?
4. What are the plans for unforseen events? For example bankruptcy of the company. Who is going to recycle the panels at the end of the project? Why do they not have to remove underground infrastructure?
5. Why on earth would you put a solar farm with a creek running through the centre and to the iconic Billabong Creek? In addition many mature trees will be felled. This is a disaster for wildlife. Although vegetation will be re- planted the recovery will take years. The value of mature trees in our environment is underestimated.
6. Grazing of sheep under solar panels has been discredited. Unfortunately they like to chew wires!
7. Lithium batteries. When they catch fire you cannot put them out. A serious consideration that must be addressed.
8. If you are still undecided watch Michael Moore’s documentary on solar projects in the USA.

I trust that the above reasons will help you formulate a considered decision towards the proposed solar farm.

Yours Sincerely

John Seidel B.Sc.