

Our business is a mixed farming operation comprising of sheep, cropping and hay production down Weeamera Road, Culcairn and I wish to object to Walla Walla Solar Farm (SSD 9874). Please see some points below:

Agriculture and Solar:

- Agriculture is already a renewable resource.
- A solar development with a construction phase of 20 months and minimal FTE jobs post construction has a finite economic impact for the region.
- Service industry expenditure from Agriculture is ongoing and flows through to an extensive range of sectors in the community.
- Current or proposed stock carrying capacity is not stated in the DPIE Assessment Report. Sheep grazing numbers are not quantified.
- The term 'Agrisolar' is a marketing slogan. 'Agrisolar' is not inclusive of agriculture as the name might suggest. To date, any 'Agrisolar' references only mention some breeds of sheep, limited mostly to Merino wethers.

Cumulative Impacts – Walla Walla and Culcairn Solar Farms:

- If both solar developments are approved they will be approximately 1km apart, geographically impacting the same group of people. Those same people will be subjected to the strains of construction and operations including an increase in traffic volumes, noise, dust and disruption to humans and animals, not once but twice.
- The same people, due to their geographical location would be acutely affected by the impacts of both solar developments. Receivers at R2 (Walla Walla) and Receivers R14 (Culcairn). Both developers identified use of Benambra Road and Weeamera Road for site access and access to Hurricane Hill Quarry.
- An additional 245 vehicle movements per day for the Walla Walla site in addition to the vehicle movements for the Culcairn Site is a significant increase to a rural road.
- The DPIE Assessment states '*Consideration of cumulative noise impacts found that no additional receivers would experience exceedances of the noise affected criterion in the event that both the Walla Walla Solar Farm and Culcairn Solar Farm are approved and constructed concurrently*' p 27. How has this been determined?

Land Use:

- The proposed location is not in a NSW Government - Renewable Energy Zone.
- The land is sought after primarily because of the proximity to the transmission lines.
- DPI Agriculture - Important Agricultural Land Mapping in NSW is significant because as stated on the DPI's own website the mapping program supports the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment with key points marked below.

Important Agricultural Land Mapping in NSW

The NSW Department of Primary Industries is undertaking a mapping program across NSW to assist state and local government, other organisations and industries to recognise and value important agricultural land. The program supports the NSW Department of Planning and Environment's regional planning targets that include actions to map important agricultural lands in NSW.

Knowing where important agricultural land is situated and understanding its location, value and contribution will assist in making decisions about current and future agricultural land uses. This information will help government and industry to:

- provide more certainty for agribusiness to remain, invest and grow
- reduce land use conflict
- enable compatible development in zones that permit agriculture
- choose appropriate zones for non-agricultural development
- support essential agricultural assets and the agricultural supply chain.
- identify future opportunities for agricultural industries



Source: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/lup/agriculture-industry-mapping/important

- The Riverina Murray Consultation Report 2017-2019 and Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2036 consistently report the importance of agriculture to the region and State. ***'Agriculture is integral to the success of the economy and a major force in the State. The Riverina Murray makes the largest regional contribution to agricultural production in NSW (\$1.4 billion)' p 4.***
- The Regional Plan 2036 states under the heading **'A Growing and Diverse Economy' - Direction 1: Protect the region's diverse and productive agricultural land.** Under Direction 1, three actions are listed.

The first, 1.1 being ***'Develop a regional agricultural development strategy that: maps important agricultural land...' p 17.***
- In Dec 2018 / Jan 2019 DPI Agriculture called for Draft Riverina Mapping submissions. Why has this project in the Riverina not progressed any further? It's been nearly two years.

Michelle Pumpa