**Submission**

I strongly object to the construction of the Walla Walla proposed project.

* **HEAT and DUST.** My being a neighbour raises great concerns from the project’s effects. As our property’s western boundary is bordered by this massive proposed construction the prevailing summer westerly/NW winds will be devastating to our business operation in that livestock, cattle, will become heat and dust impacted and our selective pastures adversely affected, especially with the dust. Any addition to heat currents coming off the panels to this land’s already recorded 46 degree summer temperatures will be damaging. I have repeatedly requested **effective** vegetation screening which the project company has ignored. Not one row, in a 5 m area as allocated to date, but a plantation of 5 or 6 rows of densely foliaged trees of varying heights in a 50metre corridor **inside** the proponent’s boundary is **absolutely necessary** to provide shelter, and this only requires a continuation of one already planned along the boundary adjacent.

Have Independent studies/research on the heat effects of this proposed project been carried out and recorded? I am in wonder at the company’s claim in notes to me that there is no evidence of heat further than 50 metres. Gusty summer winds will be harmful.

* **ENVIROMENTAL**. Large solar projects have huge damaging impact on local flora and fauna, birds have been discovered with their wings burnt. The assumption of sheep grazing has become a myth as no, or very sparce, vegetation will be produced under the solar panels after a short period of time. This has been widely verified by results from previously built, and named solar farms, eg Bomen. Weeds such as Bathurst burr, hairy panic, heliotrope, etc., and dust have overtaken the underlying terrain.

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* **AESTHETICAL**. The glare coming off these massive amounts of panels, 700,000, will be blinding and ruinating for residents endeavouring to carry on their farming and hospitality businesses overlooking this proposed project. In my instance excuses offered have been that the proposed project cannot be seen from my house…but it certainly can from everywhere we carry out our daily business on the property.
* **SAFETY.** **Toxic chemicals**, eg.Hydrogen fluoride, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, and Acetone used in solar panels produce significant health risks. Are health high risk hydrochloric, sulfuric, and nitric acids used? and also Cadmium telluride (CdTe) which has toxicity concerns? It is harmful if swallowed, and is very toxic to aquatic life. What happens if panels are broken by the elements such as hail. Are panels **completely** and **safely** recyclable? Is the answer NO? What will happen to the waste panels when they have to be disposed of and am I correct in understanding that panels used in these constructions may have a life of only ten years? How and where will this disposal be effected? We have heard of projects being deserted and the rubbish left behind. This is also of great concern, environment protection is foremost. *Is this environmentally safe and not adding to the world’s climate change?*
* **HEALTH.** This proposed project has already, and still is, causing dire problems with **mental health** issues amongst residents in the area. This problem is seriously grave and **must not be ignored**.
* **WATER & TRAFFIC** Supplying huge amounts of water required will be problematic. This property has previously been unable to have water for the stock reservoir tank owing to inadequate supply from Riverina Water. Also, if water was to become available, will the local council be able to maintain road upkeep with an extra 833 water trucks further to previously mentioned 45(plus)daily heavy vehicles and 400 daily movements of lighter vehicles? This heavy traffic travels past my front entrance and home on my eastern boundary, along my entire northern boundary adjacent to Benambra Road and then all the construction work vehicles on the proposed project of our western boundary. In all three of the four boundaries. Our business and daily life will surely be impacted by such a huge construction as this proposed project. Is there to be any consideration or compensation given to those properties which are surrounded by, affected by, and overlooking these massive constructions of glaring, unnatural materials in a rich fertile area. We need our natural surroundings kept intact and answers and explanations to our questions.
* **OBJECTIONS.**

Local Greater Hume Shire council have objected to the proposal This land is gazetted rural, not industrial. Well documented is our high ranking office bearing councillor’s quote “prime agricultural land should be for growing food. There are plenty of areas in Australia that don’t grow the type of feed we grow in this area”, end of quote. A property over the project’s boundary fence has been described as one of the most productive in the district so how can the proposed project’s land, within five metres be so lowly graded? The overwhelming objections from people within 5kms of this proposed project were 41 to only 14 in favour.

* **FIRE RISK.**

The allowance of a 10metre fire break is completely **inadequate** in the wake of the last summer’s catastrophic bushfires. Our family has already had the horror experience of the complete loss of property and stock on our property SE of Walla Walla in the Walla Walla Tip Fire.

Please research the devastation to the district of this fire.

It is of my understanding that local Fire Brigades have not been consulted and will not enter the proposed site due to safety concerns.

**RECOMMENDATIONS.**

**Instead of vast projects the installation of panels on the roof of homes. The hard structure is already in place and owners will be able to generate their own electricity, and enjoy great savings instead of buying from a foreign owned company.**

 **I am not against solar power, in fact we have our very own 10k system neatly installed on a roof out of sight of bystanders and the public.**

**Australia’s arid areas are more suited to these large scale projects and it was only one day ago I was informed that a district on the plains west of Culcairn was unable to entice interest from any** company

**In closing, I, my neighbours and the greater majority of people in this district are of the opinion these proposed projects mean the desecration of beautiful and productive pasture land, when this is not necessary owing to vast tracts of arid land available in in other parts of Australia.**

Thanking you for your time,

**Yours faithfully**

**.Dorothy Hoy.**

 **“Cornalla”, Culcairn. NSW 2660.**