

Walla Walla Solar Farm (SSD 9874)

As one of the landholders of the proposed Walla Walla Solar Farm, I want to express my full support for the project's approval.

I'd like to take this final opportunity to reiterate the subject land, our land, is not prime. Not by gazetted fact nor practical reality. To further reflect on how marginal these paddocks were viewed within the area, the majority of the land proposed for solar had been on the market for over 2 years and had failed at 2 auctions (without a bid). My wife and I bought it by private treaty after the second failed auction. It's strengths have always been in grazing and the fact we run both sheep and cattle becomes simply a managerial issue whereby sheep will be grazed on one side of the farm (in the solar area as has shown to be successful on operational sites in Australia and all around the world) and cattle will be grazed on the other side of the farm we have retained. The retained original holding is higher ground and much more productive land.

I think the greatest threat to agriculture; flora/fauna and biodiversity is subdivision, not solar. Under the current zoning we can subdivide now, and no doubt more densely as the years progress and Albury City Councils anticipated takeover of The Greater Hume Shire materialises. Under dual use Agri-solar we retain the agricultural output of the land while the flora/fauna are protected in green areas and proposed connective wildlife corridors and as a bonus we can power up to 120,000 homes with clean renewable energy. It can all co-exist while supporting a workforce of 250 workers, and families, for nearly 2 years and then at least 21 full time positions thereafter. The economic spin off for the business families in this rural area is unquantifiable..

The benefits from this proposal have already materialised, as every cent from my option fees have been reinvested into our local economy;

1. Purchase lime and gypsum. We also paid contractors to spread this (D and R Clancy & Clancy Ag P/L).
2. Commit to a new shearing shed (PJM Sheds Walla Walla)
3. Concreting of new shed and other sundry concreting completed (Josh Goode Contracting Walla Walla)
4. Purchase a new sheep loading ramp (Landmark Nutrien Ag Albury)
5. Purchase 7 new cattle grids (Aaron De Jong Wagga Wagga)
6. Earthmoving and roadbase in relation to new cattle grids (Jindera Bobcat and Machinery)
7. Completed cattle yard improvements (Grove Welding and Maintenance)
8. Spray machinery purchase and tractor improvements (Marks Spray Barn Albury and Mick Knoble Tractor Repairs and Maintenance Walla)

The NSW Government announced a target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and therefore these projects are the solution for not only meeting these targets but also combating the economic downturn from COVID-19.

I believe last Thursdays Zoom meeting highlighted the common sense of the projects merits versus the emotion of a few passionate objectors who's arguments appear not to be about whether solar is a good or bad thing but more about their own negotiations. The company approached us, and the well-used line from nearly all objectors I have spoken to is "...it's nothing personal, if we got the chance we'd do it too..." which resonates the hypocrisy of the situation.

Lastly, I am concerned for my children, and theirs, who will not only inherit the cost of COVID 19 but rapidly declining conditions on our planet. This is a chance to contribute, to make a difference in our generation. I want the best for my family and this community and therefore welcome the benefits which this proposal can bring to everyone.

Regards,

Danny Phegan

"Roseville"

Walla Walla NSW 2659

12/11/20