I wish to express my strong objection to the approval of the Springdale Solar Development.

My son and I reside at 360 Tallagandra Lane, Sutton NSW (referred to as Receptor 1 in the EIS). The property is owned by my parents, Peter and Geanean Gillett. The property has been owned by my parents since 1999.

I was a teenager when the property was purchased by my family and between 2002 to 2010 I lived in the family home with my parents and siblings. My son and I have been living on the property since 2018. Since the property was first purchased, the surrounding land, as it still remains to this day, was rural residential. There were no industrial developments or large scale commercial developments in the area at this time. The Springdale Solar Development is not consistent with how the land in the areas has been or is currently being used.

While I am not opposed to solar power and renewable energy, I do not believe that the Springdale Solar Development is located in an appropriate area. It is not the best use of the land. It is inconsistent with the Yass Valley Councils plans for the area and is not one of the preferred locations identified by the NSW Government for solar generation. Furthermore, this development will provide little to no economic benefit to NSW. Given the extremely close proximity to Canberra, the economic benefit will be realised in the ACT. The site is of cultural significance and it is habitat to endangered animal species. It also forms part of the water catchment for the local area and is a flood prone area.

Should the development be approved in its current location it will adversely impact the safety, health and wellbeing of myself, my son and my parents. I am concerned about the impacts on our health during the construction and operational phases. The construction period will produce air pollution, predominantly by way of dust, and this will impact our health and day to day quality of life. The long-term impact on our physical and mental health are unable to be fully understood at this point. This uncertainly creates ongoing stress and uncertainly which in turn has an impact on our mental health. The increase in traffic, large trucks and machinery will place my family at risk as we travel to and from our home. The surrounding roads are insufficient to safely handle this type of traffic. The risk to our safety by way of fire threat is another point of unease and stress, posing another threat to our safety. The security of our home will be compromised due to the presence of construction workers and operational staff. During both the construction and operation phases our privacy will be impinged upon. The rural amenity we have enjoyed for so many years will be replaced by an industrial landscape of solar panels, noise, lights and reflection. The value of my parent’s property will be severely, negatively impacted. They could not have reasonably factored into their decision making when purchasing the property a development of this magnitude being approved on their boundary.

I appreciate the opportunity to raise my objections to the proposed Springdale Solar Development being approved in its current location. I respectfully request that you reject the Springdale Solar Development.

Kind regards,

Erin Hardwicke