

Solar submission

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Date:

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Culcairn Solar Farm
Application No.SSD 10288

I have made no reportable political donations in the past two years.

I strongly OBJECT to this project.

I think there is far too big an Environmental footprint for this region. This project will remove prime Agricultural land from significant production for 30+ years and become an industrial wasteland.

The current drought has depleted fodder and grain production to extremely low levels. This region grows an extraordinary amount of fodder (also grain, meat and wool) which has been used in the past few years to assist farmers in drought affected areas of our state. Recently many loads of hay were sent to the Upper Murray region where major bush fires wiped out whole farming areas.

If this project is approved, thousands of acres of efficient agricultural land will lie idle.

This is a closely populated area, with many families choosing to live here because of our rural outlook. Others, like my family, have been here over 60 years and wish to remain living here without land being rezoned Industrial. Our Shire, Greater Hume, promotes the area with the slogan "Live a Greater Life"

As a neighbour to the project, with a 3km+ boundary, I do not wish to see our Environment and Biodiversity compromised. The proposal to remove 99 trees (dead or Alive) causes me to wonder about ongoing habitat for birds and animals that require nesting hollows and logs to live and breed in. This 3000+ acres will become an environmental disaster zone, with no connectivity of habitat resources from creek to creek. For 50+ years we have been planting trees and shrubs to provide a corridor from Back ck. to Billabong ck. to encourage our birds and animals to move across the countryside. The solar project will be contained within a high security fence and animals will either be restricted to its confines or permanently excluded.

Fire risk also concerns me, as many acres will accumulate the weed "Hairy Panic". Without constant, concentrated management to control it. I have seen first hand the damage caused by this extremely flammable weed. Risk to our RFS members inside the facility - due to Toxicity, electrocution, or entrapment, will result in less members being available to fight fires generated at the solar project site. Neighbours will also run a greater risk of fire as our prevailing winds are from the North and North west. This is where the project will be situated.

As a neighbour, I am concerned about dust and noise levels, particularly during construction. No conclusive evidence is available for heat and wind issues during the life of the project. Heat island effects have only been tested on minimal acres, not 3000+ acres.

Movement of machinery and stock will be disrupted during daylight hours, because of extra traffic movement to the facility.

As our farm is on the Eastern side of this project, water movement after heavy rain will be effected. The site will contain internal roads and built up areas that will change direction of water flows. As a result of this impact, water will bank up on our paddocks and cause flooding, as water is unable to follow its natural course to the creeks.

I am also concerned about the value of my property falling with the solar farm as a neighbour.

The economic impact on the region will be sizeable. No returns from crops, hay, meat or wool. No jobs for local people -- mechanics, carriers, (freight and stock) spreaders, fuel suppliers, - chemical and farm supply outlets. Maybe 7 jobs at completion of project --- probably none local. Profits from the power generated will not stay in our local towns but will go offshore.