

To whom it may concern

The need for renewable energy sources is not in question. In fact the vast majority of the population would agree that this has to be the way forward. The issue with the Culcairn site is the proposed size and the potential cost to the community. For developers Neoen, the choice of site is very straight forward as it is flat country and close to existing infrastructure that the organisation does not have to fund. **Do they have to maintain this infrastructure? Will they be around for the long term to foot the bill for replacement of the infrastructure?**

Neoen is promoting how well they consulted with the local community. To make representatives of the organisation available doesn't mean the consultation was complete or ethical. In fact, my experience was that they were there to put forward their point of view on the situation and promote the positives of the development many of which had huge holes in it or were very short term and short sighted views. They quoted positives from other areas such as agriculture and grazing could continue. Reality is not to the same extent, the ground cannot be cultivated in the same way to produce quality feed for stock and we fail to see how anything else but hand tools could be used for agriculture. Quoting that the solar panels take up less than 20% of the land is a misuse of fact. **What about the space above ground level?** The arguments are well rehearsed and in so many cases representatives have made simple and convincing statements, leaving the potentially negative detail out. They also talk about compensation to those affected by the development, quoting an amount of \$200,000 to \$300,000 without the explanation that this would be divided amongst everyone who applies and it would be for the life of the development. Compensation offered is certainly not enough to relocate and make a fresh start at another location. In our opinion the promise of cheaper reliable power, funds coming back into the community and to local government is a way of buying support and adds to the smoke and mirrors that surround their so called consultation.

Twenty to thirty years is a long time to promise that the land will be reinstated to the productive land that now exists. **Will the company still exist? Will Neoen develop the site and then sell it for profit? Why should we believe Neoen's promise, circumstances and people change over time? What is the backup plan, will Local, State or Federal governments take responsibility for the clean-up and any compensation that may be required?** As tax payers we are not in favour of this prospect. **What legislation or contract is in place to protect us and the environment?**

Solar panels are constructed with a known carcinogenic material. This is a dangerous health hazard. **What will happen to the solar panels at the end of their life? What if they are damaged by bad weather, how can safety be ensured?** We know that technology is changing at a rapid rate. **How long will the solar panel technology last?** In recent history we humans have made decisions that have a negative impact and go ahead with initiatives for the sake of financial gain without considering the consequences for our future and that of other living things. The world thought fibro was safe. Chemicals, plastics, paint and other man made products have all been used and down the track have been found to cause serious health issues. **Do we have to continue to make the same mistakes by putting financial gain ahead of our children and future generation's safety and wellbeing?**

It has been stated that this is one of the largest solar developments in NSW. **What about the impact of additional heat generation when there are so many panels in a concentrated area?** With a development of this size there will also always be an increase of noxious weeds such as panicum effusum commonly known as hairy panic. This grass is toxic for animals

particularly sheep. This space cannot be used for grazing. It also creates a tumble weed that builds up around structures and is very dangerous in the event of a fire. Rural Fire Service (RFS) brigade members in the area are concerned about the increased fire threat and the issues of fighting a fire in and around a solar farm. Safety issues such as toxic exposure and electrocution are frightening issues. **How will the issues of weeds and fire control be managed and by whom?** Valuable farming land should be protected to help meet the growing need in the world for food and fibre. Consider other locations on more marginal farming country even if it may have less financial gain for the developers. We have so many buildings, why can't they be used to accommodate solar panels. Start with new buildings.

We do not see how the establishment of the solar farm can boost the economics of the local community in the long term. This is one of the selling points of the Neoen representatives. Work will be available in the establishment, but this would be for contractors that will move on when the facility is completed. Both of the speakers at the Greater Hume Shire Council meeting February 19 2020 may have been local, but were talking about the work they were doing on a similar development away from the area. **Did they take their team with them or did they employ locals? If they employed locals, how long did/will the employment last?**

Most people do not respond to important issues because it doesn't really affect them or they are not sure of all the facts. Consider the visual impact for those living nearby, the depreciation in value of their land and homes because the solar farm is close by. Most importantly consider the physical and mental health of land owners. Most have put their life into these properties and stand to lose so much. No one would choose to have a solar farm in their backyard so why should we support this development to be imposed on others in our community. **Would you choose to live or have a holiday beside a solar farm?**

If a thorough, honest and environmentally satisfactory answer to the questions in bold can be given then maybe the project should be given consideration. Answers that will not have a negative impact on future generations and without any consideration of short term financial gain to a company that is not even Australian. This is our written objection to the establishment of the large scale solar farm at Culcairn for obvious reasons.

Sincerely

Peter & Joan Lyons