I Stirling Moll would like to state my objections to the Culcairn Solar Farm SSD 10288 for the following reasons:

The land taken up by this project is prime agricultural land which will have a flow on effect to the local economy where once some of the profits earned of this land would of went to stock and station agents, grain receival sites, local machinery dealers, mechanics, fertiliser merchants, agronomists, and other agricultural sector suppliers or even producing fodder and hay for drought affected areas, the money will now go to an overseas energy company. This land is also some of the most productive land in the state and this land is too valuable to put masses of PV panels on in my opinion.

Site selection is a for a quick hook up to the grid for the proponent alone, mitigating any other negative

impacts or obstacles for such a poor site would endure, for example excessive fog in the winter months.

There are plenty of more suitable areas out west (e.g 200km west of here) and in more arid areas that

would suit these installations, with less populations density the installation would almost go unnoticed,

also given the tighter seasons out there the installation would prove a viable income for the land holder

as opposed to the Greater Hume Shire where we have a thriving agricultural sector. Not to mention areas such as this in the Great Hume Shire are also prone to heavy fog in winter begs the question why the sites would such as this be even considered when there is plenty of better options and since the announcement that there is a gargantuan solar complex planed for the Northern Territory that will send power to Singapore surely transmission loss cannot be an issue if plants such as this were planned for where they should be.

This project is turning good farmland into an industrial zone which is not aesthetically pleasing and with this it will in turn drop land values in this area which will have a flow on effect on farmers that rely on equity to operate. It will also make established property near the proposal near impossible to sell. All in all it will be an eyesore to surrounding land holders and passing motorists.

The fire risk for such a project is unknown, with the likelihood of these installations breeding many weeds such as hairy panic and other noxious weeds. The fire risk will be quite a concern and if a fire were to eventuate in the installation as there would be little to no way to fight it.

Large amounts of established gum trees will be cut down and farm dams filled in which will vastly change the landscape and may cause an increase in salinity.

Increased water shedding from the panels which could cause flooding in heavy rainfall events, there is no quantifiable data on how this will impact neighbouring properties. Not to mention cadmium and other heavy metals that will end up washed into the soil from the panels.

Increased heat or microclimate from the installation which would impact on farming practices and increased temperatures.

All environmental impacts in the EIS are not quantifiable in relation to visual, heat island and water runoff, how much cadmium will end up the soil at the end of the project’s life? These are the questions we need answered. There is no hard data to suggest what impact this installation will have to the surrounding farmland and community at a measurable scale. Can the panel please make sure we have some measurable data for this project?

The development has divided the community, more so due to the way consultations have been conducted.

A project of this size and nature will no doubt cause a downturn in land prices in its immediate vicinity,

nearby residents will be stuck with and unsightly view and most likely unable to sell their properties for

what they should be worth which will cause much angst and the mental health component of this issue

should not be overlooked. Those of us that operate on equity will have our borrowing capacity severely.

limited as our capital will not be what it once was, this also could lead to some mental health issues. If

the project were to proceed I feel all affected nearby residents will need ongoing financial compensation.

In all I feel the all the IPC panel need to visit the proposed site, surrounding neighbors and local community and interact before an informed decision can be made, we have four proposed sites in the Greater Hume Shire for solar plants and two have been pushed though without giving the surrounding neighbors, landholders and residents due diligence in their concerns, a trend I would not like to see the trend continue.

The project may bring some short turn financial gain to the local economy, but many of these projects

bring their own workers with them which may spend some money in the local community but in the

case of the Finley solar project one contractor almost sent a local automotive repair business broke due

to not paying for bills. Once the project has been completed the land that was used for the project will

likely put back even less than it previously was to the local economy due it having just one or two care

taking staff compared to when it was fully agricultural it would have been contributing to the likes of

local rural merchandise suppliers, stock and station agents, contractors etc.

I am not against renewable projects such as this, I am however against poorly planned projects such as

this. The blatant push by these companies to get these projects approved where they are not needed or

suited to an area is disheartening to say the least. Solar energy requires good sun light not good farm

land with good rainfall that is a valuable commodity.

Yours sincerely, Stirling Moll.