

I feel that what this project has done to our community is appalling.

Size

This development is on a massive scale in the most inappropriate location. Even a small solar development should not be situated here and this solar plant should definitely not be near the Billabong Creek or any other smaller waterways where toxic chemicals could have an environmental or health affect. It is my opinion that if it has to go ahead there should definitely be no panels to the north of the Roseworthy homestead or the east west waterway that leads from that house and that all the panels should be to the south of that point further away from the Billabong Creek. The panels need to be kept out of view of the public. This solar plant is way too big in size and is not in the right place. There is no reason for the project to be so big and it should be further out west. Our family also believes that the shape of the site at this size will affect our ability to farm our neighbouring land.

Stress & Health

This stress of this solar development has affected my mental and physical health. I now suffer from high blood pressure and the following picture depicts my blood pressure reading at 11am on the day of the Public Hearing meeting on 2 March 2021. My family has suffered tremendously and relationships within our community have been destroyed due to the will of financial gain.



I am greatly concerned that in years to come we may see some dire impacts from health effects from so many solar panels in one location. I am concerned that with waterways so close that these could become contaminated.

Consultation

Consultation undertaken for this project has been appalling. In the planning process of this development no person from the company visited our property nor contacted us to discuss our concerns. My husband has lived here almost all his life and this reflects the lack of concern that this company has for our community.

School Buses/Traffic

My grandson catches the bus from my property daily at our front gate and I am very worried at the increased risk to his school bus if all the staff use Cummings Road. I doubt the company will make their employees use Weamera entrance and vehicles will use the Cummings Road intersection instead of Benambra Road. This will also increase the risk on our road at the intersection of the Olympic Highway which is always dangerous due to the angle. There are numerous school buses daily heading in both directions either back to Culcairn or to Albury via Walla Walla and increased

traffic travelling alongside a construction site and solar panels will increase the risk without appropriate screening from the start. The company has allowed for nil screening in the location that we enter and exit and we are concerned that there will be a possibility of glare from the panels, posts and metal infrastructure. It worries me that people will be driving past looking at panels and not concentrating on the road. There is a real safety issue with no screening.

Our family will have to look directly at the solar panels on a daily basis as we enter and exit our property from the opposite side of Cummings Road. I have seen clear pictures of glare being an issue at the Bomen Solar site, I believe the EPA are now involved. If this is occurring how can the company say there is no glare. I don't think we can believe anything they say. How can we believe what such a large company says when it is all about money.

Rural Landscape

We enjoy our rural landscape and I do not wish to see the ugly eyesore and do not want to hear the construction or inverter noise. We have always enjoyed a peaceful life. I regularly walk up our track and back and I will probably avoid this activity which is good for my health and will change my life. I am not sure how I will deal with this as will look towards the site from my verandah to across the road where there will be no screening at all.

Our front verandah looks directly towards the development site and we will be able to see the development from our house as we are able to see the Roseworthy homestead.

Fire Risk

The recent fire has increased our concern about bushfire risk. As this land is mapped as bushfire prone it is not suitable for a development of this nature that has too many risks. Many of my family and many of my friends are volunteer firefighters and should not have their safety put at risk let alone the risk to nearby towns and other facilities.

Farm Risks

The potential that our livestock may be affected during lambing and calving is of great concern and construction impacts will be devastating. There is minimal screening for most of the development and along the roads and I am worried about heat impacts to our families crops as we have a huge frontage to this solar farm.

Environment

I am very passionate about the birdlife here and enjoy watching willy wagtails, flame robins, eagles, kookaburras, owls and many other sorts of wildlife. Our home is quite close to the creek so we are aware it has strong ecological value and think that the nearby construction would see this diminish as would the birdlife in the lagoon at Avalon.

Other

I would like to be sure that this solar development will not cause any interruption or electrical interference to services such as NBN, UHF or mobile phones some of which are required for safety and work on our farm. How can we be sure and what happens if we are unable to use these things?

Farming

This farm has provided for our family and allowed expansion to support the 3 generations currently living and working here. The land has yielded well over many years and our farm business flows on to many people in the community. I worry that the removal of farm land will take away opportunities for my grandchildren all so keen on the farm. We all thought that this land was to be mapped as Important Agricultural Land but what has happened to this and can only hope that the people assessing this application have the sense to see the long term benefits of agriculture as opposed to a short term construction.

I am not opposed to solar however believe that such enormous solar farms should be directed to arid unproductive land. Please do not allow this development to proceed, the consequences will be devastating. There is no protection from this development and the company has already shown that they don't care so how can they be held to anything they have said. There needs to be strong conditions to make sure this company does what they are supposed to as they will not care.

The government needs to show accountability and will be responsible if this project results in dire consequences.