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**Subject:** Springdale Solar Farm  
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To whom it may concern

I would like to offer my submission on why we believe the Tallagandra Lane, Springdale Solar panel farm should NOT go ahead.

May at first we take this opportunity to say we believe in and support solar power though NOT as such in solar farms. We believe more options should be given and obtained from whether it local, state or federal governments to our use on homes in towns and cities Australia wide.

Further

We would like to begin with our personal concerns on why this solar farm should not continue.

Our daughter, son in law and their two (2) young children sold their previous home in Canberra and were planning to build their dream home (off the grid) on the family farm on Tallagandra lane, Sutton. They have been living in a basic tin shed all the while waiting to get the build of their home started.

This has been put on hold while the erection of this farm is being challenged as if the solar farm goes ahead it will cause many problems as detailed below.

1. The amount of trucks travelling on the road which will cause dust, play havoc with the local school bus picking up Sutton school students like our two (2) grandchildren and make travelling on Tallagandra lane and Sutton roads as very dangerous and will cause car/truck accidents.
2. Living in proximity to the farm endangers human life and farm land if a fire is within the fenced solar farm and is unable to be contained.
3. The farm has already lost so much due to the continuing drought and with build of this solar farm will cause unthinkable damage to the environment, effect stock movement and the water table.
4. The effects of livelihoods and wellbeing of generations of residents who will be affected by the build and running of the solar farm – from the heat, the glare and dangerous chemical dust. The effects on the ability to maintain their own farmland and will shrink good quality land that they now have.
5. The infrastructure of Sutton and surrounds is not to a standard required for trucks, machinery and personnel required for the build and following maintenance of the solar farm facility.
6. Trucks and cars rattling past the school and the sleepy village .. the noise, the dust. Drop-off and pick-up times will be fraught with danger due to the constant traffic.

### Silicon Dust from Solar Panels

A solar panel's basic component contains pure silicon. Silicon dust is a harmful substance when inhaled, especially over long periods of time. Exposure to this dust can result in a lung disease called silicosis, which causes scar tissue to form in the lungs. This scar tissue reduces the lungs' capacity to process oxygen. Solar cells are also made of non-recyclable materials. Therefore, the absence of an environment-friendly way to dispose of non-functioning solar cells could pose a threat to the environment as well.

### Exposure to Electrical and Chemical Components of Solar Heat Systems

A solar hot water system takes the heat of the sun to warm up bath water. Some solar heat systems can heat up an entire house. These technologies usually have a solar collector that processes the energy to generate heat. These methods pose health risks to chemically or electrically sensitive people, especially if they are constantly exposed to these systems.

### Habitat Degradation

The impact that solar farms have on individual species can send ripples through out entire ecosystems. For example, animals like burrowing owls in California's Mojave Desert rely on burrows dug by desert tortoises for shelter. When solar farms harm or remove species within a habitat, they also remove the valuable ecosystem services that they provide to the habitat. The habitat becomes less livable for plants and wildlife that have adapted to its specific conditions.  
*Has there been any thought of the ecosystem of Mulligans Flat.*

### Environmental Debate

The controversy surrounding solar projects has caused division among environmentalists. Renewable energy development and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions are important goals for many environmental advocates, but so is conservation of habitat and species diversity. These stances offer valid environmental arguments both for and against solar power farms. There may be a perfect answer to this problem, but it is important to recognise both views in the debate to find reasonable solutions.  
*For example Governments offering better discounts and opportunities for residential homes in towns and cities.*

Yours

Rod and Toni McIntyre

### References:

- Union of Concerned Scientists: Clean Energy 101
- National Public Radio: Massive Solar Plant a Stepping Stone for Future Projects

