

From: [Colleen Hoffmann](#)
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Culcairn Solar Farm
Date: Sunday, 28 February 2021 7:44:19 PM

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Independent Planning Commission

Re: Culcairn Solar Farm

To whom it may concern

We are writing to express our strong concern regarding the selection of the site of the proposed Culcairn Solar Farm. While we support the introduction of more solar farms in Australia, and believe it is essential that our government address the issue of creating alternative power sources that are environmentally friendly, we totally oppose the selection of land that has been earmarked for the Culcairn Solar Farm in the Greater Hume Shire.

The 900 ha that have been chosen for the erection of the 900,000 solar panels is valuable farming land. Our family has been farming in this area for five generations, and can verify that this is agriculturally prosperous country, and should remain available for food production. A massive solar such as this should be directed to arid marginal land where it will have a low impact, not be placed on some of the best reliable farming country where it will negatively impact a whole industry and rural community.

Certainly there will be some who have not been successful in their farming enterprise here, but they would not succeed as farmers anywhere. Some can struggle on land with a higher classification of soil types, while others can go ahead on land of a lesser classification. The governing factors for farming success that we have seen over the past 53 years on our property have been rainfall (600mm annually), and the ability of farmers to move into the 21st century. The use of gypsum and lime; planting of pastures crops such as phalaris, which assist to lower the water table when the land has become wetter; better use of drains, dams, banks, fencing off areas for Landcare projects have all helped to make this land productive. Success comes with careful soil management. We alone have planted 30000 trees on our property. High land prices of \$17,000 - \$18,000 per ha in this area, prove that there is big demand for this agriculturally prosperous land. It is essential that farming for food production here should be continued, and not given over to a massive Solar Farm.

We strongly feel that farming land in this area is not rated highly enough and should be valued for what can be achieved through sensible and careful farming practices.

The solar farm must be located in a less productive and reliable rainfall country of which Australia has much, where the impact and losses would be much less detrimental to food and fibre production. If future plans have been made to move renewable energy from suitable areas in northern Australia to Singapore, surely we can find an area that can use similar technology in the less productive parts of western NSW to achieve a similar result for southern Australia.

Sincerely
Paul and Colleen Hoffmann