

[REDACTED]

From: Fish, Stacey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 8 December 2023 2:36 PM
To: IPCN Submissions Mailbox
Subject: Glanmire Solar Farm Project (SSD-21208499)

Importance: High

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear Independent Planning Commission

I am writing to as a long term resident of the Bathurst area, with four children in high school and a husband who has owned and operated a fifth generation Rural Agriculture and Produce store, *Fish and Sons*, that has serviced the local farming district for over 167 years.

I would like to express my strong objection to the proposed **Glanmire Solar Farm Project (SSD-21208499)**, as submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment. I believe that this development poses significant risks to the local economy, food security, and the well-being of neighboring farmers, and in turn, our younger generation of the Bathurst/Central West communities.

I urge the Independent Planning Commission to carefully consider the following points in the upcoming decision-making process:

1. **Removal of Prime Agricultural Land:** The proposed development threatens to remove prime agricultural land from the local economy, land that has been consistently cropped for decades with various crops such as canola, oats, barley, and wheat. The developer's claim that the land is only suitable for grazing is unfounded, as a tenant farmer has successfully cropped it with grazing used as part of the land's agricultural cycle.
2. **Impact on Food Security:** In the face of increasing concerns about food security due to climate change, it is crucial that we protect prime cultivation land. The loss of such land to a solar farm would have long-term consequences on our ability to sustain local food production.
3. **Insurance Challenges for Neighboring Farmers:** The prohibitive cost of insurance for neighboring farmers is a critical issue that has not been adequately addressed by the developer or the Planning Authority. The risks of fire and corrosive effects from farming operations are significant concerns, and the lack of a comprehensive plan to manage or mitigate these risks is alarming.
4. **Community Objections:** The overwhelming majority of submissions (133 out of 147) in response to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) have been community objections. This demonstrates a clear consensus among the local community against the proposed solar farm.
5. **Skewed Planning Process:** The imbalance in the planning process, where developers have up to two years to produce an Environmental Impact Statement while the community is given only 28 days to respond, undermines the principles of fair and transparent decision-making.
6. **Lack of Financial Protections for Land Remediation:** There is a notable absence of a bond or financial provision to ensure the safe removal of plant infrastructure at the end of its life and the remediation of the land. This oversight raises concerns about the long-term impacts and costs associated with the project.
7. **Reduced Value to Surrounding Land:** The proposed solar farm would significantly reduce the value of surrounding land, considering factors such as visual impact, insurance concerns, and potential water damage from surface movement.

I implore the Independent Planning Commission to thoroughly consider these objections and take into account the broader implications of the Glanmire Solar Farm Project on the local community, economy, and environment. Your

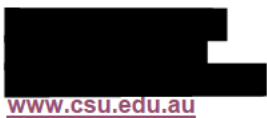
Careful consideration and fair judgment in this matter are crucial to ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future for our region.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Stacey Fish

Stacey Fish
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