



NAME REDACTED	OBJECT	Submission No: 186040
Organisation:		
Location: <i>Australian Capital Territory 2615</i>		
Submitter Type: <i>an individual making a submission on my own behalf</i>	Key issues: <i>Land use compatibility, Visual impacts, Biodiversity, Traffic, Noise, Community benefit, Other issues</i>	
Attachment:		

Submission date: 7/13/2024 1:40:59 PM

Re the proposed Wallaroo Solar Farm

I am opposed to this proposal for the following reasons.

Incorrect site

It is situated next to existing large scale urban development, in opposition to the spirit of the rules limiting development like this near urban areas. The NSW own planning rules were seeking to ensure the minimum distance was 5km.

It uses land right next to, or crossing, existing walking trails and other similar use paths and recreation areas. As such it will disrupt the current use of these facilities.

The farm will significantly impact the view across the lake of the farmland and mountains of the local residents and anyone using the lake and trails recreationally.

The glare and heat from the farm, especially in late afternoon in summer, will impact the entire Dunlop suburb, maybe more suburbs in the ACT.

It is using valuable farming land, where a utility like this should be using less arable land.

The project is for the Yass Valley, but the only area in the Yass valley that the planning group could come up with is as far away from everyone in the Yass Valley as they could get.

Unfortunately, this means setting it next to people that seem to have no say in it.

Technology

The provision of this facility is not made by Australian technology, rather it is using overseas technology. Why is there not fundamentally Australian design and technology here?

Benefit

The community benefit is dubious. The power is touted for the Yass Valley, although I realise it goes onto the Grid for everyone to use. What is the cost to the end user for this extra power into the grid ?

The "Local Volts" model needs some understanding how this would happen in practice. I don't see how we (as a local resident in the ACT) could possibly affect the price the farm is selling their electricity to the Grid.

Ongoing employment of 4-5 people is small but welcome, as is the approx. 200 positions during construction. Are they local ?



The benefit to the renewable target is also welcome. The amount of 'Green' technology however needs to be assessed regarding the entire project. This includes power equipment and panel creation, plant installation, and decommissioning.

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The Project

The Project main web site and advertising (<https://wallaroosolarfarm.com.au/>) does NOT highlight the proximity of the farm to the existing ACT developments and urban areas; nor does it indicate any impact to ACT residents or land users.

The photos and mockups (<https://wallaroosolarfarm.com.au/information-guide/>) do NOT show the ACT housing at all. They indicate the proposed farm will be in the "middle of nowhere" and thus no real impact to anyone.

The advertising and support documentation that I have seen shows everything from an NSW perspective. The ACT is rarely mentioned or involved.

The advertising does offer grants to various undisclosed community (likely NSW only) groups. What does an Electricity generation utility need with a Grants program ?

Maybe they should give the money back to the government, OR reduce the electricity cost ? There is also a possible 30% off power prices to nearby residents, possibly ?

The grants program and discount is essentially a bribe to induce residents to accept the proposal. Why else would it be so prominent?

The lack of transparency in the 'advertising' on the site is deceptive. It reads like the company has something to hide.

Consultation

For the ACT residents, there has been little consultation.

This community consultation is on a weekday, ie when many people can't get to the meeting, in a town that is 20km away, and thus not impacted by the position of this site.

Date: Thursday 18th July 2024

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Murrumbateman Community Hall, 19 East St, Murrumbateman, NSW 2582

In short, this farm is in the wrong place, the planning has had little real consultation for affected residents, the project outcomes are dubious for the community, and it seems they are being deceptive.

While I agree a solar farm is a way forward, its location and benefits need addressing.

While I can't make this meeting, as I will be away, I hope that my concerns are heard by the Commission

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