



NAME REDACTED

OBJECT

Submission No: 189533

Organisation:	Walleroo Community	<p>Key issues: Land use compatibility, Visual impacts, Biodiversity, Traffic, Heritage, Noise, Waste, Dust, Hazards and risks, Community benefit</p>
Location:	New South Wales 2618	
Submitter Type:	an individual making a submission on my own behalf	
Attachment:		

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This solar farm is simply in the wrong place. We at Wallaroo support clean energy and we have our own solar ground mounted system. This project, however, will adversely impact too many in our community and is actually in contravention of many of NSW's own planning laws and regulations. Stated by NSW Planning: Such large projects 'cannot be within 5km of local communities and housing'. This project would contravene that section and severely impact the rural peace and lifestyle that so many of the Wallaroo community have based their lives, investments and lifestyles on. Most of the land has great scenic value which would be drastically impacted. This project almost goes to the back gates of expensive rural properties on Gooromon Ponds Road.

The Wallaroo area is also famous for its wineries in a quiet rural setting. All of these businesses will be drastically impacted by the destruction of rural vistas, peace, quiet and tranquillity that customers seek in coming to the country for wine-tourism experience. One business (Solar) should not be able to so dramatically affect the amenity of another established business (wine tourism) set up in a peaceful, rural location.

We have small roads in and out of our Wallaroo Area - the amount of truck movements is completely untenable and dangerous on such narrow, winding roads (particularly Gooromon Ponds Road). The proposal is to allow 56 metre-long X 4.2 metre trucks into a rural area and closing the roads to local traffic. There is also huge danger with these trucks crossing the Barton Highway - they would not physically be able to cross safely or stop for on-coming traffic. The roads department should trial trying to get one of these trucks back onto the Barton Highway - we think it would be impossible unless you stop all traffic on the Barton Highway. These truck movements would kill the stunning, rural winery businesses in the Hills of Hall area - a magical rural environment which is of huge value to NSW and ACT Tourism. These trucks and the proposal to close roads is completely unworkable. The wineries on Brooklands Road and Woodgrove Close, which have invested 10's of millions of dollars, supported by NSW Tourism, would have to be adversely affected. Yass Valley regards the area as one of 'outstanding natural beauty' and of great value as a wine-tourism destination.

The disruption to Wallaroo residents and businesses would be extremely costly. The wine businesses on Brooklands Road/Woodgrove Close would be very adversely affected. The special Hills of Hall wine businesses are likely to suffer major economic damage from this project. The size of the trucks involved and the disruption on the roads will massively affect the tourism and quiet rural experience that the NSW government has supported and the ACT government benefits from with many thousands of visitors every year coming to experience the cool climate wine area and magnificent rural views. This project is simply in the wrong place. It goes against every planning decision to put a massive industrial development right up against thousands of houses and completely destroy the rural views that home-owners have spent millions to set up their dream homes and rural lifestyles. The suburb of Dunlop will look directly at 700 football fields of solar panels, as will residents of Wallaroo. NSW's own policy is that there should be no solar projects within 5km of residential zoned land or 10km from a commercial centre of zoned land near key regional cities. Further, the NSW policy states: 'location to avoid land use conflicts and whether it would significantly affect the scenic quality and landscape character of the city including the approaches to it'. This would undoubtedly be the case.



Another factor in our opposition is the fact that this will largely be foreign-owned (50% Spanish/Japanese). The Wallaroo Community is also very concerned that due diligence has not been carried out on the financial backing of the development. We would all like to be satisfied that there will be real benefit to the local community and the State as a whole. Currently we do not see that benefit, only negatives for the local community, our rural lifestyles and the businesses that have grown there based on the rural environment and natural beauty.

There are many locations in NSW that would not have such a disastrous impact on the local community, or be so close to thousands of houses and businesses, or have such a negative impact on the natural beauty of the area. It is a massive 181 hectare industrial farm on rural land but too close to housing - it is simply the wrong project in the wrong place.
