



**NAME REDACTED**

**OBJECT**

Submission No: 189574

Organisation:	Key issues: <i>Land use compatibility, Traffic, Erosion and sediment control, Water, Hazards and risks</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2618</i>	
Submitter Type: <i>an individual making a submission on my own behalf</i>	
Attachment: <i>Wallaroo Solar Farm.pdf</i>	

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*This submission concerning the proposed Wallaroo solar complex offers four fundamental opposing propositions, specifically that it is In the wrong location, has extremely poor construction access, including high transport risks for local residents, poses high fire risk, and*

*holds significant environmental risks, particularly as it is in a water catchment area. It is submitted that the proposed Wallaroo Solar Farm should be rejected.*

# Wallaroo Solar Complex Submission

This submission concerning the proposed Wallaroo solar complex offers four fundamental opposing propositions, specifically that it

- Is In the wrong location
- has extremely poor construction access, including high transport risks for local residents
- poses high fire risk
- Holds significant environmental risks, particularly as it is in a water catchment area

The proposal should be abandoned.

I write this as a part-Aboriginal woman, long-term Wallaroo resident with a background in government, health and community service.

## WRONG LOCATION

- The proposed complex is industrial in nature but located in a residential non-urban area; its construction and purpose is therefore completely out of step with the designated local government definition of the area
- The complex is likely to have a substantial negative impact on local residents in terms of amenity and land value; residents will therefore carry the greater safety, lifestyle, environmental, and financial risk (particularly for those of us of retirement age for whom our properties are our sole superannuation).
- The proposed site is not only too close to ACT residential areas but within a NSW residential area, profoundly impacting not one but two heartland residential communities

- There appear to be no other solar complexes so close to any such residential communities; and for good reason given the nature of the complex

## POOR ACCESS

- Wallaroo Road is the ONLY access road for the residents of Wallaroo and it is not built for heavy traffic.
- It easily becomes damaged and pot-holed in rain and when trucks, much smaller than those to be used for the solar complex, use it for a prolonged period (e.g. when a new house is being built). Trucks used for the solar complex will damage it even more.
- The road is barely wide enough for ordinary trucks to pass oncoming traffic and many residents, including myself, have been forced off the road by oncoming trucks. It is inconceivable that residents will be able to share the road with trucks that are 4.2 m wide and 56m long, particularly when the roads in this area are only about 5m wide. When the road is pot-holed the drivable width is reduced further.
- I have been told that the plan is to stop oncoming traffic when these large trucks are using the road. So if the proposed number of trucks is 90 per day, and they are using the road for 9 hours between 0800 and 1700, then that would be a truck every 6 minutes. Wallaroo Road is our only access road, so how do residents get to and from work, how do non-residents get to work in Wallaroo, how does the school bus get to Hall for children to change onto buses going to various schools and how does an ambulance get to emergencies in the area?
- Our bridge is not designed for trucks the size of which the development plans to use. I was a resident before the bridge was built and know how that in flooding rain residents would have to tow each other across the creek. Our bridge is a godsend and we don't want to lose it.

- Residents pay rates for our roads and are not happy that we will not have appropriate use of them and will have ongoing costs for damage to them.
- If there are any injuries or fatalities related to any incident with these trucks or to any road damage caused by these trucks, will the commissioners and/or the company accept full liability?

## HIGH FIRE RISK

- The prevailing winds in this area are from the west so any major bushfire would travel directly from Wallaroo towards ACT suburbs with the proposed solar complex in between.
- Toxic substances released from destroyed or damaged panels and batteries are an unacceptable risk for our Wallaroo firefighters who are volunteers.
- The difficulty of fighting a fire in such a large complex is also not acceptable for our volunteer firefighters
- Does the ACT government have the capacity to protect its citizens living so close to the proposed complex? The devastation of the 2003 firestorm in Canberra has not been forgotten.
- Will the commissioners and or developers be responsible and held to account for any injury or death sustained by a volunteer firefighter fighting a fire in the proposed complex?
- Fighting a fire within a solar complex is far more difficult than one in open grassland; access is far more limited, increasing the risks of containment failing and the fire spreading.

## WATER CATCHMENT RISK

- The proposed complex is in the Murrumbidgee water catchment zone, an area that has previously been protected by limited land development.
- Any toxic run-off from the complex flows directly into the Murrumbidgee River and then further down through the agricultural areas of southern NSW. This risk to our agriculture is totally unacceptable and why far smaller developments of any kind are disallowed in catchment areas.