



New England Solar Farm Objection

TOM NEWSOME



2020

From scratch, we created a beautiful property with excellent infrastructure, extensive views and no noise.

2012





Cloud Hill Homestead

Beneficiaries of the Project

- ▶ US owned, Hong Kong based investors
- ▶ Govt Renewables agenda
- ▶ Local, Absentee landlords
- ▶ At the cost of:
 - ▶ Neighbours
 - ▶ Live in changed industrial environment
 - ▶ Rural industries

Negative impacts

- ▶ Property values
- ▶ Security
- ▶ Biosecurity
 - ▶ Weeds
 - ▶ Pests
 - ▶ Noise
- ▶ Environmental impact
 - ▶ Dust
 - ▶ Vibration
 - ▶ Light
- ▶ Lifestyle
- ▶ Business
 - ▶ Livestock
 - ▶ Horses
 - ▶ Tourism
 - ▶ Education
 - ▶ Profession
- ▶ Quantified through discounted cash flow modelling

Land Value

- ▶ will decline due to change to industrial landscape



Security

- ▶ Real and perceived insecurity is the same thing

Biosecurity: Noxious Weeds



Chilean Needle grass

Weeds downgrade land, decimate production and reduce land values.



Serrated tussock

Seeds are spread by vehicles – requiring an undercarriage washdown.



African lovegrass

Additional labour is needed to mount a regular weed eradication effort.

- Blackberry
- Bathurst Burr
- Nodding Thistle
- Variegated Thistle
- Matt Rush
- Carpet Grass

Biosecurity: Pests

- ▶ Current threats from rabbits, foxes, pigs, and stray dogs and cats.
- ▶ The solar panel farm cannot realistically protect us from feral animals.
- ▶ Additional contractors are required to manage pests.
- ▶ These contractors impact on the family's security.

Environmental impact

- ▶ Under the 2012 LEP, the project can only proceed with consent
- ▶ Cloud Hill has significant biodiversity
- ▶ **Flora:** 68 species in the New England Bioregion are endangered (30) or vulnerable (39).
- ▶ **Fauna:** 92 species are either endangered (18) or vulnerable (72)

Livestock



Dust will increase respiratory diseases (BVBV); dust borne infections (pink eye).
High pitched noise will impact livestock production

Picture: Award winning Angus and Wagyu cattle and performance horses at Cloud Hill.

Visual Amenity

- ▶ Cloud Hill has 360 degree views for up to 40km



This is the current view to the south of Cloud Hill



This view will be the view to the south covered in solar panels within 130m of the boundary

Fire



Fire threats are increased with the increased fuel load resulting from the project.

Future Business



We intend to transform Cloud Hill and our other properties into an agri /eco-tourism business, based on Spicers Peak Lodge a luxury lodge at the Scenic Rim

We want:

1. The project rejected
2. Our losses mitigated
3. Neighbour agreements