



AMANDA BOWMAN

OBJECT

Submission No: 179542

Organisation:		
Location:	New South Wales 2852	
Submitter Type:	I am a member of the local community who would be particularly and directly affected by the proposed development	Key issues: Land use compatibility, Traffic and transport, Social impacts, Temporary accommodation, Other issues
Attachment:		

Submission date: 6/13/2024 10:31:23 PM

Fire Risk and limitations to firefighting – being located directly on the Eastern side of the proposed Solar Project, our property is right in the path of a fire. Fires burn west to east. Because of the location of the Birriwa Solar Project access by the Rural Fire Service and local firefighters is extremely limited, or non-existent. Two huge fires – 1979 and 2017.

Insurance Liability for neighbouring land holders and near neighbours – there must indemnity for neighbours and near neighbours against prosecution following any incident that damages project associated infrastructure.

Workers Camp – there will be a cumulative impact of the temporary workers’ accommodation – safety of local people living within close proximity of the camps; the Birriwa Solar camp for 500 workers plus the proposed accommodation for Energy Co for 1200 workers. That is an increase of 1700 people within 6kms of our home. Home and farm security will be compromised by having a very large increase to the population during the construction stage and ongoing maintenance of the Birriwa Solar Project. Quote from Assessment Report: –The Department considers the project would not result in any significant impacts on the local community.– There are 22 non associated residences within 2km of the development footprint. What about the impact on the mobile phone coverage? The mobile service (which has only been in this area for less than two years) will be greatly impacted by the increase in numbers of people in the area.

4. *Stock Routes – our agricultural business and many others will be affected by the huge increase in traffic on the small local roads. By law, stock have right of way and we have stock permits from the LLS to travel stock on these roads, which plays a huge part of our animal husbandry – moving stock between paddocks. Our children, who contribute to the running of the property, ride their horses to move stock and this will have to cease as there will be too much traffic, too many people and therefore put them in danger. In December 2023 the DPHI used our private road to access Merotherie Road for a meeting. I’m sure it was not intentional, but what will stop the construction workers from doing the same in the future? Quote from the Assessment Report: –The Department considers the project would not result in unacceptable impacts on the capacity, efficiency or safety of the road network–.*

Erosion – there will be huge increase in erosion. The rain will run off the solar panels and increase the water flow within the areas where the solar panels are located impacting the local roads and running through to neighbouring properties and existing waterways to the Talbragar River. It is like having a 1300ha roof area. All the water from the solar project will make its way to the Talbragar River which runs into the Macquarie River and on to the Mendingee Lakes.

A large decrease in prime agricultural land which provides food for people within Australia and overseas. Why can’t the Birriwa Solar Project be relocated to decommissioned mine sites that have been –re-generated–? Quote from Assessment Report: –The project would not significantly reduce the overall agricultural productivity of the region and the site could be returned to agricultural uses in the future.–



I also wish to reiterate the request made by the Warrumbungle Shire Council: to defer determination of the Birriwa Solar project "until such time as the cumulative impacts of more than 40 large scale wind, solar and transmission projects across and adjacent to the Central West Orana REZ are adequately identified and the environmental, social and economic costs are properly compensated". The Birriwa Solar Project must not be looked at as an individual project, but the accumulative impact of all the projects within the Central West Orana REZ.

Thank you for your time, organizing the Site Inspection of the proposed Solar Project at Birriwa, and for holding the public meeting at the Jubilee Hall Dunedoo.
