



JEFFREY LOVE

OBJECT

Submission ID: 240206

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Land Use Compatibility/Conflict, Cumulative Impacts, Visual Impacts</i>
Location: New South Wales 2333	
Attachment: N/A	

Submission date: 19/02/2025 14:02

I have reviewed the information regarding the proposed solar farm at Muswellbrook, and believe it is the wrong site.

Idemitsu is proposing the solar farm site on the existing land holding from the old Muswellbrook Coal mine however this proposal is not on the actual mined area but rather it is on the "Buffer Zone" of the old mine lease. The buffer zone was established as consent conditions for mining to ensure the residents of Muswellbrook including Woodland ridge estate were not impacted by visual, noise, toxic gases, increased traffic and flora/fauna reduction.

The proposed solar farm would severely impact the residents of Woodlands Ridge in a number of ways including creating an eyesore visual environment, increase fire risk and release of toxic emissions in event of damaged panels. The proposed solar farm area is rich alluvial flats of Muscle Creek which flow straight through the township of Muswellbrook and into the Hunter River. Any toxic emission from damaged solar panels will travel downstream and into the Hunter River system creating a serious environmental impact the drinking water as this water resource is vital to many communities downstream.

The proposed site has active wildlife including koalas, king parrots, lorikeets and lots of native bird life as well as potentially the legless lizard that has been seen at Mt pleasant and the farm would severely affect the eco system of these birds and other animals.

I have become aware that the Mudgee solar farm was rejected because it would have been an eyesore to the entrance of town. The same is true for the proposed solar farm as it will be visible from the new Muswellbrook bypass and as a minimum visible to all the residents of Woodland Ridge and Muscle Creek as they drive to their homes each day.

A more suitable location for a solar farm would be a more remote site, one where residential properties are at least 5km from the infrastructure (a significant buffer zone is needed). It has been suggested by some that the old Liddell power station site would be suitable and I agree with this suggestion. This makes sense because the electrical infrastructure network and grid system is nearby and could be utilised. The Liddell site has the existing buffer zone in place, and has the enclosed water catchment area of the lake.

I urge the IPC to reject this application in its proposed location forcing the developers to seek a more suitable site such as Liddell.

Muscle Creek site is not the right location and totally unsuitable. If approved, this decision would leave an embarrassing legacy for our towns people and future generations well into the future serving as a constant reminder of poor planning and reckless decision making to every passing motorist driving through Muswellbrook.
