



NAME REDACTED

OBJECT

Submission ID: 239979

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Visual Impacts, Social Impacts, Economic Impacts</i>
Location: <i>Redacted</i>	
Attachment: N/A	

Submission date: 18/02/2025 19:03

Dear Minister,

*Objection to Muswellbrook Solar Farm SSD-46543209*

*As a resident of Woodland Ridge, I've reviewed council correspondence, listened to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) meeting on February 12, 2025, and join my neighbors in opposing the Muswellbrook Solar Farm proposed for Muscle Creek's buffer zone, 2.5km east of Muswellbrook. This site, just 500m-1.2km from our 80+ homes, endangers our health, environment, and community. I implore you to reject this proposal or relocate it to Liddell or Bayswater Power Stations for the following reasons:*

*Health and Environmental Risks:*

*Fire Dangers: Speakers at the IPC warned of lithium battery and solar panel fires releasing toxic fumes, a threat OX2 representatives Helen Kennedy and Carla Evans minimized. With bushfires a reality here, explosions could harm our 300 residents.*

*Waterway Contamination: Panels degrade at 0.5-1% yearly, dropping to 70-80% efficiency after 25-30 years. Storms could shatter them, leaching cadmium into Muscle Creek, which runs through our town's recreational areas and into the Hunter River, reaching Newcastle Harbour. The Muswellbrook Shire Council's February 13, 2025, resolution to recycle 30,000 defective panels signals serious waste concerns.*

*Hidden Perils: History shows pollutants like PFAS and asbestos turn deadly over time why risk this unknown with our families?*

*Visual Destruction: This sprawling solar farm, visible from Woodland Ridge and the planned bypass, will erase the mountain vistas I've treasured since moving here 15 years ago. The Mudgee solar farm rejection proves visual impact matters our town deserves the same consideration.*

*High Costs, Low Returns: Estimated at AUD 200-300 million, plus ongoing maintenance and decommissioning, OX2 promises only 9 permanent jobs and 4 apprenticeships a pitiful exchange for our community's sacrifice, as IPC discussions revealed.*

*Inadequate Compensation: The reimbursement offered within OX2's 1.2km radius is disgracefully low, dismissing the toll on our health, peace, and finances.*

*Property Value Threat: NSW data shows 5-10% house price drops after coal closures. Council and residents alike fear this project will mirror that decline here.*

*Future Accountability: If OX2 or Idemitsu falter in 25-30 years, who manages fires, contamination, or decommissioning? Council letters suggest taxpayers could be left holding the bag an unfair burden.*

*Misplaced Project: Idemitsu is profiteering off its buffer zone not the mined land endangering Muscle Creek's flats with fire and flood risks. This zone was meant to shield us, not host industry. The council's recycling push highlights this unsustainable choice.*

*Superior Alternatives:*



*Liddell Power Station: Shut in 2023 and slated for renewables, Liddell has grid connections, access roads, and Lake Liddell's buffer far from homes and vital waterways. IPC Chair Neal Menzies asked for options; this preserves local jobs without our suffering.*

*Bayswater Power Station: With 10,000 hectares and grid infrastructure, it's a renewable hub that spares residential areas.*

*I chose Woodland Ridge for its clean air, natural beauty, and quiet life not to face industrial hazards. The IPC's 61 submissions, council's landfill stance, and February 10 site visit expose this site's flaws. Approving this would scar our town irreversibly, a reckless legacy for every bypass traveler to see. Please reject it or redirect it to Liddell or Bayswater the IPC can make this right.*

*Sincerely,*

██████████

---