



Dear Ms/Sir

Subject: **Objections to SSD 10452 - Stubbo Solar Works**

I wish to object to the proposed 400MW solar plant at Stubbo and which is only a few kilometres from my home and Gulgong town. My objections are:

1. The industrial development is not in keeping with the character of our rural environment.
2. With so much electrical equipment and the sheer size of the fenced off area the risk of grass fires is too great. We can expect similar conditions to the 2017-20 drought to occur a few times over the next three decades. Aging solar panels, wiring and equipment will also increase the risk of fire, as will nature (e.g. a damaging lightening strike at Beryl solar plant has already occurred). I was told our area is in a lightening belt and Gulgong certainly has had a few severe lightening and hail storms in 2019/20.
3. The traffic dangers outside of town are a major concern. I walk early every morning and meet several others who are jogging, walking, exercising themselves and their dogs, or cycling. The same also occurs in the afternoon/evening. The roads they use do not have footpaths. The proposed substantial increase in vehicle numbers in our otherwise quiet area will increase the risks of injury or death. Cyclists have already been killed in recent years in the vicinity of Gulgong.
4. The traffic dangers inside of town are a major concern. The routes for 230 light vehicles mentioned in the EIS are proposed to cross Mayne St in the heart of Gulgong. The intersections of Mayne/Herbert and Mayne/Medley have stop signs and Mayne/Herbert intersection also has two pedestrian crossings. As Mayne street and Herbert St are the main shopping district they have heavy pedestrian traffic, especially in the afternoon. The influx twice a day in a very short period will cause significant congestion, lengthy delays and greatly increase the chance of vehicle accidents. More importantly the huge increase in traffic will endanger pedestrians, especially the large number of elderly people and children who frequent the PO and IGA supermarket.
5. I understand that solar panels are declared hazardous waste in the European Union and other places around the world, including the state of Victoria. The solar panels therefore cannot go to landfill tips because they may pollute the soil and water systems. This being so, then I cannot understand why the Stubbo project proposes to put 800,000 panels over our soil, water ways and groundwater. Is it not the same as the panels being dumped at a tip, especially if large numbers of them get damaged from one our severe storms? Is that the reason that all these massive solar plants are being put in the country regions, well away from the big cities?
6. We already have Beryl solar farm only 5kms from Gulgong and which occupies 310 hectares. However, the Stubbo project, 10 kms from Gulgong would occupy and additional 1772 hectares of grazing land, The cumulatively, loss of grazing land for 30 or more years will reduce the local services that would otherwise be utilised by farming activities, such as the services provided for farm fencing build and maintenance, slashing, hay harvesting,

provision of fertilisers, trucking of livestock, use of saleyards, provision of water and feedstock, etc.

7. During the drought we suffered from many dust storms, which we could see coming from kilometres away. The photo below shows just the enclosed shed floor after just one of the dust storms a few times a month. We were cleaning up the shed, house, vehicles, water tank filters and solar panels for days, only to have it happen again. Points to take out of this are: Stubbo will need a lot more than 200KL/day for dust suppression and need to wash down their solar panels more frequently; if not sufficiently suppressed the dust could pose problems across the areas surrounding the project site; the substantial water already stated for the project may be significantly more, especially in drought periods, so taking away a vital resource from local communities.



Typical Gulgong dust storm



Clean up started (vacuum cleaner in use)

I declare that I have not made any reportable political donations in the previous two years.

Yours sincerely