

I write to object in the strongest possible terms to the SSD-21208499 Solar Farm Application.

My family connections with the Bathurst region go back to the first European woman to cross the Blue Mountains with subsequent generations in both town and nearby countryside. This proposed development is in conflict with and threatening to existing land use, to food security, to visual impacts upon the Gateway to the Central West of New South Wales (the Great Western Highway) and is within 5km of a residential area.

The proposed site is on prime cultivation land classified by NSW Planning as Category 2-3 with a history of more than 100 years of demonstrated food production. The proposed development is in conflict with existing land use and thus to food security.

This would be further exacerbated by primary producers and their contractors being forced to cease many essential operations as they will be unable to secure insurance coverage. Particularly at threat will be harvesting (which takes place in summer) due to the possibility of sparks from machinery causing fires which may spread to and through the proposed solar farm.

The proposed development clearly contradicts the stated rural vistas and landscapes and regional agricultural land protections set out in the Bathurst Regional Local Environmental Plan 2014, the Bathurst Regional Development Control Plan 2014 and the Bathurst Region Rural Strategy 2010.

You will recall that in December 2021 NSW State Parliament legislated an Amendment that noted consideration must be given to avoiding large renewable developments within 5kms of residential areas and greenbelts. That Amendment was authorised and implemented by your own NSW Minister for Planning. **This proposed development is within 5km of the Raglan residential area and greenbelt land.**

The proposed development is in entirely the wrong location. Many farmers on poorer land and struggling with all that entails welcomed Renewables within the designated Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone. This Zone is to be linked to Bathurst and proceeding this way would satisfy renewable energy demands, environmentalists and other supporters of Climate Change.