

To: Karl Okorn, Department of Planning and Environment
Re: SSD-21208499 Glanmire Solar Farm Objection

Dear Mr Okorn,

I'm writing to register my objection to the Glanmire Solar Farm proposal (SSD-21208499).

The reasons for my strong opposition include; undermining Bathurst's Residential and Greenbelt planning controls, insurance availability issues for locals, various financial and lifestyle implications on neighbours and the wider Bathurst community, an unaccountable entity submitting the proposal, a negative visual impact on the area, and likely reflection and visibility issues for drivers on the adjoining highway as claimed tree-planting mitigation will take decades to possibly succeed.

However I understand how busy you are, so will focus on just two aspects of the proposal, both of which contradict existing Environmental Plans and Strategies.

Firstly, this proposal is in direct conflict with various local planning documents, such as the Bathurst Region Rural Strategy 2010, the Bathurst Regional Local Environmental Plan 2014 and Bathurst Regional Development Control Plan 2014. These stipulate protections for rural vistas and landscapes.

Furthermore, in 2021 NSW Planning made an amendment stating that large developments of this type should be avoided within 5km of a residential area.

This proposal is within 5km of a residential area (Raglan).

I suggest that this very reasonable amendment should be respected. An amendment, I would add, that was done with careful consideration of the impacts to the local community.

Please note that the myriad of reasons for my opposition align with those of the Glanmire Action Group, many of whom (like myself) have sought the best outcomes of and for the Bathurst regional community for decades. In stark contrast, the proponents cannot speak to the best interests of the local community.

With such a weight of community opposition, and numerous strong arguments against this proposal I hope my objections will inform recommendations from your Department that this proposal be refused for development at this prime agricultural site.

Instead, this Solar Farm proposal should be submitted in one of the Renewable Energy Zones that have already been set aside for the purpose where many owners of poorer quality land wish to participate for financial security.

Thank you for taking the time to register and consider my opposition to the above proposal.