

## OBJECTION SUBMISSION DEPT. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

I am writing to oppose and object to SSD-21208499 Glanmire Solar Farm.

I am a member of the Glanmire Action Group and a practical (not just theoretical) advocate for sustainable land management and renewable energy. For a number of reasons the above project should have been rejected far earlier in the assessment process but for the sake of brevity I will confine this Objection Submission to just a few of those reasons.

With the people of New South Wales contending with years of drought, fire and flood and the consequent pressures on food supply, price rises and job security amongst other issues it is imperative demonstrated reliable prime cultivation land be retained, protected and support job security in rural and regional New South Wales.

The proposed site of the above project is prime cultivation land and has been so for more than a hundred years. **It is classified by New South Wales Planning as Category 2-3 by the independent agronomist D. Harbison.**

**The proposed development is within 5kms of the Raglan Residential area and Greenbelt land.** This is in conflict with NSW Planning's own Amendment that consideration be given to avoiding large renewable developments within 5kms of residential areas and greenbelts.

As well, **there is a direct conflict between the proposed development and Local Planning documents.** The Bathurst Regional Local Environmental Plan 2014, the Bathurst Regional Development Control Plan 2014 and the Bathurst Region Rural Strategy 2010 all contain clear protections for rural vistas and landscapes and regional agricultural land. **These documents are based on deep local knowledge, commitment to the region and its people and a responsibility to the wider community.**

As a State Significant Project your actions to date appear to consider it viable despite the myriad gaps and unfounded claims in the proposal. Why then has the NSW Department of Planning and Environment **not** required it to be placed directly within one of the State Renewable Energy Zones? If it is about respect for Local Government planning and views why haven't the existing Bathurst Regional Plans and Controls informed a decision by your Department NOT to approve the above application on the Glanmire site?

This proposed project threatens the viability of surrounding farms should it proceed. An inability to secure insurance coverage for many farming activities (most particularly harvesting in the summer months) would force such operations to stop for fear of a spark from machinery setting fire to surrounding vegetation and spreading into that development before fire-fighters have time to arrive. The NSW Rural Fire Service has repeatedly warned it is difficult to deploy the required resources quickly to extinguish fires in rural areas. That resource preparation is a key reason for the 24 hour advance warning requirement by both the RFS and neighbouring properties for any proposed burn-off.

And so we are back to perhaps the most fundamental question of all:-

With a number of highly researched, strategically designated Renewable Energy Zones in New South Wales why even contemplate allowing this project to proceed on prime agricultural land that has employed and fed generations of Australians and continues to do so regardless of climate vagaries?