

**To: Director – Energy Assessments**  
Development Assessment  
Department of Planning and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
Parramatta NSW 2124

**Name: Bruce Alexander Kethel**  
**Address: 15 Crawford Place, Bellingen 2454**  
**Name of Project: Middlebrook Solar Farm**  
**Application No: SSD-10455**

I declare I have made no reportable political donations in the last two years.

I acknowledge and accept the Department's disclaimer and declaration.

### **STATEMENT OF OBJECTION**

I object to the proposed Middlebrook Solar Farm development for the below reasons.

#### **LOSS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND**

I object to high quality agricultural land such as that at Middlebrook and Marsden Park Roads, Loomberah being lost to primary production.

I am a farmer. I regularly visit the Middlebrook Solar Farm project area where my wife's family have a highly developed and productive farm. They produce award winning beef and lamb and also first quality lucerne hay. I recognise their land as of good quality from my own observations and by the number of awards they have received for their produce and the way their livestock is recognised in the market place. I believe the agricultural classifications of the land in the project as set out in the EIS are inaccurate and incorrect.

I note the proponent has not committed to any agri solar on the subject land and in any event I believe the grazing of livestock under solar panels is not sustainable or desirable and may infringe acceptable green meat production principals.

#### **IMPACT OF DUST ON AGRICULTURE**

I object to dust creating industrial developments being placed in rural locations with gravel road networks.

I have often worked on the family farm and I have observed the amount of dust which is generated by the very occasional traffic movements. It rolls over large parts of the farm. I believe the additional traffic generated by the project, especially during construction, the construction work itself and the ongoing operation of the solar farm, which will have regular vehicular movements on 48 kilometres of additional internal roads, will have a detrimental effect on the productivity of the farm. Pastures and crops do not grow as well when dust is deposited on the foliage. The efficacy of weed management spraying will be reduced by the dust deposits. The dust will also impact farm buildings and machinery and the health of the cattle herd and sheep flock.

#### **LOSS OF RURAL CHARACTER**

I object to industrial type developments being located in areas predominantly of a rural character.

I am concerned the rural character and peaceful tranquillity of the area will be lost. An industrial development is completely out of character. I am concerned for the health and well being of farmers who not only live in the area but work long hours on their properties if their neighbourhood is

changed so drastically. For many farmers their properties are their only asset and the impact on them, especially the older generation, of the loss of amenity and likely threat to their succession planning will take a heavy toll.

**THE PROJECT AREA IS NOT IN A RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE**

The application should be refused as the intended location is totally inappropriate for non agricultural pursuits and is not in a renewable energy zone.

REGARDS B. A. Ketel