

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

**Name: Elizabeth Elsie 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.

#### **IMPACT ON LIFESTYLE AND WELLBEING OF LOCAL FARMERS**

My sister and her family have owned the property known as "Brooklyn" at 1562 and 1450 Marsden Park Road, Loomberah since 2002. I regularly visit the family farm for recreational purposes and to assist with farm pursuits. I have observed first hand how the family is entrenched in the peaceful rural character of the land.

I object to the Middlebrook Solar Farm as it will severely impact on the lifestyle of nearby residents who both live and work on their properties. They have chosen to invest their financial and physical endeavours in the properties to follow their farming pursuits in an appropriate rural setting. The value of this investment will be diminished in terms of both amenity and financial impact. I am concerned that the change in character of the neighbourhood will affect the health and wellbeing of my sister and her family.

#### **DUST CREATION**

I am concerned about the impact of dust on my health when I visit the family farm. I enjoy walking my dog on the farm and also along Marsden Park and Middlebrook Roads where there is currently very little traffic. I suffer respiratory problems when exposed to dust. I fear I will no longer be able to spend extended periods outdoors if the project goes ahead.

I also believe the dust created during construction with earthworks, internal road building and traffic will affect local farmers and residents. I have observed how dust is currently created when vehicles go past especially during dry periods though I have observed the roads are very dusty at most times.

#### **TRAFFIC**

Currently there is very little traffic on the local gravel roads. I have viewed the Traffic study contained in the EIS. I object to the proposal because of the greatly increased traffic movements which are expected. The local roads are often in very bad condition with potholes and ruts. I do not believe it is possible to satisfactorily maintain gravel roads to an acceptable standard when the traffic flows are as high as those anticipated.

I am also concerned that it will be dangerous driving on the narrow gravel local roads with increased traffic especially large vehicles. The dust created will prevent proper vision especially at certain times of the day. I bring my grandchildren to the farm and I worry for their safety with the increased traffic.

### **LOSS OF VISUAL AMENITY**

I object to the visual impact the Middlebrook Solar Farm will have on local residents and to visitors to the area. I adore the rural views from my sister's house at 1450 Marsden Park Road and my niece's house at 1562 Marsden Park Road, Loomberah when enjoying time with them in their living areas. I admire the ever-changing view of the farmland and the hills in the background. The view varies with the time of day and seasonal changes. I have seen the imagery contained in the EIS and I object to the impact that the solar farm will have on the view. The panels, substation and other infrastructure will be very prominent in the view looking down the valley. It is not at all in character with the current rural landscape. From observation of other less comprehensive and obtrusive structures in the landscape I would question the assertion that glint and glare will not be created by the project.

### **GENERAL**

I object to a solar farm being located outside a renewable energy zone in a totally inappropriate rural setting.

If the proposal is to go ahead, at the very least affected neighbours should be paid meaningful compensation for the loss they will suffer and the impact on their wellbeing and both Marsden Park and Middlebrook Roads should be upgraded to bitumen standard.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EPK' or similar, located at the bottom left of the page.