

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

Name: Phillip Anthony 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.

LOCATION

I have enjoyed visiting my mother's family's farm at Loomberah regularly over the last 21 years during their ownership.

The location of the proposed solar farm is outside a renewable energy zone.

It is picturesque farmland. A solar farm would be totally foreign to the local rural character.

LOSS OF VIEW

Time spent at Loomberah is peaceful and relaxing and the view is glorious. The solar farm will ruin the view with the farmland vista being replaced by hundreds of hectares of solar panels, a substation on a 600ha site including transformers, associated buildings and tall fencing right around the 3 properties involved in the project.

DUST

The proposed location, and particularly the road network, is very dusty. The extra dust created by the project will make visiting the area much less attractive.

TRAFFIC

The increased traffic on Marsden Park and Middlebrook Roads will make travel much more hazardous, especially given the state of the road in both dry spells and after rain. The increased dust will make the roads particularly dangerous. I am not convinced by the study in the EIS that there will be no glint and glare problems created. Travel at times of sunrise and sunset will be particularly hazardous.

IMPACT ON WILDLIFE AND FAUNA

I am a keen observer of wildlife and during my visits to the area of the Middlebrook Solar proposal I have seen many species of bird and animal life including echidna and wombats and I understand there is evidence of koalas living along Spring Creek and there have been many sightings of Feather Tail Gliders. On the family farm I have seen a lot of birdlife including populous parrot species, finches, kookaburras but also rarer parrot and lorikeet species.

I object to a large-scale solar farm being located in an area with such a variety of bird and animal life as I believe such a proposal will have a damaging impact on the habitat and micro climate with

warming of temperatures in the panel field. The glint and glare created will also impact on the animal life.

Increased traffic, and disturbance to habitat "chasing" animals onto roads, is likely to result in higher volumes of birds and animals being killed.

I also object to the proposal due to the likely impact on threatened native grass species such as Blue Grass I have observed in the area both by absolute destruction but also by impacts of dust and micro climate changes.

The proposal should not be approved as there are too many things at stake for both human and flora and fauna inhabitants. The location is simply wrong.

P.A. KeD