

## **Statement of objection**

**Name of Project: Middlebrook Solar Farm**

**Application No: SSD-10455**

I object to the proposed Middlebrook Solar Farm development.

I am a geography teacher. My daughter-in-law's family farm is located on Marsden Park Road in Loomberah and the family will be greatly affected by the proposed development.

### **Great idea, wrong location**

As an experienced geography teacher, I deeply comprehend the importance of transitioning to sustainable energy. I fully support renewable projects. Nevertheless, it is important that the placement of developments of this kind is carefully considered and within designated zones set by democratically elected governments. In the interest of productivity, food security and fairness, these zones should be identified as areas which are unsuitable for other types of production and where population density is low, ensuring minimal negative impacts on local residents.

In the instance of the Middlebrook Solar Farm, the proposed location lies outside the New England Renewable Energy Zone and is surrounded by valuable and productive livestock farming properties. Erecting the solar farm on sloping land amid relatively small landholdings will render it highly visible to several neighbours, and the existing road network is insufficient to support the increase in traffic resulting from industrial construction of this nature. As a result of these factors, it is not a suitable location for an industrial solar farm.

### **Outlook/views**

I have always appreciated the sweeping views and fertile rural landscape when I have visited the Middlebrook Road/Marsden Park area. I am distressed at the prospect of an industrial development being imposed on such a picturesque landscape. I have stayed both on the Marsden Park Road property and at Goonoo Goonoo Station when I have visited. I am concerned that the disruption, dust, reduced appeal of the views and increased traffic will detract from the lifestyle of the locals and deter other potential visitors in the future.

### **Human impact**

The development would severely impact the lifestyle of the many nearby residents who live and work on their farms. I am concerned that the change in character of the neighbourhood, increased stress and disruption to their daily lives due to traffic, noise and dust will affect the health and wellbeing of my daughter-in-law and her family.

### **Road safety**

I am concerned that the proposal does not adequately address the risks of increased traffic (including many heavy vehicles) on the narrow dirt roads in the area. I am also concerned about the use of water to dampen the roads for the long construction period. I would be more comfortable if there was an independent study done on the subject and a set of appropriate conditions, including road upgrades, turning lanes and any necessary limitations on solar farm-related vehicle movements, placed on the development.

**Biodiversity**

I am aware that the area is home to many species of bird and animal life including a variety of parrots, echidnas, wombats, koalas and feather tail gliders. I am concerned about the impact a development of this scale will have on the habitat for these creatures. I also understand that Bluegrass is commonly found in the valley and am concerned about the accuracy of the Biodiversity Assessment Report in the EIS given it failed to identify the presence of that species.