

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

**Name: James Forsyth**  
**Address: 16A Karenvar Avenue Calala NSW**  
**2340**  
**Name of Project: Middlebrook Solar Farm**  
**Application No: SSD-10455**

I do not require my details to be withheld.

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 am the Head of Humanities at a high school in Tamworth. Outside work I have a strong interest in agriculture and am passionate about breeding and exhibiting stud livestock.

I object to the proposed Middlebrook Solar Farm development.

### **General objection:**

As a geography teacher, I truly understand the necessity of transitioning to green energy and wholeheartedly support renewables projects. However, I firmly believe that their placement should be thoughtful and within the designated zones outlined by the State government. From a productivity perspective it is crucial to select areas that are unsuitable for other types of production and where any negative impacts on local landholders and output will be minimal.

In the case of the Middlebrook Solar Farm, the proposed location falls outside the New England Renewable Energy Zone and is in the midst of valuable and productive livestock farming properties. The plan to build the solar farm on sloping land among relatively small landholdings will make it highly visible to a number of neighbours.

### **Specific issues with the proposal as set out in the EIS:**

#### **1. Rural aspect and disruption**

As a teacher with many students from farming areas, I regularly observe the importance of the land to my students. An essential aspect of that is a sense of belonging in a rural setting and a connection to the land around them. I am highly concerned that imposing solar farms in previously rural areas such as the Loomberah locale will have negative social and mental health impacts on families in the affected area.

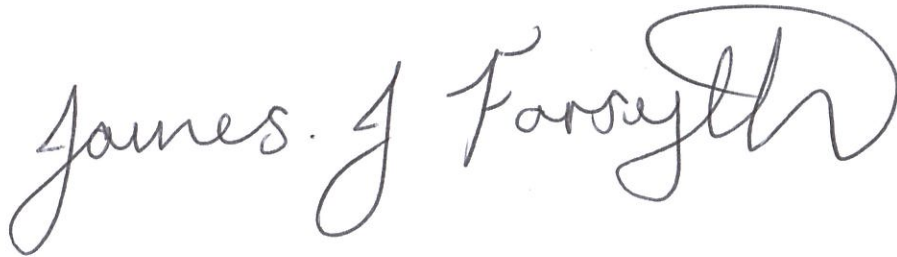
The proposed development is very large and at odds with the proposed setting. I am concerned about the disruptions during construction, increased traffic, noise and general change to the nature of the area.

#### **2. New England Highway and other local roads**

Given the anticipated increase in traffic on the New England Highway during the project, it's essential to consider the potential delays and heightened risks for the region's residents. As a frequent

traveller on the highway, I am concerned that the EIS does not accurately represent the likely increase in traffic and associated implications for traffic flow and road conditions.

I am also concerned about the use of water from the Tamworth supply to dampen dust on the dirt roads close to the project. I am concerned that water tankers will further impede local traffic and draw down on our precious local supply. I would have thought that upgrading the roads to bitumen would be a more appropriate solution.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James J. Farquhar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" and a stylized "F".