

I am greatly concerned about the local farmers and the community of Goulburn Mulwaree in general in relation to the proposed solar farm (State Significant Development 5915545 - proposed Merino Solar Farm).

- 1 The lack of consultation by the 'developers' proposing this solar farm with the local residents and greater community of Goulburn who will all be affected by this proposal is appalling. I understand that there are many residents affected by this 'proposal' that are yet to be contacted or even be made aware that this proposed development has even been made.
- 2 The fact that the proposed development site is within 6 km of the town of Goulburn (10km State Environmental Planning Policy) itself is worrying enough without the concern for the properties adjoining the development - including the Goulburn Airport (30 metre distance away) and farming land (with residents being as close to 150 metres from their back door to the proposed development).
- 3 The potential fire risk alone is inexcusable to allow the development to continue - not only from an access point of view, the risk to firefighters and neighbouring properties should a fire commence. Considering they will be using Lithium batteries which are a well known issue (and very well documented in the media with recent house fires) - the fact that they cannot be controlled and have to be left to burn out (releasing many toxic chemicals into the ground and the air) while taking many days to be extinguished.
- 4 The impact to property values now and in the future (and people's livelihoods being agricultural land - land that feeds this country and helps to keep the economy growing). The fact that this development would make it difficult for Goulburn to grow as a town (this area is marked as a potential future subdivision for Goulburn) and mean that housing availability (which is already difficult in this country as it is) will be impacted in the future as well.
- 5 The noise pollution that the solar farm will create (not only during construction) but should it be completed will be appalling considering every 15 minutes the panels rotating drivers will be operating (I understand that they sound like a chainsaw each time they move - imagine living nearby to 1,850 acres of chainsaws), lithium batteries making an incessant 'clicking' sound, constant humming from the substation - this will be a nightmare for local residents 24 hours a day 365 days a year.
- 6 The infrastructure that has to be put in place considering that the materials that would have to be brought in from Port Botany or Port of Melbourne on roads that are already falling apart and quite frankly dangerous as it is with normal daily use - who pays for the repairs and maintenance on the roads - the tax payers who are already hard done by, the local Councils who are already broke trying to maintain the local government areas as they are?
- 7 Not to mention, none of this 'solar farm' will benefit Goulburn - you can guarantee the energy this farm will generate will go to power Sydney and Sydney only.

This development application should never have been allowed to reach this point and should certainly never ever go ahead.