

To: Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (NSW)
RE: SSD 5915545 – Merino Solar Farm

From: Bradley Webster
124 Gretta Rd, Brisbane Grove NSW 2580

- Resident 5 in EIS
Subject: Formal Objection to SSD 5915545 – Merino Solar Farm

Dear NSW Planning,

Over the past four years, we have supported our parents through an extraordinarily difficult and distressing process. This situation has been made harder by the developer's failure to meet even the basic standards of genuine community engagement and a social licence to operate. As a result, the emotional, physical, and financial burden of opposing this development has fallen heavily on my parents.

They have been advocating that this project is in the wrong location, the solar site surrounded by 194 residents, many of whom were never properly notified and remain unaware that they live within 4–10 kilometres of the proposed development. This lack of transparency has left families anxious, uncertain, and without trust in the process, I have watched my mother extend support to her community to understand the impacts it will bring to Goulburn and our community .

Both our parents grew up on the land and have built their lives around the rural lifestyle they cherish. As a family, this property has been the centre of our shared experiences — riding motorbikes, swimming in the dams, helping with cattle, sheep, chickens, dogs, and daily farm tasks. From a young age, we were taught that owning land comes with responsibility: to care for it, to respect it, and to pass it on in good condition to the next generation.

It is this legacy — our family's home, livelihood, and future — that is now at risk.

Although we are not yet titleholders, this land is part of our future. Its protection is of paramount importance not just to our family, but to the generations that will come after us, that our parents have worked hard all their life to secure, weighs heavily on them both.

We have grown up experiencing the beauty, value, and freedom that our rural landscape offers. The proposed solar development would irreversibly alter that future socially, and economically. We will one day be the custodians of this land, yet decisions are being made now, without our voice, that will impact on our lives for decades.

As future inheritors of our family home and land at 124 Gretta Road, Goulburn, I understand that property values already lost 30% value. If for example my parents were to sell now, the estimated loss would be \$750, 000. The neighbour agreement offered did not compensate for any of these losses.

My Grounds for Objection:

1. Environmental and Lifestyle Impacts

We object to the transformation of 1,850 acres of rural landscape into an industrial-scale solar and battery installation. We are concerned about irreversible changes to our lifestyle, and the mental and health wellbeing of all residents who will be surrounded by 870,000 solar panels and 100 acres of BESS infrastructure. Then all the transmission lines.

2. Property Inheritance and Value

The proximity of this development — just 700m from our family home and even close to our boundary fence this threatens to devalue the property and diminish its amenity. As future landowners, we face the burden of a dramatically altered property and lifestyle that we did not choose.

3. Intergenerational Consequences

This project would lock in visual, noise, and access impacts for 35+ years, affecting our right to enjoy, develop, or use the land in a way that reflects our values and aspirations. Decisions being made now will directly influence our adult lives, careers, and families.

4. Lack of Meaningful Consultation

We are concerned that young people — future inheritors — have not been included in consultation processes. Decisions about long-term land use should consider the next generation, not just current landowners.

5. Assessment and Mitigation

I can confirm our Visual impact assessments used by EDPR have rated our property as 'low impact' is **not** correct.

This conveniently excludes our family from mitigation offers. We consider this approach dishonest and discriminatory. For 35 years residents are expected to lodge an invoice to EDPR under the neighbour agreement. This is unachievable to expect any the next generation to understand what they need to do as the policy is still being written.

Our Requests:

- That the Merino Solar Farm application (SSD 5915545) be **rejected**.
- That NSW Planning commit to genuine, inclusive engagement with **young people and future titleholders**, especially where the burden of impact spans across generations.

We urge you to consider our perspective as future landowners. We deserve the right to inherit the land our parents fought to protect, not an industrial site our parents never consented to.

Sincerely,
Bradley Webster