

Proposed Merino Solar Farm Goulburn NSW – Objection – Harry Firth

Ref: EIS Application Number SSD-59155459

Ref: NSW SEPP 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

My name is Harry Firth and I live at 1322 Windellama Rd, Tirrannaville.

I am writing this submission to **OBJECT** to the Merino Solar Farm proposal at Goulburn NSW 2580

As detailed in the body of my document following the SEPP references..

I have extracted the relevant sections of the NSW SEPP 2021 including reference to The Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline August 2022 – page 14. I have highlighted the relevant sections of the SEPP, which clearly show that this proposed Solar Farm cannot proceed, due to its negative impacts to my property the lifestyle of my family and the impacts to the environment specifically in this area.

REFER TO:

The NSW State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021

Sections: 2.42 Determination of development applications for solar or wind electricity generating works on certain land

(1) This section applies to development in a regional city for the purposes of electricity generating works using a solar or wind energy source that is—

(a) State significant development, or

(b) regionally significant development.

(2) Development consent must not be granted unless the consent authority is satisfied that the development—

(a) is located to avoid significant conflict with existing or approved residential or commercial uses of land surrounding the development, and

(b) is unlikely to have a significant adverse impact on the regional city's—

(i) capacity for growth, or

(ii) scenic quality and landscape character.

(3) In determining whether to grant development consent, the consent authority must consider measures proposed to be included in the development to avoid or mitigate conflicts referred to in subsection (2)(a) or adverse impacts referred to in subsection (2)(b).

(4) In this section—

Regional Cities Map means the State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 Regional Cities Map.

regional city means an area of land identified as “subject land” on the Regional Cities Map.

REFER TO:

From the Large-Scale Solar Energy Guideline August 2022 – page 14:

2.2.2 Regional cities

The NSW Government's regional plans identify cities that are strategically important to the ongoing growth and development of regional NSW.

We expect significant growth in regional cities over the next few decades. Investment in these cities is important. They represent major centres for housing, employment, commerce, tourism, education, health and other regional infrastructure and services.

To approve large-scale solar energy development near certain regional cities, the consent authority must be satisfied that any urban land conflicts, impacts on urban growth potential and important scenic values are not significant. This applies to State significant solar energy generation projects located on mapped land for the regional cities of Albury, Armidale, Bathurst, Dubbo, Goulburn, Griffith, Goulburn, Mudgee, Orange, Tamworth and Wagga Wagga. While these provisions do not prohibit solar development in these areas, a consent authority must not grant development consent unless it is satisfied that the development:

- is located to avoid significant conflict with existing or approved residential or commercial uses of land surrounding the development*
- is unlikely to have a significant adverse impact on the regional city's capacity for growth,*

scenic quality or landscape character.

The consent authority must factor in any proposed measures to avoid or mitigate those conflicts and adverse impacts.

End of References

Details of my Objection and Rejection of this proposed Solar Farm:

I object on the basis that this Solar Farm will negatively impact my property, family and lifestyle and provide no benefits to the community, Goulburn or NSW as a whole.

We live approx 1 – 2 kms from the extents of the Solar Farm which will be near to and highly visible from the rear of our property.

We will be visibly impacted and given its location to our West will be further impacted by sun reflections and potentially higher temperatures in summer due to the solar radiation reflecting from the Solar Farm and its components especially from the panels as highlighted in the extracted sections of the SEPP

This area is highly productive for sheep and cattle grazing as well as crops/agriculture which will all be impacted or wiped out by this Solar Farm. The proposed development is within the Goulburn Regional City approx 6km from Goulburn and has a residential population with further capacity for farming and residential development

There has been no consultation/contact from the developers except for letter box drops which provide no details, details that are of extreme importance.

Developments of this nature must provide a positive benefit both to the individuals/community and the economy. We are not seeing and have not been advised of the benefits that this development will bring other than the estimated FTE during the build phase.

The developers who are foreign and not based in Australia have shown absolutely no concern nor engagement and appear not to care about us Goulburn or indeed the damage that will be inflicted upon this area and Australia as a whole. All profits that they make will go overseas not to Australia.

Solar energy is supported by me however this type of development in such close proximity to not only us but Goulburn will provide no tangible benefits but it will destroy this area, lifestyle and its rural industry and is in breach of the highlighted extracted sections of the SEPP.

The Merino Solar farm is but one of 2 solar farms which will impact us. The proposed Gundry solar farm on the Gundry plains will impact us from the front of our property to the East / North East and it is located 1 – 2kms from the front of our property. It is being proposed on the same basis as Merino, i.e. no impact visible or otherwise and providing benefits to the community of which it is not.

We purchased this property in 2016 after extensive research choosing it based on its rural serenity, vista and offered life style and as such I relocated our family to the property in 2016 from the suburbs of Sydney. We have now been advised that its value will decrease by 40% if not more if indeed we are able to sell it. Nobody wants to move to a property which is surrounded by solar farms

Both of these Solar farms will feed their generated power into the Grid going to the NSW coast and potentially Sydney but none will be directed to Goulburn or our local area.

I have not seen any detailed plans or diagrams in high resolution to fully gauge the impact to my property and I note on their submissions that none are available. There is nothing in

the submissions about benefits nor impacts to the community other than vague statements without substance.

Details about decommissioning once the Solar farm reaches its end of life, its disposal and land recovery are missing but are very important and a massive concern.

Fire management again is vague and does not give any confidence that they have a plan and will take responsibility or action if the Solar farm and BES start or are impacted by fires. This may also impact our property insurance as the risk will be obvious to insurers

In Summary basis for my objection:

Loss of lifestyle

Loss of value of our land and any future prospects

Negative Impact to the community and its impact upon grazing and agriculture

No benefits either real or implied locally nor the greater Goulburn/ NSW

Foreign ownership with all profits going off shore

Limited to zero impact upon electricity prices at the retail level

Many omitted very significant details

Incomplete and misleading information in the EIS

STOP THE MERINO SOLAR FARM

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3 Feb 2026