

To: Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (NSW)

Our Ref: Merino Solar Farm: SSD 59155459 – Objection to Proposed Solar Farm

Name: Nasr Nasr

Address: 81 Gretta Road, Turrannaville (R6 as identified on the EIS Scoping Map)

Dear Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (NSW), I am writing to formally object to the proposed Merino Solar Farm per the reference above.

My wife and I purchased the property in early 2000s where we have established our home and our place of enjoyment, tranquillity and retirement. Furthermore as we have a large family, this is a place when we congregate together, where many memories have been built from the lifestyle and natural serenity.

The proposed development is somewhat approximately 700m away from our home which will be in direct view looking out half the windows within the home. I want to point out that the desktop assessment that I have been provided with is misleading and incorrect as I have carried out my own physical measurements.

Moreover and most concerning, apart from being issued a letter well after the proposal had initiated, I have never been contacted by anyone or any department to discuss the proposal in any more detail. We have been misled through the whole proposal. It is as if my family and I do not exist to the EDPR, nor do they show any care or respect to those whom will be severely affected by such proposed destruction to the area, region and local community. I was also advised that EDP Renewables and their consultants, NGH, have failed to engage with the majority of neighbouring residents.

The proposal will have significant impacts to us, including for major property devaluation, removal of our scenic views and tranquillity where the family congregate to relax and unwind, risks of grass fire risks as evidently seen with other solar farms, water and dust contamination affecting local livestock, natural inhabitants etc. The whole proposal has caused my family and I a lot of stress which is affecting our mental health, having such proposal approved will significantly add to this especially as we have been completely disregarded by the developer and have had zero consultation.

We are also concerned that the proposal will bring significant amounts of solar glare to our property and have grave concerns this can well and truly affect the neighbouring and growing Goulburn Airport. The proximity of the solar panels to the airport runway is as advised by experts dangerously close. Our family tried to reach out to the airport operators but seeing the airport is a non-controlled airport, copy-paste responses were issued from CASA, stating they only intervene once an airport is controlled, which is completely unacceptable. It was also noted the owner of the airport was selling the airport and did not care as to anything happening within close proximity. This attitude along with the sale of the airport introduces serious risk of use of solar farm logistics, further impacting safety, noise and amenity. We believe there would be serious concerns to the airport and the airports future as with population growth such important infrastructure will need provision for expansion in the near future.

The proposed development will have further impacts to the urban growth of Goulburn, the proposal is in very close proximity to one of the largest inland cities. If the proposal was in an area well away from close proximity to an inland city, whereby it be in remote rural area then this should be

deemed acceptable, the fact that it is on the outskirts of Goulburn city where land should be utilised for future housing potential per NSW Government's own regional vision and local planning strategies. This is another significant reason why such proposal will see all those locally affected suffer from significant financial losses.

As outlined above the proposals close proximity to a number of residents, Goulburn Airport and Goulburn itself poses great bushfire risks and public safety. The area itself is highly prone to fire with dry grasslands and frequently common extremely high winds and as evidently seen from many cases, solar farms pose risks from battery fires, solar panel failures that has the potential from toxic smoke hazards to very fast fire spread.

The proposal will also affect the environment, and will threaten local biodiversity, ground waters and livestock.

We are also concerned such proposal not only will affect property devaluation but also increase insurance premiums which would be completely unfair.

For the above reasons we are objecting to the proposal and provided we have not been approached from any of the developers or their consultants, we are extremely frustrated with the situation and as mentioned earlier we have found misleading and incorrect information provided which also gives me concern as to the accuracy of their information and the competency of their consultants. I advise that the department encourage this developer to look for a more remote location for their proposal which will not only affect a community of people but an entire Goulburn town.

Yours Sincerely,

Nasr Nasr

81 Gretta Road, Tirrannaville