

NSW Planning

6 February 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: MERINO SOLAR FARM**

My name is Alistair Carwardine. We are a farming family living in Parkesbourne, NSW. We farm beef cattle, living on our property.

I write to strongly object to the proposed Merino Solar Farm project for the following reasons:

1. The immediate proximity of the Solar Factory to the city of Goulburn
2. The loss of prime agricultural land
3. Poor community engagement with clear feedback that the project is not desired
4. Inadequate commitment to fire planning
5. Inadequate commitment to remediation

Overall, project engagement, documentation and support are just not believable.

**Proximity of the project to Goulburn**

It is not credible that a large-scale solar factory (solar – 500 MW; BESS 450 MW) should be within 6km of a city the size of Goulburn. The impact on housing, visual amenity and, likely, local biodiversity is not adequately addressed by the project.

**Poor community engagement**

It is very difficult to find any locals/neighbours who support the project. It's no surprise noting the change of ownership of the project mid stream, inadequate communication, laughable community benefits (4 FTEs employed following project completion). It is understandable local stakeholders feel the engagement process is a box ticking exercise.

This is exacerbated by the poor commitment by the project team to actually take a position. For example, on the question of public liability, rather than EDP Australia putting a stake in the ground about insurances, they force affected stakeholders to check with their own insurance companies. This reinforces the notion that EDP is making stakeholders do their own due diligence rather than actually engaging with stakeholders to reach a common position.

Similarly, the project's position that local land values will not be affected by the farm is incomprehensible. Current thinking is that prices are likely to be depressed by 30% or greater.

As a result I conclude that Merino Solar Farm has not actively pursued social licence and isn't really interested in achieving the same.

**Other commitments are lacking**

Commitment to fire planning and remediation is minimal and therefore not believable.

**Conclusion**

Given the shortcomings in community engagement, proximity to Goulburn and a totally inadequate commitment to provide details supporting multiple aspects of the project I object to the Merino Solar Farm.

Yours faithfully,

Alistair Carwardine

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