

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Mrs Jan Chattaway, and I am 91 years old. I am writing to formally object to the proposed Merino Solar Farm development near Goulburn, NSW.

I have lived in the Gundary area for most of my life. My family has been part of the Gundary Plains district for over 70 years. This land has been our home through droughts, floods, fires, and generations of hard work. I have raised my children here, watched my grandchildren grow up here, and spent my life caring for this community. I have had the pleasure of witnessing my Great-grandchildren enjoying the rural life and the freedom and lessons it brings.

I am deeply concerned by this proposal and the risks it brings, particularly the risk of fire.

At my age, safety is not an abstract issue — it is a very real and serious concern. Whilst I am no longer able to enjoy living independently on my beloved property, I fear for my family and friends. The thought of large-scale electrical infrastructure, industrial equipment, and fenced-off development being placed in a rural fire-prone area frightens me. We already live with the constant fear of bushfires in this region. Adding an industrial energy facility into this landscape only increases that danger.

I am especially worried about:

- The risk of fire from electrical equipment and infrastructure
- Limited access for emergency services in rural conditions
- Evacuation difficulties for elderly residents and young families
- Fencing and layout restricting movement and escape routes
- The ability of emergency services to respond quickly in extreme fire conditions

Evacuation is not simple. We rely on safe access, clear roads, and emergency response. Any development that increases fire risk places residents in real danger.

This land is not just a project site. It is our home. It is part of our identity, our history, and our community. Turning it into an industrial energy zone changes the character of the area forever and puts residents at risk in the place we are meant to feel safest.

I support renewable energy, but I do not believe it should be placed where it endangers communities, particularly elderly residents who have lived their whole lives here.

At 91 years of age, I should be able to live out my remaining years in peace and not worry about the safety and uncertainty for my family.

I respectfully ask that this proposal be refused, due to the serious fire risks and the unacceptable impact on residents and community safety.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my objection.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs YJ Chattaway