

I object the Merino Solar facility for the following reasons.

1. The Extreme High Risk of Fire. The Battery and Substation are incredibly close the the residents in the Gundry Tirrannville area. These people will have little chance of surviving a fire from the Substation and Batteries. Battery fire has become an major issue throughout the world both with their use, whether it is charging or discharging, and their storage. There has been a lot of fires in Australia alone. We have had several fires in the Gundry, Quialigo plains, they move extremely fast over the grassy plains, and with our winds at over 90km per hour they have burnt through bush to the coast several times. I have a daughter grandchildren and great grandchildren living within 2 km of the battery and substation. I am extremely concerned a fire in this complex will easily escape the area and burn my family members while they sleep. There is no way they would have time to escape with the very strong winds on these plains. No warning system could ever be fool proof or give 100% guarantee for working when they should. I know that Moss Landing in California, has had 4 fires and the automatic suppression system failed not once but 4 times, and 1200 residents evacuated, and are now progressing with a law suit for damages, health issues and loss of income. These things should never be placed in such proximity to residents, they should be 10s of Kilometres from residential areas, there are thousands of acres out west, well away from so many residents and sandy soil that will never be productive, unlike the plains here. They have always been plains, when they were first discovered, they were treeless and known for being fertile plains. There has been no massive tree clearing as EDPR would have us believe for the purpose of farming. They need to read the history of the area. TREELESS plains mean they had no trees, the only trees where on the hills around the plains. It is also very obvious to locals that on the plains, NATIVE trees do not survive for very long, yu only need to drive along Windellama Road to see that plantings of natives has mostly been unsuccessful.
2. The proposal will affect the growth of Goulburn, with many properties in the process of or have approved lifestyle blocks between Goulburn and Windellama, there are many more on the Braidwood road between Goulburn and Tarago. The thought that people want to pay premium price for a minimum 25acres to 100 acres and look at black glass from the dinning table or outdoor setting is just simply ridiculous. They buy these blocks because they love the rural landscape and want to be part of it, raising their family, grazing some sheep, cows goats, or horses and have a vegetable garden and a chicken coup. Country children grow up appreciating where food comes from and are keen to get in and work, to help the family. City people do not generally have an appreciation of nor care for the rural setting, but there are many who are realizing that City infrastructure, steel, glass black roads and neighbors on your doorstep, is not for them anymore and are looking for lifestyle blocks in areas just like this. Currently There are 4 blocks for sale at the end of Gundry lane with building entitlement. They will not sell because the Battery and substation are to be their neighbors. The owner would have to give them away, and he cannot graze stock on there as **they will be rejected at market**; a farmer must sign a **declaration stating the animals have NOT come from a property hosting or adjacent to a solar or wind farm**. Stock being rejected at abattoirs has happened in Australia, and is happening overseas, reducing the income of

farmers next to renewable energy facilities. This is not fair on them they did not want the facility there but have had to cope with devalued land and devalued product they produce. This project will not only restrict growth in this area; it will also restrict the income of our local meat producers.

The expansion of Goulburn airport would create many more jobs as a freight hub, and the Council still have ambitions for this option, it would create more jobs and long term not 4 to 5 jobs for 20-30 yrs.

3. The EIS states there will be up to 500 jobs on site, **they will not be local jobs**, we all know these overseas companies have their **own Fly In Fly Out** staff, *many without Australian certification to work on electrical infrastructure*. (witnessed by family).
Where are these people going to live? Will EDPR offer landlords more money for rental properties, to house them? I believe they are ruthless enough to do so and will not care that they will put a low-income family onto the street in the process. The EIS says there were approx. 35 vacancies, a long way short of their required number of beds. And if staying in Motels, then that is also taking away beds for travelers, Goulburn will lose out on the travelers visiting our city.
4. Decommission of the site should be paid as a bond up front before any soil is moved for the project. The EIS mentions how this process will proceed when the time comes but there is no plan and no money. A fire at Jemalong Solar facility has caused considerable contamination of the site, the owners of the infrastructure has gone into administration, and the contamination continues into the soils and leeching into water supplies.
This area is in Sydney Water catchment, therefore any fire, hail damage as experienced just a few weeks ago will have that contamination going into Sydney water supply. The soils will never be useful productive land for centuries.
5. Windellama Road is not as described, and is not capable of another 200-300 vehicles per day plus large trucks. The road has several blind corners, and we have found many vehicles cross the mid line, encroaching on the incoming lane, creating a dangerous situation, with several near misses. Descriptions of nonexistent R turn passing treatments, and wide shoulders is quite inaccurate, and has obviously not been driven on by the writer.
6. If every home had 8 solar panels fitted, there would be no need to cover the farmland with black glass. Also, if all the factory roof tops, in the cities had solar panels, there would be even less need to cover land with black glass made in China.
7. Does EDPR approve of slave labor producing cheap solar panels for their projects? It would appear so! What is their (EDPR) policy on Human rights?

This project is in the wrong place, creating a very dangerous risk of fire, for the 200 plus residents within 4km of the project, also, affecting their property value up to at least 30%, affecting their enjoyment of their home and property, creating tensions within families because of the lack of enjoyment and the stress from devalued life style.