

I am Objecting to the Merino Solar facility proposed for Gundry Plains Goulburn Mulwaree Shire
NSW SSD 59155459

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

1. Fire risk on the Gundry plains is a priority and the solar facility is a contributing factor to fire on site. It is known that in the UK there are call outs to a solar panel fires every 2 days. Records are not usually kept or disclosed to the public in regard to fires in Solar panels, but we are aware of fires within large scale solar facilities in many countries around the world including Australia. Just recently, we have had two solar facility fires in NSW in the last few months, with one at Jemalong and another at Wellington. Both fires emitted toxic smoke from the site, and Jemalong fire destroyed infrastructure leaving glass fragments and chemicals on site. The owner, Genex Power Limited Purchased from Vast Solar LTD in 2018. Vast, and 10 of its subsidiaries entered voluntary administration on November 13th 2025. Vast has made no attempt to clean the site which is littered with glass fragments, The fire started by a leak in a liquid sodium tank which ignites instantly upon contact with air. The question then remains who will clean up the site? Chris Minns stated when he came into office that the land owner would be responsible for the cleanup, this would probably cost more than the land is worth, so it will not be done and the toxic waste will be left to leech into soils and water ways, contaminating water and soils for perhaps many, many decades. High winds on the Gundry plains will have a fire on our doorsteps within a few minutes, we would not have time enact our fire safety plan. A incident such as Wellington or Jemalong on the Gundry plains will see the runoff from the fire leech into the water supply of Sydney and the towns between Goulburn and Sydney.

1a. A battery fire within the batteries is a dangerous scenario with a very toxic bloom which would be carried for at least 20km across Goulburn and surrounding residents. The toxic bloom from Moss Landing Battery fire in America just last January 2025 sent smoke and toxic bloom over 20miles, with homes evacuated due to the toxic smoke and people are still suffering health issues as a result. There is apparently legal action being considered or in progress by Erin Brockovich as a class action on behalf of the residents. A battery fire emits Hydrogen Fluoride as one chemical which can cause respiratory illness such as Pulmonary oedema, severe burns permanent eye damage, vomiting, arrhythmias and even death from chronic kidney or liver failure. IS this what being Green is about? Poisoning residents, through toxic bloom and contaminating water supplies of residents not only in Gundry but also Goulburn water supply and thus Sydney water supply.

ARE residents within 4km going to be issued with PPE gear to help keep themselves and family be safe in a fire event? I would think NOT, as EDPR do not consider the residents at all, and have shown this throughout this process to date.

1b. A grass fire starting from the Battery, Solar panels or substation, will not only emit toxic fumes and forever chemicals, with our well known strong 90km winds from the west many of us will not have time to enact our **Fire evacuation plan** before we will **be consumed by the fire**, which will reach Bungonia Gorge and or the South coast within a couple of hours. The thought that Government could approve something so dangerous so close the so many residents is inconceivable to the hundreds of families that live within 4km of the site. I am less than 2km from the site and in direct line of a fire with westerly winds, and it terrifies us. I recall when working for Mulwarree Shire in Jan 1985 when a fire started on Braidwood Road, and burnt

through properties to Windellama road in 10 minutes, this same fire caught a grader driver at Bungonia, I was tasked with driving to Bungonia to rescue the driver, I travelled over 140km per hour to Bungonia (some 30 km from Goulburn) and the fire overtook me and reached the driver before I could get there, thankfully the fire went over the of the driver and he was safe. But 'Desktop Warriors' preparing reports and EIS for projects have no idea the stress and damage a fire travelling at speed can do to people and their lives. They need to experience them to understand and NO DESKTOP MODELLING WILL GIVE A TRUE ACCOUNT OF SUCH AN EVENT.

The two water tanks on the battery site are insufficient to put out a Battery fire, they require copious amounts of water, and are nowhere near large enough to put out a battery fire. What preventative measure are EDP undertaking to ensure the Chemicals, F-500 an Encapsulator Agent or other fire extinguishing chemicals do not enter the soils and water supply?

How will EDP protect the residents from toxic gases Hydrogen Fluoride and Hydrogen cyanide?

2. The whole of stage one is within the SEPP and it includes a dangerous Substation and Battery facility very close to homes and families. Our property is rated as RESIDENTIAL, a LIFESTYLE BLOCK within many such blocks on GUNDAY PLAINS.

The project does not comply with the SEPP, no matter how you word the application and how EDP think they will mitigate the amenity for any of the affected residents.

The SEPP clearly states:- **The development consent must not be granted unless the consent authority is satisfied that the development is, 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 significant adverse impact on the regional cities i) capacity for growth ii) scenic quality and landscape character.**

Clearly the development will **conflict existing approved residential**, there are 4 lifestyle blocks with building entitlement on the boundary of the project off Gunday Lane, these blocks cannot be sold and will not be sold while this project is being considered and will not if the project goes ahead, this is one of example of how an approved subdivision will be affected. Taking millions of dollars from the developer, and the right to sell the land as approved, any amount of denial by EDP will not change that fact. There are other such subdivisions in the pipeline or approved but not marketed due to the proposal, this proposal has and will prevent further development of lifestyle blocks earmarked in the area. This will impact the cities growth in the area also affecting the scenic quality of the lifestyle blocks. No one wants to buy premium land and look at a solar facility, they buy premium land to appreciate the quite peaceful view of hills and crops with animals grazing in paddocks, free and open spaces preferred by all, to the steel constructions of a substation, glass of solar panels and massive battery complex nearby. They could buy residential land within Goulburn for much less and experience infrastructure at their door if they so desire.

EDP cannot satisfy this one point in the SEPP. Goulburn Mulwaree Council still maintain an interest for expansion of the Goulburn airport to an industrial hub which would acquire some of the adjoining land for the freight centre, and employ possibly hundreds of people for decades to come, **this is a quality development for Goulburn , Goulburn's growth and long term employment, not just a handful of jobs for a couple of decades, as a Solar facility would provide with a dangerous battery and substation at the doorstep of hundreds of family residences.**

The proof of this development stifling Goulburn growth is everywhere if you are prepared to look, EDP have only researched where small residential blocks are being developed NW of town centre, not land that contains lifestyle blocks and the many more lifestyle blocks along Mt Ash Road, Windellama Road, Gundry Lane, Bullamalita Road, and west of the Airport off Braidwood Road already earmarked for Slifestyle blocks SE and SW of Goulburn City.

3. Transport/ traffic. The EIS does not give a clear indication of the size, height width or weight, of the transformer to be transported on a residential road (Gundry Lane) and there is no detail on how they will negotiate the trip from South Goulburn Highway exit to the site with out damaging several bridges that are not all OSOM approved. **That is Mundy Street rail crossing, Lansdown bridge, Highway overpass, A council owned culvert 100mts south of Mt Ash Road junction with Windellama Road and Fifes Bridge on a blind bent past the airport.**

These crossings were brought to the attention of Goulburn Council and the council referred to them in a letter attached to the EIS, April last year, but, EDP have not addressed the issue, despite having it for over 6 months to look into it and acquire engineers reports on the safety these crossings in GMC area.

Damage to the Mundy Street rail crossing bridge will prevent all rail traffic to Canberra and South to Victoria, it will prevent or restrict many industries conducting business in the immediate area and 2 trains containing Sydney rubbish to access Woodlaw facility for burial per day. It would take years to replace and is probably heritage listed. I Note Lansdown bridge may be used if travelling at 10km and travelling in the centre of the bridge. (Information from GMC traffic for the Gundry Solar proposal.) I will also note the access EDP wish to use through a residential area for OSOM vehicle is a cul-de-sac and they will be required to build a culvert to access the private property of one of the hosts, and will possibly require to lift the current height of the powerlines to get the OSOM vehicle under them to the site, as the power lines swing quite low on the rise on the property. I would have thought it would be much less costly to bring the OSOM vehicle through on Braidwood Road, a designated OSOM route road, directly to the site on the main host property.

4. Property values have been affected by this proposal and some of us are affected by both the Gundry solar facility and Merino Solar facility proposals.

Several properties have not been able to sell and are no longer on the market, with a couple of families having to sell the properties they had planned for their future and retreat back to their second option, staying where they are at present, buyers are not interested once they are told of the solar facility expected on their landscape. Agents have stated repeatly that buyers are keen till they know of the solar farm and the buyer is are unable to picture the infrastructure on the land within their view, and they walk away. This has led to an average of 30to 40 % loss for some who have had to sell due to divorce and mental health related issues.

My wife and I are like some, who have not bothered to place our lifestyle block on the market as we cannot afford to lose any money due to the proposed Solar facilities in front of us and behind us. These two projects within 2km from our home, are affecting our ability to sell and move into Goulburn where services are more readily available for when one is not able to drive to town.

There are many more issues I could mention and discuss but time prevents expansion of the subjects... some are

- Water quality being affected.
- Erosion of the site, as some are sodic soils and the EIS doesn't mention how this would be managed
- Adequate fire mitigation, including roads within the proposal are too narrow for passing or turning fire fighting vehicles. Inadequate water on site for a grass fire which will get out of control in 90km winds constantly in this area.
 - No social licence and inadequate consultation regarding the proposal, there has been 8 communications in over three years, which did not capture some of the closest neighbours, and **who looks at a notice boards at Woolworths or at and entrance to Coles?** I never have and not likely to start now! We Received 2 generic letters yrs apart and one email after I attended a drop-in session at the RSL, all generic. To the Land holder OR to the Resident.
 - The EIS states materials would be located locally, there are No businesses in Goulburn that supply High voltage power line, thousands of solar panels and steel posts, for such a project, nor are there any businesses that supply substation or transformer components. This is just nonsense from EDP. And we all know it.
 - Bumper crops this yr would reduce the amount of stock feed and canola on the market and this would be a great financial loss for the Goulburn community if the Solar facility were allowed to go ahead.
 - Noise , An independent report by Gundry residents affected by the Gundry Solar facility showed the general noise rating that are posted in the Gundry EIS are likely inaccurate and very likely will be much louder than they state as they have used generic models to show they will be constructing within limits and we are aware they are more than likely to exceed the limits for close residents. The same applies to the use of generic noise recommendations for this project and indications are there will be many occasions the noise levels will exceed limits.
 - Traffic, the amount of traffic estimated to travel on Windellama Road will definitely have an impact on the road quality and ease of use for locals.
 - Lack of adequate setbacks for adjoining properties.
 - Many errors in the EIS, such as Gundry Lane and Painters Lane being Posted as 100km roads, neither road are sign posted, and you would be putting your life in danger if you travelled Painter lane at 100km, Gundry lane is a residential access road and has 2 to 3 blind entrances, someone will be killed at that speed!
 - Night lighting of the area will pollute the immediate sky for myself and others who enjoy photography of the night sky and those of us who take great pleasure in observing the night sky regularly, so there will be an added loss of enjoyment for us.
 - Gundry lane **does not have a 'Right turn treatment'** as described in the EIS. And less than two years ago a traveller discovered there was NOT a turning treatment at the intersection and ended up off the road almost in a dam. Desktop work can never be satisfactory when it comes to safety.
 - A road survey was undertaken for Windellama road on Currawang Road. At the proposed access point !!! This is just very slack work on behalf of this company, and cant be taken seriously. Currawang road is off Braidwood road and is definitely not Windellama road.

- Accommodation, the EIS states they will accommodate most employees in Goulburn, up to several hundred workers, WHERE? There is already a shortage of homes to rent. Will EDP approach owners with more money and have them remove tenants onto the street to satisfy their need? We already have a lot of homeless without a company like EDP turning low income families onto the street or in cars.
- Money promised to TGG, this money is not for a community group but for a political lobby group, Money for community would be better spent giving \$20,000.00 to those in the community that feed the homeless in Goulburn. TGG do nothing to contribute to Goulburn and are far from a community minded group.
- Remediation of the site is also a major concern for all residences on Gundry Plain. The cost of the remediation must be born by someone, and it is not good enough for the government to say, the Proponent or owner of the Solar infrastructure would be responsible. As stated earlier in the example of Jemalong fire which has caused extensive damage, the owner has gone into administration, and no one is cleaning up the site. The Minn's Government has said the land owner or host would then be responsible. This attitude would result in the landowner walking off the land as the cost would be much greater than the value of the land. There should be a remediation fund paid upfront before the development can begin, as is in the mining industry.

**I AM VERY MUCH AGAINST THIS PROJECT,
it is IN THE WRONG PLACE
IT IS TOO CLOSE TO HOMES
IT WILL ENDANGER THE LIVES OF RESIDENTS SURROUNDING THE PROJECT WITH FIRE AND
CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION RISKS BEING EXTREMELY HIGH
IT MOST DEFINITELY RESTRICTS GOULBURN'S GROWTH
IT MOST DEFINITELY DAMAGES THE PRISTINE RURAL OUTLOOK SORT BY MANY AT A
PREMIUM PRICE
IT REMOVES OUR FARMING VISTA, THE REASON FOR our PREMIUM PURCHASE
IT WILL AFFECT OUR SENSE OF BELONGING AND ENJOYMENT OF OUR HOMES
THE SOLAR FACILITY WILL BE LOCATED JUST 6 KM FROM GOULBURN,
IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME 200 RESIDENTS ON LIFESTYLE BLOCKS.**

Gundry resident