

To whom it may concern,

I wish to formally object to the proposed Merino Solar Farm development in Gundry near Goulburn.

My wife and I have three children, and in 2023 we were extremely fortunate to be able to purchase a block of land in Gundry, directly opposite my mother-in-law. We built our family home there and moved in over 12 months ago. This location was chosen very deliberately so we could live close to family, provide stability for our children, and raise them in a safe, rural environment.

We moved to this area for strong family connections, access to good local schools, and the proximity to Goulburn for work and services. My mother-in-law looks after our children before and after school while my wife and I work, which has been essential to our family functioning. Living close to her is not a convenience — it is a necessity for our family life and employment.

I grew up on a farm and wanted the same upbringing for my children. We chose this area for the outdoor lifestyle, the open space, and the rural environment. Our children ride horses and motorbikes, spend time outdoors, and are being raised in a way that reflects country values, safety, and connection to land. This is not just where we live — it is how we live.

We have received no communication from EDPR at any stage regarding this project. We only became aware of the proposed solar farm through neighbours. This lack of consultation is deeply concerning. Even more troubling is the fact that our home is still not marked on project maps, despite a neighbour informing EDPR over 12 months ago that homes were missing from the mapping. This demonstrates a serious failure in accurate community identification and engagement.

We do not want to live near an industrial-scale solar development. We do not want to look at large-scale solar panel infrastructure dominating a rural landscape that we specifically chose for its natural beauty and open space. This fundamentally changes the character of the area and destroys the rural lifestyle we moved here to protect.

We are also extremely concerned about fire risk and the potential for toxic fumes and hazardous materials in the event of a fire. With young children, animals, and rural properties surrounding the site, this risk is unacceptable and has not been adequately addressed for families living nearby.

This project represents industrial development being imposed on a rural family community that deliberately chose this location for safety, peace, and lifestyle — not for large-scale infrastructure.

For these reasons, we strongly object to the Merino Solar Farm proposal and request that the project not be approved.

Sincerely,
Michael Laurie
Windellama Road
Gundry NSW