

Objection to Stubbo Solar Farm

I object on the following grounds:

- Solar Farm proposals have fractured and splintered quiet rural communities where goodwill and good faith between neighbours has been irrevocably destroyed. Corporate social responsibility principles have been sacrificed in the name of greed and a quick profit at the expense of Australian taxpayers and electricity users.
- The “independent” analysis conducted in the EIS has been instructed by and paid for by the proponents. It is not independent advice and it is biased. The objective of the proponents is to develop a Solar Farm in this location. The independent experts are employed to fulfil this objective. They are not employed to evaluate all aspects of the proposal.
- The proposal is on gently undulating cleared land that is underneath an existing HVAC power line and is within a designated renewable energy area. Long term landuse has been completely overlooked, as has safe access to the site and bush fire control. It is incorrect to suggest that there has been a proper independent evaluation to assess site suitability. The analysis has been based purely on cost effectiveness for the proponent.
- The proposal totally ignores the devastating impact on existing agricultural land uses and the ongoing rifts within the community by handsomely rewarding those that break long established and well entrenched planning principles. The Government must choose between electricity and food production. It is not possible to have both on this class of land.
- Furthermore, it is possible that the DA approval will last for the rest of time because it is highly likely there will be no lapsing clause inserted into the Consent, nor will there be any requirement for the proponents to do any work or take any steps to build the project. The DA will simply blight neighbouring properties and devalue that land. I believe this is unacceptable behaviour on the part of the Department and approvals should not be made unless there is a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and connectivity to the grid is guaranteed by TransGrid.
- Finally, there are too many solar farms in this district. They will have a profound negative influence on existing businesses and may also lead to a population decrease thereby threatening the viability of health services, educational opportunities and police numbers.

¹ Australian Human Rights Commission, 'Corporate social responsibility and human rights' (2008) at <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/corporate-social-responsibility-human-rights>.