



Ryde - Hunter's Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society

Member of Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W.

**P.O. Box 2127
Boronia Park 2111**

Department of Planning
anthony.ko@planning.nsw.gov.au

24 April 2019

RE: Wollar Solar Farm, SSD 9254

Dear Sir,

Our members welcome and support this development proposal for the Wollar Solar Farm. We consider this development proposal a matter of genuine State significance in contrast to high rise developments we have observed fast tracked locally. We trust that the Department of Planning is adequately resourced to progress its environmental assessment as efficiently and quickly as possible in the immediate public interest to reduce CO2 pollution.

Unlike the devastating environmental and social impacts of coal mine expansion on the community of Wollar, this proposal provides positive impacts with the creation of local job and training opportunities. The diversification of the regional economy will help reinvigorate a local community gutted by past coal mine activity.

A solar farm also allows agricultural activities to continue rather than the buy up of farms and their subsequent destruction which occurs with coal mine expansion. The associated buy up of water rights for coal mines will also not occur. Access to water for local community use is a significant concern for small communities impacted by thirsty coal-mine activity. A solar farm also avoids the destructive environmental impacts and damage to Aboriginal cultural heritage which is associated with coal mines and their operations.

We understand that the Wollar community has supported this proposal since no land use conflict is created and amenity impacts minimal.

It is in the broader public interest for “green” power projects such as the Wollar Solar Farm to be encouraged and developed as matters of priority by government. The project is well located to feed the 290MW of solar energy generated into the national electricity grid. The installation of battery storage will extend the time the power is available from the solar panels.

Our members fully support this proposal and its positive contribution to NSW meeting its commitment to reduced global warming.

Yours sincerely
Cathy Merchant on behalf of RHHFFPS.