

I am making a submission of objection to this proposed project, Peninsula Solar Farm, as both an adjoining neighbour operating as part of a farming family and a concerned resident of the local district.

The application is very poorly developed and is full of inaccuracies and assumptions, more detail would be needed for key stakeholders to allay any concerns of the impact on both direct neighbours and the wider local community in the building of the Peninsula Power Station. As a local community member and adjoining neighbour who will be directly impacted, my experience thus far in relation to this project has been less than satisfactory. In my communication with the representative of Edify I have felt any concerns have been largely unheard and dismissed.

There are also concerns with the ability of Edify to provide the benefits to the local community as outlined in their community materials provided by the company. This has also been exacerbated by their project manager's lack of community capacity building from the onset of the project and also the inaccuracies in the proposed plan that has been aided by consultants and paid for by Edify. Much of these consultations should have been accessible to the community in their development or in partnership with key stakeholders to provide transparency and accuracy in the planning stages of the data and the impacts on the local community.

The specific issues I have are as follows,

- Lack of detail in the plan, for instance I am unsure as to where the project is to be built exactly, through communication with Edify I am led to believe that the proposed section to be built on Lot 442 is not proceeding as they have secured a portion of Lot 9 however Lot 442 is still included in the exhibition. Due to previous dishonest communications from the project manager for Edify I am unsure what to believe. If construction was to occur on Lot 442 it will greatly increase the negative visual impact to our property and in particular to our residence on our property. This part of the plan will also have a greater impact on the road users as it is to the south of the road and will increase glare towards the road at particular times of the day reducing safety for road users.
- The loss of prime agricultural land therefore reducing the capacity of Australia to feed and clothe the population of Australia and the world. There is plenty of less productive land available for the construction of industrial infrastructure that will not adversely affect agricultural productivity as much.
- The traffic impact assessment was provided by an independent consultant who never actually visited the site and assessed the condition of Paytens Bridge Rd and the local traffic conditions. The condition of this road is extremely poor including narrow one lane bitumen down to a width of 3m in numerous sections as well as several blind crests and dangerous blind corners. Passing trucks on this road is dangerous due to the narrow width and dangerous corners. This assessment of the road being inadequate for the increased traffic volumes was confirmed at an **onsite inspection** with an engineering representative of the Forbes Shire Council. This onsite inspection of the road was instigated by myself due to concerns about the safety and suitability of Paytens Bridge Rd.

- The traffic impact assessment provided is shown to be grossly inaccurate as it has used weekly vehicle movements as daily movements. The assessment was developed using the figure of 340 current movements per day when the actual movements are 31 per day as recorded by Forbes Shire Council [Paytens Bridge Road 14-05-2021 count.pdf](#), this results in an increase in traffic volume of 330% during construction, not the 20% as claimed in the assessment. Paytens Bridge road is also a school bus route, this has been overlooked in the assessment.
- Edify claim that the creation of 250 jobs during the construction period is a benefit to the community however this region is experiencing a labour crisis that is already impacting and limiting growth of the current businesses in the area, add to this the shortage of accommodation in the surrounding area and this will only add inflationary pressure on the region and its established businesses.
- As a primary producer running sheep adjacent to the project I fear that during construction the noise and constant movement will disturb the sheep meaning that they will not graze close to the project effectively reducing my productivity on an estimated 150ha of adjoining land. Edify informs me that this will not occur however as someone experienced in caring for sheep, a flight animal, I believe that it will occur and be particularly detrimental especially at sensitive times such as lambing reducing mothering instincts resulting in increased lamb mortality.
- The proposed site is infested with several invasive and problematic weeds such as Khaki Weed, Bathurst Burr and Devils Claw. As open and mixed farm land there are several proven mechanisms available to control them such as cultivation and broadacre spraying, however once solar panels are placed all over this land control methods are greatly hindered. In the proposal Edify claim they will control problem weeds by grazing with sheep, this however will not prove effective as these and other problem weeds are unpalatable to sheep and at times are detrimental to sheep production. I fear that with no or ineffective control of problem weeds on this site that they will spread to our property particularly as we are downstream of the site and prevailing winds are towards us from the site.
- I have concerns about increased possibility of erosion particularly during the construction phase due to the removal of ground cover and because of a road running down the eastern boundary which is a watercourse.
- In the Land Use Conflict Risk assessment the risk of a fire starting on the project site whether by natural or man made means and spreading to neighbouring property is listed as practically impossible. This statement is blatantly false, given the right conditions which do occur regularly if a fire were to start during a catastrophic fire period the earth road 5m wide surrounding the site will not be enough to contain the fire. Also controlling a fire on the site will be severely hindered due to reduced access to and within the site. Bear in mind the first responders to any fire on site will be the local volunteer RFS members such as myself unfamiliar with how to deal with the nature of fires in solar panels, inverters and batteries. Appendix M of Edify's preliminary hazard assessment also suggests increased risk of fire due to the project.

- As a land manager that will be directly impacted by the glare of the panels whilst performing our farming operations I would like Edify to include in their plan a barrier of trees on the boundary to mitigate the impact.
- Concern about the negative effect on land values of neighbouring properties to the project.

If this project is to proceed any further Edify needs to be compelled to engage positively with the key stakeholders and neighbours through consultation and the inclusion of local knowledge and experience must be considered to improve the outcome and reduce the negative impacts on the neighbours, Paytens Bridge district and Forbes Shire region.

Please contact me at any time for further information or clarity,

Thank you

Adam Norrie