

As a property owner and farming enterprise directly adjacent to the Peninsula Solar Farm proposed by Edify Energy, we wish to state our objections to the proposal for the following reasons.

1. Lack of Consultation

From the start we have been very disappointed with the lack of consultation and honesty from the representatives of Edify Energy. Some impacted neighbours to this proposal were not even informed of the proposal. Getting information on the proposal or having concerns addressed by Edify and their representatives has not been forthcoming.

Edify and their consultants should be obligated to liaise constructively with key stakeholders and neighbours through consultation and to consider local knowledge and experience to improve the outcome. This would give greater transparency.

Edify Energy preaches about the benefits it will provide to the region covered by the Forbes Shire Council e.g., increased employment, infrastructure, community projects but has not outlined any benefits to those directly affected. This again is an example of the representatives of Edify Energy failure to effectively engage with stakeholders and the community.

The proposal and location of the project have never been sufficiently clarified even within the submission to the government. It has been submitted in a way that could allow changes to be made to their project, if approved, without any further consultation. We require more detail of the final plan and location of panels as it keeps changing. Transparency by Edify appears to be of little importance.

2. Neighbouring farmland loss of value.

We are told there will be no loss of value to adjoining property. How can this be so with the increased risk of biosecurity e.g., introduced weeds from traffic movements and if the Solar Farm doesn't control weeds such as Khaki, Bathurst Burr and Devils Claw etc which sheep WILL NOT CONSUME.

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/KhakiWeed>

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/BathurstBurr>

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/DevilsClawPurpleFlowered>

What is Edify's policy around weed control? In their submission they have indicated they will use sheep to control these weeds under the panels, however as shown by above websites, issued by NSW Government DPI, this will be ineffective and detrimental to animal health. The proposed site has a history of a heavy weed

infestation of above weeds. If control of these weeds is not undertaken effectively there would be land use conflict with adjacent agricultural land uses.

There will be an increased erosion risk and watershed to lower lying country such as ours.

The loss of aesthetics caused, and glare from the panels effect the rural environment. In Edify's application we note there is no inclusion of a barrier of established trees (not tube stock) to mitigate these issues.

If a perspective buyer was choosing between a farm with a solar farm as the outlook or rolling countryside, which would they choose?

We were given no concrete examples by Edify to support their statement that rural land values would not be devalued.

3. Road

The road from Payten's Bridge to the solar farm site is in extremely poor condition. It is very uneven and narrow (in places less than 3m wide with sharp, broken edges), includes two very blind corners (site of several accidents) and parts of the road is a school bus run. At times water also crosses the road in places.

Traffic movements per day have been grossly exaggerated in the report therefore implying the project will have little effect on daily road use (weekly traffic movements incorrectly claimed as daily movements).

Livestock and large machinery are moved between farms on this road and no provision for this has been included in the report.

4. Fire

A major concern is the risk of fire. If a fire was to start from the solar farm or from our neighbouring land, under ideal fire conditions (wind, heat and low humidity), the proposed preventative measures by Edify are inadequate.

Appendix M of Edify's preliminary hazard assessment also suggests increased risk of fire due to the project.

Due to restrictive access because of the solar panels, control of the fire would be hindered.

Are the toxic fumes from the panels a health risk to the firefighter?

Is there going to be any specialised training by Edify on how to fight a fire in the solar farm as firefighting will be done by the local farmers. Edify seemed to assume this was done by Fire and Rescue from Forbes.

Also, we COULD NOT get any answers from Edify concerning litigation due to events such as fires.

5. Native Habitat

There is a colony of vulnerable Superb Parrots which is often sighted in the locality of the solar farm. What undertakings have Edify adopted to protect these threatened birds we do not see elsewhere in the area?

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp/cmaSearchResults.aspx?CmaName=NSW%20South%20Western%20Slopes&SubCmaId=0>
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/news/landholders-and-country-communities-welcome-back-superb-parrots-for-annual-breeding-season>

6. Recourse

If the proposal wins approval what recourse do the neighbouring farms and local community have if Edify Energy does not meet the conditions as outlined in the approval from Government and their promises made in the application, e.g., road condition and maintenance, weed control, fire prevention etc.?

What guarantees do we have? We have concerns about the maintenance of the project following conversations with landholders adjacent to other solar farms that have gained approval. They have indicated that once approval was granted, and project constructed, that ongoing maintenance has been sporadic.

If you require further information or wish to discuss any issue raised, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Robert Norrie