To The Department of Planning

Regarding Application SSD – 23700028 ( Tallawang Solar Farm )

As a land owner residing nearby this proposed project and a neighbour to the Beryl Solar Farm I would like to inform you of a few concerns that I have.

Property Values – Soon after the Beryl Solar Farm was constructed the valuer general assessment was received for my property with an increase of more than 100k from when the previous valuation was given only 1.5 years prior. I requested a re-evaluation and after a sight inspection from the Valuer Generals Office it was confirmed that due to the construction of the solar farm my land value should not be increased.

Reliability – My property is powered by an off grid solar system with a diesel generator back up. I know first hand that we cannot rely completely on the solar. Due to the poor weather over the last 12 months I have needed to run the generator for 260 Hours. This to me shows that we cannot rely directly on Solar. I also clean my solar panels 2 times per year which increases the productivity by 20%. But cleaning the solar farm panels is something that has not been done. The solar farm never seems to be running as it should with breakdowns happening regularly. RENEWABLE IS NOT RELIABLE

Feasibility – Whilst I understand that the government is striving for reduced carbon emissions, there has been little thought into the big picture. Its only when the solar farm is constructed that it actually becomes green energy, with the construction of a solar farm it needs to be considered how much carbon is produced in the process including mining of raw materials, freight overseas, the coal powered energy used to manufacture all materials such as steel, cement, glass, copper, plastics, cable etc and then the transport of these materials back to Australia. Just because this carbon footprint is not all been made in Australia doesn’t mean it shouldn’t be considered. In our local area we have many productive coal mines which mostly is exported to supply coal to other countries to burn and produce power.

Visual Impact – Seeing first hand the monstrosity of a solar farm it is easy to see that renewable energy farms ruin the use of good agricultural land, turning the countryside we enjoy into an industrial jungle. I am concerned that the amount of renewable energy that is proposed for our region we will lose the heritage we now have which is the big draw card for people to visit our area.

Health – I believe that studies should take place in regards to the effects of renewable energy farms and what they have on the local residents and stock. It is proposed that sheep grazing would be possible after the construction has been completed. I know that this was a failure at Beryl due to the sheep being caught in the pivot mechanism and slowly being pulled apart, jamming the rotation. Who will be responsible for the possible adverse health implications to local residents if they were to occur?

Conditions of approval – I have witnessed first hand that goal posts are moved to suit the developer. What is set out in the approval conditions is not closely monitored and extensions of time are requested to fur fill the original timeframes proposed, such as screen planting.

Employment – In the proposal it states that there is employment opportunities for the local community, as we have seen with the Beryl project it was mostly backpackers who were employed for the construction which caused major issues in our community.