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Karl Okorn

**Planning and Assessment** 

**Dept of Planning and Environment** 

Parramatta NSW, 2124

I would like to make a submission regarding the building of the Glanmire solar farm. Application Number: SSD-21208499.

I have lived at Glanmire for over 60 years and these have been four generations of Ryans that have called Glanmire 'home'. I also have land at 413 Brewongle Lane and therefore know the area very well. Due to this I have some concerns with the proposed solar farm:

- The solar farm is too close to Bathurst, and is on the main road to town.
  Bathurst has grown rapidly in the last ten years, particularly on the Great
  Western Highway. My concern is that the Solar Farm will eventually inhibit the future expansion of Bathurst.
- 2. Glanmire is an agricultural area, a Solar Farm would potentially change its essence.
- 3. The submission made by Elgin Energy relies heavily on the planting and growing of trees to hide the solar farm, yet has no provision to care and maintenance of the trees after planting has occurred. Weeding and drip irrigating the trees would help more trees survive and accelerate their growth. There would be plenty of run off from solar panels that could potentially be collected. Provision for this should be considered.
- 4. Brewongle Lane is a narrow dirt road with cars having to pull over for vehicles to pass in the other direction, and has three blind crests. It is therefore not

- suitable for a high volume of truck traffic and would be dangerous to local traffic.
- 5. The temporary construction compound is located on the highest point on Woodside and can be seen for at least 5kms in all directions, including the main entrance into Bathurst. It should therefore be better hidden.
- 6. The biodiversity report failed to mention or find the colonies of Eastern Grass Owls that live and hunt on Woodside of a night. Being a farmer and seeing these owls sitting on the road at night, adjacent to the proposed solar farm, gives me great satisfaction that we are protecting our environment. A solar farm would destroy these native animals unless changes can be made for them to co-exist. It is your job at Department of Planning and Environment to do this.

Solar Farms are a good concept but are a burden on the local environment. Elgin Energy and all experts they have used to create the environmental impact statement are not from the local region. All mistakes made by them will be a future burden on all the locals! Their primary goal is for the creation of wealth, not protecting the Glanmire area. Such developments would be better suited to the renewable development zones, which were created by the State Government for this purpose.

If the solar farm is to go ahead, neighbours should be heavily involved in the planning to lessen the potential future impacts on them, that such a proposal would created, not by payed experts by Elgin Energy stating that they have 'involved neighbours'.

Please take the time to consider my submission Kind Regards, Paul Ryan.