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Development Assessment
Department of Planning and Environment
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[Maryvale Solar MOD 2 - Capacity increase | Planning Portal - Department of Planning and Environment \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects)

From: name withheld

Dear Ms Dunn

I object to SSD-8777 Maryvale Solar Works Mod 2

I have read many EISs and the similarity of all of them is striking. In my opinion, they all use lots of qualifying words & phrases so they actually commit to very little, make unsupported claims, promise mitigation actions that are virtually impossible to keep, will not post bonds for the very costly (possibly more than the original project cost) for decommissioning, removal, disposal and land rehabilitation, have little regard for the local wildlife, return some of the subsidies they receive to landholders and community groups to buy acceptance of their "not fit for purpose" projects, push things to after they get approval (e.g. type and source of the imported solar panels, wind turbines, lithium storage batteries, etc), will not acknowledge the toxicity in their products, will not acknowledge that they will (as far as possible) use non-Australian labour (typically backpackers), claim they are in it for the long haul but often sell the works, have questionable economics, ignore the use of slave labour in their imported components, etc, etc. The DPE must look at the facts and not the marketing spin. If DPE still recommends the project it must be subject to many enforceable and policed conditions.

A real life, but not uncommon, example, only 5kms from Gulgong is the 87MWac, 310ha Beryl solar works, which:

- was approved on 5/12/2017; of the 38 community submissions 37 opposed the project and one was a comment. Affected neighbours are still bitter today that the project was approved.
- was constructed over a few months, apparently by 150 - 200 backpackers bussed in daily from elsewhere; one business owner stated, " they lived off noodles and had several people live a one room".
- was commissioned in May 2019 and reportedly has not yet achieved its forecast output; it had major output issues in 2020 due to heavy rain, a lightning strike, inverter damage, other component failures and "weather adjustment" issues; the 12 monthly amount of sunlight has fallen by over 13% from March 2019 to April 2022.
- was built by Downer Group (now withdrawn from the industry) for First Solar, who sold it on 24/7/2018, before completion, to New Energy Solar Ltd (now exited Australia).
- New Energy Solar, who also owned Manildra Solar works, subsequently sold both Beryl and Manildra to Banpu Energy Australia P/L (overseas owner) in June 2021 for A\$97.5m, which was A\$202.9m below the original construction costs; three owners and a huge loss in value in just three years.
- the promised tree screening did not take place by any of the owners; Banpu sought in February 2022 an extension of another 3 years to provide the screening to a 3m height
- in 2022 had an equipment fire in June, and was threatened by a nearby grass fire in August that required many emergency vehicles and 3 water-bombing helicopters to bring it under

control over a 4 hour period. Another grass fire occurred in September on the proposed Tallawang solar works site.

- used the most toxic of all solar panels yet no monitoring of soil and water contamination is required despite being built over two waterways.
- Kilometres of high wire fencing have prevented larger animals, such as kangaroos, from grazing and travelling to other breeding locations.
- The solar works is visible to some neighbours but especially from the Gulgong's Flirtation Hill Lookout, which will look out over several more approved/proposed solar and wind developments. What will tourists think of the industrialisation of a hundred km² of what would otherwise have been beautiful and varied rural and mountain views?
- The DPE acknowledged that they do not monitor or enforce the commitments made by Proponents and it is up to residents to raise non-compliance issues.

Based on my experience, the Maryvale Solar and BESS works will add to the growing problems that such projects are creating for our rural regions, especially the CWO-REZ, supposedly a pilot. Already, the target of 3000MW has increased to 12000MW of solar and wind works installed capacity.

The wind and solar projects will, cumulatively, have enormous adverse consequences for our town and virtually every other town in the CWO-REZ if we are expected to provide resources during the overlapping construction phases, such as from:

- already poor health services that will not cope with an influx of transient workers
- already stretched tourist/visitor accommodation that may disappear all together
- supplying billions of litres of water that will be required for the projects (e.g. dust control, panel cleaning) and for their workers
- massively increased traffic congestion from both light and heavy vehicles, as well as funding the costs of extra damage to the roads, especially ratepayer funded repairs
- increased cost and demands on our fire and emergency services, as more project related fires that are extremely difficult to contain are inevitable
- years of disruption to our current way of life from huge numbers of transient workers
- increased risk of motoring accidents, grass fires and crime.

Industrial wind and solar works already scar the surroundings around Wellington, of which Maryvale solar will be just one more. Just take a drive just outside the north of Wellington. So much for screening of the works and no glare from PV panels. Maryvale solar and BESS works should not be recommended for approval.

Yours sincerely

A Resident of the CWO-REZ