

30 July 2023

Michael Rickards
6 Macquarie Drive
Belmont, NSW 2280

Anthony Alliston
Manager Development Services
Inverell Shire Council
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Dear Mr Alliston,

Objection to Application No.SSD-8911 by Sundown Solar Pty Ltd

I am writing this letter to express my strong objection to the development proposed by Sundown Solar Pty Ltd (application No. SSD-8911).

I question the wisdom of land clearing and development of solar infrastructure on high value agricultural land in our state. It shows no foresight and future planning for the ecology of the area, the safeguarding of groundwater and water sources, and the preservation of biodiversity.

The impact of the development on Spring Mountain Road and Sturmans Road is such that families who have lived for generations in place will be forced to relocate for their health and safety.

Upon careful examination of the provided Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the applicant, a concerning omission comes to light—a comprehensive risk assessment of the potential impact of increased traffic on Spring Mountain Road and Sturmans Road is conspicuously absent. This raises valid concerns about the possible health effects on both our residents and precious livestock, owing to the significant dust generation caused by heavy traffic, which remains inadequately addressed.

In addition to the health concerns, another pressing issue emerges—the proposed development poses a significant threat to the serene rural environment that defines the very essence of the community. The anticipated construction noise and vibration could disrupt the daily lives and livelihoods of local farmers and graziers, particularly impacting mustering stock and possibly posing fire hazards. These challenges have led us to question the long-term viability of the primary production enterprises in the area.

Given these prevailing circumstances, placing reliance on Spring Mountain Road and Sturmans Road as access routes for the development appears unwise and impractical. I strongly urge the exploration of alternative areas that have lesser ties to agricultural activities, thereby minimizing adverse impacts on the community and environment. Specifically, I encourage reconsidering and investigating the potential of the "Western Road" access option, which holds promise in mitigating many of our current concerns.

In light of these critical considerations, I respectfully implore you to reconsider your support for the use of Spring Mountain Road and Sturmans Road as access points to the proposed development. The safety and well-being of residents and landholders are paramount, and it is incumbent upon us to make a well-informed decision that fosters a sustainable and thriving future for Swan Vale.

Yours sincerely

Michael Rickards