

1 August, 2023.

The Director – Energy Assessments
Development Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Sir/Madam Director,

Development Application SSD-8911 Objection, Sundown Solar Pty Ltd, Swan Vale, NSW

This letter is to object to the proposed solar farm to be built at Swan Vale by Sundown Solar Pty Ltd.

At the eleventh hour, the community has been given the opportunity to have a say. I have spoken with various people in Inverell, the majority didn't even realise that a solar farm was being proposed, let alone any opportunity to have input. I wonder how widely, and how earnestly, advertising was carried out? It was certainly by chance that I happened upon the information.

What materials are being sourced in Australia for this build? How much is being imported? We have rich reserves of coal, which are currently being mined for export, to be burnt in another country. Are the people of Australia meant to foot the bill for this development while our own resources are sold off? The long term future – beyond 35 years of project life – has not been outlined and addressed, leaving the short term benefit to be of little consequence. I refer you to the blackouts experienced by South Australia in recent years as they steamrolled into purported renewable energy and draw your attention to The Land newspaper article, dated 20th July, 2023 where the NSW Farmers are seeking, from the NSW Government, a moratorium on solar farms due to “current planning and approval provisions for large scale solar energy facilities did not take into account the long-term interests of agricultural land and rural communities following the decommissioning of the facility”.

Besides the poor supply of base load energy that renewables afford, for this project, there are very real risks to the neighbourhood of fire, irreversible contamination and disabling of function of farming activities along Spring Mountain Road. The quantity of vehicles estimated to be going to the site during construction is an increase of 40 fold. The potential water that farmers must hand over from their own land should the project not have sufficient for cleaning or maintenance is just outright wrong. Or is it being legislated under a purported climate emergency? The company should have to buy additional water from Inverell Shire Council. Where is the rescue to come from when contamination issues arrive? How far reaching will contamination go? This project is set at the headwaters to a major valley that serves as irrigation to food growing regions, affecting a vastly larger footprint, than the installation, itself.

The whole project ought to be denied establishment because of its sheer waste and destruction compared to perceived gain.