

15 August 2023

To whom it may concern,

I write to strongly object to the Bendemeer Solar Farm being constructed by Athena Energy Australia.

Athena Energy Australia is located across South-East Asia and headquartered in Singapore and is owned by Metis Energy Limited (formerly known as Manhattan Resources Limited), and who's Chairman and majority of the Board of Directors are based in Singapore. I am deeply concerned by the foreign investment by these companies in Australia and in Bendemeer. How can an executive in Singapore relate to a Bendemeer resident?

I feel deeply sorry for the Bendemeer community and residents that will be impacted by a reduction in property values. The nearest point of the property boundary associated with the Bendemeer solar project is approximately 1.8km from the Bendemeer Hotel. There are 11 dwellings within 1 km of the project site. The solar farm will cover an area of up to 350.8 hectares, but the total disturbance footprint will span across 476.6 hectares (1,177 acres). There will be approximately 430,000 solar modules created for the project which will result in an industrial eye saw for the residents that live in those 11 houses within a 1km radius of the project, as well as the wider community surrounding the project.

I am concerned about the 430,000 solar modules for various reasons. I am concerned about the solar panels being located on highly productive agricultural land. If I lived in the immediate area I would be worried about the possible glare from the solar panels and the visual impact, construction and operational noise and vibration impacts to my property.

Landowners that have the solar panels located on their property or have had land purchased by Athena Energy have a financial benefit from the project. The neighbouring residents receive no financial benefit but will have to endure the full impacts of the project. The construction jobs and ongoing operation roles will be very minimal.

Overall, I don't believe the Business Case, economic develop and so called environmental benefits of the project, outweigh the negative impacts for the Bendemeer Community.

Kind regards

Concerned Tamworth resident.