

LONGFORD STATION PTY LTD

A.B.N. 52107693176

BENDEMEER N.S.W. 2355

AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE : 61 (0)2 67 696622

FACSIMILE : 61 (0)2 67 696653

**SUBMISSION RE PROPOSED BENDEMEER SOLAR AND WIND TURBINE
INDUSTRIAL PROJECT
“ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL VANDALISM”**

I write on behalf of our company and staff to protest regarding the above proposals. Our family companies own and operate Longford Station, approximately 16 kilometres downstream on the McDonald River from the proposed developments and our staff are resident in the local district.

The reasons for our objections are as follows:

1) FOREIGN TRANSNATIONAL PROPONENT

The proponent Metis Energy Limited (“Metis”) is a Singapore conglomerate. It has no interest in our area and its sole motivation is PROFIT. It is not reasonable to expect such a transnational conglomerate to have any meaningful interest in preserving the local environment or any genuine interest in fostering or enhancing our local community. Metis, like all other transnationals, is interested solely in PROFIT and is not a suitable proponent for such as the proposed project. Its pathetic proposals for a local charitable effort is equivalent to early European explorers handing out trinkets to the natives and should be seen as such.

2) ENVIRONMENT

The key findings of the Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) are seriously flawed and appear to be driven by self interest rather than genuine environmental concerns.

A) VISUAL IMPACT

Visual impact is in the eye of the beholder and this issue must be addressed in the light of both the solar part of the project and the wind tower part.

In our opinion the appearance of these industrial size solar arrays or wind towers together with the accompanying transmission towers and lines in our scenic rural environment is totally offensive and completely destroys the existing scenic beauty and amenity.

B) EROSION RISKS

Clearly no proper assessment has been made of the impact of the construction roads and major earth works been made on a long term basis and no penalties proposed for breaches during the life of the project. Further the appropriate continuing supervision of the generation of additional run off has not been properly addressed.

C) BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity has not been properly addressed. The potential run off of toxic material from construction, maintenance and future degradation of the facilities has been improperly considered.

Further the fiction of dividing the project into two parts has resulted in an attempt to eliminate consideration of the damage to bird life from the turbines. The area is home as a declining population of Wedge-tailed Eagles and these must be preserved.

The McDonald River is a very well preserved riverine environment and is home to what is considered to be the largest Platypus population in the country. Toxic run off from the initial work and degrading solar panels will potentially seriously impact this river now and in the future.

D) BUSHFIRE

The fire risks have been glossed over and the total project generates significant risk and there are no suitable properly funded ongoing safety and maintenance regimes proposed for such a major industrial project.

E) WASTE MANAGEMENT

Again no properly funded and clearly enunciated ongoing waste management program is detailed except “motherhood” statements that “measures” will be implemented.

I suggest Metis in Singapore will not have in the forefront of its mind the proper funding and maintenance of such measures but will instead focus on PROFIT.

F) HUMAN IMPACT

The devious strategy of paying hosting landholders whilst neglecting the impact on neighbouring landholders and the community is grossly unfair and divides the community. No proper or considered effort has been made to address local concerns.

G) PROPERTY DEVALUATION

Such a huge industrial project will severely adversely impact the value of all adjoining land and landholders will be left with virtually unsaleable properties. This impact on values will also impact landholders' ability to borrow to finance operations.

H) REMEDIATION AND REHABILITATION

These issues are major concerns. The usable life of the solar panels and turbines is approximately 20 to 25 years and the proponents will have tailored their financing to a 25 year program.

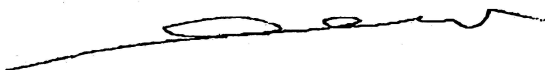
There must be strict requirements for rehabilitation backed by bank bonds to ensure compliance otherwise the foreign proponents will be able to simply walk away from any rehabilitation leaving the area as a deteriorating and rotting mess of derelict panels and towers and batteries and eroding roads with no maintenance.

I) AMENITY

The projects destroy the concept of amenity in the local and surrounding areas. Such a large industrial project is totally incompatible with the existing rural environment and amounts to ENVIRONMENTAL VANDALISM. It is no more appropriate to situate these industrial projects in scenic rural Bendemeer than suggesting that such projects would be suitable for North Head, Sydney or surrounding Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra.

In conclusion we submit that the total project and its various parts should be rejected outright. It amounts to ENVIRONMENTAL AND LOCAL VANDALISM and reflects its sole purpose of PROFIT to benefit a FOREIGN corporate conglomerate with no interest or stake in our local area.

Yours faithfully,



Arthur G. Dew
Director