

17<sup>th</sup> September 2023

D & N Cotter

190 Woodland Ridge Estate

Muscle Creek NSW 2333

To Whom it may concern,

RE: Concerns regarding Proposed Solar Farm at Muscle Creek – SSD-46543209

We are writing this letter as our formal objection to the proposed development of the Solar Farm at Muscle Creek – SSD- 46543209.

This letter outlines the current concerns ourselves as home owners and landholders have with the proposed development.

Currently we live in the Woodland Ridge estate collective with approx. 70 prestige homes and have warranted concerns for the construction of said solar farm.

The proposed solar farm is within close proximity to this particular estate and will have various effects on these properties inclusive of devaluation of approx. 20% of their current values, potential health issues and a large impact on not only the visual aspect of the landscape but an inherent risk to the native flora and fauna within this area, inclusive of critically endangered species. What compensation will given to the homeowners in regards to this large decrease in value?

There have been numerous studies completed by universities and environmental committees on already existing solar farms within the country which have identified a range of issues that are substantiated through these studies.

Some keys points that need to be addressed are:

Woodland Ridge estate and Muscle creek rd are a one access road and the document provided by Esco group has not addressed concerns regarding their upkeep and maintenance of the road way inclusive of a detailed fire action plan. With the proposed Solar farm (from previous solar farm data) having an increased temperature of approx. 5 degrees and our incredibly hot and dry summers, what safety and preventative measure will be in place to ensure that an event does not occur from this development?

Also note in the report it states a very short time frame that the land was reviewed for a set number of endangered species in line with current environmental laws and I believe the “data” they have disclosed is not accurate or a true reflection of the current species that have been sighted and live within the wooded surrounds.

Regent Honeyeaters for 1 species mentioned in the proposal as “not being identified within the project area” have been sighted and continue to be sighted with the muscle creek area and the same notation placed for Spotted-tail Quoll’s and Koala’s – again all with sightings in the area. Data on bird life alone is ready accessible through Bird atlas findings spanning over several years v’s said time frame of July/August 2021 completed by the ELA ecologists (ref page 10 of ESCO’s application).

To further comment to the native Flora and Fauna in the area we have a number of protected state and national species that reside within this area, as an example currently numerous Australian Black Swans, Little Grebes, Red necked wallabies and Phascogales to name a few (the list is largely greater), with a proposed development of approx. 300,000 panels that would be reflective and over a great expanse of land inclusive of a proven temperature increase, have all aspects been considered when it comes to a true environmental study?

Further to the environment, and a point touched on with 1 entry and fire actions – as land holders we all had stringent conditions we had to abide by to build and reside in this area e.g static water supplies and water tanks. What proposed items will be readily available if a fire does happen to eventuate with 300,000 panels and large woodland areas either side of the proposed site?

Other studies on existing solar farms have also listed several health issues caused from machinery used on the sites caused from electromagnetic hypersensitivity which can cause headaches and restlessness. Will this be something monitored for and if so deemed, publicly advised?

Further pursuant to our objections is the Habitat degradation and this proposed development will require an extensive amount of land and with approx. 300000 panels does impact the landscape and overall quality of the ecosystems currently at play in the Muscle creek area. I believe the current studies mentioned in Esco's report do not have a substantiated time frame or fully independent study.

We are reaching out in the hope that ESCO group may consider a dialogue to address the concerns and explore possible solutions that could mitigate the adverse effects to the number of properties within this community.

As mentioned above if a dialogue and further studies can be gained, we are not wanting to obstruct progress or development within the community but seek a fair and equitable resolution that takes in account the number of concerns raised by the Muscle creek area..

Yours Faithfully

Dion & Natasha Cotter

Residents and proud homeowners within Woodland Ridge Estate