

Emma Roberts  
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ELONG ELONG NSW 2831

**RE: Objection to proposed Sandy Creek Solar Farm, Lightsource BP (LSBP)**

**Application Number:** SSD-41287735

**Assessment Type:** State Significant Development

**Development Type:** Electricity Generation – Solar

My husband, Nigel, and I own and operate Dunbogan Merino Stud which is 6,400 acres neighbouring the proposed Sandy Creek Solar project. We live here with our three children aged 11, 7 and 2. We operate an intensive mixed farming enterprise, running 10,000 merino sheep and cropping 1,500 acres of cereal and canola crop each year – for food and fibre production. We employ a full-time employee (who resides on farm with his family), and we rely on multiple part time/casual employees as well as various contractors throughout the year. My husband is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmer at Dunbogan. Our family property boundaries the project site for a distance of 3.4km. All 3 of our kids attend school and preschool in Dunedoo, we spend 90% of our annual turnover between Dunedoo and Dubbo and volunteer for the following committees: Dunedoo Junior Rugby League & Netball, Dunedoo Swimming Club, Dunedoo Preschool, Elong Elong Rural Bush Fire Brigade and the Dunedoo Show Committee.

I urge you to consider the impacts this project is having on our family and the wider community. It is quite easy to look at these projects and see that they are within guidelines, **guidelines that have been authorised and paid for by LSBP**, however at some stage the people that are living with the impacts of these projects need to be considered. I remind you and your team, that these guidelines are sufficient if you are not living near these projects and are not impacted by them. Our landscape will be transformed from beautiful agricultural land that has been cared for, for generations, to industrial devastation.

This project has had major impacts on our business, my family and continues to take a mental toll on myself and our family. It has engrossed us for the last 3 years and has provided us with nothing but uncertainty for our family and the asset we call our business. The proposed project will alter this beautiful environment, the environment we have cared for over the last 120 years.

The mental health issues among farmers are already a big concern. This is one of the biggest issues which can not be mitigated. Farmers are already under a lot of pressure with large debts, the reliance on factors out of our control ie. weather/markets etc, isolation, families – not to mention giving everything you have year in and year out, financially, physically, mentally – this is just another threat to our way of life, which is already as stressful as it can be. Finding out “through the grapevine” that this project will neighbour us, with no consultation, no willingness to consider the communities concerns, its breaking people. The community conflict, energy companies playing neighbours off each other, who is going to want to stay here? The only farmers left will be those that can't afford to leave. Not to mention the time it has taken away from our own business trying to educate ourselves within this area and trying to stay up to date – along with all the “box ticking meetings/events”, where we have expressed all of our concerns and never even received a

response, this is merely a box ticking exercise to satisfy the requirements of LSBP to get their development approved.

### **SOLAR NEEDS SUN, NOT PRIME AGRICULTURAL LAND.**

When will food and fibre production take priority? This proposed project is on prime agricultural land that can be continuously cropped for food production. Those of us in the agricultural industry could not feel less supported right now. Who is really benefiting here? Why would we encourage the next generation to pursue a career in agriculture?

In addition:

#### **1. Cumulative impact of projects in the region:**

The EIS of this project and those surrounding it need to be considered in a cumulative way. The impacts of these projects combined will decimate the landscape. Removing the proposed amount of agricultural land will have direct and indirect economic impacts felt well into the future.

As per outlined in table 2.4 of 2.5.2. This table shows the cumulative projects that are within the REZ zone. Of this the projects “Cobbora Solar Farm 700mW” and “Dapper Solar Farm 300-400mW” and Sandy Creek Solar Farm (700mW) will all adjoin each other. This area entails 1800mW of solar in total in one encumbered area. From the current scoping reports, we expect there to be approximately 7,000 acres of Solar panels in the one area, all on prime agricultural land. As well as this there is the Spicers Creek Windfarm which also adjoins these projects, as well as the CWO Rez Transmission Lines.

As per page 252 LSBP outlines *“It is important to consider the effect of multiple projects on the visual character of the landscape. Multiple projects near each other can result in cumulative visual impacts that affect the way a landscape is experienced. Cumulative visual impacts can arise from the presence of similar projects that may have a low impact individually, but when viewed together can have a significant visual impact on the landscape.”*

The neighbouring Cobbora Solar Farm (700mW) is also proposed to be one of the largest solar projects in the country. The Dapper solar farm is proposed to be a 300-400mW project. **In total there is a proposed 1800mW of solar projects, all adjoining each other.**

#### **2. Visual Impacts**

As outlined above the landscape will be drastically changed to industrial land.

As per ES5.16: *“Additionally, the visual landscape character of the area will change from predominantly rural agriculture to renewable energy infrastructure.”*

Discussions with global renewable company UPC (Dunedoo Show 10/02/2022) disclosed that they were invited to look at the proposed properties (as a tender type process) with the prospect of developing a solar farm. The employee from UPC (I am happy to share his contact details) outlined to me that the site had major visual issues if a large-scale solar development were to be built, and that many of these visual issues could not be addressed using mitigation measures. The company declined to make an offer of option for these reasons.

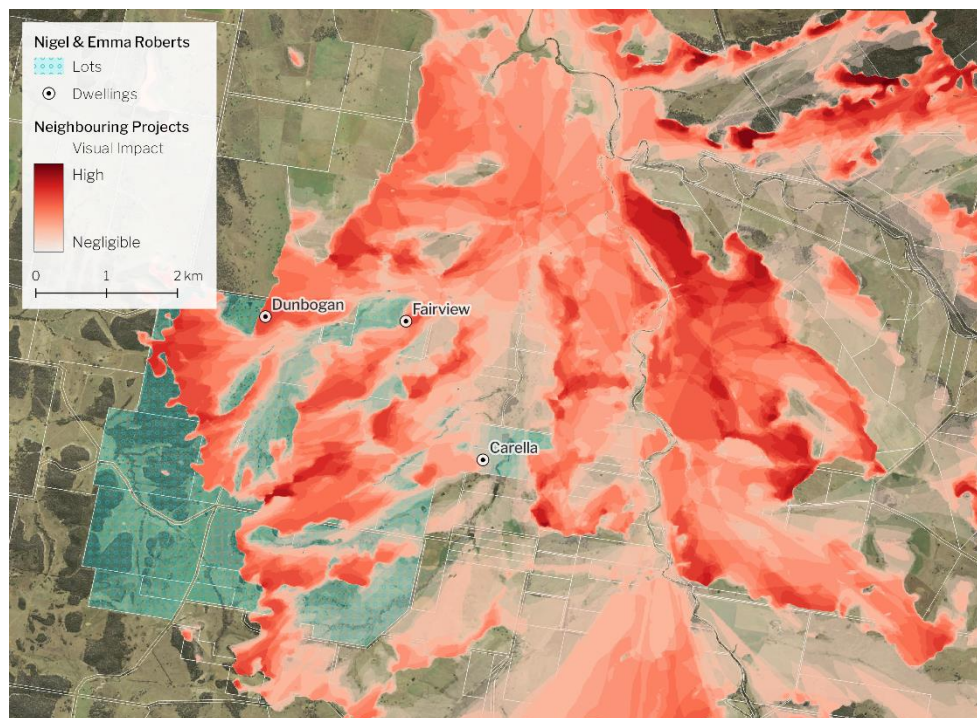
Our own family home (R15-Dunbogan) as per the EIS will have panels 700 m from our family home in direct line of sight. According to Stephen Archer (State Manager LSBP) there is nothing they (LSBP) can do to mitigate the impact of these panels. Mitigation to me would be to not build them so close to any homes and where visual amenities are lost.

Further moderate visual impacts can be seen from the Fairview Cottage (dwelling R14). Again, these impacts are only moderate if one is not to live here and be impacted by these sights on a daily basis.

Our adjoining property “Carella” will also be impacted to a lesser extent.

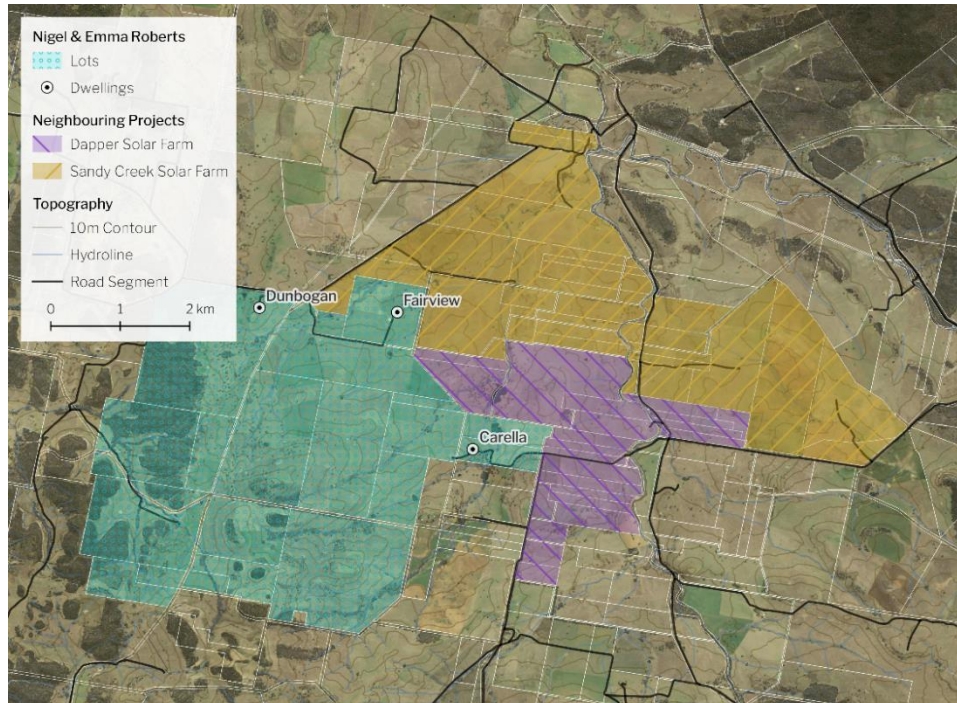
Our own independent assessment of the visual affects of the Sandy Creek Project are shown below:

**Figure 1: Indicative visual impact assessment of solar farm**



*The Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) in Figure 1 was generated in QGIS using a 5m digital elevation model and assuming typical design parameters for solar farm infrastructure.*

**Figure 2: View of our property adjacent to Sandy Creek Solar Farm (marked yellow) (and neighbouring Dapper Solar Farm in purple).**



### 3. Public Liability Insurance

The issue of Public Liability Insurance continues to be avoided. We took this unanswered issue to EnergyCo on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 which went onto Lightsource BP to be addressed and still we have no answers.

Our business expects to be surrounded by in excess of \$2 billion of solar panels which includes the Sandy Creek Solar project. Our insurer has informed us that the maximum level of insurance we can obtain is currently \$20 million. If I, or an employee here in our business, starts a fire and is deemed liable for starting that fire that burns these solar farms down, who or where is the difference coming from? Is LSBP going to cover this if the farmer/contractor is deemed negligible?

The businesses surrounding these projects will be heavily affected as contractors will avoid the risk of damages to these projects as they too will only have \$20 million PL cover. Our current business contracts out harvest and hay contracting (both quite fire prone activities). Who is going to want to perform these jobs for our business?

### 4. Engagement/Consultation for Neighbours

Please find below the full consultation process that we have experienced. The arrogance shown from LSBP, who is supposedly a global leader in the renewable space is disappointing to say the least. We have been treated with contempt and insignificance. We found out about this project through the grapevine, it was then up to us to track down a contact person at LSBP to ask if they could meet us to confirm/inform us as to what was going on next door – this is how we were notified we were going to be neighbouring the largest solar farm in NSW? When Stephen Archer (SA) finally came to see us, after we had to track him down, he said “we don’t usually have to meet with neighbours this early, you will get your chance to have a community opinion at a later date”, he

then turned up late, gave us no indication that they'd be willing to work with us regarding our concerns and not denying that we will be largely impacted visually by their project. Is this the approved consultation process for a state significant project?

As we have outlined to LSBP "You have been able to propose to develop a \$1.3 billion solar project (page 234), yet you have failed to address the simple concerns or needs of those that neighbour the project and live with the projects impact". At no stage have we been asked what we would like to see re the development or what can be done to minimise the impacts of the project.

The "consultation" process is outlined below. This is the correspondence we have had from Lightsource BP:

3/11/2021: Initial Consult at our family home With Stephen Archer (SA) (Project Developer/State Manager) – a consult we had to initiate after doing our own research to find a contact from LSBP.

9/12/2021: Email/Letter sent to SA on behalf of the 24 community members outlining a number of concerns that the community wanted addressed.

9/12/2021: Reply from SA promising to organise a meeting with ourselves or the community (This meeting never took place and was never organised)

6/3/2022: Follow up email to SA reaching out to have the above concerns addressed.

7/03/2022: Reply from SA encouraging us to a drop-in session at various locations

9/03/2022: Attended Dunedoo Drop-in session. No concerns addressed other than some bushfire details.

20/01/2023: Visual Assessments completed from 3 key areas on the properties.

4/10/2023: Email to SA re neighbours/shared benefits

24/04/2024: SA sent visual montages from viewpoints. We find out that panels are intended to be developed 700 m in front of our home in our view.

7/5/2024: SA consult on farm. Talk of neighbour agreements/shared benefits

29/05/2024: EIS released.

7/06/2024: Email to SA re further concerns including panels 700 m from our home. No reply as yet

11/06/2024: Reading EIS - find out there is a proposed 350 personnel workers camp that is to be built within the project. Which is the first we've heard about this.

We are happy to share all emails noted above. At no stage have we been "consulted" as to what we as those that are impacted want or need. At no stage have we been kept up to date regarding the progress of the project. The majority of contact has been from us and the community to LSBP asking questions. As of today (11/06/2024) we are still yet to have the initial concerns from the 9/12/2021 addressed.

Is this acceptable consultation from a global renewable developer towards a neighbour that is going to be heavily impacted by their proposed project? How insignificant are we as a neighbour? The arrogance of LSBP to not address the local community and personal issues, and failing to convey any consultation is appalling. It is our business that is affected by this project, it is our family that is affected by this project, and it is our asset that is devalued by this project yet they cannot even have a fair level of consultation and address the needs of its neighbours. It is time to put a stop to these types of companies. Approving this project only increases the arrogance and complacency of LSBP and the consultation process that it lacks.

## 5. Proposed Temporary Workforce and Water Requirements

Due to nil consultation and nil engagement, the first I heard of a worker's camp was on the 11/06/2024 as I read the EIS statement. There are a number of concerns with the camp mainly around the water requirements. As per ES5.9 150 ML of water is required per year in the worst-case scenario to be sourced from "multi ground water bores". It would be presumed that the other projects in the area will require water also from similar sources. What are the requirements of the 4 other projects in the area? Again, a cumulative impact study is required to determine the requirements of other projects and if the aquifer is capable of these levels of extraction.

Our business at present depends on two bores and an extensive water system that waters the 8000-11,000 head of livestock that run in our business at any time. Are there assurances that the withdrawal of this water from the same aquifer will not affect the water supply in our business? If the withdrawal of this water from the groundwater system does affect our livelihood and the wellbeing of our sheep, is LSBP going to provide and deliver water to ensure that our sheep daily water requirements are met?

We strongly oppose the workers camps, we have one police officer and one ambulance in Dunedool! What are the cumulative impacts of this camp of approx. 400 workers plus the neighbouring workers camps for Dapper Solar and Cobbora Solar? This needs to be assessed in detail ie. Crime, safety of the community.

## 6. Loss of Agricultural Land

As per ES5.5 the EIS states *"If fully removed from agricultural land use, the study area would account for 0.27% and 0.19% of the agricultural land in the Dubbo and Warrumbungle LGAs being removed, respectively, which is insignificant"*.

These figures are not a true representation as to what is really occurring. This area of land is suitable for high intensity sheep and cattle production as well as high production cropping enterprises. The area that is to be removed is amongst some of the better soil and production areas in the respective LGAs. **It is false and irresponsible to compare this calibre of country to that of those in the same LGA and presume they are all of the same productivity.** These soils here may be treble the production capacity of other soils in the LGA. An example of this is table 6.21 indicating indicative cropping yields from the area that were obtained via discussions with the landowners. These yields are well above that seen across the LGA.

How many farming families will not be in the local community as a result of this project? How many children will not be at our local schools? How many less volunteers will be in the community? How much money will be lost from Agriculture and the associated practices/businesses from this area?

As per page 239 the project aims to have an operational stocking rate of *"75% of the current operations"*. The project area at present contains predominantly intensive pastures such as Lucerne and tropical grasses and grows a variety of intensive dual-purpose crops such as canola, wheat, barley and oats used for grazing and grain production. Under the proposed developments these intensive pasture and crops will cease. **How is it expected that the area will continue at 75% of this?** A native grass system will encroach the entire development area.

As per NSW DPI agnote “Using DSE and Carrying Capacity to compare sheep enterprises” ([Using DSEs and carrying capacities to compare sheep enterprises \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)) the carrying capacity (Northern Plains) of intensive Lucerne is 7 DSE/ha whilst that of native grasses is 0.3-2 DSE/ha. You would expect that given that fertilisation of grazing land is not possible under the panels that the carrying capacity of native grasses for sheep would further be reduced over time. As per page 154 the landowner states that the carrying capacity of native grasses is 2DSE/ha and under dual purpose crop is at 16DSE/ha. **How will the 75% of current carrying capacity be reached with no crop or intensive pasture production?**

Table 6.2 shows the current agricultural land use. The projections to run 75% of the current capacity are not possible when the project is all natural pasture. At present the proposed area runs 5550 DSE approx. (450 trade steers and 75 cows and calves). At 75% (4162 DSE) of this you would need 2081ha at 2 DSE on natural pastures. There is not the required area in the project area for this to be capable. These are more false claims from LSBP as the proposed claims of 75% continued carrying capacity are not possible.

We would expect that carrying capacity under panels would be somewhere in the range of 10-20% of existing carrying capacity when conditions are favourable. These projections would decrease as time goes by and as more nutrition is removed from the soil.

As per 6.6.3 “Lands where solar arrays and other permanent infrastructure such as the substation, electrical collection systems, switchyard, control room or management hub and roads are proposed will not be able to be used for cropping or cattle grazing once constructed.”

There is limited scope for further agricultural usage once the proposed project is built.

As per 6.6.3 Agricultural productivity impacts “ The study area has an estimated \$386,060–\$527,638 in annual productivity based on calculated agricultural values for the relevant LGAs and NRM region and estimated maximum and mean local productivity values of \$2,098,624 and \$1,427,216 respectively”

As outlined above it would be naïve to assume average productivity across the LGA given the highly productive soils of the proposed project site. There are some very marginal and unproductive soils across the LGA.

## **7. Increased Labour shortages for Local Business and Increased Wages Locally**

At present one of the biggest challenges to our business and those in the area is the supply of affordable labour. As per ES5.12 “Local employment is particularly important as it could provide employment for vulnerable groups including youth, women, and First Nations.” With regard to this statement there are very limited available employees in Dunedoo and in the surrounds of the project. The majority of people in the community are employed within the agricultural space or the affiliated businesses that support agriculture.

What will the proposed project do to the average wage in the general area? It will most certainly drive the average salary up and in many cases make affordable labour extremely hard to find. This will in turn compromise businesses profitability and make labour availability harder within the agricultural industry.

8. **Landowners:** In table 2.2 of 2.5 The table fails to inform readers that the landowners are both absentee farmers that will not live in the proposed project area, nor live with the impacts of the project. It must be noted that the owners of land on the neighbouring Cobbora Solar are also absentee farmers.

## 9. Social Impacts

**Fracturing of the community** – already these projects are impacting relationships within the community. There are numerous neighbours that are strongly opposed to this project, one neighbour has already sold his property (“Dapper”), telling us “He just wanted to get out with all this uncertainty with the solar farms”. This has not been explored when discussing site suitability and justification.

By far one of the biggest social issues if the project was to proceed is that families will leave the community. There will be families that will leave the area if the proposed developments are to proceed. As well as this, there are a number of long-term rentals in the area that will leave given the changes. I am yet to see a social impacts study that touches on families leaving the community!

Further social issues include:

- The division and conflict within a small community that relies heavily on each other.
- Housing
- Access to medical facilities – Dunedoo currently has one ambulance. Dubbo Emergency Department is already under staffed and under resourced.
- Roads and infrastructure
- Mental health as a result of the concerns noted throughout this submission.
- Increase in Crime as a result of the increased population – we’ve already had contractors from LSBP trespassing on our property, one left a trailer at our entrance in the middle of harvest, preventing our grain trucks from accessing and leaving the property. Again, who do we contact? After calling the police, this contractor threatened to burn us out! There is police report to confirm this. Dunedoo currently has one policeman.

The cumulative impact of the issues above need to be considered, in detail.

*“ES6 it will generate 10 direct and 30 indirect FTE jobs and will provide ongoing economic benefits for both the local economy and broader region.”* These jobs would have been on these properties regardless.

ES5.16 *“There is potential for cumulative social benefits primarily due to the construction of multiple renewable energy projects and the influx of out of area workers which will increase the region’s economic activity, provide job opportunities and result in road upgrades.”* There are minimal cumulative benefits to the local community. The majority of workers will be FIFO or transported in and living in workers camps. They will spend minimal money in the community, and will have minimal contribution to the community. Its hard to believe the workers are going to join the local football club when construction hours are *“8.00am to 1.00pm Saturdays”*. Same with the local schools and preschools, unless there will be families living in the workers camps? I assume LSBP reports the community contribution from their workforce ie. The number of workers that will volunteer in our community groups, the number of workers that join the football team and/or other associated organisations, how many send their children to the local schools/preschools etc?



## 10. Weeds and Feral Animals

*“As per 6.2.4 There will be an increase in weeds and pathogens resulting in degradation of retained native vegetation and habitat.”*

At present there are a number of noxious weeds on the proposed site including St Johns Wart (*Hypericum perforatum*), Scotch Thistle (*Onopordum* sp), and spiny burr grass (*Cenchrus* species). How are these weeds not going to be spread further across the site over construction? The entire catchment of the project area runs into Sandy creek and into the Talbragar River. The spread of these weeds into these catchments could have devastating effects on those downstream of the project.

There are large expanses of the proposed area that have heavy infestations of St Johns Wart (*Hypericum perforatum*). How will grazing under the panels with sheep be effective where St Johns Wart is present? Where sheep are left to graze in these areas there will be associated animal health issues that can at time lead to acute poisoning and death (see Weeds DPI: [NSW WeedWise](#))

“Increase in predatory and pest animal species, resulting in increased predation and competition, and a consequent reduction in populations”.

Already we have seen increased feral animals throughout the area as landowners in the area become absentee farmers across the proposed project sites. There is approximately 7000 acres of area to go under solar panels from the three projects. The feral animals from these areas will move to neighbouring areas as a result of construction and fencing. Is it fair that neighbouring farmers inherit the feral animals that already inhabit these project areas. Does LSBP have a feral animal plan for pigs, foxes and rabbits across the project area?

## 11. Bushfire Risk and Mitigation

*As per 6.12.2 “The study area and development footprint are mapped as Category 1 and Category 2 bushfire prone land; however, no detailed fire history has been recorded for the study area and it is not documented as a fire path.”*

There have been 3 (1992, 2001 and 2012) major fires in the area over the last 25 years of which 2 have burnt large areas of the proposed site. The fire in 1992 was next door to the proposed site on Tallawonga Lane. Two of these fires were started by lightning whilst the third started by farm machinery. If consultation for the project was adequately performed with neighbours and the local community LSBP would be aware of these fire issues. The proposed site is in a fire prone area.

At present there has been no consultation with Elong Elong Fire Brigade. Elong Elong Fire Brigade is made up of volunteers from the area, including my husband. Elong Fire brigade are not trained to fight fires in high voltage areas neither do they have the training or equipment available to them to fight fires in the proposed development.

Who does LSBP intend to fight the bushfires in the area if the project is to proceed? Community members such as ourselves intend on leaving the area if the proposed development is to proceed. Are LSBP employees going to be members of our local fire services? The precedence of fires would

be expected to increase with large workforce increases and the presence of high voltage energy present in the area.

The other area of concern is if these panels were to be damaged in a fire and a watershed event was to follow the implications to the Sandy Creek, the Talbragar River and in turn the Macquarie River could be catastrophic to large communities and the associated habitat. The toxic nature of panels and in such a large area make this a real risk that needs to be considered. Please provide a comprehensive list of all molecular compounds/chemical elements in the proposed solar panels? What is the toxicity rating? And what happens if these toxins are to enter local waterways as a result of a fire? Solar waste poses not only a serious risk to the environment, but also to human health; it contains cadmium and lead which are well known to cause cancer, neurological and cardiovascular problems.

#### **12. Hail Risk**

The area of the proposed site has a high risk of hail. At present we pay the highest form of cover for broadacre cropping in NSW. Our business has had 3 hail claims for crop losses over the last 12 years. Has LSBP and the associated insurers looked at the risk of hail in the area? Again, should the solar panels be busted and cracked as a result of hail damage, will these toxic chemicals be leaked into our soils and water tables?

#### **13. Roads and Traffic**

How does LSBP ensure that local roads will not be inundated with traffic. Our family and staff travel down Tallawonga Lane, Dapper Road and Sweeneys Lane, multiple times a day to access essential services such as educating our children. How can we be assured that project traffic will not be using these routes? Can LSBP guarantee the surrounding roads will not be utilised by contractors, along Tallawonga Road and Sweeneys Lane? These are windy, foggy, dangerous roads at the best of times – this is a big safety concern for our family as we use these roads multiple times per day. The cumulative traffic impacts from all 5 projects in the area need to be considered, in detail, this is a serious safety concern.

#### **14. Indigenous Areas**

It has long been known to locals that there is an indigenous burial site on the Sandy Creek junction. There is no note of this area in the EIS. If consultation had occurred to neighbours by LSBP this area of importance would have been already noted.

#### **15. Land, erosion soils and Salinity**

As outlined in 6.62 Existing Environment

*“erosion potential of soils in the study area is predominantly moderate to high due to the presence of dispersive soils.”*

There are no second chances with erosion events and as outlined in 6.6.3 the potential impacts over the construction period are large and unavoidable.

*“offsite discharge of sediment and turbid run-off from on-going erosion from drainage, landform and infrastructure design not cognisant of dispersive subsoils”.*

This discharge runs into the local Talbragar River and then into the Macquarie River which is a mainstay for many industries in the Central West.

There are already areas across the proposed site that exhibit the visual affects of salinity. LSBP has identified this as an area of concern in page 150. Further removal of deep-rooted perennial trees as planned in the project will further exacerbate these areas. Why would we remove deep rooted perennial trees from an area already under the effects of salinity. Will LSBP be held accountable if we have areas of saline begin to appear across our soils and asset. Will we be compensated if these areas appear? These areas will only increase in size and nature if this project is to progress.

Soil disturbance during construction has the potential to result in the following impacts:

- reduction in soil stability and increased susceptibility to erosion due to vegetation removal, flow concentration or soil exposure, especially where the subsoil is sodic and dispersive
- reduction of soil quality, quantity, and associated productivity
- loss of structure and water holding capacity due to mechanical compaction
- reduced topsoil nutrients and biological activity
- loss or degradation of topsoil material viable for use in rehabilitation
- introduction of salinity, sodicity, or other constraints into the topsoil material if soil is inadequately managed. Potential construction erosion and sediment control impacts include:
  - off-site discharge of sediment and turbid run-off from the erosion of exposed soils particularly dispersive subsoils: - degradation of stock drinking water - infilling of waterway pools - diversion of waterway flow due to sediment deposition and associated bed and bank erosion
  - erosion and subsequent sedimentation of creeks and waterways due to inappropriately designed and constructed creek and watercourse crossings
  - mud tracking from vehicles and machinery to public roads
  - increased potential for rill and gully erosion due to modification of flow conditions from sheet flow to concentrated flow from constructed landforms (roads, tracks, hardstands) and drains
  - increased erosion and subsequent sedimentation due to pavement rutting and pavement degradation from increased light and heavy vehicles traffic on unsealed access roads
  - incision and widening of downstream drainage lines due to modification of the run-off hydrograph due to an increase in impermeable surface such as roads, hardstands, roofs and solar arrays
  - tunnel erosion under or beside foundations for solar arrays, towers, light poles etc and along cable trenches due to dispersive soils
- dust emissions from unsealed roads, hardstands, and exposed soils.

Below photo taken in 2020 at the Sandy Creek crossing, prior to Sandy Creek entering into the proposed project area – EIS notes the site selection is a “low flood risk” – this is not true, happy to provide additional photos to confirm.



## 16. Decommissioning

Please advise what will happen to the solar panels once decommissioned? As far as we’re aware they end up in landfill, Victoria has already banned solar waste from landfill after reports of stockpiling by energy companies looking to avoid recycling costs. The current cost of recycling each solar panel in Australia is \$28, roughly six times the cost of sending it to landfill (\$4.50). Solar panels contain tiny amounts of valuable minerals, often in a film-like coating, which makes them hard to extract.

In addition, where will these solar panels be manufactured? Overseas? If so, where? Is this counting towards the overall Carbon Emissions of the project? Has Modern Slavery been taken into account? Forced labour? What additional mining will be required to obtain the rare minerals required to make these solar panels?

Once decommissioned, can LSBP guarantee the project site will be returned to its previous state ie. To be cultivated and cropped continuously for food production??

## 17. General Impacts

As per 2.8.1 *“LSBP has not entered into any agreements with associated or non-associated landowners in relation to mitigation of Project impacts, as the impacts of the Project are not significant enough to warrant such an agreement.”*

I strongly disagree with the above comments. I invite NSW Planning and infrastructure to visit our family property and to see the impacts that this project will have on our family, our business, our land asset and livelihoods. Contact details are below and I look forward to showing you how the project will impact us in detail. As shown above in figure 1 the visual impacts to our family home are high. There are panels 700m from our family home. Our property shares a boundary with the proposed project for 3.4km the impacts of this project are so high that we intend to leave the area if this project is to proceed. The disdain by LSBP to warrant the above comment with regard to the impacts to our family show the arrogance and ignorance of this company.

If there are no impacts to neighbours, why on page 159 are there contradictions that quote?

*“Potential impacts to adjacent lands could include increased presence of biosecurity issues such as weeds and pests, as well as off-site impacts from erosion and sedimentation.”*

These impacts will be felt 100s of kilometres throughout our waterways.

This EIS report is full of contradictions and discrepancies. It has been clear from the outset the LSBP are only interested in profiteering from this project. There has been NIL Consultation from their employees, and questions taken to them 2 years ago remain unanswered. In hindsight we are having meaningful consultation with their counterparts with regard to other neighbouring projects. The last 3 years of my family’s lives have been extremely stressful and overly burdensome. Projects like this have not been considered in detail and the cumulative impacts from a project of this size, plus the proposed neighbouring projects, should be considered as a whole. Our mental health continues to deteriorate as we take time away from our families and businesses to deal with the “Next Project”.

**How can this EIS report be taken as satisfactory and within the guidelines, given that it was authorised and paid for by LSBP??**

This project should not proceed.

Regards,

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