

Henry Armstrong
"Snowdon"
503 Birriwa Bus Route Nth
Dunedoo
NSW 2844

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

Subject: **Objection to proposed Sandy Creek Solar Farm**
Application Number
SSD-41287735
Assessment Type
State Significant Development
Development Type
Electricity Generation – Solar

To Whom it may concern,

I would like to object to the proposed Sandy Creek Solar Farm for the following reasons.

As a preface to the following reasons, I would like to write candidly about the way that this project and other projects of a similar nature are assessed. I understand that throughout the planning process there are guidelines that must be followed for a project to be approved or otherwise. The interpretation of these guidelines is of utmost importance to the residents that live adjacent, near or in the general community of projects of this nature.

This development and others like it should not be assessed on the basis of the need for electricity production. The cumulative affects to the small rural community of Dunedoo should be of the highest importance. Why should the people of Dunedoo and surrounds suffer disproportionately for the sake of electricity production? The Burden on this small agricultural community is inconsistent both with the values of this country and the values of this community.

As the planners charged with assessing this proposal I urge, implore and encourage you to be brave and honest, ask questions and seek the answers that when you were a graduate you set out to find. This is not the answer for our energy crisis. This is not the answer for our state. This is certainly not the answer for our community.

Furthermore, to the point I would like make is that projects like this and the others proposed in the CWO REZ (Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone) need to be assessed on a cumulative basis. I believe it is your duty as planners to act on behalf of the residents that are most affected by proposed projects like this and others in the CWO REZ. Although these are individual projects the community lives with these on a cumulative basis. For this reason, this application should become the burden on the planning department to asses this and other applications like this as a cumulative project, exactly what the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone implies.

The design and implementation of the CWO REZ for it to be successful is based on the cumulative effect of multiple projects including transmission collectively combining to create electricity. By definition this should be assessed on a cumulative basis.

Other reasons for my objection:

- Loss of prime agricultural land and the detrimental economic impacts to the local community.
- Public liability insurance is not sufficient or available for landholders adjacent to these developments. This issue needs to be addressed on a bi-partisan basis between government and insurances companies to guarantee the protection to the existing rural businesses. The Government, both state and federal need to underwrite insurance policies to protect the livelihoods of farmers in this situation.
- Destruction of land values for neighboring properties to industrial solar sites that are still in primary production.
- Severe lack of meaningful studies done to determine the negative affect in financial terms of loss of prime ag land to the region.
- This area is inappropriate for large scale industrial solar because it is blessed with reliable rainfall, good quality fertile soils, close proximity to markets for livestock and grain and has an existing permanent work force that is self-sustaining within the community.
- Loss of residents adjacent to the proposed site/loss of long-term residents to the community.
- Sandy Creek Solar is too large; developments of this scale will have significant impacts and negative repercussions throughout the district. Our small community should not have to carry the burden of energy production of this nature for the rest of the state.
- The project will have detrimental impacts to the adjacent landholders through water run-off, visual impacts, weeds and feral animal infestations.
- Services in the local communities cannot support the workforce associated with construction. Health, emergency, police, food,waste, etc.
- Local businesses cannot sustain the potential loss of hirable labor as a result of construction pressure luring the local workforce away.

A Project of this scale will have no positive benefits to the local community whatsoever. This is a project for the government and the developer. The assessment process should regard this as unviable, unwarranted, overexaggerated and unnecessary. This should be denied approval on the grounds that there is a lack of evidence to support its relevance and should be deemed unacceptable from the planning department as it is from our community.

Regards

Henry Armstrong.