

2.9.2 Alternate Locations pg30

Throughout the site selection and design process, Lightsource bp has considered alternative site locations based on proximity to the NSW electricity grid (existing and proposed) and the solar generation potential in the region.

However, these were discarded due to denser bush land with higher biodiversity values, higher bush fire risk, flooding constraints, and greater distance from the point of connection.

Good site selection provides the opportunity to avoid or minimise negative impacts at the outset of a development allowing the design and assessment of a project to focus on mitigation and management impacts.

Following is an outline of the initial communication with Unwelt, Lightsource, Lightsource bp with council and local residences.

Total lack of knowledge/research of this area in the initial stages of the development:

- First location/address was at 10.3 Windellama Rd (property of only 50 acres)
- Then 13 kilometres from town.
- Next location 10 kilometres from town.
- Had difficult in describing the property/area and its location in first meeting with residence and council (sense of place).
- No understanding of the number of house, residence surrounding the development (104 within 2.5k kilometres).
- Flood zone (Sydney Water), a waterway running through the middle of the property which can isolate the eastern paddocks for a number of days.
- Inability to access majority of paddocks due to flooding.
- Fire risk on the plains country (history of grass fires in the area).
- Single round access to properties east of the development (rear access purchased later).
- Undulating aspect of the area (a water tank on high ground visible from town, 10 kilometres away).
- Could not supply alternated sites considered for this development.
- Land characteristics, visual sensitivity, magnitude of change and sense of place.

Gundry Plains should have been rejected/discarded as were the other sites because of the flooding and fire risks. Also with a detailed research of the area they would have discovered that Gundry Plains has many residents surrounding the proposed Solar Farm.

One of the major challenges that the development has to deal with is the lack of access during major flooding events. It is completely cut off as Windellama Rd, Bungonia Rd (access to Koorringaroo Rd) and Painters Lane goes under water.

Summary Lightsource bp

What other alternatives were considered?

The project is currently used for sheep and cattle grazing and the “do nothing” option would allow for its continued use solely for agricultural purposes.

- Not Factual

This country was built of the sheeps back and this region has played its part. The property does not only run sheep and cattle, it has a long history of farming. Crops such as wheat and oats have been grown on this property for generations. I suppose we should ignore the fact that they baled over a 100 round bales this season.



The fact that they will decommission a majority of their dams means that they are only running a token number of stock.

Summary Lightsource bp

Result in a lost revenue opportunity for landholders to diversify their revenue streams.
The only individual making mega from this project is the non local investor from Sydney.

- What is my new revenue stream?

Lightsource bp stated that there would be no neighbourhood benefit program for this project. Late in the development of the EIS, Lightsource bp decided to produce a document without any consultation with neighbours. We asked to meet as a group and this request was denied, we asked to record the meeting and this was denied, individual meetings were stressful.

- **What was offered is unsatisfactory.**

What may happen to our revenue streams.

- Increase insurance cost (public liability).
- Decreased property prices.
- Problems selling properties.
- Increased concerns over contamination from the facility (quarantine of property).
- Changing farming practices due to altering water supply.
- Revenue streams seem to be going backwards (loss).

If we do not have agriculture in this country then our livelihoods are in jeopardy. This site was selected due to its proximity to the electrical infrastructure and everything they do endeavours to justify that decision.

Mental Health

- No support
- No concern for individuals
- Silent and indifferent when told of a families struggle during the consultation.
- People have asked continually for help.
- An individual considered ending their life, what support has been forthcoming.
- They sold their property at a huge loss.

No consideration has been given to the local individuals. Mental health is brushed over in the EIS as though it does not exist. To avoid is to ignore. It suits their agenda!

