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I am formally expressing my strong opposition to the proposed Gundary Solar Farm (Application Number: SSD-48225958). After thorough consideration and discussions with fellow community members, I believe this project will have significant adverse impacts on our local area.

The proposed site for the solar farm primarily consists of hobby farms, where residents cherish a peaceful and scenic lifestyle. These properties, located close to town, offer a quiet living environment. The planned solar farm would disrupt this tranquillity, fundamentally changing how families experience their homes and the community. Placing a solar farm in a well-established farming area disregards the rights of property owners who chose this location for its natural beauty. Many families, including mine, invested in our homes with the expectation of uninterrupted views, not a sprawling array of solar panels. This alteration could diminish property value and detract from our quality of life.

Firstly, the installation of a solar farm could devalue surrounding properties, leading to financial insecurity for many residents. Research indicates that homes near solar farms often experience declines in property values due to visual impacts and reduced desirability. This situation would complicate sales for current owners like myself, threatening our financial stability and investment in the community.

Moreover, clearing land for solar panels can harm native vegetation and wildlife, potentially leading to a loss of habitat and negatively impacting local ecosystems. The removal of plants and trees disrupts the natural balance of the environment, affecting not only the species that rely on these habitats for shelter and food but also the overall biodiversity of the area. Many local animals and insects play vital roles in maintaining the ecosystem, such as pollinators that support plant growth and species that control pest populations. Displacing these animals can lead to longer-term ecological imbalances. Additionally, the introduction of large solar panel installations may result in increased soil erosion and runoff, which can further degrade the land and water quality in nearby areas. Protecting native flora and fauna is crucial for sustaining the natural heritage of our community, and any degradation of these resources must be carefully considered in the planning and approval process for the proposed solar farm.

Additionally, the chosen site is poorly suited for such an installation. Our region often faces unpredictable weather, especially in the cooler months, with numerous overcast days and heavy fog that can last until mid-day. This would limit solar energy production capacity, raising sustainability concerns about the project.

Animal welfare is also a pressing issue. If sheep graze under the solar panels, their risk of flystrike during summer increases. If flies infest the sheep and the signs of distress go unnoticed because they are hidden beneath the panels, this could lead to serious health consequences. Flystrike is painful and can become fatal if untreated. We must ensure livestock well-being in the area is prioritized.

The introduction of solar farms may also disrupt the tranquillity of our rural community. Inverters and cooling fans can produce noise, affecting the peace that many residents value. This disruption is significant and impacts the reason many of us chose to live here.

Lastly, I have concerns about fire hazards associated with solar installations. If lightning were to strike the solar panels or battery storage facilities, the risk to lives and properties would increase, particularly since Koorringaroo Road provides only one access route, potentially hampering emergency responses.

In conclusion, the proposed Gundry Solar Farm raises serious concerns regarding property values, community aesthetics, animal welfare, agricultural land loss, safety, and noise. I urge you to reconsider this proposal considering its potential impacts on our community.

I look forward to your response and further discussion on this matter. Thank you for considering my objections.

Sincerely,
Wendy and Jason Crisp