

9/12/24

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing to you concerning the proposed Gundry Solar Factory SSD-48225958

In response to the Liberal State Government's intuitive back in 2013/14 to make a tree change to a rural environment, I spent copious time in Goulburn before making an informed decision. Many weekends were spent to get a feel for the country, the landscape, the sense of solitude and peace. I studied the surrounds of Goulburn CBD and settled on a property on the Gundry Plains. The factors considered were various. Having tree studded paddocks for grazing and the added benefit to have 60 acres of natural bushland to take in and enjoy the abundance of native flora and fauna. It is a direct access and a corridor to adjoining bushland to Bungonia.

The opportunity to build a second home on the property and having an extended road frontage, the possibility of subdividing my acreage into 25-acre blocks, as suggested by my Solicitor at the time of contract. That was over 10 years ago. The scenic view over the plains to the Great Dividing Range made the choice easy to make. It is beautiful. It is stunning. The colours of the ranges and the landscape change with the weather. There is an uninterrupted view is to Windellama Road. It gave me a sense of security buying in a rural residential area. Knowing that I could call on my neighbours for advice or help gave me sense of place. I am overwhelmed to think that a proposal so close to Goulburn CBD and in the middle of beautiful rural residential area would ever be considered. I was escaping the stressful life in the city, the overpopulation and the density of industry and housing. I am now confronting the nightmare of being controlled by third-party corporates who do not pay my bills.

Along comes a Sydney Banker, who quietly buys up smaller acreage blocks within the plains and presents it to a corporate overseas business. A total of 3 lots. He has also bought 444 Koorringaroo Road which adjoins one of these properties to allow access to Koorringaroo Road. I have an understanding that he has recently bought another property on Windellama Road and Bullumalita Road, known as "Rosedale" which has a DA approval for 100 acres blocks. He does not live here nor is he part of the community. He is unapproachable and declined engagement by Gundry landowners. During the so-called community engagement with BP Lightsource, their representatives did not respond or address major concerns to questions. The corporate displayed deceiving and misinformed information in relation to maps, fire zones, housing, and infrastructure. This was personally brought to their attention by me with no response. They have never been to my property and have assumed that this has made no impact on me, my family, my property, or my future. To sit on a computer and decide who is impacted and then try to divide and conquer those residents whom they believe are greater impacted than their neighbours, offering offensive amounts of compensation without even considering the lifestyle changes, impacts on mental health and loss of equity in their properties, is beyond comprehension. BP Lightsource have always been evasive, disregarding neighbours and has presented a monster for the people of Gundry to like or lump. A 1600-acre solar factory with 740,740 solar panels and a 14 acres battery substation in the middle of residential rural area.

Lit up like a Christmas tree with a mesh wire fence. Spoiling the night skies that we here on the plains are fortunate to embrace. This will forever change the landscape. Along with the Merino proposal, these monsters sit between the main tourist veins to and from Goulburn and the South Coast. Those living on Windellama Road will be affected by both Gundry Solar Factory and Merino Solar Factory. Goulburn will not benefit from the power source.

I currently run 30 head of dorper sheep to maintain pasture growth and manage weed control. I prefer to not use chemical to rid my block of weed. It is harmful and unnecessary to the environment. My "hobby farm" was bought to embrace country and community living. My extended family visit me to take a break from their rushed lifestyle. They enjoy and embrace the calmness and serenity that the Gundry Plains provide. Bushwalking, horse riding and interacting with farm animals is something they enjoy and look forward to often. We use all areas of our lifestyle block for recreation and enjoyment. Witnessing and sharing the learned experience of spotting a redtail black tail cockatoo, an echidna, or a wallaby. The serenity of spending time in the bush is an opportunity for my family and friends to embrace.

This proposal sits not 500 from my boundary to dense bushland. The plains are known for the strong northerly winds. My property sits within a red zone area. My insurance is unaffordable now, due to the fire zoning and risk, but I have a legal and moral obligation to hold insurance if there is an incident that puts my neighbours at risk. I guarantee that if this proposal goes ahead, I will not be able to hold insurance over my property. The fire risk is catastrophically high if this proposal is approved and Koorringaroo Road residents are at risk of being trapped. Goulburn CBD, Bungonia and surrounding coastal areas will be at risk. A fire started within the compounds of this factory will limit access, put residence at risk of being killed from fire and toxic smoke inhalation. One way in, one way out for the people who live on Koorringaroo road. From my property onwards becomes dense R2 zoning with 40 residents and their families using those properties as lifestyle blocks.

I will be at risk of losing everything I own, my future and my superannuation. I will be set to lose at a minimum 30% of my property value. My property will no longer be appealing to future development by either myself or potential buyers. I have been advised that my property will be harder to sell and will not move quickly. I am stuck in a place both physically and emotionally. I am not able to make decisions. It has been this way for two and a half years while BP Lightsource controls the playing field. They decide who will be affected and who will not. How do we fight a wealthy Sydney Banker and Corporate overseas business?

If this proposal is approved, I will be facing the real possibility of homelessness due to my financial commitments. The equity in my property will be destroyed and my future prospect and plans will be ruined. Our beautiful Gundry will be subject to ongoing years of destruction, noise pollution, dust and water contamination, flora and fauna extinction. The mental health impact and decline in our sense of community and place will be forever lost in an industrial black hole.

I do not earn an income from my lifestyle block. I currently study and work within the Community Services area. I personally am familiar with the impacts society is having on communities through cost of living, homelessness, and mental health. I am very aware of how this community is being torn apart by corporate greed. How this proposal, if approved, takes from the individual and gives to the corporates. It is robbing people of their simple wealth, lifestyle and future.

We need an inquiry into renewable energy and all proposals to be stopped. There is no remediation in place to repair the damage to the land at the end of the life of these projects. Who will be responsible for the damage and destruction this will cause to our environment, our flora and fauna? What happens when BP Lightsource sell off their factory to another overseas company? Will our Sydney Banker foot the bill for the clean-up? How will we make them accountable?

Renewable energy is an ambush on all rural communities in Australia. It is unforgivable. These proposals and constructions are destroying the lives of the hardest working self-sufficient honest, resolute, and reliable people there are. They have survived drought, flood and fire because they have joined together as a community. They can survive a power blackout.

They live simply and meaningfully. Considering their actions and always continue to improve the environmental impacts, to be punished by the demands of people who will never want or understand their way of life.

This proposal is morally and ethically wrong. It will destroy the lives and futures of so many families, their extended families, and our children's futures. Destruction to communities goes beyond any social license or care for humanity. Destroying the environment to save the environment makes no sense. It is the dictatorship that will destroy this beautiful country while the rich keep getting richer and do not care for those from whom they take.

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