

The Gundry Solar Factory proposal is ill-conceived and irresponsible.

It is located amongst many lifestyle rural residential blocks, where families have built their lives revolving around the serenity of being in a rural location. We all live here because we want to. We live here because it is peaceful, private, beautiful, convenient to town, but with our own space. It is a lifestyle choice that many have spent a lot of money creating our own piece of paradise. We are already here.

We built our home here on Windellama Road 26 years ago because we both grew up in a rural setting and wanted to raise our children with the same freedom and experiences that we were fortunate to have. Our children all now live in cities and they still love to come home and they appreciate the openness of their childhood home even more. They look forward to waking in the morning and seeing open space as opposed to a busy road or the concrete and fencing between neighbours whose houses you can reach out and touch. They love to hear the birds and animals and not traffic or neighbours. Our Grandchild loves helping feed the cows and seeing our neighbours' horses, and the other neighbours' sheep. He loves helping direct a turtle to a dam after the rain. He loves to see the kangaroo's that often graze near us. We go for walks or drive in the side-by-side to see the hundreds of ducks on the dam, or the beautiful nesting Black Swans. We see so many other birds and the occasional wombat or echidna. He learns so much about life by visiting our little farm and we look forward to welcoming more Grandchildren to enjoy the same experiences. Our extended family love to visit also. If Gundry Solar Factory and the proposed Merino Solar Factory go ahead, this all changes. The noise from construction and then the noise from panels moving to follow the sun will be a constant repetitive torture. Our rural views will be changed forever. The thought of our landscape being changed forever is heartbreaking.

We live less than 10km from town, as do so many other residents. The proposed Solar Factory is also less than 10km from town. This is encroaching on the 10km SEPP Boundary of the Regional City of Goulburn. This is lost potential for many families who also desire the rural lifestyle so close to town, to move to the area. A Solar Factory would be a loss of growth opportunities for the City of Goulburn.

In the time we have lived here, there have been 8 new houses built on Windellama road alone, within an approximate 2 km radius of us, and there are another 3 under construction. There were already 7 homes before ours. There is 10ha vacant block for sale and another neighbour had been considering subdividing their block. The school bus has gone from a medium size to a large size, and now has a second bus to accommodate all the school children. This is a **RURAL RESIDENTIAL** area. BP have themselves, on their own 'Receivers' map, identified over 100 homes within their 4km buffer zone, and there is potential for many more homes with new subdivisions possible.

We run a small herd of Angus cattle. If our block was big enough, my husband would not have to have a full time job. We can't make a living from our lifestyle farm, it is a hobby that we have chosen because we love breeding cattle and love the space, freedom and privacy of living rural. All the other local residents are also employed, or retired. None of us make a living from our lifestyle blocks.

We built a Cottage next to our home for my Mother-in-Law to move into as she could no longer live by herself on her own 10ha block. She had the option of buying a house in town but as she has lived

out of town for 65 years, she did not want to move to town. She has always enjoyed having family and friends stay with her as they love the opportunity to be out of town and enjoy the rural lifestyle. Over her 65 years out of town, she has had many overseas visitors, who were usually repeat visitors, who have loved staying there and commented how fortunate she was to live in such a beautiful and peaceful environment.

If these 2 Solar Factories go ahead, we have been told that we could lose approximately 30% of the value of our property. This is financially and emotionally devastating. There is no way we could replicate our lifestyle within the same proximity of a town at a 30% smaller budget, presuming we were able to sell at all. We know of neighbours that have had their property on the market for over 2 years and have had no reasonable offers. My husband and I have talked about possibly subdividing our block in the future to provide us with supplementary finance for our own retirement. Who is going to want to buy a block and build a home next to a solar factory unless there is a substantial devaluation of the cost of the land?

The thought of a major fire terrifies me. In 1985 I was living on the property Gundry Plains where the proposed Solar Factory would be located, when a huge fire came through. I have never been so scared in all my life. My mother and I were unable to leave as the fire had closed the road. It was only the timely appearance of the Rural Fire Service that saved us and our home. They were not able to stop the fire, but managed to protect us and the house. The only things they had to deal with were rural fences that can easily be cut, and the natural landscape. If the land is covered with Solar Panels there is no way they can quickly and safely get through paddocks, there would be no easy way to quickly and safely move livestock from a rapidly advancing fire. The solar panels and boundary fencing mean that people and animals would easily become trapped on one side or the other. We have been told that the Rural Fire Service will not fight fires on a Solar Factory because of the added dangers. A fire that has a huge open area of grassland inaccessible because of Solar Panels is going to be unstoppable and will become massive in a very short time. Add to this the toxic fumes from Solar panels and who knows what this will do to local residents.

I am shocked that there are no requirements of the Developer for remediation at the end of life of the Solar Factory which would be in approximately 20 years. Who will pay to remove all the spent Solar Panels? Who will pay the cost of pulling out the thousands and thousands of steel piles that will be driven into the ground to hold the panels up? If the landowner doesn't pay for the remediation, does the taxpayer pay again? I suspect that they will be left in the ground and render the land unusable. It is my understanding that less than 20% of a solar panel is actually recyclable, how is this 'Renewable'?

BP say there is no significant conflict that cannot be remedied with mitigation. How do they propose to block the view of thousands and thousands of panels on undulating land, that stand at 4m high when at full tilt, by planting trees? The only thing that will hide the solar factory is the frequent low fogs that we experience that often don't lift until mid morning – there is not much solar power being generated in a thick fog. The Sub-station is 6 hectares in size and will sit in the middle of existing homes. It will be lit up 24 hours a day. How long would it take for trees to grow to hide this monstrosity and what do the residents do in the meantime? Who will water and look after the trees and ensure they grow? The visual impact of the panels, batteries and sub-station is massive and cannot be hidden; the rural views would be no more.

The Bureau of Meteorology records for the 35 years to 2010 show that Goulburn has 88.4 clear days per year. Of these 88.4 days, only a maximum of 8 hours per day will produce energy. Is this really a suitable place for a solar factory?

If the Gundry Solar Factory and the Merino Solar Factory go ahead, they will destroy many people's lives. Every reason we have chosen to live where we do will be destroyed and at no fault of our own. The mental toll this is taking on the residents is enormous. It is very depressing having this hanging over our heads. We are living life in limbo and can see no way out of this.