

# SAVE Gundry Plains

**Petitions conducted by Stop Gundry Solar Farm and SAVE Gundry Plains Action Group.**

1. The Gundry, Quialigo and Tirrannaville – STOP Gundry Solar Farm petition was conducted in June and July 2022. The petition closed on 17 July 2022 and there were **96 signatories from adjoining landholders and affected residents**. BP's EIS identified 108 impacted residents within 4 kms.
2. The Gundry, Quialigo and Tirrannaville – SAVE Gundry Plains petition was conducted between September 2023 and following requests from locals who wished to support the residents of Gundry Plains, the petition was extended to early 2024 and included the opportunity for the Goulburn community to sign. **A total of 184 signatures** were obtained from people at the Goulburn Rotary Market held monthly. These people voluntarily came to us and asked what they could do to support us.

Copies of each petition are attached:

Copies of the signed petitions that include address details will be available to the Independent Planning Commissioners.

## GUNDARY, QUALIGO and TIRRANNAVILLE PETITION

### Stop Gundry Solar Farm

June/July 2022

#### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We, the adjoining Landholders and affected nearby Residents of Gundry, Qualigo and TIRRANNAVILLE NSW oppose the solar farm proposed to be built by LIGHTSOURCEBP at 961 Windellama Rd, Gundry and continuing across to Kooringaroo Rd Gundry on the Gundry Plains covering 1560 acres of productive agricultural land because;

1. The Goulburn/Gundry area is **not part of a State Government Regional Energy Zone (REZ)**.
2. The primary selection criteria for a solar site is hours of sunlight. **Goulburn** has a relatively **low average daily solar exposure** (megajoules per square metre) of between 15 and 16. According to the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Annual data for Goulburn the **mean number clear days per year is 88.4**, the mean number of cloudy days 132.2 and the mean number of raining days is 76.4. Therefore, **clear days only occur 24.2% of the time**. (BOM data for 35 years to 2010).
3. Some of the adjoining landowners and residents will be **catastrophically impacted**. The area is relatively closely settled and **more than 74 residences** and working farms will be directly affected visually and/or physically or by the severe fire risk posed by the position of the solar installation.
4. The site is set between Kooringaroo Rd in the east and Windellama Rd in the west which is more than 5 kilometres across and 2.7 kilometres wide. **The land is stunning visually**, and a large industrial solar facility will destroy the beauty of the area and the value of the residential properties.
5. The project will cover at least **1500 acres of prime agricultural land** with approximately 670,000 to 1,200,000 solar panels, depending on the size of the solar panels, and which will be made in China (as advised by LIGHTSOURCEBP) plus batteries, DC/AC inverters and a **330KV substation placed in very close proximity to 10 residences** near Windellama Road (as advised by LIGHTSOURCEBP).
6. The land concerned is **prime agricultural land** (Class 3 and rated as RU1) currently growing quality cattle and Merino sheep and lambs. Under a previous owner it also grew food crops such as oats and would also grow Canola and lucerne if the owner was so inclined. Adjoining farmers currently grow fat lambs, cattle and goats for the food market, stud sheep for replacing stock and Merino sheep for the Australian export wool industry. This land contributes to **ensuring Food Security** in both Australia and internationally.

7. **The property devaluation and mental health impacts on directly impacted residents and farmers are not compensable and are likely to have serious consequences for individual and families.**
8. **Kooringaroo Rd and attached roads** which have approximately 43 residences, are **No Through Roads**. Approximately 50% of the residences would be in the path of any fire starting on or burning onto the solar land as the prevailing winds are from the Nth-West and West and are often close to gale force in this area. **The layout of any solar installation precludes the timely and safe response to a fire.**
9. The site is part of the **Sydney Water catchment** and has a flood plain running across it leading to Gundry Creek and the Wollondilly River and therefore Warragamba Dam (Sydney's main water supply). There are serious risks of adversely impacting the catchment area should the panels, batteries or substation be damaged or be burnt.
10. The proposal is set near an **airport** which is used for **rescue aircraft** to pick up patients or to refuel.
11. The families who have been in the area for generations make newcomers very welcome which makes it a very liveable area. This will change if the Gundry Plains are covered in solar panels. No-one will want to live and contribute to an area where the main industry is static metal and glass structures which contribute nothing to the Goulburn economy and create almost no job opportunities. 2-4 permanent jobs will be created by the installation (as advised by LIGHTSOURCEBP).
12. **No compensation has been offered by Lightsourcebp to affected landowners.**

The undersigned petitioners oppose the Gundry Solar Farm.

| NAME | SIGNATURE | ADDRESS |
|------|-----------|---------|
|      |           |         |

# **GUNDARY, QUIALIGO and TIRRANNAVILLE PETITION**

SAVE Gundry Plains

September, October, November 2023

## **THE SITE**

- The Gundry Solar Factory site is the amalgamation of 3 properties over the last 5 or so years by a Sydney based person who self describes as an “Independent Capital Markets Professional”, who does not live on the property and has no intention of doing so.
- The site is 7 square kilometres in the middle of over 60 homes.
- Most of the site is subject land under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 – see Regional Cities Map – Goulburn
- Goulburn is known for its wind but not for its daily solar exposure. This is confirmed by BOM data which shows Goulburn has 88.4 mean clear days/year (according to 35 years of BOM data).
- The site is immediately west of Bushfire Prone Land Vegetation Category 1 (High Risk). Fires are a risk on solar factories – panels, transformers, batteries, substation. The common prevailing bushfire winds are W & NW on the Gundry Plains where BP proposes to build this solar factory.

## **THE INFRASTRUCTURE**

- 740,000 x 5 metre high panels
- A system of inverters and voltage step-up transformers positioned throughout the solar arrays – each inverter/transformer station will be on a skid with dimensions of 20m (L) x 2m (W) x 3m (H).
- 154 battery stations with each station measuring 18m(L) x 2m(W) x 4m (H)
- Onsite (close to Windellama Road and 9 residences) a 33/330 kilovolt (kV) substation, 7.5 acres in size.
- An additional transmission tower to accommodate grid connection.
- Substation is to be illuminated overnight.
- Site office and maintenance buildings and car parks.
- An 8 foot high chain mesh perimeter security fence with lighting will be the first thing to be erected on the site boundary, trapping all the animals and reptiles that live on that land.

## **THE JOBS**

- BP lied when they kept on insisting that there would be 400 jobs for Goulburn. Based on their Scoping Report, Goulburn would be lucky to get 87 jobs during the 9 Month peak period of construction.

## **ABANDONED &/OR DERELICT SOLAR FARMS**

- Solar farms should be required to lodge a rehabilitation security deposit with the NSW Government to cover estimated rehabilitation costs otherwise you and your children may be carrying the burden of the costs of rehabilitation through your taxes.

## **IMPACT ON NEIGHBOURS**

- **Mental Health**
  - There has been and continues to be extreme mental health issues being experienced by many badly affected landowners.
  - BP classify this mental health as “stress and anxiety” and therefore has no desire to accept what its proposal is doing to peoples’ lives and livelihoods.
  - Humanity is not a word in BP’s vocabulary.
- **Property devaluation**
  - BP and its operatives continually deny that neighbouring properties would be devalued.
  - A number of properties have been withdrawn from market
  - One family could not stand anymore and sold – they suffered a 36% devaluation of their property.
  - BP has refused to discuss compensation.
- **Fire**
  - A significant fire risk for neighbours particularly the eastern and southern sides of the proposed solar factory on Kooringaroo Road from panels, batteries and substation fires.
  - There is hampered fire fighting capability on solar energy generation sites to fight any fires that start or burns onto these sites.
  - Many residents of Kooringaroo Road, on the eastern side of the site, live on a no through road and have no mobile phone coverage and therefore unlikely to be able to escape.
- **Electromagnetic Radiation**
  - A very large electricity facility - 740,000 solar panels, 154 inverters, 154 batteries, 30/330KV substation
  - Exposure to electromagnetic radiation is unknown
  - Impact on tractor GPS guidance and Drone guidance is unknown

- **Destroys the natural environment** to save the planet as most of the existing trees will be destroyed including 2000 planted by Greening Australia, the Australian River Restoration Centre and a previous landowner. This will remove 1700 acres of grassland over which the Gundry Wedge Tail Eagles hunt. If the Turraville solar factory is approved the Eagles will lose over 3000 acres of grassland hunting area in total. A considerable number of native animals are at risk – wombats, wedge tail eagles, reptiles and open woodland birds and a large variety of ducks and swans.
- **Social Licence** - BP and Lightsourcebp have NO SOCIAL LICENCE.
- **Risk that solar farm infrastructure will be abandoned or left derelict at the end of life of the industrial factory**
- **Destroys the scenic quality and landscape character of Gundry Plains**

[www.savegundryplains.au](http://www.savegundryplains.au)

### **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

We support the adjoining Landholders and affected nearby Residents of Gundry, Quialigo and Turraville NSW and oppose the solar farm proposed to be built by LIGHTSOURCEBP at 961 Windellama Rd, GUNDARY NSW.

The undersigned petitioners oppose the Gundry Solar Farm.

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