

This submission is made by Phillip John Irvine. I am a retired school principal who resides in Goulburn. I believe the Gundry solar farm would enhance the existing land use of the area to be developed and would result in gains in intergenerational equity.

The Gundry solar farm environmental impact statement, whilst needing significant improvement in some areas, also includes positive future developments for Aboriginal heritage and intergenerational equity for all future Goulburn and district residents.

An outstanding feature of the EIS is the work to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage. The positive and extensive consultation with many Aboriginal people and their representatives will result in the preservation of cultural materials for the enjoyment and education of future generations. The empowering of Aboriginal people proposed for the future cultural management plan should allow gains in intergenerational equity.

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) that was used throughout the consultation with the Recognised Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) was particularly powerful in providing the mitigation and management strategies for the future cultural management plan. This ensures that (RAPs) will have the influence and voice required to help successfully deliver this plan. The (RAPs) have confirmed that with the implementation of the mitigation measures they would be supportive of the project proceeding (page 78 Gundry solar farm EIS)

Goulburn and districts residents, now and in the future, will benefit from understanding the significance of the site as an important Aboriginal hunting ground and location for sourcing a variety of food.

It is exciting that this change in land use will maintain existing use through sheep farming coexisting with solar panels whilst acknowledging, preserving and promoting the use of the same land by Aboriginal people for thousands of years.

The climate change consequences of historical fossil fuel use has resulted in injustice for future generations. They will pay the price of mitigation and environmental loss despite not contributing to the cause of climate change.

Future generations rights to health, housing, food and water will be diminished if people don't take up the opportunities available to transition to renewable energy sources. In addition each area that declines a positive role in the energy transition also denies their younger residents and generations to come the economic benefits from the transition. The economic benefits include employment and training opportunities.

The current EIS is not as strong as necessary in the provision of community benefits but I do believe they will be improved with further community consultation. The consultation that has occurred concerning community benefits stands in stark comparison to the outstanding consultation with Aboriginal people.

In progressing their proposal Lightsource BP should commit to community benefits being in line with the NSW Department of Planning's guidelines for solar projects of at least \$850 per megawatt per annum. They have not discussed with community stakeholders possible projects in the detail required but have relied on relatively secret negotiations with Goulburn Mulwarre Council. This has resulted in an EIS that is diminished in the community benefits area.

The Gundry solar farm is the first of many opportunities to benefit Goulburn and district residents for generations to come. With the Gundry project we have seen political forces aligned with fossil fuel interests undertake destructive, divisive and dishonest campaigns. Short term political interests and greed do not have much concern for future environmental and economic opportunities. Someone else will be paying the price. Future generations need projects such as Gundry solar farm to proceed.