

SAVE Gundry Plains

On behalf of the community

EIS Submission – Gundry Solar Factory – STRONG WINDS 12DEC2024

Objection on the grounds there is a major deficiency in the EIS in that it does not address the possibility of strong wind damage to the panels or panel infrastructure and there are no preventative measures nor mitigation measures.

The BP (Lightsource, LightsourceBP, Lightsource Development Services Australia Pty Ltd) EIS has not mentioned the likely impact of high winds on their solar factory, especially their solar panels and the structure that holds and secures them.

The EIS does not mention wind or windy or storm, except when they reference **Windellama** and **stormwater**.

Goulburn can be a windy place and that is the probable reason that the hills to the west and north of Goulburn has the highest concentration of wind turbines in NSW.

Goulburn airport has recorded wind gusts over 90kph - Westerly / North Westerly and South / South Easterly winds can be very strong and gusty.

With strong wind gusts, there is a risk that individual solar panels may be blown from their mounts, breaking the panel and polluting the soil and water on the site.

During times when the plains have had significant wet weather, the holding capacity of the soil is much reduced which could lead to whole arrays being up-lifted as the RHS steel posts get pulled out of the sodden ground.

BP has not taken account of this likelihood in their EIS and is therefore a major deficiency.

BP is already aware of the possibility of hail damage to panels and again have not mentioned how they might address this.

Wind and storm damage to the solar factory are probably matters that BP would like to avoid, however given the real possibility of such damage it should have been addressed.

And if BP dismiss this as an issue, we refer them to a recent event that occurred in their homeland.

News story from the UK

Storm Darragh leaves UK solar farm in pieces https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14175033/Storm-Darragh-UKs-Biggest-solar-farm-pieces.html?ito=native_share_article-nativemenubutton

Hundreds of panels at the giant 190-acre Porth Wen solar farm in Anglesey, North Wales - only built two years ago - were blown off their mountings, some ripped to shreds.

The site at Llanbadrig, in the north of the island which is owned by French power firm EDF Energy and powers up to 9,500 households, now needs significant repairs.