

I object to the Glenellen Solar project on a number of levels. These are numbered below.

Firstly, I object to the nomenclature of the Glenellen Solar project, as a farm, where in fact it is a major industrial plant. This is a plant, where there is multimillion dollar infrastructure, major changes to the community, and long term impact to the community. In calling it a farm, there has been a lack of due diligence in the planning of this project. If this was considered a major industrial enterprise, there would be far more planning, consultation, and research into the contracted companies. The companies involved have little information on their financial success, which is important, as if these companies fold, there is uncertainty as to the future of the infrastructure on our community. The planning is rushed. In undertaking research about this area, I have discovered that this area was graded in the 1980s drought as occasionally arable land, which if due diligence was being undertaken, would be reviewed, as this is very reliable land for agricultural production. The timing of this is extremely difficult for farmers in this area, as in the midst of a bumper harvest in which this area is producing hay, stock and grain, and they have a huge workload and stress in considering responses to this project. This occurred last year, during a terrible drought, showing that the land is incredibly productive.

Secondly, I object to the installation of these plants in an area that, unlike many other areas of the state, is not being residualised in population and demographic as other rural areas of NSW. As a resident and taxpayer in NSW, I am concerned that this area of the state is enjoying a growth in young families and diverse enterprise, a traditional hub within travelling distance from Albury in NSW. This area is surrounded by small farms, subdivisions, and the township of Jindera.

The impact on the infringement of the community needs careful, thorough and diligent consideration, and the long term future of the community needs to be factored into this project development. In a time where there are so many communities suffering from residualisation, due to drought and the Murray Darling Basin Plan impact, there are areas in the state that could much better support the development of such a large industrial plant. I understand that this is due to the location of the plants to the existing grid, but this again is a rushed decision – a new grid west of this area could much better support alternate townships, an injection of much needed infrastructure in residualised areas of the state.

Thirdly, I object to the installation of the Glenellen Solar Plant on prime agricultural land. In the midst of drought in the last three years, this area is producing hay, stock and grain, with large numbers of neighbouring farming enterprises affected in proximity of the plants. I object to the removal of high numbers of old trees, creating salinity issues in an area that has never experienced them. I object to the removal of farmland with historical significance, and there is much conjecture over the change in microclimate. I have seen the huge number of weeds under the recently opened Finley plants, and all the information regarding grazing opportunities are negated to me by what I have seen. In all of this, as a resident of the Jindera area, and understanding what may transpire in our local area, there are concerns about fire hazards, and even the insurance prospect of residents nearby has not been thought about. Farms neighbouring the plants may not be able to insure their properties, and so one neighbour will profit, and one neighbour will not be able to conduct business without major upgrade if obtainable public liability insurance. This, in a district with a number of small productive farms affects the long term health of a now-thriving community.

I object to the consultation process of Trina Solar, and its predecessor. Their consultation has been minimal, at best; certainly not extensive as stated in their development applications. I am hugely concerned at the stability of these firms that are coming in, and their desktop reviews, which are inaccurate. For example, in their submission to NSW DPIE, they have erroneously stated that the

plant affects 7 properties in terms of visual impact, when in fact it directly affects 37 to a significant level. This company and its submission requires scrutiny and due diligence in examining its assessment, which is biased in favour of a positive decision, without care for the process being fair and without scruple.

This is my home. The plant will be on land that will be leased to someone who will not consider the weed build up, the fire hazards, the tree cover, or any land consideration. This will ruin our local neighbourhood.

The DPIE needs to understand what it means to be a rural person in their own context. 78% of our nation is governed by 12% of the voter base. Because of this, there is a bent to pillage our rural areas, and not consider the impact on those who live and grow food for the nation. COVID has seen decentralisation of cities commence, and neighbourhoods in country areas being appreciated for the lifestyle and sense of community that exists. This hasty decision, made east of the sandstone curtain, is not cognizant of those who live in the area. This decision would not be made in Parramatta, because it is in the Sydney bowl and voter base. Please appreciate that there are wonderful communities in rural areas, and respect them for the places they are. If there is to be a build up of plants, place them in a rural area that is semi-arid, and could use the injection into their economies to stop the residualisation. If not, place them in urban areas, on spaces where food isn't grown.

I am watching my farmer husband suffer. His mental health and wellbeing, his very purpose for living, is being eroded on our neighbouring farm, by a fly-by-night company, and an urbanised group who wear blue shirts and moleskins without the rurality to go with it. Please, consider our community, as my husband is one of many men who has fought fires, donated hay, contributed labour to the elderly and cares for the future of his livelihood. Please consider the families who have made their home here.

This is our land right now. This is what we see each day. This is what we have invested in. Please don't take it away from us, by placing this beautiful land under mirrors.



Ultimately, what I object to most is that in our state, we have always made haste slowly. There is a need to consider renewable energy opportunities, but to rush into such huge decisions, the considerations of location, local impact, productivity, community health, wildlife habitat and risk have not been taken into account in a thorough and timely manner.