

Telephone: 0438020234
Email: pamduc@internode.on.net

Ms Pam Duncan
PO Box 233
JINDERA NSW 2642

19 November 2020

Director – Energy Assessments, Planning and Assessment,
Industry and Environment,
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Re: Objection to proposed Glenellen Solar Farm (SSD – 95508)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I object to the construction of the proposed Glenellen Solar Farm primarily for the following five (5) reasons:

1. **Visual impact and amenity** – I hold a pecuniary interest in my mother's adjoining farm and the proposed solar farm will be clearly visible from her property. I am an avid bush walker and regularly enjoy picnics in the tranquillity of the farm. I do not support a change in land usage to what only can be described as an ugly industrial site. There is also the strong possibility of a "Solar Farm Cumulative Impact" should both the Glenellen and Jindera Solar Farms proceed as my mother's property will be impacted from both sides by solar panels.
2. **Devaluation of property values** – The farm has been home to my elderly mother for the past 30 years. The farm was originally purchased with a view to the lifestyle and amenity for which farm life brings. Until recently, 40 hectare properties in the local area have been highly sought after. However, demand for such properties has diminished since the announcement of potential Solar Farms and Real Estate Agents are now reluctant to put a value on impacted properties such as my mother's now and into the future.
3. **Fragmentation/Loss of Prime Agricultural Land** – From the outset, I am not opposed to renewable electricity but am genuinely concerned with the loss of prime agricultural land which will inhibit Australia's ability to not only feed its increasing population but also export to the world.

I know from personal experience that the nearby land on which the proponent wishes to establish a solar farm is highly productive and like others in the area has significantly benefitted from rotational cropping, pasture improvement and fertiliser inputs. The area has a reliable rainfall (compared to most) and properties are highly sought after given their ability to produce:

- prime sheep and cattle;

- high value oil seed and cereal crops;
- certified seed production; and
- hay and silage fodder which is exported throughout Australia to assist in maintaining a dairy industry and feeding stock in time of drought.

4. Increased heat carried by prevailing wind – My mother's home is downstream and in close proximity to the proposed solar farm. I am concerned about the potential heat that will be generated and carried in her direction by the prevailing wind. In 2018/19 the area suffered several days in excess of 40 degrees Celsius which was not only demanding for livestock but also challenging for residents such as my Mum. Despite the proponents claim that studies into "*Heat Island Effect*" show negligible temperature increases I remain unconvinced and consider that further scientific evidence is required to substantiate such claims. It is considered that the jury remains out on this issue and it will be too late to complain should the solar farm be established, and my fears be subsequently realised.

5. Unnecessary removal of farm trees – There are many century old farm trees on the proposed site of the Glenellen Solar Farm including a longstanding "Wetland Bird Sanctuary". Why is it necessary to remove such trees and wetland area as newly planted "Offset" trees do not provide comparative habitat to birds, possums, and other native animals. Why can't these farm trees be left untouched as they have been through responsible farming practices over hundreds of years?

I declare that I have not made a donation to any political party in the past two (2) years.

In closing, I fail to understand why our pleasant country farming lifestyle should be upended to that of an unsightly industrial site simply due to the property's proximity to high voltage power lines, transformer and a developer's desire to make a profit.

This project is a significant land use change and I fail to understand why such projects can't be located in more remote areas of the State where there is an abundance of land and far less impact on population?

Please don't hesitate to contact me on 0438020234 or pamduc@internode.on.net should you have questions in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

P5 Duncan

Pam Duncan