

The Secretary  
Department of Planning and Environment  
320 Pitt Street  
Sydney 2000  
Attention; Director of Resource and Energy Assessment

Dear Sir

**Application 9255 - State Significant Development - New England Solar**

As a member of the Executive of the **Uralla -Walcha Community for Responsible Solar/Wind Action Group** I am writing to you to advise of our objection to UPC Renewables Australia Pty Ltd (UPC) proposed development of the 800MW New England Solar Farm approximately 6 kilometres (km) east of the township of Uralla.

As we understand from the Department's Portal - the UPC project is a State Significant Development under the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011. Therefore, as we understand a development application (DA) for the project is required to be submitted under Part 4, Division 4.1 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). We understand this submission has not yet occurred.

As I further understand the required preliminary environmental assessment (PEA) for the project was submitted to NSW Department of Planning and Environment on 18 April 2018. It appears the SEARs for the project were subsequently issued by Department on the 8 May 2018.

This communication is not a detailed objection this will be a matter for the Group and ultimately any response of UPC. However, in keeping with our Group's mandate we don't believe the UPC proposal **is a responsible development**. In summary our concerns go to the;

- *significant visual impacts* -particularly as its unacceptable intrusion onto neighbouring landowners' amenity and to the Thunderbolts Way.
- the proposals *land use incompatibility* including the obvious denigration of access to quality agricultural land;
- *unacceptable environmental impact*; and
- *inconsistency with local and regional planning outlooks*.

At this point in time we believe that any Departmental assessment should be immediately suspended pending resolution of **the irresponsible aspects** of UPC's proposal

Yours Sincerely

Dr John Peatfield