

Re NEW ENGLAND SOLAR FARM [UPC]

We wish to lodge our objection to the Southern Array of the Proposed New England Solar Farm.

Our grounds for objection include the following-----

A. Site Selection-

1. This proposal is situated on high rainfall, very productive Agricultural Land.
2. Part of it is on a flood plain with an aquifer below, both of which are at the headwater of the Macleay catchment.
3. Part of the array is right on Thunderbolts Way which is the gateway to Uralla and has picturesque scenery. The proposed site would damage the ambience of the area from the point of view of Tourism and residents in general.
4. Soil Erosion. The soil in this area is very delicate from the point of view of erosion. The increased run off from the Solar Panels would exacerbate this situation.
5. This area is too closely settled for such a massive, invasive project.

B. Lack of consultation with neighbouring Landholders.

As the owners of a property overlooking this site, we were not **consulted at all**. We had to seek out the Developer. This also applied to other neighbours.

C. Impact on a Boutique business, namely the Sunhill Goat Dairy. This is a tourist attraction right in the middle of the project.

WE ARE NOT OPPOSED TO RENEWABLE ENERGY AS SUCH BUT WANT THE PROJECTS TO BE SENSITIVELY SITUATED.

The Salisbury Plains, on which this is planned, is the target of another huge Solar Project [P.E.A is soon to be lodged]. Combined with this Southern Array of the New England Solar Farm there would be a massive visual and Agricultural impact on the district. There needs to be a Holistic plan for the area which should include a mandatory setback distance from major roads and important topographical and environmental features.

In Principle, we object to the targeting of this area with its **high rainfall, productive agricultural land** for massive Solar Projects. We believe that once capacity of the current Grid is filled that new Branch lines should be built to the west where millions of acres of semi- arid, flat, low rainfall country is available. Any Solar Projects should be sensitively located.

We have many other concerns regarding this project, however, for the sake of brevity, we have not included them here.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr John and Nanette Peatfield