

Dear Mr Roberts

We are writing regarding the UPC proposal to develop the New England Solar Farm (the 'Solar Farm'), a major grid-connected solar farm in the Uralla Shire. The NSW State Government currently has the proposal on public exhibition and is inviting submissions on the environmental impact statement.

As sixth-generation landholders in this area, we are writing to you in support of this project. We are enthusiastic about the opportunities the proposed Solar Farm will provide our family, given our property is one of the proposed sites for the solar panels. We are also excited for the opportunities the solar development will afford the township of Uralla and the broader region.

This proposal is a rare and exciting opportunity for our family, to farm something completely new, with the proposed opportunity for continued grazing beneath the solar panels. Like many other farming families in the region, the generations of our family have: endured drought and other natural disasters; managed fluctuating markets; responded to an increasing need to diversify our business, in order that we retain it. As for most farming families, these have been challenging times. One of the biggest benefits of this proposal will be a regular income that will enable us to drought-proof the remainder of our land.

Over the last 23 years we have also operated a small business in Uralla. We've seen the way the drought negatively affects the entire town and region. The saying that 'when the farmers suffer the town suffers' has been obvious to us in our small business. With sustained investment and the opportunity for jobs provided by UPC's solar development, the local community will benefit, indeed we expect it may thrive.

The New England Solar Farm will benefit the broader Uralla Shire, not just those whose land will house the solar panels. UPC will be making donations to local community groups through the Community Benefit Sharing Initiative. The predictions are that there will be a generous annual sum which will inject much-needed and regular investment into sporting, community and charity groups. Uralla, like many rural towns, are small in number but big in spirit and these funds will hopefully enhance the health and wellbeing for many.

A portion of our land, Mt Lydia, is included in the proposed Northern Array. Construction of the development will impact us personally on a day to day basis. We are currently the last home at the end of Big Ridge Road and our visual amenity stands to be largely altered. This altered view, is just that: a different view displaying the reality of a different way to farm. Even though we have farmed this land for 6 generations we have learned never to assume that our position is privileged or elevated or without the possibility that neighbours may choose to 'alter' their land, land that happens to form part of our view. Maybe, on our watch, we get to contribute to new and renewable technologies which, we believe will contribute to the longevity of our planet.

Moreover, UPC have been professional and diligent in their operations. We personally have conversed with another solar company and can state that through our experience UPC have, by far, displayed greater integrity, professionalism, knowledge and respect for due process and due diligence.

UPC have collaborated with the local community and neighbouring stakeholders from the inception of the development. To secure a development of this size and scale UPC have: been proactive in approaching concerned parties; been transparent in communications; listened; been challenged and have been able to compromise and negotiate where needed.

In our experience, UPC have not been a 'closed book'; they have made themselves available for discussion and have been responsive and genuine in their approach.

In summary, we wholeheartedly support this development.

We have written in similar terms to other stakeholders.

Yours sincerely

Please see below the view that we are very happy to see altered. This is the view from our kitchen window. The sunny spot that sits in the middle is some of the land where the solar panels will go. Only part of this view is land that belongs to us.