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Dear Minister,

RE: Oxley Solar Farm SSD 10346

In starting my objection to the Oxley Solar Farm project, I start off by highlighting that this project is adjacent to a key leisure area of the region, the Blue Hole picnic area and the Gara Gorge. I and so many other residents of Armidale should have been deemed stakeholders in this project and were not consulted.

I also wish to point out the vagueness of the developer and lack of sincere concern for environmental impacts can be seen in the summary section on Biodiversity Impacts:

*The proposal site itself is largely cleared of native overstorey and provides little connectivity at a local level. The exception to this is the Gara River corridor which is intended to be avoided where possible by the development.*

The developer in the above statement creates the illusion that they will respect the 'Gara River corridor', but they leave that to 'where possible'. I assume that they will be adjudicator of the 'where possible' and do as they please regardless.

Furthermore the EIS states: "*The impacts of shading and diversion of rainfall runoff from the panels themselves is largely unknown*". The mitigation strategies listed by the developer also seem a little open-ended, and rely on control plans that are not currently offered for perusal. The developer also acknowledges the risk of severe erosion but fails to address a key issue: how will they rectify the situation in event that severe erosion does occur and occludes and/or totally alters the landscape of an important local picnic area, and an area that may have significant meaning to the local aboriginal community?

I am also concerned about the lack of empathy of the developer for what they are taking away from the residents of adjacent properties. Most people buying properties in this area did so with the objective to enjoy a rural lifestyle; to be able to enjoy the view of green undulating pastures amongst bush. Should the project proceed this will be taken away from them. Local land prices will be negatively impacted. If the vagueness of the developer in addressing key environmental concerns is characteristic of the rest of the submission then I would also seriously question how genuine the panoramic images of the project are.

In conclusion this EIS of the project should be rejected.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

14/4/2021 – submitted electronically