

RE Gibson

Croidon

Hay NSW 2711

ABN33946387147

DATE:11/09/2017

Dear Sirs,

RE: Application HAY SOLAR FARM Application Number SSD 8113

I generally support the proposal subject to the enclosed concerns being resolved;

I am an adjoining Land owner and run an extensive grazing enterprise over 70000 acres accessed by the Sidonia Road. I have read the EIS and look forward to working toward resolving the following issues;

1. SIDONIA ROAD – I am a fifth generation farmer at “Croidon” and frequently have wet weather access issues on the Sidonia Road. I note the construction of the project is anticipated to take 12 months. The road is single carriageway and gets very slippery after about 5 -10 mms of rain. I have had to attend with my tractor to recover vehicles that have slipped off the section of road that will be used by the Hay Solar Farm. The camber of the road corner makes it very dangerous in the wet. As my family and employees traverse that section of the road frequently, I am concerned for their safety where the project will result in an increase in heavy vehicle traffic on an unstable surface.

I frequently have B double and Road train stock trucks entering and leaving the property, as well as wool trucks transporting my wool and I receive fodder and general farm merchandise on that road. As it is only single carriageway, any increased traffic is likely to result in the trucks having to pull over to the road shoulder which increases safety concerns as their loads will shift & become unstable on the poorly formed road shoulders.

It should also be noted that during shearing, where my shearing Contractors traverse the road multiple times, the road surface cracks up, blows dust and deteriorates to produce areas of “bull dust” which can be very unstable and also affects visibility if travelling at the speed limit of 100km/ hour.

The kangaroo population living in the timbered areas next to Sidonia Road grazing on the road reserves is also a hazard which is magnified by the lack of a sealed surface due to increased stopping times and limited visibility when dusty.

ACTION: The Sidonia road should be made dual carriageway and sealed up to and including the Northern project entrance.

2. NORTHERN ACCESS – The proposed driveway on the Sidonia Road is located on a corner and directly intersects with my property entrance to “Croidon”. I query whether the location is a safe one, given the amount of traffic expected to use it. I am also concerned that my access will be impeded when earthworks are conducted to upgrade the project entrance to handle heavy vehicles.

ACTION: Consult with adjoining landowner on construction of entrance to prevent third party impacts. Consider sealing all entrances in that vicinity.

3. AMENITY GLARE/GLINT/NIGHT LIGHTING – The proposed development will have solar panels pointing directly at my property as it lies to the North. Traffic coming to and from each of my farms will be impacted by the development and I will lose my “rural outlook” as there is presently no screening vegetation. I am also concerned about the impacts on my stock in the paddocks adjoining the project, especially during the construction phase. The stock are likely to avoid the area due to increased traffic, noise, vibration & night lighting which will result in over grazing in other parts of the paddock and a decrease in stock welfare due to increased stress.

ACTION: A belt of screen shrubs and trees should be established and maintained along the Eastern and Northern reaches of the project along Sidonia Road to reduce third party impacts.

4. FIRE – The asset protection zones for the project are located on the Eastern side of the development and have no regard for the prevailing wind in the area. My family farm has been burnt out twice, each time from the South/West. Accepted risk mitigation practice in our area is ploughing a firebreak as the high velocity of the winds make slashing a poor management strategy. The project does not plan to have any firebreaks and the panels are planned to be located so close to the property boundary that there is no room for proper fire breaking within the property boundary. The project will create electric and magnetic fields (EMF's) and the plans fail to adequately mitigate the very real fire risk to my property. The EIS also indicated that water would be trucked in and stored on site. Given the scale of the project, I am concerned that the project has inadequate water arrangements to fight grass fires, which often have a front of several kilometres.

ACTION: Require the project to install and maintain proper fire breaks in accordance with accepted farming practice in the area. Ensure adequate dedicated water storage available for fire fighting, given the site size.

5. WATER – the Hay Private Irrigation District have provided a piped stock and domestic water connection to my property. The connection runs along the boundary of the project site and cuts under the Sidonia Road adjacent to the proposed Northern entrance. I rely on this source of water for my homestead, workers cottage, shearing shed and stock troughs. The project will have cable trenching equipment in use during construction and will be using fencing gear to create a high chain link fence along the property boundary.

ACTION:           Ensure erection of the project boundary fence and any alterations/earthworks along Sidonia Road do not impede access to water for “Croidon” and to make good any damage immediately to prevent stock losses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the planned Solar Farm.

Yours faithfully,

Robert E Gibson