

'Granite Hill', 1917 Urana Road
JINDERA 2642
8th November 2019

Mr Jim Betts
Secretary,
Planning, Industry & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Re: Objection to proposed Jindera Solar Farm (SSD – 9549)

Dear Mr Betts

My name is Norma Schulz. I am an 89 year old lady. My brothers (both of whom are deceased) were 3rd generation farmers on 'Granite Hill', a 440ha property on Urana Road, Jindera. I still live in the original family home on the property which is directly opposite the proposed site for the Jindera Solar Farm.

In opening, I state that I have never made a financial contribution to any political party.

I understand that Australia needs to move towards different ways of producing our power, however I am very disappointed and worried about the proposal to have large solar farms on good farming land in our district.

Our area has long been one of our country's largest contributor to the food source of our nation. We have a reliable rainfall and fertile land close to major markets, making this an ideal location for farming.

Over the past 142 years, our family has undertaken enterprises such as beef, sheep, crops and hay. Combination of the Jindera, plus the three other proposed solar farms in our area, will in effect remove 6.500 acres from our farming food bowl.

I think it would be a real shame to replace good cropping and grazing land with solar panels, especially when there are areas that are less suited to cropping and grazing that could be utilised for solar farms.

I am really worried about the loss of agricultural land.

I am also concerned about the removal of lovely old trees. The neighbour across the road has indicated that there are over 200 trees which would need to be removed if the solar company is given the go ahead. These trees provide habitat for birds and wildlife. I understand that the companies are obligated to replace the trees, but replacing established trees with tube stock that may or may not survive is fairly useless.

The increased likelihood of erosion in wet years and dust in dry years also worries me.

It doesn't make sense to me to be fill in existing dams that currently supply reliable water source for stock and wildlife.

I am concerned about the risk associated with accessing the area in the event of a fire, and the risk of toxic fumes.

This property currently has a beautiful view of grazing land and the Table Top range. If the solar farm goes ahead, the panels will be visible from the property.

The companies implied that the local townsfolk would enjoy cheaper power. We all know this is not the case.

I would like to suggest that further consideration needs to be given to alternate locations for the solar farms. There are vast areas west of here where there are very few trees, no dams and plenty of sunlight. I understand the preference to put the solar farms near existing, however surely that should not be the deciding factor.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission. If you wish to discuss my concerns with me, please contact me on 02 6026 3226.

Regards

(Miss) Norma Schulz