

The New South Wales Government has selected the Hay Plains as an ideally situated and suitable site for a large scale solar farm facility. A grid connection between Wagga Wagga and Adelaide connected into the Sydney /Melbourne transmission grid will traverse the Hay Plains Solar Farm. If this was developed Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Adelaide would all be connected to the Hay Plains solar farm as well as being able to transfer power at any time between cities including power from the Snowy 2 proposal. In doing this there would be no need for the four solar farms proposed in Greater Hume Shire.

SAVE GOOD FARM LAND

- **Inability to maintain soil or pastures.** The development of the Jindera Solar Farm covering 520 hectares with solar panels and associated infrastructure will prevent the cultivation, fertilizing and pasture seeding of the land. This will result in the continued denigration of the land for the sheep grazing purposes.
- The soil will be compacted by sheep hooves which will increase water run-off and reduce the ability for pasture regrowth resulting in weed growth and dust generation.
- To control weeds, to prevent fire hazards, it will be necessary to spray herbicides under and around all the solar panels (521 hectares). This eradication of weeds will generate a potential massive dust area and present a danger to nearby residents and crops when herbicides are sprayed.

POISONING OF DRINKING WATER.

The use of herbicides to continually control weeds could result in a build-up of and saturation of the soil with these chemicals. During periods of heavy rain the resulting leaching of the soil and run off will cause chemical pollution of water courses on this land, which eventually discharge into Hume Dam. The Hume Dam's water is used for human consumption by the people of Albury/Wodonga and all towns downstream to Adelaide. Additionally these chemicals will also affect all aquatic life associated with the Murray River. An example is Studies have shown the platypus to have a high build-up of chemicals in their system including anti-depressants.

ELECTRICAL OVERLOAD OF EXISTING JINDERA POWER SUB-STATION.

I believe the existing Jindera Power sub-station has a limited ability to receive additional electricity when it is running at peak demand. This could result in "gridlock" when both the Jindera and the Glenellen solar farms are commissioned and feed into the one sub-station.

FOREIGN CONTROL OF AUSTRALIAS ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

This solar farm similar to other three proposed in the same area is owned by foreign entities who soon after construction can on sell them to other countries. If this practice continues the control of Australia's power supply in the future could easily be controlled by a hostile foreign country. An example of what happens when an external company has control over the electricity supply can be seen in the large Mars Dog Food Factory in Wodonga (just 25 minutes from Jindera) which currently shuts down production at 3 pm each day because its energy provider increased the cost of power by 1200% (1200 per cent)

“SOLAR FARMS GENERATE EXTRA EMPLOYMENT”- MISCONCEPTION

- Solar farms cause the unemployment of local farm workers who are usually part of the local community. These people do not usually have the skills or the desire to work on the running of solar farms. There are less people needed to maintain a solar farm than the specialist farm employees required to run a diversified farm (eg: hay contractors, shearers, stock agents, agronomists, fertilizer distributors)

CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF MULTIPLE SOLAR FARMS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY.

If the proposed Jindera and Glenellen solar farms are developed on prime agricultural land (an area in excess of 900 hectares north of the town of Jindera) this will have a negative impact on Jindera's rural landscape. A large proportion of the surrounding landscape will change from picturesque agricultural land to that with an industrial appearance. The ambience of the area is important to the mental well-being of the local residents. Property values will be lowered and no compensation is offered to affected residents.

- **Microclimate:** The large area of solar panels will generate an increase in summer temperature. In 2019 a maximum temperature of 47 degrees Celsius was recorded in the area. This extremely high temperature, together with the extra heat generated from the proposed solar farms, could result in a temperature well in excess of 50 degrees Celsius in the shade. This would cause the burning of plant foliage and make living in the area very uncomfortable. The prolonged and extensive use of air-conditioning systems to counteract this abnormal increase in temperature would outweigh any possible advantage of the solar farm in offsetting global warming/climate change.
- **Overload of Jindera sub-station:** The combined electricity generated by the two solar farms being fed into the existing sub-station in Ortlip road simultaneously could deliver more power than the substation can accept (solar generated power plus base load). This would possibly cause grid lock to occur in the Jindera area.

ADDITIONAL OBJECTION POINTS

- **Unightly infrastructure (apart from the solar panels).** It is presumed shipping containers or similar will be used to house batteries for the solar farm. No information has been forthcoming as to the colour, size and location of these units and how these will impact the landscape. The colour should blend in with the surrounding environment or be similar in colour to the panels.
- **Follow up of conditions imposed.** If the solar farm is approved, what processes does the department have in place to enforce any conditions imposed on the developers during development and in the years to come? eg: maintenance of screening vegetation. The Company developing the site is foreign owned. There is nothing to stop it selling (once the project is built) to another foreign company, who then, may not be required to comply with the original conditions such as removal of the infrastructure after the contract is finished. We have been assured the land owner will be responsible if the company does not reinstate the land to its original condition. However in thirty years time the original landowner may not own the property on which the solar farm exists.

- **Fencing and Screening:** Indications are that the area will be fenced including the use of shade cloth. It will not take long for the shade cloth in windy conditions to become unsightly and dilapidated. There have been suggestions that the area will be screened by suitable vegetation but the details of this are not transparent. It takes many years for such planting to be effective. Will the residents be properly informed of what vegetation will be used and how long this will take to effectively block the unsightly view of solar panels?
- **Water Requirements:** The solar farm requires a significant amount of water in the construction phase and when operating as a solar farm. Where does this water come from? Many local farmers are already carting additional water in the summer season. Is there any provision for fire-fighting purposes on the proposed solar farm? Most water supplies to secondary streets eg: Klinberg Rd, Jindera are only 50 mm in diameter and are therefore are not suited to any fire-fighting purposes. I understand the development of the solar farm will remove existing dams for the subject land. Current farming practices ensure that water stored in dams can be used for fire -fighting purposes, however these dams will no longer exist if the solar farm is developed. Any large commercial development of this size, even though it is considered a solar farm, would require adequate firefighting provisions to be installed within its boundaries. This is necessary for the protection of the solar farm and to prevent the spread of fire to neighbouring properties.
Any road access which would be available to bushfire brigades in the event of a fire should be constructed and maintained in accordance with Australian Standards to carry the fire fighting appliances.
- **Insurance Cost Increase for Residents:** If a fire breaks out on neighbouring property and damages the solar plant how does the resident ensure their insurance policy will cover this? It is likely that insurance policies will increase dramatically for nearby residents.
- **Bird life/ Conservation of habitat and species:** Species diversity and habitat will be destroyed by the clearing of local trees and vegetation.
- **During Construction:** Local residents will be adversely affected by dust, noise and traffic movement. There will be a large number of trucks driving down local dirt roads during the construction. Will local councils be reimbursed for this and roads maintained/repared immediately damage occurs? During construction we have been informed that the noise level of installation is well over acceptable levels of noise pollution set down by the Environmental Protection Authority.

The above points raised should be sufficient to prevent the approval of this solar farm. It has been noted that Victoria and ACT have refused applications for solar farms. Why is it that NSW continues to approve solar farms on land that is better suited to agricultural purposes?

