



Jenny Jacob

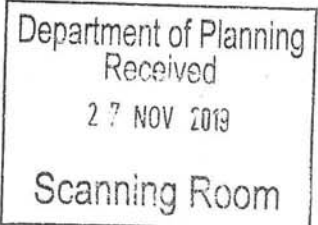
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Walla Walla Solar Farm

SSD 9874

I, Jenny Jacob, do declare that the only political donations I have made in the past 5 years, have been to the Christian Democratic Party, not more than \$2,000-.

I was born on a farm in S.A which had a low rainfall. In 1983, I came to live at Walla Walla when I married. When my parents came to visit, they were amazed at the beautiful area I lived in... good rainfall, prime agricultural land. My family are very blessed to be here and even to have crops & sheep & cattle in a drought, speaks for itself. It's wonderful that our 2 sons can continue to be on the property & their families. My husband goes out to the farm most days.

It is most concerning that there are 4 proposed solar farms in our Greater Hume Council area, all because

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of the transmission lines that are here.

I will focus on the proposed Walla Solar Farm. I went to two Community Consultations with the Bison Solar Company & 2 with FRV, <sup>after</sup> when they took over in July, 2019. At the first Bison one, I was looking at their info, when someone from their Company said to me, 'We should not be here. We were given the wrong land classification.' That is so true. The land is high quality agricultural land. At the second Bison meeting, people could ask questions after their presentation. Many questions were unanswered, and still are today. When FRV took over, at both their information sessions, no questions could be asked as a group. This is not good community consultation. People who didn't know much about Solar Farms were more interested in eating the lovely food and asking for money for their group. One man asked for money to finish our new sports pavilion. When Companies offer 'bribes' to gain community support, there's something wrong. Surely the merit of their Company alone would be sufficient. In the EIS, on p. 119, it says that FRV want to 'develop a dedicated Community Investment Program (CIP) for the proposal. ... for possible projects and /or financial contribution for the local community as part of the solar farm operational period' ... 'some of them have already been preliminary discussed' and aim 'Give back to the Walla Walla, Culcairn & surrounding community.'



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To do that when a project is being proposed, is so wrong. It takes people's focus off the genuine concerns, to a short term gain. It's dirty money. Then the Company says, 'Look what we are doing for your community.' This causes division in our community. I can see it in our town. It is very deep.

Tourism in our Greater Hume Council area is very important. At a recent Council meeting, one of the Councillors is determined to make tourism more a focal point to draw professional people to our area & a committee was set up to work with the existing Tourism officer. Orange Grove<sup>Gardens</sup> will be impacted greatly by the proposed Walla Solar Farm. Not much is said about this in the EIS. It is a Wedding & Function Centre & recently added eco-lodges & a mineral pool. My son was married there & I can't speak highly enough of the venue. A lot of other venues were looked at, but Orange Grove<sup>Gardens</sup> won out because of price, well run, lovely view & great facilities. My son & his wife said how the owner(s) just thought of everything! The view in their lovely wedding photos, will be gone with solar panels proposed. Orange Grove<sup>Gardens</sup> is a major tourism venue, employs local people, uses local food, local bus service<sup>local businesses</sup> etc - the flow-on effect in our area is amazing! The proposed solar has greatly impacted their business already. The owners have worked so hard to build their business & to have it effected like this is shocking. Our Council have invested in a RURAL LOCAL community

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The other landholders, plus 'Orange Grove,' run farming businesses, and this causes a negative effect on them, too. Not only is their land devalued, but the potential for the heat island effect to cause a downturn in their production is real. In the EIS, it speaks of international studies done, but no Australian studies have been done on the heat island effect. This is a major concern, with receivers as close as 80m from the property boundary and  $32.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  is the mean summer maximum temperature. This <sup>is</sup> a large development of 614 hectares, and the proposed Culcairn Solar Farm of 1,256 hectares about 2kms away, is a major worry. In the EIS, it says that large scale solar is relatively new in Australia. That was obvious when I read the EIS, too many vague terms, like 'likely or not likely.' Our land is too precious for this risky business.

An example of this vagueness is in relation to Health risks. In the EIS it says, 'Health effects likely to be negligible and 'Health risks unlikely.' Landowners are very concerned. One of them was & is worried about the substation so close to their property. FRV have offered to move it 100m (in the EIS, it says <sup>-p. 133</sup> "at considerable expense to FRV"). This certainly doesn't allay any fears. The exact wording in the EIS on p. 133 is - "FRV investigated the location of the substation and have moved this piece of infrastructure 100m south to accommodate the views of R2. This was at considerable cost & time to FRV." It's not just the view, the health risk is very real, too. The amount of trees that will be used <sup>as a buffer</sup> <sup>in whole project</sup> is enormous & in the EIS it says they will all be watered, & looked after & dead ones replaced. I find that questionable. It says they take 8-10 years to mature. That's a long time! Landholders will have an industrial view for a long time.



The removal of 13.83 hectares of native vegetation, 53 paddocks & trees & a total loss of value of 24 items of Aboriginal cultural heritage, is HUGE. The impact is enormous, plus 2 dams gone. p. 245 of EIS 'The construction (16-20 mths.) & operational phase (30 years) have the potential to impact biodiversity valued at the site.' That puts it mildly! The whole ecosystem is upset!! In the EIS, <sup>p. 245</sup> to read of their ways to remediate this really is insignificant compared to the devastation & destructions to flora, fauna, birds, etc (p. 245 - p. 251) The effects are so concerning. I thought we are meant to protect our environment. Threatened species being not able to complete their life cycle & habitats removed & water quality are a few. It's hypocritical to disrupt the environment in this way, for a project that's meant to favour the environment.

The proposed Walla Solar Farm is for 30 years. In the EIS, it says then it can be taken down & soil returned to agriculture, used for mining or upgraded. To take this down, means in the EIS, p. 308, 'all above ground infrastructure & materials would be removed from the site, recycled or otherwise disposed of at approved facilities.' I questioned FRV about <sup>the 900,000</sup> solar panels, they said there isn't any recycling for them. I have heard there is one recycling plant in Adelaide. This is a HUGE concern, with the amount of panels used in large scale solar. What if solar becomes obsolete

This is more so, if the Company becomes insolvent. A friend from USA told me keep right away from large scale solar. In the USA, the same happened with companies leasing land prime agriculture putting in large scale solar & then going broke. The farmer is left with all these panels & can't use his land! With no recycling, he's heard they're stored in large warehouses & dumped in the sea.

The threat of fire, either within the solar farm, or if a fire comes to it from somewhere else is a major worry. The precautions the Company are undertaking, would not stop a fire. At a local information session, we were told that fire fighters can't go into a solar farm because of the

trap. They have to wait till it burns through them. The toxicity from burnt panels would be terrible. Fire concerns multiplied for neighbours, all farms nearby, Walla Walla is only 4.3km away. On a hot, windy day, fires move so quickly.

Overall, as you can see, there are many far-ranging serious effects of the Walla Walla proposed Solar Development. The main reason is because it is in the WRONG LOCATION. Our area is 150 years old. The German pioneers knew good land when they saw it. Farmed successfully for 150 years! That speaks for itself!

Yours sincerely,  
Jenny Jacob  
JENNY JACOB