

I wish to object to the proposed Walla Walla Solar Farm development primarily as it requires the use of large amounts of productive agricultural land in Greater Hume.

Agriculture contributes \$98M to the Shire's economy and is the largest sector for employment. Source: Greater Hume Shire Economic Development and Social Plan 2017 – 2022 . Agricultural land is an important asset which we need to protect for the purpose of producing food, fiber and fodder. Using productive agricultural land for large scale renewable energy developments is a misuse of land given there are other, less arable land options available.

The Walla Walla site is not suitable for the following reasons. The map from Renewable Energy Resources of NSW depicts a solar reference point in Greater Hume. This reference point appears in the lower, average daily global solar exposure section. The map indicates much larger areas to the North West of the State, have higher average daily global solar exposure. Additionally the area of Greater Hume was not listed in AEMO's Integrated System Plan identifying the best locations for potential energy zones in NSW.

The Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2036 states under the heading 'A Growing and Diverse Economy' - Direction 1: Protect the region's diverse and productive agricultural land. Under Direction 1, three actions are listed.

The first, 1.1 being 'Develop a regional agricultural development strategy that: maps important agricultural land...' p 17.

Whilst the important agricultural land mapping is still being undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries, a major project of this magnitude should not be considered.

Fire Danger - The proposed development will be surrounded by a chain mesh fence. I have visited several solar developments within NSW including the Coleambally and Finley site. Both sites were extremely infested with broad leaf weeds. The management of both sites was using lawn mowers (ridiculous) to try and control the weeds. It is impossible to control broadleaf weeds by mowing. This action simply spreads the seed and causes the plan to grow wider and lower. This significantly increases fire damage. I am a member of the NSW Rural Fire Service. I have spoken with dozens of Rural Fire Service members. It has been a unanimous decision that we WILL NOT enter a solar development in order to fight a fire. This is due to the increased risk of entrapment due to the fencing and the way that the solar panels are installed, increased risk of electrical shock exposure and increased risk of inhaling dangerous and potentially carcinogenic chemicals due to burning electrical cabling, electrical equipment and solar panels. A decision has been made by many brigades to wait until a fire exits the site. This will cause larger and more difficult fires to be require containing but reduces the risk to the life of volunteer fire fighters. It is apparent that the developers are showing little concern for adjoining land holders as they are glossing over fire risk. I have many years experience as a fire fighter. The risk to adjoining land and households by fire can not be understated. Fire is extremely dangerous and is a major part of our climate. I believe that the only way to mitigate the fire risk is for extremely stringent conditions to be enforced relating to

weed and fire mitigation.

Visual impact - The proposed development will directly impact Orange Grove Gardens with their function centre having direct views over the proposed development. From being a guest at several weddings and private functions at Orange Grove Gardens over the last few years, this development is going to cause long term damage their business and be harmful to local tourism in this area. I personally would not want to hold a function overlooking an industrial site or stay in the eco cottages on the property. I am unsure how Orange Grove Gardens will be able to advertise rural farm stays when guests be looking at industrial development.

The property 'Mountain View' will also have a huge visual impact over the proposed site and will also be in the direct line of the substation. I believe this could easily be moved back towards to the 'Bega Plains' homestead this would help reduce this visual impact of 'Mountain View'. Why should neighbouring landholders be affected by these developments? The developers need to listen to the concern of neighbouring landholders and take real steps to address their concerns.

Walla Walla is a small rural town close to Albury/Wodonga. It is a community where many people choose to live and they are going to go from enjoying a rural existence and outlook, to living adjacent to an industrial development. These developments are repeatedly referred to as 'farms'. They are not farms. They are industrial developments that are converting agricultural productive land to weed infested industrial sites. It is NOT possible to farm this land when covered in solar panels. Sheep may well graze the weeds and grass, but weeds and grass is not conducive to productive animal growth as it contains no protein and is almost worthless as feed for livestock. The impact of living in close proximity to the large scale solar developments is already causing mental stress upon local landholders and residents.

Vehicular traffic - During the construction phases (many months), there will be a significant increase in truck and car movements. This poses an increased risk to residents due to increased traffic and directly affects, increasing traffic includes increased noise and pollution to local residents. At the intersection of Benambra Rd and Olympic Highway alone has 4 buses stopping at various times picking up /dropping off children twice a day with one driving past the proposed development

Dust will be a huge ongoing issue, impacting anyone living within kilometres of this project. How is this ever going to be mitigated in these drought conditions without using hundreds upon thousands of litres of water daily? Simple things like pegging out the washing, opening windows or having evaporative air conditioners running will not be able to happen to residents living near this development. Orange Grove Gardens will have increased impacts; I can't imagine a bride wants her wedding ceremony covered in dust or her guests hearing the constant noise of the posts being driven into the ground over her wedding vows.