

'Granite Hill', 1917 Urana Road  
JINDERA 2642  
5<sup>th</sup> February 2020

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

**Re: Objection to proposed Culcairn Solar Farm**

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.

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 Culcairn, 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. 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.

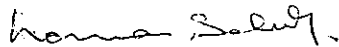
If the solar farm goes ahead, the panels will be visible from the surrounding area. There are many neighbouring farms that will be looking directly at a whopping **1317 hectares (3254 acres)** of panels and associated infrastructure.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Norma Schulz'.

(Miss) Norma Schulz