

RAY JACOB

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Walla Walla NSW 2659

Culcairn Solar Farm SSD-10288

I, Ray Jacob, do declare that I have made political donations to the Christian Democratic Party only, in the past two years, of not more than \$1,000-.

I strongly oppose the Culcairn Solar Farm proposed. I was born on a farm near Walla Walla and lived there all my life till 7 years ago, when I moved to Walla Walla. My two sons and myself run our farm consisting of grain, cattle and sheep and also have a contract harvesting business.

In my nearly 70 years of life, I have never known a development to cause so much division, as the four proposed Solar Farms in our beautiful Greater Hume Council area. All of them are on prime agricultural land, which is the reason for so much discord. It's very upsetting to see people not talking to each other, who have been on properties for generations. There's no way the Government should allow foreign owned solar companies to propose solar farms in our area. They have come here because of the power lines, making it cheaper for them to set up a

solar project. A guy told me that his family wanted to put their farm in a marginal area, where the nearest neighbour is 5km away, under solar. They were told the company wasn't interested because there were no powerlines close by. The family would've appreciated the money to help them in the drought.

Focusing on the Culcairn Solar proposal, it is HUGE, 1,317 hectares. It is scary! The thought of 1,100,000 solar panels, 65-75 containerised inverter/transformer units across the site, 50 battery containers, a large substation, associated buildings and security fencing will make the area be an industrial area. What a contrast to the beautiful country views there now. The panels will even be seen from Morgans Lookout, a major tourist attraction a few kms. away.

On p.97 of the EIS, "It says the NSW Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2036, Direction 1 is to protect the region's diverse and productive agricultural land. The EIS consideration is that the Dept. Primary Industries is conducting a 3 year program to map and recognise important agricultural land. The draft Riverina Murray I. A. L. Mapping was on public exhibition through Nov. & Dec 2018; however the plan is no longer available for public viewing as it is being revised

to take into consideration all public feedback. As such, I, A. L. from this draft plan cannot be considered in the E.I.S. ' This is so wrong! An independent agricultural assessment is needed of the development site.

FIRE is a major concern. Rural Fire Service brigade members are very worried about the increased fire threat to neighbours and the nearby towns of Walla Walla and Culcairn. They are experienced with fighting bushfires, but a fire in a solar farm is different. Firefighters are not allowed to enter it due to issues with electrocution, entrapment and toxic exposure. The accumulation of hairy panic around the 1,100,000 solar panels would be a real fire hazard. The fire would spread quickly over the 1,317 hectares, with no firefighters allowed inside. I find the statement on p.304 hard to believe. 'Bushfire risks during the operation of the solar farm and connection infrastructure would be manageable.' It also says that the use of lithium-ion batteries elevate the fire risk.

There are many major reasons why there should not be solar farms in our area.

Yours sincerely
Ray Jacob