

JENNY JACOB

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Culcairn Solar Farm SSD-10288

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

I totally object to the Culcairn Solar Farm proposal.

I grew up on a farm in S.A. which had low rainfall.

When I married and came to live on a farm near

WallaWalla, my parents were amazed at the beautiful rich farming area. My family are blessed to be here, and to have crops, sheep and cattle in a drought, speaks for itself!

It is most concerning that there are four proposed solar farms in our fertile Greater Hume Council area, between Tindera and Culcairn, a distance of about 44km. I have attended the Community consultations, and all companies are here primarily because of the transmission lines. They don't care about the prime agricultural land they are using. This is a business for them, and to gain community support, 'bribes' are offered. On p.88 of the EIS, Neoen is offering solar farm neighbour payments of \$200 - \$300,000, a one off 'construction-disruption payment,' and a Community

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Benefit Sharing package totalling \$10million. To offer money 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. It's better for communities to work together for projects they need.

I went along to the drop-in session at Culcairn in May. I was really upset by it. When I walked in, there were hardly any forms to fill in and no-one was around to ask. Because the Bowling Club was petitioned off to a small area for community consultation, I felt very agitated, as there were conflicts between those for and against, a lot of people in a small area and trying to have a cuppa, something to eat I didn't attempt. Neoen sure didn't do a good job with community consultation. I felt it would've been more helpful to have an ~~arg~~ situation where a presentation was made and people could ask questions. A session in Walla would've been good, too, as a majority of people don't know about it.

The proposed Culcairn project is so HUGE - 1317 hectares. It is wrong that it is considered before the draft Riverina Murray Important Agricultural Land Mapping has been released as many farmers in our area put submissions in to get the map updated, with the correct

land classification. If the release isn't soon, an independent agricultural assessment is needed of the development site. Agricultural land needs to be protected. In October 2019, we were in the 2% of NSW not drought effected. In the last harvest October-December 2019, the land provided hay and grain, with many drought & fire devastated farmers very appreciative of the hay.

I am deeply concerned with so many aspects of the Culcairn Solar proposal. I will highlight a few:

- Loss of productive land in a reliable farming area, not only where the 1,100,000 panels are, but for neighbouring farmers, as the heat bank effect, at least $3^{\circ}-4^{\circ}\text{C}$ increase, can extend for up to 3kms.

There are 17 dwellings within 1km of the development site and 17 additional dwellings within 3kms. This has a flow on effect to businesses eg. transport, grain & fertilizer, spray, seed, ^{sheds} vehicles, shearing etc. Walla and Culcairn have well-established businesses.

- Health: The dust created effects air quality & people's health. At the peak of construction, there will be 300 passenger vehicle movements & 100 heavy vehicles.

There is uncertainty about Electromagnetic Radiation effects. p.308 '... uncertainties remain' and p.308 'Whether exposure to ELF magnetic fields is also harmless is unclear.' All 4 developments have caused significant emotional stress on many people. Conflicts between neighbours & friends is very real and effects their well-being.

- Recyclable concerns: p. xxiv 'Recyclable materials are expected to constitute a large proportion of

the waste generated.... batteries and solar panels will be recycled (typically by the manufacturer) when they reach the end of their operational life.'

On p. 64 '... there are few facilities to recycle lithium-ion batteries in Australia... spent batteries are likely to be exported and would require an export permit...'

The only recycling facility for solar panels in Australia that I have heard of, is in Adelaide. In the EIS, it does not mention that panels contain carcinogenic cadmium. It's a metal compressed between sheets of glass. If a panel is broken, rainwater washes cadmium into the soil. What a serious health and environment concern with so many solar farms being constructed in Aust.

Two watercourses run along the boundary of the site, Billabong Creek which empties into the River Murray and is usually flowing and Back Creek with two drainage lines. The water quality would be effected, also from erosion and sediment laden runoff.

If decommissioning occurs at 30 years, p 322

'The land can be returned to agricultural use...'

This is not true as it would be contaminated from all the panels.

In closing, there are so many harmful, alarming issues with solar farms that they should NOT be allowed to proceed. Let's keep our land for what it has been used for successfully for the last 150 years.

Yours sincerely
Jenny Jacob