

21 December 2017

The Secretary
NSW Department of Planning & Environment
Submitted online: majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

RE: Objection to Tarleigh Park Solar proposal SSD 17_8436 and Currawarra Solar proposal SSD 17_8437

I refer to the proposals by RES to construct solar energy generation projects between Deniliquin and Blighty in the Riverina. In particular, I object to the company using highly developed irrigation land instead of using pastoral or grazing land for the proposal.

I am an irrigator in the locality, a shareholder of Murray Irrigation Limited (MIL) and I am concerned that this development removes land from productive irrigation cropping and food production and MIL water supply when appropriate alternative grazing land is easily available with similar road and transmission line access.

The EIS identifies that the proposed development co-exists with the current intensive irrigated cropping operation - it does not. Coexistence means that both land uses can continue simultaneously on the same land. Only a lesser grazing land use with a greatly reduced stock carrying capacity and pasture growth could potentially operate at the same time as the solar generation project.

I do not believe that an adequate assessment of the alternative, more compatible land uses or alternative sites for the development have been conducted as required by the Environmental Assessment Requirements. The proposed development is incompatible with cropping irrigation farming production and completely inappropriate.

Further, assessment of the proposal has not examined the contents of Primefact 1063, the ARENA Social Licence to Operate or the Draft Solar Guidelines in locating the project. I believe the local consultation has been inadequate and had the above mentioned documents been included as part of a thorough assessment, this land use conflict and community concern would have been identified and can be easily treated by revising the location onto grazing land.

Yours sincerely,

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