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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the proposed solar farm at "Currawarra" that RES is proposing to build. I am one of the adjoining owners to the proposal, on the northern side of Drivers Road and would like to make a submission against this project. Whilst I am no way against solar farms and their benefits I have some issues with the proposed development. My main concern is why they would choose such valuable irrigation land to construct the solar farm. The proposed land has a far more productive use, which has been specifically developed for irrigation purposes including bores, lateral irrigator and hectares of lasered land. I cannot understand why not only efficient irrigation land but also highly valuable land has been chosen for this development.

On a personal level I am concerned with the decrease in potential marketability and value of our land and the impact on quiet enjoyment of our land, and our neighbours land. I grew up in Deniliquin, a daughter of a farmer. I have spent the last 15 years in the city of Melbourne and just over two years ago my husband and I purchased an irrigation property on Drivers Road, Deniliquin. My husband and I are hoping to move back to our agricultural farm to produce food for the community and provide a lifestyle for our children such as the one I had. The idea of inhabiting land next to a solar farm is far less appealing than living in the city and is not the country life we want to provide our children. There are many neighbouring homes in close vicinity to the proposed development site and I urge the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to reconsider this site.

The Environmental Impact Statement prepared by NGH Environmental dated November 2017 states that there is a 'dispersed settlement patterns', within the immediate area. In contrast to this statement, there are multiple households living within close radial proximity. When one does not occupy a house in this area they may say it's dispersed, however when a solar farm is proposed to be built in such close proximity to your household this view would surely change.

If land just 15 kilometres north was considered, a site would be found where household settlement was actually dispersed by many kilometres, paddocks are considerable larger and more isolated and the land value is over a third less than the chosen to site with no irrigation layouts and no availability to irrigation water. A site such as this would still provide the community the exact same economic benefits, however would enable the current selected site to be retained as an irrigation property, rather restricted to dry sheep grazing and would protect the neighbours from the issues detailed in this submission.

I consider it is not only I my interest but in the community's interest that the solar farm should not be built on land such as 'Currawarra', and land more suitable for use a solar farm should be selected for the development.

Yours sincerely,  
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