

Department Planning and Environment

Submission re. Springdale Solar Development

Dear Sir

I am not in favour of the location of the Springfield Solar development for the following reasons:

1. NSW Planning and Environment has put considerable effort into identifying three priority Energy Zones for NSW - which are close to existing (or planned) network infrastructure and have reduced environmental and planning constraints. The Springdale solar farm is (way) outside of these areas. Such large scale development needs to conform to state planning guidelines. Yes, we need new energy sources but they need to be built in a planned and structured way and location, not randomly situated around the state.
2. Solar intensity is much greater in the priority Energy Zones than in Sutton, giving much higher bang for buck for a similar sized solar farm. I'd like the best value from any tax incentives given to large developments such as this.
3. The visual impact of an 850 acre solar farm will be significant to locals and visitors to the region. Screening of such a large site is impossible given the rolling nature of the surrounding terrain. Again, some of the low population area Energy Zones seem a much more fitting location.
4. With rampant out of control population growth, Australia needs to keep productive agricultural land such as that around Sutton for agricultural purposes. Again siting such a development in less agriculturally viable areas makes more sense.
5. Predicted traffic volumes during construction will significantly impact surrounding communities and land holders. The main road through Sutton is already close to capacity at certain times of the day. Additional heavy and light traffic is definitely not welcomed by residents.
6. Heavy vehicles will be travelling through school zones and then on narrow country roads heavy utilised by cyclists. Personal safety of these and other road users will be put at risk.
7. The Yass Valley LEP aims to protect high quality agricultural land, while the Yass Valley Settlement Strategy determines that land in the Peri-Urban area will remain rural, and recommends that the area northeast of the ACT/NSW border remain generally unaltered.

Regards



Malcolm Drummond
Sutton
NSW