

Planning Services  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: Director - Resources and Energy Assessment

Dear Sir/Madam

#### OBJECTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPRINGDALE SOLAR FARM

I object to the development of the Springdale Solar Farm at Sutton NSW.

I agree with renewable energy, and a sustainable environment, however the costs involved are too high. Therefore, I do not believe that this is the correct location for a large-scale industrial power generator.

#### *Rural residential area*

I have lived in this area for over 20 years, and enjoyed a rural residential lifestyle which allows the benefits of rural living and the close proximity of a major city. This is why this is the wrong location, the area is zoned rural residential, and more and more people are calling this area home on small acreage.

This is not an area for an industrial development where young families live and commute to work and school. There are too many people who will be adversely impacted by the aesthetics, traffic, noise, and associated hazards of this development.

#### *Traffic and noise*

I am horrified at the proposed level of traffic including heavy vehicles that will be filing past my front door at all hours of the day 6 days a week starting very early in the morning. The noise of this traffic and the continual use of compression braking of the heavy vehicles will be unacceptable. The impact on the roads will be devastating: these are not arterial roads and not even rated as regional roads for maintenance by the council.

The roads are narrow, and are not designed for the level of traffic proposed. This proposal will only add to the current heavy vehicle use, traffic detouring out of Canberra and the use of these roads by cyclists, thereby increasing the potential for accidents and possible deaths.

Dirt trucks with dogs currently use this route, with detrimental effect to the road, and it has been on numerous occasions that I have had to stop and get off the roads edge to avoid being hit by these vehicles. This occurred only yesterday when I rounded a bend, only to have to stop suddenly and try to get off the road for a low loader with an excavator that was using virtually the whole road. Fortunately I was able to do this safely, particularly considering the bad condition of the road edges on this part of the road. If I had met this vehicle 100 metres closer to the corner it might have been entirely different. How long would it be before some tragedy occurs due to an increase in this type of traffic.

### *Key factual errors*

The Environmental Impact Statement contains a major error for the proposed route, being that rather than turning right onto Tallagandra Lane from Mulligans Flat road, it has them turning left, which is actually my front gate! This puts the whole credence of the report into question in my mind, as, if the proponents cannot get basic facts correct, what else has been incorrectly reported, and how will this then translate into the final project? Quote provided below.

"The majority of key construction materials would be likely delivered from the Sydney and Wollongong region via Federal Highway. The primary heavy vehicle route to Site turns off the Federal Highway at Sutton Road. In the Sutton township, Sutton Road becomes Bywong Street. From Bywong Street, a left turn is proposed at Victoria Street, then a right at Camp Street before turning left to re-join Sutton Road for about 500 m and turning left onto East Tallagandra Lane. East Tallagandra Lane is about 5.5 km and joins Mulligans Flat road. A left turn at Mulligans Flat road is proposed before turning left after 300 m onto Tallagandra Lane."

*source: Environmental Impact Statement Springdale Solar Farm – Environmental Impact Statement ix*

### *Employment potential*

The proposed development is adjacent to a major capital city. It is at least half an hour drive from Yass, yet only 5 minutes to the ACT. If jobs were created by this development, workers would not live in Yass or Sutton, they would live across the border in the ACT where they will spend their income on accommodation, groceries, fuel and entertainment. There will be no particular benefit to NSW for adding this type of employment in this location.

The Federal government has already decentralised one government department and there is talk of more in future. The goal should be to provide employment in rural areas away from the nation's capital. This development needs to be in an area that will benefit from the injection of capital and employment possibilities.

### *Environmental impacts*

The development proposal for the planting of trees is a token gesture, I don't see this sufficient in removing the detrimental effects of this development. Imported solar panels, switching gear, steel framing and concrete all brought into the region by truck is not 'environmentally friendly'. The proposed security fence will limit the movement of kangaroos and other wildlife, including turtles and skinks is also, not 'environmentally friendly'. Should a fire break out, then this could prove catastrophic to residents down wind. In 2017 a fire started by persons or means unknown, on the roadside of Mulligans Flat road, and within five minutes had burnt out our property, including a shed and wiped out our neighbours flock of sheep.

Just prior to that fire, another one started in a wind turbine at Tarago with similar impacts on properties downwind. With locked gates and high fences, how are local fire fighters going to attend to such an outbreak. Added to which, any wildlife residing within the fence will have no avenue for escape.

### *Conclusion*

I am against such a development because I feel that there is no benefit to NSW, Yass or the local community, and that this sort of development should be located in areas where the maximum benefit will be maintained for the long term to the community, and not just the bottom line of the proponent.

Yours faithfully

Jackie Quirke