

**Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY 2001**

13th August 2018

ATTENTION: Director – Resources and Energy Assessment

RE: Submission in Objection of the proposed Springdale Solar Development – Sutton NSW

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to express my concerns and objections to the proposed development of a 120 MW solar farm at Tallagandra Lane, near Sutton NSW.

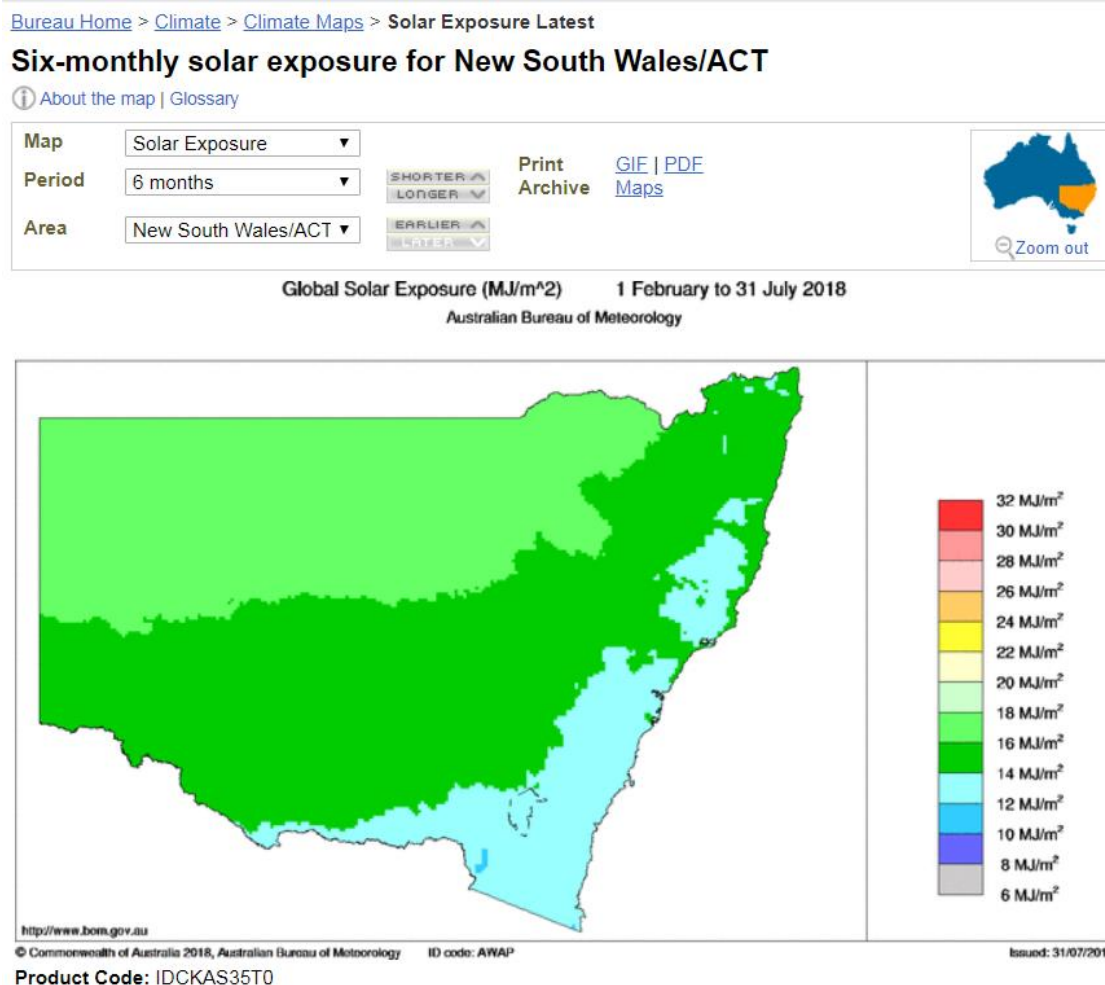
I have read the Renew Estate Springdale Solar Farm Preliminary Environmental Assessment report (Sept 2017), and it states in section 1.3 that "Renew Estate is passionate about meeting the goals of all stakeholders and delivering appropriate and considerate uses of land, technology and investment". The proposed development of a solar farm on Tallagandra Lane, Sutton, is clearly NOT an appropriate and considerate use of this area of land. The proposed development site is only 3.5kms from the ACT border, and is prime, productive grazing land. A solar farm should be developed on poorer quality land, with low agricultural production potential instead.

It is noted in the report at Section 2.1.2. that the largest agricultural commodities produced in the Yass Valley Council (YVC) area are livestock, which accounted for 46.7% of the Council area's total agricultural output value (ABS, 2011). The development of a 350 hectare solar farm on this site at Tallagandra Lane will add to the number of developments (both residential and commercial) within the YVC area, that are already significantly impacting on prime grazing land and primary production potential.

In addition to this, the proposed development site is in a low-lying gully, which is regularly blanketed in fog through the winter months, often until midday or later. Without guaranteed sun year round, the construction of a solar farm on this site would also NOT be an "appropriate and considerate use of technology and investment" (which Renew Estate claims it is passionate about delivering). Upon researching what would make a site most suitable for solar development, a high solar irradiance profile is very important. I note that there is a large scale solar farm project at Moree, in North-Western NSW, and one of the key reasons that the Moree site location was selected for a solar farm, is because Moree has one of the highest solar irradiance profiles in NSW. According to the below map taken from the Bureau of Meteorology, showing the average solar exposure for NSW/ACT for the 6 month period February-July, it would appear that the area just north of the ACT border (where the proposed site of the Springdale Solar Farm is located) is NOT a region with high solar exposure levels.

The estimated gross CAPEX cost of the Springdale Solar Farm project is stated to be \$150M. If the solar generation capability of the farm is not as high as it could be if the development was located in a more suitable area with greater daily solar exposure, surely more careful

consideration needs to be given to the appropriateness of the site, in order to ensure the project will be a profitable and efficient investment.



I also note that in Section 3.2., the report states that the proposed site for the solar farm is “uniquely located to provide the additional electrical demand in Canberra over the coming decades”. This clearly indicates that it won't be YVC and NSW residents set to benefit from the solar energy produced by this proposed site, but rather ACT residents instead. I don't believe the Sutton community would benefit from the project if the development were to go ahead, as Renew Energy suggest they will. Renew Energy suggests local businesses will be supported through services such as food and accommodation. Apart from some of the employed workers perhaps visiting Sutton Bakery to purchase lunch on occasion, it is most likely that Gungahlin/ACT businesses would benefit more from the patronage of any workers, as they are in closer proximity to the proposed development site, not to mention the fact that there is very limited accommodation options available in the Sutton region as well.

Thank you for consideration of my submission.

Regards,

Katherine McClelland

YASS NSW 2582