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I wish to remain anonymous: NO

Springdale Solar EIS - Proposal number 8703

I must stress at the outset that I am in no way opposed to renewable energy; however, I strenuously **OBJECT** to the **Springdale Solar development**.

My reasons for objection are as follows:

- My understanding is that the site of the proposed site IS NOT in any of the renewable energy zones as identified by NSW Government. As far as I am aware, these zones are located in **New England**, the **Central West** and the **South West**; Sutton is NO WHERE near ANY of these areas. Furthermore, I understand that AEMO's Integrated System Plan (ISP) released last month (July 2018) **rates this region for WIND power ONLY, and does NOT consider it appropriate for solar**. In actual fact, their 'grading' of the solar quality of this area is bordering on 'poor' (as opposed to the wind quality of the area as being 'very high')
- Notwithstanding the fact that the area is not identified by either AEMO or NSW Government as 'solar appropriate' the very landscape itself is far from ideal when compared to the large scale solar farms already established by WIRCOL and its partners (including RENEW) . I would refer you to the solar farms located at Broken Hill, Darling Downs, Wemen and Gannawarra, all of which are set in flat land, with no nearby neighbours. I understand that RENEW's next project is to be located in Buronga (some miles from Mildura); the landscape is the same as those previously named, NOT in a valley
- Being in a valley, the Sutton site is regularly subjected to thick fog during the late autumn and winter; fog which often does not lift until late morning. This factor **MUST** detract from the suitability of the site. Additionally, the area has been flooded from time to time since I moved here in 1981; given the fact that we are in the grip of a long-standing drought in this area, I can only assume that any surveys carried out would have been during this 'long dry' and the potential for serious flooding has NOT been taken into account. My understanding is that potential solar farm sites should be flat, with low lying topography; this site, with its valley and creek, does NOT meet this selection criterion.

- The site is purportedly acceptable, as it is deemed to be *“land that does not contain native vegetation, or has been cleared and utilised for industrial-type purposes (brown field sites) in rural settings*. However, it is my opinion that this site DOES NOT meet this specific criterion. The area is scattered with native trees, and any clearing has been for the purpose of farming; far from it being considered fit for ‘industrial-type purposes’ it is prime agricultural land and has only been used for breeding/grazing livestock for MANY YEARS
- The roads in the subject area are simply NOT capable of supporting the amount of traffic that this project will generate. It is understood that up to 75 heavy vehicle (PLUS 400 small vehicle) movements per day are likely to occur (5½ days per week), and it would appear that there are NO plans for road upgrades. The route includes a number of potentially dangerous intersections (e.g. Tallagandra Lane/Mulligans Flat junctions) where visibility is limited, or the corners are tight and manoeuvrability for large vehicles would be encumbered. The “S” bends in the village (encompassing the School 40 km/h zone and the Bakery) is also likely to prove problematic. These roads are used by school buses, cyclists and occasionally by horse riders as well as local residents; the amount of construction traffic presents a heightened risk to other road users.
- The ‘screening’ of the area is of some considerable concern; any trees planted with ‘screening’ in mind will take MANY YEARS to grow, and any elevated properties in the vicinity will not benefit from these plantings AT ALL.
- It is my understanding that the power generated by this solar farm will be for the ACT and NOT for this area (or NSW in general). Why, then should the residents of this area be subjected to the negative impacts of this project, simply to benefit the population of the ACT?
- I believe that the NSW Department of Environment, Yass Valley Council and the ACT Government ALL support a 5 km exclusion zone from the ACT border, in order to retain the rural character of the region and to exclude intensive developments (such as this proposal) in the area.
- There is little doubt that the project will have a MASSIVE effect on the **bio-diversity** of the area, and I am disturbed to note that the EIS failed to address a number of concerns. I believe that the proposal does NOT adhere to the draft NSW Government Large Scale Solar Energy Guidelines, in so far as projects should not proceed in *“Areas of native vegetation or habitat of threatened species or ecological communities within and adjacent to the site, including native forests, rainforests, woodlands, wetlands, heathlands, shrublands, grasslands and geological features”* The proposed site is within the Greater Goorooyarroo area, and is within 5kms of the Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve. I understand that the proposed site provides connectivity between the largest remaining and most intact contiguous area Yellow Box and Red Gum Grassy Woodland and other regions of NSW. The project will have a major impact on a number of threatened species in the area (specifically the Golden Sun Moth, the Superb Parrot and the Legless Lizard), and I am concerned about the impact that fencing and other infrastructure will have on the ‘movement corridors’ currently utilised by native fauna (kangaroos, echidnas, lizards etc). I am aware that Aboriginal

artefacts have been found on the site; has the full impact of this project been evaluated in regard to the aspect of its potential indigenous 'connection'?

- There are several other aspects of this proposal which are of concern to me, not the least of which is the fact that the farm itself will be an absolute eye sore, and will be a detractor for anyone wishing to live in the area, thus resulting in the loss in value of my property and others in the vicinity

Simply put, this area is NOT the place for such a development; I strongly suggest that the project is NOT allowed to proceed

Yours

Kelvin J K Burke
11 August 2018