

## **Springdale Solar Objection**

To whom it may concern I wish to formally object to the proposed Springdale Solar Farm on the following grounds.

### **Biodiversity**

As identified in the EIS there are several endangered species and habitats present on the proposed site. Vital habitat for the Golden Sun Moth and Superb Parrot are present on the site and the mitigation measures outlined in the EIS are “best case scenario” measures that do not sufficiently protect against unforeseen or unintentional effects of construction and ongoing operation or a large scale industrial facility. Dust, construction noise, pollutants, shade from panels, water contamination, traffic during construction and ongoing running/maintenance, site fencing and night lighting will all have an adverse effect on the biodiversity of the whole site and neighbouring properties.

### **Landscape and Visual**

It is my understanding that among the selection criteria for identifying suitable land for large scale solar farms a flat site that does not have elevated adjoining properties should be selected. The site of the proposed Springdale solar farm consists of hilly topography combined with a low lying creek prone to flooding. The low lying nature of the site means there are several properties in the immediate vicinity that will look down onto the solar farm and no amount of mitigation measures including the proposed tree screening will ever be able to mitigate the visual impact the solar farm will have on these properties.

Of significant concern is the proposed layout for the solar panels and accompanying infrastructure to be located on both sides of the Tallagandra Lane. Allowing solar panels and other infrastructure to envelope the public road that acts as access to residential properties and businesses along the Tallagandra lane will have an unacceptable adverse effect on the area. This will, in effect, be making residents drive through the centre of an industrial power generation facility in order to access their homes. Customers of local businesses, including a winery and restaurant, will be forced to drive through the middle of an industrial site in order to reach a venues that rely on their location being within a peaceful rural environment. This is an unacceptable situation and will have massive detrimental effect on the landscape and the visual amenity of the area as a whole.

### **Glint and Glare**

Renew Estate suggest that solar panels do not produce significant glare as the panels absorb the light and do not reflect it. While this may well be the case this does not allow for glint and glare created by the metal frames, supporting steel posts and associated infrastructure including shipping containers, control buildings and substation. Glint and Glare has been compared to that created by residential roofs and while this may be acceptable in an densely populated urban environment where it is claimed rooftop solar panels will not increase levels of glint and glare this will pose a massive increase over the current amount generated by the rural environment.

### **Night Lighting**

The night lighting required once the facility is operational and the effect this lighting will have on neighbouring properties is not adequately addressed by the EIS. The proposal within the EIS that all neighbours should be required to draw their curtains to mitigate the intrusive effects of night lighting is preposterous.

### **Water Flooding**

The proposed site sits over an area that has historically been subject to extensive flooding. In the last decade the site has flooded on at least three occasions and floods well beyond the area provided for in the EIS. The project requires water for maintenance and construction and water contamination is a real risk. Contamination of the creek running through the site as well as the ground water supply is of particular concern and I believe this risk will not only be during the construction phase but continue for the life of the project.

### **Traffic and Transport**

The traffic demands that will be placed on the Sutton community during construction have been insufficiently mitigated. The road along the route proposed for heavy vehicle traffic will be unable to sustain that level of daily heavy vehicle movements. The road surface condition and the alignment, including the width and angle of the various intersections, will not allow for the safe travel of residents along with the heavy vehicles. Also of concern is the heavy vehicle movements through the village of Sutton including past the school during school hours, through numerous tight intersections and corners and past the shops. Extra traffic management and traffic calming measures must be put in place particularly within the hours of 7:30 - 9:00am and 3:00 - 5:30 to mitigate the risks posed to residents and school children.

### **Bushfire**

The elevated bushfire risk posed by constructing an industrial facility in a rural environment to be mitigated by the proposed measures in the EIS is unacceptable. As the facility needs to cart in water the proposal to use neighbouring properties water for the purposes of fighting a fire within the solar farm is absurd. Should the fire spread to one of the neighbouring properties they will need their own water supply for fire fighting purposes. In its current design the solar farm will run down both sides of one residence's only access to their property. Should a fire start in that area it will effectively cut off their only escape. What mitigation methods have been put in place to deal with the obviously unacceptable situation.

### **Socio Economics**

I believe that a project of this size would definitely benefit a rural community should it be situated in the correct community. The claim that the benefits of the project will flow through to Yass and Sutton communities is clearly overlooking the fact that the project is within 3.5km of Canberra. Accommodation for workers, fuel, supplies, entertainment will all be sourced from the ACT and as such the primary beneficiary of the project will be the ACT, its residents and businesses.

### **Land Use**

The land in its best use has historically been for farming and more recently for rural residential purposes. The construction of an industrial facility of this size, that will completely overshadow the neighbouring properties in scale, will have the effect of removing the rural aspect of the properties within its vicinity. The value of the land has relied heavily on this rural aspect with demand coming from the Canberra region with people looking to move to a rural residential environment. I believe the values of the properties in the region will be massively adversely effected by the construction of this project. I firmly believe that the using the land for industrial purposes will not see it being utilized for its best purpose and will also prevent the other land in the area being used for best purpose.

