

This is a submission opposing the Overland Proposal for a Sun Farm at Gunnedah

I would like the following issues to be considered by the Department of Planning and Environment because I feel the Proposed Application has not done so adequately.

1. The site is zoned RU1 Primary Production. Why is a solar farm being considered for this land
 2. Why has a Brown Field location not been considered?
 3. Proposed economic benefits on the local scale lack any definition, and there is no guarantee of providing local employment.
 4. The claim of “no impact” upon hundreds of hectares under panels is only theoretical. There is a complete lack of empirical evidence to support their claim.
 5. This proposal has already allowed severe socio-economic imbalance to develop. By the simple expedient of a large sum of money being given to 1 landowner, Overland and the landowner have managed to create community divisiveness which runs contrary to the Department's stated objective “of building great communities”.
 6. A number of environmental issues have not been defined by this proposal. Cleaning the panels requires water. Will this necessitate the ongoing use of local water supplies in an area of NSW known for it's ongoing, extensive periods of drought?
 7. Studies by Australian land scientists have highlighted a number of negative issues impacting upon food-producing land under panels. The result is known as an agricultural dead zone primarily resulting from lack of sunlight.
- There has been no definition of how the reduction of CO2 levels will be affected by preventing the sequestration of carbon in the soil.
8. There is no mention of the impact of a development of this size and type on a long standing rural community.
 9. There is no compensation for adjacent property owners when their properties incur large devaluation due to proximity to a power-generating facility of this size. There is no demonstration of any local on-going involvement. This developer has a history of selling their projects overseas, how is this in our economic interest?

10. Australia as a whole has minimal food-producing land. The issue of having such land being locked up for 30 + years has not been addressed.

As a child I spent many happy holidays at my grandfather's property outside Gunnedah and know Orange Grove well. Surely in a state the size of NSW an arid location would satisfy all parties in this matter.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission

Konrad Richard Palzer