

04 July 2018

Tatsiana Bandaruk
Department of Planning and Environment
320 Pitt St
Sydney, NSW, 2001

tatsiana.bandaruk@planning.nsw.gov.au

RE: SSD 8882 - Support for the Orange Grove Solar

Dear Ms Bandaruk,

I am writing you to express my support of the Orange Grove Solar project (SSD 8882).

As this project will be located on our property on Orange Grove Road we certainly investigated at length what this would mean for our local community. Obviously it is common knowledge that the state of NSW currently has difficulty producing enough power for consumption, and parts of Sydney last summer suffered with power failure. In agreeing to host the proposed Installation we drove to Port Augusta in South Australia last August to view the Coles Sun Farm. This farm was ring lock fenced by the highway with no tree screening and had a very large sun tower in place. It was neat and tidy and we did not find it offensive to the eye.

Currently Australians are asking for clean green renewal energy we thought this would be a good fit for our town of Gunnedah and could not find a negative reason to not host the proposed Sun Farm for Orange Grove Road. On consideration our site had very few trees so there would be little impact on vegetation and wild life. The area is not in flood reach and given that both Chaffey and Keepit Dams have had the height of the dam walls greatly increased we wonder if there will ever be any big floods again in our river system. Most locals realize that when the river is at capacity it breaks out on the lower side and floods across the Breeza Plain, particularly this is the case where our property is situated.

The land surrounding the proposed site is used for Agriculture purposes and the Solar Farm will not be placed in a high density housing area, we are assured that trees will be grown in any sensitive areas in case anyone finds the view offensive. It is important to note that the panels absorb the sunlight not reflect the sunlight and there will be no sun tower. This Solar Farm will have minimal to no impact to homes along the Orange Grove Road.

We are generational Farmers and Graziers and Local Business Owners who employ staff from the Gunnedah Community. As such we recommend this as another Business which will require staff creating employment, and the project will invest tens of millions of dollars in the Gunnedah Area. Whilst under construction and during operation the Solar Farm will provide a stable business that is not impacted by drought. It will bring direct economic benefits to the Gunnedah Community and during construction will provide employment opportunities for over 100 people. Not to mention the money which will be spent by those people in Gunnedah at the time of construction. We are informed that when operational up to five people will operate the Solar farm, they and their families will be located in our community.

Please be assured we whole heartedly embrace the opportunity to host this proposed Solar Farm and recommend this development to our local Gunnedah Community both Business and residents. This development is a win for our Community.

The Orange Grove Solar project represents an exciting opportunity for Gunnedah and the surrounding community. I would like to record my support for the solar farm and urge you to provide the regulatory approvals required to move the project forward.

Yours faithfully

Mr Noel M Swain & Mrs Kerry L Swain
"Mountain Valley"
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CARROLL NSW 2340