

Submission
Geoff Hood

Overland - Orange Grove Sun Farm

Misleading use of a Floodplain Management Plan Data

I find myself having to object to the Solar Farm project, as I believe that the Consultants Hydro Engineering and Consulting, that compiled the Surface Water Assessment have selectively extracted information from previous floodplain modelling, which is not representative of what happens in this area of the Namoi Floodplain

In the Executive Summary, the consultants have indicated from a measurement (Redbank Reserve- 2.72.3m AHD), that is effectively downstream of the Namoi River breakout, that effects locations in the constricted floodplain above Carroll. In the likes of a 1/100 flood event, a breakout that is listed and modelled in the comprehensive Carroll to Boggabri Floodplain Management Plan. This breakout location at (281+m AHD) above Carroll, is effectively 6 to 8 metres above the proposed development footprint.

So the community and neighbours have been asked to comment on an EIS that is selectively flawed and incorrect, by the consultants stating that the development is above the river adjacent, a selective statement, and a misleading measurement

As a former landholder representative of seven people and government appointees, that oversaw the Carroll to Boggabri Floodplain Management Plan, including the extensive 2003 compendium of data, 2005 draft for public exhibition, and the final document 2007. Extensive community consultation and measurement of existing recorded flood high history.

I can recall Orange Grove landholder's Les Shaw (Reutama) and Reg Tudgey (Myalla) stating that the Namoi Breaks above Carroll in Major Flood events (ie 1955 and 1984) and flows around the base of the floodplain against the hills, quite fast as of the topography and takes fences out

HEC actually acknowledge this on Page 14 in the second paragraph "Upstream of Carroll, the river valley widens and flood flow breakouts occur from the Main Namoi River Channel. " Yet there is no on ground survey to confirm what happens in this vicinity, note - there is flood scour across the Orange Grove Road towards to proposed solar development, indicating previous flood flows There is no modelling of what would happen with flood impacts against the Solar Farm perimeter chain mesh security fence

ON page 16, point 5. HEC acknowledge a depression SWALE through the development footprint, yet the developer put a chain security fence across the flow so to speak, across a possible watercourse If there was allowance for up to 897m/s flood discharge (As per the Carroll Boggabri Flood study) of flood flow through the development, with either no fence, or no fence and a floodway no development incorporating the SWALE, then my objection may change

The summary at the end Page 16 is incorrect, and selectively corrupt, by selectively measuring river heights below a major breakout. To Say" the proposed development (with complete perimeter chain mesh security fence, across a SWALE, mapped as a first order stream? - breakout floodwater) should not impact on the relevant large design flood". is not the truth. Hence my objection

Would be best to redesign, partially remove fence, or incorporate a floodway, The development could cause Major Flood - floodwater to run down the Orange Grove Road past Rivergrove, if the complete perimeter fence was blocked by debris and stood erect during the event.