

4 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 the project directly concerns my hometown of Gunnedah and the greater Namoi region, and is a place I plan to soon return to start my career on my family farm, I am a strong supporter of the proposed project. I believe the project has great environmental and economic benefits for the Gunnedah community.

In an environmental context, the proposed solar farm supports a transition from coal to renewable energy generation. Additionally, the proposed site is out of the township of Gunnedah, on an area a substantial distance away from any housing on surrounding farms with minimal to no impact on those few residents on Orange Grove Road, and is in a low impact flooding zone that will make no difference to the water level of any flooding events, regardless if the solar farm is there or not.

In an economic context, the proposed project will support jobs for over a 100 people and investment in the community during its construction phase, and 5 full time jobs in its operational phase, this represents a diversification of Gunnedah's agricultural and mining industries and provides direct economic benefits to the Gunnedah community.

There will always be those that are against projects in their back yard, that don't like change in their area or their view. At the same time they want to consume energy and the benefits of these projects, but don't want them in in their area. However this project supports environmental and economic outcomes, impacts on no farms income potential, is not located within any close proximity to the few surrounding residents and brings significant environmental and economic benefits.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this project.

Yours sincerely

Mark Swain

Address: 18/17 Bowman St Macquarie ACT 2614