

We would like to start our submission. By expressing our absolute disgust in the manner the Overland Sun Farm Company has handled this particular Major Project concerning adjoining landholders. Obviously Overland were into the project because they had already received their SEARS before telling the adjoining landholders.

We first found out on the 4-2-2018 about Solar Sun Farm Project when walking into the house and saw on TV Andrew Johns director on Environmental Services from Gunnedah council talking about the proposed sun farm for orangegrove rd, we recognized the property shown as our neighbours [REDACTED], which adjoining our property. We got such a shock my husband rang [REDACTED] and got no answer, so he left a message on his phone.

I then rang Gunnedah council, they said they had no details about it, but said if it was a major project it would go to the State for approval and gave me a number which was a Tamworth number, where I was given a 1300 number. Where I finally got someone to help me to find out who was handling the Project.

About 5pm I received a message on my mobile phone from [REDACTED] from major plans projects that Overland had already done their SEARS and I could call him back to discuss. Not five minutes later we received a call from [REDACTED] from Overlander wanting to arrange a meeting, we organised a meeting for tuesday 13-2-2018.

The next morning I rang [REDACTED] major planning, he said I cannot believe that no one had spoken you before this. Let me know how you go after the meeting.

In between [REDACTED] arranging meeting with us. [REDACTED] returned my husbands call and said that he had been away for a few days.

The conversation with [REDACTED] was.

[REDACTED] said Whats going on with solar farm

[REDACTED] said You would not know what they are doing or where they are going

[REDACTED] said please keep me in the loop

[REDACTED] said I will mate

OK

Then the meeting on 13-2-2018 with [REDACTED] from Overland.

He came with just a map and started pointing out where proposed solar farm was going it was very difficult to understand from this map, which he took with him and left us with nothing. We said how many panels would there be. [REDACTED] said I don't know. So I said this is not the first one that you have done so is it 100 200 300 400 thousand you must have some idea, you know that it is at least 201ha that you are using.

He then got up to leave, as if the job was done. We then showed him two photographs of shining panels one was a small panel on [REDACTED] electric fence at least 800mtrs away the other one was panels powering my electric bore pump and it was taken while I was fencing. We were concerned if a few panels shine like this, What would 100 of thousands be like? [REDACTED] asked how long ago where photos were taken. We said over 12 months [REDACTED] asked if he could take them. We said yes. [REDACTED] said could we go down to have a look where proposed farm is going in conjunction with our property. On the way down.

[REDACTED] said what are all the keep out danger warning signs for

[REDACTED] said that is for our 900 metre rifle range

[REDACTED] said did not know that it came down that far.

[REDACTED] said are you speaking to [REDACTED] adjoining owner

[REDACTED] said yes

[REDACTED] said if you don't I will

[REDACTED] said before he left I might arrange a meeting in town in March so you can find out more about solar farm. We said we have a lot happening in March so I hope it will work out for us as adjoining landholders

Days after the meeting on the 13-2-2018 [REDACTED] and asked him if he could send me a detailed map of where the panels are going in conjunction with our property and something about the trackers they are going to use.

[REDACTED] yes I will send something to you. When we received them there was a drawing with no idea of where the panels were going and two brochures of different types of trackers do they not know which ones they are using ?

So on the 28-2-2018 [REDACTED] was boarding a plane, [REDACTED] asked how many panels [REDACTED] said 330,000 and most of the area will be covered, that still does not tell us what we want to know, in conjunction with our adjoining fence, how close ?

So I [REDACTED] rang [REDACTED] again and told him how very stressed and upset we were becoming with the lack of detailed information. The reason that we keep asking about panels, roads, and vegetation on the adjoining fence between the proposed solar farm and us is because this is where our young cattle go to be weaned from their mothers, they need minimum disturbance, they are very flighty, they are our income and we do not want them running into fences.

[REDACTED] said sounds like they are not giving you the information you want [REDACTED] said to ring [REDACTED] said no, I will ring him.

[REDACTED] then very quickly rang us to arrange another meeting for 14-3-2018 only one day before the whole community meeting 15-3-2018 and 16-3-2018 for people that could not make it for the 15-3-2018

We said oh what have you got for us this time?

[REDACTED] said You asked about the vegetation around the panels. [REDACTED] showed us around orangegrove rd and [REDACTED] but still nothing where our boundary fence joins solar farm. He just scribbled around a drawing, again nothing was left with us [REDACTED] then produced an A3 laminated drawing, We asked if we could have it.

[REDACTED] said no

We asked if we could take a photo of it

[REDACTED] said no, and put it into his bag

So we thought that ok we will see at the community meeting at 7pm to 9pm the next night but no such drawing was produced at meeting.

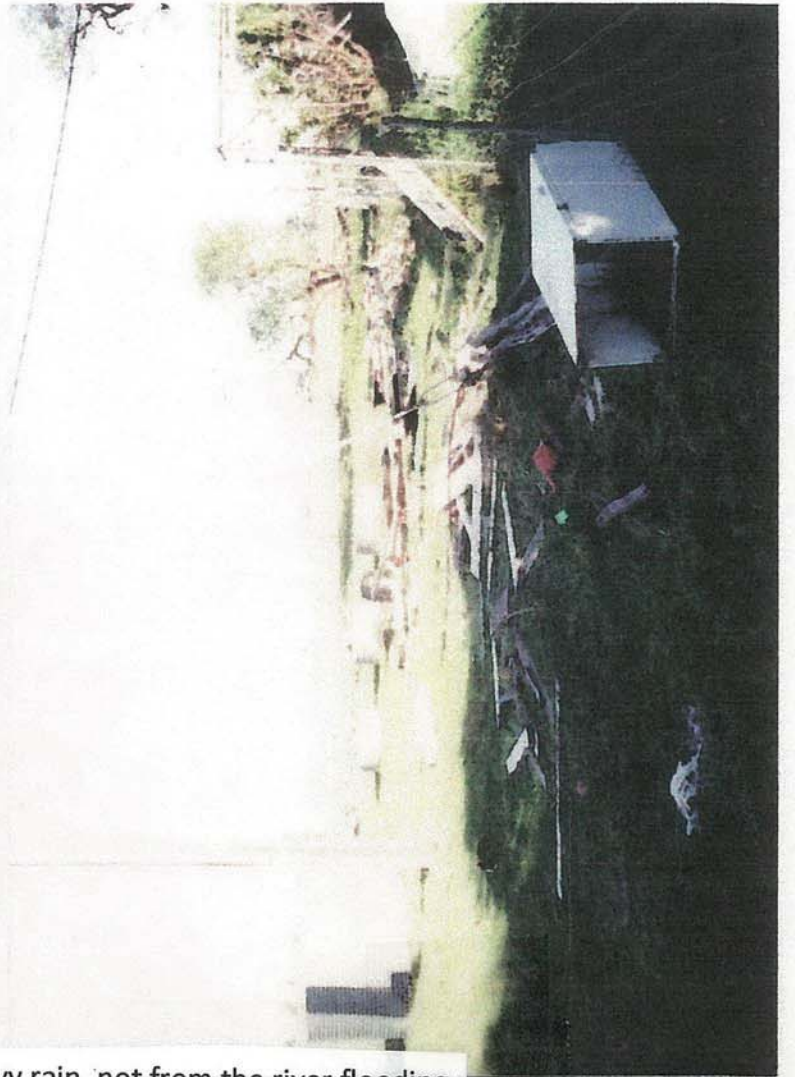
5-30 -7-30

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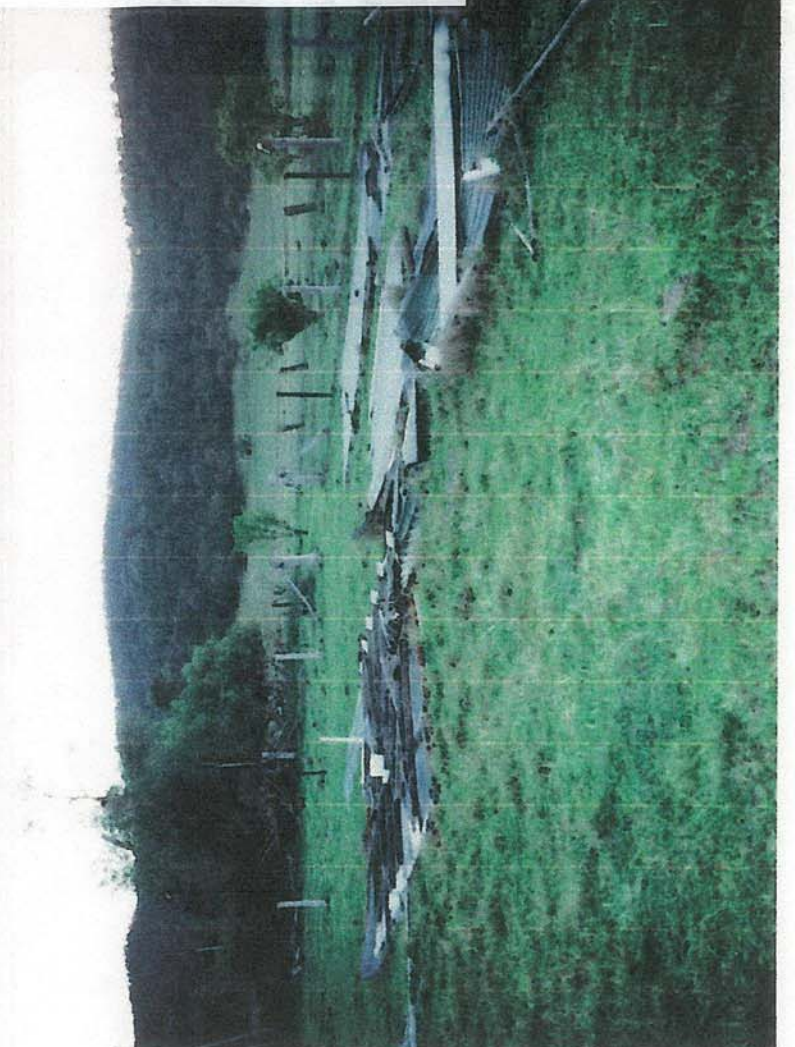
These photoes are a result of heavy rain on our property. The other photo was from very strong winds that blew the roof off the house and blew the garage away. The EIS states we do not have strong winds.

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This photo is our adjoining paddock after heavy rain. not from the river flooding.



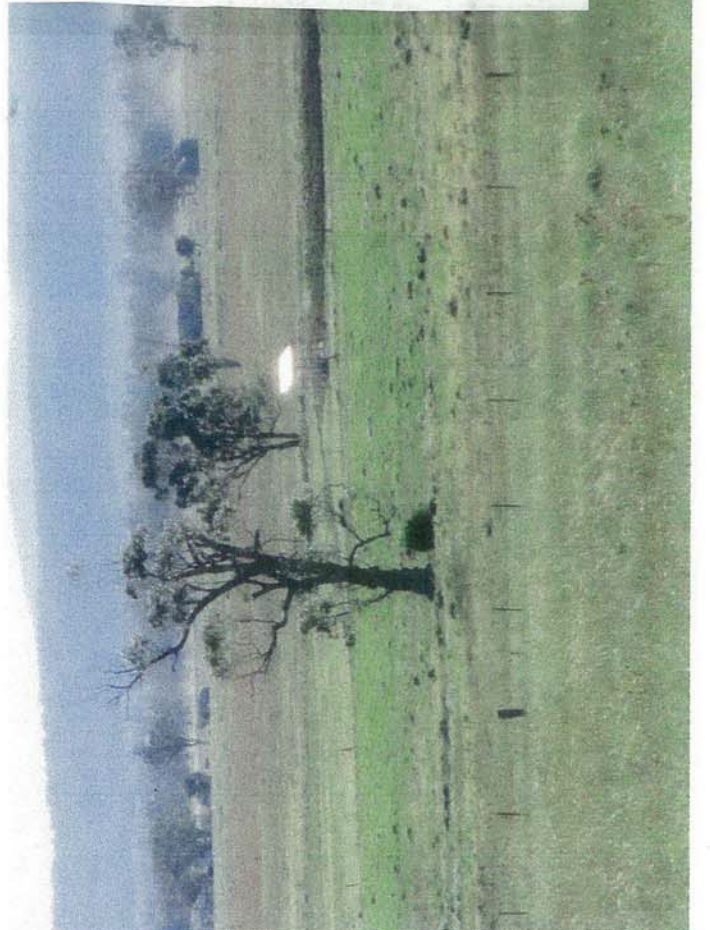




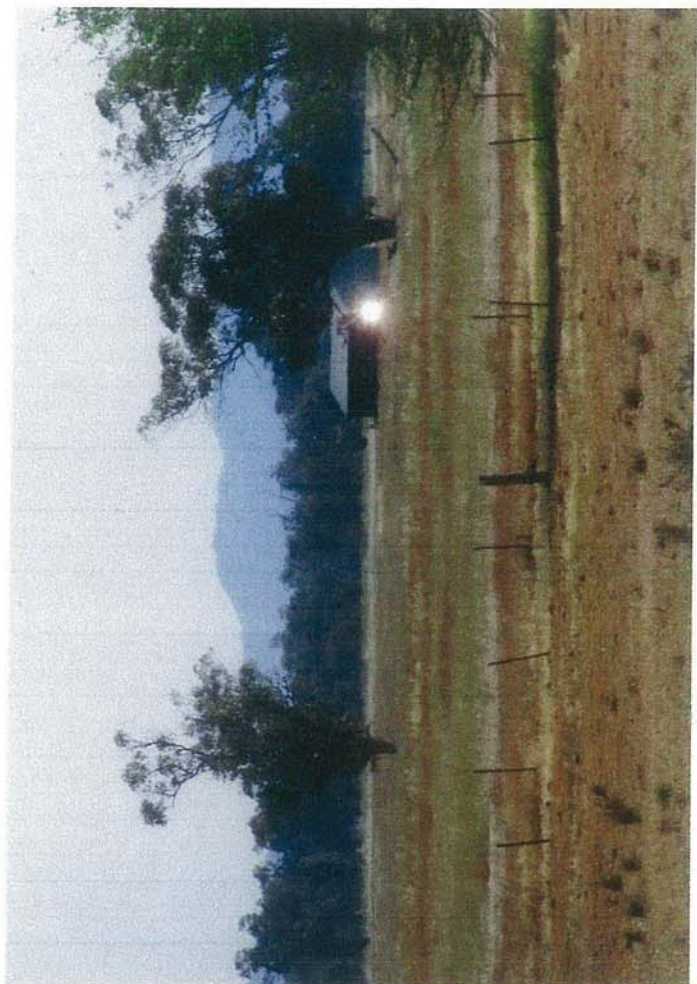




This is an example of how a panel can shine,when pointed in the wrong direction,this panel is 30cm x 30cm and it operates [REDACTED] electric fence and it is 800mtrs from our house.Imagine a malfunction with 330,000 panels.









We understand that there is a target to reach for 2020 for Solar Farms but there so many companies that have three or more on the go, as soon as approved the next one is is to be approved,maybe some need to looked at more carefully, there is a lot that happens outside the approval and we need answers.What panels are they using ? Where are they coming from? Exactly what is in them? So if they smash,crack,or break and the toxins are water soluable the adjoining cattle can drink after heavy rain,they are for human consumption ,we dont just want them to say oh no they dont have anything bad,we want proof,we have a wright to know.

Also we do have very bad winds here and if the panels become dislodged they are only bolted on and anyone can forget to bolt them on.They are still very much alive while ever and whenever the sunlight or just light in on them someone unsuspecting of the danger of electrocution.

If the panels were moved in considerably all the way around the whole perimeter any that may blow away maybe stay in the confine where the experts that will be permanent staff no what to do.They could blow onto the road and dad could say to someone oh just get out and move that out of the way and them what happens.

We would ask you all to please think very carefully about this project not just for now but the safety to all of us for the next twenty five to thirty years.

Refer to page 58

DPI main issues is ability to rehab land at the end of the projects life. That is impossible for Overland to answer that question. They are not able to tell anyone exactly which panels they are using and what do they contain, they will tell you anything, they should be made to be more accountable. We are concerned if they get approval and then on sell. How will we ever who is responsible for the rehab?

Refer to page 43

SEPP The land may not be contaminated now, not knowing what panels they are using and what toxins are in them and when cracked or broken can they leach into water what damage could it do in twenty five to thirty years. They brush is off, they don't even know which ones they are using. If you have a quick look on internet for toxins in PV panels.

Refer to page 14

Namoi Pistol Club Has not ever been looked at, The long range is 36 metres higher than the proposed Solar Farm.

Refer to E4

Visual The proposed Solar Farm. Nothing has been done to minimise anything they have used every part of the land available.

Refer to page 37

Decommissioning. They would not have a clue they don't have a crystal ball, we are talking about something now not in 25 to 30 years.

Refer to page 73

Local employment Asking for accommodation doesn't sound like they are coming from Gunnedah and what proof that the permanent staff will be from Gunnedah which in their SEARS they brag about.

Refer to page 74

Property Devaluation. They would not have a clue. When we asked applicant rep, he shrugged his shoulders. We are elevated and nothing could hide 330,000 panels, it will go from a beautiful rural setting to visual pollution, if we wanted to live by the sea we would have bought there.

Refer to page 106

Assessed viewpoints and receptors Overland states that during their site inspection in January 2018, access was not possible, that is not true all they had to do was to ring the phone and we

would have come down and unlocked the gate .But they wouldnt want that,because they were trying to keep it all quite,we had to find out on TV a month later.

Refer to page 55

Adjoining Landholders. There are only two R1 and R2 we are R2 and we have never ever seen the infrastructure layout, that is if they are talking about vegetation roads and panels it has remained a secret even in the EIS.





Table 6.2

## Consultation record and outcomes – regulators and industry stakeholders

Stakeholder	Method of engagement	Date	Purpose	Outcome/comments
RMS	Email	05-Feb-18	Arrange meeting	Acknowledgement of SEAR's input and request for meeting.
	Phone call and email	Multiple	Arrange meeting	Arranged a meeting at the RMS offices in Grafton.
	Meeting	16-Feb-18	General project briefing	Provided an overview of the Orange Grove Sun Farm project. Fielded questions.
RFS	Email	05-Feb-18	Arrange meeting	Discussed the broader outline of the TIA being undertaken.
	Phone call and email	Multiple	Arrange meeting	No major issues assuming the TIA is thorough.
EPA	Email	05-Feb-18	Arrange meeting	Acknowledgement of SEAR's input and request for meeting.
	Email	06-Feb-18	Arrange meeting	Attempted to arrange meeting in Coffs Harbour after RFS's invitation.
	Email	06-Feb-18	Reply to meeting request	Acknowledgement of SEAR's input and request for meeting.
DPI	Email	05-Feb-18	Arrange meeting	EPA replied that as the proposed activity isn't a scheduled activity in the POEO Act it won't require an EPL with the EPA.
	Phone call	06-Mar-18	Arrange meeting	GSC will be the appropriate regulatory authority for the purposes of the POEO Act.
Fire & Rescue NSW	Email	05-Feb-18	Arrange meeting	Acknowledgement of SEAR's input and request for meeting.
	Phone call	06-Mar-18	Arrange meeting	DPI had tried to contact OVERLAND but did not leave a message and phone ID was blocked.
Safe Work NSW	Email	05-Feb-18	Arrange meeting	OVERLAND were advised that DPI don't do face to face meetings.
	Phone call	06-Mar-18	Arrange meeting	DPI's main issue is ability to rehab land at the end of the projects life.
CASA	Email	02-Feb-18	General project briefing	Acknowledgement of SEAR's input and request for meeting.
	Email	02-Feb-18	General project briefing	Acknowledgement of SEAR's input and request for meeting.
CASA	Email	02-Feb-18	Response from CASA	Left message requesting a meeting or otherwise.
	Email	02-Feb-18	Response from CASA	Provided a copy of the preliminary site boundary and requested details of CASA registered aerodromes in the vicinity of the site and whether there were any concerns with the project's location.



A review of *Applying SEPP 33* has identified that the project is not potentially hazardous, as it will not exceed the screening threshold for any of the hazardous material identified in *Applying SEPP 33*. Further, the project will not pose a significant risk to or have a significant adverse impact on human health, life, property or the biophysical environment (see Chapter 6). The project is not a potentially hazardous or offensive industry and therefore, a PHA is not required.

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#### **State Environmental Planning Policy No 55 – Remediation of Land**

SEPP 55 was enacted to provide a state-wide planning approach to the remediation of contaminated land, and aims to promote the remediation of contaminated land for the purpose of reducing the risk of harm to human and environmental health.

Clause 7 of SEPP 55 requires that a consent authority take into consideration whether the land is contaminated. The contaminated land planning guidelines *Managing Land Contamination Planning Guidelines: SEPP 55 – Remediation of Land* (Department of Urban Affairs and Planning 1998) identifies activities with the potential to cause contamination. These guidelines list 'agricultural/horticultural activities' as an activity which potentially causes contamination.

A search of the EPA's contaminated land record, public register and list of sites notified to the EPA under Section 60 of the NSW Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 did not return any information on reported contamination or any regulatory notices issued for the site (EPA 2018a; EPA 2018b).

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#### **State Environmental Planning Policy (Rural Lands) 2008**

The rural lands SEPP aims to, among other objectives, facilitate the orderly and economic use and development of rural lands for rural and related purposes, to identify rural planning principles so as to assist the proper management of rural lands, reduce land use conflicts and identify State significant agricultural land to ensure its ongoing viability.

Clause 7 of the rural lands SEPP identifies rural planning principles as follows:

- (a) the promotion and protection of opportunities for current and potential productive and sustainable economic activities in rural areas,
- (b) recognition of the importance of rural lands and agriculture and the changing nature of agriculture and of trends, demands and issues in agriculture in the area, region or State,
- (c) recognition of the significance of rural land uses to the State and rural communities, including the social and economic benefits of rural land use and development,
- (d) in planning for rural lands, to balance the social, economic and environmental interests of the community,
- (e) the identification and protection of natural resources, having regard to maintaining biodiversity, the protection of native vegetation, the importance of water resources and avoiding constrained land,
- (f) the provision of opportunities for rural lifestyle, settlement and housing that contribute to the social and economic welfare of rural communities,





## 2.2 Surrounding land uses

The site is within the Gunnedah Shire LGA, which covers an area of 4,994 km<sup>2</sup> in north-western NSW. The site is part of the Namoi River catchment. Land use within this catchment is dominated by extensive agricultural operations with grazing occupying 61.2% of the total catchment area (Office of Water 2011). Dryland cropping and horticulture (16.2%), forestry (10.3%), native landscapes (5.1%), conservation (3.2%) and irrigation (3.0%) are also prevalent across the catchment area (Office of Water 2011).

The majority of land surrounding the site is zoned RU1 primary production under the Gunnedah LEP (Figure 2.3). Land uses surrounding the site are predominantly agricultural and include both dryland and irrigated broad acre crop production and livestock grazing. The geography, climate, and environment within the Gunnedah Shire LGA are favourable for a variety of agricultural activities including the production of a variety of summer and winter crops (GSC 2014).

Two mineral tenements that encompass the site were identified in a search of the NSW Department of Industry – Resources and Energy DIGS database; a coal exploration licence (EL) issued under the NSW *Mining Act 1992* (EL7241) held by the Secretary of DPE; and a petroleum exploration license (PEL) issued under the NSW *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991* (PEL0001) held by Australian Coalbed Methane Pty Ltd and Santos QNT Pty Ltd. EL7241 and PEL0001 cover an area of 2,575 square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>) and 5,246 km<sup>2</sup>, respectively, in north-western NSW (refer Figure 2.4).

The closest receptors are dwellings. The nearest receptors, R1 and R2, are approximately 150 m west of the western boundary and 760 m north-east of the north-eastern boundary of the northern portion of the development footprint, respectively (Figure 2.1). In addition, a further 11 dwellings are between approximately 1.6 km and 3 km from the development footprint (Figure 2.1).

R 2 The Namoi Pistol Club is approximately 1.6 km from the north-eastern corner of the development footprint.

Somerton National Park is approximately 11 km south-east of the site and covers an area of 759 ha. Melville Range Nature Reserve is approximately 22.5 km south-east of the site and covers an area of 843 ha (Figure 1.1).

## 2.3 Transport infrastructure

The primary road transport route in the vicinity of the site is Orange Grove Road (Figure 2.1). Orange Grove Road is a GSC rural road that traverses the landscape between Kelvin Road in the west and Keepit Dam Road in the east. Orange Grove Road primarily services local traffic and agricultural operations. At the site, Orange Grove Road is a single carriageway with an unsealed surface. Kelvin Road, which connects to O'Keefe Avenue, will provide access for light vehicles from the site to the township of Gunnedah and the Kamilaroi and Oxley Highways.

The Kamilaroi Highway, approximately 10.5 km south-west of the site, is 605 km in length and is a NSW State highway extending from Willow Tree to Bourke. The highway is a significant freight corridor and connects a number of north-western NSW's major settlements including Brewarrina, Walgett, Narrabri, Gunnedah and Quirindi. The majority of the Kamilaroi Highway is a sealed single carriageway and it is a designated B-Double route connecting the Mitchell and New England Highways.

The Oxley Highway, south of the Namoi River, is 656 km in length and is a State-owned rural highway extending from the Mitchell Highway at Nevertire to the Pacific Highway at Port Macquarie.



Two mineral tenements which encompass the site have been identified, EL7241 and PEL0001. OVERLAND has engaged with the relevant license holders regarding potential interactions between the project and EL7241 and PEL0001, respectively (refer to Section 5.3). The project will not sterilise extractable resources in EL7241 or PEL0001. Exploration activities will be able to continue within areas of EL7241 and PEL0001 that are outside the site boundary.

#### ES4.5 Visual

A visual impact assessment was conducted from six viewpoints surrounding the development footprint. Representative views close to private residential properties (including six receptors within approximately 2 km of the development footprint) and Orange Grove Road were assessed.

R2 The project design, development footprint and placement of infrastructure have progressively evolved to minimise or avoid visual impacts, where possible. Nonetheless, the development of the project will result in some changes to the landscape. Visual impacts will occur during the construction and operational stages of the project.

The visual assessment determined that, of the viewpoints assessed, infrastructure may be visible to varying degrees from five viewpoints. Based on the presence of vegetation, combined with the relatively low height of the project's infrastructure, the impact assessment predicts:

- a negligible visual impact for Viewpoint 6;
- a slight/moderate visual impact for Viewpoints 3, 4 and 5;
- a moderate visual impact for Viewpoint 2 (representative of views from R2); and
- a potentially significant impact for Viewpoint 1 (representative of views from R1) for the unmitigated scenario.

As a result of its close proximity to the western boundary of the development footprint, without the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, R1 will be exposed to views of project infrastructure. Although a significant level of vegetation was observed along the eastern boundary of this property, this vegetation is unlikely to provide a sufficient level of mitigation to reduce the visual impacts experienced from this viewpoint during the operation of the project. The proponent will provide landscape screening to mitigate the visual impacts from R1.

The relatively low height of the project infrastructure and distance to the development footprint will limit the scale of change and degree of contrast for any views from R2, which is approximately 760 m north-east of the northern portion of development footprint. The proponent will provide landscape screening to further reduce the visibility of project infrastructure from R2.

The final location and extent of landscaping at R1 and R2 will be determined during detailed design and following subsequent discussions with the project landholders and the property owners of R1 and R2 as part of preparation of the EMP.

Based on the findings of previous assessments prepared for PV solar energy facilities, glint and glare from the project's PV solar panels are not expected to significantly impact receptors, surrounding land users, motorists or air traffic in the vicinity of the development footprint.



Look at our shining panels R2





The operational workforce will also be responsible for ongoing security monitoring of the development footprint and project infrastructure.

### 3.6 **Decommissioning**

Once the project reaches the end of its investment and operational life, the project infrastructure will be decommissioned and the development footprint returned to its pre-existing land use, or other land use in consultation with the landholders, as far as practicable.

Decommissioning of the development footprint will involve the removal and recycling of the materials on site including:

- PV solar panels and mounting frames;
- metals from posts and cabling; and
- all other equipment including inverters and transformers.

During decommissioning, all above ground facilities will be removed from the development footprint.

### 3.7 **Environmental management**

An environmental management strategy will be implemented to provide the strategic framework for environmental management of the project. The strategy will:

- incorporate a project environmental management plan (EMP), all other required plans, protocols, management and mitigation measures proposed in this EIS;
- identify all relevant statutory approvals;
- establish roles, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the project;
- establish procedures for consulting with the local community and relevant agencies about the operation and environmental performance of the development; and
- establish procedures for handling of complaints, disputes, non-compliances and emergency response.

Chapter 7 provides a consolidated summary of the management measures that will be implemented during the construction and operation of the project to manage, mitigate and/or monitor potential impacts identified within this EIS.



Table 5.3

**Matters raised at community information session**

Matter	Comment
Flooding	<p>Questions were raised regarding the potential impacts the project may have during large flood events should overland flows extend across part of or the entire development footprint. A number of attendees acknowledged that the development footprint for the project is thought to be less flood prone than areas to the west and south of the development footprint. Of note, the type of boundary fencing to limit obstruction of overland floodwater flows is one area attendees requested attention.</p> <p>These questions have been addressed as part of the surface water assessment (refer to Section 6.9 and Appendix F).</p>
Traffic	<p>Questions were raised about traffic impacts and site access, in particular vehicle movements during peak periods and along school bus routes and dust management along the unsealed section of Orange Grove Road. These questions have been addressed as part of the traffic impact assessment (refer to Section 6.8 and Appendix I).</p> <p>Two access locations have been identified in Figure 3.1 and assessed in Appendix I. In addition, project-related traffic will not be permitted to access the development footprint from an easterly direction.</p>
Visual amenity	<p>Questions were raised about impacts on the visual amenity from surrounding residences. Visual impacts area assessed in Section 6.6 and Appendix G. Landscaping is proposed to minimise impacts to two receptors, R1 and R2 (refer to Section 6.6.4 (i)).</p>
Local employment	<p>Positive views about potential employment benefits for the local community. Questions related to how many local jobs will be generated by the project during construction and positions during operation, as well how recruitment will be undertaken so that the local community had the opportunity to apply for jobs. OVERLAND indicated that local employment was the desirable outcome and that it would endeavour to work with stakeholders to maximise employment opportunities for the local community where possible.</p>
Noise	<p>Questions were raised about impacts on noise during construction and operations. Noise impacts are assessed in Section 6.7 and Appendix G. Noise generated during operations will primarily be associated with the inverters, which will be enclosed within a container. Noise impacts were considered in the placement of electrical infrastructure within the development footprint, including the inverters, electrical collection system and switchyard and connection infrastructure.</p>
Glare and reflectivity	<p>Solar panel glare and reflection was raised. A number of different sources indicate that, in general, as little as 2% of the light received is reflected by PV solar panels (NSW DoI-DRE 2016a; Solar Trade Association 2016; FAA 2010). Attendees were advised that PV solar panels are not considered to be reflective as they are designed to absorb light.</p> <p>An assessment of the likely visual impacts of the development (including any glare and reflectivity) has been prepared for the project (Appendix G). Section 6.6 of the EIS summarises the visual impact assessment.</p>
Capital investment and government funding	<p>Attendees queried the capital investment value of the project and the value of any government incentives or funding for development of the project. The estimated capital investment of the project will be \$94 million and will be privately funded. No Commonwealth or State government funding is currently available for the project.</p>
Weeds	<p>Questions in relation to the project's impacts on weed invasion and distribution. The project may lead to a reduction in biosecurity (ie. reduced pest and weed control) due to the temporary significant increase in vehicle movements to and from the development footprint during construction if not adequately managed. The EMP will include weed management protocols, such as measures for the identification, management and ongoing monitoring of weeds on the development footprint. In addition, topsoil will be stockpiled appropriately to minimise weed infestation.</p>
Bushfire risk	<p>Questions around potential for project infrastructure to contribute to a bushfire. Bushfire risks associated with the project have been assessed in Section 6.11 in accordance with Planning for Bushfire Protection (PBP) (RFS 2006). Section 6.11 describes measures to enable the project to comply with the objectives of PBP. The risk of the project initiating a bushfire will be minimised through the implementation of appropriate management measures.</p>
Runoff and erosion	<p>Questions around potential for project infrastructure to contribute to runoff and erosion within the site and surrounds. Consideration of ground cover beneath the PV solar panels will be included in the EMP to manage erosion and surface water runoff. The area of impervious ground surface will not increase significantly; therefore there is not expected to be an increase in runoff generated from the development footprint.</p>



Table 5.3 Matters raised at community information session

Matter	Comment
Electromagnetic fields	Questions around potential hazards associated with electromagnetic fields and Interference. The Guidelines for limiting exposure to time-varying electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields (ICNIRP 1998) were considered in the placement of electrical infrastructure, including the inverters, electrical collection system and switchyard and connection infrastructure. The location of potentially hazardous infrastructure within the development footprint, including the switchyard / on-site substation, BESS and transmission line connection infrastructure, has been informed by proximity to the closest receptors. Further information is provided in Section 6.10.
Groundwater	Questions in with regards to the project's impacts on groundwater. The project is not likely to impact groundwater during construction, operation and decommissioning due to the estimated depth to groundwater within the site boundary and the limited amount of subsurface disturbance activities required during the installation and decommissioning of project infrastructure.
Property devaluation	R2 Questions in regard to the project's impact on the value of surrounding properties. The EIS has assessed the potential impacts of the project and it is not predicted to generate any significant environmental impacts to nearby residences. Some visual impacts have been identified at the nearest residences (R1 and R2) and the proponent is committed to undertaking landscaping to minimise impacts to these two receptors (refer to Section 6.6.4 (i)). The residual impacts associated with the project are predicted to be minimal and considered unlikely to result in any discernible impact on property values.

#### 5.5.4 Aboriginal stakeholders

Aboriginal stakeholders were identified and consulted in accordance with OEH's *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010a) and the *Draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (DEC 2005). A detailed description of consultation is presented in Appendix D, and discussed in Section 6.3.





### 6.6.3 Impact assessment

#### i Project design

The development footprint, capacity of the project, design and layout of infrastructure and connection to the electricity grid have been refined through an evaluation process both prior to and during site assessment studies, community consultation, preparation of the visual impact assessment and this EIS. Specifically, the parcels of land which comprise the development footprint and the placement of infrastructure including PV solar panels, inverters, electrical collection system and switchyard and connection infrastructure have been identified through ongoing consultation with the landholders, to minimise visual impacts and land use conflicts and enable agricultural production and land management practices to continue on surrounding land.

#### ii Viewpoint selection

A visual assessment was conducted from a number of representative viewpoints surrounding the site and development footprint. The viewpoints were selected to represent views close to receptors (ie. dwellings) and Orange Grove Road. The locations of the six viewpoints are illustrated in Figure 6.4. The rationale for the selection of each of the viewpoints analysed are summarised in Table 6.6.

Table 6.6 Assessed viewpoints and receptors

Assessment location	Viewpoint type	Rationale for selection
Viewpoint 1	Dwelling	Views are representative of a receptor (ie. dwelling) west of the development footprint, R1, approximately 150 m from the western boundary of the northern portion of the development footprint (Figure 6.4). As part of the site inspection in January 2018, access to R1 was not possible. Subsequently, the location of Viewpoint 1 was selected as it was considered to be representative of potential views of project infrastructure from R1.
R2 Viewpoint 2	Dwelling	Views are representative of a receptor (ie. dwelling) north-east of the northern portion of the development footprint, R2, approximately 760 m from the development footprint's north-eastern boundary (Figure 6.4). As part of the site inspection in January 2018, access to R2 was not possible. Subsequently, the location of Viewpoint 2 was selected as it was considered to be representative of potential views of project infrastructure from R2.
Viewpoint 3	Motorists	Views are representative of those experienced by motorists travelling along Orange Grove Road. Daily traffic estimates indicate that approximately 89 vehicles travel along the unsealed section of Orange Grove Road per day (refer to Appendix I of the EIS). These viewpoints were selected on the basis that motorists travelling along this road corridor may experience views of project infrastructure at these locations.
Viewpoint 4		
Viewpoint 6		



Table 5.1 Stakeholders and consultation objectives

Stakeholder		Consultation objectives
Community	Adjoining landholders (including the Namoi Pistol Club)	<p>Introduce the project, including the project infrastructure layout and project timeline.</p> <p>Where relevant, request information about on-site agricultural operations, aerial spraying, weed and pest management practices and bushfire protection management measures implemented on adjoining land.</p> <p>Listen to and document any concerns raised about the project.</p> <p>Seek to address concerns with the project design consistent with planning, economic and environmental considerations.</p> <p>Discuss the approval process.</p> <p>Present the findings of the visual impact assessment and discuss potential mitigation/management measures to address impacts (if required).</p> <p>Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to raise any concerns about the visual impact of the project.</p>
	Local community (including Gunnedah and Carroll)	<p>Introduce the project, including the project infrastructure layout and project timeline.</p> <p>Present information on the approval process.</p> <p>Inform the general public about the appropriate avenues for input into the project.</p> <p>Determine whether there are any concerns about the project to be addressed in the EIS.</p>
	Aboriginal stakeholders	<p>Introduce the project, including the project infrastructure layout and project timeline.</p> <p>Consultation regarding the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the site.</p>
	Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)	<p>Introduce the project, including the project infrastructure layout and project timeline.</p> <p>Clarify whether there is potential for the Orange Grove Sun Farm to present a hazard to aviation.</p>
Other stakeholders	TransGrid	<p>Discuss the proposed connection infrastructure to Transgrid's 132 kV transmission line.</p>
	Photon Energy	<p>Introduce the project, including the project infrastructure layout and project timeline.</p>
	Australian Coalbed Methane Pty Ltd	<p>Interactions with PEL 0001</p>
	Santos QNT Pty Ltd	<p>Interactions with PEL 0001</p>

### 5.3 Regulatory and industry stakeholders

The methods of engagement with regulatory and industry stakeholders, the purpose of engagement, and outcomes of the consultation, is provided in Table 5.2. Detailed records of consultation are provided in Appendix B.



The EIS has a lot of information missing that concerns R2 adjoining landholders.

Consultation. The first we ever heard about the Major Solar Project was on 4-2-2018 on TV in Gunnedah and recognised the property out the front that adjoins our property. No one from OVERLAND made no attempt to contact us ,they have known about this project for a long time.I had to make a lot of phone calls before I could find someone that could help me. [REDACTED] form Major Plans called the applicant rep and then I got a call and arranged a meeting for 13-2-2018.

Meeting at our property in Gunnedah 13-2-2018. When we first met the applicant rep from Overland. We asked why would you not tell us about this Major Project, you have already received the SEARS so you are well advanced with the Project .He put his arms up in the air and said we did not know where we were going. Rubbish ,They chose to keep it from us. As they are still doing even now that the EIS is out, as you will see from our emails.

On 13-2-2018 Applicant rep came with some sort of map and moved here and there with his pen. He said we were going to go here and there ,now we are using the crop paddock. It was very unclear .He then got up to leave as if he had done his job and ticked it off. We said could you look at these photoes of bright shining panels. He said when were these photoes taken, we said over 12 months ago, while we were fencing. He asked if he could take them, We said yes. We asked him how pany panels, He said I dont know. We said you must have some idea. He went to leave again as if his job was done. We were the ones that said do think you could take us down and show were it is going.

28-2-2018. [REDACTED] called applicant rep as rep was about to board plane. [REDACTED] asked how many panels? Rep replied 330,000 panels, and how much of property do they cover? He said most of it. Applicant could have told us that from minute one. He could have brought the SEARS report with him the first day we met .All the stress and upset he has caused us we didnt ask for this to be dumped on our laps.

Next Meeting 14-3-2018 We requested not OVRLAND Because they would not give us information. We said what information do you have for us this time? He pulled out a piece of paper I could see that it was rubbish and no panels on it. I went to say and he put his hand up to me and said you asked for this, I thought well ok. Then very sneakly he went to take out of his bag a piece of A3 laminated paper we were hoping that it was panel layout. We said could we have it. He said no. Could we take a photo. He said no. We didnt even get to see it. He put it in his bag. So he was supposed to show up vegetation roads and panels in conjunction with our adjoining fence. So community meeting was on the next night ,Applicant told [REDACTED] only about 7 people turn up. We were feeling so far down he could have put a lid on us. We decided that we didnt like down there so we thought we would attend the meeting. We will get to the community later.

9-4-2018 Contacted adjoining landholders to show photomontage. We were just about over it with applicant rep and his rubbish. So we decided to email him, and asked for a draft copy of the photomontage because he is very sneaky with what he shows us. We didn't want to see him face to face again he shows very little and leaves you with nothing to look at after all they want us or someone to look at it for the next 25-30 years. This Major Project Solar Farm has upset our lives like you couldn't imagine. Still to this day 19-6-2018 we haven't seen a photomontage.

Figure 2-4

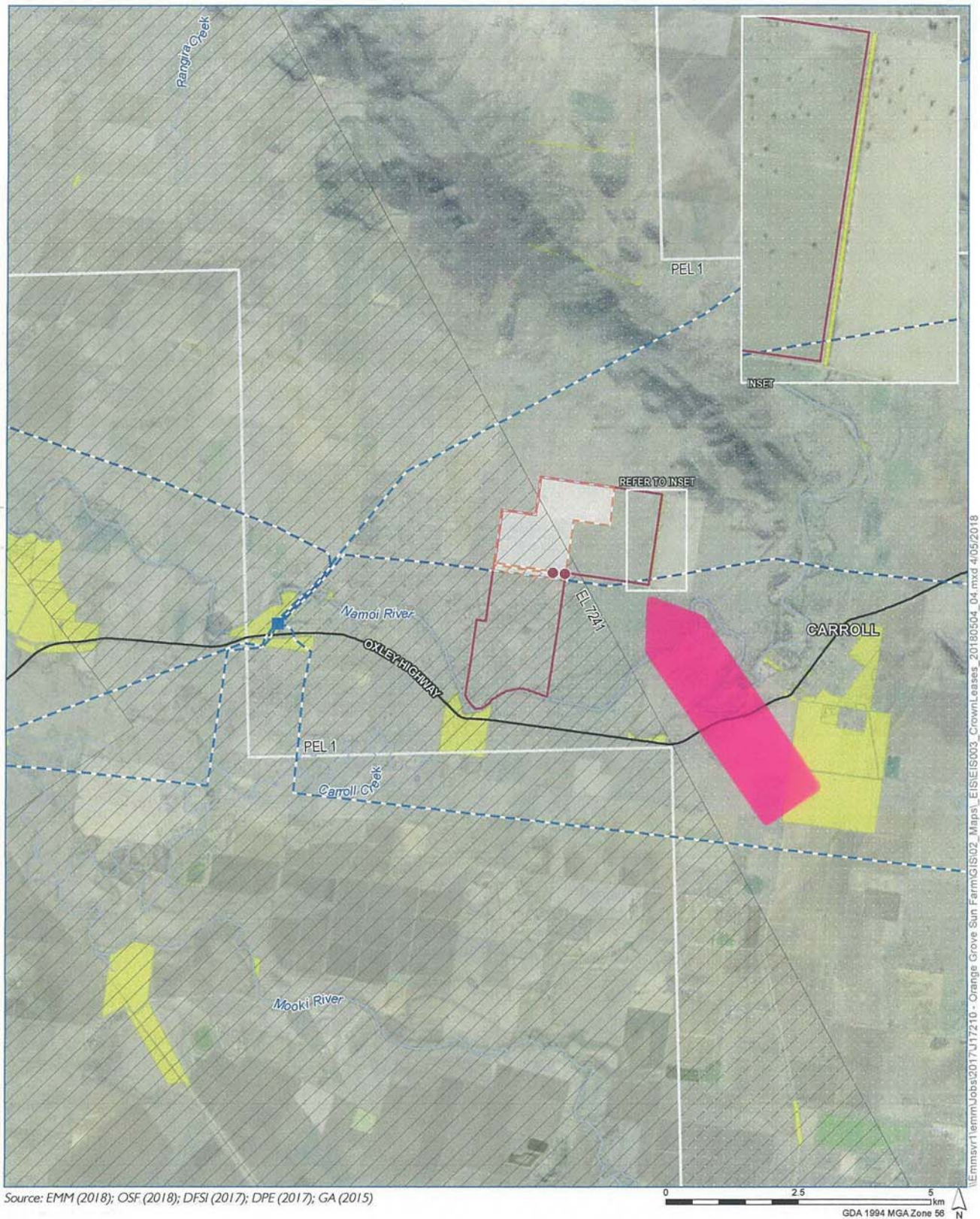
Could someone please tell us what Exploration licence boundary means PELOO1 and EL7241 who holds these licences and what do it mean where it is shown in white over the solar farm boundary which is also our 1.6km driveway into our home and property?

Table 5.3 Consultation records and outcomes – surrounding landholders and other stakeholders

Stakeholder	Method of engagement	Date	Purpose	Outcome/comment	
	Phone call	14-Feb-18	Project briefing	Clarified the proposed development footprint with the landholders.	R2
	Phone call	14-Feb-18	Project briefing	Discussed EIS submission and assessment process.	R2
	Phone call	22-Feb-18	Request from landholder	Discussed the proposed solar panel and tracking technology.	R2
				Landholders requested information on the solar panel and tracking technology and a map of the development footprint.	
				Discussed project layout and landscape management plans.	
				Advised landholders about the community information session.	
	Phone call	27-Feb-18	Project update	Landholder called to check on arrival of information requested. Advised parcel express posted to their principal place of residence in Sydney as requested.	R2
				OVERLAND asked for a follow up meeting.	
	Phone call	28-Feb-18	Project update	Landholder called to confirm receipt of the parcel in Sydney.	
				Landholder requested a copy of the infrastructure layout.	R2
				OVERLAND advised that a layout was in preparation and would be available in the public EIS document.	
	Phone call	01-Mar-18	Request from landholder	Landholder requested a copy of the infrastructure layout.	
				OVERLAND advised that a layout was in preparation and would be available in the public EIS document.	R2
	Phone call	05-Mar-18	Arrange a further meeting	Call to landholder and requested a further meeting.	
	Phone call	07-Mar-18	From landowner	Landholder returned call and established a meeting time with OVERLAND.	R2
	Meeting	14-Mar-18	Project update	OVERLAND tabled a draft indicative infrastructure layout of the sun farm to discuss visual impacts and landscape management.	R2
				OVERLAND permitted to take photos from the landholder's veranda, which were used to inform the assessment of visual impacts and preparation of a photomontage (refer to Photograph 5.5 in Appendix G).	R2
	Community information session	15-Mar-18	General project briefing	Landholders attended the community information session.	R2
				Landholder had questions about visual, fire management, runoff and erosion, electromagnetic fields, glare, flooding, noise, EIS submission date, land values, animal control/habitat, temperatures, ground water, weed control, project lifespan and decommissioning.	
	Phone call	9-Apr-18	Meeting request	Contacted landholders to request a meeting in Sydney at their home on the property to table the draft photomontage.	R2
	Email	10-Apr-18	Request from landholder	Request to provide written response to queries previously discussed.	R2
	Email	12-Apr-18	Landholder follow-up	Follow-up to email of 10-Apr-18.	R2

THERE IS NO  
PHOTOMONTAGE  
IN EIS





#### KEY

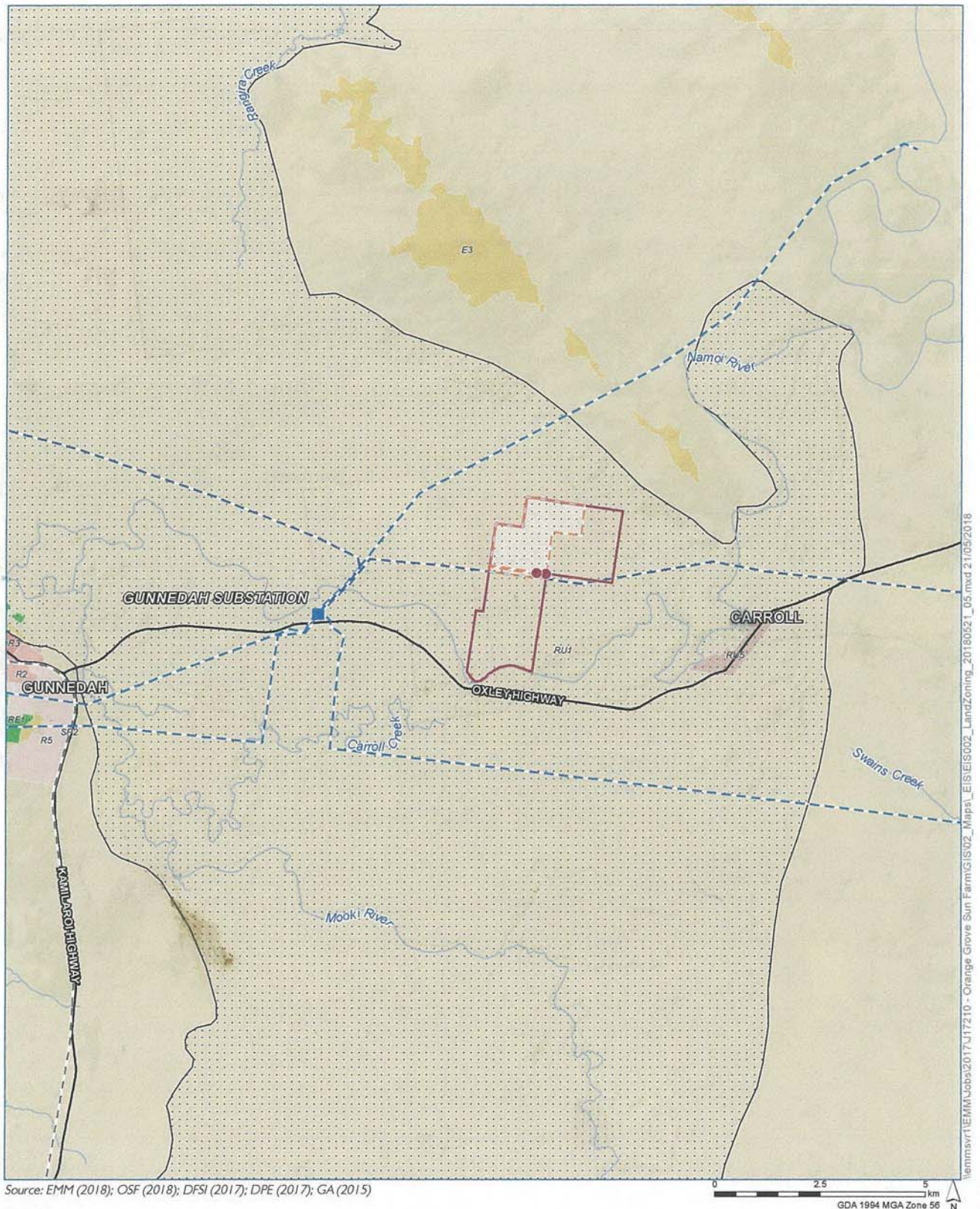
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <span style="border: 2px solid red; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> Orange Grove Sun Farm site boundary | <span style="border-bottom: 1px solid blue; width: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span> Watercourse / drainage line         |
| <span style="border: 2px dashed red; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> Development footprint              | <span style="background-color: yellow; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> Crown land                 |
| <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">●</span> Indicative site access point   | <span style="border: 1px solid blue; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> Exploration licence boundary |
| <span style="background-color: blue; color: white; font-weight: bold;">■</span> Gunnedah Substation                                | <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> PEL0001                     |
| <span style="border-bottom: 2px dashed blue; width: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span> 132 kV transmission line                 | <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px;"></span> EL7241                      |
| <span style="border-bottom: 2px dashed green; width: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span> 66 kV transmission line                 |  |
| <span style="border-bottom: 2px solid black; width: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span> Main road                                |  |

Crown land and mineral tenements

Orange Grove Sun Farm  
Environmental impact statement  
Figure 2.4







#### KEY

Orange Grove Sun Farm site boundary

Development footprint

Indicative site access point

132 kV transmission line

66 kV transmission line

Rail line

Main road

Watercourse / drainage line

Flood planning area

#### Land use zone

E3 Environmental Management

R2 Low Density Residential

R3 Medium Density Residential

R5 Large Lot Residential

RE1 Public Recreation

RU1 Primary Production

RU5 Village

SP2 Infrastructure

#### Land use zoning

Orange Grove Sun Farm  
Environmental impact statement  
Figure 2.3





Community meeting 15-3-2018 in Gunnedah bowling club 5.30pm to 7.30pm

We met [REDACTED] and we all walked in together. we went over to a table and picked up a couple of brochures. It was very strange they were brochures of a Solar Farm at Moree and brochure of two different trackers. Now wouldn't you think that Overland would be showing the public, brochures of their own Solar Farms that they say they get approved construct and complete so we can look at panels and trackers and roads and vegetation to give us an idea of what to expect, not riding on the back of someone else.

The adjoining landholders all sat down together.

For two hours answers to any questions were all verbal and not in writing and no proof of anything.

[REDACTED] I want to know where the panels are going and what do they look like.

[REDACTED] I don't know yet.

[REDACTED] Where are the panels made?

[REDACTED] said nothing.

[REDACTED] what about noise?

[REDACTED] Oh minimum

[REDACTED] What toxins are in them?

[REDACTED] silent

[REDACTED] Aren't the panels made overseas, What are they made of?

[REDACTED] made of glass.

[REDACTED] Asked many questions. Like roads, lighting, vegetation, fencing, and how close is the substation? And the Solar Farm being so close to her mum, and devaluation.

[REDACTED] Gee no one has ever asked all of these questions.

[REDACTED] I find that hard to believe.

[REDACTED] How are you tied up with James.

[REDACTED] We are partners.

[REDACTED] This is all a lot to take in, we have just found out about it, How do we get more information?

Oh you could google it

Are you for real

Showed shining panels to another rep.

Other rep said: Our panels dont do that.

can you give us a guarantee that they wont shine

No you can get that.

Asked a lot of questions and all I can remember is

saying dont know, not sure, have to get back to you,

I thought the idea of this meeting was to give the adjoining landholders and the community information about this Project.It was to tell us as least as possible.

asked a lot questions about where is the substation,fences,vegetation ,roads and how close it is to her mum.When there was about twenty minutes to go.We were joined by another man, he just pulled up a chair and sat down with arms folded.

Who are you? He pointed his arm out and said I am with him did not even introduce himself to us.

ask him some questions

He said what do you want?

said you cant answer our concerns.

you want the one down the road to go ahead

No I would not wish this on anyone

The way Overlands representatives have treated us with a lack of interest in our concerns trying to tick it off as if we shouldnt be asking questions about this Major project that has been plonked on us.

He then said to us,what are your concerns.

You cant answer our concerns

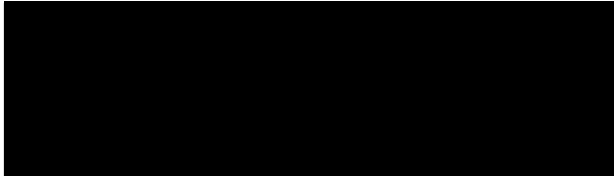
So you are opposing this

We all said yes

Representative said we are on opposite sides, and we are going ahead with it.

So that pretty much ended the meeting.

We read in the EIS that there were 20 people signed an attendance register and 20 to 30 people wandered in but didnt sign on.We were all still there for the whole two hours.There is no way that there were that many people that attended.There we seven of us, two reps,We all spoke the whole time.We spoke to other people that were there,they also said that there were no where near the amount of people in attendance.So we would like to see a copy of the attendance register.



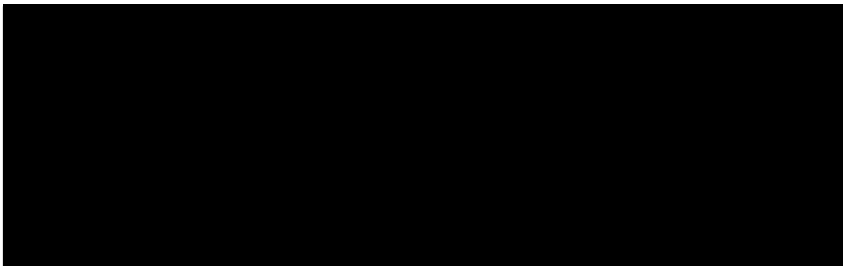
- 1 Are you going to show us the photomontage and leave it with us or take it with you?
- 2 We have asked you before , we need to know where panels , roads , vegetation for proposed solar farm and how close they are in conjunction with our adjoining fence .
- 3 We asked you at our last meeting at our farm on 13-2-2018,Why does the solar farm have to be so big?
- 4 We asked you , if you could please speak to [REDACTED] about moving the solar farm over from our adjoining paddock.?  
You just looked at us and left.
- 5 The reason this paddock is a concern and very important to us. For the past fourteen years we have breed our own cattle that paddock is where our young calves go to be weaned from their mothers and heifers away from bulls. THIS IS OUR INCOME.  
There are three good shade trees at our adjoining fence for 40 degree plus temperatures ,The young cattle are very flighty, we do not want them running all over the paddock and running trying to get through fences from the impact of noise and movement from this massive project.
- 6 Did you speak to [REDACTED] about moving over from our adjoining fence or whoever makes the decisions and what did they say?

Could you please email A.S.A.P. your reply to questions  
Regards




REMEMBER .  
[REDACTED] FROM OVERLAND  
YOU CALLED US TO SHOW  
PHOTO MONTAGE  
AND BECAUSE WE WERE SICK OF YOU PRETENDING  
TO SHOW US INFORMATION WE DECIDED TO  
EMAIL AND THEN OH NO THAT WILL BE IN EIS  
BUT IT IS NOT .

10/04/2018



---

 Are you going to show us the photomontage and leave it with us or take it with you?

We have asked you before , we need to know where panels , roads , vegetation for proposed solar farm and how close they are in conjunction with our adjoining fence .

We asked you at our last meeting at our farm on 13-2-2018,Why does the solar farm have to be so big?

We asked you , if you could please speak to  about moving the solar farm over from our adjoining paddock.?


You just looked at us and left.

The reason this paddock is a concern and very important to us. For the past fourteen years we have breed our own cattle that paddock is where our young calves go to be weaned from their mothers and heifers away from bulls. THIS IS OUR INCOME.

There are three good shade trees at our adjoining fence for 40 degree plus temperatures ,The young cattle are very flighty, we do not want them running all over the paddock and running trying to get through fences from the impact of noise and movement from this massive project.


Did you speak to  about moving over from our adjoining fence or whoever makes the decisions and what did they say?

Could you please email A.S.A.P. your reply to questions  
Regards



10/04/2018



Waiting for reply on email sent to you on tuesday 10th april 2018 at 1.38pm  
Regards 



---

  
We are still waiting for email reply for our email sent to you on Tuesday 10th april 2018 at 1.38pm

it has been a week and no contact.

We still have no idea where proposed panels,road,vegetation and wire fence are going in conjunction

with our adjoining fence.Such as what order they are in and how close to our fence are they.  
Could you please email us a drawing of this A.S.A.P

Regards  


17/04/2018



17 April 2018

sent by email correspondence

**Orange Grove Sun Farm**

Thanks you for your e-mail correspondence of 10th April 2018. We are very happy to continue our ongoing face to face discussions with you, either at your residence [REDACTED] or at your Orange Grove property, and provide further information on the project.

We respond to the queries raised in your e-mail as follows:

*Question 1 - Are you going to show us the photomontage and leave it with us or take it with you?*

Response 1 - As with previous documents that we've presented to you at your property [REDACTED] such as the preliminary Infrastructure Layout on 14th March 2018, we offer to show you the draft photomontage for discussion purposes. As we refine the arrangement of the solar farm for inclusion in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), we will be happy to provide you with a copy of the photomontage that is included in the submitted EIS. All of the documents contained in the EIS will also be publicly available through the Department of Planning & Environment Major Projects website.

*Question 2 - We have asked you before, we need to know where panels , roads , vegetation for proposed solar farm and how close they are in conjunction with our adjoining fence.*

Response 2 - During our meeting on 14th March 2018 at [REDACTED] we presented the preliminary Infrastructure layout to you for discussion. We are refining our proposed solar farm layout during this initial design and community consultation phase and in doing so, considering solar panel layout, vegetation screening and position of the solar field on the land. If it assists you, we can meet with you again and discuss the current proposed layout to discuss the items you raise. Our EIS submission document will include details of the layout that we propose for the project and we can provide you with the diagrams from the EIS document lodged with DPE.

As we've previously discussed, we do not propose to remove nor modify the current boundary fences. All works will be undertaken within the project area, including any vegetation screening, hence the reason for our request to meet with you to further discussions in light of the draft photomontage.



We can advise, as done so during the community information session on the evening of 15th March 2018, the infrastructure setback starting from the boundary fence and extending around the perimeter of the solar farm will, subject to final design, generally be arranged as follows:

1. The current boundary fence line;
2. Where applicable, vegetative screening;
3. Project security fencing;
4. Periphery road;
5. Bushfire control area;
6. Solar infrastructure.

*Question 3 - We asked you at our last meeting at our farm on 13-2-2018, Why does the solar farm have to be so big?*

Response 3 - As previously advised, the solar farm has been sized based on the land made available to the project by the participating landowners and also the electrical capacity of the electrical grid.

*Question 4 - We asked you, if you could please speak to James Hyem about moving the solar farm over from our adjoining paddock.? You just looked at us and left.*

Response 4 - As outlined from the outset of our meetings with you, after initial discussions with [REDACTED] we focused our investigations on a grazing area adjacent to Orange Grove Road. However, our detailed ecological studies showed that the grazing land has a high native grass and woodland value, therefore consistent with planning policies that encourage such native vegetation areas be avoided, we have not been able to use the grazing area. After further discussions with [REDACTED] the cropping land was the only alternative area.

*Question 5 - The reason this paddock is a concern and very important to us. For the past fourteen years we have breed our own cattle that paddock is where our young calves go to be weaned from their mothers and heifers away from bulls. THIS IS OUR INCOME.*

*There are three good shade trees at our adjoining fence for 40 degree plus temperatures, The young cattle are very flighty, we do not want them running all over the paddock and running trying to get through fences from the impact of noise and movement from this massive project.*

Response 5 - We assume you're referring to the three trees on [REDACTED] land that are located near your property boundary. If that's correct, as discussed at the community information session we are not proposing to cut down the three trees that belong to [REDACTED] on his side of the adjacent property boundary fence with you. Further, we will establish screening within the [REDACTED] property adjacent to your boundary fence.



18 April 2018

sent by email correspondence

**Orange Grove Sun Farm**

Further to your e-mail of 10th April 2018 and our reply of 17-Apr-18, we provide clarification in our response to Question 5 raised by you, which we reproduce as follows:

*Question 5 - The reason this paddock is a concern and very important to us. For the past fourteen years we have breed our own cattle that paddock is where our young calves go to be weaned from their mothers and heifers away from bulls. THIS IS OUR INCOME.*

*There are three good shade trees at our adjoining fence for 40 degree plus temperatures, The young cattle are very flighty, we do not want them running all over the paddock and running trying to get through fences from the impact of noise and movement from this massive project.*

Response 5 (revised) – We appreciate your concerns with regards to disturbance of the weaners when under shade trees on your property and adjacent to the boundary fence.

Throughout construction, activities will be spread across the site and hence are not concentrated on the boundary adjacent to your property. There will be periods where construction works within the general vicinity of your boundary will involve activities such as the planting of vegetation screening, fencing, construction of an internal access tracks and placement of solar modules and support systems.

We note that during the current farming operations on the proposed project land, namely the cropping area, activities include field inspections, tillage, spraying, planting and harvesting.

We also reiterate our response to your Question 2 in our 17-Apr-18 reply and again acknowledge your request that where able all infrastructure be sited back towards your neighbour [REDACTED] property as far as possible to alleviate your concerns.

If you require further clarification, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely


[REDACTED]


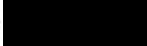
[REDACTED]



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Emails 17-4-2018 and 18-4-2018 from you



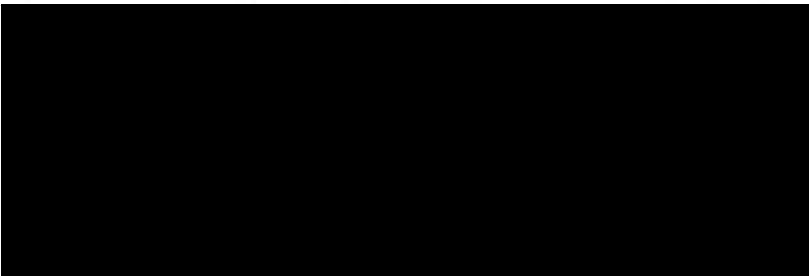
Could you please email us a the draft copy of the photomontage that you spoke about so we can look at it constructively  
in our time and email back to you if any problems  
As far as moving closer to  our neighbor WE DID NOT SAY THAT nor would we wish it upon her  
Asking to move away from our boundary fence does not mean moving towards  it is already on her boundary

Regards



19/04/2018





---

Still waiting on reply email 19th april 2018 for photomontage it has been 10 days and nothing.  
We would also like a draft copy of preliminary layout of vegetation screening roads and panels  
that you say you showed us.

We would also like a draft copy of what you went to show us A3 laminated piece of paper and  
straight away put it in your bag.

Refer to number 2 on your email 17.4.2018

Community information evening 15th march 2018

asked you how far from fence are panels

You quickly said 10mtrs

However in your email to us you do not mention 10mtrs from our boundry fence and also you  
say vegetation and screening

where applicable .What does this mean for us.As you have written the design usually goes like  
this 1-6.

we would like distance between 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-5 5-6

As you are aware this is a highly sensitive part of our property.

We are hoping for your prompt email reply.

Regards



[REDACTED]

---

[REDACTED]

Still waiting for email reply from 30th April 2018

There is no way that a crop on this adjoining paddock with zero tillage would take anymore than two days to plant and two days to harvest and that is the entire crop paddock there is no comparison to the noise and disturbance of this major construction to our young cattle which are locked in this paddock for reasons you have already been told in email 10th April 2018.

We have a newspaper article from independent after the community meeting 15th march 2018 which we have outlined ,so what does this mean? When overland can say to a lady [REDACTED] who is opposing Photons proposals that we are willing to get a little bit less energy from the transgrid to accommodate the residents they are not just going to plonk it anywhere it benefits them the most

How come as ADJOINING LANDHOLDERS and also residents we have had ZERO CONSIDERATION to where the solar farm is plonked.It is not just about the visual or flooding or devaluation it about our  
INCOME

Regards  
[REDACTED]

8/05/2018



# NEWS

## Residents share solar concerns

on P1

Photon Energy spokes-son said the footprint been recently revised to minimise the impact of ding and accommodate tracking panels.

ne Browns said the sion means the pro- d area is now closer to r property.

Ve're not opposed to , but we're opposed he position of it," Mrs wn said.

Ve bought into a rural ng and we'd like it to stay way. The aesthetics of it he value of our property elieve will decrease be- e of the Photon proper- posite."

eanwhile, Overland Sun ing is also proposing a farm on Orange Grove and held well-attend- munity consultation ings in Gunnedah on day and Friday.

in issues raised by ents were the potential ct of flooding, traffic ures and the impact on outlook. Many older ents bringing along old

photos of historic floods, including John Sutherland who has lived on Orange Grove Road since 1984.

Mr Sutherland said the position of Overland's site would get flooded if the Namoi River reached nine metres, while Photon's site would get flooded if the river reached about seven metres.

Overland's land and development manager Sten Fraser said "the most common theme discussed to date concerns historical flooding in the Orange Grove area".

"Numerous sites were considered as part of Overland's site selection process. Due to flooding in the district, identifying land that was understood to be less impacted during major flood events became paramount," Mr Fraser said.

"Overland understands the significance of minimising impact to the natural flow of water across the land... and is undertaking studies using engineering experts to aid the development of the final design of the sun farm."

Chris Mammen lives

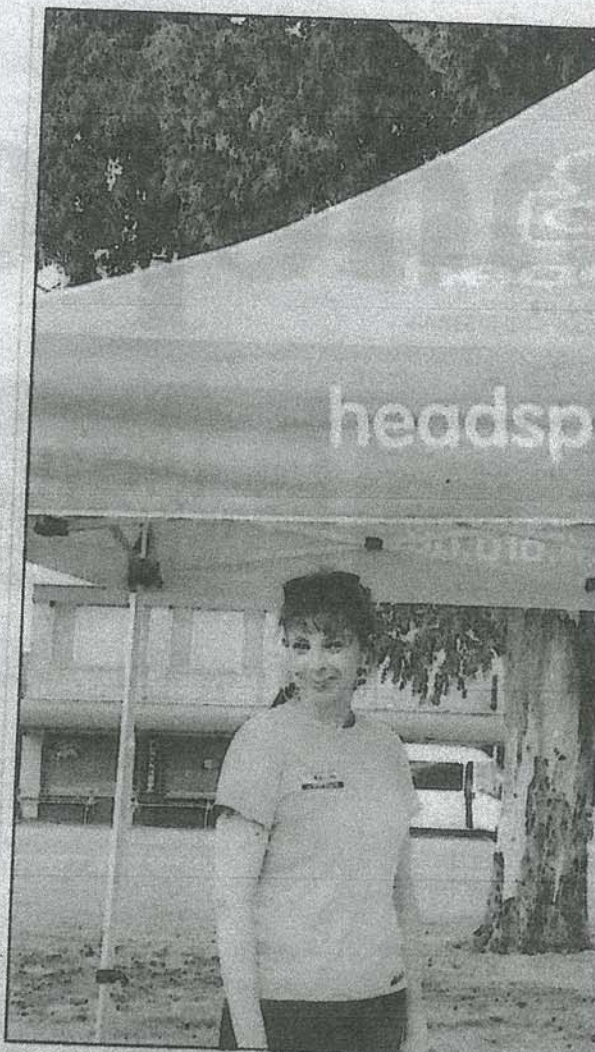
on Tudgey Road and said he and fellow parents had concerns about the safety of their children getting on and off the school bus if the solar farms go ahead.

Overland said traffic movements, including school bus schedules, would be managed under the traffic management plan, and Photon said it will "work with contractors and endeavour to minimise truck access to the site during school pick-up and drop-off hours".

While they have issues with Photon's Energy's proposal, the Browns are "very supportive" of Overland's proposal because they believe it would impact less people.

"[Overland] is willing to get that little bit less power [from the TransGrid] to accommodate the residents. They're not going to plonk it where it benefits them the most," Mrs Brown said.

Photon Energy is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement to submit to the Department of Planning and Environment in April.



HERE TO HELP: headspace's Avril Oakley-Hollow gets Friday's 'catch-up with headspace' event. Photo: Billy Jup

## Local youth have th

GUNNEDAH'S youth had their say on current issues they are facing at a youth consultation event hosted by headspace.

The event in Wolseley Park on Friday afternoon was designed to give headspace valuable feedback ahead of the organisation's arrival in

Gunnedah later this year.

Tamworth headspace centre manager Azaan Uhora said he was pleased with the turnout of local youth.

"We had a really good turnout of young people," Mr Uhora said.

"The main focus of the day was to gauge what the young

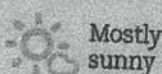
## SIDE TODAY

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munity News	9	Sport	13-16

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## WEATHER

### TODAY



Mostly sunny

Min: -1 Max: 37C

### TOMORROW



Partly cloudy

Min: 20C Max: 37C

### THURSDAY



Shower or two  
Min: 18C Max: 37C

### FRIDAY



Shower or two  
Min: 18C Max: 28C

## CONT

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**Independent**



This Proposed Major Solar Farm has divided the community and divided neighbours. No where does it say how big a solar farm has to be. So we asked the applicants representative why does it have to be so big? He told us that the cropping paddock was the only part they could use within the footprint, that does not mean that they had to use every inch of it. The beautiful improved pasture paddocks that adjoin the neighbours property. It could have been moved over also. We asked him if he could please speak to cropping paddock owner if he would consider moving away from our adjoining fence. The applicant rep just rolled his eyes. He sat at our table and tried to justify how the property owner deserved it because he was a third generation farmer and he had two sons to carry it on. We felt so inferior and worthless, this has been the worst five months, we did not ask for this nor should we be treated in this way, by the applicants rep.

It states in the E I S that Overland has shown many people the proposed Solar Farm Layout, you would think that they could be more up front with adjoining landholders and show them something that is accurate.

We would not wish this on anyone. The news paper articles on the two proposed Solar Farms Photon and Overland are only a couple of klm apart on the same road and residents from one are pushing for the other because there are less people. These residents have been given some considerations we have been given nothing, there has been no word from them in months, just look in the E I S where there is still nothing that answers our questions or concerns.

Face to face or one on one consultations did not work with applicant rep because from the beginning he made sure he showed as much as possible to keep us in the dark, we had repeatedly had to ring assessing officer from department of planning and he would ring him and ask him to please show us what we are asking for. That still did not work because there is no proof of what he has pretended to show us, he thinks that just because he has payed us a visit, he can just tick it off and job is done. This so stressful and upsetting for us.

We decided to email applicant rep to get some answers. He replies that we would still like to see us face to face because these emails can be used in the E I S so we kept emailing and no draft copy of photomontage no draft copy of infrastructure that he pretended to show us. The E I S is out for public and still no photomontage still no individual distances from our boundary fence on veg, fence, roads, panels only I think 10mtrs altogether, we have to know for fire hazards to our property.

The applicant rep rang the secretary of the Namoi Club, he had not even seen the 900 metre long rifle range. The firing line for the long range (where you shoot from) is 36metres higher than the Proposed Solar Farm which is situated to the left. We dont think he is qualified to answer anything about safety concerns about long range. If the trackers malfunction, they are only mechanical and the reflection is blinding..