

04/07/2018

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 to you to express my support for the Orange Grove Solar project (SSD 8882).

What better way to support a town currently affected by drought than to invest in the area and create new jobs. This is exactly what Orange Grove Solar will do. When a rural town like Gunnedah is hit with a drought as severe as that of the one they are currently facing, it takes a long time for small businesses and farmers to recover. In a time like this, I believe Gunnedah would truly benefit from such a project.

From what I understand, this Solar Project will provide 100 jobs to the Gunnedah area. With those extra jobs comes families, and with those families comes investment into the community. It is often that cities receive many of the jobs whilst rural communities like Gunnedah miss out. As someone who had to move to a city myself in order to get a job, I sure would love to see a rural community receive some support in this way.

I would also like to express my support for such a great thing as renewable energy. I know that when it comes to energy producers there is often controversy around where it is placed as it can be disruptive to community members through noise or dust. What I love about solar is that it makes no noise, no dust, and does not visually look that bad. It is so much so that in Canberra where I live, there is actually a solar farm of significant size within the city, and to the best of my knowledge, it does not seem to negatively affect anyone. What is even better about the proposed solar farm is the site is out of town in a rural location where farms are spaced out having a smaller impact on residents of the greater Gunnedah community.

I truly believe that this is a great thing for Gunnedah and comes with no financial burdens to the government, only benefits. What a great thing it would be to see a rural community have a helping hand through localized investment into the community from a large project. I implore you to help Gunnedah through providing the necessary regulatory support to the Orange Grove Solar Project.

Yours sincerely,
Alex Swain

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Macquarie, ACT, 2614

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