

Objection to the Solar Farm on the Orange Grove Road  
Application Number 8658, "Myalla" 765 Orange Grove Road

I live on the southern side of the Namoi River adjacent to Bruce Herdegen, resident No 21, on our property "Broadwater".

I am writing to object to the positioning of the Solar Farm on the northern side of the Orange Grove Rd, in particular the proposed security fence around the project.

I am in favour of solar farms generally, and think that as many as possible should be developed. My own house is powered partly by solar panels as well as solar hot water.

My biggest concern regards putting a security fence around the solar farm in the proposed situation 3.25km across a flood plain, this is just not acceptable. I have viewed the E.I.S. for this project and am concerned that the heights of deviated water from the security fencing surrounding the Solar Farm will have much wider consequences than projected.

Prior to the 1971 flood, our property had a hayshed built 80 years earlier that had never had flood water through it. After some flood irrigation works were completed on the northern side of the Namoi River in the 1960's, flood water entered the hayshed for the first time, when not even the record 1955 flood had done so. Since then, almost every flood has made its way into the shed.

This increase in water height has also substantially decreased our 'high country' during times of flood. That is, known portions of land that would remain above flood level and provide safe spots for our sheep and cattle during such times.

On the south side of us, the Oxley Highway Deviation Project (completed about 22 years ago) at the Mooki River, east of Gunnedah, has diverted flood water on to us, also increasing our flood heights according to the Hydrological information in that projects E.I.S. My concern is that my property will now have 2 lots of deviated water pressing on us from either side, which could have significantly destructive results on our livestock and farming enterprise.

One option to reduce the effect of the water diverted from the Security Fencing on the floodplain would be to have a "Droppable Fence". We use this method quite effectively with our own hinge joint fences. The ties securing the top of the fence are cut and the fencing is allowed to fall over in the same direction as the flood water is flowing. The fencing material would have to be put on the correct side of the fence posts during construction. Or alternatively, the bottom of the fence could be undone and lifted to the top of the fence and tied there for the duration of the flood and allowing the flood water to pass under the mesh fence.

Regards,



Greg Stones