

21st May, 2018

Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Natasha Homsey
Environmental Assessment Officer
Resource & Energy Assessments
NSW Planning & Environment.

Dear Natasha,

I own a beef and cropping farming business on the upstream boundary, next door to the proposed solar farm site.

I have lived in our property for 10 years and have seen several episodes of flooding. I refer to the "Carroll to Boggabri Flood Study & Compendium of Data", referenced in the EIS which contradicts Photon Energy's flood study. The depth and severity of flooding in the floodway is not outlined in the Photon flood study and appears to be inaccurate. This concerns me as any inaccuracies, could subject my farming business to severe flooding which may cause major livestock losses and damage to infrastructure.

I was approached 2 years ago by a solar company to construct a solar farm on our property which is also subject to flooding. After flood studies were carried out, it became apparent that the flood water was too deep to go ahead with the solar farm in the flood way.

I have serious concerns about the water either diverting or being held back by the chain mesh fence around the solar farm. If my home and livestock are severely flooded due to the construction of the solar farm I feel it would be necessary for the NSW Planning & Environment to provide insurance in this instance. If flooding did impact the solar farm to a point where it became damaged and beyond repair, is there a guarantee that NSW Government will decommission the infrastructure? It is a real possibility that the fence will not hold back the large volumes of water and in fact take the solar farm with the flow.

Solar farming is an amazing initiative to solving an energy crisis, but I fail to understand why it would be placed on prime agricultural land in a major floodway which would have adverse flooding effects to the local community.

Yours sincerely,

