

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2000

To whom it may concern,

My name is Diana Carter (nee Friedrich) and I am writing on behalf of the Friedrich family, who own the property "Hilltop" 1309 Gerogery Rd, Gerogery. The property has been in our family for over 140 years and continues to be run as a family business by Ross & Ruth Friedrich and Justin & Diana Carter. We have a mixed farming enterprise and produce sheep for wool and meat as well as running a successful Angus Stud.

We would like to **formally object** to the proposed Glenellen Solar Farm for the following reasons:

1. **WATER**

The proposed development includes catchment areas of Kilnacroft creek, Dead-horse creek and Bowna creek. All water from these three catchment areas then travel downstream through our property. We don't think there has been enough consideration to how these catchments will be affected once the development is finished. More research is needed as all studies so far have been done during dry periods.

We are also concerned about the cumulative effect on water if both the Glenellen Solar farm and the adjacent Jindera Solar Farm go ahead.

2. **DUST**

Our property "Hilltop" is situated 2km North-East of the proposed site. If a dust issue arises we will be impacted as during the dry summer months most wind comes from the direction of the development. It is described that they will be able to maintain vegetation under the panels but in dry times and without the ability to cultivate and maintain the entire site we believe dust will become a big problem.

3. **FIRE**

Being situated North-East of the proposed site we are very worried about the fire risk to our property. With wind from that direction being very common in summer we believe a fire started within the site or involving the site will impact directly on us. As members of the Gerogery Bushfire Brigade we are very aware of the dangers involved with structure and industrial type fires, including solar panels. There is huge potential for toxic gasses being omitted from the site meaning local fire brigades would not be able to work in the vicinity of the site. This can lead to a fire becoming larger and impacting on more surrounding properties. From a landowner perspective we are worried about the possibilities of a fire reaching our property and also the risk of toxic gasses being added to smoke drifting onto our property.

4. **HEAT**

The risk of the solar farm creating a Heat Island Effect is also concerning. With a lack of relevant studies that can be related to this project it is worrying

what affect it will have on neighbouring properties. If the Heat Effect is confined to the site itself it will impact their ability to maintain vegetation as promised. Increased soil temperature, lack of sunlight and water being shielded from the panel will make it extremely hard to grow vegetation directly under the panels. This will result in bare ground, leading to water shedding during rain events and increased dust during dry windy times.

## **5. DEVALUATION OF LAND**

As a surrounding landowner we are worried that the installation of this project will have a negative effect on land prices in the area. Not only for the houses and properties within very short distances of the site but also for the wider community. We are fortunate to be in a highly sought after area with highly productive land that is suited to farming. We believe that any of the negative effects listed earlier will have an impact on the price of our land in the future.

Our property is situated within the 2km zone of the proposed development and our houses within the 5km zone. At no point during the process of this development application have we received any form of consultation from either company. Due to the proximity and all the above mentioned issues that could impact on our property and our family we think we should have been consulted at some stage. Maybe due to the change in ownership between the two companies these things have slipped through the cracks, and that makes us wonder what else has been missed.

In conclusion we would like to acknowledge that a transition to renewable energy sources is important for the future. However, we believe the positioning of this development will have far too many adverse impacts on the local community. As farmers we think the highly productive land that the site will be on should be continued to be used as farm land not for an industrial type activity, and we believe there would be land far better suited to this activity in other parts of NSW.

Yours faithfully,  
Diana Carter.

On behalf of Ross & Ruth Friedrich and Justin & Diana Carter.  
'Hilltop'  
1309 Gerogery Rd,  
Gerogery NSW 2642  
[rwfriedrich@bigpond.com](mailto:rwfriedrich@bigpond.com)  
Mob: 0419818830 (Diana)