

## **Re: the Glenellen Solar Farm**

Being members of the Glenellen community for nearly 50 years, a prosperous farming area, we are extremely concerned at the advancement of the construction of the proposed solar farm.

We object to the use of the fertile agricultural land, with many waterways - both of which are precious resources, in the area of Glenellen. The location being on the fringe of the historic and expanding country town of Jindera.

Further strong concerns of the potential impact to us is outlined below:

### **The environmental impact on the area.**

Glenellen is a valuable and fertile agricultural area, including creeks, swamps, natural wooded areas and wildlife. We are concerned about the felling of the trees and the possible hazards to the nearby creeks, as well as the impact of the reflection of the panels and the affect of raising the temperature of the specific area.

#### Clearing of trees:

The proposed site requires the removal of beautiful 200yr old eucalyptus trees.

#### Solar Heat Island Effect:

We are concerned about a localised temperature increase and the broader environmental impact of a solar heat island effect. (Binder, G., 2016, 'Researchers discover solar heat island effect caused by large-scale solar power plants' Physics.org)

### **Being too close to a highly residential and intense agricultural area.**

#### Fire Hazard:

The location of the project is on the outskirts of the town of Jindera. We are concerned that during a bushfire, the solar panel material will cause a toxic plume of smoke which would directly impact the town.

#### Devalue the land:

We are concerned about the impact to the development of the historic town of Jindera and surrounding small acreage, which is sought for country living. The locality of Jindera, close to the regional city of Albury, means that it is attractive for those seeking lifestyle blocks and this is demonstrated by the recent expansion and subdivisions happening. The location of the solar farm on the fringe of this development will impact land values of those selling into it and interest to those buying into it.

### **The impact on our farm due to heavy truck and construction activity.**

We have been advised that there will be heavy truck activity on the country road where we live, for the next two years. We are an alpaca and llama breeder, and this activity will have untold detrimental effect on our animals and farming enterprise. The heavy traffic is also a concern for our own health and safety.

## **The poor communication of the proposed project.**

### Hume Shire Council

The proposal for this project to the local Council was defeated at two community meetings, but passed at a Council meeting without the community present. Following on there are potential conflicts of interest from this Council process.

We have received no planning notice from the Council to which we may comment, despite the direct impact the project will have on us.

### Company consultation process

The area we live has extremely limited mobile access, making electronic communication very difficult, frustrating and stressful.

At this time of year the farmers, that will be impacted by this project, are harvesting and finding the time for them to address this issue is also proving to be very difficult and stressful.

## **In Conclusion.**

Owing to the poor consultation process by the Council, many constituents like us had no say. The Council's decision, therefore, is not representative of the many, like us, and the development and construction of this project will not be achieved with community support. No matter how good a corporate citizen the company is, community support for this project will never be realised from the residents of this area, like us.