

I Stirling Moll declare that I have not made any political donations in the last 5 years.

I would like to state my objections to the Glenellen solar farm for the following reasons.

The introduction of the large scale solar plants have been rushed in Australia with poor planning evident with this installation. Population density is too great in this area for such an installation and it will dwarf the township of Jindera. The communities of Glenellen and Jindera deserve to be known for the great communities they are with great amenities, not the little town and community with a giant solar “farm” next door.

Site selection is a for a quick hook up to the grid for the proponent alone, mitigating any other negative impacts or obstacles for such a poor site would endure, for example excessive fog in the winter months. There are plenty of more suitable areas out west (e.g 200km west of here) and in more arid areas that would suit these installations, with less populations density the installation would almost go unnoticed. Given the tighter seasons out there the installation would prove a viable income for the land holder as opposed to the Greater Hume Shire where we have a thriving agricultural sector.

440 truck and dog aggregate deliveries alone, plus whatever masses of trucks and vehicles used for the construction works is totally unacceptable, I have children growing up on Glenellen road as do many other people. Glenellen road is in no shape for this sort of traffic and is already bad enough being a B double route due to the now pointless load limit placed on the Gerogery road. Two trucks passing each other on Glenellen road, you could easily see one run off the road due to the road conditions.

As a primary landholder next to the installation I did not even receive a copy of the EIS, I have since heard from the department that it was returned to sender, how can the project even go on exhibition if all adjoining land holders have not been notified? I found out from social media that the project was on exhibition which is very disappointing to say the least. It has also been during our hay and harvest season, which is our busiest time. This is clearly an opportunity they wanted to take hoping we would be busy to make submissions.

No community consultation, prior to the release of the EIS, very disappointing to say the least, seems as if the project is being snuck on the radar? I believe the project should not be able to proceed until community consultation is undertaken, as plenty of people in the Jindera and Glenellen area's do not even know of the projects existence. This has been made clear to me when I have been talking to members of the community of the last few weeks.

Trina Solar being a Chinese owned company does not appeal to me one bit with the current trade ban on Australian commodities, such as coal, barley, copper ore, sugar, timber wine and lobster with wheat now looming also. So here we have a Chinese company that wants to lease Australian prime agricultural land to generate power to sell to us with its components now not likely to even be made using Australian resources, how are we even meant to fathom that?

Our company Queltara Pty Ltd farms 750Ha with an intense cropping and livestock operation adjacent to this proposed installation which we are the fourth generation to most this land and proud of it. With heritage aplenty and legacy of striving for excellence while being on the forefront of agriculture with a mix of permanent and casual employees. We cannot get any accurate information about micro climate/ heat island effects the installation will have on our agricultural enterprise from the proponent. Also with our land being downstream from the proposal and given the increased water shed rate of the panels we

will no doubt be susceptible to increased flooding in wet years. These two environmental factors coupled with a unknown weed build up around the installation and Increased fire risk makes this installation very undesirable to have next to our farming operation, if the project was to proceed we feel it would vastly affect our practices and ability to produce a viable income.

The amount of large paddock trees that will be removed for this project is absurd, these trees are the natural pumps keeping salinity down and rising water table at bay, also being the home many birds. If the proponent and the developer really cared for the environment they would make sure all these large trees stayed in place and would work around them.

The visual impact is somewhat of a concern to myself and my family, the installation will be clearly visible to me at my place of residence at 352 Glenellen road and even more visible to us and our employees at our place of operation and mothers residence at 167 Fielder Moll road with 38 meters of elevation the north facing panels will be nothing but an eyesore. We do not live and work here to be in plain sight of a large scale industrial zone or power station. This part of the Greater Hume Shire has tranquil views with a rural/semi-rural lifestyle for most residents. The project is also on low lying ground with a lot of properties overlooking it, nobody needs to be looking at an extensive industrial area/zone in a rural setting.

The installation is doing nothing more than taking good farm land out of production and turning it into an industrial zone to generate electricity and I am led to believe from a TransGrid consultation that the installation will not even be able to supply its full capacity into the grid with the current infrastructure, so the question has to be asked what indeed is the point of having such a large installation here at the current time or if ever? Also the power generated is not available to local residents it is all going to the major cities to make them feel better about offsetting their "carbon footprints". If this is so the case then why are city folk not embracing solar on every rooftop? Residential, Industrial/manufacturing, sporting etc? Instead it is getting pushed through on poorly planned projects such as this so they can feel better about things and meet our Paris agreement targets.

A project of this size and nature will no doubt cause a downturn in land prices in its immediate vicinity, nearby residents will be stuck with an unsightly view and most likely unable to sell their properties for what they should be worth which will cause much angst and stress and the mental health component of this issue should not be overlooked. Those of us that operate on equity will have our borrowing capacity severely limited as our capital will not be what it once was, this also could lead to stress and some mental health issues. If the project were to proceed I feel all affected nearby residents will need ongoing financial compensation.

The project may bring some short turn financial gain to the local economy, but many of these projects bring their own workers with them which may spend some money in the local community but in the case of the Finley solar project one contractor almost sent a local automotive repair business broke due to not paying for bills. Once the project has been completed the land that was used for the project will likely put back even less than it previously was to the local economy due to it having just one or two caretaking staff compared to when it was fully agricultural it would have been contributing to the likes of local rural merchandise suppliers, stock and station agents, contractors etc. The VPA looks nothing more than an extravagant bribe to get the local community on board with the project.

Conclusion:

I am not against renewable projects such as this, I am however against poorly planned projects such as this. The blatant push by these companies to get these projects approved where they are not needed or suited to an area is disheartening to say the least. Solar energy requires good sun light not good farm land with good rainfall that is a valuable commodity and yes this land being so close to Jindera could one day be classified for sub division, it would be far better to see more rate payers in the Greater Hume Shire that would go on to bolster the local economy than some one off Chinese owned solar industrial zone where much of the profits were going straight of shore. Being a proud fourth generation farmer next door to the proposal it is heart wrenching to think that the land next door can be turned into sea of industrialisation. I would ask you to examine the points I have raised thoroughly as I feel if this project is approved it will have a long lasting negative effect on our local community and our ability to farm sustainably.

Yours sincerely, Stirling Moll.