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Director – Energy Assessments, Planning and Assessment,
Industry and Environment,
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Re: Objection to proposed Glenellen Solar Farm (SSD – 95508)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I strongly object to the construction of the proposed Glenellen Solar Farm for the following five (5) reasons:

1. **Visual impact and amenity** – My mother is a senior citizen (in her eighties) who farms a property adjacent to the proposed Glenellen Solar Farm. Should it proceed, the Solar Farm will be clearly visible from her home. Currently she looks out at quiet open paddocks with cattle grazing and does not support a change in land usage to what only can be described as an unattractive industrial site. There is also the strong possibility of a “Solar Farm Cumulative Impact” should both the Glenellen and Jindera Solar Farms proceed as her property will be impacted from both sides by solar panels.
2. **Devaluation of property values** – The farm has been my elderly mother’s home for the past 30 years and it was purchased with a view to the lifestyle and amenity for which farm life brings. Until recently, 40 hectare properties in the local area have been highly sought after. However, demand for such properties has diminished since the announcement of Solar Farms and Real Estate Agents are now reluctant to put a value on impacted properties such as my mother’s now and into the future. This issue is impacting on my mother’s health as she is unaware of anyone who would knowingly like to live next door to a Solar Farm.
3. **Fragmentation/Loss of Prime Agricultural Land** – From the outset, I am not opposed to renewable energy but am genuinely concerned with the loss of prime agricultural land which will inhibit Australia’s ability to not only feed it’s increasing population but also export to the world.

I am aware that the nearby land on which the proponent wishes to establish a solar farm is highly productive and like others in the area has significantly benefitted from rotational cropping, pasture improvement and fertiliser inputs. The area has a reliable rainfall (compared to most) and properties are highly sought after given their ability to produce:

- prime sheep and cattle;
- high value oil seed and cereal crops;
- certified seed production; and
- hay and silage fodder which is exported throughout Australia to assist in maintaining a dairy industry and feeding stock in time of drought.

We are already losing prime agricultural land on the fringes of cities and can do without further loss in rural NSW. One could ask, why can’t we locate Solar Farms on large properties in far western NSW as they don’t impact on

neighbours (due to property size) and provide the landowner with a valuable source of income in times of drought.

4. Increased heat carried by prevailing wind – My mother's home is downstream and near the proposed solar Glenellen Solar Farm. I am concerned about the potential heat that will be generated by the solar arrays and carried in the direction of my mother's home by the prevailing wind. In 2018/19 we suffered several days in excess of 40 degrees Celsius which was not only demanding for livestock but also challenging for humans alike.

5. Removal of farm trees and loss of animal habitat – I am genuinely concerned with the proposed removal of hundreds of century old farm trees from the proposed site. These trees have been protected and retained by our ancestors since the area was first farmed in the late 1800's. These trees provide invaluable habitat for a range of birds and marsupials. In my opinion, these trees should be retained for the valuable biodiversity which they provide.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Plan and I would ask that the Panel not approve the application given it will:

- Have a significant long term visual impact on neighbouring residential amenity;
- result in a devaluation of property values;
- fragment and remove significant areas of highly productive farmland;
- potentially increase mid-summer temperatures for neighbouring properties downstream of the solar arrays; and
- result in removal of century old farm trees and valuable animal habitat.

I declare that I have not donated to any political party in the past two (2) years.

Please don't hesitate to contact me on 0438253770 or norm.maher@skymesh.com.au should you have questions in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Maher