

I object to the proposed Glenellen Solar Farm: Below are my reasons for these projections.

THE INVESTMENT CAPITAL BEING INJECTED INTO THE GLENELLEN SOLAR FARM SHOULD BE CHanneled INTO THE PROPOSED HAY PLAIN'S SOLAR FARM.

At a public meeting in Wagga Wagga on July 3rd 2019 the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment produced a map highlighting the Hay Plains as an ideally situated and suitable site for a large scale solar farm facility. An electricity grid connection between Wagga Wagga and Adelaide connected into the Sydney /Melbourne transmission grid will traverse the Hay Plains Solar Farm. If this was developed, Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Adelaide would all be connected to the Hay Plains solar farm. This would enable the transfer of power at any time between these cities including the power from the Snowy 2 proposal. This is a more suitable solution as this proposal does not impact prime agricultural land or residential communities.

E.I.S. REPORT INACCURATE REGARDING SOIL LANDSCAPE OF THE SITE.

I disagree with the accuracy of the E.I.S. where it indicates that the land subject to the development is made up of Class 3 land (164 ha) which is classed as Important Agricultural Land and Class 6 (181 ha) which is Low Capability Land under the Land and Soil Capability Assessment Scheme.

This is inaccurate as the existing owner has continually cropped and grazed sheep and cattle over the entire 334 ha. During the 30 years I have lived opposite the subject land the only land not cropped or grazed is the small treed areas and water ways. The next three points extracted from the E.I.S on the pages noted illustrate the inaccuracies in the report.

On p. 121 of the E.I.S. the last 2 sentences state that

*"Sodosols have dispersive subsoils, making these soils susceptible to water erosion and this risk is reflected in the severe branching gully erosion that occurs in valley depressions in the Yarra Yarra landscape (McKenzie, Isbell, Brown and Jacquier, 1999; OEH, 2017). **No gully erosion was observed at the Site during site inspections.**"* Yarra Yarra soils are known as Class 6 soils.

On p. 123 of the E.I.S.

*"The southern portion of the Development Footprint (corresponding to the Yarra Yarra Soil Landscape) is mapped as land and soil capability Class 6 land in, covering 181.14 ha and representing 0.21% of Class 6 land within the Greater Hume LGA. Class 6 land has very high limitations for high impact land uses such as cropping with cultivation, and land use is restricted to grazing (OEH, 2012). Soil structural decline and water erosion are the most limiting factors". **The site has no erosion or gullies.***

On p. 125 of the E.I.S.

"The Kindra soil landscape (mapped as LSC Class 3 land), which covers 164.5 ha of the Development Footprint (Figure 8-10), was mapped as IAL (Important Agricultural Land (IAL) in the Draft Riverina-Murray IAL Mapping Program 2018".

"New mapping updates (Riverina-Murray IAL Map, 2019) mean that now the entirety of the Site is mapped as IAL".

The authors of the E.I.S. ignored this fact.

INABILITY TO MAINTAIN SOIL OR PASTURES:

The development of the Glenellen Solar Farm covering 332 hectares with solar panels and associated infrastructure will limit future cultivation, fertilisation and pasture seeding of the land. This will result in the continued denigration of the land, eliminating the potential for sheep and cattle grazing.

If this land is covered with 500 000 solar panels and sheep/cattle are grazing under and around the panels, over a period of time without the ability to plough and re-sow, the soil will be compacted by the animals' hooves. This will increase water run-off and reduce the ability for pasture regrowth resulting in weed growth and dust generation.

FOREIGN CONTROL OF AUSTRALIA'S ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

This solar farm is totally owned by a Chinese company, TrinaSolar. As seen in recent months China is showing a continual high level of disrespect towards Australia. If the Glenellen Solar Farm is constructed, it will increase China's power to control the cost of electricity and in fact, disrupt the supply of power at whim. – Chinese companies already own other solar and wind farms in Australia which if controlled jointly could have a devastating effect on Australia's electricity supply.

An example of what happens when an external company has control over the electricity supply can be seen in the large PAL Dog Food Factory in Wodonga (just 25 kms from Jindera) which currently shuts down production at 3 pm each day because its energy provider increases the cost of power by 1200 % at that time.

CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF MULTIPLE SOLAR FARMS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO EACH OTHER.

- The proposed Jindera and Glenellen Solar Farms are 500 metres apart in Ortlipp Rd. The Planning, Industry and Environment Guidelines state that Solar Farms should be at least 10 kms apart.
- These solar farms will be developed on Important Agricultural Land, an area in excess of 900 hectares, just north of the town of Jindera.
- This will have a negative impact on Jindera's rural landscape. A large proportion of the surrounding landscape will change from picturesque agricultural land to that of land with an industrial appearance.
- The ambience of the area is important to the mental well-being of the local residents.
- Property values will be lowered by up to 20 percent and no compensation is offered to affected residents. According to the E.I.S. 84 residents are impacted.
- **Microclimate:** The large number of solar panels (well in excess of 1 million) will generate an increase in summer temperatures of up to 5 degrees. In 2019 a maximum summer temperature of 47 degrees Celsius was recorded in this area. These extremely high temperatures, together with the extra heat generated from the proposed solar farms, could result in temperatures well in excess of 50 degrees Celsius in the shade. The burning of plant foliage would destroy gardens and make life uncomfortable for the residents.

WEED CONTROL:

To prevent fire hazards, it will be necessary to spray herbicides under and around all of the solar panels (332 ha). This eradication of weeds will generate a potentially massive dust bowl and present a danger to nearby residents and crops when herbicides are sprayed.

CONTAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER.

The use of herbicides to continually control weeds could result in a build-up of and saturation of the soil with these chemicals. During periods of heavy rain the resulting leaching of the soil and run off will cause chemical pollution of water courses on this land, which eventually discharge into the Hume Dam. The Hume Dam's water is used for human consumption by the people of Albury/Wodonga and all towns downstream to Adelaide. Additionally these chemicals will also affect all aquatic life associated with the Murray River.

ELECTRICAL OVERLOAD OF EXISTING JINDERA POWER SUB-STATION.

I have been informed by an employee of TransGrid that the existing Ortlipp Rd. Power sub-station has a limited ability to receive additional electricity when demand for power peaks. This could result in "gridlock" when both the Jindera and the Glenellen solar farms are commissioned and are feeding into the one sub-station.

UNSIGHTLY INFRASTRUCTURE:

It is presumed shipping containers or similar will be used to house batteries for the solar farm. No information has been forthcoming as to the colour, size and location of these units and how these will impact the landscape. The colour should blend in with the surrounding environment or be similar in colour to the panels.

FOLLOW UP OF CONDITIONS IMPOSED:

If the solar farm is approved, what processes does the department have in place to enforce any conditions imposed on the developers during development and in the future eg: maintenance and replacement of screening vegetation/ removal of the infrastructure?

We have been assured the land owner will be responsible if the company does not reinstate the land to its original condition. However in thirty years' time the original landowner may not own the property on which the solar farm exists or have the finances to comply with the original conditions.

WATER REQUIREMENTS:

The solar farm requires a significant amount of water in the construction phase and when operating as a solar farm. Where does this water come from? Is there any provision for fire-fighting purposes on the proposed solar farm?

Any large commercial development of this size, even though it is considered a solar farm, would require adequate firefighting provisions to be installed within its boundaries. This is necessary for the protection of the solar farm and to prevent the spread of fire to neighbouring properties.

Any road access which would be available to bushfire brigades in the event of a fire should be constructed and maintained in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards (to carry the weight of fire-fighting appliances).

MISLEADING COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER BY TRINASOLAR

The community newsletter distributed by TrinaSolar dated August 2020 shows 2 photos of low height solar panels. This is in keeping with the detailed drawings and advice given by CWP, the original developer that the panels would be a maximum of 2.7m. above the ground.

The only reference to the currently proposed 5 m. high panels is buried on p.8 of the E.I.S. This has misled many residents to believe that the panels would still be 2.7m.high.

THE 250 PLUS MILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT BY TRINASOLAR WOULD BE BETTER INVESTED IN THE NSW STATE PROPOSED SOLAR FARM, ON THE HAY PLAINS.