

Christopher Seis
"Yallambee" Merotherie Road
Gulgong, NSW 2852

Re: Stubbo Solar Farm, Application No.: SSD-10452

To whom it may concern,

I am a landowner who is a direct neighbour to the project.

I object to the project, noting (but not limited to) the following:

Fire Hazard

The study area is in a bushfire prone area, as is our property. There have been a few fires in the area over time. Most memorably:

- on "Rosevale" (who are one of the landowners supplying land as part of the development) which burnt out 820 hectares 4 years ago,
- a fire front stretching from Ulan to Birriwa, including destruction of land within the study area and our property 40 years ago. Until the Sir Ivan Fire, which occurred to the north of us 4 years ago, this was considered the worst bushfire that had ever occurred in the local area.

I am quite concerned about how bushfires will be managed within and around the solar farm. I raised these concerns to Killian Wentrup and Michael Zippel, the UPC\AC representatives that I spoke to at the Gulgong Community Drop-in session on the 28th of October 2020. I was told that the Captain of the local fire brigade will have a key to be able to access the solar farm.

I have been involved in fighting bushfires for over 25 years. Frankly, the sentiment expressed by UPC\AC's representatives tells me that they do not have any real plan to manage a bushfire, nor does it give me much hope that a bushfire will be adequately controlled when it occurs. The Brigade is based in Gulgong and it will take at least 30 minutes for the Brigade to arrive if they leave straight way. If the fire happens to be amongst the solar panels, I can't see the Brigade coming at all because of all the toxins that will be going into the air from the solar panels. My parents lived through the aftermath of the bushfire 40 years ago which severely impacted their livelihood and took many years to recover from. I am not satisfied with the grossly inadequate response of "giving the keys to the Captain."

Noise from the Solar Farm

We live less than 2km from the development site boundary. We can hear the trail bikes on the Motocross track, which is about 5km away, which means we will definitely be able to hear any noise coming from the construction and operation of the solar farm. I do not want to be listening to the construction and ongoing operation while I am trying to run the property.

We graze sheep on our property. I am concerned that we will be limited to what we can graze in the paddocks neighbouring the solar due to distress the noise will cause them, in particular ewes that are having lambs.

What measures will UPC\AC undertake to ensure that we will not be subject to the noise from the development?

Land Zoning

The zone of the study area is zoned as RU1, which means that electricity generation is prohibited. Yet for the purposes of this development the zoning of the study area would be overturned. Our property will continue to be zoned as RU1, but we will have to live next door to an electricity generating unit which would be otherwise prohibited. It does not make sense.

Lack of Consultation

My family and I learned of the development in August 2020. UPC\AC had contacted us previously via letter sometime in late 2018/ early 2019 about potential interest in the development but I heard nothing about it until that time. The initial conversation with a UPC\AC representative on the 4th of September lasted about 7-8 minute and I received a couple of shorter subsequent calls in September. However, the only time I feel I had a real conversation with UPC\AC was instigated by myself and my mother at the Community Drop-in session in Gulgong on the 28th of October 2020. At the drop-in session we spoke to Killian Wentrup and Michael Zippel. Michael said that he would be around for a couple of weeks and would come and see us. As of the 18th of February 2021, no representative has come and visited us on the property.

During conversations with UPC\AC, I raised concerns as noted above about bushfire management. I also asked if it would be possible to have trees planted along the shared boundary as a way to facilitate reduction of any visual impacts that we have of the solar farm from the higher vantage points from the property. This was dismissed as not being necessary as the impacts is not significant enough. Given that UPC\AC have not even been on the property to know, I am not sure how they can say that. I also would have thought that considering their lack of communication with myself and my mother as key neighbours that they would at least try to listen to our requests and be accommodating.

As an immediate neighbour, the lack of contact from UPC\AC has been quite disappointing and they certainly have not engaged with us as a key neighbour in the way that they claim they have engaged with the neighbours in the EIS. It is wrong that I am only finding about the solar farm project in more recent times when the project is well and truly underway. This project seems to be progressing quickly and I have not had the time nor opportunity to be able to voice my concerns appropriately and for those concerns to be addressed. I have certainly not known about this since early 2019 when UPC\AC say they started consulting with nearby landowners.

Declaration

I declare that I have not made any political donations in the last 2 years.