

Oxley Solar Farm Objection Submission

Name : Jenna Walsh

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Dear Minister

SSD No - Oxley Solar Farm Armidale

I am writing to OBJECT to the Oxley Solar Farm SSD 10346. I strongly support the group submission put forward by the Castle Doyle Solar Farm Action group. I wish to lodge my concerns with you about this project.

I have a huge issue with the lack of consultation from the so called developer. Within the EIS they state they have had numerous meetings, phone calls and community information sessions. This is a load of rubbish. We have had a 2 community sessions both of which was pathetic on their behalf. No one would answer any questions about the solar farm, they would fob it off and say that it will have a management plan or that's not an issue. People just don't come up with random impacts. These impacts are serious to the environment and neighbouring land owners. We did have a visit on our place and we asked who owned the company and the reply was pay \$15 and you'll find it on the website. Please what kind of professional does that. How is this a comprehensive community consultation that they claim they have done. We have received an email and a letter in the mail about the community session both on the day of the meeting or the day before. How can anyone plan around this time frame? This tells me how disorganised this bunch are. Communication by this developer is a not a strong point of theirs. How can anyone have a say or have questions asked about the project? It has not been fair on us at all.

Another concern I have is the life span of the panels and majority of the built structure will be placed into landfill. How is this sustainable? We are doing our part in having a sustainable future, but I don't see how putting all those used panels into landfill is great for our environment. What about the chemicals that the panels will leach into the ground. This will surely have an impact on the environment. Some solar farms in Australia and across the world are no longer in use and didn't even reach their expected life are just sitting in the paddocks. What impact does this have? How can you or the developer guarantee that this will not be the case here? This developer could go broke and who is responsible for the decommissioning then? Probably no one they will sit in the paddock and we will have to look at them for ever and a day. Great solution that is. When it comes time for decommissioning and they are being removed, where will these be placed? Will they be placed in Armidale? 715,000 panels will take up a huge amount of space. At no stage have we been told about how these will be disposed of, again this has been a lack of communication on the developers behalf.

Did you know that at the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020 we had an out of control bush fire in the national park. It was only a few kilometres away from us. If the fire took hold and continued up the gorge this whole place would have been under threat. We would have been fighting a huge fire. If a fire comes onto the place with 715,000 solar panels it will cause huge damage. Not only will it pose a risk to people fighting fires it will also be uncontrollable as you won't get anyone in the solar farm to fight it. The fire will be burning into neighbouring properties faster than anything. The chemicals that each panel would produce would be huge. What is the health risk of this? The EIS it states that the Armidale Councils bush fire prone map doesn't recognise the land that the proposed solar farm is being placed on as an identified bush fire prone land. After doing some research into this as I found that to be odd as we live near a national park. According to the NSW Rural Fire Service, Bush Fire Prone Land this proposed site is being developed on a bush fire prone area. This to me seems like a terrible assessment on their behalf. When you go into the Armidale Councils page and search bush fire prone areas it directs you directly to the NSW Bush Fire Service website. This needs to be addressed immediately. It seems as though this is false information that they have put in.

Signed
Jenna Walsh

Dated
8/4/2021