

Oxley Solar Farm – Objection Submission

Name : David Walsh

Address: 22 Blue Hole Road Armidale NSW 2350

Dear Minister

SSD No DA 112-2019 - 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.

One of the issues is the impact to the land caused by erosion, as the solar farm isn't being built on flat land, it will be erected on hilly undulating agricultural land. Having a solar farm placed on this site will mean that, during any rain and heavy storm periods (which is a common occurrence here on the Eastern side) it would be impossible to maintain the land underneath the panels. This would require a significant amount of soil and workers to try and reduce the risk of this happening. How can one stop erosion on undulating ground? That is near an impossible feat. The knock-on effect here is the sediment flowing directly into the two river systems. The proposed development is situated between the Gara River and Commissioners. The sediment that will run into the river would be a high amount as it runs directly off the hills and gullies. This will result in the natural species that inhabit this river to die. The platypi cannot survive erosion deposits as this clouds the water, reducing sunlight from penetrating the water and lowering the productivity of the river system. This will also mean that it will reduce the availability of food for platypuses. The EIS provides nothing to the community about land capability, land conflict, land, soil and water impacts in detail. This is not a complete assessment of the potential risks associated with the development.

Another HUGE issue is the bush fire risk. Did you know where this project is located? It is located next to Blue Hole picnic area. In 2019/2020 there was an out of control bush fire in this park 12km from the proposed site. How can this be brought under control amongst 715,000 panels? This is near impossible and not to mention the significant impact this has on neighbouring properties, especially ours. Although a fire is yet to reach the national park it will only be a matter of time before it happens. It only takes someone to light a fire in the park and it will be out of control.

Signed
David Walsh

Dated 11/4/2021

