

Oxley Solar Farm Objection Submission

Name : Mitch Hardaker

Address; 111 Blue Hole Road Armidale NSW 2350

Dear Minister

SSD No SSD 10346 - Oxley Solar Farm Armidale

I OBJECT to the proposed Oxley Solar Farm SSD 10346.

I support the group submission put forward by the Castledoye Solar Farm Action group.

I would like to make mention of the fact that an extension to writing submissions was not granted. How it is possible to gather information during school holidays and over an Easter holiday period and have us comment on an incomplete document. I find this extremely rude on the departments behalf when this is what we had asked for and it was completely ignored.

This solar farm is one of many on the horizon in the area. The solar farm is close to farming properties and homes. To which, have had little to no contact with the developers. I find this very disrespectful, that they feel it is ok to not include us as we will be significantly impacted by this development. Just some of the impacts that the landholders will be faced with are: land devalue, environmental health risks, views impacted, waterways contaminated, trees being cut down and dams being filled in.

I am in close proximity to the solar farm and will see a dramatic fall in property valuation. This could mean that residents could see their property be devalued by 45%. This is huge. How will you support these people to overcome the stress this will cause on property owners? Developers have said they will not compensate for this loss. Why not? I can assure you that if this was your place, you would not appreciate this. It is a cop out. No consideration has been taken into account during this whole process.

Have you considered the health risks associated with the construction and maintenance of this solar farm? The dirt road that all people involved in the development will travel on. The data prepared in the EIS for traffic each day is phenomenal. This dust will carry directly to my home. I won't be able to have my windows open for the dust. The developer can say they will use water to minimise this but whose water? The tanks being placed on the site won't catch enough at the beginning of the development to reduce this risk. So will they get water from the town supply? Will they pay for this? When we are in drought how will this affect the town community? What impact does this have on residents? Have you considered their health needs currently? I guess not as they haven't been consulted about anything regarding this development. How is this effective communication with residents? What other health warnings should we know about with this development?

Imagine looking out at the views on your property. Every day you pinch yourself as you cannot believe your live in the most beautiful part of the world. Watching the bird life, kangaroos and other protected species come up from the gorge. These animals are seen each day and watching them live in our environment is one to promote. Not to mention the local land surrounding you. The smell when it rains, looking out on green pastures (when not in drought). Looking out into the paddocks and being proud of what you have achieved. To looking at black land. Land that is being covered with panels. Land that will be impacted by the panels. Would you enjoy looking at black land every day? As it is located on hilly land no tree or fence will stop this view. What will you do? What would your visitors think? Come to my place and let's look at the black panels. Sounds great, doesn't it?

Where the solar farm is located the run off from the panels will not only cause erosion, but it will run directly into dams and into our pristine river system. Have you seen the river system out here? If not maybe you should take a drive through properties to look at the amazing river that flows through. The amount of varying animals that live here in this system is huge. A protected species is one of the most popular animals here. That is the duck-billed platypus. Have you sighted these? Amazing little animals. They only live in healthy river systems. This river system is home to many animals including black swans, many, many types of birds and fish. If this river becomes contaminated we will lose all this wildlife. We will also start to lose the wildlife that relies on this river to survive. How will this be stopped? What will it do to our livestock if it is contaminated? How will you stop erosion? Erosion cannot be stopped. I cannot see 5 workers out in the pouring rain trying to maintain the erosion occurring under their nose. How will the land be restored back to its original state when the solar farm is at the end of its life?

Minister this proposal is an absolute joke. How can anyone allow this to be developed? What a stressful period we have gone through to try stop this from happening. This shouldn't be on the cards of farmers to deal with. Farmers have enough on their plate let alone trying to fight a ridiculous solar farm being built on prime grazing land 400 metres from my kitchen window.

Signed
Mitch Hardaker

Dated
8/4/2021