

Submission of objection to Oxley Solar Farm SSD 10346

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Dear Minister

SSD No 10346 Oxley Solar Farm Armidale

I am writing to state my objection to the development application for the Oxley Solar Farm SSD 10346.

The reasons for my objections lies in the location of the planned solar farm, the lack of consultation and the concern about sustainable land use.

1. The planned solar farm will significantly affect the character of the landscape in which my property and the adjoining rural residential neighbourhood lies. The farm is of a size and aspect that it will be visible from many places in a neighbourhood where we have chosen to live due to its natural beauty and rural characteristics. The planned farm will significantly reduce the visual amenity of our own property and the value of the neighbourhood as a whole.
2. Proximity to the Oxley Wild Rivers National Parks. I am concerned about the impact on the NP itself through run off, changes of microclimate and other environmental impact. Commissioner's Waters is a breeding ground for Platypus. Run-off and resulting changes in water quality and/or water temperature could impact negatively on these animals which have a low tolerance for water quality.
3. Proximity to the Oxley Wild Rivers National Parks (2). I am also concerned about the impact on the amenity value of the recreational area at Gara Gorge (the 'Blue Hole' area) to locals and tourists. The planned solar farm due its location and size will have significant impact on the experience of a visit to this area.
4. I have not been contacted by the developer and the complete lack of community consultation by the developer is most concerning.
5. I am concerned about the sustainability of the planned development. I am not aware of arrangements for legacy management. That is, at the end of the lifetime of the solar farm, or in case of lack of rentability, at the end of the active use period, who will carry the cost of clean-up and rehabilitation? It appears that there may be solar farms which end up not profitable, and they may be abandoned and create an industrial wasteland, further impacting the amenity value as mentioned in [1] and [3].



Signed Sabine Schmoelzl

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