

## Objection to the Oxley Solar Farm Development

SSD Development No. 10346

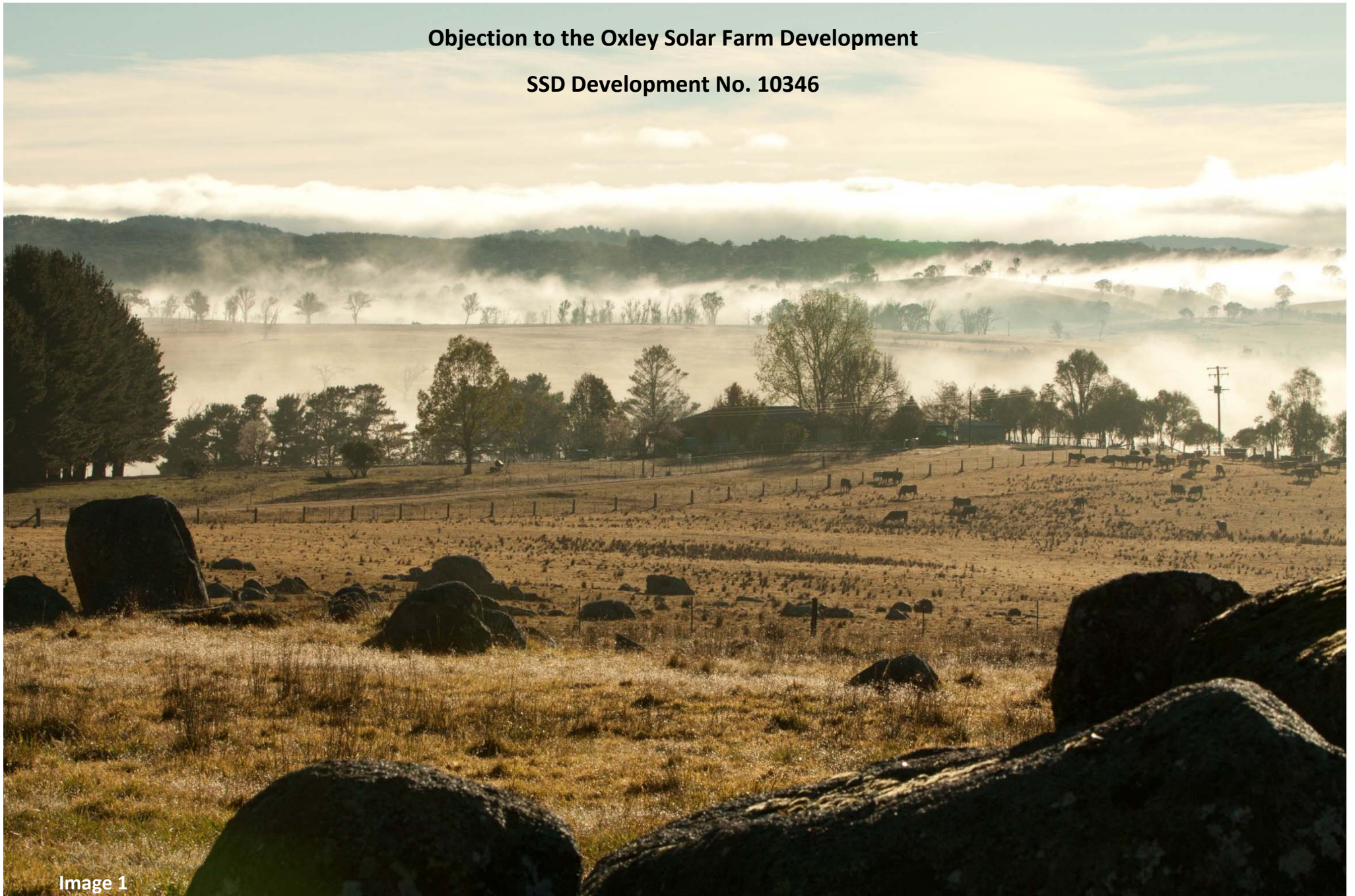


Image 1

**Upon first inspection of the proposed site, the development of a large scale industrial solar facility should be rejected.**

Others, including the Castle Doyle Road Action Group have submitted detailed objections. I will keep my objection short, based on site selection, visual amenity and environment.

### **Site Selection**

The only positive for this site is the location of the high voltage power lines.

The site slopes and drains south into Commissioners Waters and east and west into the Gara River.

Contour lines on the government's Spatial Information Exchange (SIX Maps) indicate a fall from 960m to 900m at the start of the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park and World Heritage Area.

Surely the recent floods and bush fires of last year are still fresh enough in our memories to realise that we are all powerless in the face of Mother Nature. A severe rain event during construction would most certainly cause irreparable erosion. Fire from the National Park would threaten the solar plant, and worse still, fire from the solar plant would threaten the National Park and connected forests all along the Great Dividing Range.

### **Visual Amenity**

Oxley Solar Farm's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) features 180° panoramic views specifically designed to misrepresent the true nature of the landscape. Our peripheral vision may approximate that, but it in no way reflects how we perceive things. In every image, the foreground is featured, often with 50% of the view outside the extent of the project site. Together they serve to make everything look flat, uninteresting and further away.





Image 2

Taken from the same location as OSF05, looking over the fence with a 50mm lens. The site is clearly visible, even through the only foreground trees available.

Image 1, (front page) taken 100m down the road clearly shows the landscape is not flat and will certainly not be enhanced with the mid ground covered in solar panels.





Image 3

50m east from OSF05.





Image 4

250m from the entrance to the National Park looking east. The trees on the left are visible in OSF06, top left.

Note, the cattle grazing are easily counted with the naked eye.

Image 5 (following page) 300m from the entrance to the National Park looking north.





Image 5





Image 6

Early morning, 30m from Image 5 looking north, east.



## Environment

Of greatest concern to me is that of the environment. With the National Park so close and two river systems feeding the Macleay Valley Catchment, I fear for the biodiversity of the Park and wilderness area beyond. Australia's rate of extinction is nothing to be proud of.

The wellbeing and livelihood of all who live in the valley below and those through to Kempsey and the coast could be severely jeopardised with heavy metal leaching and other pollutants. Do these people even know of this solar proposal?

Can we afford to risk this happening?

Imaging the damage without tree cover.



Image 7





Image 8





Image 9





Image 10





The government has done a remarkable job in controlling the spread of COVID-19 during the pandemic.

Please do not be remembered as the government that sacrificed the survival of endangered species and long term protection of our pristine wilderness areas for short term renewable energy gains.



