

Submission in relation to Silverleaf Solar Farm

SSD-9358

PB&MJ Smith 'Bellevue' Narrabri NSW 2390

1. We are the owners of land adjoining the development site.
2. We own lot 2/1142181.
3. We understand Mr Peter Dampney owns lot 373A/186621 & lot 1/566857 which also join the development site to the south.
4. We understand AGT owns lot 286/754944.
5. We have not been approached at any stage by the proponents in relation to the proposed development.
6. The applicant's EIS appears to suggest the neighbour to the south is only AGT, however this is not correct.
7. On one occasion Marcus Dowling spoke to me but that was in relation to a transmission line across another of our properties known as '*Bellevue*' being lot 6/224780.

Overland Flows

8. The development site is affected by overland flows.
9. The overland flows are focused on the southern boundary where we are the neighbours.
10. These overland flows – known as Back Creek - run from **east to west** (not west to east as suggested in the EIS) and occur as a result of significant catchment drainage on the eastern side of the Newell Highway.
11. The overland flows run under the Newell Highway at a point immediately north of the Greg Colyvan's residence which is on Lot 2 DP 586990 and flow in a westerly direction within the development site.
12. The flows in terms of volume and velocity are very significant in times of heavy rain.
13. The flows run across the proposed development site from east to west.
14. As the overland flows move west from the Newell Highway, they are harvested by us and by Mr Dampney and form a very important and critical water resource for our respective farming operations.
15. Both ourselves and Mr Dampney have incurred considerable expense installing water offtake structures to allow us to harvest the overland flows.
16. The water offtake structures are designed to allow overland flows from Back Creek to run into a water storage dam located on our property.

17. The water offtake structures **do not** control the overland flow – they simply collect some of the overland flow for reuse as the overland flow runs past our land.
18. The harvesting of the overland flows is regulated by Water NSW and forms part of our water licence arrangements.
- 19. It is critical that the overland flows are not blocked or diverted – even a minor structure or earthwork in the wrong place will divert the overland flows away from our established intake structure.**
20. We are particularly concerned in relation to any structure which might be built in the floodway, and in particular any fencing which may be constructed across the floodway.
21. We ask that the proponent address the issue of the Back Creek overland flows and provide us with a guarantee that the floodway which is the Back Creek overland flows will be preserved.
22. We also ask that the proponent undertake to ensure that the development acknowledges and addresses the potential significant flows which occur from time to time within Back Creek.

Other matters

23. We grow cotton on lot 2/1142181 and have done for some years. From time to time we use aerial spraying on the crop planted on that lot.
24. We are unsure as to whether cotton growing is compatible with a solar farm, however we place the proponent on notice in this regard.
25. We note also that we have, from time to time, seen koalas in the location.

Photos

26. We enclose the following photos –
 - 26.1 Photo taken 10.12.2013 showing water offtake structure constructed on Lot 2/1142181
 - 26.2 Photo taken 26.11.2011 looking west from Newell Highway showing Back Creek water running west – Greg Colyvan house immediately to left on photo.
 - 26.3 Photo taken 26.11.2011 showing Back Creek in minor flood.





