

# Dr Joe McGirr MP

Independent Member for Wagga Wagga



JM7475

16 May 2022

NSW Department of Planning

To whom it may concern

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed Walla Walla solar farm (application no. SSD-9874-Mod-2).

While I am supportive of action on climate change and renewable energy, I am concerned about the placement of solar panels on productive agricultural land and this proposed modification is likely to see an increase in the number of panels installed. I understand that with an additional 15.4 hectares of land being used, as many as 50,000 extra panels could be installed.

I am concerned about the impact these panels could have on our land and environment, rendering it useless for good agricultural production and for our unique wildlife. Agricultural land is precious. The World Bank puts Australia's arable land at less than 5 per cent of land area.

Not only will this modification take another 15.4 hectares of productive land away from agriculture, we have no idea what the long-term impact of hosting these panels will be for the land. The vegetation under the panels will not be enough to manage dry land salinity and the water table will rise.

With both a review by the Agriculture Commissioner under way and the new Large Scale Solar Energy Guideline still in draft form, I believe it is unwise to grant approval to any new solar factory developments until these have been finalised.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe McGirr'.

Dr Joe McGirr, MP  
Member for Wagga Wagga

64 Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

P (02) 6921 1622 F (02) 6921 4424  
E [waggawagga@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:waggawagga@parliament.nsw.gov.au)  
www.joemcgirr.com.au

