

Director Energy Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2000

To whom it may concern,

My name is Diana Carter (nee Friedrich) and I am writing on behalf of the Friedrich family, who own the property "Hilltop" 1309 Gerogery Rd, Gerogery. The property has been in our family for over 140 years and continues to be run as a family business by Ross & Ruth Friedrich and Justin & Diana Carter. We have a mixed farming enterprise and produce sheep for wool and meat as well as running a successful Angus Stud.

We would like to **formally object** to the proposed Jindera Solar Farm for the following reasons:

1. **WATER**

As described in the EIS Kilnacraft Creek and Dead Horse Creek both run through the planned site. Both of these creeks are tributaries of Bowna Creek. The Bowna Creek and the Dead Horse Creek come together and meet on our property "Hilltop", with the Kilnacraft Creek having already fed into the Bowna Creek upstream of us.

With the future development of the Glenellen Solar Farm also being situated on the Kilnacraft Creek and directly next to the Bowna creek we believe there will be a huge impact on the amount of water runoff from these two sites. It's easy to say there will be no effects seen at the site but we are worried about the cumulative effects of both projects and how it will impact on the waterways downstream. It is not unusual for these creeks to run at capacity after a rain event and with the proposed changes to the use of land and the filling in of dams on the site we believe the runoff will increase the flows at peak times resulting in damage to properties downstream.

2. **DUST**

Our property "Hilltop" is situated North-East of the proposed site. If a dust issue arises we will be impacted as during the dry summer months most wind comes from the direction of the development. It is described that they will be able to maintain vegetation under the panels but in dry times and without the ability to cultivate and maintain the entire site we believe dust will become a big problem.

3. **FIRE**

Being situated North-East of the proposed site we are very worried about the fire risk to our property. With wind from that direction being very common in summer we believe a fire started within the site or involving the site will impact directly on us. As members of the Gerogery Bushfire Brigade we are very aware of the dangers involved with structure and industrial type fires, including solar panels. There is huge potential for toxic gasses being omitted from the site meaning local fire brigades would not be able to work in the vicinity of the site. This can lead to a fire becoming larger and impacting on more surrounding properties. From a landowner perspective we are worried

about the possibilities of a fire reaching our property and also the risk of toxic gasses being added to smoke drifting onto our property.

4. HEAT

The risk of the solar farm creating a Heat Island Effect is also concerning. With a lack of relevant studies that can be related to this project it is worrying what affect it will have on neighbouring properties. If the Heat Effect is confined to the site itself it will impact their ability to maintain vegetation as promised. Increased soil temperature, lack of sunlight and water being shielded from the panel will make it extremely hard to grow vegetation directly under the panels. This will result in bare ground, leading to water shedding during rain events and increased dust during dry windy times.

5. DEVALUATION OF LAND

As a surrounding landowner we are worried that the installation of this project will have a negative effect on land prices in the area. Not only for the houses and properties within very short distances of the site but also for the wider community. We are fortunate to be in a highly sought after area with highly productive land that is suited to farming. We believe that any of the negative effects listed earlier will have an impact on the price of our land in the future.

In conclusion we would like to acknowledge that a transition to renewable energy sources is important for the future. However, we believe the positioning of this development will have far too many adverse impacts on the local community. As farmers we think the highly productive land that the site will be on should be continued to be used as farm land not for an industrial type activity, and we believe there would be land far better suited to this activity in other parts of NSW.

Yours faithfully,
Diana Carter.

On behalf of Ross & Ruth Friedrich and Justin & Diana Carter.

'Hilltop'

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