

Submission of Objection

SSD-9874 Walla Walla Solar Farm.

Please find below reasons for my objection to the above mentioned project.

Once again I find myself struggling for time to review and offer dialogue around these proposals, it really is the hardest time of the year for us and I gather that someone who works a 38 hour week or even 35 hour week with flexi time can ever understand what it is like to work a minimum 15 hour day, nearly every day for 6 to 8 weeks through this busiest period of the year for us out here. To even allow these proposals to hit the ground at this time of year shows a distinct lack of understanding for rural areas and rural industries, this does not instil me with great confidence moving forward during the review process.

Whilst you sit inside your concrete jungle office, or go home to your leafy inner city suburb, or maybe even lucky enough to live in a sea side suburb and contemplate the future of where I live, please think of the following;

- We are not the big power users out here, never have been never will be. We are also not the big polluters out here, we actually process your urban pollution and turn it into soil carbon, food and the very air you breathe with the crops and pastures we grow and the multitude of trees we have on our properties. So why should we have to bear the pain for you to continue to live in a polluting city.
- Once again I look across the state of NSW and see drought and devastating fires, once again through the affect of drought and poor planning in fuel load control, however our little area down here in one of the worst years on record for the majority of the state has produced a plethora of hay and crops. Hay that has yielded between 5.5 tonne/ha to 7.5 tonne/ha and oil seed crops averaging 2 tonne/ha and grain crops averaging 3.5 tonne/ha in what has been a tough season for us also, however we still produce. Our hay is going all over the state and into Queensland helping the nations food bowl to survive their current predicament and all the while produce food so you urban dwellers can survive. The loss of agricultural land in our area by any of these solar proposals would be a travesty as it is a very small percentage of NSW that is currently producing food and for that to be lost is immeasurable.
- The dialogue around the heat island affect is pitiful, all proponents so far have based their data on European models which have a totally different climate to Australia and the size of the solar plants in their research are all below 100ha, nothing near the size of the proposals for our area here, look to the heat island affect data from South America and Africa if you want a realistic assessment. There is no dialogue around the prevailing north westerly winds and the affect it will have on the immediate landholder to the east of the proposal with the heat emanating from this proposal
- I have been to many solar sites during and post construction phases and it is not a very environmentally friendly picture, all the dialogue regarding due diligence and compliance is wasted talk as the sites are not well protected, no protection or respect for neighbours, three of the sites I have visited in recent times being Finley, Darlington Point and Bomen should have had non compliance reports issued on each of those visits, but alas not a DPIE representative anywhere to be seen. As I alluded to Mike Young at a recent forum I actually

contacted the EPA in regards to excessive dust pollution emanating from the Finley site only to be told that it is a dry time currently, seems like no one in government is interested in our plight or well being out here, nothing unusual about that.

- Once again the land capability assessment is joke worthy, this is very real and very prime agricultural land. The recent trip conducted by DPIE would show this to be the case and not the assessment provided by NGH Environmental. How could NGH Environmental representatives set foot in the paddock to do tree hollow assessments and then not deduce that they have given an erroneous judgement on land capability. Easy they are paid to tell a story that helps the developer, ever wondered why NGH Environmental are doing all the environmental assessments?
- There is a long established family business that runs a function centre and eco tourism business to the south east of the proposal, the unsightly view that will emanate from this proposal will more than likely kill off this well known local business and that is a major factor that should be taken into account when reviewing this proposal.
- In all four of the solar proposals we have seen to date not one host landholder has had any thought for their immediate neighbours or their community at large and the short or long term affect their proposal will have on that community
- None of the host proponents actually work their farm, both properties are leased / share farmed which tells you a lot about how they view their land. Jobs will be lost from the agricultural sector and the share farmers who have geared themselves up to work these properties now will find themselves overly invested in equipment etc and nowhere to use it
- The proposed sub station location adjacent to the property Mountain View should be relocated to the southern boundary of the proposed sight and in view of the host landholders not the neighbours, this part of the proposal just goes to show the disdain the host landholders and the proponents have for the local people
- Taking up every last acre to the east of one host property and impacting on the Orange Grove Function Centre and having no immediate panels in view of their own house once again is rife with disdain for the local community
- We try and protect our vegetated areas and once again we see a proposal that warrants the removal of 13 hectares of bushland and 53 mature paddock trees, we would do a jail term if we cleared that area, why are rules bent so easily, where are the offset plantings just like I would have to do if I cleared this amount of vegetation, what are they proposing to use to keep the groundwater table at bay now that the trees are going to be gone, we will be battling dryland salinity in a very short time.

There really needs to be a better way forward with these proposals for renewable energy, just because we have a bit of electrical infrastructure in our area shouldn't be the major decision maker for installing these juggernauts in our area, the government should be more wisely investing our tax dollar in areas of lower population impact, better solar irradiance, less damage to the agriculture sector, we cant eat panels and we cant eat power.

So please consider the agricultural and human impact these proposals will have before you turn our beautiful landscape into a scene from Mad Max or Blade Runner, and finally be honest with yourselves and contemplate living next to it.

Thanks
Jim Parrett

