

Walla Walla Solar Farm
Rob Beckett
Environmental Assessment Officer

1st December 2019

Dear Mr R Beckett,

RE: Objection to Walla Walla Solar Farm – SSD – 9874

I greatly object to the Walla Walla Solar Farm, it is totally in the wrong area. Australia is a large country; solar projects should not be in populated areas where they take highly productive land such as this proposed project.

The guidelines for solar projects state Important Agriculture Land should not be fragmented or displaced of existing agriculture industries and any cumulative impacts of multiple developments.

The Multidevelopments they mention in the EIS:

Glenellen Solar Farm
Jindera Solar Farm
Culcairn Solar Farm
Walla Walla Solar Farm

All of these FOUR Projects are definitely Fragmenting and Displacing our Agriculture Industry. It also is having a terrible social impact on our communities. The applicant states all is manageable, that's because they do not live here and are not part of the communities.

These projects of thousands of acres of solar panels will create a corridor under and nearby the existing transmission lines. The visual effects on such developments will just be horrendous, on landscape character, values and the visual effects of neighbouring business and communities, not to mention the noise impact on construction also just the ongoing noise that they emit. This area is very populated with towns and villages all in close proximity.

This project poses great fire risk even though the applicant makes a statement that the development site is not mapped as bushfire prone land, all land in the country is prone to fires.

Most people accept solar but not when it takes Important Agriculture Land. The applicant states the Important Agriculture Land to be Class 4 and Class 6. This land is under review by The Department of Primary Industries, Pine Gully Rd, Wagga Wagga (April 2019).

Riverina Murray Draft Important Agriculture Land Mapping

1. State changes are being made to the draft Important Agriculture Land mapping
2. Notice of the changes is being determined.

I have this information, so too would the applicant, I object to them creating their own Class numbers?

I would ask planning to allow the land to remain as agriculture land to continue to provide food, fodder, employment, socially, economically and to play a part in the ecosystem and environment for generations to come. Planning solar in an area where it does not impact on so many and it also can generate for many years to come, not just thirty years, look to plan for long into the future just like the original Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Power Project did. This way we are not losing one industry to another, we need both.

This Walla Walla Solar Project is **NOT** justifiable or acceptable at the proposed site.