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02/12/2019

NSW Government/ Planning, Industry & Environment

**Dear Mrs Patterson**

*Application number. SSD-9097*

I am writing to object to the development proposal put forward by Renewable energy developments for the installation of an 80-Megawatt solar farm.

As itemised in RED's development proposal we/I live within 1km of the proposed site and yes I have signed an agreement for a 132kv powerline easement on my property to conduct electricity to either the existing powerline on my property or to the major substation to the south. Although I have signed the easement agreement, I am still opposed to the development. At the time of negotiations with both Colin and David Liebman regarding the easement, I wasn't aware there was an avenue in which to express my concerns in relation to the development. The agreement to the easement was strictly a business decision.

As there was no consultation or correspondence with myself regarding issues, I may have had with the other two solar farms (within 2 km of my home) and the fact that the developments went ahead, I had no idea there was an avenue to express my concerns and/or to stop the developments.

The petition that my family and I have signed is being presented to our local member. In support of this, I will explain how the Quorn Park Solar Farm (QPSF) will adversely impact on my farm, my family and my life as brought to my attention by the items listed on the petition as well as touching on my own issues regarding the development of this solar factory.

This development will transform our quiet rural setting and turn it into a massive 470 Hectare solar energy factory. (A similar size to both the other solar farms put together ). There will be a man-proof fence built all around it with security lighting, catching our eye at night and preventing us from enjoying a moonlit night. In addition to this, there will be power inverters humming away in our ears for the next "MINIMUM" of 30 years. QPSF have

not given any accurate figure relating to decibels of noise emitted by their power inverters. They have only provided an estimate yet failed to mention how they will **prevent** any or all noise from them affecting their neighbours. Sound carries for kilometres at night and in the early morning in the bush, especially if the air is still. We always hear the trains at night from 6km away and QPSF will be a lot closer to us.

If the QPSF has a proposed working life of 30 years, what does Renewal Energy Developments (RED) propose to have in place to guarantee that there will be enough funds to cover the complete removal and disposal of all components of the solar factory? If it costs \$160 million to build, that means that there will be an awfully big mess to clean up. How recyclable are the panels?

If I can't prevent the solar farm from being built am I still expected to be liable for any damage caused to the solar farm through an incident coming from activities my property? If so, will I be expected to carry \$160 Million worth of liability insurance to cover an enterprise that I have no way of preventing from coming into my area. If so, how much will that enterprise effect the value of my home?

"Warrawee" has been owned by the McGrath family since the 1930's. I am the fourth generation owner. It has always been planned for me by me to build a house on top of the hill since I was a young adult. There is a rocky knob at the top of the hill with beautiful views to the North East. I married my wife up there with all my family and friends in attendance. In August 2017, my father handed the farm down to me via an intergenerational transfer after which, if he survives 3 years it is officially mine and I have every intention to build a new home on top of the hill.

The hill, "McGrath's Hill" is made up of an outcrop of Monzonite rock and is elevated 30 metres above the solar factory. If the solar factory goes ahead, it will take out 30% of the view over the valley where "Quorn Park" lies. I am deeply concerned about the effect of the reflection of light off the panels and how this will impact on the liveability of my dream home on top of the hill. Would it be a liability of QPSF?

Yours Sincerely,

**Stephen McGrath**

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