

Why people object to the HUGE Culcairn Solar Plant

1317 Hectares / 3254 Acres - 1,100,000 Solar Panels

Site Selection

- We are not opposed to renewable energy - but the placement of it
- Government planning to further assess already identified renewable energy zones is required
- Not all land is equal in terms of reliable agricultural production
- Transmission lines on flat land should not be the driving factor for renewable energy projects
- Increased reliance on imported food brings its own significant issues such as market volatility and biosecurity concerns

Agriculture

- Loss of productive crop land in reliable farming area
- Crops in our area provide hay, grain and grazing
- Potential to produce up to 12,400 tonnes of hay per year
- Could feed excess of 22,000 cattle in a normal feeding regime
- Fodder can help support fire and drought affected areas including nearby Upper Murray
- Farmers undertaking current agricultural practices provide effective management for the health of the land
- Neighbouring farmers worried about impacts to their business, livestock and cropping production as per research
- Flow on long term loss to agricultural related businesses
- Short term jobs during construction at long term expense to agriculture.
- Sheep grazing claims cannot compare to local productivity with cropping capabilities

Fire

- Rural Fire Service (RFS) brigade members seriously concerned about increased fire threat to neighbours and nearby towns
- WHS issues such as electrocution, entrapment and toxic exposure will prevent RFS members from combating fires inside the facility
- Development land mapped as bushfire prone near Culcairn and Walla Walla towns
- In close proximity to heavily treed Billabong Creek, stock reserve, Walla Gum Swamp, Culcairn Gas Pumping Station, pipeline and Culcairn Tip
- Hairy Panic accumulation around the panels and high security fencing may also be a major fire management issue.

Environment

- The area is a haven for wildlife particularly in the riparian areas of waterways
- Habitat and displacement of wildlife on the site from hollow logs
- Waterways nearby the site have significant frog populations, migratory birds and many species of flora and fauna including some threatened and vulnerable species
- 99 Paddock trees to be removed.

Visual Impact

- Solar infrastructure is visually confronting
- The notion that solar panels have a low visual profile is rejected
- Amazing rural outlook turned to an industrial site.
- Small tube stock tree lines will take years to grow
- Vegetation screening inadequate
- Proposed landscape changes causing neighbours mental anguish
- Greater Hume is supposed to be the shire to "Live a Greater Life".

Picture: Colleambally Solar Vs the currently pleasing agricultural outlook at Culcairn



Roads/Traffic

- Noise, dust and road pressures from 300 passenger vehicle movements and 100 heavy vehicle movements during peak construction
- Compound road pressures if Walla Walla and Culcairn projects go ahead
- 16 to 18 months disruption for construction at proposed Culcairn site
- Financial and safety risks to roads

There are so many other issues to consider. See past the misleading marketing, fancy brochures and community enticements.

We suggest you view the EIS yourself on the NSW Planning Portal at the link below.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Make an online objection to the NSW Department of Planning via the website <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10916>

Prior to closing date of 27 February 2020

For information on how to make an online submission go to the NSW Planning Website – Have Your Say section <https://bit.ly/2UhQkoi> or watch youtube video at <https://bit.ly/2UcwL0J>

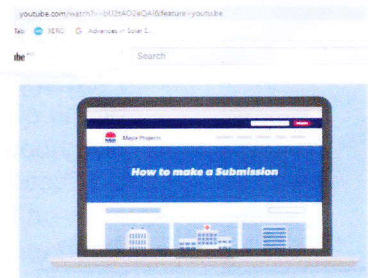
Note: Through the website you can upload documents as attachments.

OR Make an objection in writing and post to:

Planning Services, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment,
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

Your objection in writing must include:

1. Your name and address at the top of the letter only
2. The name of the application: **Culcairn Solar Farm** and application number: **SSD-10288**
3. A statement that you object to the proposal and the reasons why.
4. A declaration of any reportable political donations made in the previous two years.



The submission MUST REACH THE ADDRESS before the close of the exhibition period being 27 February 2020
Note: You can request your name be withheld but do not include personal information you do not want published.

For detailed information visit: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/have-your-say>

NEED HELP OR NOT SURE?

We appreciate that you are concerned about your community and are happy to help at a time and location suitable to you, phone or text 0492 855 252, leave a message and we will reply OR email saynocs@gmail.com and we can email further information.

Concerned neighbours will be available with information and a laptop to assist anyone that needs help to make an objection at the following locations:

Culcairn Pub	Sunday 9 February	1.30 – 4pm
Walla Walla Hall	Monday 10 February	6 - 8.30 pm
Culcairn Pub	Friday 21 February	6 - 8.30 pm

