

I am concerned about the development of this solar farm west of Culcairn and would like to lodge my objection.

I am not opposed to renewable energy but just the placement of this big industrial solar farm in one of the most reliable cropping areas in New South Wales.

Australia has a small percentage of land that is suitable for cropping.

According to the ABARES in 2010-2011 3.72% of Australia's landmass was used for cropping (<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/aclump/land-use>)

In 2016-2017 this decreased to 2.3% that was cropped due to the drought (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4627.0>).

Although figures are not yet out for 2017-2018 & 2018-2019 we know that the drought further decreased cropping over those years. Culcairn is one of the few areas that consistency can produce dryland crops because of its climatic conditions, rainfall and soil suitability. In all of these years stated above the Culcairn & Walla Walla areas have produced grain crops. It is very reliable cropping country.

We need to hold onto this important land for food production. When much of Australia and indeed New South Wales is arid and not suitable for cropping, I do not understand why prime agricultural land is being proposed for industrial solar farms. We can put solar farms on arid country but we can't turn arid country into productive cropping land.

By 2050 global populations expected to be 9-10 billion people which will require a 50-70% increase in food production to feed this growth.

We need to be forward thinking in the planning of these renewable energy sites. Use land that has little agricultural value and save the best agricultural country for producing our food.