

This is a picture of our son, he cannot wait until he is old enough to drive this tractor for his Uncle and continue on farming as so many generations have done before him.



He would like to follow in the footsteps of his cousins, Uncle and Poppy by farming this prime agricultural land that is located next to this industrial project called Culcairn Solar farm (as per quoted in the Environmental Impact Statement - EIS).

How can you call this project a farm?

A dictionary definition of farm "...is an area of land that is devoted primarily agricultural processes with the primary objective of producing food and other crops; it is the basic facility in food production".

That definition of "farm" is exactly what my family demonstrate.

My family have always ensured that their farming practices were diversified to ensure any downturn in an area, that is a decrease in wool / grain / livestock prices. They have encountered many floods and droughts but due to their diversity in farming practices have managed to overcome these adversities due to sheer hard work. They are honest hardworking farmers who care about the land they live and work on. They have great pride in their land and are extremely proud to grow food for our family and your families.

This project has severely impacted us and our families health and wellbeing due to the constant stress of fighting for their farming future and livelihood. The slander about my family has significantly impacted on the health of my parents, nephews, brother and sister in law. But they have held their head up high as they are not dishonest people.

The EIS is full of many mistakes and non-factual information... for instance pg. 166 & 167 "Culcairn has the largest Lutheran Church in NSW and Culcairn includes St Paul's Lutheran School and the Culcairn Pioneer Museum". In fact Walla Walla has the largest Lutheran Church in NSW and St Paul's Lutheran School is located in Henty and the township of Jindera have the Pioneer Museum (not Culcairn). These are some facts that are wrong so how can we believe other items in the Environmental Impact Statement are factual and not fabricated to support this project.

It should also be noted that the landowners that wish to have the solar on their land have not grazed sheep on their property for many years as noted in the article from Landcare (please see link below), so my question is why would they go back to grazing sheep knowing that they had an issue with the weed Silverleaf Nightshade??

<https://holbrooklandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/JSchoff-Case-Study.pdf>

At the last Greater Hume Shire Council Meeting on the 19 February 2020, it stated that there has been a strong increase in farmland values (as per the NSW Valuer General December 2019 report) - with the actual figure of 67.24% average increase in property valuation for farmland. Why is the farmland in this shire increasing so much? Such a simple answer, because it is prime agricultural land that is able to consistently supply food and fodder, raise livestock and they can do this on this land even when there are droughts.

This project is wrong for this area. Prime agricultural land should not be used for such projects. My son when he is old enough would like to work on this prime agricultural land and to be able to continue to provide the food and fodder for Australian families.

There needs to be more incentives for individual households and for all new houses built to have solar installed on their own property so that they generate their own electricity.

PLEASE DO NOT SPOIL MY SONS DREAM TO BE A FARMER BY SACRIFICING PRIME AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR SUCH PROJECTS.