

I would like to object to the Culcairn Solar Project on the following grounds, it's totally in the wrong area and the proponent is only interested in one thing to obtain access to the high voltage transmission lines. The proponent has played down everything in the EIS by the clever use of words, no importance has been placed on the important prime agriculture land. Culcairn is known as the Oasis of the Riverina, having Australia's largest artesian water supply. The Billabong Creek is unique in the fact it is the longest creek in the world and has vast areas of productive land also has an important wildlife corridor for the Murray Region. Many farmers in this area are generational farmers.

Large – Scale Solar Energy Guideline for State Significant Development December 2018

Key Site Constraints

Agriculture:

Soil capability classes 1,2 and 3.

This is no ordinary area of land, it is Fertile Billabong Creek flats, that do **flood**. Soil Capability and Biophysical Strategic Agriculture Land has not been mapped. If and when it is mapped its Soil capability classes would be 1 or 2. how can it meet the criteria when it hasn't been mapped?

Displacement of existing agriculture

Displacement of agriculture industry in this area for twenty to thirty years of this Solar Project is very short sighted as far as our ongoing food production for Australia. Being able to produce our own food, so not importing, with profits staying in Australia. To approve this project is not good business, to displace one industry that produces even in drought to be replaced by an industry that will be out dated by twenty to thirty years. A lot of emissions will be created in the establishing and decommissioning of this short-term industry.

Cumulative impacts of multiple developments

- Culcairn Solar Farm – Prepare EIS.
- Walla Walla Solar Farm – Prepare EIS.
- Jindera Solar Farm – Prepare EIS.
- Glenellen Solar Farm – Proposal
- Culcairn Solar Farm – Withdrawn.

Cumulative impact No evidence to say it's safe to build collective solar projects of this proposed scale in one area. It would be unwise to put so much and so many at risk. Cumulative impact can occur if overseas companies own the power generated, they can sell this power to whomever they wish, leaving Australia in the dark if this industry becomes an export industry.

Visually The scenic outlook for nearby residents is just horrific to have to contend with this view on a daily base. The mental anguish to deal with looking at, over a million panels, one cannot begin to imagine. No number of tree plantings/screening will block out some residents. Visually it would not enhance the tourist industry as Solar Panels are not pretty and do not compare with the beautiful countryside that we presently have and is here for every Australian to enjoy.

Biodiversity It is stated in the EIS there has been consultation with the Local Landcare Group, there is no documentation of this happening. The farmers in this area are all well conversed land managers, are highly skilled in management practises with good knowledge, expertise, inputs, investments and technology using the most up to date equipment and techniques, most certainly not **heavy disturbance of the land** as stated in EIS. It is shown in the EIS their lack of understanding of agriculture and farming.

Residences This is very much an urbanised area in a rural way, there are many towns and villages in the Greater Hume Shire all within twenty minutes of another. The 34 residences within 3km that has been mentioned in the EIS, if you go North East of the project you will have hit the town boundary of Culcairn so the number would increase dramatically. Culcairn's town water supply is sourced from underground water, if contamination was to occur, it could have a deadly effect, as would be the same with the Billabong Creek that borders this project. All residences and residents will be put at great risk by this large project, whether it be safety, fire, health, noise, dust, visual the list goes on, not to mention the down turn in the agriculture industry.

I would please ask planning to adhere to the guidelines for such projects, and consider the country and residents. There has been unbelievable community damage done in the way the proponent has dealt with this project.