



NAME REDACTED	OBJECT	Submission No: 189649
Organisation:	Key issues: Cumulative impacts	
Location: <i>Location redacted</i>		
Submitter Type: <i>an individual making a submission on my own behalf</i>		
Attachment:		

Submission date: 7/31/2024 4:12:49 PM

Dear Members of the New South Wales Independent Planning Commission,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed Wallaroo Solar Farm development. I believe that the siting of solar farms should be restricted to industrial areas rather than prime residential and farming land. This objection is based on several key considerations, which I will outline below.

1. Preservation of Prime Agricultural Land

The proposed location for the Wallaroo Solar Farm encompasses significant tracts of prime agricultural land. This land is not only fertile and productive but also supports local food security and agricultural economies. Transforming this valuable farmland into a solar farm would result in the irreversible loss of a vital resource. Prime agricultural land should be protected for its primary purpose—“food production”—especially as the world faces increasing food security challenges. By placing solar farms in industrial areas, we can ensure that our agricultural lands remain available for cultivation and livestock grazing, which are essential to the well-being of our communities and economy.

2. Impact on Residential Amenity and Community Character

The proposed development is situated near residential areas, which raises significant concerns about the impact on local communities. The installation of a large-scale solar farm will alter the character of the region, affecting the aesthetic value and tranquillity that residents cherish. The presence of solar panels, substations, and related infrastructure will be visually intrusive, disrupting the scenic views and rural charm that defines the neighbourhood.

Additionally, the construction and maintenance phases of the solar farm may generate noise, dust, and traffic, which would disrupt the daily lives of local residents. Such disruptions are more appropriately situated in industrial zones, where they would be less likely to negatively affect community life.

3. Environmental Concerns

The conversion of natural landscapes and agricultural land into solar farms can have significant environmental consequences. Solar farm construction often requires land clearing, which can lead to habitat loss for local wildlife. Furthermore, the installation of solar panels can alter local ecosystems and water drainage patterns, potentially leading to soil erosion and degradation.

In contrast, industrial areas are already developed and often lack significant natural habitats. By situating solar farms in these zones, we can minimise environmental impacts and reduce the likelihood of harming local biodiversity.

4. Land Use Compatibility and Zoning

The proposed Wallaroo Solar Farm development is incompatible with existing land use patterns in the area. The region is predominantly characterized by residential and agricultural activities, which are not compatible with



industrial-scale energy production facilities. Allowing the solar farm to proceed in this location would set a concerning precedent for future land use planning, potentially leading to a piecemeal approach to development that undermines coherent regional planning strategies.

Zoning regulations exist to protect the integrity and purpose of different land use categories. By respecting these regulations and placing industrial projects like solar farms within designated industrial zones, we can maintain the distinct functions and character of our communities.

5. Economic Considerations and Property Values

The establishment of a solar farm in a primarily residential and agricultural area will likely have negative economic consequences for local residents. Property values in the vicinity of industrial developments often decline, as potential buyers may be deterred by the presence of large-scale infrastructure projects. This will lead to decreased wealth for homeowners and reduced attractiveness of the area for new residents and agricultural businesses.

Moreover, the economic benefits of solar farms, such as job creation and energy production, do not necessarily outweigh the economic losses experienced by local residents. These benefits can still be realised if solar farms are sited in industrial areas, where the economic impacts are more likely to be positive or neutral.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while I support the transition to renewable energy and the development of solar infrastructure, I strongly believe that the Wallaroo Solar Farm should not be built on prime residential and farming land. The preservation of agricultural land, protection of residential amenities, environmental considerations, land use compatibility, and economic impacts all argue for the location of solar farms in industrial zones.

I urge the New South Wales Independent Planning Commission to reject the proposed development in its current form and to consider alternative locations more suitable for such industrial projects. We must prioritise sustainable and appropriate land use planning to protect our communities and environment for future generations.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I trust that the Commission will take these objections into account in its decision-making process.
