

Presentation to IPC

RE- Orange grove Rd proposed solar farm.

Mr Chairman

I Rob Galton speaking on behalf of my family and close neighbours & friends oppose the proposed construction of a solar farm which is joining my property on its southern boundary, and my southern boundary is the Namoi river.

Before I ask you some questions to take into consideration, I must make you aware that I am not opposed to solar energy in any way or form, my concern here is the location of the panels & security fencing.

In the event of a Namoi river flood there are many tributaries which include:-

Upstream, the Peel & Cockburn rivers which flow west from Tamworth joining up with the Namoi approximately 10 km upstream from this site.

Approx 5km downstream from this site the Mooki River enters into the Namoi River,

Joining the Namoi River @ Gunnedah is the Rangari creek.

Then @ Boggabri the coxs creek enters the Namoi River.

Along with all the unnamed creeks that run into the Namoi during a heavy rain events.

Also you have keepit dam which when at 100+%, NSW State water commence releasing water onto the already swollen river system as a safety precaution for its asset being Lake Keepit.

What I am eluding to here, is the fact that when all these rivers & creeks converge on each other which in time will happen again, there is only one way for the water to go, which is further & further away

from the main channels causing major flooding & destruction of man-made & natural resources.

When a moderate to major flood happens, we are cut off from town sometimes for up to a week. One point I would like to know is how did **independent expert advice** of flood levels be collated when there is absolutely no way anyone from town can get out here to make "suggestions" of where the water goes. Your only experts in the field are the people that live here and know what procedure's to undertake to survive in such an event.

The so called security drop fence will act like a large contour bank once it is completely covered in flood debris. I'm not sure if you are familiar with flood events in the upper Namoi valley sir but, the water is fast moving and very dangerous, no engineering fencing feat will match the might & power of several thousand mega litres of water moving rapidly along its chosen route each & every hour during moderate to major flooding . Each flood is different, there is never two the same as each other, because of the large catchment area which feeds this particular part of the Namoi flood plain.

Local council regulations are for any building to be approved in this direct flood area must be surrounded by a **1.8 metre contour bank**, which you will notice tomorrow on your site inspection of the home built onsite on Myalla. This solar farm proposal is to be built on **ground level**. In my opinion the security fence once, full of flood debris will become a major contour bank during a flood event ensuring flood water will be moved to new areas where we haven't seen before including inundation of the surrounding family homes, sheds, & private assets.

My wife Prue & three children under six years Cooper, Pippa & Rosie & I have lived @ 726 orange grove rd for almost 12 years. The Namoi rivers **1st major breakout** site between keepit dam & Gunnedah for flows onto the northern side of the river is on my property. As you

will see tomorrow on a site inspection there is a large gully & watercourse which flows directly from the Namoi River in an north westerly direct to the heart of this solar farm site. I can recall upon 7 different flood events, In consultation with neighbouring land holders who have lived in this direct vicinity for many more years than I have, I am constantly reminded that I haven't witnessed & been a involved in a large flood in my twelve yrs. The last time all tributaries flowed together & caused major damage was in the year 2000. Considering the expected life span of this proposed solar farm (30 yrs) it is **inevitable to happen again**. We must be nearly due for another.

I ask you to consider the following questions-

Why, should such large construction proposal should be approved in a major flood area?

Why, should such a large construction proposal be approved on some of the richest agricultural land in Australia, where many winter & summer crops thrive, cattle & sheep & lambs are renowned across Australia as being grazed the Namoi river flats?

I have travelled over most of Australia threw my 20 yrs as a livestock agent, I can assure you that the riverside flats downstream from keepit dam to Gins leap west of Boggabri is the best grazing country you'll find, bar none.

I am also deeply concerned for our close neighbours & friends with young family's and children on the northern boundary to the proposed project. They too have invested a lot of money & hard work to live in this pristine part of this Namoi valley.

I am sure there is a lot less productive land than this proposed orange grove rd site, in this great state & country that would be more suited to solar production that will not be affected by moderate to major natural disaster events as discussed previously.

I hope you take these & all other speakers' valid & very important points into consideration, and you are able to put our concerns into perspective upon your arrival of your site visit tomorrow.

Thank you for your time.

