

From: [REDACTED]
To: [IPCN Submissions Mailbox](#)
Subject: Glanmire Solar Farm
Date: Sunday, 3 December 2023 10:20:11 AM
Attachments: [MINESOILS Report Glanmire 6% Cropping.pdf](#)

Dear Commissioners

At the recent public sub-missions held at Rydges on 30/11/2023, myself and some of the other speakers quoted that Bathurst LGA has only 6% of cropping land available out of all the agricultural land available in the Bathurst LGA.

We were asked by the Commissioners where these figures came from. They are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) I have attached page 16 &17 of MINESOILS report showing the figures for your convenience.

Regards

Peter Rogers

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2.3 REGIONAL LANDFORM

2.3.1 REGIONAL LANDFORM CHARACTERISTICS

The Central West comprises an area of 6.3 million ha, stretching from the elevated Central Tablelands on the western side of the Blue Mountains, and extending almost 500km to the Central West Plains.

The region includes the LGAs of Bathurst, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, and Weddin. The Study Area is also captured within the Central West Slopes and Plains Sub Region, an area of 94,215km² which incorporated land in both the Lachlan and Macquarie river valleys, including Parkes, Forbes, Weddin, Lachlan, Dubbo, Warrumbungle, Gilgandra, Coonamble, Narromine, Warren and Bogan.

The Central Tablelands sub-region is broadly located in the Upper Lachlan, Lachlan Slopes, Upper Macquarie and Mid Macquarie sub catchments. It covers the western fall of the Great Dividing Range and includes the towns of Lithgow in the east to Cowra in the west, and Gulgong in the north to Oberon in the south.

The Central Tablelands is distinguished from other Australian regions by its dissected ranges, granite basins and once extensive woodlands. The Lachlan and Macquarie Rivers are the major drainage systems. River She-oak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) dominates the riparian vegetation at lower elevations while Ribbon Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) is more often encountered higher up. Much of the remaining vegetation occurs on the poorer granitic soils, composing dry sclerophyll forests dominated by eucalypts (NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust, 2023).

At the scale of the Bathurst Regional Council LGA, the region consists of two physical components, the Bathurst Basin and the tablelands area, which are drained by the Fish, Campbells, Macquarie and Turon Rivers to the north and the Isabella and Abercrombie Rivers to the south. Fertile alluvial soils occur along valley floors and along the Macquarie River through the LGA.

Topography of the region ranges from slightly undulating to rough and very steep country. Approximately 20 km to the east of the Study Area is the folded and faulted sedimentary and metamorphosed formations of the Great Dividing Range which runs roughly north-south.

2.3.2 REGIONAL GEOLOGY

The region occurs in the Lachlan Fold Belt, composed of Cambrian to Early Carboniferous sedimentary and volcanic rocks. Valleys between ranges in this area are generally either granite or softer rocks like shale, phyllite or slate. Granites are common across the Lachlan Fold Belt area, occurring either as basins surrounded by steep hills, or as rock outcrops and plateaus (NSW NPWS, 2003).

The northern section of the Bathurst Regional Council LGA comprises sandstones, conglomerates, greywack, siltstones, limestones and minor volcanos whilst the central basin is comprised predominately of granite soils. The southern section is more complex with siltstones, sandstones, greywacks, shales and chert, basalt and granite intrusions, embedded volcanic and limestones (Watkins et al, 1997). The dominant underlying geology of the Study Area is the Early Carboniferous to Carboniferous Bathurst granite, which consists of coarse-grained, porphyritic biotite granite, porphyritic granite and granodiorite, aplite (refer **Figure 5**).

2.4 REGIONAL LAND USE

2.4.1 AGRICULTURAL LAND USE

The Central Tablelands region covers over 3 million hectares, with 78% of land under agricultural production (BOM and the CSIRO, 2019), containing 3.2% of NSW's agricultural land (NSW Local Land Services, 2023). European settlers first inhabited the region in the early 1820s and found the grassy woodlands and plains on basalt soils attractive for both grazing and cropping.



At the scale of the LGA, Bathurst Regional Council covers an area of 4,720 km² and supports a population of approximately 44,000 people, and includes the city of Bathurst and nine rural villages; Georges Plains, Hill End, Peel, Rockley, Sofala, Sunny Corner, Trunkey Creek, Wattle Flat and Yetholme.

Within the LGA, 152,636 ha of land is subject to agricultural activity (ABS, 2022a). The area of land use for of the agricultural types for the Bathurst Regional Council LGA is presented in **Table 2**, which shows grazing as the dominant land use, accounting for approximately 93% of this area (ABS, 2022a).

Table 2: Bathurst Regional Council LGA Agricultural Land Use by Type 2020 - 2021

Agricultural Land Use	Area	
	ha	%
Grazing	142,198	93
Cropping	8,705	6
Forestry	1,001	<1
Other	732	<1
Total	152,636	100

Note: 2020 - 2021 was the last year an agricultural census was undertaken.

2.4.2 AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

The Central Tablelands region supports a diverse mix of agricultural enterprises. Grazing, predominantly sheep and cattle, and broadacre cropping are the two largest industries, along with vegetables, pome and stone fruit, wine and table grapes and nursery (cut flowers) (BOM and the CSIRO, 2019). The area includes properties that make up 4.2% of NSW's annual value of agricultural production and includes almost 10% of NSW's agricultural business (NSW Local Land Services, 2023).

For the latest agricultural census year of 2020 – 2021, there were 266 livestock grazing businesses and 94 cropping enterprise businesses in the LGA (ABS 2022a). The gross value of agricultural enterprises within the Bathurst Regional Council LGA for 2020-2021 is \$72 million (ABS 2022b). As shown in **Table 3**, livestock for slaughter accounts for 52% of the total gross value of agriculture for the LGA. Other key enterprises are cropping and livestock products.

For livestock slaughtered, cattle and calves make up 55% of the gross value with sheep and lambs making up 44% (refer **Table 5**). Within the category of cropping, vegetables and hay are the dominant enterprises (refer **Table 4**), collectively contributing more than two thirds of crop value (ABS, 2022b). For livestock products wool contributes 90% of the gross value (refer **Table 6**) (ABS, 2022b).

Factors in favour of the dominant agricultural enterprises of cattle and sheep grazing, and specifically the region's meat industry include the following:

- Suitability of the climate, pasture types and landscape.
- Available service suppliers (e.g., produce merchants, contractors).
- Proximity to infrastructure (abattoirs, saleyards, transport etc) and a range of markets.
- Potential for higher returns from group marketing activities.
- Good international and domestic market prospects and the opportunity for professional producers to increase productivity and become more competitive.

