



**FRANCES BOWMAN**

**OBJECT**

Submission No: 178791

Organisation:		Key issues: <i>Land use compatibility, Visual impact, Traffic and transport, Social impacts, Temporary accommodation, Other issues</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2381</i>		
Submitter Type: <i>I am a member of the community with a view about the proposed development</i>		
Attachment: <i>Frances Bowen</i>		

Submission date: 6/12/2024 3:20:55 PM

*Please find my OBJECTION to the project attached*

## Objection to Birriwa Solar Farm.

As a land owner I am unable to remove trees on my land without incurring major fines or jail time, even if I plan to or have planted other trees in their place. Why can ACEN remove all the trees within the Solar factory/accommodation site area? (The Dept of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure report states that "The development footprint requires the clearing of 405.71ha of native plant community types") Many of those trees were planted 30 years ago by myself and my family and were nurtured and looked after until the time we sold the property, because we believed that the animals and land needed more trees to protect the animals from weather extremes and the soil from erosion and the rising water table. What will happen to the top soil when there is heavy rain? Is it ok that there will be many hectares of erosion and gullies formed on this land, as there will no longer be trees and deep-rooted plants to soak up and slow down the water? How will ACEN keep the screening trees, they plan to plant, alive? There is no underground water in the proposed development site! Will they be held to account if the trees die? And, how will this occur?

ACEN states that none of their employees will travel on certain local roads(eg: Birriwa Bus Route North and South and Merotherie Rd), how will they police this? What will it do to our local road network? How will our already broke and time poor local councils be able to fix the roads if they are wrecked by ACENs employees? How will the workers get to their accommodation/work site if there has been rain, as they have to cross White Creek, Brown Creek and several other waterways? Will the internal roads that they are meant to travel on be passable in wet weather? Will there be a bridge built over White Creek on the internal road to make it passable in wet weather?

This project, along with the others proposed in the area, are undoubtedly going to increase the traffic in the CWO REZ area dramatically, how are those businesses who are already in the area meant to conduct their day to day operations safely (for example: crossing stock or machinery over highways and roads, and transporting goods to market, and getting kids to and from school)?

I attended the Public Hearing in person and it occurs to me that they DO NOT have a social licence for this project, as not one person spoke in favour of the Birriwa Solar Farm. Each speaker had some very valid questions which were totally ignored and glossed over by the ACEN representatives in a very arrogant manner, when it came time for them to reply. I also note that the

Dept of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure report states that there were 85 objections (and 4 comments) to the EIS for the project and in the Amendment and Submissions Report there were 45 objections...NO SUPPORTING comments, therefore NO SOCIAL LICENCE!!!!

I have many more concerns regarding this project, both environmental and social, but as there are approximately 50 more projects in the CWO REZ that also require significant reading and submissions to, I will have to keep my response short!