



**LOU ARMSTRONG**

**OBJECT**

Submission No: 179762

Organisation:		<p>Key issues: Land use compatibility, Visual impact, Traffic and transport, Social impacts, Temporary accommodation, Other issues</p>
Location: New South Wales 0		
Submitter Type: I am the owner or a tenant of a neighbouring property to the proposed development		
Attachment:		

Submission date: 6/14/2024 4:30:34 PM

*I write this submission to you being not sure what will really impact the Commission on assessing all aspects of the Birriwa solar farm on our community. As we drove around the proposed site on Thursday morning, I was aware of the huge task you face in assessing the project through the eyes of a local resident. I feel it will be very difficult to consider all the information you are given by ACEN and all government departments without having an agricultural background. Some of the claims made by both I feel are misleading and inaccurate, for instance, the land value where the project is to be sited to be of low-grade agricultural land.*

*When at site number two we saw a very healthy crop of oats planted by the owner, with a large herd of top-quality angus cattle, it was also next to Brown's Creek which is always a bonus in regional NSW. This picture you could not see on poor quality land. When I first moved to the Birriwa district in 1974, many paddocks on the proposed site were regularly farmed with high performing crops and also supporting top quality sheep and cattle. For instance, there we three top quality merino studs, on or adjoining the site, these do not appear on poor quality land. Our stud neighbouring the site has produced some of the top five percent merino sheep in the country. I fear this could be at risk with contamination of deteriorating solar panels (over 1 million) and much disturbance of topsoil by removing contour banks, dams and trees and additional road traffic during construction and general use.*

*The second site I wish to mention is site number 8, this is overlooking the Birriwa Talbragar valley, I asked Janet what she saw? I'm not sure what people not used to living in regional NSW see the natural beauty we see. This is one of the most beautiful views in the regional NSW. All my friends who visit me, many from Sydney are excited by the natural beauty of this valley. This will all change permanently if the solar farm proceeds. This project is not a 5 or 10 year change, as it will be permanent (a lifetime) for all the small community of Birriwa and Dunedoo. Many of the neighbours have been on the same land for, in our case 70 years, one for 120 years and the Bowman family almost 190 years. I feel our connect to the land is no less than the first nations people who also cared for and lived sustainably one the land. Our farming practices are carefully considered, sustainable and in our case, 90% of our produce, produces export income for Australia. All the land of the proposed site can and did do the same.*

*There are many more concerns I have with the solar farm, all of which are covered by submissions already received by you. I implore you to understand the weight of our collective concerns. If the Central West Orana REZ is to go ahead, we will be surrounded by three huge transmission lines which, due to the recent declared increase to the REZ capacity, have the ability to treble. The large substation at Merotherie, 20-hectare battery site, 2 workers camp sites totaling 1700 workers (at a minimum), many hundred more roads movements per day and from 60-100 wind turbines visual from my property. The possibility of the solar farm doubling in size if approved is real and will impact us even more.*

*ACEN is a large overseas company with many projects on the pipeline and already under construction. Therefore, I feel in fairness to us, with the severe impact we will suffer the Birriwa solar farm should not be*



**New South Wales Government**  
Independent Planning Commission

*approved, to greatly relieve the stress and impact it will have on our small community.*

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