



*How can the Department consider that the project will not result in widespread reduction of land values in our local area? I and many other farmers in the district have worked hard and over 4 generations to achieve the properties and businesses that we have. We now have another 2 generations living on the property and running the business.*

*Social impacts are too numerous to even explain. We already have landowners suffering stress and depression at the way they have been treated. This is a very closely settled area with numerous families living in close proximity as compared to say land west of the CWO REZ area. For this reason it is quite impractical to be building solar "factories" in these pockets of highly productive land. Families are being uprooted from their acreages in the name of "progress"!! Progress for city people who don't even know what is happening in our rural communities and don't even care. As long as it's NIMBY and their lights are still on.*

*Traffic and Transport issues are immeasurable. The Golden Highway is not fit for purpose of this type of construction. It is busy enough now with the heavy transport using it and we have already heard of accidents involving solar panels and roll overs on other roads. We need this to be a safe thoroughfare for us to access the coast and cities.*

*Temporary accommodation is a bone of contention. I do not like the idea of large camps with unknown persons being in close proximity to our homes. To be accommodated with a supermarket and a pub is not exactly helping our district. We have very little crime and this type of accommodation is asking for trouble. Women and children will not feel safe in their homes with camps at such close proximity.*

*Other issues:*

*I'd like to enlighten the Department of the 1979 mammoth bushfire that burnt from west of Dunedoo through Birriwa for 50kms. This is exactly where the proposed solar "factory" is suggested and it could happen again. The Sir Ivan Fire on the Golden Highway is another example of what can happen in this area. I do not know the consequences of burnt solar panels and the residue falling onto our ground, but I imagine it would not be a good outcome. The area can also get very wet in the total area proposed and not able to be driven on. The black soil is bottomless when big rains occur with White Creek flooding severely and Huxleys Creek just to the West which in turn floods the Talbragar flats at our property and 2 other properties. As mentioned before this pollution from damaged panels eventually ends up in the Murray Darling River Basin. I don't think the Department has any idea of the local knowledge that could be imparted by numerous people in the district.*

*It takes a lifetime on the land and the knowledge of past generations to understand the way of the land and the Department needs to know exactly what friction they are causing in our community, yet the proponents plough on with study after study with pen pushers in city offices making decisions that don't affect them and decisions they have no idea will not work. Community consultations that I have been to appear to be a waste of time. Charts and graphs and great diagrams and photos are on display on huge boards (at what cost & expense?).*

*It's just a box ticking exercise and the Department or proponent does not listen. I've been to meetings where the representatives of the proponents just nod their heads and don't even take any notes. They have no experience in country life - to them it's just a job and a well paid one at that.*

*This is why I am submitting this submission. I don't have any faith in these overseas companies coming in and taking over our land when the renewable energy idea is so far fetched. It has been proven time & time again, particularly overseas, that wind and solar do not fit the purpose here.*

*They cannot make enough base power because when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine, THERE IS NO POWER.*

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**NAME REDACTED**

**OBJECT**

Submission No: 177010

Organisation:	<p>Key issues: Land use compatibility, Visual impact, Traffic and transport, Social impacts, Temporary accommodation, Other issues</p>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2844</i>	
Submitter Type: <i>I am a member of the local community who would be particularly and directly affected by the proposed development</i>	
Attachment:	

Submission date: 6/3/2024 1:10:08 AM

*As a landowner in a pristine valley (namely the valley that is viewed from "Black Bull Hill" on the Castlereagh Highway east of Birriwa) I object strongly to the use of the said land for a Solar "factory". The view from this point is of a 20km wide A2 highly productive area of land that you will be hard pressed to see anywhere else in the Orana REZ. These soils produce food and fibre right up to the surrounding hills supporting the valley.*

*Travellers and tourists come to see the beauty of our rural areas and be immersed in the rural culture, not looking at hectares of glass, possibly reflecting in their eyes with the help of the sun.*

*Solar panels over the large area proposed will exacerbate flooding which will be extreme going towards the river. History shows landowners closer to the Talbragar River cop a massive run off, damaging soils and causing erosion with the Talbragar flats coping massive flows.*

*If panels are damaged by eg. hail storms as they reach the end of their life, chemical from panels will end up in the river after covering all land from panels to the river. Chemicals end up in the soil, the river and ultimately the Murray Darling River Basin.*

*If livestock and grains are affected by this pollution of chemical residue, we may well be stopped from selling our produce. This is a main reason why the selected site is totally unsuitable for solar panels.*

*Regarding visual impact, I believe that our property with 2 homesteads on hills, is one of the highest points in the valley and particularly where the houses are situated. These homes would be regarded as some of the non-associated residences located within a 2 km radius, affected by visual impact and we have not had anyone come to our property to advise on the view we would expect to see of solar panels. We had a phone call from a person some months ago but there was no follow up whatsoever.*

*What mitigation is there for non associated neighbours, particularly those who may overlook this site?*

*It is stated that there are environmental benefits of solar energy. Has anyone studied the entire process from the mining of resources, to the transport and transmission etc. to the decommissioning?*

*The department refers to benefits to the community from the construction jobs. What benefits? I do not see any. We have a labour shortage for rural properties and we do not need more competition from construction jobs.*

*If the expected life of the infrastructure is approximately 30 years - what then? and how many times may they need replacing in this period?*

*The Department considers that the conditions it has imposed on the project such as vegetation screening will alleviate or make visual impact not significant. That is beside the point. Planting screenings when the proponent will be annihilating numerous trees for transmission lines is ludicrous.*