



NAME REDACTED	OBJECT	Submission No: 179220
Organisation:	<p>Key issues: Land use compatibility, Visual impact, Traffic and transport, Social impacts, Temporary accommodation</p>	
Location: New South Wales 2852		
Submitter Type: I am a member of the local community who would be particularly and directly affected by the proposed development		
Attachment:		

Submission date: 6/13/2024 10:41:03 AM

I object to the approval of the Birriwa solar Project for the following reasons.

* The department has stated that it considers that the project will have benefits to the local community. How can this be when there is so much objection to the project. What benefits ? The whole area will be losing valuable farming land and valuable hardworking farm families. Dunedoo businesses will loose trade in all areas. The Livestock Agency will be loosing customers as there are less livestock properties/people trading sheep and cattle as the farms are taken by renewable energy companies. Farming families will move away from the area. The Rural trade businesses will loose as there will be considerably less machinery/machinery repair, seed, tools, chemical and all the things that are needed to run a property, purchased from these stores. Schools loose students as families move to new areas where they can hopefully start again.

* Just with this project alone, 22 families, living next to or in close proximity will be directly effected by the visual disturbance, property value loss, construction noise and the concern from fires associated with solar farms. What mitigation is available for these families ? None mentioned in the meeting.

*The department notes that grazing can continue under the panels. How is this livestock to be mustered, watered and checked under one million solar panels? How are the stock fenced within the project. What happens to the soil when weeds are not controlled, sheep are grazing, and there is no pasture improvement under these panels. What stops the sheep from being caught in the turning mechanisms of the panels ?

*What specifically are the flow on effects for the community from the construction stage ? The department has not mentioned what these are.

* The Department mentions that there are environmental benefits from solar energy. Clearing of native vegetation, much of it old established trees, is not beneficial to the environment. What happens to the millions of solar panels, wind turbines and batteries at the end of their life. The batteries and the panels all contain extremely toxic substances. There is no clear plan as to what will be done with this product at the end of its life. There are only so many times that these batteries and panels can be repurposed and at some stage they will have to be disposed of but no one that I ask from the developers can give me a straight, clear answer. Instead of plowing ahead with no plan for the future, not knowing if this renewable energy push is successful or not, why not slow down and think of the long term consequence on the communities, the environment and the country.

*I also noted that the Department has in place a number of conditions of consent. How does the department intend to ensure these are followed ? As observed with the Beryl Solar Farm, there appears to be no consequences to not following the conditions of consent. Once these developers get their project over the line, they do what they like with no one to check or answer to. Beryl Solar did not establish vegetation within the three year requirement and no action was taken by the department and the neighbours are still waiting for mitigation. In the case of Birriwa Solar the Department considers that the conditions applied to the project will



be followed, is this going to be enforced or will it be too much trouble to chase it up. Will the 22 neighboring properties have their vegetation screening to alleviate some of the immense visual impact.

** Many people believe that the government has rolled out these renewable projects with little to no consultation with the communities that they so seriously effect. The CWO REZ was created during the Covid Pandemic when all people were battling the stresses and fears that came with it. Had this decision been made from a more open and public discussion, giving the people living in these areas a choice as to whether they wanted their area to become industrialised I'm sure this problem would not exist now. The concerns of affected people are largely ignored by the developers and the government agencies involved. Bullying from the energy companies to gain access to peoples properties and to sign agreements is a common theme that the Department seems to overlook.*

I urge the Department to at least defer the final determination of the Birriwa Solar Project until the cumulative impacts of the enormous amount of wind, solar, and energy transmission projects across the CWO REZ are properly identified and the social, environmental and economic losses are thoroughly and openly investigated.
