



LOUIS SARTOR

OBJECT

Submission No: 189657

Organisation:	Key issues: <i>Erosion and sediment control, Water, Waste, Hazards and risks</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2680</i>	
Submitter Type: <i>an individual making a submission on my own behalf</i>	
Attachment:	

Submission date: 7/31/2024 4:33:26 PM

Dear Commissioner,

I write to you as a citrus farmer who is 2nd generation of a farming family since 1958 in the Griffith area of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA). This area, the MIA, is Australia's premier agricultural area producing very significant fruits, wine, nuts, grains, vegetables and fibre that not only feed and clothes Australia, but has significant export markets with most of the world. These markets have been developed thru rigorous food safety standards to which Australian farmers lead the world in with constant monitoring and auditing of their product and the stringent Minimum Residue Levels (MRL's) that importing countries impose on Australian Agricultural Products. And all this has been possible with the development over the past century of considerable careful land management and water infrastructure fed from the Murrumbidgee River.

The proposed Wallaroo Solar Farm is to be located on land that has 2 significant water ways that feed directly into the upper Murrumbidgee River. These are the Gooromon Ponds and Ginninderra creek. Both of these 2 waterways are unregulated, i.e. both flow freely from within the ACT and NSW catchment into the Upper Murrumbidgee River, which then flows unregulated into Burrunjuck Dam. This dam provides up to 50% of the water for the Murrumbidgee Valley. Neither the Gooromon Ponds, Ginninderra Creek or the Upper Murrumbidgee River has on route infrastructure that could capture or prevent any contamination if there were a breach, fire, leakage or sabotage from the Proposed Wallaroo Solar Farm into the Murrumbidgee River. This poses an unfathomable risk to the farmers that rely on this river, the hundreds of thousands of people who live within the cities and towns that extract water for domestic consumption, and also the environment that extends from the Upper Murrumbidgee River all the way down to the Coorong in South Australia as the Murrumbidgee River provides over 300 gigalitres of environmental water into the Murray River from Balranald NSW.

Furthermore, the Murrumbidgee River Water Sharing Plans prevent any unauthorised works to occur within the catchment that would impede the flow of water into Burrunjuck Dam. So , any development that occurs within this catchment does not have an unfettered right to alter the terrain to mitigate water flow. This risk CANNOT occur, therefore The Proposed Wallaroo Solar Farm CANNOT occur.

Please consider that the "backyard" of Wallaroo NSW is not just the pristine area in a small pocket of land within the NSW and ACT borders , but a vast agricultural, social and environmental spans that traverses 2 states and a Territory.

I suggest the Commissioner encourage this solar development to occur in an area of low or no risk and NOT within the catchment of Australia's 2nd largest River.

Yours sincerely

Louis Sartor

Farmer