



**MARGARET VEST**

**OBJECT**

Submission No: 188251

Organisation:	Key issues: <i>Energy transition, Land use compatibility</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2618</i>	
Submitter Type: <i>an individual making a submission on my own behalf</i>	
Attachment:	

Submission date: 7/24/2024 6:25:04 PM

*I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed development of a new solar farm in Canberra. While the intention behind expanding renewable energy sources is commendable, several significant concerns must be addressed before proceeding. The key issues are the potential negative impact on land values, risks associated with scrub fires, and the environmental impacts on local flora and fauna. Additionally, recent trends in the energy market further complicate the feasibility of this project.*

**1. Land Value Impact**

*The introduction of a large-scale solar farm in the vicinity of residential areas can adversely affect land values. Properties adjacent to or near the proposed solar farm site are likely to experience a depreciation in market value due to the industrial nature of the installation, aesthetic concerns, and potential noise from maintenance activities. This depreciation is a significant concern for homeowners and real estate developers, particularly in new housing estates where the expectation of rising property values is a key selling point.*

**2. Fire Risk and Safety Concerns**

*The risk of scrub fires in the Canberra region is a well-documented hazard. The installation of a solar farm introduces additional fire risks, especially considering the presence of batteries and other electrical components. In the event of a fire, these materials can release toxic fumes, posing severe health risks to personnel and nearby residents. The management and mitigation of such risks require extensive safety measures and emergency response plans, which may not be adequately addressed in the current proposal.*

**3. Environmental Impact on Local Flora and Fauna**

*The development of a solar farm involves significant land clearing and habitat disruption, which can have detrimental effects on local flora and fauna. The loss of native vegetation and the displacement of wildlife can lead to a decline in biodiversity. Moreover, the construction and maintenance activities associated with the solar farm could further stress the local ecosystem, potentially leading to long-term environmental degradation.*

**4. Energy Market Considerations**

*A crucial point to consider is the current trend in which homeowners with rooftop solar panels are being charged for feeding excess energy back into the grid due to a surplus of solar energy. This situation suggests that the local energy market may already be saturated with solar power. Introducing a large-scale solar farm could exacerbate this issue, leading to economic inefficiencies and potentially higher costs for consumers.*

**Conclusion**

*While the move towards renewable energy is crucial for a sustainable future, the proposed solar farm in Canberra presents several substantial concerns that must be carefully weighed. The potential decline in land values, increased fire risk, environmental impacts, and existing energy market conditions all point towards the need for a more thorough evaluation of this project. I urge the Planning and Development Department to*



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*consider these factors and explore alternative locations or solutions that do not compromise the well-being of the local community and environment.*

*Thank you for your attention to this matter.*

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