



**MILES MCCAFFREY**

**OBJECT**

Submission No: 189416

Organisation:		Key issues: <i>Land use compatibility, Biodiversity, Heritage, Cumulative impacts</i>
Location: <i>New South Wales 2110</i>		
Submitter Type: <i>an individual making a submission on my own behalf</i>		
Attachment:		

Submission date: 7/30/2024 7:06:38 PM

*I am writing to formally object to the proposed Wallaroo Solar Farm. While the pursuit of renewable energy sources is commendable, the specific location and scale of this project present insurmountable concerns that make the proposed solar farm insupportable. I have been visiting Canberra and the Wallaroo region for many decades, first as a child, and now with my own children. I love it for the natural and cultural allure which it offers. The impact of the solar farm on biodiversity, heritage, land use compatibility, and cumulative regional degradation cannot be overlooked.*

*Firstly, the proposed Wallaroo Solar Farm threatens to irreparably harm the local biodiversity. As detailed in recent biological assessments, the area earmarked for development is home to a variety of unique flora and fauna that contribute to the region's ecological balance. These species play a crucial role in maintaining the health of local farms and vineyards, which rely on natural biological processes such as pollination, pest control, and soil fertility. Disruption of these processes through habitat destruction and pollution would not only diminish the unique biodiversity, but also adversely affect the local agricultural productivity and quality of produce. The intricate web of life in this region is finely balanced, and the loss of any species can have a cascading effect on the ecosystem and agricultural viability.*

*Moreover, the proposed solar farm poses a significant threat to the heritage and cultural appeal of the region. Wallaroo is renowned for its picturesque landscapes and historical significance, attracting tourists and preserving the cultural identity of the community. The introduction of a large-scale industrial project such as this would detract from the aesthetic and historical value of the area, undermining its cultural heritage. This loss of heritage not only impacts the current residents but also deprives future generations of a vital connection to their past.*

*In terms of land use compatibility, the proposed solar farm is at odds with the existing character and utilization of the land. The region is primarily agricultural, with a landscape dominated by vineyards, farms, and natural reserves. The conversion of such a significant portion of this land to an industrial solar facility is incompatible with the current land use patterns. This shift could lead to conflicts between different land uses, jeopardising the coexistence of agriculture and other economic activities that have defined the region for generations.*

*The cumulative degradative impacts on the region must be carefully considered. Beyond the immediate ecological and cultural damage, the long-term consequences of such a development could be profound. The construction, maintenance, and eventual decommissioning of the solar farm involve extensive land disturbance, resource extraction, and waste generation. These activities contribute to soil degradation, water pollution, and increased greenhouse gas emissions, counterintuitive to the intended environmental benefits of renewable energy. The cumulative effect of these impacts could lead to a gradual but significant decline in the region's environmental health, economic stability, and quality of life.*

*In conclusion, while renewable energy projects like the Wallaroo Solar Farm are essential in our transition to sustainable energy sources, their implementation must be evaluated against the backdrop of local environmental, cultural, and socio-economic contexts. The proposed location for this solar farm presents insurmountable risks to the biodiversity, heritage, land use compatibility, and overall integrity of the region. I*



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*urge the decision-makers to reconsider the placement of this project and opt for alternative sites that would mitigate these adverse impacts while still contributing to our renewable energy goals.*

*Thank you for your due consideration.*

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