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OBJECT

Submission ID: 240357

Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Land Use Compatibility/Conflict, Cumulative Impacts, Biodiversity, Visual Impacts, Social Impacts</i>
Location: New South Wales 2333	
Attachment: N/A	

Submission date: 19/02/2025 23:50

Dear Commissioner

OBJECTION TO Muswellbrook Solar Farm SSD-46543209

I have informed myself as best as I can about the proposed ~Muswellbrook Solar Farm' first reading through OX2 proposal, the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructures report, and the minutes of the IPC and Muswellbrook Councils meeting among others.

I am truly devastated to hear that my young family and I could well be living within just 1km of this proposed project that I believe is going to have a long term negative impact on our social well-being and environment.

We purchased our property with full intent of making Woodland Ridge Estate, Muscle Creek our forever home. My wife and I were born and raised in Muswellbrook as were our parents and their parents before them. We fully understand the need for economic growth, a steady and robust electricity supply and the need for clean, green electricity for a bright and prosperous future. However, we cannot support this project for a number of reasons and we hope that you will hear our concerns.

The visual impact on my property and neighbouring property's would be significant. I fail to see how the report provided by OX2 deemed my property to have ~moderate' impact. Their report is not accurate. Images provided in their report findings were taken from the road at the front of my property, this is not a true indication of the visibility of the proposed project from my address. As I step directly out my front door and look to the north, using the map provided in their report it is clear to me that I will in fact see a very large portion of these 300,000 solar panels and I do believe the visual impact will be significant. This will understandably have a negative impact on the value of my property if I choose to sell and I don't believe any rebate on my land rates, as proposed by OX2 and Muswellbrook Council with subsidies that. I understand that from my property I will expect to see in my view a portion of the Muswellbrook Bypass and potentially the Muswellbrook Hydro in the coming years, however I cannot accept 300,000 solar panels sprawled across what I consider to be now a beautiful landscape that I cherish.

I would also hope the commission considers the plight of yet another ~industrial complex' at the doorstep of several of the neighbouring farmers whom have endured the effects of mining activity for the last 100 years.

Muswellbrook Coal was established in 1907, began open cut mining in 1944 and ceased operation in 2022. Just as Idemitsu (owner Muswellbrook Coal) have begun finalising their rehabilitation of the land and preparing for the Muswellbrook Hydro project residents are struck with yet another blow with this proposal. Another eyesore, another industry directly affecting the surrounding property's and residents for another 35 years or possibly more.

I am also concerned about the environmental and health impacts relating to the project.

It is my understanding that solar panels are made up of a number of metals which are potentially harmful to humans if exposed and the radiation emitted can also have negative impacts. I understand that these health implications may be relatively low impact on a small scale and deemed ~not harmful', however I question whether the commission deems it an acceptable risk when 300,000 of these panels will be in such close proximity to residential property's.



It was also brought to my attention in the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructures report that the project with in fact require some land clearing for the erection of infrastructure. They have also identified there are 33 threatened species of fauna in the area that will in fact have their habitat decimated. I understand that with urban growth and infrastructure that our flora and fauna will be impacted in some way, however this ecosystem is just beginning to find its feet and prosper after being damaged from the past 100 years of mining in the area. It would be a shame to see it take yet another hit that it may well never revive from.

I would like to make it clear that I am a huge supporter of renewable, clean and safe energies and in fact commend Idemitsu on the ingenuity of the Muswellbrook Hydro project.

I do not believe that the proposed location of this project is the right one. As mentioned before, this land is finally healing after the damaging environmental affects of mining and now looks to be potentially put a risk again. It is far too close to residential properties having an enormous visual and potentially physical impact on those residents. The topography of the land has mountains both to the east and west which will decrease the duration of sunlight on the panels in turn reducing their potential output.

I would propose that a solar farm of this magnitude or possibly larger would be best suited to the Liddell/Bayswater complex. With all the land and infrastructure required still within the Muswellbrook LEL but without the concerns stated above the project could be a huge success and I believe well supported by our local community.
