



NAME REDACTED	OBJECT	Submission ID: 239976
Organisation: N/A	Key issues: <i>Land Use Compatibility/Conflict, Cumulative Impacts, Visual Impacts, Social Impacts, Economic Impacts</i>	
Location: New South Wales 2333		
Attachment: N/A		

Submission date: 18/02/2025 18:49

Dear Minister,

**Objection to Muswellbrook Solar Farm SSD-46543209**

After reviewing council letters, listening to the IPC public meeting on February 12, 2025, and like other residents of Woodland Ridge, I strongly object to the Muswellbrook Solar Farm in its proposed location on Muscle Creek's buffer zone, 2.5km east of Muswellbrook. This site, 500m-1.2km from our 80+ homes, threatens our health, environment, and future. I urge its rejection or relocation to Liddell or Bayswater Power Stations:

**Health and Environmental Risks:**

**Fire Hazards:** IPC speakers highlighted lithium battery and panel fires emitting toxic gases, a risk OX2's Helen Kennedy and Carla Evans downplayed. Bushfires could trigger explosions, endangering our 300 residents.

**Contamination:** Panels degrading at 0.5-1% yearly (70-80% efficiency after 25-30 years) and storm damage risk leaching cadmium into Muscle Creek, flowing through our golf course, sporting fields, and into the Hunter River to Newcastle Harbour. Muswellbrook Shire Council's February 13, 2025, resolution demands recycling of 30,000 faulty panels to avoid landfill a clear red flag.

**Unknown Threats:** Like PFAS or asbestos, solar pollutants could prove deadly later, as others have warned.

**Visual Impacts:** This industrial blight, visible from Woodland Ridge and the new bypass when approved, will destroy our mountain views our lifestyle choice 10 years ago. The Mudgee solar farm's rejection proves aesthetics matter.

**Costs and Meager Gains:** At AUD 200-300 million, plus maintenance and decommissioning, OX2 offers just 9 jobs and 4 apprenticeships hardly worth the risk, as noted at the IPC meeting.

**Low Reimbursement:** Woodland Ridge compensation within OX2's 1.2km radius is insultingly low, ignoring health, lifestyle, and economic losses.

**House Prices:** NSW history shows 5-10% property value drops post-coal closures. This project risks the same, per council and resident fears.

**Future Responsibility:** If OX2 or Idemitsu falter in 25-30 years, who handles fires, contamination, or decommissioning? Council letters fear a taxpayer burden.

**Wrong Location:** Idemitsu exploits its buffer zone not the mined site for profit, risking fire and floods on Muscle Creek's flats, a protective zone predating our estate. The council's recycling mandate underscores unsustainable planning.

**Better Alternatives:**

**Liddell Power Station:** Closed in 2023, approved for renewables, Liddell offers grid access, roads, and Lake Liddell's buffer no homes or waterways at risk. IPC Chair Neal Menzies sought solutions; this is it and Jobs stay local.



*Bayswater Power Station: With 10,000 hectares and grid connectivity, it's a renewable hub, avoiding residential harm.*

*We chose Woodland Ridge for fresh air and nature, not industrial threats. The IPC's 61 submissions, council's landfill stance, and February 10 site inspection confirm this site's flaws. This irreversible decision would scar our town a reckless legacy visible to every bypass motorist. Reject this proposal now, or relocate it to Liddell or Bayswater, as the IPC has the power to decide.*

*Sincerely,*

██████████

---