



SUZANNE GARBYAL

OBJECT

Submission ID: 240160

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

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Dear Commissioner,

OBJECTION to the solar farm proposed at Muswellbrook. SSD-46543209

I have watched and listened to the panel of speakers to the IPC, from February 12, 2025 and I am now mortified about the potential risk to our health and that of our children and neighbours by this Solar Farm in its proposed location, so close to 80 residential homes with approximately 300 residents.

We bought our property 5 years ago as we wanted the unique life style that Woodland Ridge could provide. We bought our place under the pretence that Muswellbrook Coal would be closing in the near future reducing the environmental and health effects on our family. I fear one health and environmental concern is being replaced by another potentially more extreme concern within 1.2kms of our property.

The risks outlined by your many speakers and essentially dismissed by the OX2's Helen Kennedy & Carla Evans, included:

-Fire of lithium batteries and solar panels emitting poisonous gases and particles into the atmosphere

-Bushfire risk with exploding batteries and panels emitting poisonous gases into the atmosphere

-Hail stones and wind storms smashing the panels to release heavy metals

-Metals that can escape from the panels when being smashed and leaching into the adjacent Muscle Creek. This creek flows through Muswellbrook, through the golf course and into the Hunter River that feeds downstream to communities all the way to Newcastle Harbour.

-Views from our properties of this large solar farm being destroyed.

-Harm to animals grazing nearby and animals being displaced from their natural environment (including some endangered animals) upsetting our eco systems

-Accommodation for temporary workers in an already saturated rental market.

After watch the meeting I truly believe the only conclusion is that this proposal is in the WRONG LOCATION. Would you approve this if it was in your neighborhood that could be so detrimentally affected, or your family that could potentially incur unknown health risks from this proposal and the unknown affects on our lands and waterways. It's now that you have the POWER to reject this proposal, so the effects are not felt later down the track when all these pollutants' true colours are seen. If we look at products in history as an example PFAS, asbestos, silicosis, we now know they are deadly. The fear of the unknown is very real and rightfully so.

Council have spoken about road maintenance that needs to be done, it hasn't been done in the past and I doubt it will happen. Muscle Creek Road is often flooded due to the build up on the side of the roads, it has been indicated that it was up to Muswellbrook Coal to maintain but they have fallen short. This patch of road is unsafe and an accident waiting to happen.

With Chair Neal Menzies repeatedly asking for any suggestions that could be given to the IPC to assist in the decision, the following is a suggestion.



The nearby and now closed Liddell Power station has been given approval to be demolished and is sited as the location for future renewable energy projects. This site already has all the infrastructure in place, including access to the power grid, access to the site by fully designed access roads and most importantly NO PROXIMITY to an established housing estate of over 80 homes. NO PROXIMITY to waterways that feed townships with drinking water all the way down to the Lower Hunter and Newcastle Harbour.

The ONLY ~benefit' of this solar farm presented by OX2 for our town was employment. A WHOLE 9 final positions and the potential of 4 apprentices. Hardly a tradeoff for the impact it will make in its proposed location. The same said benefits to Muswellbrook can be received by the Solar Farm being in the alternative location at Liddell Power Station.

The ONLY ~benefit' for this solar farm presented by OX2 for our local residents is a notation on our rates notice of being in close proximity to a solar farm, this will be enough to devalue our properties more than any money we will receive. The ~discount' that we would receive on our rates is grossly under valued and an insult for the visual, health and environmental impact on our close-knit community and our wider community.

A comment made during the meeting that a solution to our visual problem at Woodland Ridge would be for each of us to plant some trees, a few trees won't cut it. We bought because we like our rural view. The applicant was asked by the Chairman if they would contribute to the trees or landscaping plan and the applicant said NO!! This shows that the applicant does not care about our community, how can we possibly trust their word.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns and suggestions and I am truly grateful that the speakers were knowledgeable in areas I am not so they were able to inform us ALL of the potential risks for the future of our community.

Regards,

Suzanne Garbyal

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