

Tuesday, 6 June 2023

South Burnett Regional Council
 Attention: Assessment Manager
 PO Box 336
 KINGAROY QLD 4610

By Post and By Email: info@sbrc.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Renewable Energy Facility (Tumuruu Solar Farm) and Major Electricity Infrastructure (Battery Energy Storage System) MCU22/0034

I refer to the notification of the proposed development of 341 Bowman Road, Taromeo QLD 4314 on Lot 2 SP155159 received via express post.

We object to: Development Permit for a Material Change of Use.

Application Ref: MCU22/0034

The reasons are as follows:

We are the registered owners of Lot 137 Franks Road, Taromeo (RP185938). Your proposed plans indicate that there will be only a 20-meter buffer zone between our property and the subject solar panels. Having said that, the panels would be in constant view from our block and adjoining blocks because of the land elevating above us, no matter what is planted in the buffer zone. Therefore, let alone being a permanent eye sore, the value of our land would decrease extremely and become almost unsellable.



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Our block also has a seasonal creek and dam that feeds in from the subject property. We have had localised flooding and damage to our dam wall before from the runoff which runs down from the above property. Having said that, if the land above was covered in solar panels, as shown in your proposed plans, the outcome would be catastrophic in wet weather for not only our dam and creek but also to any other properties below us. This would have dire effects to others and the environment.

There would also be environmental issues with run off from any herbicide or chemical sprays used to keep the vegetation down between the solar panels which would also make its way into dams and waterways below. This would affect the impact on any native fish, fauna, flora and wildlife that frequents the area and that have lived here for generations.



Certain times of the day we would also get a reflective glare from the solar panels being placed directly in our overall view of the property which would result in problems for our own health and mental status. There would also be a constant sound coming from the inverters transferring power back to the grid.

Furthermore, bushfires would become very dangerous to vacant and residing blocks within the proposed area as access to extinguish the fires under and in between the solar panels is very hard to contain. A prime example of this has just been seen in in a large solar farm near Gulgong, New South Wales as stated by their own spokesperson "The fire is burning under the solar panels, making access difficult for firefighters." Having said that, our insurance would also increase.

Until we received notification via express post on 31 May 2023 we have had no consultation or communication from anyone about the proposed 'Tumuruu Solar Farm and renewable energy facility.' I find this to be a total lack of respect or concern for any adjoining residents and/or registered owners. It appears that the only consolation has been between council and a couple of business owners. Residents and/or registered owners of all adjoining properties should have been invited to attend a community engagement meeting, not given until the end of the month to object or to have their say on this matter. We are all rate payers too so a bit of recognition would be appreciated.

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We all believe that our property value would be severely affected, and this is also backed up by local real estate agents. There are also insurance issues, loss of visual outlook, noise, dust, water and pesticide runoff and the fact that we are no longer living in a rural setting but an industrial estate.

It makes no sense to disrupt the lives mentally and physically of over 150 residents and/or registered owners when a solar farm could be located further away from any residential properties without all of the detrimental affects this could cause to not only people's lives but also environmental flora and fauna that we all originally purchased our properties to enjoy.

We request that South Burnett Regional Council reject the application for the proposed Tumuruu Solar Farm and Energy Storing Facility.

Kind Regards,

Darryl Hewitt and Christine Figg



www.southburnett.qld.gov.au



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[REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 June 2023 8:57 PM

To: Council Information General Email Account <info@sbrc.qld.gov.au>

[REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attention: The Assessment Manager, re: Tumuruu Solar Farm

Please be cautious

This email originated outside of SBRC..

To The Assessment Manager
South Burnett Regional Council
Re: Objection to Tumuruu Solar Farm, Blackbutt

Please find attached our submission objecting to the Tumuruu Solar farm, Blackbutt.

Attached below are the references relating to our submission- If you have any difficulty opening the attachments or need further information, please let us know.

Kind regards
Kay and Nigel Walker

22.6.2023

To the Assessment Manager

South Burnett Regional Council

We refer to the Material Change of Use – Renewable Energy Facility (Tumuruu Solar Farm) and Major Electricity Infrastructure (Battery Energy Storage System) – MCU22-0034.

We object to the Material Change of Use of 341 Bowman Rd, Taromeo, Lot 2 SP155159 to a Renewable Energy facility (proposed solar farm) and Battery Energy Storage System.

The reasons are as follows:

- **Safety.**

Fire risk - A recent report discusses the growth of Solar Farm projects in Australia, which is also followed by an increase in the number of fires related to the PV panel operations in country regions. Safety standards and regulations are still relatively new in Australia. Fires in Solar farms can potentially have serious consequences such as starting a bushfire, burnt out solar panels, batteries and other electrical equipment. The environmental pollution caused by the fire, smoke and the toxic materials that could leak and contaminate the ground have a serious impact on biodiversity and can be hard to measure. The causes of the fire can be various, including issues on installation, isolators, inverters etc. Sometimes even wild animals that are in the area (kangaroos, wallabies, wild deer) can pose a threat and start a fire due to the panels high temperature eg. a large fire in California that started on a solar farm and reached more than 1000 acres, was started by a bird wing touching multiple electrical conductors that were at a high temperature. There is mounting evidence of fires originating from solar farms in Australia – see attached evidence and see also photo below of April 2023 Solar Farm fire in NSW.



A study conducted by European testing and certification company TÜV Rheinland, found that in approximately half of 430 cases of fire or heat damage in PV systems, the PV system itself was considered the cause or probable cause. Another study conducted by the BRE National Solar Centre found that more than a quarter of fires involving solar power systems were caused by the photovoltaics, and those fires were all serious fires, meaning they were difficult to extinguish and spread beyond the area of origin.

The farm in Taromeo also has the high potential for lightning strikes and intense wind velocity during the storm season, greatly increasing the risk of fire, often at night-time. The solar farm will be unmanned mostly, so early detection of fire will not be possible. We understand there has been one meeting only with one member of the Taromeo rural volunteer fire brigade. The rural fire brigade will not be able to fight any fire within the perimeter of the solar farm due to live electricity. That would be a task for Queensland Fire and Rescue and there has been no consultation with the Blackbutt Queensland Fire and Rescue as to their capabilities, equipment and training for incidents at a solar farm. In addition, many of the adjoining properties are on no exit roads and there is no safe escape route.

Furthermore, the surrounding rural properties are situated in a very high potential bushfire intensity zone. Some of the solar farm is also classified as very high risk and a fire originating from the solar panels would easily spread to those high-risk areas in the surrounding community well before any fire service response. Having recently lived through the Victorian bushfires, this is a real and very scary scenario. See bushfire risk map attached.

Road safety – Bowman Rd is a narrow rural road, unsuitable for heavy vehicle traffic and is not a designated haulage route. In the construction phase, they expect 62 truck movements per week along this road. We consider this an unsafe amount of heavy vehicle traffic and a financial burden on the ratepayers to maintain the road. People walk their animals alongside this road (horses, dogs) and there are BnB properties accessed by bicycle along Bowman Rd – due to Blackbutt's accessibility to the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, which is a tourism destination for the area. A safe walking and cycling path should also be planned.

- **Insurance and property devaluation.** If the solar farm goes ahead, our properties will potentially become uninsurable due to the unaffordability of our 3rd party insurance premiums. Our third-party liability insurance only covers \$20M accidental damage, and the solar farm would well exceed that value – approx. \$1Billion. We would have to look offshore for insurance to cover that value, and premiums would be excessive. We must all (every neighbouring property with potential to put a dwelling on) receive a lifetime indemnity for accidental damage to the solar farm and this must include every future owner. The

information we received from Plan C on 15/5/23 was that the solar farms insurance would not be able to rely on adjacent landowners and entities 3rd party liability insurance to pay for damage. How do they propose to legally protect the current and future adjacent landowners for the life of the project should there be a change of solar farm ownership and /or change of insurance company? This would need to be included in the final development approval. The property devaluation is not just the insurance issue, it's also the loss of visual amenity, noise, dust, water, nuisance value, and the fact that we are no longer living next to a rural property, but an industrial estate. In any town or city, it's obvious that residential properties are less desirable and are of lower value when adjacent to industrial areas. We all believe that our properties valuations would be severely affected. This will affect all 55 properties immediately bordering the farm and another 100 in close proximity. It makes no sense to wreck the lives and futures of more than 150 residents when a solar farm could be located far away from rural residential properties. In our case, our property is all we have, and we have striven to make it as self-sustainable as possible for our aging years. We expected to be living a quiet peaceful rural lifestyle with a rural outlook as per the zoning. Not to have major electrical infrastructure and solar farm as our outlook.

- **Loss of visual amenity and impacts to neighbours.** The properties along Boobir Creek Rd/Emerson Rd through negotiation have had the setback increased from 15m to 190m which is a better distance for our property, but the panels will still be visible, and they will still be in the water catchment area, adding to the water flowing through our property. Our neighbours at 18 Emerson Rd, and 1 Cameron Rd will still be significantly disadvantaged with regards to loss of visual amenity as they have a higher viewpoint overlooking a larger area. The other approximately **50 properties** on the boundary of the proposed solar farm (Franks Rd and Old Esk Rd, and Harper Rd) have not had any formal communication from the proposed solar farm until they received the notification by express post on 31/5/23. I consider this an appalling lack of concern for the impact on these affected landowners, and the applicants have not engaged with more than 5 property owners face to face. They have said that they have held 2 community engagement days – it appears the only people invited to these were councillors and a few business owners in Blackbutt – we have been in constant communication with Plan C and no residents on the adjoining properties have ever had the opportunity to attend a community engagement meeting. Most of these properties will have a terrible outlook from their properties, with a setback of only 20m from their boundary. The suggestion by the proposing Solar Farm development that they are mitigating the impact of the solar array on these properties by planting a vegetation buffer is misleading. The photos they have supplied in their own application are proof that the properties will still have significant loss of visual amenity, even though their words say otherwise. It is also unlikely that the vegetation buffer will even grow given the poor quality of the soil. (as per other solar farms in the South Burnett region – see photo below.)



The Landplan Assessment of Potential Visual impact supplied is reliant on factual information supplied to Landplan by the applicants. We are not confident that this is the case. There appears that there was not a physical assessment. For example – Viewshed 1, (from our property) they state that we already have prominent views of the power lines. Photo from our house supplied below.



The view of the powerlines is a distant view, and we believe the addition of solar panels to the landscape will have high significance on the visual impact we would experience, as we value our landscape setting. Viewsheds 5 and 6, most affected will be the property owners, and the Landplan assessment states that the visual impact of the solar panels to these properties will be of low significance. As these property owners also value their landscape setting and have long viewing periods of the proposed development, the visual impact to these properties is of high significance.

Added to this is the issue that Solar farms of this size create a heat island effect. A recent study in dry land regions of the US found that the annual average midnight temperatures at the solar farm were 19.3 degrees C, but the surrounding ecosystem was only 15.8C thus creating a significant warming effect on the direct neighbours. Daytime differences showed that the heat emitted above a solar farm were like large, sealed parking lots. PV modules (panels joined) emit thermal radiation both up and down, and this is particularly significant during the day when PV modules are often 20 degrees C warmer than the ambient

temperature. This is another significant impact to the neighbouring residential properties in an already arid area. Source: *Scientific reports 13/10/2016 -The photovoltaic heat island effect: larger solar power plants increase local temperatures.*

- Stormwater management** - The impervious nature of the solar panels and the poor absorption of the existing land (like a supermarket carpark), may mean a much higher increase in water runoff. We do not agree that overland runoff will be maintained, as the flows from the panels will be channelled onto the ground in a channel flow effect, causing faster flow increasing discharge onto neighbouring properties. Because the design of the solar panel system will give virtual total coverage of the whole 440 Ha site with only 70mm gaps between banks of solar panels, it is very unlikely grass will grow due to no sunlight and sheeting of water, creating faster runoff, and in the dry, massive dust problems. If the Change of Material Use comes about, surely a stormwater plan must need to be submitted to council for prior approval, as with any other industrial facility. Following is a photo of runoff onto our property from the farm, prior to any construction, after a heavy rain event.



Even though the panels are proposed to be moved 190m from our boundary, we would still receive more runoff from the panels as it will still be within our catchment area. It appears that there has not even been a site visit, as the stormwater management plan seems to be labelled "Kinross Road – Conceptual Stormwater Management " – has it just been copied and pasted from a previous project?

- Connection to powerlines** – from the referrals provided by Ergon and Powerlink to council, it appears that Ergon has not given approval, and Powerlink potentially has but with conditions. And according to those referrals provided in the development application, even if approval was given they could not guarantee the provided plan of locations of switchyard, inverters, batteries, substation, etc would be suitable.
- Noise nuisance** – 52 container sized inverter buildings located spread out somewhere in the solar farm. How many 3 stack inverters are contained in one inverter building? Inverter buildings to be located at least 100m from residential property boundaries, and even that may not necessarily comply with the

Environmental Protection policy (Noise) 2008. An unbiased qualified sound engineer? needs to be involved in the planning for the location of all the noise producing items which includes the inverters, the cooling aircon units attached to the top of the buildings, the batteries, the switchyard, the substation (not relying on a photocopied brochure from the inverter company) Affected neighbouring residential properties should not have to experience any more noise than they currently do.

We have further questions:

- What guarantees are there that if the application is approved, that the locations of the solar panels and facilities will not be expanded or moved in the future, especially should the solar farm be sold in the future (as with the new one in Kingaroy)
- Is there a bond payable by the solar farm sufficient to fully decommission the property if in the situation of the owning company declaring bankruptcy or similar, and walking away?

We request that the South Burnett Regional Council reject the application for the proposed solar farm.

Signed:

Kay Pamela Walker

Nigel Tony Walker

MOTORCYCLING FACILITY

KOALA HABITAT IN SEQ REGION

- Identified koala broad-hectare area

For Koala priority area and Koala habitat area mapping, please use the layers under SARA DA Mapping -> KOALA HABITAT IN SEQ REGION

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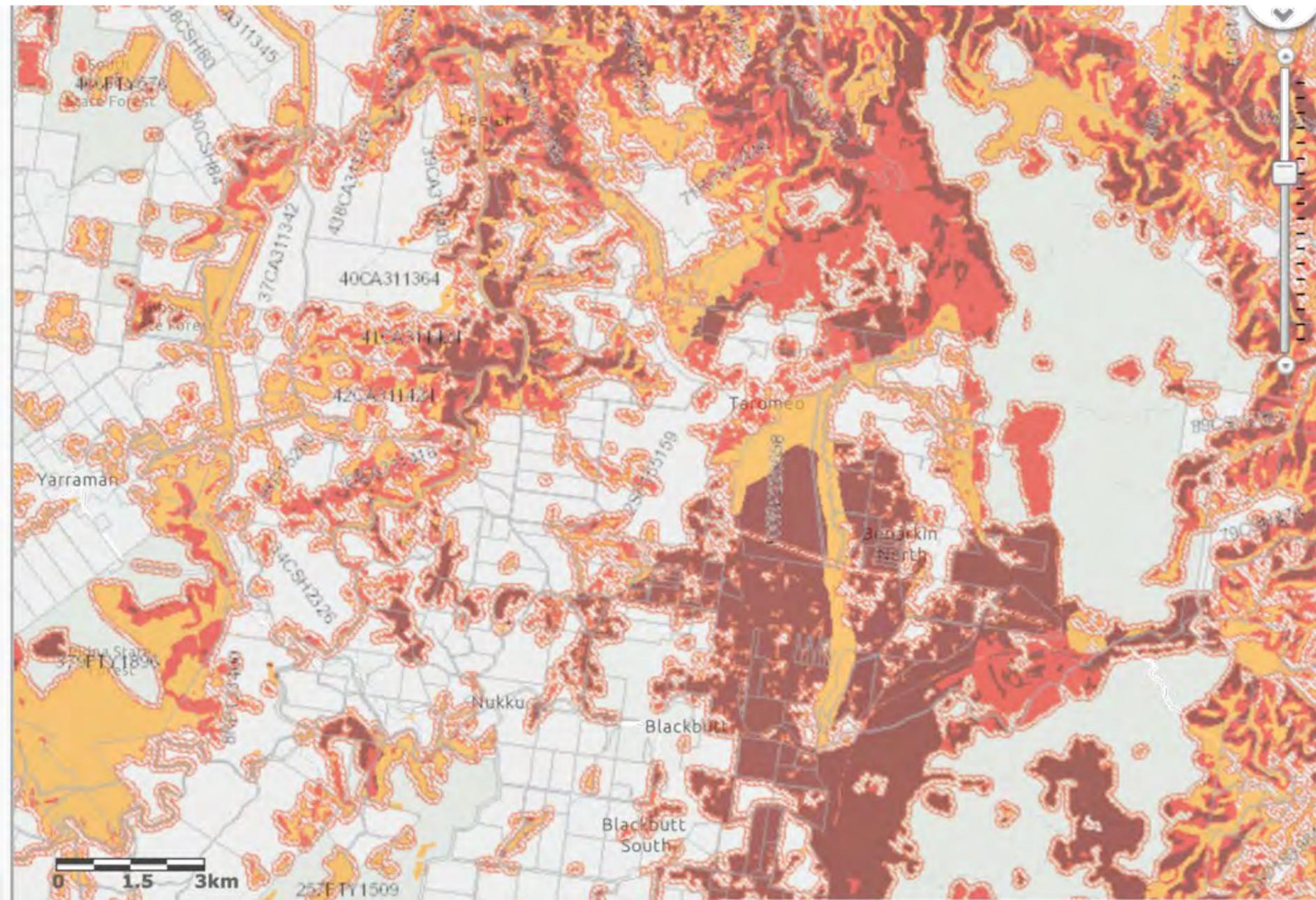
MINING AND EXTRACTIVE RESOURCES

WATER QUALITY

NATURAL HAZARDS RISK AND RESILIENCE

- All
- Flood hazard area - level 1 - Queensland floodplain assessment overlay
- Flood hazard area - local government flood mapping area
- Bushfire hazard area - bushfire prone area
 - Very High Potential Bushfire Intensity
 - High Potential Bushfire Intensity
 - Medium Potential Bushfire Intensity
- Potential Impact Buffer
- Erosion prone area
- Medium storm tide inundation area

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NOISE ATTENUATION ZONE FOR OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLING FACILITY

KOALA HABITAT IN SEQ REGION

Identified koala broad-hectare area

For Koala priority area and Koala habitat area mapping, please use the layers under SARA DA Mapping -> KOALA HABITAT IN SEQ REGION

AIRPORT LAND (CAIRNS AND MACKAY ONLY)

PORTS

SPP Assessment Benchmark Mapping

LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

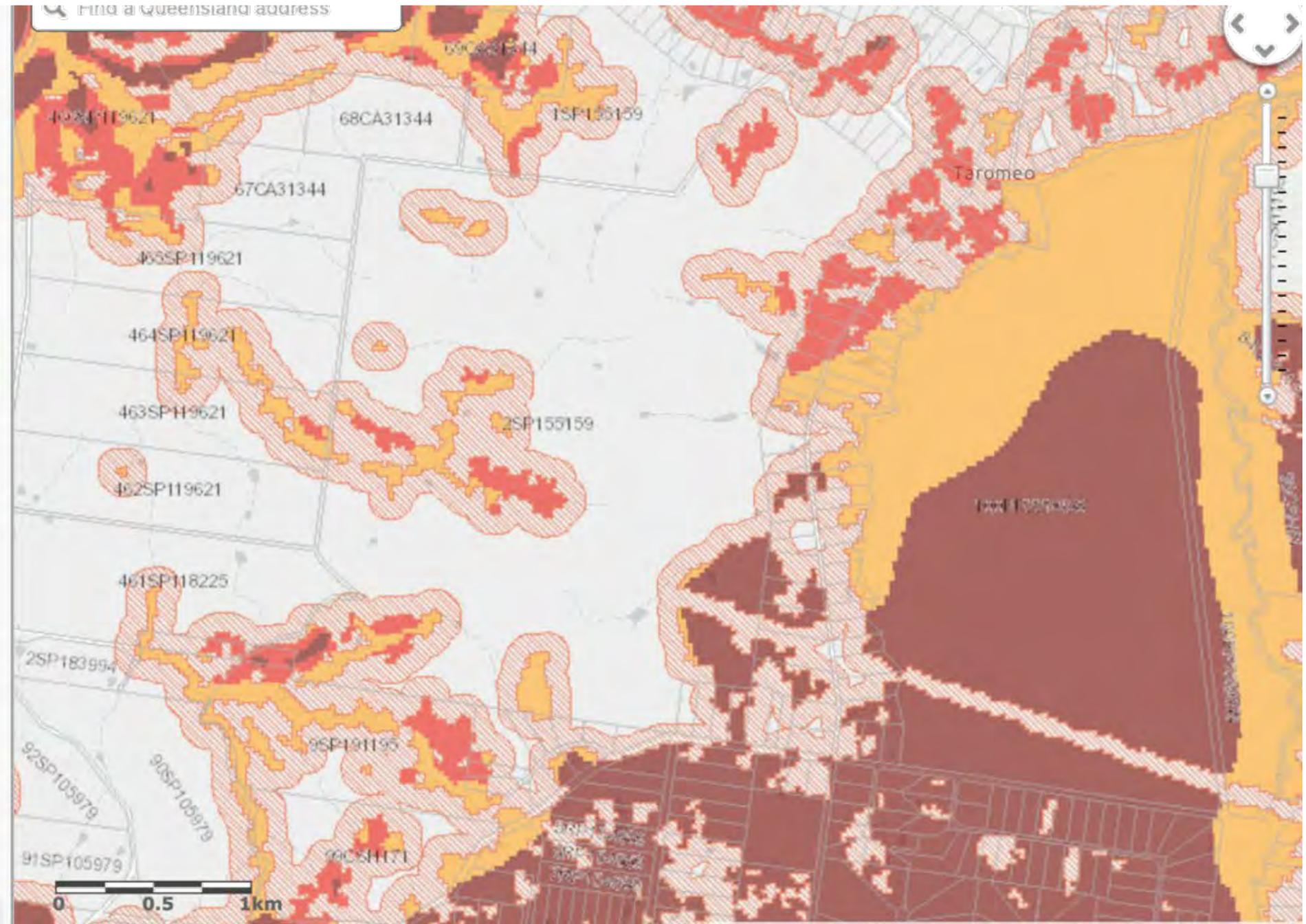
MINING AND EXTRACTIVE RESOURCES

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Fire a major hidden danger for solar farms

Renewable energy providers underestimate this critical risk, expert says

Fire a major hidden danger for solar farms

[Risk Management News](#)

By [Gabriel Olano](#)

Sep 08, 2022 Share

Fire is one of the oldest and most omnipresent risks businesses face and is potentially one of the most devastating. Any business worth its salt has adequate fire safety measures and insurance in place.

However, in many emerging industries, risks are often harder to measure, leading to exposures and losses. One such industry is solar energy, which has been growing

rapidly in recent years due to the shift to renewable energy.

A recent report by Firetrace International found that the solar industry is potentially underestimating the risk of fire at solar farms, partly due to a shortage of data on solar farm fires. The report also said that research into the issue has given rise to suspicions that fires at solar farms have been under-reported.

□To be clear, fire risk is present across all utility scale, high voltage, renewable energy from wind to solar to battery storage systems, □Ross Paznokas (pictured above), global business development manager, clean energy at Firetrace International, told Corporate Risk and Insurance. □Fire risks cannot be totally engineered out.

□With the expected exponential growth of renewable energy as well as aging infrastructure, the number of fire occurrences will only increase. One thing that operators tend to overlook is addressing these fire risks with fire mitigation strategies. Often, owners will simply rely on their insurance provider to cover a loss, if that does occur, rather than implementing the likes of fire suppression technology. □

According to Paznokas, solar asset owners and major OEMs are reluctant to discuss or publicly acknowledge a loss attributable to fire. This means that there is a lack of data and definitive case studies to draw insights from.

With regard to data that is actually available, Paznokas said that the US Department of Energy □s Solar Energy Technologies Office cited a study conducted by European testing and certification company TÜV Rheinland, titled Assessing Fire Risks in Photovoltaic Systems and Developing Safety Concepts for Risk Minimization. The study found that in approximately half of 430 cases of fire or heat damage in photovoltaic (PV) systems, the PV system itself was considered the □cause or probable cause. □

Meanwhile, a study conducted by the BRE National Solar Centre found that more than a quarter of fires involving solar power systems were caused by the photovoltaics and those fires were all □serious fires, □meaning fires that were □difficult to extinguish and spread beyond the area of origin. □

□ Unfortunately, solar farm infrastructure is not just sitting in a warehouse and can have long lead times, which can result in degradation as parts move through the supply chain, □ Paznokas said. □ There have been numerous solar farm fires ranging from Argentina to the USA and in Europe. In each of these cases, the affected companies have found themselves with hundreds of thousands worth of losses. Accumulated losses come from destroyed equipment anywhere near the fire and lost production for extended periods due to waiting for replacement parts, construction, and recommissioning. In our work, we have seen solar farm fires result in losses which encompass the entire solar farm with the potential to spread and endanger surrounding communities. □

The Firetrace study highlighted three major causes of solar farm fires. These are an error in the system design, a faulty product (a design or quality issue), and poor installation practices. Among components, DC isolators pose the highest fire risk, being involved in the outbreak of around 30% of studied fires. Other components that are likely to cause a fire are DC connectors and inverters.

To minimize the risk of solar farm fires, Firetrace and TÜV Rheinland recommended the following steps:

- Ensure solar systems are regularly tested by independent third parties
- Incorporate additional safety components everywhere possible
- Create standardized quality assurance measures
- Ensure defective or prematurely aged components are promptly replaced

In the future, as the risk of fire becomes clearer for operators of solar energy facilities, Paznokas predicts that the industry will become more proactive in managing fire risks.

□ As is the case with all maturing industries, we feel as though the solar farm industry will embrace the installation of fire suppression systems in the areas of the modules which can be protected, □ he said. □ Additionally, we will begin to see original equipment manufacturers of these key components offering fire suppression fully integrated into their systems from the factory. This will not only address owner and investor concerns, but also help communities understand how safe and affordable systems can benefit the entire area through their provision of cheap,

reliable energy. □

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Mitigating the risks of fires and overheating in solar facilities

Mitigating the risks of fires and overheating in solar facilities

Solar energy has been rapidly growing in Australia in recent years: the favourable climate and competitive costs led the industry to achieve a boom in both solar farms projects and overall panel installation.

A recent report rated Australia as one of the cheapest countries for solar energy kilowatt¹ which helps to explain this trend. This growth, however, has been followed by an increase in the number of fires linked to the photovoltaic (PV) panels operations in several country regions.

Another critical aspect is that safety standards and regulations are still relatively new in Australia according to sector specialists. This aspect reveals that the industry still needs to improve its safety standards and systems, having proven technologies in place to ensure the operations are running smoothly without any incidents, especially

in solar farms.

More recently, in January 2022, a fire at Finley Solar Farm compromised an area of around 5 hectares in New South Wales. The NSW Fire Brigade and other relevant Fire Fighting Brigades spent around one hour and a half to monitor and end the fire episode. The cause of the fire is still unknown and investigations will be conducted to determine it.

Fires in solar facilities like this one can potentially have serious consequences to the environment such as starting a bushfire, burnt out solar panels, batteries, other electrical equipment and interrupting the power supply to the region and nearby communities.

The environmental pollution caused by the fire smoke and the toxic materials that could leak and contaminate the ground have a serious impact on biodiversity and can be hard to measure. All these consequences are unlikely to be reversed after a fire has happened and the remoteness of solar farm locations can make it hard for firefighting brigades to access the area.

Aerial footage of the blaze at Finley Solar Farm (NSW) captured by Eddie Madden

The causes of solar panel fires can be various, including issues on installation, isolators, and inverters, among other issues. Sometimes even wild animals that are in

the area can pose a serious threat and start a fire due to the panel's high temperature. That was the case of a large fire started on a solar farm in California that reached more than 1,000 acres and impacted the wildlife.

The fire started because of a bird wing that touched multiple electrical conductors that were at a high temperature, starting a fire almost immediately. The fire spread quickly and destroyed 1,127 acres of land before it could be controlled and extinguished. This episode reveals how critical it is to have technology in places to detect fires early as most of its locations are unmanned.

Solar farm fire in California destroys 1,127 acres

In addition to that, the solar facilities large areas and the possibility of fire spreading quickly through the hot panels makes it essential to have some sort of long-distance monitoring system or technology in place to mitigate the associated risks. These systems can quickly identify higher and abnormal temperatures or early-stage fires, provide the exact location of the overheated equipment or fire and where it is moving to in order to provide a quicker response to protect the area, including equipment and assets as well as mitigate the environmental damage.

Mitigating the risks with proven technology

Our technology can help monitor the conditions of solar farm panels in real time with one single fibre cable in order to detect and prevent overheating and fire incidents. Our system is suitable to:

- Do the monitoring for large and remote areas,
- Cover large areas, monitoring an entire solar farm up to 70km of length with a single system,
- Provide exact location of the fire, temperature and where it is moving,
- Suitable for outdoor areas,
- Can be easily installed, and
- No maintenance needed after installation.

The system can be fully integrated to your site system and in case of any abnormal conditions, notifications will be automatically sent via control panel or smart phone for an early response. Another advantage is that the technology has a low Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) in the long run with the cable having up to 40 years of usage expectancy, contributing to a safer, more sustainable, and productive practice when it comes to renewable energy in Australia.

To get to know more about how our technology works or request a quote for your project please [click here](#).

Sources

QLD Solar Farm Fires

<https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/1IN8C81V4QcJNWWUKXrLG?domain=reneweconomy.com.au/>

Finley Solar Farm Fire

https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/UAsWC91W40cZ4AAf4u_VQ?domain=sheppnews.com.au/

Solar panel fire season is getting more intense in Australia

<https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/YVr1C0YKQGiENQQfzIsS2?domain=theconversation.com>

PV Magazine

<https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/top1CgZ0zmigEKKiDUeKa?domain=pv-magazine.com/>

Big solar farm fire in California, USA

<https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/4qgGCjZ1Dpi6oDDckdpkM?domain=stopsolarfarms.com>

Low-cost solar energy Australia

<https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/8UXYck81EqCL2AAFouYHj?domain=reneweconomy.com.au/>

Brigalow solar farm caught up in Queensland bush fires

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Sent: Tue, 6 Jun 2023 03:37:59 +1000
To: "Council Information General Email Account" <info@sbrc.qld.gov.au>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Renewable Energy Facility - Tumuruu Solar Farm
Attachments: bushfire zones.pdf

Please be cautious

This email originated outside of SBRC.

To the Assessment Manager

I refer to the Material Change of Use – Renewable Energy Facility (Tumuruu Solar Farm) and Major Electricity Infrastructure (Battery Energy Storage System) – MLCU22-0034. We object to the Material Change of Use of 341 Bowman Rd, Taromeo, Lot 2 SP155159 to a Renewable Energy facility (proposed solar farm) and Battery Energy Storage. The reasons are as follows:

Insurance and property devaluation. If the solar farm goes ahead, our properties would potentially become uninsurable due to the unaffordability of our 3rd party insurance premiums. Our third party liability insurance only covers \$20M accidental damage, and the solar farm would well exceed that value – approx. \$700M. We would have to look offshore for insurance to cover that value, and premiums would be excessive. We must all (every neighbouring property with potential to put a dwelling on) receive a lifetime indemnity for accidental damage to the solar farm and this must include every future owner. The information we received from Plan C on 15/5/23 was that the solar farms 3rd party liability insurance would not be able to rely on adjacent landowners and entities 3rd party liability insurance to pay for damage. How do they propose to legally protect the current and future adjacent landowners for the life of the project should there be a change of solar farm ownership and /or change of insurance company? This would need to be included in the final development approval. The property devaluation is not just the insurance issue, it's also the loss of visual amenity, noise, dust, water, nuisance value, and the fact that we are no longer living next to a rural property, but an industrial estate. We all believe that our properties valuations would be severely affected and this is backed up by local real estate agents. This will affect all 55 properties immediately bordering the farm and another 100 in close proximity. It makes no sense to wreck the lives and futures of more than 150 residents when a solar farm could be located far away from rural residential properties. In our case, our property is all we have, and we have striven to make it as self sustainable as possible for our aging years. We expected to be living a quiet peaceful rural lifestyle with a rural outlook as per the zoning. Not to have major electrical infrastructure and solar farm as our neighbour.

Fire risk - We understand there has been one meeting only with one member of the Taromeo rural volunteer fire brigade. The rural fire brigade will not be able to fight any fire within the perimeter of the solar farm due to live electricity. That

would be a task for Queensland Fire and Rescue and there has been no consultation with the Blackbutt Queensland Fire and Rescue as to their capabilities, equipment and training for incidents at a solar farm. What systems and procedures will Tumuruu have in place to protect our properties from fire originating from the solar farm, also giving consideration to the fact that many of the adjoining properties are on no exit roads and there is no safe escape route. There is mounting evidence of fires originating from solar farms – see attached evidence.

Furthermore, the surrounding rural properties are situated in a very high potential bushfire intensity zone, so even though most of the solar farm is not in a high bushfire intensity zone, some of it is classified as very high, high and medium intensity, and a fire originating from the solar panels would easily spread to our property and those high risk areas in the surrounding community well before any fire service response.

What guarantees are there that if the application is approved, that the locations of the solar panels and facilities will not be expanded or moved in the future, especially should the solar farm be sold in the future (as with the new one in Kingaroy)
Is there a bond payable by the solar farm sufficient to fully decommission the property if in the situation of the owning company declaring bankruptcy or similar, and walking away?

I/we request that the South Burnett Regional Council reject the application for the proposed solar farm.

Attached Fire Zone for your info.

Signed
Paul Rodaway
Kaye Rodaway



· NOISE ATTENUATION ZONE FOR OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLING FACILITY

· KOALA HABITAT IN SEQ REGION

Identified koala broad-hectare area

For Koala priority area and Koala habitat area mapping, please use the layers under SARA DA Mapping -> KOALA HABITAT IN SEQ REGION

· AIRPORT LAND (CAIRNS AND MACKAY ONLY)

· PORTS

SPP Assessment Benchmark Mapping

· LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

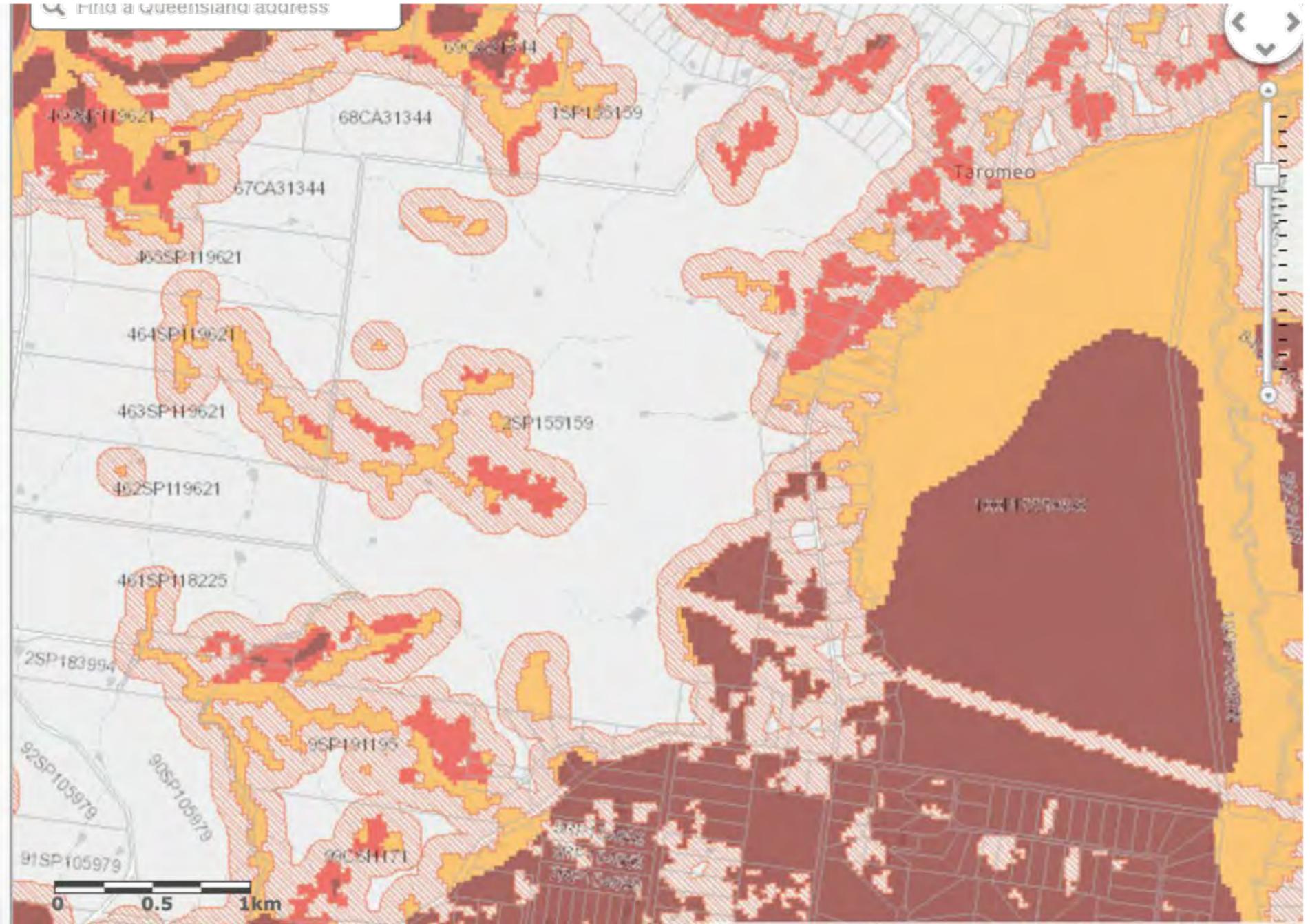
· MINING AND EXTRACTIVE RESOURCES

· WATER QUALITY

· NATURAL HAZARDS RISK AND RESILIENCE

- All
- Flood hazard area - level 1 - Queensland floodplain assessment overlay
- Flood hazard area - local government flood mapping area
- Bushfire hazard area - bushfire prone area
 - Very High Potential Bushfire Intensity
 - High Potential Bushfire Intensity
 - Medium Potential Bushfire Intensity
 - Potential Impact Buffer
- Erosion prone area
- Medium storm tide inundation area

PLEASE NOTE: By using this mapping y [terms](#)



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Mon, 5 Jun 2023 09:35:13 +1000 (AEST)
To: "Council Information General Email Account" <info@sbrc.qld.gov.au>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Application ref: MCU22/0034 Tumuruu Solar Farm

Please be cautious

This email originated outside of SBRC.

I have been on your website and cannot find the this application reference but would like to give a written submission regarding this proposed development.

I live on Franks Road Taromeo and have been told that the Solar Farm will border the back of my property. I have attempted to contact Tumuruu Solar Farm developers via email 5 times now asking how they propose to control the regrowth and vegetation under the solar panells once constructed and to this date have had no reply to this question. My concern is if they are intending to use poisons the run off will leach into the gully which feeds my dam and my neighbours dam. My horses drink from this dam and I water my gardens with this water. As they have deliberately not answered my queries my guess is this is exactly how they will control the undergrowth and this is not acceptable.

G. Graham

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 June 2023 12:23 AM
To: Council Information General Email Account <info@sbrc.qld.gov.au>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: ATTENTION ASSESSMANT MANAGER

Please be cautious
This email originated outside of SBRC..

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 June 2023 12:10 AM
To: info@southburnett.qld.gov.au <info@southburnett.qld.gov.au>; [REDACTED]
Subject: ATTENTION ASSESSMANT MANAGER

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

concern for the impact on these affected landowners, and the applicants have not engaged with more than 5 property owners face to face.

It appears the only people invited to these were councillors and a few business owners in Blackbutt. None of these are going to be impacted as they live in town with no impact to them.

Also what happens if there is a fire, this is in a high fire danger area? How will this be combated? A Fire on a solar farm would be highly toxic and Blackbutt doesn't have people trained or enough fire fighters to fight something of this measure, not to mention the people living in close proximate.

I am against this and have lived here for 30 years raising my family. I hope that council look at what this is going to do to the people that live in close proximity to this proposal.

Taromeo is a beautiful county location, please don't allow this to go ahead for one person that doesn't even live in this country. Shame on you if you do.

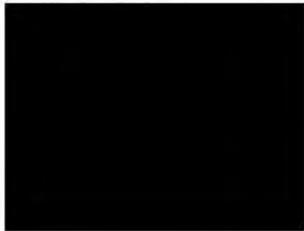
I guess nobody wants one in their back yard, so why should we.

We request that the South Burnett Regional Council reject the application for the proposed solar farm.

Signed: 

Mary Noble

22-3-2023



Signed: 

Richard Noble



To the Assessment Manager South Burnett Regional Council

I refer to the Material Change of Use – Renewable Energy Facility (Tumuruu Solar Farm) and Major Electricity Infrastructure (Battery Energy Storage System) – MCU22-0034.

I object to the Material Change of Use of 341 Bowman Rd, Taromeo, Lot 2 SP155159 to a Renewable Energy facility (proposed solar farm) and Battery Energy Storage System.

The reasons are as follows:

- Insurance and property devaluation. I have a property that backs onto the proposed solar farm and the view is beautiful with the landscape and cattle been my prime view. I bought this property to in the future build a house to retire.

Unfortunately if the solar farm goes ahead the view would be nothing but black, this is not why I bought this block. I bought it to retire. Country life with a view and wild life.

I do believe that this solar farm would devalue my property if I was to try to sell. As this is a country town not a place that you would expect to find a solar farm in your back yard.

The loss of visual amenity, noise, dust, water, nuisance value, and the fact that we are no longer living next to a rural property, but an industrial estate. We all believe that our properties valuations would be severely affected and this is backed up by local real estate agents. This will affect all 65 properties immediately bordering the farm and another 100 in close proximity. It makes no sense to wreck the lives and futures of more than 150 residents when a solar farm could be located far away from rural residential properties. In our case, our property is all we have, and we have striven to make it as self-sustainable as possible for our aging years. We expected to be living a quiet peaceful rural lifestyle with a rural outlook as per the zoning. Not to have major electrical infrastructure and solar farm as our outlook.

We must all (every neighbouring property with potential to put a dwelling on) receive a lifetime indemnity for accidental damage to the solar farm and this must include every future owner. The information we received from Plan C on 15/5/23 was that the solar farms insurance would not be able to rely on adjacent landowners and entities 3rd party liability insurance to pay for damage. How do they propose to legally protect the current and future adjacent landowners for the life of this proposal this would need to be included in the final development approval.

Loss of visual amenity and impacts to neighbours. The properties along Emerson Rd have had through negotiation the setback increased from 15m to 190m which is a better distance for those properties however our properties on Frank Road, Old Esk Road have not. This I believe is double standards, which is also a concern.

We are all in the same position. The panels will still be visible with a lot of properties on Old Esk Road and that is not just on one side of Old Esk Road but on the other side of the road where there are a great deal of houses already erected. All neighbouring properties will be significantly disadvantaged with regards to loss of, visual amenity as they have a higher viewpoint overlooking a larger area.

The other approximately 50 properties on the boundary of the proposed solar farm (Franks Rd and Old Esk Rd, and Harper Rd) have not had any formal communication from the proposed solar farm until they received the notification by express post on 31/5/23. I consider this an appalling lack of

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 June 2023 6:41 AM
To: Council Information General Email Account <info@sbrc.qld.gov.au>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Objection Tumuruu solar farm

Please be cautious This email originated outside of SBRC..

To the assessment manager

Sent from my iPhone

22.6.2023

To the Assessment Manager

South Burnett Regional Council

We refer to the Material Change of Use – Renewable Energy Facility (Tumuruu Solar Farm) and Major Electricity Infrastructure (Battery Energy Storage System) – MCU22-0034.

We object to the Material Change of Use of 341 Bowman Rd, Taromeo, Lot 2 SP155159 to a Renewable Energy facility (proposed solar farm) and Battery Energy Storage System.

The reasons are as follows:

- **Safety.**

Fire risk - A recent report discusses the growth of Solar Farm projects in Australia, which is also followed by an increase in the number of fires related to the PV panel operations in country regions. Safety standards and regulations are still relatively new in Australia. Fires in Solar farms can potentially have serious consequences such as starting a bushfire, burnt out solar panels, batteries and other electrical equipment. The environmental pollution caused by the fire, smoke and the toxic materials that could leak and contaminate the ground have a serious impact on biodiversity and can be hard to measure. The causes of the fire can be various, including issues on installation, isolators, inverters etc. Sometimes even wild animals that are in the area (kangaroos, wallabies, wild deer) can pose a threat and start a fire due to the panels high temperature eg. a large fire in California that started on a solar farm and reached more than 1000 acres, was started by a bird wing touching multiple electrical conductors that were at a high temperature. There is mounting evidence of fires originating from solar farms in Australia – see attached evidence and see also photo below of April 2023 Solar Farm fire in NSW.



A study conducted by European testing and certification company TÜV Rheinland, found that in approximately half of 430 cases of fire or heat damage in PV systems, the PV system itself was considered the cause or probable cause. Another study conducted by the BRE National Solar Centre found that more than a quarter of fires involving solar power systems were caused by the photovoltaics, and those fires were all serious fires, meaning they were difficult to extinguish and spread beyond the area of origin.

The farm in Taromeo also has the high potential for lightning strikes and intense wind velocity during the storm season, greatly increasing the risk of fire, often at night-time. The solar farm will be unmanned mostly, so early detection of fire will not be possible. We understand there has been one meeting only with one member of the Taromeo rural volunteer fire brigade. The rural fire brigade will not be able to fight any fire within the perimeter of the solar farm due to live electricity. That would be a task for Queensland Fire and Rescue and there has been no consultation with the Blackbutt Queensland Fire and Rescue as to their capabilities, equipment and training for incidents at a solar farm. In addition, many of the adjoining properties are on no exit roads and there is no safe escape route.

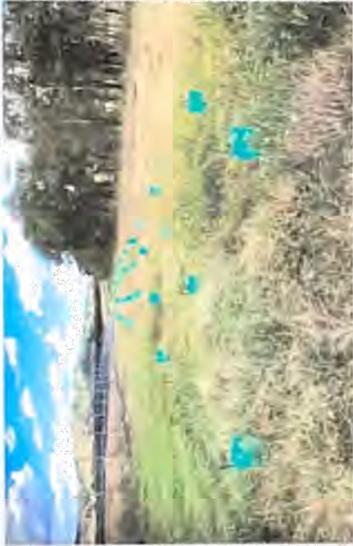
Furthermore, the surrounding rural properties are situated in a very high potential bushfire intensity zone. Some of the solar farm is also classified as very high risk and a fire originating from the solar panels would easily spread to those high-risk areas in the surrounding community well before any fire service response. Having recently lived through the Victorian bushfires, this is a real and very scary scenario. See bushfire risk map attached.

Road safety – Bowman Rd is a narrow rural road, unsuitable for heavy vehicle traffic and is not a designated haulage route. In the construction phase, they expect 62 truck movements per week along this road. We consider this an unsafe amount of heavy vehicle traffic and a financial burden on the ratepayers to maintain the road. People walk their animals alongside this road (horses, dogs) and there are BnB properties accessed by bicycle along Bowman Rd – due to Blackbutt's accessibility to the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, which is a tourism destination for the area. A safe walking and cycling path should also be planned.

- Insurance and property devaluation** - If the solar farm goes ahead, our properties will potentially become uninsurable due to the unaffordability of our 3rd party insurance premiums. Our third-party liability insurance only covers \$20M accidental damage, and the solar farm would well exceed that value – approx \$1 billion. We would have to look offshore for insurance to cover that value, and premiums would be excessive. We must all (every neighbouring property with potential to put a dwelling on) receive a lifetime indemnity for accidental damage to the solar farm, and this must include every future owner. The

information we received from Plan C on 15/5/23 was that the solar farms insurance would not be able to rely on adjacent landowners and entities 3rd party liability insurance to pay for damage. How do they propose to legally protect the current and future adjacent landowners for the life of the project should there be a change of solar farm ownership and /or change of insurance company? This would need to be included in the final development approval. The property devaluation is not just the insurance issue, it's also the loss of visual amenity, noise, dust, water, nuisance value, and the fact that we are no longer living next to a rural property, but an industrial estate. In any town or city, it's obvious that residential properties are less desirable and are of lower value when adjacent to industrial areas. We all believe that our properties valuations would be severely affected. This will affect all 55 properties immediately bordering the farm and another 100 in close proximity. It makes no sense to wreck the lives and futures of more than 150 residents when a solar farm could be located far away from rural residential properties. In our case, our property is all we have, and we have striven to make it as self-sustainable as possible for our aging years. We expected to be living a quiet peaceful rural lifestyle with a rural outlook as per the zoning. Not to have major electrical infrastructure and solar farm as our outlook.

- Loss of visual amenity and impacts to neighbours.** The properties along Boobir Creek Rd/Emerson Rd through negotiation have had the setback increased from 15m to 190m which is a better distance for our property, but the panels will still be visible, and they will still be in the water catchment area, adding to the water flowing through our property. Our neighbours at 18 Emerson Rd, and 1 Cameron Rd will still be significantly disadvantaged with regards to loss of visual amenity as they have a higher viewpoint overlooking a larger area. The other approximately 50 properties on the boundary of the proposed solar farm (Franks Rd and Old Esk Rd, and Harper Rd) have not had any formal communication from the proposed solar farm until they received the notification by express post on 31/5/23. I consider this an appalling lack of concern for the impact on these property owners face to face. They have said that they have held 2 community engagement days – it appears the only people invited to these were councillors and a few business owners in Blackbutt – we have been in constant communication with Plan C and no residents on the adjoining properties have ever had the opportunity to attend a community engagement meeting. Most of these properties will have a terrible outlook from their properties, with a setback of only 20m from their boundary. The suggestion by the proposing Solar Farm development that they are mitigating the impact of the solar array on these properties by planting a vegetation buffer is misleading. The photos they have supplied in their own application are proof that the properties will still have significant loss of visual amenity, even though their words say otherwise. It is also unlikely that the vegetation buffer will even grow given the poor quality of the soil. (as per other solar farms in the South Burnett region – see photo below.)



The Landplan Assessment of Potential Visual Impact supplied is reliant on factual information supplied to Landplan by the applicants. We are not confident that this is the case. There appears that there was not a physical assessment. For example – Viewshed 1 (from our property) they state that we already have prominent views of the power lines. Photo from our house supplied below.



The view of the powerlines is a distant view, and we believe the addition of solar panels to the landscape will have high significance on the visual impact we would experience) as we value our landscape setting. Viewsheds 5 and 6, most affected will be the property owners, and the Landplan assessment states that the visual impact of the solar panels to these properties will be of low significance. As these property owners also value their landscape setting and have long viewing periods of the proposed development, the visual impact to these properties is of high significance.

Added to this is the issue that Solar farms of this size create a heat island effect. A recent study in dry land regions of the US found that the annual average midnight temperatures at the solar farm were 19.3 degrees C, but the surrounding ecosystem was only 15.8C thus creating a significant warming effect on the direct neighbours. Daytime differences showed that the heat emitted above a solar farm were like large, sealed parking lots. PV modules (panels joined) emit thermal radiation both up and down, and this is particularly significant during the day when PV modules are often 20 degrees C warmer than the ambient

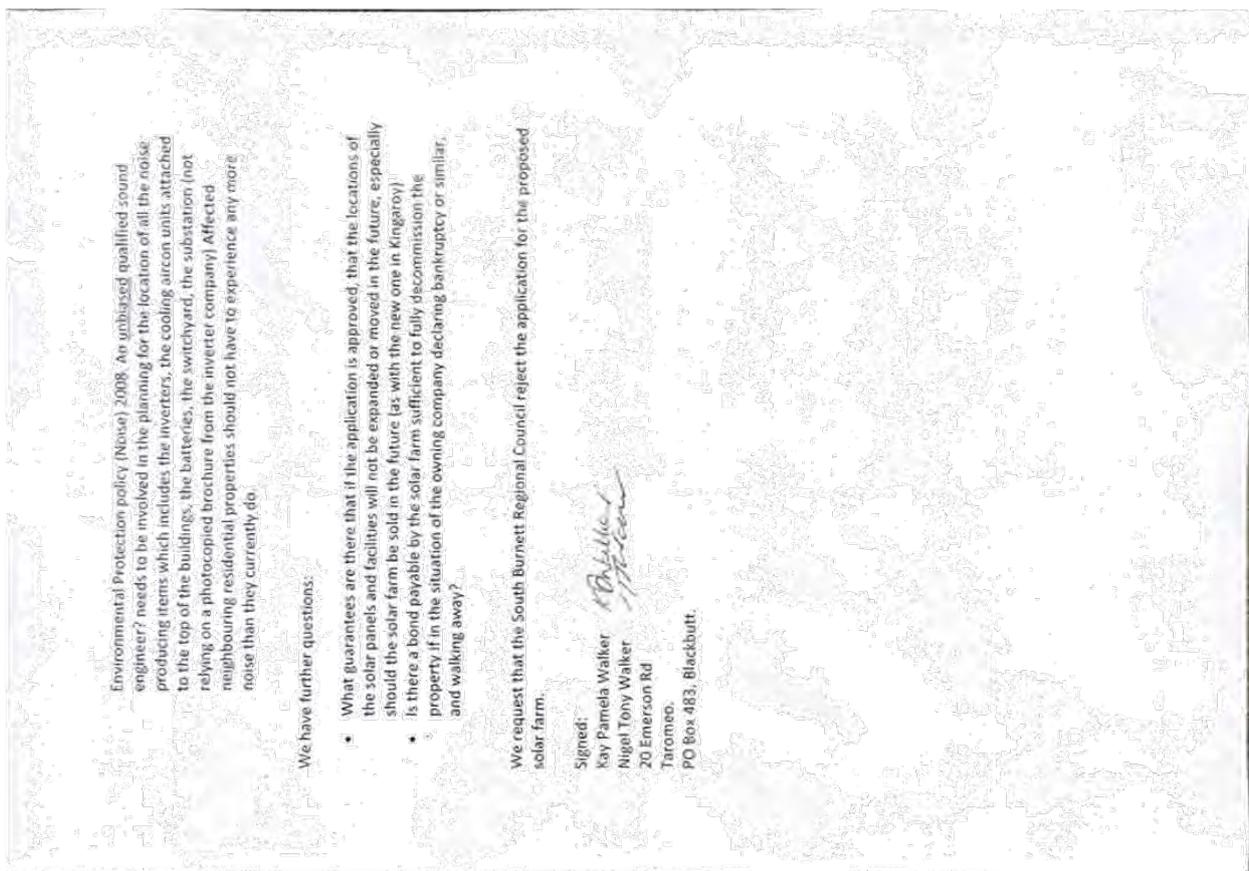
temperature. This is another significant impact to the neighbouring residential properties in an already arid area. Source: Scientific reports 13/10/2016 - The photovoltaic heat island effect: larger solar power plants increase local temperatures.

- Stormwater management** - The impervious nature of the solar panels and the poor absorption of the existing land (like a supermarket carpark), may mean a much higher increase in water runoff. We do not agree that overland runoff will be maintained, as the flows from the panels will be channelled onto the ground in a channel flow effect, causing faster flow increasing discharge onto neighbouring properties. Because the design of the solar panel system will give virtual total coverage of the whole 440 Ha site with only 70mm gaps between banks of solar panels, it is very unlikely grass will grow due to no sunlight and sheeting of water, creating faster runoff, and in the dry, massive dust problems. If the Change of Material Use comes about, surely a stormwater plan must need to be submitted to council for prior approval, as with any other industrial facility. Following is a photo of runoff onto our property from the farm, prior to any construction, after a heavy rain event.



Even though the panels are proposed to be moved 190m from our boundary, we would still receive more runoff from the panels as it will still be within our catchment area. It appears that there has not even been a site visit, as the stormwater management plan seems to be labelled "Kinross Road - Conceptual Stormwater Management" - has it just been copied and pasted from a previous project?

- Connection to powerlines** - from the referrals provided by Ergon and Powerlink to council, it appears that Ergon has not given approval, and Powerlink potentially has but with conditions. And according to those referrals provided in the development application, even if approval was given they could not guarantee the provided plan of locations of switchyard, inverters, batteries, substation, etc would be suitable.
- Noise nuisance** - 52 container sized inverter buildings located spread out somewhere in the solar farm. How many 3 stack inverters are contained in one inverter building? Inverter buildings to be located at least 100m from residential property boundaries, and even that may not necessarily comply with the



Environmental Protection policy (Noise) 2008. An unbiased qualified sound engineer? needs to be involved in the planning for the location of all the noise producing items which includes the inverters, the cooling aircon units attached to the top of the buildings, the batteries, the switchyard, the substation (not relying on a photocopied brochure from the inverter company) Affected neighbouring residential properties should not have to experience any more noise than they currently do.

We have further questions:

- What guarantees are there that if the application is approved, that the locations of the solar panels and facilities will not be expanded or moved in the future, especially should the solar farm be sold in the future (as with the new one in Kingaroy)
- Is there a bond payable by the solar farm sufficient to fully decommission the property if in the situation of the owning company declaring bankruptcy or similar and walking away?

We request that the South Burnett Regional Council reject the application for the proposed solar farm.

Signed:

Kay Pamela Walker
Nigel Tony Walker
70 Emerson Rd
Taromeo,
PO Box 483, Blackbutt.

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 June 2023 11:03 AM
To: Council Information General Email Account <info@sbrc.qld.gov.au>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Objection Submission Tumuruu Solar Farm

Please be cautious
This email originated outside of SBRC..

Good morning

I have attached my objection to the proposed Tumuruu Solar Farm project.
Will I be informed as to the validity of it?

Thank you

Ian Mason

To : The Assessment Manager
South Burnett Regional Council
Re: Material Change of Use
Renewable Energy Facility
Tumuruu Solar Farm and Major Electricity Infrastructure
Battery Energy Storage System
MCU22/0034

22 June 2023

Firstly, I am certainly not against solar power and its increasing use in society today, however, I do have some questions and concerns regarding the Solar Farm proposed on Bowman Rd, Blackbutt.

The setback of 20m to properties is nowhere near enough of a buffer between the project and the properties on Franks Rd. I see that you intend to plant trees and shrubs as part of that buffer but in the conditions here they won't show any significant growth for easily 10 years, if at all. This means all the residents on Franks Rd and Old Esk Rd are going to be staring at solar panels for years and years. Their natural views will be well and truly ruined. If the development application is successful with some caveats, is it possible to move the arrays much further to the west side of the property regardless of costs, so there's far less visual impact to the residents?

The buffer also is not wide enough in the case of fire. It is common knowledge that there's been quite a number of fires so far at solar farms, not just in Australia but around the world. In the case of a fire, the local Rural Fire Brigade, as good as they are, will be ill equipped to deal with such a dangerous outbreak of an electrical fire which will be on a massive scale given the lack of rainfall we have here and any grass/shrubs etc will only exacerbate the situation. The fire brigade will not be able to access the property to assist in lessening the danger to residents and others alike. The local residents will be left to fend for themselves if they can. We already live in an area designated a very high potential bushfire intensity zone.

I note as part of your application you have included documents prepared by other companies on your behalf. I would assume that these documents have been thoroughly checked for accuracy on such an important development application. Why then does it say that there is only farmland to the north of the project? There's rural residential properties which are adjacent to the proposed solar farm and many others within a couple of hundred metres and closer which will be directly affected by it. Some of the photographs you have submitted are taken in gullies where it is harder to see the solar farm, but take the photo 100m up the road and there's a glaring, solid wall of solar panels which obstruct the views of residents. Residents with double storey houses and those who have chosen to build on higher ground will be subjected to this terrible view every day. If you don't check

your work for inaccuracies, how could we, the residents, expect you to follow Council rules and regulations regarding the build.

Consultation with the public has been abysmal to date. I live on Old Esk Rd near the proposed farm and I have not been notified of any aspect of your proposal. Nothing in the mail, nothing in a targeted letter drop, nothing on any local social media sites, nothing at all.

I am also very concerned about the effect of the building process of the industrial complex on Bowman Rd in particular. The council has already shown that they cannot maintain the road to a satisfactory level now so it is safe for residents and visitors to use. The damage caused by the movement of countless heavy vehicles over the road during the construction phase will only cause further angst to locals in particular who have to use that road every day as the only access to the town proper to do shopping, to get kids to school, to go to work etc.

I am concerned about the methods that will be used to prepare the property for the construction of the arrays. One of the common methods used is to poison the ground coverings (grass, weeds, bushes etc) in an attempt to alleviate the danger of a fire. Many other such farms using this process have managed to create dust storms which affect the local residents as the ground is bare. The winds come particularly from the west/south-west through the valley and they will be relentless at picking up the soil and creating dust storms. There is also the danger of the poison running off the property during rain periods to surrounding properties and killing not only the flora but also the fauna on residents' properties. It will also poison residents' dams rendering them useless. The poisons used never go away. They are there forever.

I am also concerned about the effect of this industrial complex on the value of our properties.

Local real estate agents certainly believe that our properties will be devalued. They're just not certain by how much, but it will be significant.

How noisy are the inverters and other systems required to run this facility? We have chosen to live in a quiet, rural residential setting and certainly don't want the peace disturbed by industrial noise 24 hours a day.

In light of all these concerns and the concerns of many other people, it would be best if the application for the Tumuruu Solar Farm was rejected by Council.

Ian Mason



18 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**18.1 QUESTION ON NOTICE - PROSTON QCWA SHED OR SHIPPING CONTAINER****File Number:** 22-11-2023**Author:** Executive Assistant Liveability**Authoriser:** Chief Executive Officer

The following question on notice was received from Councillor Duff.

Question

Is there still communication with Proston QCWA regarding Lease A in Lot. 5 on RP 904174 and their proposal for a shipping container rather than a shed?

Response

Council Officers have been in recent discussions with committee members for a new shed to be built on their lease area, as opposed to a container in a public space. Quotes and plans are being sourced by the committee and then they will seek a letter of support for any appropriate grant funding.

RECOMMENDATION

That the response to the question regarding is there still communication with Proston QCWA regarding Lease A in Lot. 5 on RP 904174 and their proposal for a shipping container rather than a shed raised by Councillor Duff be received and noted.

ATTACHMENTS**Nil**

18.2 QUESTION ON NOTICE - PLANNING SCHEME COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**File Number:** 22-11-2023**Author:** General Manager Liveability**Authoriser:** Chief Executive Officer

The following question on notice was received from Councillor Cr Duff.

Question

Will the community consultation be submissions on the planning scheme or submissions on the major amendment only?

Response

The Minister's Guidelines and Rules (MGR) states that the local government must consider every properly made submission about the proposed amendment and may consider other submissions regarding the Planning Scheme.

RECOMMENDATION

That the response to the question regarding Planning Scheme community consultation raised by Councillor Duff be received and noted.

ATTACHMENTS**Nil**

18.3 QUESTION ON NOTICE - ONGOING OPERATIONAL COSTS AT PROSTON LOOKOUT**File Number:** 22/11/2023**Author:** Manager Facilities and Parks**Authoriser:** Chief Executive Officer

The following question on notice was received from Councillor Henschen.

Question

What will be the ongoing operational costs for the Proston Lookout?

Response

Ongoing operational costs will include water, mowing, weeding, gardening and emptying of bins at site.

Total cost per year is \$10,585.40.

Watering: Labour, Plant and Water charges per annum - \$3,852.00.

Mowing and Gardening: Labour and Plant charges per annum - \$3249.20.

Bin emptying and rubbish disposal: Labour and Plant charges per annum - \$3484.00.

RECOMMENDATION

That the response to the question regarding what will be the ongoing operational costs for the Proston Lookout raised by Councillor Henschen be received and noted.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

18.4 QUESTION ON NOTICE - ALLOTMENTS IN BLACKBUTT**File Number:** 22/11/2023**Author:** Manager Facilities and Parks**Authoriser:** Chief Executive Officer

The following question on notice was received from Councillor Schumacher.

Question

What is the history and context of the lots in Morris Street, Blackbutt that are listed on the Environmental Management Register?

Response

These allotments are listed on the Environmental Management Register (EMR) as Class 7 – CHEMICAL STORAGE (other than petroleum products or oil under item 29) - storing more than 10 t of chemicals (other than compressed or liquefied gases) that are dangerous goods under the dangerous goods code.

Council believes that this has come about due to these allotments being near the railway station and having been bundled in with that land. Council's Land Investigation Officer has engaged an environmental consultant to have the parcels removed from the EMR for unrestricted land use (e.g. residential use).

Results from the first stage of the assessment should be available soon and report brought back to Council in 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

That the response to the question regarding the history and context of the lots in Morris Street, Blackbutt that are listed on the Environmental Management Register raised by Councillor Schumacher be received and noted.

ATTACHMENTS**Nil**

19 INFORMATION SECTION

Nil

20 CONFIDENTIAL SECTION

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with Section 254J of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*:

20.1 Consideration for Remission on Rates - Assessment 21247-10000-000, 31065-00000-000 & 31015-00000-000

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 254J - d of the Local Government Regulation, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with rating concessions.

20.2 Glendon Street Amenities Electricity Update

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 254J - g of the Local Government Regulation, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.

20.3 Potential Purchase of Community Health Building, Kingaroy

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 254J - g of the Local Government Regulation, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government.

21 CLOSURE OF MEETING