

D20/72474  
DA423/2019(1)

26 November 2020

Planning Panel Secretariat  
320 Pitt Street,  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Holt,

**DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION DA 423/2019(1)**  
**ELECTRICITY GENERATING WORKS (SOLAR FARM) - 643 MITCHELL HIGHWAY ORANGE**

I confirm that during the Council Meeting of Tuesday 17 November 2020, Council resolved to strongly object the proposed solar farm at 643 Mitchell Highway, Orange.

Council articulated that grounds for this strong objection are as follows;

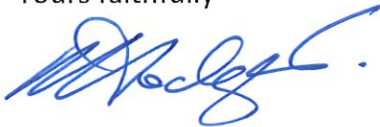
1. Orange is known for its vistas and its appealing landscapes. The location of the proposed solar farm is not considered to be suitable. Its proposed location is situated at the entrance of the City and is not seen as an inviting development. It is considered that the proposal will have significant destruction on the ambience of the existing rural setting.
2. Solar farms should not be located on viable agricultural land as is proposed within the application. The proposed location of the solar farm is considered to be inappropriate given there are more suitable locations for comparable developments.
3. The Bureau of Meteorology suggests that Orange is located within the bottom 25% of solar radiation in Australia, therefore highlighting that it is not an appropriate place for solar infrastructure to be developed. Recognising that Orange is not in a renewable energy zone (where solar energy is more efficient and effective), the application is not sufficient in giving justification as to why the proposed location is appropriate.
4. Thirty six dwellings are located within close proximity to the site and would be adversely impacted from the proposal. The proposal also significantly affects the future growth of the region. Future residents are not going to want to live next to or near the development, affecting the potential development of the region beyond the proposal. Further exemplifying that the proposed development will not have a positive effect on the economic growth of the region.

**DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION DA 423/2019(1)**  
**ELECTRICITY GENERATING WORKS (SOLAR FARM) - 643 MITCHELL HIGHWAY ORANGE**

5. There is currently no effective recycling streams for solar products. Council has concerns for the responsibility of maintaining the site should the current operator fold. Therefore remediation and maintenance conditions should be associated with the land, rather than the proposal itself. Council recommends an environmental bond be placed on the development for rehabilitation now and into the future, should the panel choose to override Council with their decision to implement it in any event.
6. The proposed solar farm has been met with community opposition. The proposal is considered to add minimal value to the local community and is not in the best interests of the community. The solar farm will not be adding value to our local economy.

Council is of the opinion that the impacts of this development are unacceptable. In light of the above, Council requests that the Panel refuse the development application.

Yours faithfully



Mark Hodges  
**DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**  
mam