

Sutton Solar Action Group Update



The SSAG's first manual traffic count on Wednesday 13 March between 8am-10am showed that 1,442 vehicles passed through the village and over the causeway, on average one every 10 seconds.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Springdale development used data from as far back as 2008, with the most recent being from 2016. To enable the SSAG to provide realistic traffic movements, we carried out the first of what we plan will be several manual traffic counts. We counted traffic flows both to and from Sutton village, from near the intersection of East Tallagandra Lane and Sutton Road.

Of that total number of vehicles 1,365 were cars, 66 were trucks from tipper size to large trucks with trailers and there were 11 buses, including school buses.

Whilst it has been suggested that the developer may be prevented from using the route within the school zone hours (8am-9.30am and 2.30pm-4pm), it should be noted that 797

of the 1,442 vehicle movements occurred outside the school zone hours, including 10 buses, many carrying school children. If you add an additional 275 plus car and truck movements per day for the development, the village and causeway will become a danger zone.

To prevent development related traffic from using the roads during school zone hours will prove very problematic. How will residents know what vehicles are from the solar development and what is just normal traffic? If trucks arrive from the north or south of the village just before the cut off times for the school zones hours, where will they park for the 1½ hours until they can proceed? What impacts will trucks' parking on the side of the road to the north and south of the village have on the safety of other road users.

None of these issues have been addressed by the developer in the EIS. In fact, they note in the EIS the potential increased risk due to additional traffic but failed to provide any form of traffic study to understand how the additional project related traffic would impact the community, other road users and pedestrians in the village. Particularly when you consider that all these vehicles will pass both a primary and a pre-school.

Over the next few months the SSAG will carry out further traffic counts for morning and afternoon periods which we will share with village residents and SDCAI.

On another very important note, the SSAG has written to YVC and other NSW government departments including the Department of Planning raising our concerns that the developer has stated that due to Section 4.41 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act certain approvals are not required for State Significant Development (SSD), such as a crossing over Back Creek. Considering the development is at the lowest point of a 3,500 hectare floodplain, people should be very concerned about that statement.

We will elaborate further on this issue in next month's Chatter.

For updates from the SSAG please contact 0412 206 696
Sutton Solar Action Group

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