

12 months on and no word from Renew Estate

29 August marks 12 months since submissions to the Springdale Solar development closed and Renew Estate was given the opportunity to respond to YOUR objections.

We believe the developer has not made contact with any of the affected landholders or community groups, and are also advised they have not made any commitment to the Department of Planning about when they might respond to the numerous objections.

This is somewhat farcical when you consider that Renew Estate's own website boasts that they will "...ensure we gain the approval and broad acceptance of our project by the local community..." and further "...we will inform communities as to project information, decisions, timelines and actions..." and they will "...respond in a respectful way to questions and concerns raised by communities". Perhaps those at Renew haven't read their own website...

SSAG attended NSW Farmers Forum on large-scale solar energy development

On 3 July the SSAG attended a NSW Farmers Forum in Wagga Wagga on large-scale solar development.

It was a large gathering of irate landholders and community groups who had numerous complaints; such as the lack of coordination and consultation by developers, concerns about using good agricultural land, what happens when the developments cease operations or in the event that the facility shuts for financial reasons, removal of infrastructure and the detrimental impact on surrounding landowners.

The forum was attended by senior representatives of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and gave the SSAG an opportunity to speak directly to them. It was

also an opportunity to liaise with other groups facing similar large-scale solar developments. One group was complaining about the lack of consultation regarding a development near them that was sold once it was completed, interestingly it was Boren Solar, a Renew Estate development.

A summary of the three forums held across NSW is being prepared and when it becomes available we will share via our website: www.suttonsolaractiongroup.com

You can also contact us if you have any questions or suggestions regarding our campaign on contact@suttonsolaractiongroup.com

Robbins Island Wind Farm – Tasmania

Former Greens Leader Bob Brown has objected to its construction and said this about the proposed project, "in the wrong place, will ruin the view and kill endangered birds in the area". He went on to say, "We're in an age where it's predicted 30% of Australia's birds will go to extinction this century because of human pressures. And we have to think about biodiversity".

As reported in previous Chatter articles the SSAG has always questioned locating this development under a key bird flight path that links Mulligans Flat and Goorooyarroo Nature Reserves with other areas of NSW. It also sits in the middle of regionally significant biodiversity corridors. Research in both the US and UK has pointed out the dangers of siting such large scale solar developments in sensitive areas such as these.

Mr Brown's comments add weight to our position that this site IS NOT suitable for the Springdale large-scale solar energy development.

Sutton Solar Action Group
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