

From: Rosefield Solar
Subject: Rosefield Solar Farm - Deadline 1 submission

Formal Objection to the Proposed Solar Farm and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

I am writing to submit a formal objection to the proposed development of an industrial-scale Solar Farm and associated Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). My concerns relate to ethical supply-chain issues, significant safety risks, environmental impacts, and the inappropriate siting of large-scale energy infrastructure near residential properties and sensitive local landscapes.

1. Ethical and Environmental Concerns in the Solar Panel Supply Chain

There are internationally recognised concerns regarding labour standards within parts of the global solar-panel supply chain. Various reports have highlighted the risk that some photovoltaic components may be produced under conditions that do not meet internationally accepted labour protections. Unless the applicant can demonstrate full traceability and ethical sourcing, the development risks indirectly supporting unacceptable labour practices.

Additionally, a significant proportion of global solar-panel manufacturing occurs in regions where electricity generation remains heavily dependent on coal. This raises legitimate questions about the true lifecycle carbon footprint of the proposed installation. Without transparent evidence of low-carbon manufacturing and responsible sourcing, the environmental benefits claimed by the developer cannot be fully verified.

2. Safety Risks Associated with the BESS Installation

The proposed BESS presents well-documented hazards, including the risk of thermal runaway, fire, explosion, and the release of toxic gases. Lithium-ion battery fires are notoriously difficult to extinguish, often requiring prolonged burn-off periods and specialised firefighting techniques that local emergency services are not currently equipped to manage. Locating such an installation close to homes places residents at unacceptable risk in the event of an incident.

3. Inadequate Emergency Response and Burn Policies

There is no publicly available, site-specific emergency response plan detailing how a BESS fire would be contained, how residents would be protected, or how evacuation procedures would be implemented. Without a clear burn-management policy, the development fails to demonstrate that the safety of the local community can be assured. This omission alone is grounds for refusal.

4. Toxic Smoke and Environmental Contamination

BESS fires release hazardous substances such as hydrogen fluoride and other toxic compounds. These pose severe risks to human health, wildlife, and the surrounding environment. The proposed site's proximity to residential areas and natural habitats makes these risks particularly concerning.

5. Objection to the Industrial Solar Farm Development

The solar farm component of the proposal raises several additional concerns

Industrialisation of Rural Residential Landscape — The scale and visual impact of the solar arrays would fundamentally alter the character of the area, replacing open land with industrial infrastructure.

Loss of Agricultural or Greenfield Land — The development would remove valuable land from agricultural use or natural habitat, undermining local food production, biodiversity, and ecological value.

Glint and Glare Impacts — Large solar arrays can create significant glint and glare, affecting nearby homes, road users, and potentially aviation pathways.

Noise Pollution — Inverters, transformers, and associated infrastructure generate continuous low-frequency noise. Combined with BESS cooling systems, this poses a long-term disturbance to residents, particularly at night.

Cumulative Industrial Impact — When combined with the BESS facility, the proposal effectively creates a large-scale industrial energy site, inappropriate for a location near homes and community spaces.

6. Insufficient Justification for Siting Near Residential Areas

While renewable energy infrastructure is important, it must be located responsibly. Placing an industrial solar farm and a high-risk BESS installation near residential properties contradicts the principles of safe, sustainable, and community-centred planning. More suitable locations exist within established industrial zones or areas with greater separation from homes.
