

Mallard Pass Solar Farm, is not a farm, it is an industrial installation.

When this solar proposal first came to our attention in Essendine, we were accused of being 'NIMBYs', and not wanting a clean planet and were labelled 'Climate Change Deniers'! This couldn't be further from the truth!

I completely support the need for the development of green energy for this country, and indeed this planet. I am a keen environmentalist and for the past 13 years, we have had solar panels located on the roof of our house, which has generated a great deal of energy, we have used and surplus energy produced, has been exported back to the grid. We also drive an electric car and spend much time protecting this local area, like litter picking on our dog walks.

However, the size of this 'industrial installation' at more than 825 hectares, will completely surround the village of Essendine and greatly affect other local villages, is totally unacceptable.

When we moved to this village in 1990, we moved here to bring our children up in the countryside, with clean air and peace and quiet. What we purchased enabled us to have farmland behind our house and wonderful views of open countryside. This countryside has afforded us a diverse range of wildlife, particularly birds, but also smaller animals that live and roam around here. It's so if this development is given the go-ahead, it would completely change the landscape of this area, not just the 40 years or so that the solar solar panels are installed for but for inperuity. . The damage to the ground and the soil structure will be irreversible . Piling hundreds of tons of concrete into the ground, cannot be accurately assessed, simply guessed for the long-term damage it will cause.

This area has long been a strong farming one, around Essendine and other local villages. The land has been used predominantly for arable crops. In my opinion, no matter what the developers claim to be able to do to mitigate the use of this land for solar panels, the net loss of cereal that are vital to our food security will be lost and probably never regained. The war in Ukraine has highlighted how

important food security is, and our empty shelves in supermarkets over the past few months with bread supplies and shortages of other products directly affected by grain supplies, such as eggs, are testament to this. Since we came out of Europe, we have had to put new policies together to ensure we have sufficient food to feed the population and the difficulties associated with this have been exacerbated with more and more land being taken out of food production to build solar installations.

With all the research that I have carried out over the past 18 months since we were first informed of this proposal, nothing I read convinces me that solar on such a scale is the way forward to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. When you look at how little sunshine we get during the year, particularly with the short days during the winter months, and in this area the many cloudy and indeed foggy days, it is hard to see how it will generate sufficient energy to make it worthwhile, and certainly at the cost of grain production. The readings I have submitted over the past 13 years for my solar panels, certainly show that it would not be possible to run our household entirely on solar.

Because consumer demand is irregular throughout the day, it would be impossible without battery storage, to ensure that all generated power from the sun could be used efficiently. At this time battery storage for this proposal, has not been included, but I have no doubt in the fullness of time, a further application will be made to add battery storage facilities throughout this site. The possibility of battery storage, is extremely concerning given the information available on the damage that batteries can do to the land, should they catch fire, (of which there is documented incidents already), the toxic fumes, batteries on fire cause, and of course the damage of leakage into the soil. As solar installations on this scale are a relatively new concept, there is absolutely no way that we can be sure about how much damage will be done to the environment.

I urge you to think long and hard about how this installation, on this scale, can seriously make a difference to the energy output for this country. Solar panels belong on houses factories and supermarkets not on prime, agricultural land, your conclusions presented to

those approving this installation, will affect generations of young people for many years to come.