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<th>Submission number: 43</th>
<th>Submitter: Relocate the Solar (Residents group)</th>
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I represent a group of residents in Merbein Victoria called “relocate the Solar”. We are currently fighting against a company that wants to build three solar installation within meters of our homes and crops. We are all for solar but in the correct sites.

Yes

The impact on rural residential properties and siting, importantly in the case in Mildura VCAT hearing coming up, three locations have been chosen by a developer extremely close to peoples homes and on irrigated / agricultural land. This policy is too late for our current issue (VCAT April), but we think it would be good and valuable for future planning if planners and policy makers attend sites like ours to get a first hand idea of consequences.

Yes - location, impact on residence, further technology advancement battery safety and impacts. Heat Island affect on crops, flower, pollination, use of irrigated land, noise, traffic, visual. On behalf of over 200 objectors to three solar installations in our street(s), I would invite anyone involved in the planning policy to visit our region and see first hand what impacts solar could and does have.

No

The Guidelines are well written and I think are very accurate. BUT given the particular case which we are involved in Mildura, consideration needs to be given to the residents that moved, live and get an income in the areas and which are protected by the older mildura irrigation scheme (policy). In our situation we have town. 4.3 be very careful stating that solar can "co-exist" with agriculture production, grapes, berries, fruits need consistent temperatures during the growing period, proximity of solar panels will affect growth rates, bud burst and fertility as well. During summers I challenge 4.3 page 10, we have just experienced record high temperatures in January 5+ above average, you allow 30,000 solar panels within close proximity to crops you will destroy wine grapes and other crops no doubt.

Examples of this again are in Mildura we they propose to build three separate solar installations, two being on sloping ground within meters of peoples homes. We will have approximately 90,000 panels in three locations within 1 kilometer of each other. 4.5 needs to address the visual impact further trees planted around the boundaries is not adequate in our situation. The reason why our area is even being proposed is because of the location of the farms to the grid, we need strict policy on the protection of farming land and infrastructure.

7.1.2 should be given more consideration, in our case again, currently there are no screens, trees or fencing, the planned sites are on slope what will happen when they reduce glare? are residents that have lived in farming areas fruit production areas no fencing now expected to live beside security fences with security lighting?

7.1.2 states little noise - currently we have no noise and the area is perfect? according the data sheets on transformers they state they should not be located within 200metres of peoples homes. In mildura they are planned to be 15metres from homes.

7.2.2 what happens when they add batteries and what studies have been ongoing? 7.2.3 consider living in Mildura January average temperature 5+ higher than average, we had 12 days over 41 degrees in January. Please consider living next door to 3/ peoples rights to live in the country and not feel like they are living in industrial zones. 2/ mental health and well being. 3/ we have plenty of dry land areas not producing anywhere near the income (per acre) and would benefit from having solar placed on them. we should be protecting irrigated land and the residents near the locations 4/ people / rate payers should have consideration first. Policy should also state that infrastructure be built so solar facilities are located away.
water (clean and drinkable), irrigation set up and tapped into, we grow crops and varying types. I think residents, rate payers should be afforded the protection of their local planning scheme and policies over corporate greed. In sunraysia / Mildura we have vast areas where solar facilities can and are being built this should be the case and irrigated land should be saved as well as peoples lifestyles. We do have the need for renewable s but in the correct siting. This is a serious offer please send or consider sending planners policy makers (not politician’s so much) but the people involved in policy and guideline implementation.

Mildura for example experienced 5 days plus over 42 - 45.1 consecutive, the heat island affects (studies) indicate that solar installation can increase daily temps by 2 -3 degrees.

siting and visual impact but consideration of location is vital.

installations designed to attract the sun and then have a Northerly wind blowing across them onto your crop. The guidelines do not cover potential off-site affects and are very circumstantial more research needs to be considered.

from homes on none irrigated / agriculture land.