

BEFOR THE SELWYN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RC225180

In the matter of the Resource Management Act 1991
Sections 88-120, Resource Management Act 1991

Between **Party** KeaX Limited
 Role Applicant

And **Party** Robyn Casey, Clark and Elizabeth Casey and Dave
 and Donna Kewish ("Joint Submitters")
 Role Submitter

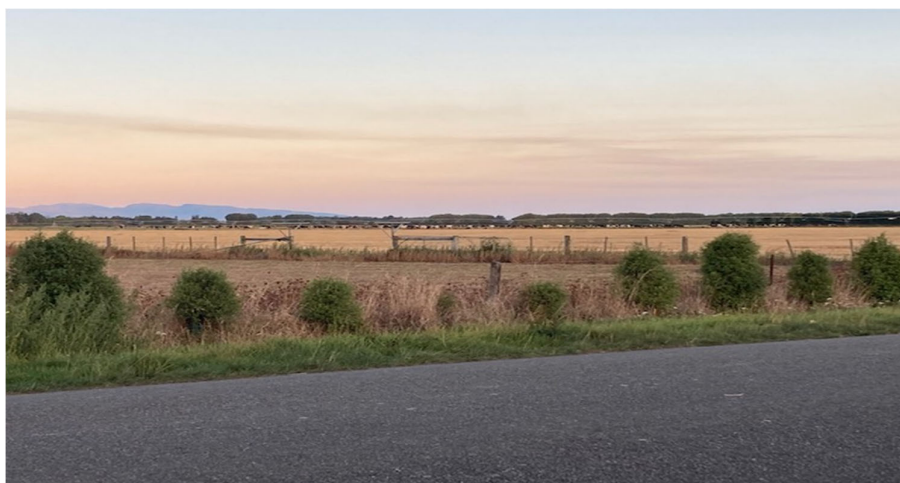
EVIDENCE OF ROBYN CASEY

Date 23 February 2023

J M van der Wal
Barrister
40 Walker Street Chambers
Christchurch
Also at 14 Queen Street
Blenheim

- 1 My full name is Robyn Lynnette Anne Casey.
- 2 I provide this evidence on behalf of myself, Robyn Casey, Clark and Elizabeth Casey and David and Donna Kewish (joint submitters), who have made a joint submission and an individual submission in opposition to Application RC225180 (the Application).
- 3 I live at 265 Branch Drain Road, and I have resided there since December 2002, when I moved back to Brookside from Wellington very much over city life. Only there for just under 6 years and commuted home most weekends.
- 4 I own 8.9030 hectares at my home residence 265 Branch Drain Road, and on Caldwell's Road 41.4920 hectares (opposite the proposed southeast area of the solar farm). The family has owned this farm since 1962, I am the 3rd generation to hold this land, and it is currently leased to my brother, Clark Casey.
- 5 I am working as a General Manager for a national non-profit organization in Christchurch. I commute 98kms a day (return trip) to work and home again.
- 6 I chose to come back to Christchurch from Wellington for the lifestyle of peace and quiet, rural views and outlook. I stay here versus the city, and like others and sacrifice time and money in a commute for tranquility and lifestyle. The economic versus lifestyle cost if you were to put it in simple dollar terms say at the current IRD rate .83 cents mileage rate x 98kms, that's \$81.34 per day, \$406.70 per week or \$21,148.40 pa.
- 7 Four and a half years ago, I altered my house, I spent \$250,000 on an extension, including a new master bedroom. Those plans were altered so from my bed I could have a view across the land.
- 8 At my stage of life, I am very concerned at losing or having damaged my lifestyle on a development that shouldn't be going where it is – in terms of glint and glare, acoustics, type of soils and flooding.

- 9 The views I enjoy are enjoyed by many – there is quite a few people who ride horses, walk and cycle on our road – they do the block from Leeston, it is not a little rural road. There are two school buses using that road in the morning and they would drive in the Dunsandel to Leeston direction.





COMMUNITY AND CONSULTATION

- 10 I am concerned with the lack of consultation. For the record Mr. McMath in his submission pg10 6.10 said he met with the Casey's in July 2021. For the record, I am Casey and he never met me, to discuss anything.
- 11 I was concerned and I know Clark (Casey) was also concerned at the persistent requests to keep this quiet from the Wards and McMath. I was also concerned to hear Mr. Ward, one of the lessees, he told Clark going to his lawyer wasn't necessary.
- 12 It concerns me that Clark was asked to sign off on behalf of everyone. Clark's repeated requests for information were stone walled. I recall calling in to see Clark one morning on the way to work and he was on the phone to the Selwyn District Council for information and he repeated himself several times, eventually ending the call frustrated.
- 13 Once we received the notification of application for this, and this solar farm became very public Clark gathered signatures from the Neighbour hood and the amount of people upset at the lack of consultation is concerning. I am frankly over this – my phone has rung non-stop with people angry and concerned. A businessperson in Leeston said this shouldn't be going there, it should be on different soils, and if things go wrong what about the lake, and what about the impact of this on the soils.

- 14 While we don't want this to go ahead – we have made a point of having a balanced point of view and searching and reading information, we have shared this information because people have wanted to know. How would it impact them – glint, glare, unsightly industrial park, increased traffic on our roads, hazards such as leachates. We contacted our local councilor who was surprised, he spoke to the SDC CEO – who directed our councilor not to engage with us and direct everything through him the CEO – more stonewalling, and to what purpose is this transparent from the council. Copies of emails attached. I thought the whole point of having an elected representative was to seek assistance on process and where to go to – transparency in practice.
- 15 We are not anti-solar and, but we do not want this solar farm to go where it is proposed to be sited – Brookside is a settlement with families choosing to live here. I was part of a development in Leeston and pushed for solar on the roof of the community house. I know the landowner from the Lauriston solar farm, and I rang him, whilst he is bound by a confidentiality agreement, - I did learn this - it is in a rural environment, there are only 4/5 other Neighbour's, everyone was consulted with and the plantings are consistent, (utilizing bigger trees that are existing and they are planting underneath 3-4 metres out all away around), complete opposite of this development.
- 16 I am concerned at the Lack of transparency, consultation, has done nothing to alleviate anyone's fears. The lack of detail in the initial application has created a lot of distrust, and it will be of concern to ensure that all conditions are met and monitored.

WATER

- 17 I am no expert, what I know is from a lifetime of living in this area of Brookside.
- 18 The ECAN discharge operational phase stormwater to land.
- 19 Condition 2 – says stormwater shall only be discharged onto and into land within the boundary of the site.

- 20 Point 2 – stormwater shall not pond for longer than 48 hours.
- 21 On the map "B" - I have marked my well X , and where water settles and ponds.
- 22 And marked a drain and direction of flow. It is important to note run off and any contaminants will run in these places into creeks that flow into Lake Ellesmere.
- 23 We are in a flood zone, see attached, marked "C".
- 24 I am concerned about the flooding in the area after the events. The soil here can become very wet and waterlogged. And I can remember in heavy rain, storms flooding, and roads closed and paddocks under water. My concern is basic science says electricity and water don't mix, with storms – how safe are we now? How would we fair with an event like Gabirelle, this is a real concern.

Robyn Casey