

PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF GLENMORE FARMING COMPANY LTD

RE THE SUBMISSION HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED SOLAR ARRAY FARM BROOKSIDE.

Good morning /afternoon

My name is Donald Green and I am speaking on behalf of the Glenmore Farming Company for which I am a Director along with my wife Anne and our two sons Christopher and Timothy Green.

I wish to speak to our written Submission as an affected party opposing in part the application to erect a Solar Array on the stated farmland.

My presentation is that of a concerned resident, concerns for our extended families living close by and as a farmer the protection of our future Dairy Farming Operations.

We haven't engaged the services of any Expert Witness for our presentation.

My background and that of my family in the Brookside District can be traced back six generations, my great grandfather farmed part of the Ward property back in the 1800

For the past 61 years my family has been successfully dairy farming the land along Branch Drain Road across from the proposed Solar Array Site.

We were told early on by Mathew Ward that Kea X Ltd were interested in establishing a Solar Panel site on the Ward Property south of Buckleys Road.

Glenmore Farming Company received notification of this Resource Consent for Land Use that was sent to a select few and we decided that it was important that we express our concerns.

We have been disappointed how this application has been handled by both ECAN and the Selwyn District Council given the major change in what is High Productive land use and the visual effects that would change the landscape I would have thought that at the very least Public Notification of this project should have been a priority.

It is of human nature that something of this scope and scale to be built in the neighbour hood would attract an enormous amount of interest.

As a farmer and businessman, we applaud the owners of the properties in question who have been approached and offered their farms for lease or sale, it is unfortunate that the returns from this high productive dairy land would be lost to the N Z Economy but at the end of the day this proposal if successful could give them options for future decisions making in their own businesses.

One of our major concerns when initially objecting to this Solar Array was the risk of Fire beneath the Solar Panels and the surrounding vegetation, and the resulting pollution of the land and environment if such an occurrence was to happen. The suggestion of grazing sheep under the panels would be of benefit to keep the grass under control, but I would be more concerned about the thistles and weeds that would appear unchallenged.

To satisfy our concerns of a possible fire outbreak we would be interested in viewing a Fire Emergencies Plan to cover vegetation solar panel and battery fires.

Not a lot has been mentioned about the Brookside Sub Station. I understand that it is ideally situated to handle the huge amounts of energy that will be generated from the proposed Solar Panels.

Being located on the corner of a multi rural intersection where six roads converge it also has the advantage of power transmission throughout the district and connecting with other Sub Stations including the new one being built at Norwood.

This intersection has had a history of many motor accidents in recent years and as locals we get a bit sick and tired of pulling motor vehicles out of the drains alongside the Sub Station, we loth the day when a larger vehicle drives into the Sub Station fence on a foggy Brookside morning. We have made numerus approaches to the SDC roading engineers to improve traffic safety at this intersection but with limited response. The intersection is also a pick up and drop off point for local School Children catching the School Bus.

In conclusion we as a family share the objections of the other joint objectors to this proposal especially the Kewish family who are more directly affected. If it wasn't for the location of the Brookside Substation I do wonder where a suitable site of this size would be. As I said earlier, I have lived and farmed in this area all my life, I have experienced Windstorms, Snowstorms Flooding and Earthquakes and have seen major changes to land use in recent years with the benefit of intensive irrigation methods Dairying has proved most profitable not only in financial returns but also offering employment to Farm and Dairy Services staff to support their families in a thriving Community.

We totally understand the need to generate sustainable electricity to meet the future demands of the New Zealand population and its associated industries, as farmers we are always up for Audits from the various Companies that we supply product to and under the scrutiny of many organisations to make sure that our farming practices are traceable and acceptable to meet the needs to secure important markets domestically and internationally.

If the Solar Farms are to be part of our Community and our Environment in the future, then it is important that certain safety and operational standards are met and reports audited on a regular basis.

At the end of the day a decision will have to be made on this Application and it would be a pleasing out come if all parties could reach some agreement.

Donald Green.