

Form 33
Notice of person's wish to be party to proceedings

[Section 274](#), Resource Management Act 1991

- To the Registrar
- Environment Court
- Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch

I, Davida Anne McDonald, wish to be a party to the following proceedings:

ENV-2023-WLG-000014 Far North Solar Farm Limited

Topic(s): Topic: DR: Establishment and operation of a solar farm at 415 Moroa Road, and other roads – Greytown

I am a person who made a submission about the subject matter of the proceedings. I am both someone who will be directly affected by the construction of a solar power generation installation on the northern boundary of my property (their boundary is 53 metres from my bedroom), as well as someone who has made a submission to the South Wairarapa District Council, against Far North Solar's application.

I am not a trade competitor for the purposes of [section 308C](#) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

I am interested in all of the proceedings.

I oppose the establishment of an industrial solar array.

My reasons were stated in my submission to the South Wairarapa District Council, which I repeat here in blue:

Summary: The solar commercial installation in our rural environment will have a significant impact on the amenities of our property due to:

- Visual impact
- Noise pollution
- Light pollution
- Heat island effect
- Enjoyment of my environment and lifestyle
- Value of my property.

For this and the following reasons, I object to the proposal.

Consultation or the lack:

- The proposer has not provided adequate consultation with affected neighbours – indeed, not all neighbours were advised directly by the proposer (my own nearest neighbour learned indirectly).

- The 'consultation' was a single visit – unscheduled, without warning or opportunity for householder preparation – by a representative of the proposer. This appears to be nothing more than a 'tick-box' activity of consultation (it was more like being lectured by a rude and arrogant chauvinist). Doorstep intimidation does not mean community engagement was sought.
- Neighbours of the proposed site who did receive a direct advisory visit were not given any detailed information – a single leaflet with a poor quality picture is not adequate. When I asked, I was told to buy a copy of the proposal. A courtesy copy would not be provided by the proposer; there was not even an online site advised at that point (nor has there been to date).
When the proposed installation is an intensive industrial site, set in a greenfield rural environment with significant numbers of lifestyle dwellings, this deliberate withholding of information appears to be a considered, tactical block to community engagement.
- Consultation in normal commercial situations by major companies is formalised, there are scheduled meetings, times for these meetings are agreed and information is provided – it is not a cowboy arrangement of 'tell the neighbours' without any information provision, as experienced by myself.
- The formal description of 'neighbours' by the proposer is farcical – by using road addresses rather than physical proximity the proposer appears to be trying to understate the potential impact on affected properties. With long rural driveways, paper roads and other such accessways, physical proximity and numbers of affected neighbours are far greater than a road address would imply.
- Disingenuous wording; This installation is not a "farm". It is being sited in a farming/lifestyle environment on high grade flat, arable land (another 'summer' like the last two and cropping using rainfall alone as a water source is well within possibility). There are already concerns in some areas that NZ's cropping land is being built out by housing and, it would appear, by industrial activity.
- The proposer's representative did not have a single firm story to tell. Comparison of what was said with neighbours showed a variety of explanations – what I was told would be a 'deer fence' (very open mesh) was described as 'hurricane fencing' (like in a commercial security fence) to another neighbour. Suggested 'amenity' (read, view blocking) plantings ranged from cheap nasty pines or macrocarpa to slow growing natives that would only be a visual barrier in 50 or 60 years. Likewise, the immediacy of any noise pollution was a variable from one telling to the next.
- Again, please note. This is not a farm. It is a commercial, industrial use of farmland. Being on a farm does not make it farming, any more than parking my ute in front of the Aston Martin franchise make that ute into a supercar.

Impact on existing properties, including my own.

- Density of existing properties with family dwellings. There are at least twelve (12) immediate adjacent neighbours, sited on the boundary or directly across the road from this commercial installation. There are at least another ten (10) within close proximity, and soon there will be more as subdivisions at the Featherston end of Morora Road are ongoing.
My bedroom is within 53m of the back boundary of the proposed site.
Other properties still proposed for construction may end up even closer, although when those purchasers bought their sites, they had no way of knowing about this commercial development.

- Increased ambient noise experienced by neighbours.
The noise will be far higher than what would be expected in a rural environment, and was poorly explained by the proposer's representative. 'The sound of an idling tractor' would be seen as acceptable only by a city boy who has never had to shout over the sound of such a vehicle. (And do you know what is great about idling tractors? They eventually go away or get turned off.)
The panels will be motorised. The collection towers will be cooled. The representative could provide no details as to the total noise of the installation, but he did mention that it would be louder in summer. Oddly, summer is the season when most people keep their windows open for ventilation.
The noise pollution of hundreds of unrelenting chugging motors (assuming that multiple stands will have multiple motors, in addition to the cooling motors for the collection towers – this information was not provided) has been shown to have a detrimental effect on health.

Please note that I moved to the Wairarapa as somewhere rural, peaceful, with pleasant views and a nice lifestyle. I expected rural noises, such as weaning, harvesting (it's seasonal and intermittent, not a relentless 24/7 assault). Having multiple idling tractors running endlessly, right next door, is not an expected rural soundscape.
- Creation of a heat island leading to an increased ambient heat microclimate.
Overseas, solar installations have been shown to create localised heat islands. In the Wairarapa, where summers are usually hot and people keep windows open for ventilation, a heat island created by an installation 53 metres from my bedroom will have an adverse effect on my enjoyment of my home.
The creation of a heat island and microclimate is also of concern when fire risk is considered. Again, there was no mention of this by the representative.
- Visually, this installation is unattractive. It requires 4.5metre high stands carrying mirrors, and even taller collection units – these will effectively barricade me from the open rural and mountain view that I built my home to take advantage of.
I, like many other lifestylers, moved to the Wairarapa to enjoy the views, the rural aspect, a quiet environment and a pleasant lifestyle. A solar installation 53 metres from my bedroom is not xxx (stet, I left this in the original submission – I suspect I meant 'in keeping') with this.
- Tourist impact – this same visual barrier will line Morora Road and Bidwell's Cutting Road. The tourist route to Martinborough from Greytown will no longer be attractive paddocks with pleasant plantings of trees.
Plantings and fencing suggested by the proposer's representative sound more like barriers to a view than enhancements to it.
- Light pollution in a Darksky environment is a concern. I enjoy amateur astronomy; any light pollution from this site will be detrimental to my enjoyment of this hobby. Any lighting that detracts from the Darksky environment being advertised by Wairarapa agencies (or indeed, detracts from my enjoyment of my own back yard astronomy) is another degradation of the environment I moved here to enjoy.

Environment:

- Risk of environmental damage –

 - Should the solar panels be damaged and leak, or break up and waste be deposited in the soil/ environment
 - In case of fire (fires are a real and present danger in dry summers)

- From any liquids used to wash the panels, in the case of dust degradation (Moroa Road is gravel and deposits dust on my windows from a considerable distance away)
- Fire risk. As noted under the concerns about a heat island, this installation will create a new fire environment. Solar panels and the collectors (electrical transformers?) will require specialised fire-fighting resources, the cost of which will be borne, I suspect, by ratepayers – thus leading to ratepayers subsidising a degradation of our environment. Our firefighters are, for the most part, volunteers. Fires in commercial electrical equipment such as transformers (they're filled with toxic, flammable oils) will create risks that our current firefighters may not be equipped to deal with in a way that's safe for them, and for the environment. Smoke from any such fire will be a risk to anyone downwind of a fire. New equipment using more polluting foams and other firefighting agents will create further environmental risks (eg, like airport firefighting foam being toxic).
- If the electrical equipment installed by the proposer contains high risk materials such as oils, then the risk of leakage to soil (or penetration of aquifers) will need to be allowed for and the proposer will have to provide protection for the environment.
- Risk to Moroa Water Race or to the various aquifers should any use of specialist cleaning products, etc, be needed to maintain or protect a commercial installation.

Other hidden issues:

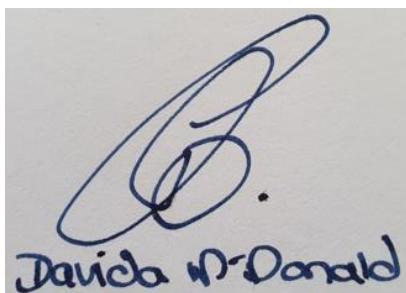
- Greenwashing.
This is being pushed as an 'eco' development, generating 'green' electricity – although the panels are useful for only about 20 years, and the manufacturing and decommissioning is never included in the 'eco' credentials.
- Greenwashing continues with the 'clean energy' story.
From my understanding, anything within reasonable transmission range of the big hydroelectric systems in the Mainland (South Island) run on that nice renewable energy. New Zealand is already at 95% renewable energy, but coal is imported to run Huntly (for power and to do voltage support to help the clean South Island power get all the way to Auckland), and NZ natural gas is burned at Whiranaki, again, to support the Auckland power demand.
Generating power in the Wairarapa will not decrease the need to burn fossil fuels to augment Auckland's power supply. To do that, the solar generation would need to be sited near to Auckland.
- Hidden costs may result in all of us paying more for electricity to subsidise this scheme. The infrastructure that the proposer seems to think will be provided has to be paid for by someone, and the representative that turned up at my farm was adamant that Transpower would be paying for any upgrades needed. Those costs would be recovered from consumers, aka, us.
If it isn't Transpower, I hate to think what impact this could have on rates.
- This proposal will need to be considered in conjunction with the other proposed Wairarapa site. They are immediately adjacent to each other and effectively coat the Western side of Greytown with an endless glass reflective cover.
Please note that I object to the second installation as well.
- The South Wairarapa District plan is under review. Allowing this industrial activity under a District plan could set a precedent for the region – not just the South Wairarapa, but across New Zealand.

I utterly and absolutely oppose the construction and operation of a commercial solar power installation by Far North Solar or any other pseudo capitalists greenwashing their portfolios. I have stated my reasons above.

Additionally, I would like to point out that propoganda stating 'no noise pollution' from Solar generation does not appear to address *powered* arrays, which need to be moved, nor does it address the collectors which, being transformers, will hum. Go and stand next to the big warm grille in the parking basement, where the smokers gather. That will be your building transformer. It hums. All.the.time. And that one has been installed to be quiet. The literature is equally silent on the sound of the wind over surfaces, yet the screaming of a good Wairarapa wind over trees in Featherston can be heard where I live ... moments before the gust arrives at my place, 12 kilometers away. (We can hear the train entering and exiting the Rimutaka Tunnel, too. Sound travels a long, long way across a flat plain. It's another factor not addressed by Far North Solar.)

To add to my concerns about water, I would like to point out that the aquifers that flow below the proposed site are the same ones that I use for drinking when the tanks get low. Others also rely on these aquifers for potable water (it's good to go straight out of the ground), stock water and to water our vegetables. These aquifers will be at risk of seepage from any pollution at the land surface.

I am unable to state whether I agree *or* do not agree to participate in mediation or other alternative dispute resolution of the proceedings, as I'm not yet sure what the outcome of my submission might be.

A photograph of a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'Davida McDonald'. Below the signature, the name 'Davida McDonald' is printed in a blue, sans-serif font.

.....
Signature of person wishing to be a party

Original attempt: 14 November 2023
This attempt: 17 November 2023
Date

56 Settlement Road
Morrison's Bush
Greytown
Telephone: 027 717 5101
Email:vida.mcdonald666@gmail.com
Contract person(legal name) Davida McDonald

Note to person wishing to be a party

You must lodge the original and 1 copy of this notice with the Environment Court within 15 working days after—

- the period for lodging a notice of appeal ends, if the proceedings are an appeal; or
- the decision to hold an inquiry, if the proceedings are an inquiry; or
- the proceedings are commenced, in any other case.

Your right to be a party to the proceedings in the court may be limited by the trade competition provisions in [section 274\(1\)](#) and [Part 11A](#) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

The notice must be signed by you or on your behalf.