

Tim Lenehan's post

Online status indicator

Active

Braidwood Rate Payers and Locals.

Tim Lenehan · toepoSnsrd23u3 5u1a96:3al8l632h9e55m4n34t3Jlf08f72c07 2f1cg ·

A word from the secretive and divisive Sane Solar Power Group

Our group was formed in late March after the EDPR/ BCE DA for the Wallaces Gap solar plant was released. That's not long ago. As QPRC initially allowed only just over three weeks for submissions to be lodged, locals were initially preoccupied with studying this complex proposal and getting their written submissions in on time. After that, neighbours started talking to each other and the people of Majors Creek/Braidwood about this proposal.

We found out six things.

Most liked the idea of being supplied with solar power, most thought the solar farm would be community owned, most had no idea of what this solar plant entailed (10,000+ panels plus a BESS lithium-ion battery) nor the suitability of the site where it was to be located, many thought they'd be supplied with 100% renewable power all the time, virtually no one had heard of EDPR - an overwhelming majority were happy that the plant would be built far away from them and where they lived.

SSPG's first public action was to letterbox drop a leaflet introducing SSPG (and its mission) to 1500 households in the district. The leaflet also pointed out some of the misconceptions, erroneous assumptions and unrealistic expectations people held about this project. The content of the piece was factual. Where we weren't sure of something we said so.

After seeing the leaflet, proponents of the "microgrid" publicly branded our group as scare mongers, secretive, anonymous, a (possibly) funded front for the fossil fuel industry, lurid, cowardly/lacking in courage, divisive, NIMBYs.....you get the drift. Their approach was to attack the messenger and ignore the message.

The fact that several organisations around town have invited BCE to put forward their case while ignoring SSPG's request for the same opportunity, largely explains why we remain unknown to so many. The only exception to this 'just ignore them' front has been Braidwood Changing Times. Paul Cockram has given us equal space to BCE in the paper's pages and carried our ads. That's integrity. As President of BCE he has every reason to wish we'd just disappear. We thank him for his even-handed treatment.

The only media we have open access to is social media, so please follow us here online - and give us feedback on what we say or what is said in the community. We will keep you informed of what's happening. We are not going away.