

Peter Galifrey's post

Braidwood Rate Payers and Locals.

Peter Galifrey · poSeotsdrn73lc74l 1a5c69m613y6a6M 5l2860uc9a 84fmtht:16f088i ·

I am deeply concerned that EDPR (the solar farm project developer) and BCE (Braidwood Clean Energy, the project's advocates) consider it necessary to locate the proposed Majors Creek 1A solar farm in a high fire danger zone, in close proximity to residential properties and National Parks and some considerable distance from the energy consumers they are seeking to serve.

In essence, this will increase the risk of fire in the area, and the consequential risk that the power supply to Braidwood and Majors Creek might be interrupted during a bushfire event - something that I understand has never happened before.

There have been more than 100 fires and failures in battery energy storage systems over the past five years, - some of them in Australia. <https://storagewiki.epri.com> A grass fire at a Dubbo solar farm in December 2025 destroyed 92 hectares before being brought under control and a transformer fire at Raywood in Victoria sparked concerns over the release of toxic gases. Energy Safe Victoria recently ordered five solar farms to cease production due to their failure to manage bushfire risk.

BESS fires can burn for many days due to thermal runaway in the batteries which continue to re-ignite. A fire will shut down power production and could interrupt the grid supplied power to Braidwood and Majors Creek for hours or days if the grid connection and power line running through this site is impacted.

At RFS published rates of spread, a grassfire starting at this site could impact on neighbouring properties and houses in a matter of minutes, and reach the Deua, Tallaganda or Berlang Conservation Area, or even Majors Creek in a matter of hours. Local RFS brigades are not equipped to fight large scale battery fires and the proposed 20,000 litre on-site water supply is likely to be inadequate. Other local water sources are limited with flows in the Shoalhaven at Ballalaba Bridge being erratic and virtually non-existent during the 2019/20 Black Summer Fires. Our Local FRNSW Brigade is equipped for minor HAZMAT incidents such as car battery or domestic solar battery fires, but specialist HAZMAT resources are hours away. In addition to the batteries It is proposed that 3-5 tonnes of fuel together with other toxic chemicals will be stored on site.

The power plant will likely be designated as critical infrastructure which means that emergency responders may have to prioritise protection of this Portuguese owned asset (domicile of the ultimate owner of the Australian private company EDPR), before they can marshal sufficient resources to protect our houses and properties.

Many of us who are members of the RFS, spent months fighting the Black Summer Fires and all of us in the community lived through those terrifying times - do we want to do this again?

There has to be a better place for this plant to be built that will meet EDPR's desires for profit, BCE's desire for clean energy and resilience, while also minimising risk to our community and environment.