LOOKING AT SOLAR FARM BATTERY RISKS

The sensible and simplest way to look at 'risk' is to multiply the chances of an event happening by the $ damage that might be inflicted if that event happens. Supporters of the current EDPR DA say the risks/dangers of solar farm fire are so low as to be not worth worrying about - or insuring for. That's Titanic thinking. Remember the Titanic was claimed to be unsinkable, until it sank.

A small risk can turn into a catastrophe when it happens. We agree with EDPR that the cumulative risks of their proposed solar farm (the risk of bushfire damaging their plant/battery + the risk of lithium battery malfunction + the risk of the farm starting fires) is low. But IF they do happen the costs could be huge (major fire throughout the district, water and soil pollution on nearby properties by forever PFAS and other chemicals). Remedial costs can run into millions and take over a decade to implement.

To date NOBODY has said they'll pick up the tab if a catastrophe occurs. EDPR certainly hasn't . Nor have QPRC, the NSW or Federal Governments.

It's not as if Governments are unaware of these problems. The Federal Government is currently suing 3M for two thousand million dollars for the damage PFAS caused in water and soil contamination here in Australia. Yet no one has committed to putting a safety net in place for this development. That failure is bordering on wilful negligence.

What it amounts to is that the proponents of this DA (and the authorities that will probably approve it) are prepared to punt on other people's assets and livelihoods, hoping that nothing bad will happen. If the worst does occur, they also seem prepared to write off those who are impacted as "collateral damage".

IF EDPR has actuarial evidence that risks of major damage are really, really low why don't they take out insurance to protect others? The premiums would be low. Why hasn't that happened?