

Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today. I am Marilyn Swinbourn, I have been a resident of Maniototo for nearly 19 years. I was born, raised and educated not far from here and consider myself fortunate to return to live, work and spend my retirement years in Naseby. Its a delightful spot in so many ways, full of good people with good hearts. I love living here.

I am saddened by the fact that I am here in this room at all. This is not personal! and I fully understand the rationale for diversification in farming and the stand the landowners have taken. But I am saddened because this application has created a division in our community that will be difficult to overcome. I feel this project is completely out of context in our rural landscape and should be built closer to its customers.

While the 'area' may not technically be classed as an "area of outstanding landscape" it is very visible in the foreground of the vista to the Kakanuis. This is a view that delights residents and visitors alike as they turn off Highway 85 and head towards Naseby. I love it! It's a spectacular view that brings joy every time I travel home.

I don't have clever words to counter the expert opinions on 'mitigation planting work' but it's unlikely the site will be effectively screened in my lifetime. I have gardened for over 65 years now, including nearly 19 years in Naseby, and many more in other harsh and unpredictable climates. Growing native plants from locally gathered seed as recommended by the local runaka would need to be under way now to be effective. Given nursery grown plants generally require at least two years lead time to be of saleable size its uncertain where the many thousands of plants will come from. The chosen species list could use some 'peer review' by someone with strong local knowledge. To have any real kind of success watering, weeding and constant pest control and protection would be needed. How is watering to be done? and where does the water come from? These are valid questions in a dry area. We are told planting will be done over two years and that no planting will take place until construction starts. Its anticipated the screening will start to become effective around year 5. To me this



means the project will have much more than a 'minor effect' on the landscape for many years. The research reported so far seriously underestimates the challenging local conditions for growing.

I still have concerns about the impact this project will have on the Naseby Dark Skies application. As a lay person I have little understanding of the technical terms used in the report. After over eight years of campaigning to get our IDA application over the line it would be devastating to be knocked back by the perception that we have not in fact protected our night sky.

While I will not be around to see this project reach maturity and be decommissioned it is not the sort of legacy I want to leave for my children and grandchildren. We are leaving enough environmental issues already. Issues created by lack of knowledge and foresight. I personally have lived through the rise and fall of DDT, flouorocarbons depleting the ozone layer, lead in paint, am currently watching the demise of clopyralid and other pyralide herbicides that started out as a good thing, until they weren't. We didn't know any better back then. Now we do. We are aware of issues with the methods of construction of solar panels, materials used, the vast quantities needed, and with shipping them great distances. They then have a limited life (especially in this climate) and no way of disposing of them appropriately. We don't have the excuse of ignorance, we know what is involved. Is it fair to leave this legacy to our children? For a short term solution to a problem that is not relevant locally?

Please Helios, build your solar farm closer to where the energy is needed, it makes far more sense. Please CODC, you are tasked with making good decisions that will be of benefit to the region and protect our World of Difference.