LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Disappointing read

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Tatura

I read in disappointment the article in the *Ky Free Press* (June 19) about the petition of opposition to the proposed Colbinabbin solar farm.

Why are people so fearful of solar electricity-harvesting developments?

Do those opposing the project own the land on which it is to be built?

Presumably the land will be owned by the solar farm proponent and like other farmers, they have a financially viable crop they want to plant on the site (in this case, solar panels to harvest sunlight).

Electricity is a vital commodity that our modern world depends upon.

Turning a small percentage of low-value cropping land into a high-value electricity farm only has upside, as far as I can see.

Why does state Member for Euroa Annabelle Cleeland only see the development as having a negative impact on local communities?

Compared to all the old ways of generating electricity, commercial solar energy is one of the most amazing developments this century.

Converting sunlight directly into useable electricity using a simple, cheap silicon cell from a free fuel source is amazing.

Like other agricultural commodities, solar farm development is self-limited by the economics of access, supply and demand in the electricity market, so this development will not open a floodgate of more proposals and it is certainly not a threat to the viability of the Heathcote wine region.

Support for the solar facility would be a powerful sign that the Colbinabbin community wanted a more sustainable future.

I hope the Colbinabbin Renewable Action Group is able to turn its opposition to the Cooba project around by embracing the positive elements of the development and finding open-minded solutions to any issues or concerns it has.

If those who signed the petition were prepared to change their minds from opposing renewable energy to supporting the development, they could also save themselves a whole lot of angst.

Saying no to renewable energy shows very little concern for future generations.