



MEDIA RELEASE

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Community Energy Group give Siemens the flick.

A Goulburn community energy group building a community owned solar farm have told German multi-national Siemens they are not prepared to use its electronic equipment in their project because of its support for the Adani coal mine.

“Even though Siemens have the right equipment for our particular application, we can’t see any point in trying to reduce the Goulburn community’s carbon footprint while using equipment from a company which is helping Adani cancel out all our efforts,” said Ed Suttle, Vice President of Community Energy for Goulburn (CE4G).

CE4G is building a community owned solar farm in Goulburn, supported by a grant from the NSW government, and financed by local community investors keen to keep the profits in the local community.

“We needed an inverter for the Goulburn project that was able to combine solar and battery within a very specific output mandated by Essential Energy, and the Siemens inverter was the only one that fitted the specs,” said Mr Suttle.

“So we have been forced to redesign the project because we are simply not prepared to support a company that is deeply involved with the Adani mine,” he said.

Siemens have contracted to supply signalling equipment for the rail line being built from the Adani mine to the Adani owned port facilities in Queensland. CEO Joe Kaeser said that in signing the agreement with Adani in December 2019, at least part of the justification was that if Siemens didn’t supply the equipment some other company would have done so.

“It’s the age old cop out of saying that if we don’t do it someone else will. Where’s the morals in that?” said Mr Suttle.

“We know we are all in a dilemma when trying to source ethical solutions in our lives, and it’s impossible to be “pure”, but in life you have to draw the line somewhere, and this is such an obvious contradiction that we have decided to say no to Siemens,” he said.

“Community energy is an emerging field in Australia, and although it is very strong in Europe, communities here are just beginning to realise that they can own and run their own renewable energy projects and keep the profits in the community rather than in the pockets of large corporations,” said Mr Suttle.

“We think Siemens needs to get on side with communities instead of large polluting companies like Adani and use their considerable clout to help us all transition to a clean energy economy,” said Mr Suttle.

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