

While I agree that there is a need for renewable energy I firmly believe that The Hills of Gold Wind Farm Project should not be built along the ridge line from Hanging Rock to the Crawney Pass and **I object to this project.**

The town of Nundle and surrounding areas are unique, nestled at the base of the Great Dividing Range stretching from Hanging Rock to Timor. The area designated for the turbines are abundant with flora and fauna, which will be destroyed or displaced to make way for the project.

As a landowner in the area here are some of my concerns I consider important regarding this project, they have not been addressed with the amended D.A.

1. It has divided the community and caused social disharmony for many residents.
2. The long- term health and financial impact for residents living within close proximity and surrounding areas will be affected.
3. The location of the wind farm has clearly been chosen based on proximity to the transmission grid without consideration given to countryside that will be affected. The visual impact the wind turbines will have on the landscape are obscene.
4. The environmental impact on the biodiversity of the region and its effect on important environmental and riparian corridors is of major concern.
5. The biodiversity in the area will never be the same, after construction of the roads and turbines takes place.
6. The internal roads included in the wind farm footprint will have direct impacts to habitat and biodiversity. Large areas will be bulldozed for tracks, turbine pads and other infrastructure.
7. The large transport vehicles used in construction and transportation are going to be using the narrow country roads which are shared by the locals and tourists. During the construction the amount of vehicles associated with the wind farm development, are predicted to exceed safe traffic volumes. The road upgrades or modifications to accommodate the turbines and blade transport will be disruptive, noisy, and will also require the removal of established trees. When roads are too small for the large turbine components to pass, valuable roadside trees and shrubs will be removed further adding to the habitat loss. Given the harsh country environment the replacement growth of any tree will take years to regenerate.
8. The water courses which run into the rivers from that area are sensitive and pristine. Major concern is contamination and disturbance to these areas.

9. The revised Nundle by-pass for long and heavy vehicle's will create a levy on the eastern bank of the Peel river, this river floods and needs the existing wider flood-plane to assist the dispersal of flash flooding water levels, creating this levy will cause flood water issues around the town.

10. Two access roads now revealed in the new D.A. called the Transverse Track and the Western Connector Rd will have a major impact to the visual vista that the town presently enjoys, combining this with 64 x 230meter wind turbines and high voltage transmissions lines the eastern half of Nundle will look like the landscape around the coal fired power stations at Singleton and Muswellbrook. Land erosion and water run off from these two roads alone is enough reason not to proceed with the project.

11. Also revealed are the plans for a battery storage station, electrical sub-station, electrical switching station and batching plant, all this deposited within the vicinity of a beautiful tiny country hamlet. This is industrial madness.

Conclusion.

The developer of this project has not addressed any of the above concerns in their amended development application. I firmly believe that this project is in an incorrect location for a renewable energy site. There must be better options in NSW without having to destroy a beautiful town and area like Nundle.

Land clearing, impact on vulnerable and endangered flora and fauna, destruction to the water catchment of three local rivers and numerous creeks and total disregard to majority community opposition have not been addressed in this amended DA.

People now avoid each other in the village, signs pollute the roadways and fences announcing for or against opinions. Shameful tactics are employed targeting the elderly, ignorant and ill-informed in an attempt to artificially sway opinion. Pathetic cash handouts have allegedly been given out, in an attempt to make it look like the project has a larger support base than what it actually has. Employment is promised to garner support. Distrust in the town now runs rife. Engie promises local jobs and community funding but in reality the big money will go offshore with French technology and Chinese manufacturing.

Like a bad disease, this revised proposal has reinvented itself. It doesn't seem to go away, like the COVID virus it turns up again to disrupt our lives, causing misery and upheaval to this once happy community.

Local Landowner