

SUBMISSION TO DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

Hills of Gold Wind Farm Amended Application SSD-9679

It's now almost 5 years since this Major Project was announced by the then Developers, Wind Energy Partners, and now being developed by the French energy company Engie. The most basic aspect of this Project has still not been resolved - a viable access route through Nundle village and up the mountain to the Project site.

Engie's proposal to construct a private access road through Crown Land to avoid the Devil's Elbow impasse was wisely rejected by Tamworth Regional Council. Engie has now come up with yet another Private Road proposal, right in the village of Nundle on land below the Peel Inn Hotel. This is to avoid some of the impossible turns and corners which would need negotiating in the village to enable transportation of the long turbine blades by OSOM vehicles. Engie has even mentioned the possibility of demolishing a house on the corner of Innes and Jenkins Street in order that OSOM vehicles can turn right into Jenkins Street.

Engie has committed to rehabilitating this private temporary road. The Amendment Report Statement of Heritage Peel Inn, Recommendation 4 states: "Following the use of the temporary road, the area should be returned to pre-construction condition and made good (i.e. re-establishment of grass)". What happens if a turbine blade or other large components need to be removed and/or replaced during the life of the project after the private road has been removed and rehabilitated? How long is "temporary"? Surely the wind farm would need a permanent access for the life of the project?

This ill-conceived Project appears to be less and less viable due to mounting costs, especially major new road construction to gain access to the project site using one of the 3 newly proposed routes to reach the top of the ridge. One can't help surmising that Engie know this project is totally impractical due to its difficult location but are hoping for an approval which will enhance their standing in this country and allow them to sell the project at a later date. Access is just one of the myriad of problems this major development faces.

I **OBJECT** to this Development for all the reasons outlined above and those outlined in my previous submission in January 2021.

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