

## Hills of Gold Wind Farm Objection

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My name is Elena Raskovic and I reside in Hanging Rock. I object to the proposal of the Hills of Gold Wind Farm.

*Engie's general manager of asset development, Andrew Kerly, said "This is the community's fund, and residents will be fully involved in how the money is spent."*

Each turbine is currently worth \$3,000 per year. That's if Engie doesn't try to increase the value once again. If there's 64 proposed turbines, that would equal \$192,000 a year once the turbines are fully developed and functioning.

There has been little information around where the money will go, how it will be spent and what percentage goes to Nundle and Hanging Rock's community. I don't understand how this wind farm will benefit and fund the community since there isn't much information or guide to help people get a better understanding of what impacts and effects this wind farm is going to have on their hometown. If the majority says no, why doesn't Engie include that in their proposals?

*"The reduction in development footprint and turbine numbers also ensures no significant impacts to cave-dwelling microbats and any sensitive soil types are completely avoided."*

These turbines will cause more damage to the environment and wildlife than good for the land up at Hanging Rock and through Nundle. Reducing the number of turbines won't benefit or improve the negative impacts by this project. The only way to make sure there are no effects on anything is to get rid of every one of those turbines. There are many native and protected species there, including the wedge tailed eagle, koalas, kangaroos, wallabies and echidnas. By putting up those turbines, it will endanger and greatly affect the native Australian animals. The turbines will be in the way of where the eagles fly, where the koalas live in the surrounding trees and areas, the kangaroos, wallabies and echidnas will also be affected by these unwanted machines.

Removing one turbine from all of what was 65 recently won't make much of a difference when it comes to the soil types. Majority of the land where the proposed wind turbines will be located consists of similar or the same soil type all around. By removing a singular turbine thinking it will benefit the soil types, they're wrong. If this proposed wind farm project was safe, secure and properly considered both environmental and structural factors, there would be no need for ongoing modifications to the developing plan of destruction.

*"The turbine location will also include a gravel area to support the cranes used to lift the turbine components."*

The fact that they will need to create a gravel area to support the cranes and other equipment during construction proves the instability of the land.

The soil there is sensitive and is suitable for cattle grazing at most, yet alone 64 wind turbines weighing approximately 164 tons each.

*“The construction of the wind farm will require the improvement of some local public roads and bridges leading up to the project site.”*

It's not clear to me that Engie's plan is to build new roads, build on top of existing roads, create bridges, knock down a house that has recently been purchased by a man who is the founder of the hills of gold wind farm and who will have most of the turbines on his property while getting the most out of this project and who has done a lot of illegal clearing to suit his desired plan, destroy historical trees along Jenkins Street, and interfere with traffic by removing available parking outside the post office and the coffee container, Machina, just so wind turbines will be of clear view along the ridgelines surrounding the villages of Nundle and Hanging Rock?

If this wind farm project is such a great investment and will benefit the community in such a profound way, then why is there barely any information on the Engie website and at the local information hub on the corner of Jenkins Street and Oakenville Street. I went in about a week ago, and the lady there struggled to answer any of my questions clearly and with confidence. She was hesitant about understanding where the start of the wind farm will be, and lacked a lot of information. This showed me that she did not know what she was doing or saying but was hoping for the best and tried to make out she knew it all. If Engie can't help me answer my questions or give a clear answer, then what would I know about this project? How am I supposed to learn about the positive effects this wind farm has on my hometown?

I could not find an article about the maintenance of those turbines, continual operations and construction that will be going forward if these turbines ever go up. And I have not seen Engie write about the safety precautions and legality of the placement of these turbines.

The Nundle State Forest is the main source for Plantation Pine Products, the company transports the logs from the pine forest, in order to be shipped off. The trucks that transport those logs weigh approximately 60-65 tons. Along Nundle Road, Oakenville Street and Barry Road, the state of the roads are atrocious. There are potholes, part of the road has been torn up and part of the beginning of Barry Road is starting to collapse, and just after the turn off onto forest way part of the road has collapsed, causing residents, locals, and tourists to travel over the detour to get past. If the roads have been affected by the logging trucks, I don't want to imagine how the roads will be if the trucks used to transport parts for the wind turbines weigh between 130 to 175 tons, depending on what materials they are carrying.

**Resources:**

**Link 1:** <https://engie.com.au/home/assets/wind/hills-of-gold>

**Link 2:** <https://engie.com.au/home/about-engie/news/hills-of-gold-residents-have-their-say>

**Link 3:** <https://engie.com.au/home/about-engie/news/major-changes-hills-of-gold>

**Link 4:**

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/not-in-nundle-hills-of-gold-wind-farm-faces-mounting-local-opposition/>