

Hills of Gold Wind Farm Amended Application (SSD-9679)

Sandra Burgess
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Limeburners Creek
NSW 2324

I also own a property at 345 Barry Road, Hanging Rock

I acknowledge and accept the Department's declaration and disclaimer and have not made any political donations,

I am OBJECTING to the proposal for the following reasons.

The proponents have not allayed any of the concerns I have about the impacts. of the proposal. The documents, so called "Factsheets", don't seem to be clear. Statements such as "is being considered" and "could be used" are not adequate.

The Traffic and transport "Factsheet" states that "Extensive assessments are being carried out" but these are not in the Amendment document,

No matter what spin is put on it this project is unacceptable.

The developers have attempted to minimize potential negative effects that will result in a small rural community being severely impacted by an ill considered proposal. The proponents have put immense pressure on a small number of residents who have to fight to save their way of life. The damage is enormous and I wonder what if any compensation will be offered to those who are severely affected should this go ahead.

Unfortunately much damage has already been done to the social fabric of Hanging Rock and Nundle, The towns are divided between the minority who support the wind farm and the majority who don't.

Proposed road traffic through the towns of Nundle and Hanging Rock will have a serious and unacceptable negative impact on residents and the environment. If the option of using the Verdon Road Quarry proceeds, 800,000 tonnes of gravel will be excavated and trucked along Barry Road for 6 days a week for approximately 2 years. The road has already collapsed after heavy rain and is closed at present. There is a bypass in place. Hanging Rock is a high rainfall area and if current trends continue we can assume it will be an ongoing problem. It is the only access road in or out of Hanging Rock,

The Sheba Dams are on Barry Road and close to Morrisons Gap Road. No mention has been made of any impact that may occur as a result of the transport movements. Not only are the Sheba Dams used for recreation all year round such as camping and canoeing; the Namoi Catchment Management Authority erected a sign stating "The protection of the area around Sheba Dams is critical to the survival of more than 60 rare and endangered plant species recorded in the area". The sign also lists the birds, reptiles and mammals to be found in the area. The Spotted Tailed Quoll is listed as endangered.

The proposed wind farm will impact a wider area than just the site of the turbines. The quarry on Verdon Road is close to several tributaries of the Peel. I am concerned that enough care is not likely to be taken by this company to prevent damage to this important resource. It's too late once the damage is done. No amount of "mitigation" can restore what was there.

It seems that the community is expected to bear the loss of their way of life and experience great upheaval to get 5 local ongoing jobs at the wind farm site,