

Director – Energy Assessments
Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

DATE:12th December 2022

To whom it may concern

Re: HILLS OF GOLD WIND FARM AMENDMENT REPORT No. SSD9679

- Please see my submission to the above mentioned development application during Public Exhibition of Amendment Report, November 2022
- I hereby declare that I object to the Hills of Gold Wind Farm proposal ID No. SSD.9679
- I would like my personal detail withheld
- I have not made any reportable political donations in the previous 2 years
- I acknowledge and accept the Department disclaimer and declaration.

I am an owner of a business operating in the village centre from a bricks-and-mortar store front. Along with most businesses in the village centre I rely significantly on the healthy tourist industry Nundle is known for. It is my experience that the hard work of the business community and local organisations have contributed to a thriving and indisputably unique visitor experience. The feedback I get from customers, who are in the main visitors, is that they love the “feel” of Nundle and Hanging Rock, they have a sense of “stepping away” from the industrial world into a place of calm and beauty. The village offers a unique experience of gold-mining heritage and a feel of old Australia alongside a strong connection to country and landscape. All this is being put into jeopardy by this proposal and these Amendments do nothing to resolve any of the issues that were raised in the original EIS, in fact, they demonstrably add to the unresolvable impacts of this proposal. I can only surmise the industrialisation of our landscape both on the ridgeline and within the village confines will have a devastating long term and permanent affect on my business, my livelihood and my well-being.

On no occasion have I been personally contacted by Engie representatives, they have not visited my premises or gauged how this proposal might impact my business. They have consistently demonstrated a lack of integrity when dealing with our community and cannot seem to acknowledge they do not have social licence here. The Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group, of which I am a member have objected consistently to this proposal in its many variations. The majority of community have consistently demonstrated their objection to this proposal. The Tamworth City Council have objected unanimously on several occasions.

The Amended transport routes are wholly inappropriate for a village of this scale and this nature. The transport routes are now coming directly through the villages of Nundle and Hanging Rock, with one route (the “Nundle Bypass”) requiring major roadworks and the removal of a house, alongside the removal of mature trees and electrical poles. The Nundle “Loop Road” proposes to bring OSOM vehicles on a wide loop through the village, requiring major roadworks, no parking zones and potential removal of mature trees to enable this. This will all be seen from my store front. To propose to remove mature trees planted by our local garden club many decades ago is unacceptable. To proposed to move OSOM vehicles through our village is unacceptable. To propose to build a road at the entrance to our village, changing the very character and amenity of our village is unacceptable.

The community (nor I as a business owner) has not been adequately furnished with visual montages depicting the impacts to our environment, which now include major visual impacts on our village centre – the montages that have been supplied are woefully bleached out, with the turbines plotted like candles on a cake, no clearing depicted for the infrastructure or cut-and-fill works for roads etc. The visual impact of 64 turbines on our ridgeline along with the associated infrastructure, clearing and extreme cut-and-fill works on our range (including 10m high batters), alongside one of these new amended transports routes ploughing through the heart of the village will destroy the high scenic value of Nundle and wreck the very magic that attracts both locals and visitors to the area. The very character of our village and landscape is in jeopardy. The very nature of our tourism industry is being undermined. Nothing in the amendments addresses this adequately. The economic benefits are overstated and do nothing to properly acknowledge the industries already operating successfully in Nundle. No transport route is acceptable – the impacts are unresolvable. I ask the Department to request the proponent to withdraw this proposal and let our community begin to heal.