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### **The Uarbry Tongy Lane Alliance Inc objects to Hills of Gold Wind Farm (SSD 9679)**

Engie do not have social license to build this project. Both the council and the community overwhelmingly and repeatedly reject this project.

The proposal to build wind turbines adjacent to national parks and in local communities where most of the population oppose the development is clearly environmentally destructive and unacceptable.

The amended DA provided by Engie is again littered with inconsistencies, mistakes, and omissions. A sloppiness that we have come to expect. This is never called out by DPE despite continual evidence provided by community volunteers who trawl the thousands of pages of EIS documents, attend numerous meetings and spend hours on research. Meanwhile the developer submits a template EIS with poor attention to detail and scant interest in the irreversible environmental impacts. Just a few examples:

- Ben Halls Gap Sphagnum Moss Cool Temperate Rainforest was listed as Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act on 5 October 2022, yet this is not tabled in the ENGIE documents.
- Clearing Koala habitat will contribute to the species decline. How does DPE make this fit with the 2020 review of the EPBC Act that found Governments had failed to protect endangered animals?
- Engie neglect to address the vegetation removal and the associated biodiversity impacts along the proposed transport route. How does DPE make this fit with the 2020 review of the EPBC Act that found Governments had failed to protect vulnerable habitats?

This project will put Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve and Crawney Pass National Park at increased fire devastation with the disabling of bush fire management resources such as the Nycooma Dam and effective aerial firefighting. Biodiversity offsets and biodiversity stewardships are meaningless in the event of a bush fire in the area.

The Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) adds significantly to the fire risks and environmental cost of the project. There are currently no regulations or safety protocols for dealing with thermal runaway. Yet BESS are proposed for bush fire prone areas. This project provides no details on the fire suppressant systems that could prevent an environmental disaster from fire and the subsequent thermal runaway. Are we waiting for a disaster before implementing any regulations? What about the environmental cost of the additional land clearing around BESS? And the water supply required to put out a fire in BESS?

If this project is approved will Engie and DPE take responsibility for the loss of biodiversity and the potential loss of human life and property in a bush fire event or a thermal runaway event?

This development is not in the public interest and is environmentally destructive. The only winner here is Engie, whose whole focus is profit maximisation.

Kathryn Reynolds

On behalf of Tongy Lane Alliance Inc