

Name: [REDACTED]

Postal Address: [REDACTED]

Personal Address: As Above

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

Date: 07/01/2021

To Whom it may concern

RE: HILLS OF GOLD WIND FARM APPLICATION NO. SSD9679

- I am attaching my submission to the above mentioned development application
- I hereby declare that I support the Hills of Gold Wind Farm proposal ID SSD9679
- ~~I would like my personal details included in my submission~~ [REDACTED]
- I have not made any reportable political donations in the previous 2 years

Signature [REDACTED]

Whilst I acknowledge that the construction phase of the project may have some inconveniences for everyone, both local and visiting persons I feel that the long term benefits will by far outweigh such.

We need to move forward with green energy improvements and if Nundle is an ideal site, then let's make the best of it. People, flora and fauna adapt to their environment. We can all work together to protect the vulnerable and ensure sustainability. We should place our faith in the government agencies who have over many years developed strict regulations that must be abided to during the construction phase and operational lifespan to ensure environmental sustainability. This is not just about Nundle.

Road infrastructure improvements will be an ongoing benefit to the community long term. Improved road networks throughout the site area will improve bush fire fighting access.

Long term locals have seen the employment opportunities diminish over time. Large scale farming has moved towards contractor engagement reducing the number of families living and working on properties. The forestry industry has done the same. The local council has amalgamated into a large regional local government area and is generally serviced from Tamworth. Local business houses are limited with the number they employ and are generally family run businesses. Local employment opportunities are low.

Tourism will not suffer. Nundle and Hanging Rock are well known as fossicking destinations. We are part of the Fossickers Way. I am certain fossickers will not come because there is a wind farm on the hill out to the south of the town. I imagine that they will take a drive out to see the turbines during their stay. People come to Nundle for many events. They will still come in an attempt to win the Great Nundle Dog Race, enjoy the successful Nundle Go For Gold Chinese Easter Festival or view the awarding winning art at the annual art show. They will still fish and swim in Sheba Dams. The food will still taste outstanding at the annual country picnic.

During the wind farm construction there will be many employment opportunities. It may not be filled by a local, but that person will spend in the local business houses – food & fuel. If they are working here for some time I imagine that they will bring their families to see their work site at some point in time, perhaps enjoying our local community events. I look forward to local opportunity for apprenticeships, there will be opportunity for local employment along the way if not during the whole phase of construction. The final long term jobs may be ideal for our local skill sets. Youth leave our community due to the lack of opportunity, this is one way we can turn this around.

Given the project site, I can see many choosing to seek accommodation nearby and not taking the long trip to Tamworth as some may predict. The winter days can be short on daylight. There are already some persons looking at providing temporary accommodation facilities for workers. An economic benefit for locals.

The threat of bush fire in 2019/2020 highlighted a need for improved communications in and around Hanging Rock. There may be opportunity for the Hanging Rock community to seek communication improvements from the community enhancement fund.

In regard to comments regarding the project splitting the community. It must be said that **people make a community** – the personalities have divided the community. I point out to the assessors of the development application that it **may** be said the majority of the "anti" development persons are **not** in fact born and bred locals. It appears to be that the most vocal persons may be those who have bought into the Nundle community for personal business gain eg. Business houses and farmland acquisition. They did not buy here just for the scenery. Which is not a problem to the community, however, it appears that they have a willingness to dictate to the locals on what they feel is good for us all. Nundle has been here for a long time and will still be here regardless of whether the wind farm evolves or not.

We survived the construction of Chaffey Dam in in the 1970's and the community enjoyed increased local spend, job opportunity and increased school numbers. Some of the workers even stayed on and made Nundle their home. Let's do it again.

I offer my support to the Hills of Gold Wind Farm No. SSD90679 development.

..... Signature