

[REDACTED]

29 January 2021

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

By Email [REDACTED]

Dear Sir / Madam

Application SSD-9679, Hills of Gold Wind Farm Pty Limited

We have owned our property for over 17 years and treasure the unique, undisturbed and precious environment at Hanging Rock. We chose Hanging Rock for many reasons but including its unique environment, its water and its soil, its peace. This project puts these attributes at risk. We wish to raise a number of concerns with regard to the project and its notification. In its current form, we object to the proposal.

1. Project description

The project description (See Appendix 1) on your website describes the proposal as follows:

A wind generating facility and associated infrastructure located 50 km south-east of Tamworth and 8 km south of Nundle, comprising up to 97 wind turbines, battery storage and grid connection

The project is not a wind generating facility. It does not generate wind. The proposal should be properly described and then be re-exhibited.

2. Project Definition

The description on your website notes up to “ 97 wind turbines...”. The project plan in the EIS by ERM shows only 67 towers. Please confirm where all the towers, ie all 97, will be? The ERM EIS, on the certification page, says 70 turbines. How many are actually proposed, and where are they? A clear plan showing these should be prepared and exhibited.

3. Staging

This is one of the largest wind energy projects ever conceived and proposed in NSW. There is significant community concern. The project should be staged in 2 unequal stages – stage 1 being Towers 1-53 and stage 2 being Towers 54 to 67. (This should be clarified once we know exactly how many towers are proposed.) This would allow appropriate acoustic observation, testing and assessment after stage 1 has been completed and has been operating for a reasonable length of time, through a number of seasons. Most “non associated” dwellings re in the northern portion of the proposal, ie comprising Towers 52-67 in the ERM EIS map referred to above. This would properly respond to the SEARS, inter alia:

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description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid, mitigate and/or offset residual impacts of the development and the likely effectiveness of these measures, including details of consultation with any affected non-associated landowners in relation to the development of mitigation measures, and any negotiated agreements with these landowners

a description of the measures that would be implemented to monitor and report on the environmental performance of the development, including adaptive management strategies and contingency measures to address residual impacts;

4. Community Compensation

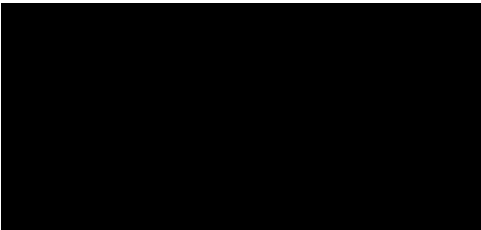
The proponents Community Enhancement Fund is far too low. The proponent will make a profit of millions of dollars per annum over the life of the project. To offer the community \$2,500 x 67 towers (ie \$167,500 less management costs) is simply unacceptable. It should be noted that this amount will be shared across several communities – Hanging Rock, Nundle, Crawney, Wallabadah and Timor. But Hanging Rock will bear the brunt of this project. All our community will have to look at this extensive and intensive project every day, listen to it every day the wind blows, for the life of the project. Given the proposed makeup of the member committee, and the need for a majority vote, it is quite likely that the Hanging Rock Community will be out voted and receive nothing. The report notes an election process (See “ Member Eligibility and Selection Process ”). However this is misleading. There is no election. It is selection.

5. Site Remediation

Construction of this project will be extremely expensive. If it fails, or at the end of project life, remediation and removal will be equally expensive. The proponent should be required to provide a Bank Guarantee of an appropriate amount, unlimited in time, to protect the community and State of NSW from any costs to remediate the site, access roads, power facilities etc.

We ask that we are notified a response to our concerns and issues raised by email.

Yours Sincerely



Appendix 1

Hills of Gold Wind Farm

A wind generating facility located 50 km south of Nundle, comprising up to 97 wind turbines, battery storage and a connection.

Exhibition

Submissions Close Today

Make a submission

Current Status: Exhibition

Interact with the stages for their names

Want to stay updated on this project?

Notify me

EPBC

This project is a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and will be assessed under the bilateral agreement between the NSW and Commonwealth Governments, or an accredited assessment process. For more information, refer to the Department of Environment and Energy's [website](#).

Project Details

Application Number	SSD-9679
EPBC ID Number	2019/8535
Assessment Type	State Significant Development
Development Type	Electricity Generation - Wind

Attachments & Resources



Appendix 2

HILLS OF GOLD WIND FARM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT		CONTENTS
CERTIFICATION		
This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared to accompany a development application for State Significant Development in accordance with the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> .		
Prepared by		
Amanda Antcliff	Murray Curtis ('Responsible Person')	
Bachelor of Environmental Science	Bachelor of Engineering (Hons Class 1) (Natural Resource Engineering)	
Graduate Diploma Urban and Regional Planning		
Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd	Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd	
Level 1, 45 Watt Street, Newcastle NSW 2300	Level 1, 45 Watt Street, Newcastle NSW 2300	
Applicant		
Wind Energy Partners Pty Ltd		
Level 33, Rialto South Tower		
525 Collins Street		
Melbourne VIC 3000		
ABN: 28 1451 733 24		
Description of Development		
Hills of Gold Wind Farm: Construction and commissioning of a wind farm, battery energy storage system and transmission line consisting of 70 wind turbine generators and associated infrastructure near Hanging Rock, NSW.		
Refer to Chapter 3 of this EIS for a detailed description of the proposed development.		
Land to be developed		
The land to be developed is as detailed in Table 4-2 and Table 4-3 of the EIS.		
Declaration		
We declare that the contents of this EIS has been prepared in accordance with the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> , Schedule 2 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000</i> and		



Appendix 3

