



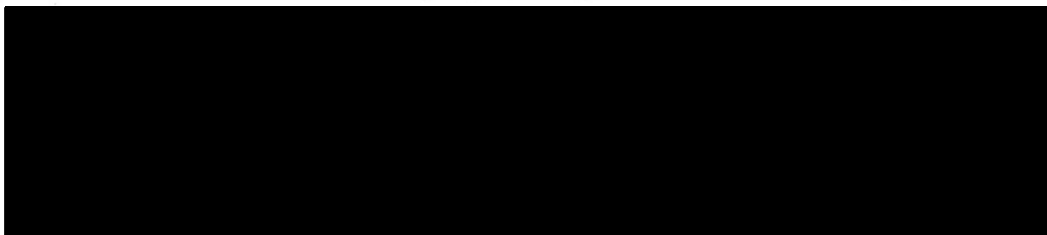
Director - Energy Assessments
Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta. NSW 2124

Date: 16.1.21

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

RE: HILLS OF GOLD WIND FARM APPLICATION NO. SSD 9679

- I am attaching my submission to the above-mentioned development application
- I hereby declare that I object to the Hills of Gold Wind Farm proposal ID no. SSD 9679Object_
- I would like my personal details withheld
- I have not made any reportable political donations in the previous 2 years



REASON FOR OBJECTION

There are a number of major concerns that I have about this project which are briefly detailed below:

- Destruction of Flora and Fauna → A considerable number of these species are very elusive and extremely hard to identify. The study undertaken to collect data on threatened species was only taken over a small-time frame and is considerably lacking in providing a holistic picture of species and their movements within the natural environment. An impact on one species of plant or animal has significant flow on effects down through the ecosystem. Such a large project will impact upon the corridor between the Crawney and Ben Halls Gap conservation areas, an area supporting endangered Flora and Fauna. The turbines create a significant hazard for airborne creatures such as the Wedge Tail Eagle, along with including other birds and bats.
- Major impact of the watershed area of the Isis River with potential flow on impacts to the River itself → This proposed area is at the apex of the Isis river and Peel River catchments. There are numerous springs and soaks at and near the proposed sites which if impacted will contribute greatly to the destruction of the water hydrology of both catchments with major flow on effects further down the catchments. What is the potential impact on these catchments? The EIS is totally inadequate
- Visual and Audible impacts to the Isis Valley → There will be 70 towers each 230 m high. At least 30 of these will be dotted east-west along the ridge to the north of us, each with an aircraft warning light circulating 24 hours a day, ruining the aesthetic appeal of the Upper Hunter Valley. What will the effect be for us, living only 20 kms away? Impacts to Real Estate values? Impact to all species of animals such as wedge tailed eagles, hawks, fruit bats and microbats and koalas?
- The complete lack of engagement with the Timor Community about this Project and its potential impacts.
- There is no cost benefit analysis in this proposal. A proper cost benefit analysis would include consideration of such issues as:
 - How many tons of CO₂ will be emitted in the manufacture and installation of this wind farm and the associated batteries and transmission lines?
 - Will the implementation of this wind farm in fact exceed the number of tons of CO₂ that are claimed to be reduced? The proposal contains little to no details on these matters.
 - The design life of a good quality modern turbine is 20 years. How is the project going to generate revenue to pay for the cost of decommissioning?
 - How do we know that Wind Energy Partners will have sufficient funds to decommission the wind turbines that have come to the end of their life?
- The Business Case is based on "best case" costs and income. For Instance, the costs assume flat areas for the Wind Farm bases. This is ridiculous, given this Farm is located in the steep to very steep high country of the Great Dividing range. Costs will be much greater.
- The EIS also mentions setting aside "Biodiversity Offsets" to counteract what would be destroyed by this development. An offset will never equate to 100% of what is actually lost.

This is an issue that is neither being for or against wind farms. I am a firm supporter of using renewable energy sources whenever feasible, but such support actually has to be critically analysed. This analysis has to account for a holistic view, it must have consideration of environmental, social and economic influences. We are all part of a greater natural system and it is high time we take on more responsibility towards the planet. This project is severely flawed in looking at this whole picture and at present I firmly object to the Hills of Gold Windfarm.

