


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

Date: 15-1-21

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 9679
 - I would like my personal details withheld
 - I have not made any reportable political donations in the previous 2 years
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15 January 2021

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: HILLS OF GOLD WIND FARM APPLICATION NO SSD9679

I am writing to hereby **STRONGLY** object to the Hills of Gold Wind Farm proposal ID SSD9679.

I am a local resident of Nundle. I was born in Tamworth and raised in Nundle. I have spent many years working across Australia and overseas in Domestic and International Luxury Hotels, Tourism and Events. I returned to Nundle from living as an expat in the UAE in 2008 with a conscious decision to set up a quiet rural life for myself and with the ambition to raise my children in a rural, non-industrialised setting. I now have twin boys and have successfully operated my Tourism Representation Business from my home office for over 12 years in Nundle. My children are fourth generation Nundle residents on both sides of our family.

It is of huge disappointment and sadness that this project is even being proposed for such an environmentally rich and diverse location. Nundle has thrived as a Community for many many years without the need for large scale industry. Farming and Tourism have become the fabric of our life in and around our Village.

We as a family strongly oppose this development in our area. Whilst we are huge supporters of Renewable Energy and the need to address necessary actions to combat climate change and protect our environment, the hypocrisy of this type of development in the proposed location is frightfully absurd. After educating ourselves on Wind Farms and this particular project, we are not convinced that there is anything sustainably environmentally friendly in such a power source when one considers the incredible amount of carbon footprint required to build and locate these towers, erect them. The proposed location will have a huge impact on our water catchment, endangered species and not to mention the amount of land clearing required that will potentially destroy our natural environment.

For our family directly, there will be a huge impact with the proposed transport routes and significant increase in Traffic, not only going directly past the front of our property day and night, but also obstructing our access in and out of our lane to drive our children to school, my husbands place of work, our necessity to drive to Tamworth 4-6 times per week for our essential needs and children's out of school activities that they have been pursuing for many years. My work in the Tourism Industry also requires me to travel regularly via car and flights to meet and engage in business. I rely on a certain time frame to transport myself to the Tamworth airport on a regular basis and cannot afford to be delayed by incoming/outgoing heavy vehicles and construction vehicle traffic that will impede my ability to meet flight times and meeting deadlines. The inconvenience of the Traffic proposed is just not acceptable to our family.

As a Tourism Professional with over 30 years experience, I find it odd that there is reference to a "proposed increase in Tourism visitation to Nundle" that this Wind Farm project will potentially generate. As Nundle heavily relies on Tourism and Visitation to support jobs, small business and family incomes and the local Economy, our family will be deeply impacted by this project financially and economically as I deem this project will deter visitors. As the key financial contributor to our family income, derived from Tourism this will have a significant effect on our family's income. The traffic alone in the construction phase will most certainly deter visitors for both day trips and overnight stays. As a group of collective Tourism Operators and small Business Owners in and around Nundle, we have worked hard for many years to increase "Brand Nundle" and attract more and more visitors to our Village and surrounds. This project will potentially destroy the many desired reasons visitors choose to come to Nundle. Day trips, campers, caravaners, weddings & events, local nature and history, heritage attractions, dining out, rural retreats, country escapes. All this will be destroyed if our visitors have to sit behind traffic and trucks for hours on end to reach Nundle. Where are the documented statistics and facts that prove Wind Farm projects are "key drivers of Tourism"? I personally have not been able to source any?

I would like to draw your attention too, and refer to some very pertinent and important statistics and trends, published by Tourism Australia in 2020. The Report indicates there were Domestically in Australia, the previous year, 238.7 million Day Trips with a total spend of \$26.3 Billion and 112.3 million Overnight Trips with \$80.7 Billion in Tourism Spend. In addition, the Tourism Australia reports on "Travel Sentiment" by Australians and details their desired reasons and "Drivers" for Travel, the Top 5 being:

Safety & Security 54%

Value for Money 49%

World Class Nature & Wildlife 47%

History & Heritage 37%

Friendly Citizens 35%

Even reading down to the Top 15 reasons and drivers for Travel in Australia in this Report, there is absolutely no reference detailed by Tourism Australia that "Renewable Energy or Wind Farm Projects" are listed as a reason or driver for Travel.

** (SOURCE: www.tourism.australia.com)

As a Tourism Professional and Nundle resident, two of the top reasons for visiting Nundle I believe are:

World Class Nature & Wildlife

History & Heritage

To completely change the landscape of our Village and surrounds and industrialise the region with these unsightly towers in order to necessitate the greed and income of a small handful of landowners that will benefit from this project, will in my professional opinion, completely destroy our Nundle Tourism and Event Industry and the appeal for so many.

I am about to launch a new business in 2021 to target and bring to Nundle more events and corporate groups, day group Tours etc. I believe there is great opportunity given the current border closures for Nundle to increase visitation and for our local small businesses and residents to benefit further. This project will potentially destroy my new business and the opportunity to grow our visitor numbers in Nundle. Not only will this affect my family directly, it will greatly affect so many other families and the local economy that is largely driven by Tourism and Events here in Nundle.

I urge you to consider the location of this project and stop it from proceeding any further. As a Community and a family with small children, we have all been under so much division and duress in the past 3 years due to this project and the unsavoury nature in which it has all been handled. Both by the landowners in question and Jamie Chivers and his band of not so merry men and the organisation in which they all represent to push this project forward. They operate unscrupulously and without ethic or empathy for our Community. They are too driven by greed, they don't care about our Village, they don't care about the Environment, they don't care about our precious water supply, and they don't care about the families like ours that have built our businesses on the back of brand Nundle and Tourism.

