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

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 have not made any reportable political donations in the previous 2 years



Signature

REASON FOR OBJECTION

The proposed wind farm project in Nundle is different to others we have seen, the others are on rolling hills between towns, it's NOT the backdrop to a historic tourism destination. Nundles natural environment should not be disturbed. It is rare and is home to a large number of old growth flora and fauna and wildlife. Wind farms claim to be a power source that will benefit the environment. How is this possible when comes the end of a life of a wind turbine and these monstrosities are then buried in a landfill not able to decompose. It is unacceptable that there are no plans for decommissioning in the EIS.

Since moving here, our family has seen a division of a community. Nundle was all about community cohesion and history to attract tourism to the area. Division now exists from a few minority who want to make money by selling out to an overseas company for a product that does not suit the existing structure of the town itself.

The EIS mentions that there will be workers moving to the town but I do not agree with this. Other established wind farms have seen more fly in fly out workers who are employed for this specific industry. No local workers employed and no new families moving to relocate. I have spoken to landowners in other wind farm locations and they to have seen a divide in their community and decline in property value since their wind farms have been constructed in the area. My wife and I own a school bus service. I am concerned for the future of our business when no new families relocate to Nundle due to the wind farm. Nundle is a lifestyle rural area. People who live here came to Nundle in the first place for the beauty, scenery and the historic feel of the town. With no new employment opportunities and no new families, this will affect our family business. Currently the school has 43 kids, further decline will not sustain a school in our town. Without essential services like a school, there will be a decline in property value. School closes down - house price goes down.

Since living in Nundle we have seen koalas, platypus and spiny crayfish at a property on the Morrison Gap road Hanging Rock. Windfarm development requires destruction of natural habitat and clearing of acres of land for road building access and alteration of the ridge for turbine footings. I remember when our Family owned a 8,500 acres property at Warialda. To become more productive for solely stock use not farming, we needed to clear a portion of land from undergrowth. We were leaving all the Gums and mature trees. Our application was rejected by OEH as it would endanger birds nest in pine trees. The windfarm project requires extensive clearing in an area that has been untouched for years. The project neighbours Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve. Therefore clearing large portions of old flora and fauna in an untouched area should not be allowed even for a state significant development.

We are still recovering from a drought from last year, these enormous constructions will no doubt alter the water flow into our river. Nundle currently relies on one bore to supply all the homes in the area.

I am sure there would be more suited areas for a wind farm and alot more accessible or even other options for more efficient energy sources, possibly Hydropower.