

## Hills of Gold Wind Farm

### OBJECTION to DA

I object to some aspects of the **Cultural Heritage and Historical Assessments** made by the Proponents of the Hills of Gold Wind Farm.

The following are my reasons:

**Reason 1. Conflicting Heritage Statements.** I Object to the following statements because they contain conflicting information. The statements are:

- *The proposed oversized and over mass transportation route will result in no impacts to identified historic heritage items.(EIS xiii)*
- *The proposed oversized component transport route will result in ...direct impacts to one heritage item , being Black Snake Mine, resulting from road upgrades works at Devils Elbow.*
- *No impact will result from the transportation of components through Nundle. (EIS xiii)*

**Reason 2. A narrow definition of the word Project .** I object to the assertion that no heritage sites have been identified within the Project area. The Village of Nundle is the largest heritage site, central to the Project. (*No Heritage sites have been identified within the Project Area*) . This statement masks the true heritage impacts involved by narrowing the Project to the Footprint. (EIS xiii)

But the Footprint is inextricably bound up with Nundle and Hanging Rock Villages , especially Nundle Village, which provides a range of services that make the Project functional and even possible For example :

- The Road Network through the Centre of the Nundle village provides the vital transport communication link to the Project, during the Establishment and Construction Period ,and the on-going 25 years of Operation.
- A portion of the Work force will come from Nundle/ live in Nundle.
- A proportion of the Accommodation will be provided from Nundle- Peel Inn Hotel, Hills of Gold Motel, Jenkins Street Guest House B &B, Fossickers Tourist Park, Mt Misery's Goldfields Guest House, plus a range of Air B & B's).
- Food outlets will provide an essential service to workers in Accommodation in Nundle.(Nundle Fuel and Food, Nundle Sport and Recreation Club Bistro, Mt Misery Gold Mine Café, The Peel Inn Hotel)
- Local Postal Services, and Banking Agency, when required, are located in Nundle.

Without the Village of Nundle , it can be argued, the Wind Farm could not operate. The Project cannot be spoken off without reference to Nundle.

### Reasons 3. ABORIGINAL HERITAGE's Loss of Value.

I object to the proponent's conclusion that there will be, in a number of instances, a Total loss of Value of Aboriginal Heritage.

#### What Aboriginal representatives to the Consultation said:

One Group *'affirmed their representatives storing cultural ties to the area through ancestral ceremony and trade... [they said] the area generally functioned as pathways and were not occupied on a permanent basis ...the people from their region moving toward the coast or further west during the Winter months to avoid the harsher weather .. further archaeological investigation of the identified Aboriginal sites, particularly given the assumed totality of impact ( Appendix M p.32)*

Others spoke of *strong connections to the area and had lived in the region for many years*

Still others spoke of *particular connection to the land and waterways . area considered highly significant particularly connected with travelling through the landscape as well as contemporary cultural and family connections, stories and art .. recognize and maintain a deep respect for our ancestral beliefs system, traditional lore, and customs, or responsibilities and obligations to preserve and conserve our cultural Heritage for future generations. (Appendix M pp32-36*

#### In the DA the Proponents concluded:

- *The Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (CHAR) confirms that of the seven Aboriginal sites and one potential archaeological deposit (PAD) identified, six sites and the PAD will be **partially or fully directly impacted**. (Executive Summary, EIS E.4. page xii.)*
- Six of the **identified** sites are referred to. Aboriginal members of the Consultation group declared that further investigation of the Footprint area was required. This is essential from the First Nations cultural point of view but may be difficult because one landowner has already done clearing, presumably in preparation for the Project. Given the fact that the area was a seasonal migration track from the Nundle side of the range to the coast, Sites and Artifacts will already have been disturbed or destroyed.
- **Artefact and Place.** *For sites that will be impacted Salvage excavation will be implemented to recover any artefacts within the one archaeological site and one PAD. Artefact collection is recommended for the five low significance Aboriginal archaeological sites ... ( EIS Executive Summary, p.xvii). The **artefacts** will be collected and **the places** on which they identified will be, presumably, disturbed or destroyed.*

No matter the scale of the item of Aboriginal Heritage, it is unacceptable in 2021 for a Global International Company , or any other Company, to speak of Total Loss of Value.

**Reason 4. Black Snake Mine.** I object to the proponent's proposal to create a new road in the vicinity of the Tamworth Council environment Plan listed Black Snake Gold Mine.

EIS 15.5 Conclusion says that

*The proposed large components transport route will result in direct impacts to one identified heritage item being Black Snake Gold Mine(Tamworth LEP item 1134.)*

This mine site has Local and Regional significance and is listed in the Tamworth Council's Environmental plan of 2010 as item 1134.

Black Snake mine is surrounded by almost 150 years on European history. In 1878 Rackham and Party were reported in the *Australian Town and Country Journal of 8 June 1878*, as being 'on gold'.

Tamworth Regional Council, Local Environmental Plan 2020. Environmental Heritage 1134.

*One of the oldest surviving mines in the Nundle area is the Black Snake Mine near Hanging Rock, which is still in operation. Joseph Clark opened the mine in 1876, and he worked it with another miner, George Cairns, until 1926. Using primitive equipment limited to hammers, picks and gunpowder the two miners constructed 112 metres of tunnels by hand. The main tunnel, winding 80 metres into the hillside, was built in the 1880s.. Thematic History of Nundle, Manilla, Baraba. Joanna Boileau, 2007.. P.55.*

## **Reason 5. Lack of a holistic view of the impact on the Project on Heritage.**

**On the one hand the DA acknowledged a strong Heritage Culture:**

- The Nundle Village is '*an historic Village*' with important historical and cultural assets.
- Nundle/Hanging Rock offers '*tourist destinations*', '*rolling hillsides*', '*sense of place and identity*', '*tourist attractions*,' *unique historic and natural setting*,' *the mountain range*,' '*value of heritage*', summed up by the statement that Nundle has a thriving tourism industry ( 4.2.9 Appendix N1. P. 41)
- Heritage is an integral part of what the Proponents acknowledge is Nundle's *sense of place and identity*. History and Heritage are what contribute significantly what Nundle is, that define Nundle, and give Nundle a sense of place and identity. This sometimes-intangible heritage is what brings many of the thousands of tourists a year to this a unique, sometimes called quaint or old fashioned, destination. The strong tourist industry here, allows visitors to feel, experience and enjoy the history and Heritage of an old Gold Fields Village.

**On the other hand, the Proponents say that:**

- The Projects impact is confined to two heritage **buildings** and a **heritage mine site.**( St Peter's Church and the former Nundle Shire Offices, Black Snake Mine.)
- The thousands of traffic movements through the Village over two years and beyond are not assessed as having Heritage implications.
- Oversized and Over Mass traffic will have no impact when being transported *through Nundle. (EIS p.xiii)*

### **Summing up the reasons:**

Nundle's Aboriginal Heritage I found as permanent place in the Village's European origins. Early Europeans acknowledged, in their own way, the First Nation people's ancient connection to this place. Those traditional owner used the word 'nundal,' said to mean 'mouth', which signified the mouth of what is now called Nundle Creek where it enters what Europeans called Peel's River, later simply the Peel. River

Historic and Heritage are more than buildings and mine shafts. They are perceptions, relationships between places and people and history, hearing stories about the romance of gold and the exploits of pioneer families. Heritage is searching for roots, being surrounded by natural beauty, experiencing one of a kind, feeling a place, absorbing an atmosphere, a unique character.

Heritage is a drink in the bar of the Peel Inn Hotel, born of the Gold Rush era, its first bricks laid in 1859. Heritage is being amazed, at the Old Court House building and the Museum housed in it these days- , the richness of the Gold Rush history and the years that followed. Is on display in that building. Heritage is a meal at Mt Misery Gold Mine Café, the original stone part of the building erected in the 1860s was the Undertaker's residence and Coffin house. Heritage is a drive up to Hanging Rock and a swim or kayak in the Sheba Dams, originally built by Californian gold miners who created the American Water Co, which was later enlarged in the 1890's and called Sheba Dams. Heritage is reading the headstones at the old Hanging Rock cemetery and seeing the memorial to Mary Ashton of Ashton Circus fane who visited the goldfields in the 1850s and performed at Hanging Rock. Heritage is experiencing the beauty of the landscape from the Hanging Rock lookout, where visitor scan gaze down the Valley towards Nundle or enjoy a vista that takes their eye for kilometers and kilometers towards Quirindi., Timor and Tamworth. Heritage is to be surprised by the 19<sup>th</sup> century machinery at the Nundle Woollen Mill, turning raw wool into skeins of yarn, It is picking up unique homewares from Odgers and McClelland Exchange stores, trading out of the original 1890s gold era building. It is buying some 'treasure' from the Old Church Boutique, operating out of the Primitive Methodist Church built in 1893 and restored by the Council with community support and the guidance of Heritage architects. Heritage.

This, and more, is Heritage, lived in and treasured and shared and experienced by some 400 local residents and thousands of visitors every year.

All this social, emotional, inspiring cultural heritage value is ignored by the Proponents of the Wind Farm when they concentrate only on Roads, Traffic Routes, Buildings and a Mine and conclude:

*No impacts will result from the transportation of components through Nundle ( EIS xiii).*