

N.B. Please withhold personal information before publication

Co-owner of Lot 22, [REDACTED]

Application No: SSD-9679

I **OBJECT** TO THE HILLS OF GOLD ENERGY PROJECT OF  
CONSTRUCTION OF A WIND FARM  
AT HANGING ROCK  
NSW 2340

I have made NO political donations in the previous two years.

I am a landowner/ rate payer of Lot 22, [REDACTED], NSW. There are 6 co-owners of this Lot, all of us registered on the title deed.

Our Lot 22 is in within the 2km boundary of the proposed wind farm. We share the north eastern and part of the eastern boundary of the proposed wind farm, we are adjacent to the proposal.

We are the immediate neighbours, right next door to the proposal.

I am referred to as being classified as a Category 2: landowner/ stakeholder.

The EIS States in the proposal: 'a full stakeholder register has been maintained including full property descriptions, names of owners and occupiers',

As directed by DPI guidelines 2.2 Who to Consult. Please see link below.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/~media/Files/DPE/Guidelines/draft-nsw-planning-guidelines-wind-farms-a-resource-for-the-community-applicants-and-consent-2011-12.ashx>

YET we have NOT been included on this register.

As a group WE HAVE NOT been identified, acknowledged or consulted by WEP, Engie, Someva or the consultancy firm Inclusive Engagement in regards to the proposed development.

I bring your attention to page vii of the Executive Summary. The NSW wind farm guild lines state that the proponent must identify and consult with adjacent landowners.

### E.3 Community and Stakeholder Engagement

A range of engagement tools were deployed to engage with and seek input from the various government and community stakeholders, including face to face meetings, presentations, site visits, newsletter, community drop in sessions, public forums, Project website, community surveys, emails, phone calls and video calls, direct enquires and media. Technical assessment engagement was also undertaken with regulatory stakeholders.

The proponent has stated that they have consulted with Tamworth Council as well as the Department of Planning in relation to the proposal. If the proponent had actually done their due diligence and followed the instructions given to them by ERM and the department of planning, they should have formally obtained or requested the details of the adjacent owners to the project that is us, as they do have our details on record. They have failed to follow the NSW wind farm guidelines.

As seen in the proponent's proposal, email correspondence between The Department of Planning and themselves clearly advises them of the major key point below:

**Stakeholder engagement is a key requirement for the project.**

It is from my own opinion and experiences with the proponent, that I say that the project lacks merit because it is built on lies, deceit by omission and manipulation, giving the impression of something being done that was not done. Falsely stating one thing, when this is not the case.

There has been NO Environmental - Biodiversity, Social, Visual or Noise impact study or assessments done on our Lot 22.

N.B. I did request on 12th November 2018 in our first objection lodged with the Department of Planning that an Environmental - Biodiversity, Social, Visual and Noise impact study or assessment of our whole Lot 22 be included in any further assessments/ and in the SEARS report. THIS DID NOT HAPPEN.

I requested at that time, that all communication be in writing and that that my son Vladimir Vlasoff, (currently the secretary & treasurer for the local Hanging Rock Fire Brigade), be Contacted by email: vlad.vlasofftg@gmail.com to organise a convenient time for someone from the department or relevant parties to meet with him and visit our land to conduct Environmental – Biodiversity, visual and noise assessments/ studies. THIS DID NOT HAPPEN.

There are a number of proposed turbines that are closer than 2 kilometre from our border and the areas that we live on, on our land. These turbines that are closer than the required minimum distance of 3 kilometres and should have never been even proposed to be there.

It is within my right to demand that all the wind turbines that are within 3 km of our boundary be removed.

I OBJECT to the Wind Farm proposal. It is in the wrong place for a large scale industrial wind farm. Hanging Rock is an environmentally sensitive area.

In 1997 the Government wanted to label Hanging Rock as 'Environmentally Significant'.

The majority of the residents and land owners rejected the government proposal. The government wanted to restrict activities on our private properties, so that we would not be allowed to even fence our properties. We know how unique and special our properties are, we know of the rare and endangered species, we want to protect them, and not have them affected or obliterated by this industrial wind farm.

I understand that the department is to judge this project on its merits I also would like the Department to look at the conduct of the proponent and its associates.

A lot of false promises have been made as well as scare mongering:

The publican of the Peel inn was televised in an interview in regards to the wind farm project by Prime 7 news. He was recorded as saying, "free energy? Who wouldn't want free energy? I wouldn't mind getting my electricity for free."

[REDACTED]

One elderly lady also put up on Facebook. On the Tamworth, who, what, why page: 'I got a free sign for the wind farm, they put it up in the front of my place. [REDACTED] told me, once the Liddell coal mine closes, we'll run out of electricity if we don't have the wind farm. At 84, I'm too old to go back to boiling water over a wood burning stove.'

Another person on the same page said that her landlord had put up a pro-wind farm sign in the front of the property that she was renting. The poster said that she is not for the wind farm, but is too scared that if she protests the sign, the landlord might evict her. The rental property was difficult to find and the poster was scared that she won't find another rental.

Pro-wind farm signs began to pop up all over the place. The preservation the Hills of Gold signs were being defaced, vandalised or stolen. Pro-wind farm signs were put up on public properties, on community properties as well as private properties. There was a rumour going around if you put up a sign you'll get paid \$10 a month.

All the pro-wind farm signs had been provided for free according to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] put out to Facebook followers to come and get their free signs, she's got about 80 of them. The provider of the signs was Australian Wind Alliance, who have recently changed their name to Re - Alliance. A registered charity that goes around the country 'promoting' wind farms.

Not surprisingly if you look up who the directors are, they are also involved in the manufacturing of wind farm components. So free travel, free accommodation, free promotions, free advertising, all in the guise of a charity. Enabling them to make a profit in their other entities, then 'donate' parts of these profits to the charity, all costs being written off for tax purposes, of course.

I would also like the Department to look at the timing of the lodgement of the DA. Why was the DA lodged shortly before the Christmas school holidays, but no extension given to the exhibition period? I refer to the following link

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/~media/Files/DPE/Guidelines/draft-nsw-planning-guidelines-wind-farms-a-resource-for-the-community-applicants-and-consent-2011-12.ashx>

Page 1.

*'Planning Circular PS 11-014 Assessment of State significant development and infrastructure (2011) contains additional information on SSD. For SSD, consultation requirements are mandated in Director-General's Requirements (DGRs). The minimum public exhibition period for SSD applications is 30 days, with an extended period of consultation during school holidays. For wind farms that are SSD, these guidelines recommend a minimum public exhibition period of 60 days.'*

I say that the proponent deliberately lodged his DA in late November 2020 to further protract the ability of objectors to be able to respond in a timely fashion.

Most Environmental solicitors have a holiday break during the Christmas school holidays and only come back after an extended time in early February. I feel that to engage an environmental law specialist, insufficient time was given. This is an underhanded move by the proponent, disadvantaging anyone who wishes to object to the project and favours the proponent!

I ask the Department; why this project has not been given an extended 30 days due to the 6 weeks Christmas school holidays? Is it to give advantage to the proponent?

I say the submission's closing date should have been the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2021, just to comply with the above-mentioned guidelines, to be seen as fair and reasonable.

In early 2019, I had been told about a forum, which had been created to inform the local community about the wind farm project. [REDACTED] was one of the admins of the group. He stated that he had been asked to set it up by Jamie Chivers, the director of Someva. I joined the group.

In this group [REDACTED], I made mention that I had not been contacted by the proponent or their associates. [REDACTED] told me, if that was the case, then you must not be that close to the proposal, if you had not been consulted by associates of the proponent. He continued with, you must not even know the area where the proposal will be situated.

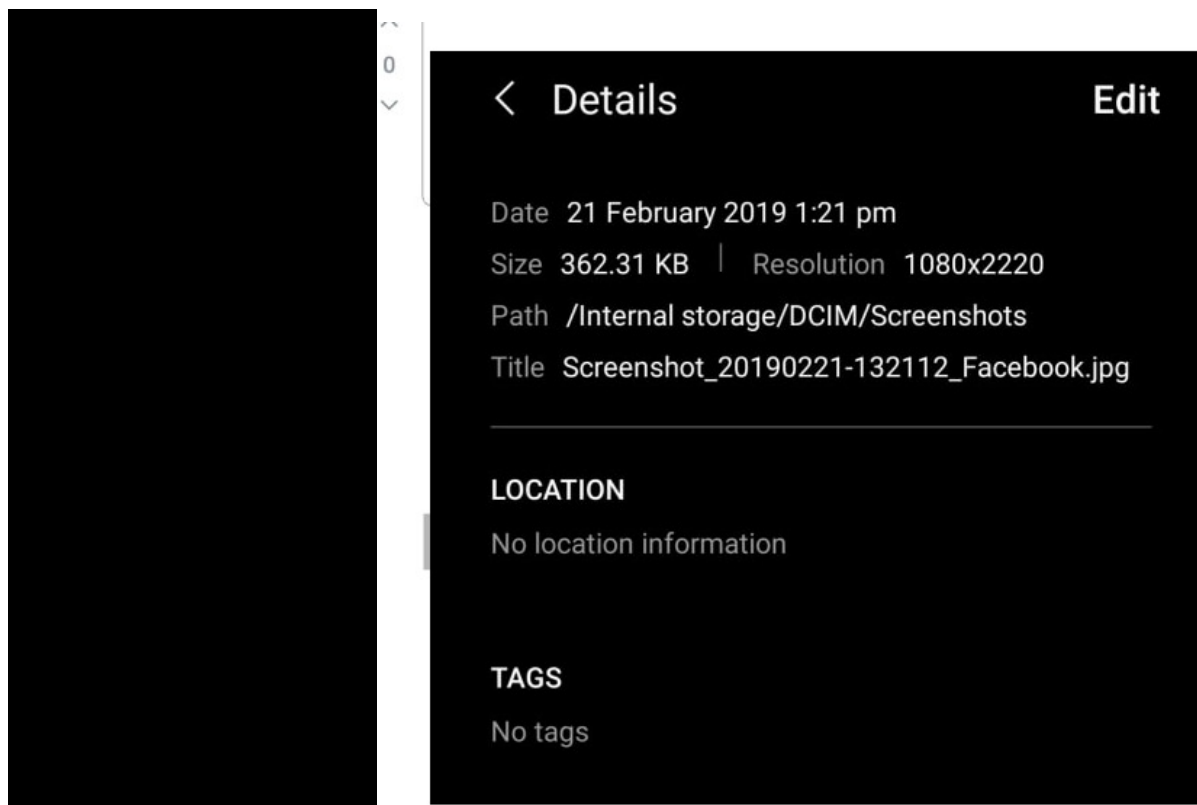
It was also on this forum that I first noticed that other group members were using my brother in law as an excuse. [REDACTED] wrote that [REDACTED] said that the [REDACTED] were given permission by [REDACTED] to hunt on our property. On seeing this I immediately phoned my sister in law, [REDACTED] wife, she said that no one has ever been given permission to hunt on our property that was untrue. I posted my sister in law's response, so that it would be in black and white, and others would know.

Later on this forum [REDACTED] had accused our family of all kinds of ill doings; but one particular accusation I found bizarre. Where he accused us of taking water from the creeks unlicensed. I found this puzzling. We have water rights. We can take what we need. We can pump or take water from our water sources for household and livestock use.

I phoned relatives and asked had anyone set a pump on the river? Had they heard or seen anything unusual in regards to water pumping or taking water from our creeks, by anyone else?

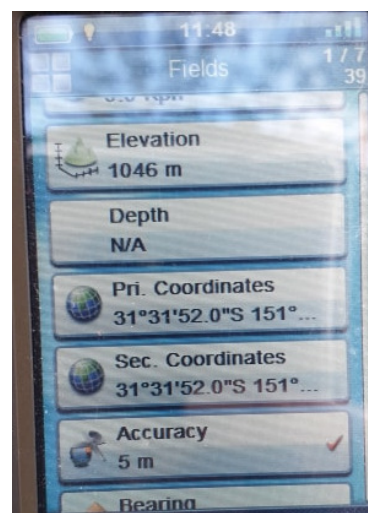
A relative did get back to me and said that he had seen a large metallic looking box. From the distance he said that he thought it was a truck at first. I asked him to describe where he has seen it and to pass on the information onto my son.

Following is a screen shot of [REDACTED] allegations.



On the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019 my son looked into what our relative had described. On our Lot 22, [REDACTED] had found an Industrial grade generator, a 50KVA. This is about 3 metres long and just under 2 metres high, set up on a concrete platform. There was also a large pump which was about 1 metre high, on a separate concrete platform. A long black pipe was in our river going up towards Lot 20, parts of this pipe were buried. Someone had bulldozed a road from Lot 20 to our Lot 22, right down to our River. The Barnard River.

The freshly bull-dozed road went straight down the side of the hill from Lot 20 to our property Lot 22. The vegetation had been removed, trees, scrubs and grasses, destabilising the slope. Vlad followed this newly built road, right up to our boundary, he had found that the boundary fence between Lot 20 and our Lot 22 had been removed and replaced by a large farm gate. [REDACTED] took videos & photos of all of this, and sent them to me.



Picture A is of the coordinates where the generator was found



Picture B Shows the “Truck” like box, notice the massive land clearing of the land without consent.



Picture C shows the size of the Generator, compared to an Adult Male cloes to 2 metres in height that was placed illegally on our land.

Picture D shows the size of the pump, illegally installed on a concrete slab, which comes up to a metre in height. NB the clearing here has damaged our carriage way.



Picture E is a close up of this large pump that was installed on a concrete slab without our consent.



Picture F & G shows the piping in our river and leading up to [REDACTED] Land.





Pictures H & I Demonstrates the large amount of clearing conducted by [REDACTED] [REDACTED]



Picture J shows the Size and power of the Commercial Grade Generator





Lot 20 is owned by the largest potential host of the wind turbines for the proposed wind farm. Mr Jim Robinson.

I felt that there was no need to contact Mr Robinson as it was up to the various government departments to investigate and establish who had conducted this activity.

I phoned the following contacts and made reports:

- EPA - case no: 201900496
- NRAR - case no: CSP765800
- TRC - case no: TRC2019-10382 - they said that they are sending directly to Environment.

I also emailed Nicole Brewer from the Department of Planning and Environment as well as and Constable Fleming (our local police in Nundle) and informed them of the situation. I went into the police station locally and made a police report.

I consulted with a solicitor, who recommended that I contact Local Land Services and Water NSW, he suggested that I get in writing that 'No one had applied for, nor been granted permission to clear land on Lot 22 or had applied for, or been granted a license to pump water from the river on Lot 22.

I received the advice by email from both Local Lands Services and Water NSW that no applications had been made or granted.

On or about the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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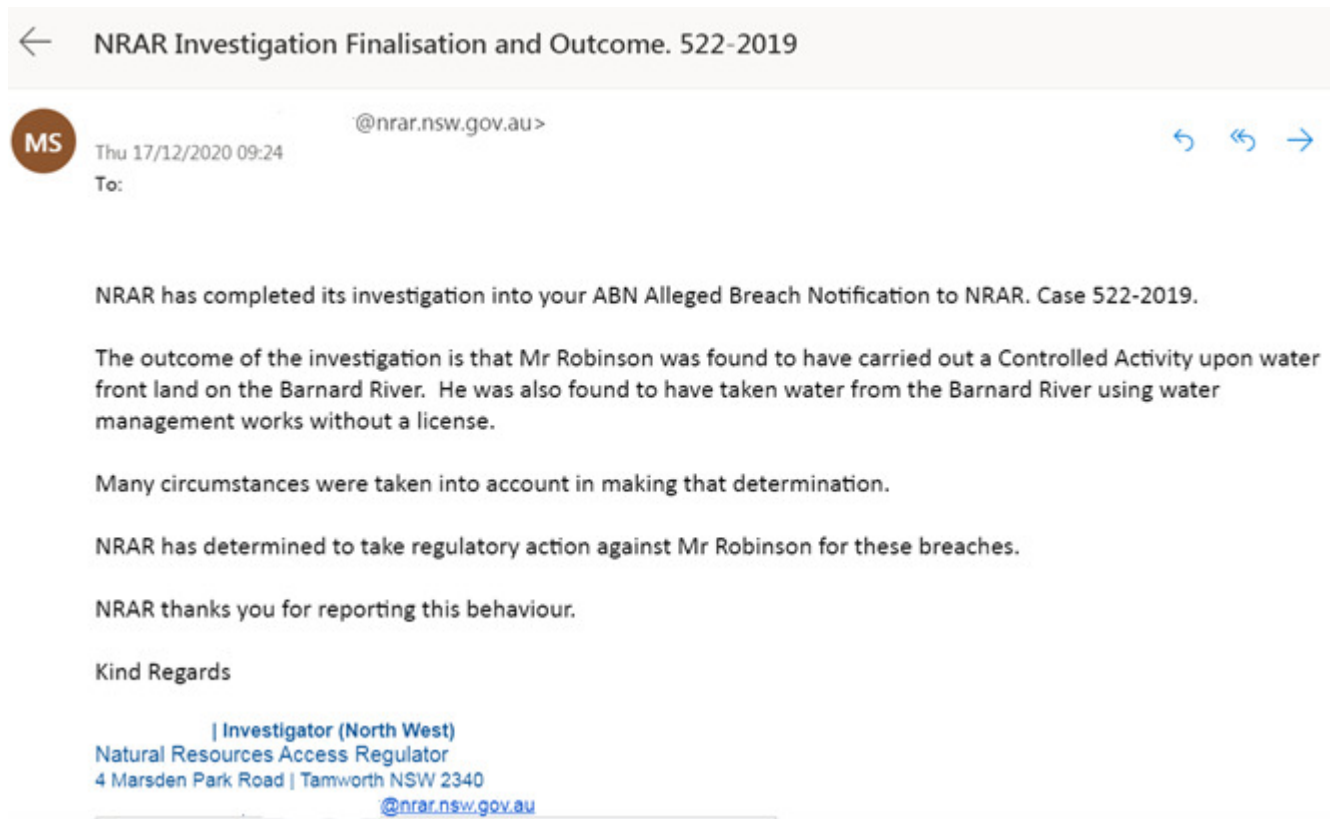
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]  
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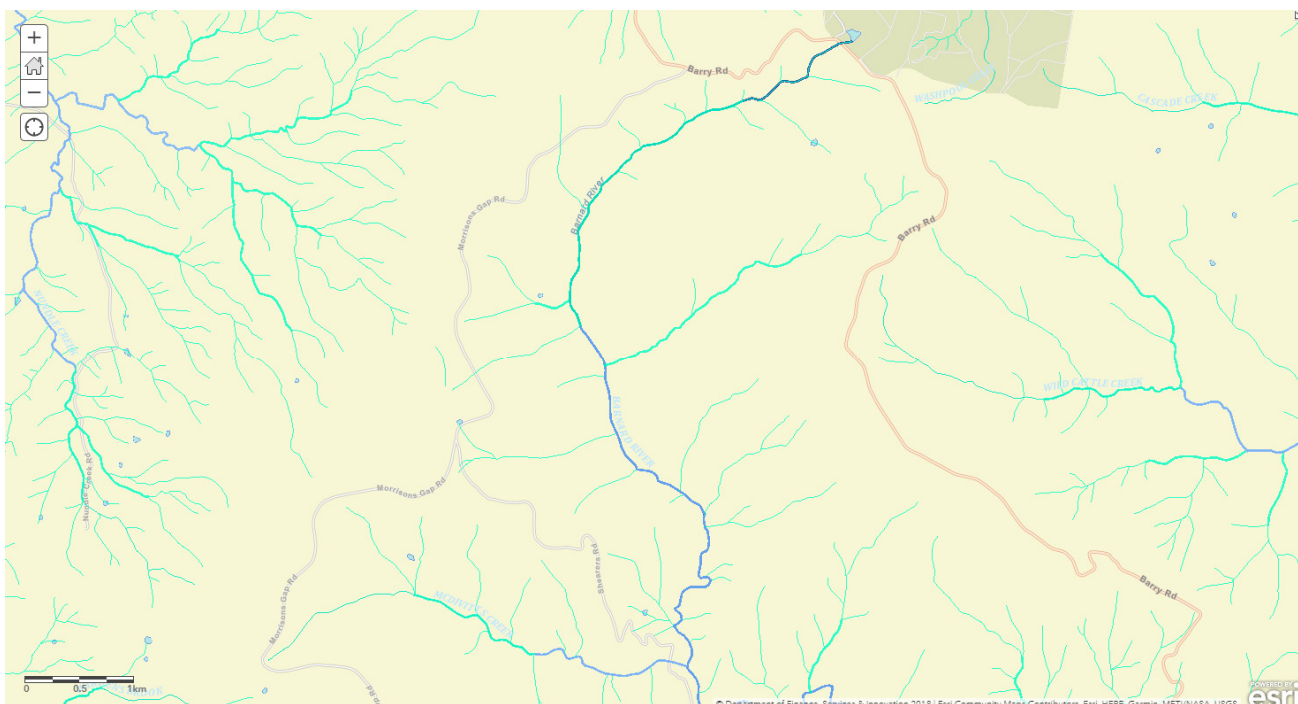
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I took notes of our conversation and sent a copy to the NRAR inspector.

On the 17/12/2020 I received the following email:



On the same aforementioned forum, [REDACTED] also stated that our river, the Barnard River was not noted on the maps provided by the proponent in the proposal. On further investigation it was found that maps were done by an Indian company, in India and were only desk top generated. The proponent appears to be very misleading by omitting rivers on maps. Especially as this catchment area is the water supply for the three regions.



This is a map showing the extensive amount of water courses such as creeks and rivers in the Nundle and Hanging Rock area.

Source:

[https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?url=http%3A%2F%2Fmaps.six.nsw.gov.au%2Farcgis%2Frest%2Fservices%2Fpublic%2FNSW\\_Hydrography%2FMapServer&source=sd](https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?url=http%3A%2F%2Fmaps.six.nsw.gov.au%2Farcgis%2Frest%2Fservices%2Fpublic%2FNSW_Hydrography%2FMapServer&source=sd)

When we had purchased our land about 40 years ago, the Nundle Shire Council officials came and visited us, to explain the importance of the water courses on our property. We were told: *"You cannot do anything that will slow the flow of the river – so no weirs can be put in. You cannot block the flow of river, so no dams on the river, if a tree falls and blocks the flow it is your responsibility to remove that tree. You cannot wash clothes in the river. The river is the drinking water for those further down. You wouldn't want to have to drink water with soap in would you?"*

We have been and to date still are the custodians of the rivers and water courses on our property.

Instead of the proponent doing what is required of them and identifying the landowners adjacent to the Project, it appears that they have merely consulted 'locals' instead of official channels in mapping the region and consulting us. Below is a snippet of [REDACTED] advising a neighbour of his involvement in the environmental assessment.



It is concerning that the Proponent has conducted their investigation and research in this manner when [REDACTED] has failed in his safety plan for his [REDACTED]. This plan also omits names of owners on maps as well as incorrectly labelling the ownership belonging to one entity and not the true owner's. As a result [REDACTED] doesn't have all the neighbours that should have been listed as emergency contacts in the event there is a chemical spill from his [REDACTED] and they contaminate the water ways... the proof of this in his Safety Plan submission - which is published publicly. Below is the link.



It seems too coincidental that the several people who have been omitted from his Safety Plan, seemed to be omitted from the Proponents Proposal.

On or about 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020, I was told about sound monitors being placed on adjacent properties. If they were monitoring adjacent properties then they have omitted ours. We are right next door, we share a boundary.

Point 8 quote

We have contacted multiple neighbouring landowners with regards to hosting noise loggers, sometimes by contacting them via email or phone call (if we have these details), others by visiting their residence if no contact details were available.

Point 27 quote

WEP requested an additional 60% (3) noise loggers be deployed for neighbours and points of community interests following consultation.

Point 28 quote as above, WEP requested additional loggers at community locations and for neighbours concerned regarding noise impacts.

Our property is classified as a neighbouring property. We had not been contacted as a group. I had requested from the department that an assessment be done for visual and sound impacts.

No sound monitors were offered or placed on our property. The feedback I received was only properties that the proponent **felt were relevant to the proposal were contacted.**

### **Visual Assessment.**

On Friday 12th June 2020, Aref, the photographer for Someva phoned my son [REDACTED] while he was at work. Aref wanted to arrange a time to come to our property to take photos. Aref said that he would be in the Hanging Rock area on Tuesday 16th June 2020. Vlad explained that he would need to take approximately 2 days off work. Aref said, "Why it will only take me five minutes to take the photos".

[REDACTED] explained that he works in Sydney, the drive from Sydney takes between 5 to 6 hours, then he would have to drive back, and the time to get to our property needs to be considered as well. It is at least an hour's travel from the nearest road, through other private properties, on a private carriageway just to get to our property, and then an hour's drive back, after this time is considered, then we can add that to the 5 minutes required to take photos.

[REDACTED] said that it would be easier for him to take the last 2 days of the week rather than the beginning of the week; they could make an appointment for Friday and he would travel up from Sydney on the Thursday. Aref said "I'll get back to you on that. I'll call you early next week".

There was no follow up phone call made as promised or an appointment made for any photos to taken. So NO visual assessment was done.

I have always requested that all contact between anyone be in writing. Yet the proponent and associates persist, they did not get [REDACTED] contact details through me, but obtain [REDACTED] mobile phone number from my nephew [REDACTED]. The time, place etcetera, should have been organised and put in writing. [REDACTED] is an essential worker; he works in a supervisory position and as a project manager on construction sites. His role is critical due to WH&S and cannot be distracted by phone calls. Having such a distraction in the workplace can cause a serious injury to a worker or a fatality.

Our property I believe is significant to the project. We are adjacent to the proposed project, and according to NSW Wind Farm guidelines should have been consulted. Our highest point is about 300 metres above sea level HIGHER than Malonga. Malonga is the name for Lot 20 where the land holder is expected to be the largest host for the proposed wind turbines. We own a valley next door to the proposed project as well as the ridge opposite the proposal. This site is diagonally opposite Mr Robinson's current home and a proposed wind turbine site. This turbine is near the edge of the ridge before our valley and very close to our boundary. The land drops off to a very steep decline, a very precarious site for a wind turbine, not to mention the possibility of landslide and water contamination.

If this project goes ahead, visually we will have the blades right in our line of sight. The blade generator engine noise will also be straight across to us. Not to mention the reflection of sound rebounding of the sound off the hills reverberating into the valley and downwards due to wind pulsations.

I do NOT trust WEP or Someva or their haphazard business practises. They have not done their due diligence in going through appropriate channels and identifying neighbouring landholders, but relied on utterances and letterbox drops in an area where there are no letterboxes for every landholding.

16/6/2020 Someva's and Monior Landscapes staff met with my nephew [REDACTED] for taking photos for the photo montages. [REDACTED] my nephew described how one of the members of the group kept looking at his phone trying to get a signal. [REDACTED] told him, we do not have mobile phone service in this area, you might pick up some of the neighbours NBN Wi-Fi but there is no signal here. [REDACTED] described how this person walked up the hill continuously trying to get a signal, ignoring the advice given to him from [REDACTED]. It appears that the staff members have no idea about the area, nor are they willing to listen to locals.

Once the team were at the boundary of our carriageway and Mr Robinson's property, [REDACTED] relayed the following conversation that he had with the team..... They asked, "Which property belongs to your Aunt?" [REDACTED] indicated in the direction of our property. They asked, "Do you think she might be up there now?" Do you think if we knocked on the front door she might be home?" [REDACTED] said "I don't think so, she has a large number grandchildren that she helps look after." One of the staff then said "Do you think you could take us up there?" [REDACTED] said that he looked at the team and said "Not in that car I won't. It's not even a real four wheel drive it would never make it up our carriageway. It doesn't even have off road tyres". It seemed they were ill equipped for the job. It was also disappointing that they did not attempt to make any further efforts for an appointment with us, but were hoping to get on to our property anyway. That would have been trespassing.

Most recently on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021, I had phoned the Department and spoken to Anthony Ko. I had told him that we had not been consulted or engaged for any of the requested studies.

The next day Aref from Someva, called my son [REDACTED] on the phone and sent through an email. On the phone Aref said, "[REDACTED]"

[REDACTED] My son informed Aref that he only assists as a contact person, and that all of registered titled owners will need to be informed and agree. Once this is done [REDACTED] said that he will get back to him.

Aref sent an email to Vlad, who forwarded onto me. Attached were two documents: one, a Biodiversity plan and the other a map of our Lot 22. Further is a copy of the map of a study area that was sent by Aref. I was shocked. Not only had we not all been consulted, but the study was named after the Land owner with the smallest entitlement of land of Lot 22. What was also noted was Aref did not even spell that name correctly.

I was NOT impressed: Aref had stated that our land was valued less than the Valuer General's Department had reported its value to be. The amount quoted by Aref was even less than our rateable value stated on our council rate notice. I did not like how he was trying to pressure [REDACTED] to give permission for the ecologists to attend our property without consulting with all the land owners first. When [REDACTED] had told Aref that he needed to pass this formation to all the owners. Aref told [REDACTED] that he has been consulting with [REDACTED], that [REDACTED] owns most of the land on Lot 22. [REDACTED] corrected Aref and said that [REDACTED] does not, and that there are six registered owners and all six need to be consulted and all six would need to agree to the Biodiversity plan.

Following is the email from Aref.

**Fwd: Biodiversity Stewardship Survey**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Aref Taleb** <[aref.t@someva.com.au](mailto:aref.t@someva.com.au)>

Date: Tue, 19 Jan. 2021, 6:06 pm

Subject: Biodiversity Stewardship Survey

Cc: Jamie Chivers <[jamie.c@someva.com.au](mailto:jamie.c@someva.com.au)>

Hi [REDACTED]

Good to speak to you today and discuss the project in more detail.

As mentioned we are investigating a Biodiversity Stewardship Site. I am sending this email to provide you with information on what a biodiversity stewardship site would involve and also attached is a map of the area that the ecologists would look to survey. In regards to access the ecologists are used to walking to do survey work and wouldn't need gate access for their vehicles. If you and your family are comfortable with the ecologists going onto the land outlined in the map attached this week, then the ecologists can survey the land and we can present an offer to you and your family on setting up a biodiversity stewardship site.

If we could touch base again on Wednesday or Thursday morning to have another discussion that would be great.

We look forward to continue working with you on the Hills of Gold Wind Farm.

Warm wishes,

Aref Taleb  
Community Development Manager

Below the Map that was sent with incorrect spelling of the owner's surname, indicating an inaccurate entitlement attributed to that landowner.



I sent through to the other Land owners/ stake holders of lot 22, this map and the Biodiversity plan. The other owners were furious.



I contacted a property law specialist and passed on the biodiversity plan to them and asked them to explain it in layman's terms so that I could also pass this information once available, to the others.

This is the response I received from the property specialist.

Re: Biodiversity Stewardship Survey

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 20, 2021 12:56:45 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Re: Biodiversity Stewardship Survey

Accepting this proposal essentially allows a third party to essentially have guardianship over your property.

This means the entire parcel of land will be treated as a nature reserve which will restrict all future use of the land for any other purpose.

The property will be managed by a third party that will have authority to dictate what can and can't be done on the property.

Once this proposal is accepted it will be very difficult or close to impossible to reverse I.e. no future clearing, building, hunting etc

The concept is similar to leasing the property out to a tenant and allowing them exclusive use and rights but also reclassifying the use of the land as a nature reserve forever.

There is no real benefit to the owners, it is a hindrance.

Kind regards,

Aref called [REDACTED] again the next day. Aref wanted to know if he had the go ahead. [REDACTED] told him that the other land owners were so disgusted with the dishonesty and lack of investigation to even identify the correct ownership of the land that they do not want to have anything to do with him or with his company. The other owners felt that Aref's actions made him untrustworthy. [REDACTED] told Aref that he does not have permission for any ecologist to enter our property and that if any one does, it will be considered trespass. I do not recall what Aref's response was.