

I strongly object to the Wind Farm at Hanging Rock due to the future impact on the tourist industry and my own future plans on building my own business in the town of Nundle.

Hanging Rock and Nundle region has been a holiday destination for as long as I can remember. The area is surrounded by unspoiled lands that have not seen massive industrial changes since the gold mine days back in the 1800's, even then, the only implements used were pick and shovel, with no heavy machinery in use.

Many individuals have travelled vast distances to experience the serenity of this town. A friendly man that I had encountered outside of Odgers and McClelland's exchange store engaged in a lovely conversation with my family and I, telling us that he had arrived from Adelaide just to see and enjoy the serenity of the town and the surrounds that he had heard about simply from the radio. The words he had used to described the place "Breath-taking!"

Another reason as to why I object to the Wind Farm is that there are tourists buses from North Shore and other suburbs that attend Nundle, and the vast majority are there to experience the Australiana and the heritage of the old Gold Mining Town. I have observed the fact that many people who visit the town of Nundle and Hanging Rock often visit Sheba Dam as a family friendly holiday to enjoy the peace, tranquillity and availability of the land. Yet, during the years of the potential construction of this Wind Farm, there will be an overwhelming amount of heavy vehicles travelling to and from site. Not to forget the drivers who have absolutely no experience what so ever with the terrain nor Devil's Elbow, as seen by the following factual evidence of a recent incident.





This leads into the factor that the transportation of just the blades themselves can cause restrictions, hold ups, road blockages and diversions, which will increase the possibility of accidents leading to injury, maiming or death.

Along side the previous facts that I have stated, many people are inspired by the beauty of the land to travel there for its open road, peace and serenity and to get away from the congestion that the city life brings. If you allow the Windfarm project to go ahead, your decision will cause a significant decline in the number of people visiting the Hanging Rock and Nundle region. This will have a damaging effect on the town's earnings from the lack of visitors.

Due to the pandemic, there has been a decrease in consumers from today's current situation regarding COVID-19, businesses are struggling to keep afloat during the pandemic with many having to shut their doors for days at a time to balance out the financial side to stay ahead as it costs too much to keep their shops open for 7 days a week. The wind farm project will cause a severely alarming affect than the current Covid-19 pandemic has had on commercial businesses. Tourists are the main target market for the businesses in the local town as they usually like to stop in to buy souvenirs, any unique purchases from Odgers and McClelland's exchange store, the Nundle Woollen Mill, Jenkins St Antiques and of course Sacs on Jenkins. And who wouldn't love a drink and a hearty meal at one of the oldest Pubs around with its vintage style, colourful heritage and history.

With the encouragement of tourism Australia telling all of us to holiday locally, it was a delight to see that the town was bustling and full of life once again, especially when lock down first started which had a major effect causing Nundle to go from a tourist town to a ghost town. By allowing this Wind Farm to go ahead, you will be causing Nundle to become a permanent ghost town. Not only will the Tourists be driven away, but the locals themselves will also be forced to leave due to the lack of business. Not to forget that the value of their properties will drop dramatically as a real estate agent once told me "We do not keep records of non-sales and we have never had a client ask us for a house with a lovely view of Wind Turbines."

While businesses will struggle with the decrease in sales, imports and exports, and consumer rates, newly developed businesses will struggle even further as they are just starting up. With that, studies have shown that in the state of North Carolina, 54% of people who were surveyed strongly expressed that they will no longer rent holiday houses if there is a single wind turbine in their view, not even considering accepting any offers of a significant discount on their rental price.