

26 January 21

Director - Energy Assessments
Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

To Whom it May Concern,

RE - HILLS OF GOLD WIND FARM APPLICATION No. SSD 9679

EPBC ID Number 2019/8535

- 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 EPBC ID No. 2019/8535
- I would like my personal details withheld
- I have not made any reportable political donations in the previous 2 years

Name Withheld

Local Landowner from Bowling Alley Point

**I hereby declare that I object to the Hills of Gold Wind Farm Proposal
ID No. SSD 9679. EPBC ID No. 2019/8535**

While I agree that there is a need for renewable energy I firmly believe that The Hills of Gold Wind Farm Project should not be built along the ridge-line from Hanging Rock to the Crawney Pass.

The town of Nundle and surrounding areas is unique, nestled at the base of the Great Dividing Range stretching from Hanging Rock to Timor. The area designated for the turbines are abundant with flora and fauna, which will be destroyed or displaced to make way for the project.

As a landowner in the area here are some of my concerns I consider important regarding this project;

1. It has divided the community and caused social disharmony for many residents. This will only worsen if the project goes ahead.
2. The long- term health and financial impact for residents living within close proximity and surrounding areas will be affected.
3. The location of the wind farm has clearly been chosen based on proximity to the transmission grid without consideration given to countryside that will be affected. There are better locations suited to this project with less impact to the environment.
4. The visual impact the wind turbines will have on the landscape are obscene. These machines will never will blend in with the range, they will destroy the uniqueness of this landscape. The ridge-line up at Hanging Rock thru to Timor will be dominated by large scale turbines. The impact from the turbines will only be enhanced at night when the security and aviation lights are turned on.
5. The proposed site will be impacted by noise. Construction equipment and wind turbines have the potential to generate noise not typically experienced in the region. There are a number of species listed as threatened fauna which will be affected. I have heard the Spotted Quoll and seen Koalas in the areas proposed for the machines. The EIS states White Box-Yellow Box- Blakely's Red Gum Grassy TEC Woodland and Derived Native Grassland as critically endangered. The environmental impact on the biodiversity of the region and its effect on important environmental and riparian corridors is of major concern.
6. The EIS suggests rehabilitation of disturbance areas following decommissioning are to be reinstated as pre development agricultural land capacity or similar. What about large trees and other established areas of flora and fauna.

The mitigation measures set out for flora and fauna protection and habitat suggest that measures will be considered. It does not state that they will be implemented. This is of great concern to me as it is not clear exactly what measures will be taken. The biodiversity in the area can never be the same as it was, after construction of the roads and turbines takes place. It takes hundreds of years to grow these old gum's, I will never see the land restored to its former status in my lifetime.

7. The internal roads included in the wind farm footprint will have direct impacts to habitat and biodiversity. Large areas will be bulldozed for tracks, turbine pads and other infrastructure
8. The large transport vehicles used in construction and transportation are going to be using the narrow country roads which are shared by the locals and tourists. During the construction the amount of vehicles associated with the wind farm development, are predicted to exceed safe traffic volumes. The road upgrades or modifications to accommodate the turbines and blade transport will be disruptive, noisy, and will also require the removal of established trees. When roads are too small for the large turbine components to pass, valuable roadside trees and shrubs will be removed further adding to the habitat loss. Given the harsh country environment the replacement growth of any tree will take years to regenerate.
9. The water courses which run into the rivers from that area are sensitive and pristine. My concern is contamination and disturbance to these vulnerable areas. A huge amount of water will be drawn from local rivers and bores for construction. Our locality is recovering from drought which has devastated the region. What compensation will I receive when my bore runs dry due to construction water needs. What guarantee do residents have that the estimated water usage will not be exceeded?
10. The disruption to the local communities of Nundle and Hanging Rock during construction will last 2 years. The disruption to flora and fauna including endangered species will last decades if not centuries.
11. The estimated jobs created by this project is around 84 jobs during its operational life that being 31 direct jobs and 53 on-flow jobs. No one in the community is trained in these jobs so far, how can locals gain the skills required in time to fulfill the roles? If it is like the last project of State significance in the area, the Chaffey Dam Augmentation, very few locals were employed during construction. Most were brought in as contractors, some even came from other states in Australia. Others were overseas workers, I met and talked to quite a few of these workers and they were mostly from Northern Europe.
12. The project will play a key role in reducing carbon emissions but how much emission does a project such as this create during the manufacture and construc-

tion process. The production of steel, concrete, trucks and transportation involved, all producing emissions. Not to mention the amount of water needed during construction for watering down dust, producing concrete, roads and steel components etc. These factors must be seriously considered before we can claim these projects as reducing emissions.

13. The strong public benefits of such a project will not benefit me as a local landowner. The view of the range from my house and land will be sullied; I will receive no compensation for this, or the inconvenience during construction.
14. The project will assist the Commonwealth and NSW Government to help meet their targets for renewable energy supply and reduce carbon emission. This is a political decision to win votes in inner city marginal electorates.

Conclusion.

Nundle, Hanging Rock, Crawney and Timor do not need this wind farm for tourism. The community has worked hard to attract visitors with successful events and festivals throughout the year. Visitors to our town like to camp, fish, go bushwalking and fossick for gold, the last thing these people want are wind turbines littering the hillsides ruining the serenity. If anything it will decrease tourism. The quality and serenity of my family's life will be greatly disrupted if this project gets approval. The views from my property will be compromised day and night. This small hamlet has had its fair share of environmental destruction over the years with gold mining, logging and agriculture, its time to leave the land in peace.

Common sense must prevail in not allowing this dreadful project to go ahead.
Thank you for reading my objections.

Regards,

Local Landowner from Bowling Alley Point