

Summary of my concerns about the Hills of Gold Wind Farm

• June Hooper - Morrisons Gap Rd •

I support renewable energy but there are several aspects of the Hills of Gold Wind Farm proposal that I object to and cause me concern.

- Health Impact in the EIS fails to acknowledge solastalgia as a recognised mental health condition
- SEVEN turbines are too close to my dwelling, all within 1.2kms to 3.1kms.
- The preferred transport route should be Head of Peel Rd NOT Barry Rd and Morrisons Gap Rd.
- My property will be seriously impacted by the proposed transport corridor
- The large size of the project will have an impact on flora and fauna as well as the water table for Chaffey Dam and Tamworth's water supply
- Natural screening as mitigation is not satisfactory
- The heritage item Black Snake Gold Mine will be impacted
- There is not a specific list of the 31 permanent jobs for the operational wind farm
- The project is too close to Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve and Crawney Pass National Park
- The Neighbour Benefit Agreement is a faulty legal document.

HILLS OF GOLD WIND FARM SSD - 9679

Objections from a long-time resident

*solastalgia
is not
acknowledged
as a health
impact*

As one of the first residents living on the subdivision along Morrison's Gap Road since 1978, the idea of such a great change to my lifestyle is very disturbing. The Health Impacts in the EIS ignore the mental torment (recognised as solastalgia) resulting from large changes to a person's familiar surroundings - such as the development of a large wind farm.

*few people
realise just
how big
the turbines
really are*

The turbines are very, very large and will make a huge impact on the environment and affect our native animals and birds. By looking at the photomontages in the EIS, few people realise just how big the turbines really are. Over 200m high they equate to height of the Sydney CBD skyline. They are higher than the flags on the top of the Sydney Harbour bridge.

*turbine
presence
not just seen
but also
felt*

The Project Map in the EIS shows seven turbines within 3.1kms of my dwelling. Two are as close as 1.2km (approx). These seven turbines could be moved to the other end of the project where there are few residences.

I know the trees on my property screen the view of the turbines from my dwelling but that negates the fact that I know they're there. Their massive size makes their presence not just seen but also felt. There's no guarantee trees will always be there. Sometimes they die or blow over in wind storms or as I have seen in the recent drought, they wither and die. Over the past few years I have never ever seen it so dry up here.

*the main
access route
should be via
Head of Peel
NOT via
Morrison's Gap*

I support green energy and I am not against wind farms but this one is in the wrong place. I do worry about the turbines being in the water catchment area for Tamworth as our annual rainfall is much lower than it used to be.

After reading Appendix G Traffic and Transport Assessment, I note that both TTPP and Rex Andrews conclude that the main access route should be Head of Peel Road, NOT Barry Road and Morrisons Gap Road, which are used by many local residents to get to Nundle, Tamworth etc.

It is unacceptable to construct a Devils Elbow Bypass through the natural bush near the historic Black Snake Gold Mine (Item 1134) and the Hanging Rock Lookout and rock face. Barry Road and Morrisons Gap Road should both be left as is.

*What
exactly
are the
31 jobs?*

What exactly are the 31 jobs that will be involved when the wind farm is operational? How many people will be employed full-time or part-time? This is a major concern for the local community. The degree to which the wind farm will develop tourism is over rated.

*preserve
our wildlife
corridor*

Do not use Morrisons Gap Road as the main access route as we want to preserve our wildlife corridor. We have swamp wallabies, possums, wombats, echidnas, quolls, many birds (black cockatoos, bower birds, lyre birds, king parrots, rosellas, kookaburras, honey eaters and many others).

I do not want the corner by my property messed up by “swept path blade overhang” during transport in the construction period. Our driveway trees have taken along time to grow and have now reached their majestic maturity.

Finally, many of the turbines are placed very close to Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve and Ben Halls Gap State Forest as well as Crawney Pass National Park. That is not acceptable.



Try and
imagine
seventy
230m high
turbines
along the
Hills of Gold
ridge line



The turbine in the view above is the same as the turbines in the Hills of Gold Wind Farm phtomontages. Top of the bridge arch is 130m above the water. HoG WF turbine tower height is 150m and 230m to blade tip.