

I object to the proposed Wind Farm at Hanging Rock based on safety, mental health and lack of proper assessment that was carried out on noise pollution.

### **Major Safety Concern – Ice Blade Throw**



I am a daughter of one of the Landowners on Lot 22, our property borders onto the proposed site of these wind turbines. I have been staying on the land from time to time for over 38 years, we have enjoyed the nomadic lifestyle of camping on our property. Our lifestyle will be deeply impacted by the dangers these ice shards will bring. Your decision on this means that our children will either be safe to enjoy the beauty that our property brings or have the risk of one of them being severely injured or killed by a flying projectile.

The Hanging Rock region consists regularly of icy and snowy winters, these Wind Turbines will be built along the ridge line and the only access road for residents, as well as tourists to the Trout Farm.

The safety of the community and visitors will be at risk during these times with clear evidence showing that the ice shards from the blades will be flung around as a lethal projectile. As seen below, a driver was lucky to escape with minor injuries when their vehicle was struck by ice from a wind turbine.



A man in Germany Werner van Veenendaal was out for a walk near Bochum in the Ruhr region, when a roughly 2-foot-long ice projectile flew off from the tip of a blade of a nearby 98-meter-tall wind turbine and crashed close by, shocking the bejesus out of him. From the photo of the ice chunk, a direct hit certainly could have been lethal.



There is already undeniable evidence of near misses of vehicles, of Ice Shards flying through the air like a javelin smashing into buildings, trucks and streets.

The above figure is based on blade that is 1.5 times smaller than the proposed blades at Hanging Rock, if the simple maths is correct, the debris can travel double the distance of 1600 feet (take into account that quite a few of these turbines will be along ridge lines, so the projectile will travel further down the mountain towards unsuspecting residents and visitors.

An extract from The New York times states the following: *"How do wind turbines fare in winter weather? Not so well, according to one little town in England. The Wisbech Standard reports a harrowing tale in which "lumps of ice three or four feet long flew through the air" and smashed into a carpet showroom and a parking lot. They apparently came off the spinning blades of a 410-foot-tall wind turbine. No one was hurt, but residents of Whittlesey, in the south-eastern part of England, would not rest until the turbine was shut down. One local businessman described the ice shards as "javelins" coming off the blades..."* (<https://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/12/09/ice-tossing-turbines-myth-or-hazard/>). I completely object to the building of the Wind Turbines in such a populated and remote area, if (God Forbidding) anyone is harmed by one of these ice throws, there would be no safe place for a helicopter to land in the event of an emergency due to the turbulence and the wind vortex that would make the area unsuitable for landing and taking off.

## Land Soil Capacity – Dangerous Land Area for Construction

It seems as though Are and friends have covered up one major issue with the construction of the wind turbines on the proposed land. During one of the Community meetings, they had provided a soil map of the area – with the Legend missing from the map! The Legend showed that the land is level 8 with a better definition of what Level 8 Land and Soil capability is, I have sourced this from The Office of Environment and Heritage government website of NSW.

By you approving this Wind Farm to proceed, you would be ignoring the safety concerns of building 230-metre-high turbines on unstable soil.

### 3.3.8 LSC Class 8

#### Description

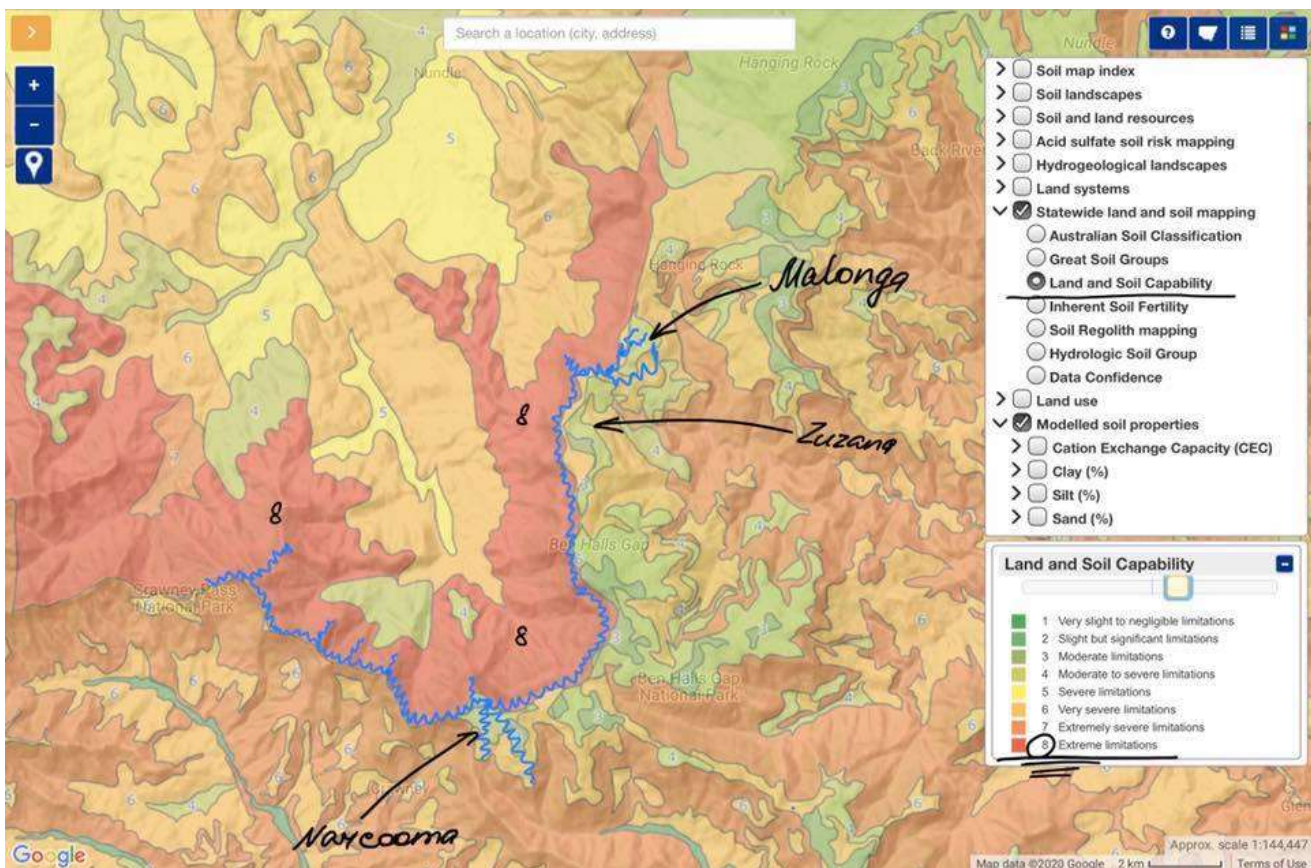
Class 8 land is not suitable for any agricultural production due to its extremely severe limitations. Class 8 land includes precipitous slopes (>50% slope) and cliffs, areas with a large proportion of rock outcrop (>70% area), or areas subject to regular inundation and waterlogging (swamps, lakes, lagoons, stream beds and banks).

#### Land management considerations

This land is unusable for any agricultural purposes. Recommended uses are restricted to those compatible with the preservation of natural vegetation including water supply catchments, wildlife refuges, national and State parks, and scenic areas.

Source:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Land-and-soil/land-soil-capability-assessment-scheme-120394.pdf>



## **Objection due to Mental Health**

Mental Health is a major issue that many people have suffered in silence with, it is misunderstood, it at times can be seen as untreatable and even with many years of treatments and medication, that black dog still lingers in the back of the mind. One course of action and scientifically backed is to return to Nature. I suffer from PTSD, Severe Reactive Depression, Tinnitus and anxiety. I have other family members as well that suffer from Mental Health.

Studies backed by science has stated the following health benefits regarding going back to Nature:

- It could improve your short-term memory
- It has a de-stressing effect
- Spending time outside reduces inflammation
- The outdoors helps eliminate fatigue
- Outdoor experiences may help fight depression and anxiety
- Being outside may protect your vision
- It improves your ability to focus
- You may perform better on creative tasks after being outside
- Spending time outside lowers blood pressure
- Outdoor sessions may even help prevent cancer
- Forests also might boost your immune system
- Outdoor time is associated with a lower risk of early death

Source: <https://www.businessinsider.com.au/why-spending-more-time-outside-is-healthy-2017-7?r=US&IR=T>

There are many sources and examples of how being outdoors is beneficial to one's health, even people who do not suffer greatly from Mental Illnesses. Yet, this is OUR sanctuary, it is our place to recharge and refocus, to help strip away the layers of depression and anxiety. To enjoy the peace and quiet of being in the middle of nowhere, which lowers the anxiety and stress which also triggers my Tinnitus to become louder.

This process and the potential future of this project has been very triggering to my anxiety and depression. The future of our nature therapy is in jeopardy, if you allow this project to go ahead, we have lost one of the main therapeutic coping methods.



## Noise Pollution & Lack of Communication

The sound assessment had not been conducted on Lot 22, my parents and the rest of the landholders have not been contacted. I do see this as a blessing in disguise, as from what I can see, the sound assessment did not meet expectations, it just is not good enough.

The sound assessment was based on monitors placed around the area. No sound testing had been conducted on the different DBA levels that the Turbine can make from the diesel engine at the top and how far this noise can travel.

Lot 22 runs along a higher ridgeline which would place us directly in line with the top of the turbine, the noisiest part of the turbines being 105dba. What assessment has been done to test that this sound will not echo throughout the valley? You can hear a car travelling a good 10 minutes before it arrives, this is how quiet this area is. You can hear the sounds echoing throughout the valley. I find it very disturbing as well that the comparison that is being offered for the noise of the top of the wind turbine is 105 which the same level as a subway train! 105dba is also 10 dba shies of the human pain threshold. (See below details)

Thunderclap, chain saw. Oxygen torch (121 dB).	120	Painful. 32 times as loud as 70 dB.
Steel mill, auto horn at 1 meter. Turbo-fan aircraft at takeoff power at 200 ft (118 dB). Riveting machine (110 dB); live rock music (108 - 114 dB).	110	Average human pain threshold. 16 times as loud as 70 dB.
Jet take-off (at 305 meters), use of outboard motor, power lawn mower, motorcycle, farm tractor, jackhammer, garbage truck. Boeing 707 or DC-8 aircraft at one nautical mile (6080 ft) before landing (106 dB); jet flyover at 1000 feet (103 dB); Bell J-2A helicopter at 100 ft (100 dB).	100	8 times as loud as 70 dB. Serious damage possible in 8 hr exposure.
Boeing 737 or DC-9 aircraft at one nautical mile (6080 ft) before landing (97 dB); power mower (96 dB); motorcycle at 25 ft (90 dB). Newspaper press (97 dB).	90	4 times as loud as 70 dB. Likely damage in 8 hour exposure.
Garbage disposal, dishwasher, average factory, freight train (at 15 meters). Car wash at 20 ft (89 dB); propeller plane flyover at 1000 ft (88 dB); diesel truck 40 mph at 50 ft (84 dB); diesel train at 45 mph at 100 ft (83 dB). Food blender (88 dB); milling machine (85 dB); garbage disposal (80 dB).	80	2 times as loud as 70 dB. Possible damage in 8 hour exposure.
Passenger car at 65 mph at 25 ft (77 dB); freeway at 50 ft from pavement edge 10 a.m. (76 dB). Living room music (76 dB); radio or TV-audio, vacuum cleaner (70 dB).	70	Arbitrary base of comparison. Upper 70s are annoyingly loud to some people.
Conversation in restaurant, office, background music, Air conditioning unit at 100 feet.	60	Half as loud as 70 dB. Fairly quiet.
Quiet suburb, conversation at home. Large electrical transformers at 100 feet.	50	One-fourth as loud as 70 dB.
Library, bird calls (44 dB); lowest limit of urban ambient sound	40	One-eighth as loud as 70 dB.

Source: <https://www.iacacoustics.com/blog-full/comparative-examples-of-noise-levels.html>

It is hard enough as it is to be able to fall asleep when my ears are ringing, being on the land has eased the Tinnitus with its peaceful and noiseless surrounds. Yet the very noise that I have run away from, will be right there on my doorstep (well my tent door) with NO alternative or solution or as they love to throw the word around "Mitigation" offered. There will be no respite from the noise, no mitigation will assist with eliminating out the sound, my tent unfortunately will not be able to withstand the weight of double-glazed windows, or sound proof walls...



The quality of life for everyone, not just myself but everyone will be greatly affected by the industrial sound of the wind turbines. The sole reason we are in this area is to get AWAY from the industrial world, this project will destroy everything that so many of us have worked so hard to get and keep. The many risks of a country side change from city life change to enjoy a better quality of life will be destroyed by one mans greed, it is lining the pockets of the sole landowner that the turbines will be placed, the one person who cries wolf on being all about green energy yet submits supports for more mines and even submits proposals himself to work for the continuous mines. He has told more locals that he will 'hook them up' with free electricity, I have omitted the names of these poor folks as I am sure they would not wish to feel foolish when they realise that there is now free electricity to be handed out. And I am more than confident that the only local works that will come from this will be the works that the proposed landholder will obtain in a tender to do the earthworks himself on his own land.

He is not a fan of the Windfarm; he is a fan of his own back pocket.

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/submission/472876?fbclid=IwAR0nVtiDQYeW6NtT5d8iXK0fAjI2s1mH9PqaXaeebVpJz6y15HXu1RAdtzA>

## Submission for: Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project

Supports

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24th September 2019

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**RE: Maxwell Underground Coal Mine Project at Muswellbrook**

**REF: SSD-9526**

My name is James Eric (Jim) ROBINSON and I am the sole Director of an earthmoving and plant hire company employing approximately 90 local people. I am writing this letter to offer my own strong company support, as well as confirming the overwhelming support and desire of all of my employees to see the above project proceed.

I have conducted and grown my earthmoving business for over 40 years now, having been based in the local area for all of that time. My company has the hard-won privilege of holding and operating all of the major earthworks contracts for AGL Macquarie's Bayswater and Liddell Power Stations (next door neighbours to the Maxwell Underground Project).

←

ipcn.nsw.gov.au

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Comment

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Jim Robinson

📍 NSW | SUBMITTED: 24/11/20

👍 SUPPORT

I support the Maxwell Underground Project

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Jim Robinson

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