

OBJECTION to the Proposed DA: COMMUNITY SUPPORT

I object to claims made by the Proponents that there is *extensive* and *strong* Community Support for the Wind Farm.

Reasons for objection

- A. A series of statements about support are either unverified by any evidence or are not supported by credible or convincing evidence.
- (i) **EIS Statement:** *there is extensive support for the project (Executive summary EIS p.xvi)*
EIS Evidence: No supporting evidence provided.
Comment: Statement unsubstantiated.
 - (ii) **EIS Statement: Community Support.** *There is strong support from the residents within Nundle and Hanging Rock, (EIS 4.4.7, p .81)*
EIS Evidence:
[Support is] visible from 'Friends of the Wind Farm', support signs commonly viewed and as depicted in Figure 4-8... It is understood that in the order of 80 support signs have been displayed. (EIS 4.4.7, p81.)
Comment: DA indicates that the population of Nundle Hanging Rock is 602. The 80 signs show 7.5% community support, which is a very low level of Community Support. There are also several Signs on non-residential vacant blocks. *Figure 4.8 Project Support Signage* provides four images of 'support signage. No credible evidence to support the 'strong support' statement.
 - (iii) **EIS Statement:** *'the project has received support from the local communities of Nundle and Hanging Rock (EIS 5.4.2, p.85, Key Strategic Siting Benefits)*
Evidence: No documentary evidence is provided of the level of support.
Comment: As no evidence of support is provided, the statement is unsubstantiated.
 - (iv) **EIS Statement:** *the project has received support from community members of the Hanging Rock and Nundle communities (Table 4-5 Site Selection Criteria p.77)*
Evidence. No evidence is provided.
Comment: As no evidence is provided this statement needs to be rejected as unsupported.
 - (v) **EIS Statement: 'Community Support: The Project has received** support from the local communities of Nundle and Hanging Rock. (EIS 5.4.2 p. 85).
Evidence. No evidence is provided.
Comment: As no evidence is provided of the nature and/or level of support, this statement needs to be rejected as unsubstantiated.

B. Extensive Community *Opposition* to the Wind Farm.

A body of evidence demonstrates that there is **extensive opposition** to the Wind Farm from the Nundle and Hanging Rock Communities. The reasons are listed below:

- Petition of 300 plus local residents opposing the Wind Farm has been signed and was presented to the NSW Parliament, received by local Member of Parliament, Hon. Kevin Anderson.
- *Hills of Gold Protection Inc* was formed more than two years ago with over 100 members and has met regularly, and the Executive has met monthly. , and Community Newsletter has been produced. This active group is well known to the Proponents of the Wind Farm but receives no mention in their assessments.
- The SGS Economics & Planning Survey. The survey involved 11 local residents, clearly inadequate sample from a population of 600 residents. These were telephone interviews with predetermined set of Topics set by SGS. Although the Project Consultants had conducted 50 face to face meetings, their Report is substantially based on the responses of the 11 local people (See Appendix P of the DA p. 60), which is not a statistically significant sample.
- The Consultants admitted that the sample was small and that it may not necessarily represent the breadth of views in the Community but based their conclusions, essentially, on this survey, and found its way into the EIS. Nevertheless, they based many statements and conclusions on this Simply Stakeholder Software. This Software was used to gauge attitudes of people attending community meetings and records a 1% support for the Wind Farm. (EIS, p.130)

Conclusion.

The claim of **extensive support, and strong support**, cannot be sustained. However, the evidence of **very strong community opposition** is overwhelming.