

Hills of Gold Wind Farm

I wish to submit my objection to the above Development Proposal.

There are several grounds on which I object to this development.

- **Environmental**

The general concept of renewable energy generation is that is less harmful to the environment in which it is generated. However, this project will further degrade an already at risk area of the mountain ranges. **Assessment reports seem to take the opinion that as the land has already been subjected to historical land clearing then more land clearing won't cause any more harm.**

- **Visual Impact**

Some years ago, my husband and I purchased a small parcel of land on the edge of Nundle village. It's location with unobstructed views to the south were its main attraction. We have worked very hard to repair a neglected piece of land with the intention of some day retiring to Nundle to become a part of its community. **We will be subjected to an unobstructed view of most - if not all - of the turbines.**

- **Destruction of Community Spirit**

Nundle is a small village, however, it is renowned for punching above its weight with regard to its sense of community. It has been noted with envy by other small towns that its citizens have a very high rate per capita of volunteer hours for community events and fundraising. A large part of these volunteers were retirees. People who chose to move from larger populations to Nundle for its peace, natural beauty and its welcoming community. **The existing community are already experiencing pressure from developers and those who stand to benefit from the wind farms existence to acquiesce to their way of thinking.**

This is despite that both the construction phase, and the ongoing presence, of the turbines and their related infrastructure will be at odds with the reason many came to Nundle in the first place.

- **Financial**

The Capital Investment Value Report includes a Cost Summary that outlines an approximation of costs for the project. It also includes a comprehensive list of what is not included in the cost summary and a disclaimer that virtually says these figures were plucked out of the air using information supplied to them by the proposers. **What none of the reports seem to include is the expected income from the generation of electricity and who exactly will benefit.**

- **Employment**

Much has been made of the employment that would be generated both during the construction phase, and afterwards for maintenance. The monetary value of creating employment here in Australia – whilst not outlined in detail – pales into insignificance in comparison to the funds that are going to be spent in paying a Chinese manufacturer to supply the Wind Turbine Generators. **Over 600 Million Dollars or nearly three quarters of the projected estimate will go directly overseas.**

- **Carbon Footprint**

The proposed location of the Hills Of Gold Wind Farm is highly inaccessible. Yet nearly 60,000 cubic metre of concrete will be required to bed the turbines alone. The materials required to make this concrete will need to be transported through the township of Nundle to site - a minimum of 2000 truck (with dog trailer) movements. **Not a very sound method for reducing the carbon footprint of generating electricity.** Quarrying the hills closer to site has also been suggested. This comes with its own issues regarding further destruction to native habitat, and the pollution and disturbances associated with mining and quarrying.

- **Traffic disturbances**

Much has been written in the submitted reports regarding the routes the turbines will take from the Port Of Newcastle to the wind farms proposed location, **but nothing of any relevance has been made readily available to give a realistic estimation of the quantity and frequency of vehicular movements through the village of Nundle.** In addition to the many thousands of truck movements required to deliver to site the materials to prepare for the installation of the turbines – there is the turbine towers and blades themselves. Movement of this type of equipment is well documented. The vehicles are long, wide and slow and like a lot of oversize loads are moved at night. Mishaps are not uncommon – resulting in long disruptions to traffic flow. Due the quietness of the surrounds of Nundle, large and/or loud vehicles are audible from long distances – particularly at night.

- **Fire risk**

The Bushfire assessment report addressed the risks of a bushfire endangering installed equipment. **It did not address what precautions are to be taken in the event that a turbine causes a fire.** It is inevitable that the turbines will be impacted by lightning at some stage. There is no obvious control of the resulting fire and contamination from hydraulic fluids and other oils.

- **Rehabilitation**

The proposer of the Hills of Gold Wind Farm estimates the projects generating lifespan to be approximately 25 years. **There is no allowance mentioned of a residual fund for removal of ineffective and obsolete turbine equipment at the end of their lifespan. Who will be responsible for the cost of rehabilitating the proposed site?** Is it not a condition of mining approvals to fund and oversee a rehabilitation of mine sites?

- **Loss of Income**

Nundle derives a large proportion of its income from tourism – Easter Festival, Country Music festival, “grey nomad”, day trippers, fossickers, motoring enthusiasts to name a few. Not one of them comes to Nundle to because they enjoy being subjected to the sight sound or smell of construction sites. **Tourists are attracted to the area because of its lack of large scale industrialism. Many of the businesses in Nundle and its surrounds benefit from their tourism spending.** In turn, Nundle residents benefit from businesses like the supermarket, fuel station and cafes being able to maintain an adequate income and stay open.

I always stated that I could feel my heartbeat slow when approaching Nundle, such was the feeling of peace and serenity that I could expect from being there. I am sure I’m not the only one. **That peace and serenity is at risk of being taken from us all by people and organisations that have little or nothing to do with this community.**

I have many more concerns regarding the Hills Of Gold Wind Farm.

I am more concerned for the future of the Village of Nundle and the welfare of its people should this proposal be approved.

Regards,