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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: HILLS OF GOLD WIND FARM APPLICATION NO.9679

- I am attaching my submission to the above-mentioned development application.
- I hereby declare that I **ABSOLUTELY OBJECT** to the Hills of Gold Wind Farm proposal ID No. SSD 9679
- I do not require my personal details withheld.
- I have not made any reportable political donations in the previous 2 years.

PHILIPPA JOY

SUBMISSION FOR OBJECTION

I strongly **OBJECT** to the Hills of Gold Wind Farm proposal ID no. SSD 9679

We moved to Nundle in October 2017 because of the beauty, serenity and tranquillity of this area. I was amazed by the heritage of the area and what it has to offer us.

We purchased the Jenkins Street Guesthouse (the old bank) and spent half a million dollars restoring it. We have six (6) queen size bedrooms for guests and have a good occupancy rate, even with the current climate. Many customers being return guests and usually bring friends with them when returning. We would not have purchased this property and business if we had known about the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm application. It will destroy the peace and quiet of Nundle Village, the surrounds and our business.

Our guests as well as many thousands of other people come to Nundle for a variety of reasons, such as:

- Bush walking
- Bird watching
- Gold & Gem prospecting
- Trout Fishing
- Golf
- Motor bike trail riding
- Mountain Cross bike riding
- Shopping
- Picnicking
- Camping
- The peace, quiet, tranquillity, beauty and heritage of the area.
- Using Nundle as a stopover.
- Using Nundle as a meeting place for families from all over NSW and the other states.
- Annual pilgrimage to the LUTANA crash site.

When I explain to our guests regarding the application for the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm, they have all been shocked and disappointed at such a proposal and all voice an opinion, the proposed wind farm will destroy this area and the reasons they love to come to Nundle.

They have expressed concerns over the heritage area of the old gold mines (especially the Black Snake Gold mine) the many magnificent caves, the walking tracks such as the two-mile walking track. It appears they will not be having access to these areas especially during construction and what damage will be caused to these areas, will they be there or even accessible in the future?

I think more importantly, our guests who are environmentalist and nature lovers, it is their concern of the impact of the road and Turbine construction will have on the local bats, birds, koalas, spotted quolls population.

Now you hear the excitement in our guest voices when they return to our Guesthouse from a day trip in the areas of the proposed Wind Farm and road construction areas, they talk about rare animals and birds they have seen or exploring the old mine sites and caves. Always showing us the spec of gold, they have found, talking about it as if it was a gold nugget.

One of the most common questions I am asked by our guests, "why here when there are so many other suitable sites in Australia where they will not destroy or impact on the beauty and heritage of that area".

My answer to them is greed of landowners who will benefit from the turbines and power lines on their property, especially the major landowner who will have most of the turbines on his property. The major landowner benefits financially from the turbines on his property, but he also has a large construction company, and he will benefit financially from the construction on the roads and building of the turbine sites. I have no doubt if they were not receiving a financial profit, they would not support the application. I object to the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm application it will destroy the reasons that brought me to the area and our business.

TRANSPORT & TRAFFIC

Who likes waiting at traffic works? I have been stuck on the New England Highway behind vehicles transporting turbine blades to the northern New England region. This is frustrating and a major inconvenience not being able to pass them for lengthy periods. We all need to STOP and think of those Primary aged children and the Intellectually Challenged Student crossing the road across Jenkins Street, Nundle.

The two sealed roads into Nundle, Lindsay Gap Road and Nundle Road, these are not in good condition as shown in the applicant's application and I think they have photographed the only part of the roads that do not have damage to the road or edges. Nundle Road does have signposts 50,

60, 80 & 100 kph speed signs, to say they do not it is incorrect. This is so wrong and misleading, as most things in the application For the Hills of Gold Wind Farm.

Now it is bad enough getting stuck behind logging trucks, cattle trucks and the heavy wide loads with earth moving equipment that usually goes to the major landowner's property. It's hard and dangerous to pass any these large trucks, there are no overtaking lanes and several one lane bridges. There will have to be major roads upgrades just to get the blades to Nundle and the proposed wind farm sites. The construction of the roads is going to cause major inconveniences to motorist travelling to and from Nundle.

The planned traffic route which will pass straight outside our guesthouse will impact greatly on all of our guests' rooms, the parking of our guests is street parking. We have been given three (3) proposed routes but cannot get a definite answer from the applicant on the route to be used.

The noise and vibration from the heavy vehicles will destroy the peace and quiet we now offer our guests. If the vibration caused structural damage to my Heritage Listed Building, who would repair it or compensate when the business, we have built up - fails!

The impact vehicle movement will impact the local nurse's office, a pre-school, a primary school, the community pool, bus stop for children going to the High Schools in Tamworth and several other businesses in Nundle. My major concern is the safety of the children going to the schools and using the pool and going to the local Supermarket to get ice-creams and lollies. I see this every day as I am next door to the said supermarket.

The applicant has not given an accurate figure of the number of buses bringing the children to and from the surrounding areas or the bus taking them to Tamworth & from Tamworth there is one bus per day – to take students to school and then back again to Nundle. I do not believe in the figures of vehicle movements or the time frame for construction given by the applicant can be relied upon, I have no doubt what the applicant has stated is the minimum figure of extra vehicle movement through Nundle.

There are too many variables, currently the turbine blades are too long to go through Muswellbrook. What happens if they cannot build a Muswellbrook bypass? Do they split the blades into two

lengths and re-join them at the wind farm site? How often do major construction works go many months or years past their proposed construction date?

Even if you take the applicants figures, which from my own observations is not correct on average vehicle moments. The applicant has stated traffic passing through Nundle will increase from 845 vehicle per day to 1350 vehicles a day. A further 30 trucks during morning and afternoon peak times, that mean one extra vehicle every 20 sections, and 1 truck every 85 seconds. This is totally unacceptable and what happens if they must split the turbine blades? How many more heavy vehicles will have to pass through Nundle and all their support vehicles? I believe the applicant has under inflated the current amount of vehicle passing through Nundle, especially during peak times.

Project Justification

We have installed 68 solar panels on our business and believe in renewable energy, we encourage other people to do the same. Most people I have spoken to object the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm because of the impact it will have on tourism, people's lifestyles, businesses, the environment impact on native vegetation, animals, and birds. In our guesthouse we have not have one person who say they support the application for the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm. They disagree with the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm application being granted.

Many of the people who are for the application will gain significant financial benefit from the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm, especially one landowner who will have most of the turbines on his property. Some people are for the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm work for the landowner who will benefit the most out of the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm.

Many signs have been erected on the fences of local resident indicating they are "Friends of the Wind Farm". In some incidents the signs were erected on property without the owner's approval. One elderly gentleman said he did not want a sign on his fence, he then received an intimidating phone call from the major landowner for not allowing the sign to be placed on his fence. Residences are being paid to have the signs displayed on their property!!

We believe that Australia must transfer from fossil fuel generation to renewable energy or some other source. But the renewable energy like the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm should not be placed in the middle of a heritage area such Nundle, Hanging Rock and the Hills of Gold.

The information what has been presented is misleading which gives the impression is that a significant number of owners have not been consulted.

NOISE

The applicant has submitted a noise and vibration assessment, this assessment states that residents will be affect by noise during all phases of construction during standard hours from site set-up and civil work, road construction, excavation and foundation construction, electrical installation and turbine delivery and erection. and outside standard construction hours from such thing as batching plant and concrete pouring. As they have stated in the assessment all the figures, they have given are predictions and we all know how many predictions are wrong.

The people of Nundle and Hanging Rock should not be affected by any increase in noise. I believe there are so many flaws in the Noise & Vibration Assessment that it cannot be relied upon. I have a major concern from the reported subsonic noise emitted from the turbines and the effect it does have on people's health. There are so many articles on this type of noise, so why put the Wind Farm near any populated area.

How do we ensure residents of Hanging Rock or Nundle will not be affect by construction noise or noise from the turbine and transformers? The answer is do not grant the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm application.

COMMUNITY ENCHANCEMENT FUND.

I think Jamie Chivers spoke person for the applicant got it right at the first public meeting for the proposed wind farm, he told everyone at the meeting the community will receive a yearly compensation fund and then went on to call it community enhancement fund.

From what I believe this will be spread out through three different council areas, so how much will the worst affected areas really receive. The major landowner has indicted they can build man-made snow ski slope with a suspended walkway in Hanging Rock, a skate park. A medical centre with resident GP. It is just garbage what they are saying they can do with the fund and unfortunately is sucking a lot of ill-informed resident in.

OBSTACLE LIGHTING

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority usually require lighting where turbine exceed 150 metres, the proposed turbines at Hills of Gold Wind Farm will be 230 metres. These lights will be noticeable

element in the night-time landscape will be clearly seen from my guesthouse and the village of Nundle, even from Tamworth some 58kms away

BIODIVERSITY

The environment impact statement has identified threatened fauna, trees and animals in the development footprint of the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm development footprint. The illegal land clearing that has already been taken would have had an effect the Biodiversity of the area. To now say that will be minimised as much as practicable through the design phase is too late. The only way to ensure the biodiversity of the area is not further affected is to refuse the application for the Hills of Gold Wind Turbines. If the landowners were not as greedy and clearing land illegally, then the fragile biodiversity may have a chance. So how do we fix the biodiversity of the area? The answer is do not grant the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm application, without any further clearing of land and construction of the Wind Farm the area may recover.

BUSHFIRE

As we are all aware the major bushfires, we had in NSW last year. In this region and around the Hills of Gold we had major bush fires for three months. There where many helicopters operating out of Nundle Sports Oval constantly during daylight hours water bombing the fire areas. There were fixed winged aircraft water bombing the fires in the Hills of Gold at the same time. They will not be able to operate near 70 x 230-metre turbines. So, what happens, do we let Hanging Rock and Nundle burn next time. The answer is do not grant the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm application, so aircraft can fly in these skies.

IN CONCLUSION.

There are so many reasons not to grant the application for the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm which far outweighs the benefits to granting the application. A wind farm can be built in a more suitable location than in the current proposed location.

The Australian Government can still achieve their desired renewable energy target, Australia is such a big Island with many other options and suitability than on our protected heritage ridge line.

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