

Reasons for objection

1. I have owned and lived at my property of approximately 25 acres, at 871 Barry Road, Hanging Rock for 15 years. I chose to live here (after 11 years of Sydney city living in a small apartment), for the tranquillity, seclusion and naturally beautiful and mostly undeveloped environment. My home and land are my sanctuary from a busy, selfish world. I consider that I am only a temporary caretaker and continually strive to limit my impact on the surrounding physical environment and its native inhabitants. I believe that the proposed Wind Energy Wind Farm development will negatively affect this environmentally sensitive area and damage my physical, social and psychological well-being.
2. Physical, social and psychological well-being is interconnected. For example, previous community relationships have broken down or are extremely tense (even abusive) because of differing opinions with regard to the Wind Farm proposal. Many residents have been told that they will get cheaper electricity and are not properly informed about all aspects of the development. The Nundle Gym had to close due to conflict with community gym participants as well as its operator, Sue Robinson, the property owner hosting the Wind Farm site. This was a huge loss for a small, isolated town such as Nundle, where access to a gym is 60km away. Every day, longstanding activities and interactions for many community members have changed or discontinued due to conflict and disagreement and the avoidance of uncomfortable or stressful situations.
3. The Wind Farm development is an illogical proposal. How can power supply for 185 homes justify the destruction of the environment that renewable energy is supposed to protect? How can wind energy creation replace the extinction of the many endangered flora and fauna species that are listed close to the development area? How many bats, birds and flying mammals will die as a direct result of the construction of these turbines and during the lifespan of the turbines? I have already witnessed the changes to the black cockatoo population in Hanging Rock - their flight paths, nesting habitats and feeding patterns, due to the extensive logging of the pine forests in recent times. We cannot assume that smaller

populations of more vulnerable native fauna will adapt as easily once their surrounding habitat is dramatically altered. I am terribly concerned that Ben Hall Gap National Park, which is home to many of these vulnerable species of flora and fauna, is situated directly adjacent to the proposed path of deadly turbine machines. Ben Hall National Park and Wallabadah Nature Reserve, both suffered extensive damage due to the 2019/2020 bushfires that threatened the community of Hanging Rock and has left physical scars on the environment and psychological scars on residents. I believe that another assessment of the fire damage in these parks needs to be done as the native flora and fauna have been significantly impacted enough and remains a huge fire risk in the future with the increase in temperatures and decrease in regular rainfall.

4. I have been advised by some Wind Farm beneficiaries that I will receive cheaper electricity as a result of the development. This is misinformation. I believe the vast majority of people displaying pro-wind farm support signs are either friends of the landholder beneficiaries or are purely ignorant of the facts. In Hanging Rock there are currently four properties that display pro-wind farm signs, yet 2 of the long standing residents have recently sold up and left the community and the other 2 homes are vacant, one being a rental property, which I believe is owned by Mr Robinson, the hosting landholder for the project. So I do not believe that the display of signs as mentioned in the report is a true indication of pro-wind farm sentiment and is a very unscientific measurement in itself. I invested in solar panels some years ago at my own expense, with the knowledge that I would never reclaim their cost through lower energy bills in my lifetime. However, I do generate more power than I consume for most of the year. If the Government was serious about emission reduction targets, it would be more cost effective with less effect on the natural environment, to give 185 households solar panels than the destructive, expensive path, this Wind Farm development will take. The only ones to benefit from this development are the associated land holders, company shareholders and local and state government. Oh, and a few extra jobs for FIFO construction workers for a short time. (Review Chaffey Dam Wall

extension and influx of funds to small communities from construction workers – it had minimal benefit).

5. The Community Fund for local enhancement projects is another recipe for social disharmony – who will adjudicate how the money will be spent? If Tamworth Council take control of this money, Nundle residents won't see much or any of it spent on them, a continuation of council disinterest in small communities since amalgamation of local councils. As for Hanging Rock, I am a resident who chose to live here because of the lack of facilities and people - a simpler lifestyle. How can perfection be enhanced? Sue Robinson at one point advocated for a water fun park at the historic Sheba Dam, a much loved camping spot for many generations of families. If you want a theme park then move to the city. Tamworth Council has enhanced Tamworth City with many attractions and community facilities such as skate board parks, cycle paths, playgrounds, sporting grounds, swimming pools, museums and function centres, etc, at the ratepayers/taxpayers expense but refuse to invest in such infrastructure in small towns because it does not return enough wealth for their coffers. I don't believe that large corporations should use community funding as a bribe to establish a controversial and unviable wind farm in our back yard for others to profit from. Why are some people so intent on spoiling an environment that attracts people for its history, simplicity, cool climate and natural beauty. Most tourists visit Hanging Rock to camp or picnic at Sheba Dam or to view the surrounding area from Hanging Rock Look Out, visit the historical cemetery, ride the dirt tracks in the forest, bushwalk or perhaps a bit of fossicking or trout fishing. Tamworth residents visit on weekends usually to escape the heat of Tamworth or to see the snow in winter. The number of tourists driving past my home has steadily increased during my time here and not due to any major tourist attractions having been developed so I don't believe people will deliberately come here to see wind turbines.
6. A distressing idea for me is access to employment opportunities during the construction phase which could last for at least 2 years. Barry Road is the favoured route for these massive turbines to be transported to site at Hanging Rock. My ute struggles to get up to the top of the hill with a load

on the back. Hanging Rock is 1100m above sea level. The only access is via Barry Road from Nundle or The Forest Way from Nowendoc. Neither road is suitable for such machinery to be transported along and the winding road from Nundle is extremely steep and difficult to negotiate, especially when driving to weather conditions such as fog, sleet and snow in the colder months. This means significant road works with massive constraints on the ability of Hanging Rock residents to travel to and from their homes. I will have to endure extensive delays for a long time just trying to get to and from my work in Tamworth each day. Who will compensate me for loss of income? In the past two years, logging operations in the Nundle State Forest have caused me many delays in the 9 km trip from my Hanging Rock home to Nundle when I have to travel behind slow moving logging trucks in low gear. It can double my usual 10 minute drive to 20 minutes or more. I can imagine having to travel in convoy with these turbine transporters and associated cranes, trucks, etc, on an incline, will add several years of painful stress to my life and my vehicle. And I am only one of many who use this road regularly. The transportation of huge machinery along Barry Road will also cause disruption to an otherwise peaceful environment with excessive noise, particularly when the extensive road works commence along the road outside of my home to accommodate these vehicles. The wild life that use this road (lyre birds, wombats, wallabies, echidnas, kangaroos, quolls, possums, snakes, lizards, bats, eagles, etc) as a corridor will also be negatively impacted by the disturbance to their environment in the development phase and possibly with longer term increases in traffic on this road.

7. Job growth in the area. This is another piece of misinformation. The people who choose to live in Nundle or Hanging Rock know that they will have to travel to a larger centre for work. Even tourism is seasonal. It is why those who do work regular jobs travel 60-70 km each way but still choose to reside here. The number of job opportunities that could possibly arise from the Wind Farm development are minimal and unless the developer trains locals to do the maintenance of the turbines, jobs will not be given to local people but outside experts who may choose to travel

to their work rather than move to a small town like Nundle.

8. I am concerned that this proposed project will devalue my property. Bigger roads and more traffic would spoil the serenity of this area. If I needed to sell the property during the construction phase (for unforeseen reasons), it would be virtually impossible.
9. I object to the lack of courtesy that the developer has shown to the residents of Hanging Rock. I believe every resident should have been personally contacted and given a detailed proposal of their plans from the beginning. Rather, we were given piece meal bits of information which you had to source independently or at a public meeting which you may not have been able to attend or via word of mouth which is always fraught with problems. The information released did not focus on the impacts to residents until more recently, once pressure was placed on the company to provide the full facts not just the sugar coated ones. I am disgusted with the whole process thus far and the way in which the information has been delivered has caused nothing more than angst and unnecessary disharmony within both the Nundle and Hanging Rock communities over an extensive period of time. This damage will be hard to repair, if ever.

In conclusion, I object to a project that is supposed to protect our precious environment and future way of life but results in substantial damage to our environment and way of life. The physical, financial and psychological costs to construct and maintain the proposed wind farm far outweigh any future benefits. Basically, the proposed site is not appropriate and the greed of one wealthy land owner to destroy our environment and communities for his personal gain is not a good enough reason for this project to proceed.

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