

Attn Mr Masao Omura, Deputy CEO re - Hills of Gold Wind Farm

1 message

Hills of Gold Preservation Inc <secretary@hillsofgoldpreservation.net.au> Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 11:40 PM To: Info.anz@engie.com

Mr Masao Omura
Deputy CEO
Engie ANZ
Level 33, Rialto South Tower
525 Collins St
Melbourne VIC 3000

Info.anz@engie.com

16 June 2020

Dear Mr Omura

I am writing to introduce our community group to your organisation. We understand that International Power (Australia) Holdings is seeking investors to fund a project, known as Hills of Gold Wind Farm, which has been proposed for our local area in rural New South Wales, Australia.

Hills of Gold Preservation Incorporated (HOGPI) represents the majority of the Nundle, Hanging Rock and Crawney community and was formed in March 2018 after some community leaders were approached by Wind Energy Partners/Someva Pty Ltd regarding the proposal. These leaders recognised that the entire community needed access to that same information and a community information meeting was subsequently held.

HOGPI established through a petition that the majority of the Nundle/Hanging Rock community is opposed to wind turbines in this environmentally sensitive area. A statement by a Justice of the Peace was presented to Jamie Chivers on 10 December 2019 requesting that the Hills of Gold Energy project be withdrawn.

We believe that

- The Hills of Gold mountain range at Nundle/Hanging Rock/Head of Peel/Crawney Mountain is a distinctive heritage rural landscape and should be preserved from industrial wind farm development for the appreciation of residents and visitors and that
- Industrial wind farms will impact on the health, visual amenity of our community, our land values, natural environment and way of life.

HOGPI members do not believe that this project will make a positive social contribution to our distinct community which thrives on its rural heritage, country village hospitality, sense of community and tourism. Business opportunities have already been lost as landowners withhold projects and investment until the outcome is known and confidence can be restored.

We do not believe in ruining the environment for the sake of the environment. The location of this project along the watershed of 3 river systems, adjacent to an environmentally sensitive Nature Reserve of national significance, on the convergence of 3 mountain ranges and within a declared bushfire prone zone makes this project unacceptable to our community.

This project is not congruent with Mitsui's own values of sustainability, social contribution and nature conservation or with Engie's slogan of "building better lives".

HOGPI is not opposed to renewable projects however we feel these need to be sensitively sited; we feel this project is not.

Mr Omura, should you or a representative from Engie or Mitsui like to visit Nundle or discuss the proposal further with members of our community, the Executive of Hills of Gold Preservation would more than welcome the opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Csanki
Secretary

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