

Nundle business group opposes proposed industrial wind farm

Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc today voted to oppose the Hanging Rock/Nundle industrial wind farm proposed by Wind Energy Partners.

Hanging Rock and Nundle communities will meet proponent Wind Energy Partners this week to hear about a proposal for 98 x 220m high wind turbines on a 20km stretch of mountain range south east of Nundle. Public meetings will be held at 6.30pm on Thursday, March 22 at Nundle Memorial Hall, and on Friday, March 23 at Hanging Rock Hall.

Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group appointed additional Media Officer, John Krsulja, of The DAG Sheep Station, to provide another point of contact for the media, and to represent members in lobbying against the proposed wind farm.

“Hanging Rock and Nundle have strong existing tourism businesses, jobs, and economic activity attracting more than 100,000 visitors from 30 countries to annual events, weddings, country music concerts, craft retreats, and camping at Fossickers’ Tourist Park, Sheba, and Chaffey Dams,” Mr Krsulja said.

“This is the result of Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc marketing plans and Brand DNA identifying the distinctive mountain range as the community’s point of difference, Nature and Heritage as key motivators for travel to country NSW, and collaboration with neighbouring local government areas on a Destination Management Plan to increase overnight visitation and expenditure.

“The Hills of Gold are of high scenic value, and we have been told the project will have a high visual impact. Industrial wind farms should not be located in view of people’s homes, businesses, and places of cultural significance.”

Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc chairman Nick Bradford said the community was disappointed with the level of consultation, some landholders neighbouring the proposed wind farm unaware of the project until recently. Wind Energy Partners initially wanted a public meeting in May, but it was brought forward to March at the insistence of community members.

“Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc hosted a public meeting on Monday, March 5 to present what five of its members had been told at meetings on February 7 and 14,” Mr Bradford said.

“After respectfully hearing positions for and against the project the community listed advantages and disadvantages of the proposed wind farm, and the disadvantages were more extensive than the advantages.

“The disadvantages included environmental threats to the Peel, Hunter and Barnard water catchments, biodiversity, erosion, bushfire control, aviation, visual amenity, noise, property values and demand, social cohesion, existing population, tourism businesses, and jobs.”

A page has been created on nundle.com.au with brief details about the proposal, public meeting dates, links to the NSW Department of Planning assessment process, and media archive.

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