



## Feel the Nundle welcome this autumn

Our small gold rush town of Nundle, 50km south-west of Tamworth, has so much to offer including boutique businesses The Peel Inn, Nundle Woollen Mill, Odgers and McClelland Exchange Stores, Sacs on Jenkins, Stormcrow Studio, Old Church Boutique, Mount Misery Gold Mine Cafe and Museum, Nundle Graft Inc, and Jenkins Street Antiques and Fine China.

After recent rain drive out and see the amazing transformation of green hills, flowing rivers and healthier dams. Explore the tranquil bush environment of nearby Chaffey Dam, Sheba Dams, Crawney Pass National Park, Nundle State Forest, Ponderosa Park, Hanging Rock Lookout, and Nundle River Walk.

Visit our website to browse accommodation ranging from self-contained cabins to luxury B&Bs, motel, hotel, bunkhouses, and camping, and autumn events: **Nundle Country Picnic**, Sunday, March 22nd; **Nundle Go For Gold Festival**, Saturday-Sunday, April 11th-12th; **Great Nundle Dog Race**, Sunday, May 3rd, and **Tamworth Regional Heritage Festival**, Nundle Program, May 8th-17th.

**NUNDLE VISITOR INFORMATION OUTLET**  
**NUNDLE.COM.AU #NUNDLENSW 02 6769 3026**



I am writing as Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc President and its representative on the Hills of Gold Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee.

Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc was formed in 2010 to collaboratively market Nundle and Hanging Rock as a tourist destination, and form a communication point for Destination Tamworth/ Tamworth Regional Council on tourism.

The formation of NBTMG Inc builds on a legacy of promoting tourism in the community. A Tourism Development Plan for Nundle, Dick Brown, 1988 states:

*“If Nundle’s tourism potential is to be realised...it must not change the fundamental characteristics which make Nundle such a delightful place...its quietness; its rural atmosphere; its friendly people and its slightly “sleepy” aspect.”*

A Community Strategic Plan 2007 lists the Community Values Statement as: “Nundle values its community spirit and identity, its heritage, beautiful environment and safe, tranquil village lifestyle.”

In 2019/20 NBTMG Inc activities included:

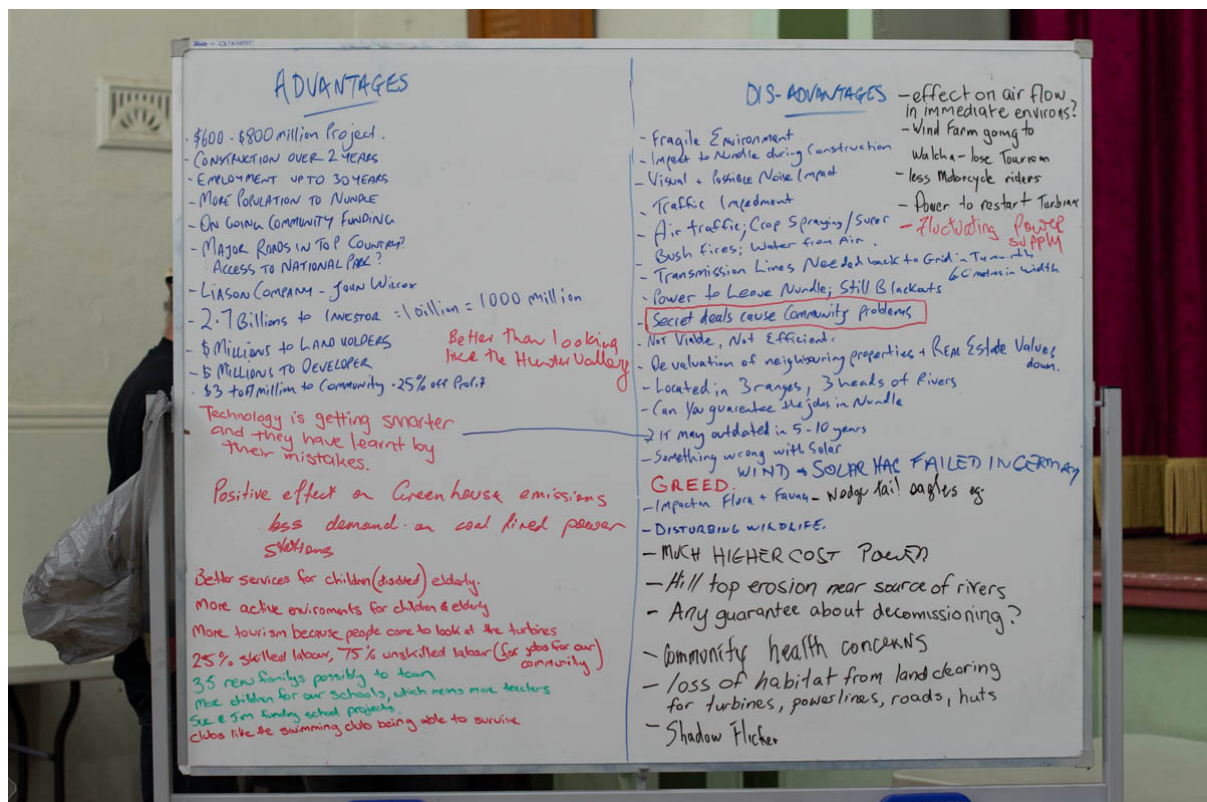
- Negotiating free membership of Tamworth Business Chamber for members
- Minimum weekly posts on @NundleNSW Facebook page (254 posts annually)
- Minimum weekly posts on @Nundle NSW Instagram account (72 posts annually)
- Updating Destination Tamworth with Nundle events and social media opportunities
- Reviewing Nundle content in Tamworth Visitors Guide
- Interpreting Nundle DNA to roll out new branding

- Regularly updating content on [nundle.com.au](http://nundle.com.au)
  - Coordinating design of print advertising in Country Style, New England Regional Lifestyle, Downtown, and Focus (New England, Port Macquarie, and Coffs Harbour).
  - Maintaining connections with Destination Tamworth, Country Outback NSW, and Visit NSW and applying marketing research to Nundle marketing
  - Identifying relevant Nundle marketing opportunities i.e #GiveNundle
  - Supplying Nundle editorial to magazines when requested
  - Lobbying for government assistance in response to bushfire
- Our funding pool maintains the Nundle website and other online marketing activities.

I was one of five community members invited to a meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> 2018 when we were informed by John and Christine Wilcox of Inclusive Engagement that a company called Wind Energy Partners Pty Ltd proposed building a 70-85 turbine wind farm on the range between Hanging Rock and Crawney Mountain. We were told we could talk to others in the community about the proposal.

NBTMG Inc then president Nick Bradford was also present at the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. We immediately thought of impacts on our community, landholders in the viewshed, and the tourism industry, in particular our friend and member John Krsulja, owner of The DAG Sheep Station weddings and functions venue.

A small group of business owners and landholders met to talk about the best way to inform the community about this proposal. Nundle and Hanging Rock are proactive communities, having their own Nundle Shire Council until amalgamation with Tamworth in 2004. NBTMG Inc members hosted a public meeting on Monday March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to share what community members knew. Inclusive Engagement's John Wilcox visited Nick Bradford and I at our businesses, visibly angry that NBTMG Inc had organised the public meeting.



On Monday March 19<sup>th</sup> 2018 NBTMG Inc members voted to “oppose the Hanging Rock/Nundle industrial wind farm proposed by Wind Energy Partners.”

Someva and Inclusive Engagement held public meetings at Nundle and Hanging Rock on Thursday, March 22nd and Friday, March 23rd. At these public meetings the wind farm proposal had been increased to 98 wind turbines.

From April 2018 Hills of Gold Preservation Inc was established to raise awareness of the proposal and communicate members’ concerns.

NBTMG Inc was represented on the Hills of Gold Wind Farm CCC. This was a frustrating experience with three community members actively researching and asking questions about discrepancies with the proposal and concerns experienced by other wind farm CCCs. There was very little input from the remaining three council representatives and five community representatives. When a community member was unable to attend, they were not always replaced, which meant there was less community representation on the CCC.

NBTMG Inc members met with two WEP representatives on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Two of the 12 NBTMG members present expressed support for the Hills of Gold Wind Farm. The remaining 10 members present raised concerns about:

Transport: Members talked about the impacts of transporting turbine components on tourists towing caravans and travellers in single vehicles and motorbikes. Members talked about the potential for delays and frustrations to be communicated by word of mouth among the caravan and camping community, and experienced by Nundle and Hanging Rock commuters.

Following release of the EIS Traffic and Transport Plan on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 the potential impacts on the movement of pedestrians and vehicles in and around Nundle and Hanging Rock has been described as catastrophic.

An associated landholder said the proposal would have positive impacts for his business, sealing a gravel road and making bus access possible.

Macro and micro impacts: A members raised concern about the miniscule macro benefit this proposal would have on reducing world carbon emissions, compared to the significant local micro impacts on the community and environment.

Jobs: Members expressed disbelief at the projected construction and ongoing jobs promoted by the proponent. For example comparable 400MW Tara Springs Wind Farm (60-80 wind turbines) proposes 150-200 construction jobs and 8-10 ongoing jobs.

Tourism economy: A member raised concern about the impact on motivation to visit Nundle, expressing the wind farm proposal was not consistent with Tourism Australia motivators for travel: Safety and Security, 54%; Value for Money 49%; World Class Nature and Wildlife 47%; History and Heritage 37%; and Friendly Citizens, 35%.

It was disappointing that when a member recalled John Wilcox saying, “if the community doesn’t want it [the wind farm], it won’t happen” Jamie Chivers said he didn’t believe John Wilcox said that. Mr Chivers was not present at that meeting. Nick Bradford and I were.

NBTMG Inc members are concerned that the proposed Community Enhancement Fund, currently \$175,000 based on 70 wind turbines, will threaten the continued economic contribution of Nundle events that raise funds for community groups, create tourism economic activity, and provide the opportunity for volunteering that builds social capital and wellbeing. Combined, Nundle annual events far exceed \$175,000 annually in economic contribution.

From the earliest meetings Jamie Chivers handed out his Someva business card. It took an ASIC search to understand Mr Chivers was also a WEP director and shareholder. Throughout the past three years it has been unclear what entity Mr Chivers was representing, WEP or Someva? In media coverage Mr Chivers was introduced as representing Someva when the audience had the right to transparency to know he was also a WEP director.

At the September 18th 2019 Hills of Gold Wind Farm CCC WEP/Someva presented information on “a new commercial arrangement with ENGIE, a French energy company ...WEP will remain as Developer for the project and receive financial, technical and commercial support from Engie.”

It wasn’t clear what the commercial arrangement was, made more confusing when media coverage in January 2020 listed Hills of Gold Wind Farm as part of a Engie/Mitsui renewable investment platform, yet Mr Chivers and Engie Senior Communications Advisor, Andrew Turner, would not confirm or deny the speculation.

On October 6<sup>th</sup> 2020 Engie registered Hills of Gold Wind Farm Holdings Pty Ltd with ASIC, but it wasn’t until October 29<sup>th</sup> 2020 that the CCC was advised Engie had bought WEP and Hills of Gold Wind Farm development. After requesting an Engie contact, any response to communication has been deferred to consultant Someva, leaving community members feeling ignored by the development owner.

Someva’s Jamie Chivers responded to my request of Engie Development Manager, Asset Development, Meredith Anderson to explain the Engie/Hills of Gold Wind Farm ownership structure, continuing the company’s arm’s length approach to community consultation:

- “International Power (Australia) Holdings Pty Ltd (**IPAH**) is a joint venture between ENGIE and Mitsui, with ENGIE holding 72% and Mitsui holding 28%.
- IPAH is referred to, or described, as ‘ENGIE Australia and New Zealand’, or ‘ENGIE ANZ’.
- The project entity, Hills of Gold Wind Farm Pty Ltd (formerly known as Wind Energy Partners Pty Ltd), is ultimately owned 100% by IPAH, albeit indirectly via intermediary holding companies.”

Clear as mud.

At the October 29<sup>th</sup> 2020 CCC meeting a Powerpoint Presentation outlined the proposed transport route from port to project. The Nundle Hanging Rock section of the map was so small it was indistinguishable. On November 11<sup>th</sup> I requested a more detailed map of the

Devil's Elbow bypass after some community members on the transport route received correspondence about a "new private road." By November 23rd I had not received it. Meredith Anderson responded, "I will coordinate a response with Aref and Jamie and we will respond accordingly." I received nothing further and a follow up email to Aref on January 17<sup>th</sup> remains unanswered. I have since walked a track in the area proposed for the "realignment" and I cannot believe the EIS has been submitted without more detail than a line on a map.

For the second time in 12 months NBTMG Inc's CCC representative has been banned from a site visit by the major associated landholder. The first banning was overturned when it was pointed out that the action was obstructing community consultation and was not consistent with equal opportunity. With five of 11 CCC community members banned from the second site visit, it is not a good start to Engie's community engagement. I have written to DPIE and the proponent regarding the banning and I am waiting for a written reply from DPIE to take to our NBTMG Inc February meeting.

I note that the EIS SoHI does not include heritage items identified by NBTMG Inc members at its February 18<sup>th</sup> 2020 meeting. A list of items was emailed to Someva representative Mike Stranger on February 21<sup>st</sup> 2020. This list follows for cross referencing with the SoHI.

Yours sincerely

Megan Trousdale  
President  
Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc  
Hills of Gold Wind Farm CCC member

Email to Mike Stranger, Someva 21/2/2020

Good evening Mike

Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc met on Tuesday.

We discussed the Community Enhancement Fund (Question 1 in the Community Survey). Members believe while it is important to have clarity about how a compensation fund could be administered and divided between three LGAs, it is too premature to discuss how it could be used in the community.

Given that Wind Energy Partners Pty Ltd is yet to lodge a DA/EIS and the DPIE and IPC assessment process is potentially years away from conclusion members do not believe the community should be asked in a survey or Community Enhancement Fund workshop how it would spend a Community Enhancement Fund that doesn't exist and may never exist.

We are forwarding the following locations of heritage value (Question 5) for inclusion in Wind Energy Partners Pty Ltd's analysis.

Best regards  
Megan Trousdale  
President  
Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc

## **NUNDLE**

Former Presbyterian Church, later Uniting Church, Nundle

All Saints' Church of England, Nundle (Anglican)

St Peter's Catholic Church, Nundle

Nundle Cemetery

Former Nundle Court House

Police residence

Nundle Shire Office

Odgers and McClelland Exchange Stores

Old Butcher's Shop

Mount Misery Gold Mine Cafe & Museum

Jenkins Street Antiques and Fine China

The Peel Inn

Jenkins Street Guest House

Former Nundle Post Office

New Nundle Post Office building

Nundle Memorial Hall

Former Nundle school of Arts

Old Church Boutique Primitive Methodist Church

Nundle Public School & residence

Nundle Swimming Pool

Nundle Recreation Ground

Nundle Recreation Club and Golf Course

Cafe Nundle on the Park

## **CRAWNEY**

Teamster's Rest

Crawney Pass National Park

Crawney Pass

## **HANGING ROCK**

Great Dividing Range ridgeline

Devil's Elbow

Sheba Dams

Sheba Dam Gatekeeper's Slab Cottage

Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve

Network of Water Races built by Chinese miners

Hanging Rock Hall

Hanging Rock Look Out

Two Mile Walk

Hanging Rock Historic Cemetery

Hanging Rock Historic sites: Former Golden Nugget Hotel, Former Our House Hotel, Former Royal Oak, Former Hanging Rock Post Office; Former Primitive Methodist Church. Former Hanging Rock School Residence.

Former Mine Sites- Especially those at Hanging Rock Black Snake, Brown Snake, Lady Mary, Dead Horse, Brayshaws Reef, Rip and Tear, Old Sheba, New Sheba, Jack Wrights Reef

Hanging Rock Prase Mine.

Mt Pleasant (Hanging Rock) Site of Former School of Arts

## **BOWLING ALLEY POINT**

Bowling Alley Point School

Bowling Alley Point Union Church

Bowling Alley Point Cemetery

Iron Footbridge, Chaffey Dam

Peel River/Bowling Alley Point Mine sites. Eg Moonlight, Long Gully Reef, Marquis of Lorne, John Bull, Blackfellows Reef, Foley's, O'Possum, Golden Hole, Lord Carrington.

Bowling Alley Point- Former Hotel sites. ( See attached copy of sign erected at BAP below Union Church).