

Submission to the IPC for the Hills of Gold Wind Farm.

We are located 35km to the NE of the proposed Hills of Gold wind farm. We are dealing with a similar proposal in our area and we have become intimate with the challenges and threats that exist with the Hills of Gold project, as there are many parallels.

It is clear to us that the threats to biodiversity are significant and have not been given due respect by the developer. We see the major concerns, that have not been considered adequately, are;

- The destruction of 46 Hectares of Koala habitat, in order for access roads to be constructed.
- Close to 450 Ha of vegetation clearing
- High impact on aerial services, which are critical in the process of firefighting, rescue and retrieval, as well as agricultural services. Commercial operators are at pains to point out that these areas will become a no fly zone. To ignore this advice from operators is irresponsible and arrogant, as well as being dismissive of the safety and lives of regional landholders neighbouring these projects.
- Poor site selection, with the steepness of the slopes and fragility of soils posing great risk of instability and erosion. This is irreversible damage that will not be rectified by the developer when it occurs. Damage in this manner is often irreversible, scarring the landscape for decades.
- A high number of non-associated dwellings adjacent to the project area will be affected. Project location needs to be better designed and better located to avoid the impact on so many non-associated dwellings.
- Over 100 truck movements a day through the village, this project will have a huge impact on the community, young and old. This is an issue that has safety concerns, as well as traffic impacts and road maintenance obligations.

The community of Nundle have had a poorly designed project hang over their heads for many years, and it is evident that this project, if approved, may never be built due to economic non-viability. If this is the case, it will hang over the community of Nundle for many more years to come. An eternal threat of disruption, with no certainty or benefit.

I object to this project in its current form.

Regards,



Walcha

NSW