

Hills of gold windfarm Nundle area

To whom it may concern

I would like to express my objection to the proposed Hills of Gold Windfarm development.

I've been a resident of Nundle for nearly two years, I have made a significant investment in the town by purchasing my home and I am a ratepayer.

I'd like to begin with an extract from appendix K of the Assessment report:

2.17.4 For Visual Influence Zone 2 the Landscape Scenic Integrity Performance Objective is; *“Wind turbines should not cause significant modification of the visual catchment. Turbines may be visually apparent and could be a major element in the landscape but should not dominate the existing visual catchment.”*

2.17.5 For both Visual Influence Zone 1 and 2 the Key Feature Disruption Performance Objective are, to (for VIZ1) avoid and (for VIZ2) to minimise the impact of wind turbines or ancillary facilities that result in the removal or visual alteration/disruption of identified key landscape features. This includes any major or visually significant landform, waterform, vegetation or cultural features that have visual prominence or are focal points”.

I was attracted to Nundle for several reasons:

- Its rural village atmosphere, historical charm and friendly tight-knitted community located in a quiet but central location.
- The incredible view and scenery of the surrounding mountains and landscape particularly from my residence, which adds significant value to my property.
- The outstanding environmental and ecological values of the area
- The range of indoor and outdoor activities accessible to all who live in and visit the area including shopping, dining, local food and produce, music, arts, swimming and water activities, fishing, hunting, camping, bush-walking and gold-fossicking to name a few.

My objections to the wind-farm project are based on the diminishment of these values. In my strong opinion the wind-farm project...

COMMUNITY

- I have made some great connections with people since moving to Nundle, with people on both sides of the argument. However, there is an underlying tension. The project has already divided a strong community which sadly may deepen further if it goes ahead. Personally speaking, I have been attacked for my position on this project and have been made to feel very unwelcome in one of our established businesses by the project's supporters.

I request that the IPC reject the proposed development based on the damage the project is inflicting and will continue to inflict on community unity.

VISUAL IMPACT

- Based on the **Wind Energy Visual Assessment Bulletin by Planning NSW**, the Scenic Quality at my residence, at 91 Gill St, Nundle would be classified as HIGH, level 1 SENSITIVITY as I'm in the residential village, however with the towers in the far middle ground and near background, my residence would be classified in the VIZ2 zone.
- I have two photos of the views from my property which sits at an altitude of 630m. Interestingly, in the planning documentation, Nundle residents north of Hall St are not considered to be Non-associated dwellings; there have been no consultations with Nundle residents who have an elevated position, especially those like myself who are facing South towards the project. To suggest there will be minimal visual impact from my property is ludicrous.
- The first photo is facing 210deg SW. This view is the most spectacular, and as impressive as anything that I have seen in NSW, especially in winter. Up to 14 towers from the southern end of the project will dominate my skyline. The suggestion that the distance from my property (approx. 12km) will mitigate the visual impact of these is folly, when one can clearly see even the most distant individual trees with the naked eye on site. The line I have drawn on the photo approximates the extra 230m height of the turbines.



I strongly request that turbines 6 and 12 be removed from the project to minimise the dominant visual position that the southern turbines impose on the view from my property. I also support the deletion of turbines 9, 10 and 11 to minimise the visual

impact to residents on the southern side of the range, which additionally benefits the residents on the northern side of the range and the residents of Nundle facing them.

- The final photo is from my property facing 135deg SE. This is a view of the northern end of the project. Up to 7 towers will dominate this skyline, alongside the Hanging Rock crag from certain angles, approx 8 km from my property. These also fall into the VIZ2 category and will be a blight on the extraordinary landscape that I am privy to.



I strongly request that turbines 64, 65, 66, 67 and 68 be removed from the project to minimise the dominant visual position that these turbines impose on the view from my property, my immediate neighbourhood in the elevated portion of Nundle village, and for other residents in Nundle Creek

Rd, Head of Peel Rd and Crawney Rd. I also support the removal of Turbines 53 to 63 for the above reasons.

- I invite the IPC to visit my residential property and see the oncoming visual impact from both directions, especially the southern view, with their own eyes.

TRAFFIC

- The proposed 6 day week movement of project traffic using Lindsay's Gap Rd, Oakenville St, Barry Rd, Morrison's Gap Rd and potentially Crawney Rd, will have a heavy and excessively long impact on Nundle residents and tourists.
- My profession requires me to regularly travel in all directions including south, using the New England Hwy. With the proposed road construction and later movement of machinery and parts along Lindsay's Gap Rd, my travel patterns and time will be heavily impacted. I'm sure I'm not the only Nundle resident who will be affected by this. However, I am unclear as to whether there will be any compensation from the developers to residents for this impact as I have received no consultation. I don't even know if there'll be a timetable of their traffic movement, let alone for the road construction. I request that the commission add to the recommended conditions of consent that...

the developers publish detailed roadwork and transport scheduling to minimise transport disruption across the entire project. These details need to be published in advance, with ongoing adjustments (live time) and easily accessible on the internet to affected townships and residents.

- Access to the outstanding environmental and ecological values which the Nundle community and tourists love and enjoy at Hanging Rock, Sheba Dam, the Trout farm, Ponderosa Park, the Forest Way, Crawney, Ben Hall State Forest and the small villages beyond will be heavily impacted by the excessive and inappropriate movement of oversized machinery for a significant amount of time. Access to the village for our residents and tourists will also be severely compromised.

I do not support the inclusions of Barry Rd (at Devils Elbow), the intersection on Barry Rd and Morrison's Gap Rd, and Morrison's Gap Rd on **Table 7.2 - Haulage Route and Road Upgrades to be implemented by the Applicant Recommended Conditions of Consent, ALSO Part B Specific Environmental Conditions, specifically B30 (b) (i) and (c) (i) for OSOMs** as these inclusions will be too disruptive for the residents and tourist access to Hanging Rock amenities. Please amend this inclusion for **Light Vehicles only**.

I request the removal of turbine 47 from Ben Hall State forest as it is located on government land, and there is a lack of clarity on who will gain royalties from this turbine, and who will be responsible for its maintenance and decommissioning.

- I believe the overall major traffic disruptions over the planned construction of the project will also put the highly important tourist industry that current Nundle businesses heavily rely on at risk! Our businesses reflect our community in that they are diverse, creative and culturally proud. If tourists are inconvenienced, they won't come. This

project poses a serious economic threat to the wider community for this reason, especially in the short to medium term. **I request that the Commission deny approval of this project on these grounds.**

Nundle's landscape is beautiful, and therefore the imposition of soaring towers on every hilltop will be a blight on the landscape, not an enhancement. But of far more significance will be the interruption to the way of life I cherish, removed from the hurly burly metropolis whose ever growing demands for power are the reason this glorious place is set to be defiled. If construction drags on, as construction projects are wont to do, this town, with its tourism-based economy, in my very strong opinion, will be decimated.

