

I want to raise my CONCERN to the IPC that the Developer ENGIE and this development has not thoroughly or thoughtfully addressed the IMPORTANCE of the current use of the development corridor in the best interest of NSW.

The DAG Sheep Station (The DAG) is located 10km south of the village of Nundle on the Crawney Road, runs alongside the Wombramurra Creek, and is represented in the EIS as a Non-Associated Dwelling (NAD) 34.

- **‘Support’ DPHI recommendation** to seal the unsealed portion of Crawney Road for site access **BEFORE** construction, not **AFTER** as suggested by ENGIE.
- **‘Support’ the DPHI recommendation** to not authorise the development of Crawney Road Access Option A & C and The Happy Valley Bypass Route.
- **‘Does Not Support’ the DPHI recommendation** ‘to authorise the development of Crawney Road Access Option B for reasons contained within this Objection.
- **‘Does Not Support’ the DPHI recommendation** for ENGIE to provide important construction details after approval is totally unacceptable for a site as sensitive as the Hills of Gold.
- **‘Does Not Support’ the DPHI recommendation** for development APPROVAL. The DPHI states the project is Approvable, but there is no evidence of access or constructability within the constraints of an acceptable budget expenditure vs positive Renewable Energy projects.
- **We ask the IPC to remove** The Option B location of Transformers, Sub Station, BESS and Compound on the slopes of the ridge opposite the viewpoint from The DAG Sheep Station **and to relocate on flatter area as per EIS Option A**. It is not only a massive **Visual Impact**, it is of great concern for risks associated with **Soil Erosion and Water Contamination** from cut and fill required on steep sloped country. ***In Response To DA Amendment, The DAG noted there was NO consultation** with our business with regards to the **Crawney Road Access Options A, B or C and Option B location of Transformers, Sub Station, BESS and Compound**.
- Lack of **genuine or thorough Community Consultation and Assessments**. ENGIE has been guided by an inexperienced team and will state all the Newsletters, emails, private meetings, public meetings ect ect in Community Consultation but at this late stage with so many community members or stakeholders still not consulted or assessed equates to **Failure of thorough Community Consultation**.

- **The RISKS of Soil Erosion and Water Contamination** to 3 major river systems and major Creeks, including Wombrumurra Creek is too greater risk to be mitigated at a later stage of development.
- No details or assessments on how the Wombrumurra will be crossed, including times of flood and high volumes of water flow.
- **Crawney Road includes E2 Environmental Conservation Land** not yet assessed, with the location not mentioned in ENGIE's road transport and access assessment. This includes assessment of **Booralong Frog found in the Wombrumurra Creek** within the E2 Environmental Conservation Area.
- Crawney Road is part of **The National Trail NSW**, and follows historic coach and stock routes once connecting Nundle to Maitland. No evidence has been provided of consultation with The National Trail Committee members or NO mention has been given to this **Historic and Heritage Road** in ENGIE's Heritage assessments.
- **No Aboriginal Heritage surveys have been conducted on Crawney Road** especially near Crown Lands soon to be handed over to Nungaroo Land Council. Sensitive Aboriginal rock carvings exist within 5kms of the project area and a tree carving along Crawney Road next to Access Option A has yet to be investigated for origin or Heritage value.
- Crawney Road access from the village of Nundle until Access Option A & B includes 3 Bridge crossings (4 bridges to Option C) and several concrete causeways over small waterways. **NO** Bridge Weights have been given or detail on Bridge replacement required **OR** if the roads running alongside Wombrumurra Creek verge before Access Option B or small waterway verges will support these weights.
- Early consultation by Wind Energy Partners included been told site works would be **5 days a week**, DA amendments now **suggests 5.5 days**. Construction & Transport of infrastructure **WILL** force **closure of our business** in it's current form as a boutique Wedding, Conference & Function Centre.
- *IPC please note, our Functions & Events guests also rely on Nundle accommodation & services including road use along Crawney Road.
- **The Visual Impact** of Cut & Fill to the Southern end and Western Connector is of great concern with turbine footings, crane laydown pad areas of 100 x 100 metres on slopes greater than 20% and 30% or more is unacceptable to the existing use of the range and associated risks.

The DAG Sheep Station or The DAG as it's known is the Woolshed complex once part of the historic Wombrumurra Station consisting of the original 128 year old Woolshed, Workers Cottages, Shearers Quarters, Mess Hall and provides accommodation for up to 90 guests.

My wife Belinda and I purchased The DAG in 2007 and undertook extensive renovations and transferred the Complex into a unique Award-Winning Venue. The Mangers Quarters have been renovated into our home.

We have raised our 2 girls here over the last 17 years and also over the last 4 years we taken into our home and raised a local 16 year old girl and close friend to our family who was orphaned in 2020.

- **Over the last 17 years The DAG has hosted over 200 Weddings, and 100's of Functions, Festivals & Events** contributing to the growth of employment and tourism currently enjoyed by Nundle.
- The DAG has consistently employed between 3-6 locals and prior to Covid attracted 1000's of visitors annually equating to over **\$2 million dollars annually towards Nundle and Tamworth's economy.** *Based on Destination NSW Regional average night / spend of \$191 = \$2 million annually. Over a 30year life of Wind Farm is \$60 million vs \$11 million to the community from ENGIE, this is the economic potential loss of just 1 local business. Nundle cannot afford to lose local businesses through closure in the short term or long term.
- The DAG Sheep Station is also the base for his Plastering & Gyprock Fixing business, PLASTERMAN currently employs 6 full time staff, including 2 Adult Apprentices.

Awards include: **Heritage Tourism Award • Tamworth Regional Sustainability Community Awards • Boutique Wedding Venue Awards • Silver & Bronze for 'Unique Accommodation' at NSW Tourism Awards • 'Tourism Restaurant & Catering' & 'Unique Accommodation' at Inland NSW Tourism Awards – 2015 Inducted into Hall of Fame 'Unique Accommodation'** due to the Unique Natural Landscape Setting & Historical Wombrumurra Woolshed Complex.

- 6 x songs written at The DAG during Songwriting Retreats have been awarded **CMAA, Country Music Association of Australia Golden Guitars.**

The DAG Sheep Station has worked alongside NBTMG (Nundle Business Tourism Marketing Group) **Destination Tamworth, Destination NSW, Inland**

NSW Tourism to support Nundle as a major Tourism Village capitalising on the NATURAL Surrounds

I would ask the IPC to read you some quotes from;

NSW Visitor Economy Strategy 2030 - Gladys Berejiklian Premier of NSW: The visitor economy is one of NSW's major exports, contributing \$38 billion to our Gross State Product and employing almost 300,000 people.

- **The presence of visitors adds to the State's prosperity and liveability, enhancing the vibrancy of our public & natural spaces and the lifestyle of local residents.**
- **the visitor economy of NSW is deep in crisis After bushfires over summer and the spread of COVID-19. Following years of drought and**
- **"Regional NSW will be key to the future of the state's visitor economy and a focus of the strategy..."**

NSW Visitor Economy Strategy 2030; Strategic pillar 3.

Finalise and deliver the NSW Nature-based Tourism Strategy

Grow the eco-wellbeing, eco-tourism and volunteer tourism sectors

A 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW July 2018

"Tourism rates amongst the highest growth engine industries, placing Nundle in a prime position to capitalise on both Regional population growth to the City of Tamworth and the close proximity to the Hunter market".

TAMWORTH KEYCHANGE 2017 - 2027 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

"Our aim should be to Protect our natural environment"

Some of the community feedback includes: The best things about our Region are the natural environment and waterways

"LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE! Your voice is the key to our region's future.

I commend Tamworth Regional Council for their continued OBJECTION to this development proposal. With over 19 Renewable energy projects in the pipeline for our region, it's not hard to see that over the next (30year life) of this proposal there will be dozens if not hundreds Renewable Energy projects approved within New England Region and the REZ Zones of NSW.

NEVER has there been a more important time for the NSW Government & the IPC (now charged with Approval or Rejection for major projects) to get the site selection process right.

The Hills Of Gold that are Nundle, Hanging Rock, Crawney & Timor **MUST be preserved** in the interest of both FUTURE & CURRENT Generations of NSW community members & visitors and **the Natural biodiversity that exists of flora & fauna, water and soil MUST be protected and preserved for our future generations.**

For nearly 17 years called The DAG Sheep Station our home & during this time I have volunteered time as:

President of NBTMG, President of Go For Gold Festival (2nd largest in Region), President of our P & C & President of Great Nundle Dog Race (attracts thousands of visitors), Stakeholder of the Tamworth CMF (largest festival in our region) and for 10 years volunteered a Committee member of the Hats Of To Country mid-year Winter Festival now handed over to TRC.

Over the last 6 years I have helped my community as current President of the HOGP and represented them for nearly 5 years as a CCC member.

I believe I am qualified to know how volunteering time and how the community spirit works.

The last 6 years have been some of the toughest in my business and family life, which I attribute mostly to this proposed Hills Of Gold Wind Farm.

I am just 1 of so many stories within our community, but I tell you that there are many here that I know of, that should this project get Approval, will never part-take in committees or events that receive funding through ENGIE or this windfarm.

There are many business owners, agricultural business owners & employees and residents that have confided that if this Wind Farm is Approved they may be forced to close their businesses or leave Nundle.

All the pretty pictures that ENGIE show in their presentations of Local Employment, Community Enhancement Funds & Community Support will mean nothing within a divided community, a divided community that will remain divided for generations to come.

THIS PROJECT DOES NOT HAVE COMMUNITY LICENCE

The local Supporters of the Wind Farm talk about bringing NEW families to the village, NEW businesses, NEW work FOR a greater Nundle but have failed to see, that what is not good for all of Nundle is not good for Nundle.

We cannot afford to continue to our lose community spirit.

- **Nundle or 'Nundul'** comes from the **Kamilaroi language meaning 'Mouth'**. One the greatest things I've learned over the last 6 years was from a Kamilaroi Elder from Tamworth who taught me the significance of what **'begins'** at the mouth 'Nundul' affects the rest of (the) country for which it flows through.

We must not risk or destroy the NATURAL asset that surrounds Nundle, Hanging Rock, Crawney & Timor.

I walk around our 120 year old Woolshed in the evenings turning of lights, I often wonder about the stories and the people that have lived and worked within the Woolshed.

As I admire it's architecture, I am always humbled by it's beauty it's rawness and I realise that I can never own Wombrumurra Woolshed.

"I am only a Custodian to protect and preserve it's place in history"

The history of Nundle, was built on the sheep's back, the gold rush of old days and the rich agriculture history.

We now live in the Tourism era where the future will show places of natural beauty will be revered.

The final word is:

Let it be known that if the Hills of Gold Wind Farm is APPROVED Then **no-where or no place** within NSW will be safe from the clutches of **corporate profit under the guise of Renewable Energy.**

Our HISTORY is in your hands, the IPC.

I only hope the IPC makes the right decision for our future & recommends 'REJECTION' of the Hills of Gold Wind Farm.



Image: The range dominates the scenery to The DAG Sheep Station and Nundle surrounds. This backdrop location is Option B for Transformers, Sub Station, Bess & Compound.



Image: Bride & Groom on the deck landing of the historic 'Wombrumurra Woolshed', overlooking the Western range end of the proposal and Wind Turbines 1-8, Sub Station, BESS and Transformers.



Image: Historic Wombramurra Woolshed, Circa 1906, loading of the wool to be transported to Newcastle via Crawney Pass, on the Crawney Road now part of The Bicentennial National Trail, used frequently by travellers on horses, push bikes, walkers, adventure bikes and includes E2 Environmental Conservation land.



Image: John, Belinda, Brooke & Jade Krsulja, family business owners of The DAG Sheep Station, currently used in Tamworth Keychange 2017 – 2027 Community Strategic Plan.



Images: 3 Bridges along Crawney Road from Nundle village, heading towards Option B access. NO bridge weights confirmed OR If bridges will need to be replaced to carry OSOM.



Image: Example of one of several verges along Crawney Road that overpass small creeks or ravines NO detail if these roads will carry the excess weight.

Crawney Road currently experiences light traffic consisting of recreational users, Australia Post, School Bus Routes for High School Students at 6.30am / 7.00am & 4.30pm / 5pm and Primary School 8am & 3pm and once past this one land bridge at Back Creek Road, the Crawney area consists of a handful of landholders until Timor.

The Impact of 100's of Construction Workers vehicles daily including OSOM vehicles is a huge safety concern on a stretch of road currently 100km, The DAG does not support Crawney Road access and believes the impact on our business will force closure in it's current form.



Images: The start of unsealed Crawney Road and unsealed Crawney Road passing The DAG Sheep Station an existing tourism operator and the only Tourism Based Business located this side of the development.

The DAG Sheep Station Supports the DPHI recommendation to seal the unsealed portion of Crawney Road before Construction not after as suggested by ENGIE.



Images: The top 2 images show Crawney Road Access Option A & Option C, both these roads were upgraded including tree removal during the EIS process and ENGIE was questioned during the CCC process if these roads would be used for access and denied these roads were part of their access, only to be included into Amended DA after the CCC was disbanded. NO consultation was provided with DAG Sheep Station about Crawney Road use.

The above Image shows the current Option A, Wombrumurra Creek Crossing through Crown Lands, upgraded and used by the majority turbine landholder.

NO assessments have been provided Wombrumurra Creek or details on Bridge Crossing or Road Flooding.



Images: No Assessments have been provided on E2 Environmental Conservation Land located on Crawney Road or Wombrumurra Creek at Option A & B access.

No Heritage Assessments have been included for Crawney Road or evidence of consultation with the National Trail Committee.

No Aboriginal Heritage Assessments have been provided or assessed for Crawney Road or Wombrumurra Creek.



Images: The Top image is our Causeway over Wombrumurra Creek at The DAG Sheep Station and the Bottom image our causeway in flood after 40-50mm of rain, the Wombrumurra Creek can rise to flood in less than half an hour.

No assessments of flooding of Wombrumurra Creek have been provided or details of Wombrumurra Creek Crossing.





Images: The DAG has always embraced history and has become history for many for over the last 110 years, it's always was and always will be connected to its natural surrounds.