

Submission ref: "Hills of Gold Wind Farm" by
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████████████████████ Nundle, 2340

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The Hills of Gold wind farm will cause environmental damage. It is not in a Renewable Energy Zone nor is it in proximity to existing transmission networks or regional road and rail corridors.

The impact of the wind farm project from my dwelling will be obvious and detrimental.

From my house, where now I see the undulating ridge of the Great Dividing Range, should this project go ahead I will see turbines standing stark all along the ridge – they will be located approximately 4kms from my dwelling. I did not realize this until recently. I have never been approached by Engie about this.

I have been living here in the same house for 40 years and to have this destruction of a view I had hoped to enjoy till the day I die is immensely distressing. In winter, when there has been snow, I am able to look up at the outline of the range defined by the cape of snow. Should the wind project go ahead I will look up and see metres high man-made structures standing stark along the ridge.

The impact on the night sky of the aviation lights that will be necessary on the turbines certainly will destroy my pleasure of surveying the sky when taking my dog for her evening stroll. No longer will I have the dark sky that enables the stars to stand out so spectacularly.



I request removal of turbines Nos. 42 through to70.

TRANSPORTATION

No clear transportation plan has been put forward.

The turbine blades are over twice the length of the Nundle Hall. With other OSOM components and vehicles accessing Nundle from the New England Highway via Lindsays Gap Road the use of this road by tourists, including cars towing caravans, would necessarily be severely curtailed.

There will be hold-up after hold-up along Lindsays Gap Road to allow these heavy vehicles and wide structures to use the whole width of the road.

Add to this the roadworks that will be required due to the surface being continually impacted by these heavy vehicles, particularly after rain. Already the surface suffers from timber jinkers coming from the forested area above Hanging Rock with consequent necessary road repair.

Three of them have overturned on Lindsays Gap Road negotiating the curves and camber of the road.

How are caravanners to leave or access Nundle at times of their choosing? How are commuters, such as my son who works in Quirindi, to come and go at times convenient to them?

The school bus picks up in the mornings and puts down in the afternoons every school day on Lindsays Gap Road.

This timetable certainly should not be disrupted nor should commuters and pastoral workers along the road be required to alter their day-to-day routines.

Extra traffic will mean more potential for accidents.

ASSESSMENT REPORT

Pages 13 and 14 Table 4 Summary of submissions.

This shows very clearly that the majority of the community does **not** want this wind farm. It will destroy the character of Nundle and what it offers, the reasons so many live here – peace, tranquility, natural environment.

To destroy this for the sake of allegedly “saving the planet” would be sheer vandalism. The idea would be laughable if it weren’t so tragic.

Page 22 Point 82

The area of the wind farm sits squarely between two Renewable Energy Zone. Surely this is a strong reason for no infrastructure erection. The untouched area should be seen as an offset for both these zones.

Nundle is not in a Renewable Energy Zone.

Page 24/25 Point 91

The DPE itself has concerns regarding the visual impact of this proposal and has articulated these concerns.

No visual impact assessment has been done of cutaways and hard stands for roads AND there is no mention of this in the report.

People living in rural areas appreciate the beauty of the natural scenery. They do not live there to screen out their views, just as coastal dwellers don’t choose to screen out views of the ocean.

It is naïve to suggest that “screening” is the answer to objections that rural views will be adversely impacted by this development.

It is an insult to anyone’s intelligence for Engie to suggest that vegetation can be utilized to block the mess that will be made to large swathes of the natural environment that has been undisturbed since time immemorial, let alone the suggestion that planting vegetation would screen the sight of 230 metres high turbines on ridges and ranges.

Page 37 – Point 122

This property belongs to one of my sons. There is an **approved** Development Application in place for the property. The location for the house was fixed long before any mention was made of the erection of a wind farm.

It is within 500M of NAD05. It requires removal of some turbines and that a noise assessment be completed.

This assessment has not been done and Engie continues to ignore the fact of the approved Development Application that is in place.

Page 55 Point 178

The school bus routes along Lindsays Gap Road and Crawney Road should not be allowed to be manipulated by the wind farm applicants. There should be a definitive “NO MOVEMENT OF OS-OM” in relation to these school routes during times the school bus is operating. The extra passenger traffic alone, operated by the wind farm applicant, will increase the possibility of accidents without the addition of OS-OM vehicles/components.

Traffic along Oakenville Road will increase by 65%. This is the road on which the Nundle Post Office is situated. The Post Office is a busy one. The carrier comes in there to drop off mail bags and at 1.30pm comes back to pick up outgoing mail, including large parcels from the Woollen Mill that they deposit from their vehicle.

There is no residential mail delivery in the Nundle area, Residents are required to go to the Post Office to check if there is mail and pick up same. As well as people bringing mail and parcels for the 1.30 pm pick up there are vehicles constantly arriving during the day to access the mailboxes and to pick up parcels.

Traffic along Crawney Road, which is an extension of Jenkins Street, will increase by 35%. This too is a road used by the school bus am and pm, by the residents along the road to access facilities in Nundle and to leave Nundle for Tamworth or the Highway. It is used by travellers accessing Nundle via the Crawney Gap.

The social and psychological impact of this proposal has been and will be immense. Despite any contrary suggestion, the majority of residents do **not** want this development.

The Commission has only to look at the number of speakers at its public meeting. Of the 70 or so who spoke only a very small number delivered submissions in favour of the project – one of those being the proponents.

THIS PROJECT HAS NO SOCIAL LICENCE.

Our local member of parliament has rightly described Nundle as **the Jewel in the Crown of the New England**. Please do not destroy it by approving this wind farm.