

As a local landowner, I **object** to the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm at Hanging Rock, Nundle, Crawney and thru to Timor.

I do not object to renewable power generation, however, my concern is that this proposed project is in the wrong location. There are other wind farm projects with easier safer access, less environmental impact, lower cost per kilowatt output, minimal visual impact and less social disharmony.

Our property is north of Nundle, and I will view wind turbines from 5 south facing windows of my home day and night. They will be on display from almost everywhere on our small acreage.....especially visible during the night sky.

Avoiding Nundle, Hanging Rock, Crawney and Timor during construction will be necessary due to traffic safety, and trips to Tamworth for shopping, and Sydney for business will become a challenge. We frequent these local villages, and entertain visitors at the lookouts, picnic spots and swimming holes. We lunch and dine at the cafes, pub and club. Trips will be curtailed. Our family and long distance friends will limit or cease visits during the long construction phase.

The proponents have never contacted us with any information regarding this project. We have had to be proactive with seeking information. Proponents have ignored our small hamlet because it lies over 10 km north of the nearest turbine. For a project of this magnitude more effort was needed with communication.

For 6 years this project has occupied countless days and hours of my time, reading articles, attending meetings and writing objections. I've studied plans and newsletters supporting and opposing the project, and attended information meetings. I've talked to a multitude of the townsfolk to gauge their opinion as to the pros and cons, and have read and listened to numerous experts.

I maintained an unbiased stance until the EIS was released. I consider the EIS document flawed, with so many important unanswered questions still remaining and issues not addressed at all. The DPE has failed the community with their decision to proceed, in light of the tainted EIS report. It is disappointing that we have reached the IPC level of project consideration.

My working life started in engineering, so much of the technical aspects of this project I understand. It therefore astounds me that ENGIE still push this wind farm as a viable exercise. They even want to reinstate turbines after the DPE ruled them out!

There are many areas of concern within the site. Difficult terrain, questionable foundations, rainwater runoff, unsolvable sedimentation concerns on three river systems, bushfire fighting restraints and the list goes on and on.

In December the Pilliga (Duck creek) bushfire burnt thru over 130,000 hectares of native vegetation. Valuable habitat and endangered wildlife were lost. We need to hold onto every remnant of forest in our locality to sustain flora and fauna. Koala, spotted quoll, micro bats and many others will be heavily impacted by this local project. The range needs to be preserved and land clearing ceased to maintain the wildlife corridor between Ben Halls Nature Reserve, and Crawney and Wallabadah National parks. If local landowners won't respect the land, it should be resumed by Government and protected. Owning that precious land is a privilege not a right.

The towns thriving tourism sector will be forever damaged. Current small business that support this industry could close and the jobs lost will offset the small number of jobs offered after construction (to date no one is sure what exactly these will be). Grey Nomads, young families, and fossickers who visit the town will avoid the district knowing construction is taking place.

Hosts, major business concerns, landowners and families who prosecute this venture will prosper. Everyone else will miss out. The elderly and disadvantaged will suffer.

Road travel in the locality during construction will be feared. The local roads are already dangerous without the addition of trade utilities, construction vehicles and huge transport machines. School buses and school pickups will be impacted.

There is no social licence to proceed with a project where 5% of the town make loads of money and the remaining 95% get nothing or the crumbs from the Community Enhancement Fund.

Wind Energy Partners, SONEVA, and ENGIE have misled and deceived the community here in Nundle and surrounds. They promise wealth and prosperity but will only deliver industrial ugliness and social unhappiness. They are messing with the physical and mental health of respectable, hardworking townsfolk and farmers. They will cost people their jobs, livelihoods and devalue their properties with no compensation. If you see the turbines, your property could devalue by up to 20%. If you hear them or get blade flicker, it could be more. They have no right to do this.

Little has been said about the 330Kv transmission line that will take the energy from the project out to the interconnector on the road to Wallabadah. Yet, another eyesore with more cleared land.

There are other industrial installations planned; battery storage facilities, switching yards and transformers. All of these will be protected from vandals by barbwire fences, surveillance cameras and 24 hour security lighting. They will have asset protection zones bulldozed around them. All of the project will be fenced off from the public for OH & S and security reasons. Quarries, truck lay-buys and a concrete batching plant will also add to the industrial scenery. All of the above will not marry nicely with the adjoining natural landscape.

This venture will run 24/7, all year long. The lights will go on at dusk and off at dawn.

The project has a lifetime of 25-35 years but will get rolled over with renewed parts for many decades into the future. The owners would be mad not to, after spending so much money to set it up. The roads and tracks will need to be upgraded to maintain access for large components as large parts break down and need replacing.

Expansion of this project has not been discussed publicly. It's obvious that there's a lot of State Forest, Crown and State Water land, as well as privately owned land, in the Peel Valley and surrounds. It's only a matter of time before Stage 2 & 3 proceed if this stage is given the go ahead.

The controversial Community Enhancement Fund must not be managed or controlled locally. A separate government body should oversee this money if the project gets approval to be fair to the whole community.

We were involved in the Chaffey Dam upgrade, another State Significant Project. After approval major infrastructure changes were made, all to the detriment of local land owners and the community. The Western foreshore road was closed and the Bowling Alley Point bridge underwent major design changes. An additional access road was installed. More trees were lost, more habitat removed. The redundant bitumen River road was not removed as promised.

We requested reinstatement of lost flora in Bowling Alley Point and the Chaffey Dam. State Water and the contractor would not re-plant as there was no money remaining in the budget.

Small flora offsets I negotiated for my own property failed twice due to incompetent contractors and plant size.

From 10 mature indigenous gum trees, 8 years on we now have 2 small stunted gums to show for the offset process. The offsets didn't work.

The contractor planted hectares of non-indigenous grass, which was left over from their last job in Queensland. Local landowners objected but were overruled. This section of the river and dam now abound with tropical foliage including Elephant Grass, very different to the local species. Drainage channels and culverts abound with blackberry and weeds. Landslip and subsidence has occurred including on access roads for electrical infrastructure. The river has silted up.

Even the federal government promised building offsets to compensate for lost habitat of the endangered Boolarong frog, this never occurred. Instead, large green tree frogs arrived via the trucks. Tamworth needed more water, Sydney needs more energy, so the Peel valley pays the bill.

The most heart-wrenching component of this venture so far is the fractured local community. It had a thriving social spirit, everyone smiled and chatted to one another, beautiful days and nights were had during community events, there was

always a nod, a chat, a laugh when picking up the milk and bread from the shop or dropping in for a coldie at the Peel Inn. This community cohesion has disappeared.

The IPC have the power to excise this malignancy that has grown in Nundle thru no fault of the honest, hardworking people whom it affects.

Thank you for reading my **objection**.

George Kightly/Landowner
Bowling Alley Point NSW 2340