

Wind turbine submission

I am a part landowner of Lot 22 Morrisons Gap Road, Hanging Rock NSW. I OBJECT to the Hills Of Gold Wind Farm project. I am deeply concerned regarding the biodiversity impact the Wind Farm will have on such a unique and fragile environment that is Hanging Rock.

While wind turbines are considered a cleaner and more sustainable source of energy compared to traditional fossil fuels, they can have some negative impacts on native animals. Some of the concerns include:

1. **Collision Risks:** Birds and bats can collide with the rotating blades of wind turbines. This can lead to injuries or fatalities, especially in areas where there are large populations of migratory birds or bats. The risk of collisions is higher during certain weather conditions or times of the day.
2. **Habitat Disruption:** The construction and operation of wind farms may disrupt local ecosystems and habitats. Clearing land for wind turbine installations can result in habitat loss and fragmentation, affecting the species that rely on these areas for feeding, breeding, or shelter.
3. **Noise Disturbance:** The noise generated by wind turbines, including both audible and inaudible (infrasound) frequencies, can potentially disturb wildlife. Some studies suggest that noise from wind turbines may affect the behavior and stress levels of certain animals, impacting their ability to communicate, hunt, or navigate.
4. **Electromagnetic Fields:** The electrical components in wind turbines can produce electromagnetic fields (EMFs). While research on the effects of EMFs on wildlife is ongoing, some studies suggest potential impacts on certain species, particularly those that use magnetic fields for navigation.
5. **Visual Disturbance:** The visual presence of wind turbines may disturb or displace some wildlife species. Certain animals may avoid areas with a high density of turbines, which could influence their distribution patterns.
6. **Increased Predation:** The infrastructure associated with wind farms, such as access roads and transmission lines, can provide perches and hunting opportunities for predators. This may lead to an increase in predation on local wildlife.

The proximity of the turbines, especially 70, 69, 68, 67, 66 and 65 to our property is not accepted by our family. It will impact the biodiversity of the whole locality, not just us. At the very least, these 6 turbines should be removed, but ultimately this project should be rejected to protect the unique environment of Hanging Rock.

