

My name is [REDACTED] and I am writing on behalf of my family who own NAD 11 located on Lot 21 Morrison's Gap Rd, Hanging Rock.

We are in opposition to the proposed Wind Farm, particularly the placement of the northern cluster of the wind turbines so close to our home.

In my opinion, the assessments that have been carried out by the DPE are completely inadequate and we feel that the applicant hasn't been transparent and as forthcoming with their information as they should be.

The proposed wind farm will start very close to our property. There is a construction yard with a car park immediately at the entrance to the wind farm site which is only 280 meters from our house. I can't find anything in the assessments whether they have taken the noise and night light pollution from this into account. This construction yard needs to be relocated further into the wind farm hosting property. We don't agree to its location in this close proximity to our non-associated residence. We will have a direct view of this facility from our house and we have not been presented with a photomontage.



We are officially the closest dwelling to the wind farm, and we expected a very thorough assessment.

We are also classed as VIZ1, the nearest turbine WP69 is only 1050 meters away!

Five and a half years after the wind farm was announced, in August 2023, and around the time the Department was working on finalising their recommendation, a wireframe was finally produced for our property and presented to Terry O'Hanlon for independent review.

I only know this from the date on the wireframe. We didn't get to see it until **after** the DPE recommendation was issued on 15th of December 2023.

We thought the assessment was still ongoing and we were waiting for our visuals. Once we realised the wind farm had been finalised we promptly contacted the DPE and they emailed us our "photomontage" and published it on their website shortly after. So this is the first time that we were able to examine the material describing the visual impact to our property and the first time we now have the opportunity to provide feedback.

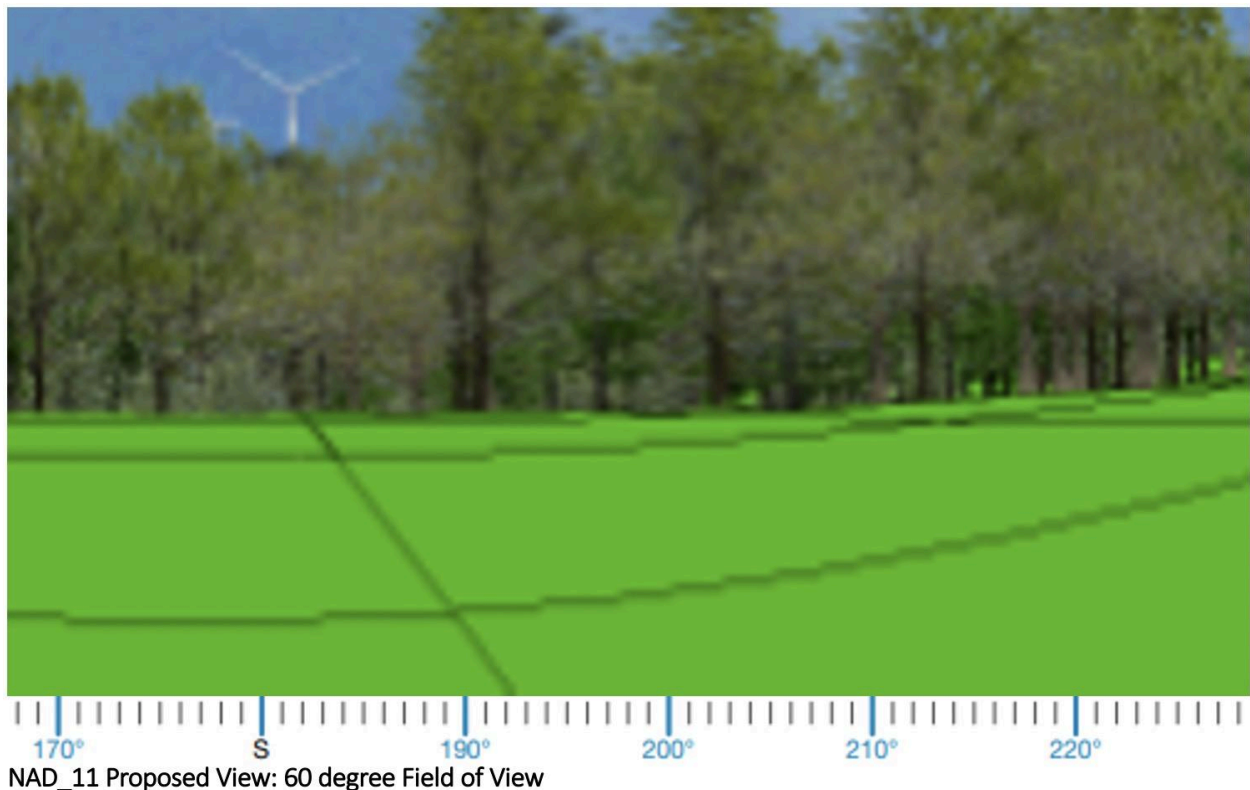
In the visual, there is a "wireframe" and a fake looking "photomontage". They didn't use the actual images of the trees on our property, even though **we had a visit and the images were taken**. Instead they painted the same copy of the digital tree over and over to hide turbines. We have filtered views to south and south east, towards the wind farm, and in recent years have undertaken some clearing and tidying up to improve the views and reduce the fire threat. What we see looking towards the wind farm, and the fake forest they have painted, is chalk and cheese!

I have emailed Jamie Chivers at Someva on 02.01.24, with a request for a 60 degree sector, which when printed on A3 and held at arm's length can indicate an actual scale and visibility of the proposed turbines. The wireframes we received presented a 360 degree view, which is against the principles of the Visual Assessment bulletin. I received a response on 22.01.24 with what appeared to be the same information, just cropped down to 60 degrees. It took them 20 days to crop it.

It's worth noting that the wire frames for NAD 11, NAD 8 and NAD 7 were all released by DPE at the same time, after the project recommendation was announced. This is very CONCERNING, the three closest properties did not get a chance to investigate their visual impacts or include it in their previous submissions, or raise questions with the department.

When I stand on my property, the actual view and the image below have nothing in common!
I don't believe this is an accurate representation of what it will look like.

This looks like a pine forest, we have tall eucalypt trees and clear space between the trees. We can see the paddock where turbines will be standing and number 69, the closest, will have a red light on it. So will some others further back.



I have included, with my submission, a comparison between the totally inadequate visual assessment we have received and the photomontages that were provided for other people.

Engie appears to rely on additional tree planting for screening of turbines as a suitable mitigation measure. There doesn't seem to be any regard to the increase of bushfires with climate change, so is planting more trees just to try to mask the view of the turbines really the answer?

I have copied this material from the Independent Visual Assessment provided to the IPC.
This is about our house specifically:

“Additional screening for the curtilage area may not be a reasonable option given the use of the curtilage and surrounds on the southern side of the site. Further screening would create a

greater sense of enclosure and may be unacceptable to the landowner. If screening is not acceptable, turbine removal may be required for turbines visible within the VIZ1 area.”

“Agreement to screening by the landowner should be sought prior to installation. If not resolved the project risks creating long term unmitigated impacts in the VIZ1 Zone for NAD11. The alternative would be removal of any turbine within the VIZ1 Zone which cannot be screened.”

I would like to clarify here in writing that screening at our property is **not acceptable** to us and **I request that turbines 69, 70, 68, 67, 66 and 65 are removed.**

They are on high ground and would already be visible and will become more visible in the future.

Nobody sought any agreements with us about planting more trees. Nobody spoke to us about screening for turbines. In the time this wind farm was going through assessment, we have been working hard doing the opposite, reducing the amount of trees around the house to create a safety zone and expose the views. We didn't know anything about the visibility of turbines because they never gave us any material.

We did some clearing about two years ago and again more recently. Within our rights, and in agreement with LLS rules, we will continue to do so. The house standing on this property was built from hardwood my father milled here on the block. This created the cleared area around the house. Additionally, we can remove trees for fences and driveway (up to 30 meter wide corridor), other infrastructure on the property and of course for more building materials. Over time, the view to the South and East will improve and this also adds value to our property.

The screening would never work anyway: *“Supplementary screening of residences and curtilages with turbines within 2km will be difficult as the height will require tall, fast-growing species to be planted close to residences to mitigate significant magnitude and dominance impacts.”*

Noise

We had a noise logger installed at our property and it appears someone moved it. I recall the noise monitor being placed but don't recall it getting moved. As a result, they have discarded half of the data from our property. Like with the photomontages, the closest house to the turbines received the most **questionable** assessment and they had to do some estimates.

NOISE MONITORING

Background noise monitoring was conducted at seven locations over the time periods described in Table 1.

Table 1: Noise Monitoring Periods.

Location	Monitoring Period(s)
AD 2	06/05/2020 to 15/06/2020
NAD 5	05/05/2020 to 15/06/2020
NAD 11*	05/05/2020 to 16/06/2020
NAD 12	05/05/2020 to 15/06/2020
NAD 33	05/05/2020 to 16/06/2020
NAD 74	05/05/2020 to 16/06/2020
Nundle Township	05/05/2020 to 16/06/2020

* When collecting the noise logger at NAD11, it was apparent that it had been moved. Review of the noise data indicated that this occurred on 24 May. Data collected from this time have therefore not been used in the assessment.

I was told recently they are relying on the rustling of the leaves to raise the background noise, but we did not know this and have **cleared some additional trees since this noise monitoring was done in 2020.**

The proposed noise levels are exceeded at our house and from what I understand, the proposal is to mitigate noise exceedance by operating the turbines in the noise reduction mode. Turbines will not be running at full capacity and in turn not generating the full income. This creates a financial incentive for the wind farm owner to exceed noise limits and where does that leave us?

In addition to the visual impacts and noise that would be generated, we also come up against a huge increase in traffic that will impact driving times to Nundle and Tamworth. What happens in the case of a medical emergency? The road up to Hanging Rock is completely not suitable for the type of vehicles and amount of traffic they propose. **Please don't let them use Barry Road and Morrisons Gap road.** They have access to the wind farm from the other side, they should use it.

We are concerned that having the turbines so close to our property would mean that the construction will be a massive disruption to our peace and wellbeing, which is one of the main reasons we built this property and love it so much.

I am asking the commissioners to please reject this wind farm. I think it is very poorly sited, on a very prominent ridge in a location surrounded by lifestyle properties.