



To:
Director - Energy Assessments
Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
[REDACTED]
Parramatta. NSW 2124

26 January 2021

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am objecting to the HILLS OF GOLD WIND FARM APPLICATION NO. SSD 9679

I have not made any reportable political donations in the previous 2 years

My name is Belinda and we own a rural lifestyle property at 1016 Nundle Creek Rd, Nundle, NSW 2340
This property has been in the Langfield family since the 1960s & we were fortunate many years ago to
purchase the family property. The property is called ASTOR.

I would dearly like to see this **INDUSTRIAL WIND FARM NOT APPROVED BY THE STATE
GOVERNMENT !!**

REASONS INCLUDE -

THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS.

**WE RECEIVED NO NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSAL FROM WIND ENERGY PARTNERS
(WEP)**

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(WEP)**

No letter, email, phone call, nothing !!

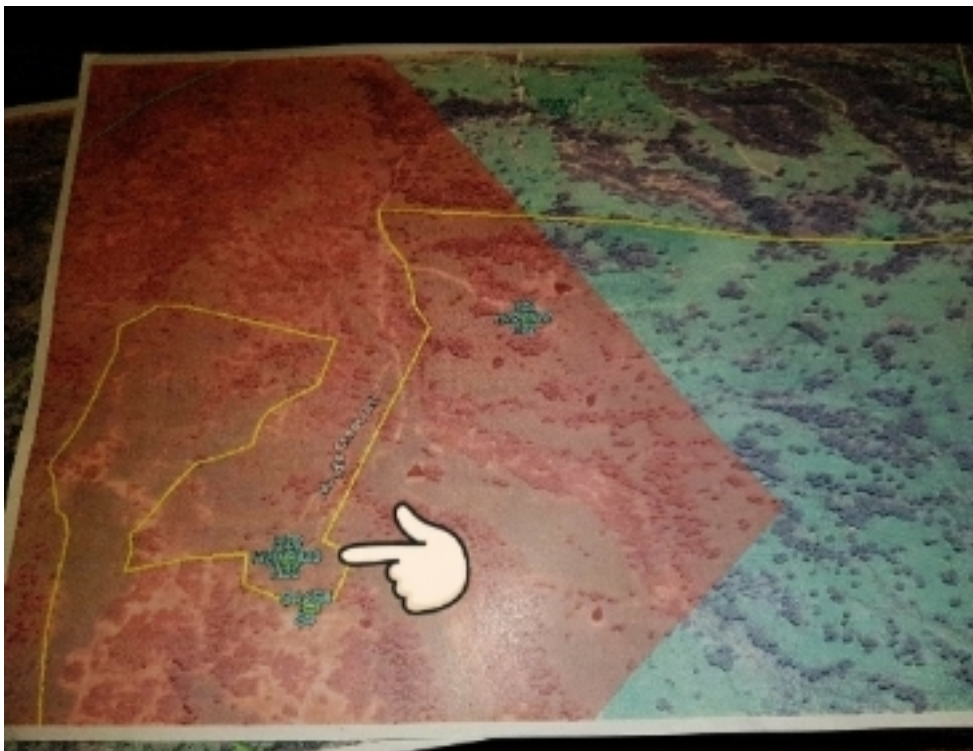
We found out about the proposal from a leaflet at the local tavern. We have contacted others in the community whom stated that property owners close to the project received a letter. Some, attached to their front gate.

We contacted WEP via their website, which they then responded to by organising a meeting after Anzac Day 2018 at Astor.

We meet up with their community consultant John Willcox whom stated “ YOUR PROPERTY IS IN A VERY UNIQUE LOCATION “. He wasn’t able to tell us much about the proposal apart from giving us a map of our property. About 90% of our boundary is the WIND FARM BOUNDARY (MARKED YELLOW ON PLAN) & THE RED ON THE PLAN INDICATES POWERLINES COVERING OUR ENTIRE PROPERTY. We had many nights of little sleep not knowing what was planned for the future.

IMAGE BELOW SHOWS OUR PROPERTY

Finger points to our house yard we added this to image.



We attended the public meetings WEP arranged in 2018 to gain some understanding of the proposal. Unfortunately WEP was unable to answer some of our CONCERNS. This was a extremely difficult time causing a lot of stress.

We received an email at the end of 2018 from WEP asking if we could assist by completing the community survey FOR VISUAL ASSESSMENT.

PHOTO BELOW:

Question 4:

Below is a map and list of Representative viewpoint locations for preparation of visual montages for the Hills of Gold Wind Farm Project, from the first round of community consultation undertaken in 2018 and presented in Appendix D & E of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment.



Are there any additional public viewpoint locations that you consider important for preparation of visual montages? Please list.

All areas.

Question 5:

We have commenced planning for the next phase of cultural heritage surveys, due to commence in early 2020. To ensure these surveys capture local knowledge of residents of Hanging Rock, Nundle and Crowsney, we are seeking information from local community members on Heritage Items located in these municipalities. For guidance, and as defined in the Tamworth Local Environment Plan, A Heritage Item means "a building, work, place, relic, tree, object or archeological site." (Note that information on Heritage Items which is publicly available in Schedule 5 of the Tamworth Local Environmental Plan or on government cultural heritage databases are not required to be provided.)

Please provide all available details of Heritage Items in the form overleaf.

This attachment is part 1 of 3 of the survey.

We discovered the map was incorrect & contacted WEP by email. After having no success I organised a meeting in January 2019 to meet up with Mike Stranger WEP community consultant representative in Nundle.

I asked him about the survey he said " I will forward you a email soon "

I also asked him will we be affected by the Industrial Turbines at our property such as noise / visual / shadow flickering / property access / SECURITY. He was unable to comment but encouraged us to allow WEP to organise a company called SONUS to install a sound monitor on our property for 6 weeks.

Several months later after meeting Mike Stranger, he emailed me regarding our concerns with the mistake regarding the community survey, which had been circulating within the community for many months, after our concerns. **Truth** and **transparency** is all we are after.

PHOTO BELOW

The map from the survey was taken from the Preliminary Visual Impact Assessment, which was prepared for the project by ARUP in 2018 and submitted to the NSW DPIE as part of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (see page 35 of "Appendix F – Visual" on the attached NSW government website here:

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=9679). We agree that there has been an error in the labelling of location 9 as you correctly pointed out, but have taken the decision to leave the map in the survey as is, as it achieves the purpose of showing community members the representative viewpoints that will be targeted for preparation of visual photomontages, for submission with the Environmental Impact Statement later this year. As indicated below, we will ensure the maps prepared of future visual impact assessments are accurately labelled with local geographical features.

Hope this addresses your concern.

Regards,

Michael Stranger

WEP community consultation process with us & many others in the community have being very **disappointing**.

I don't have any trust in this company & I can see why they sold out !!

*NOISE MONITORING PROCESS

After serious consideration & consulting with our committee group we gave permission for WEP to install a sound monitor on our property.

It was installed approximately 5 mtrs from our bedroom window.

PHOTO BELOW



Once the monitor was installed a day later an adjoining neighbouring property owner that leases the land decided to wean off his cattle & leave one calf in the cattle yards. This situation increased the background noise for several days. The neighbour was notified & moved the cattle away. Additionally, a neighbour on the adjoining property (one of the wind farm hosts) approximately 1km away started their generator on

the second day of our sound monitoring running and run 24 hrs a day 7 days a week for the whole duration of the monitoring.

In the last 2 years we have heard their generator many times and it is generally turned off through the day. Sometimes it will run for longer periods, but never have we heard it to continue for weeks. VERY UNUSUAL PATTERN!

WE WOULD LIKE ANOTHER SOUND MONITOR INSTALLED FROM AN INDEPENDENT COMPANY.

ASTOR - DWELLING ID NAD 5 (Easting 324003/ Northing 6508235) Batching levels 39dB / Road Construction levels 50dB / Turbine delivery- Site setup .44dB / Electrical installation levels 50dB. Noise level at Hub Height 6 are above recommended level (**BOLD RED INDICATOR**) **Page 16**

SONUS ASSESSMENT

This is not acceptable !!

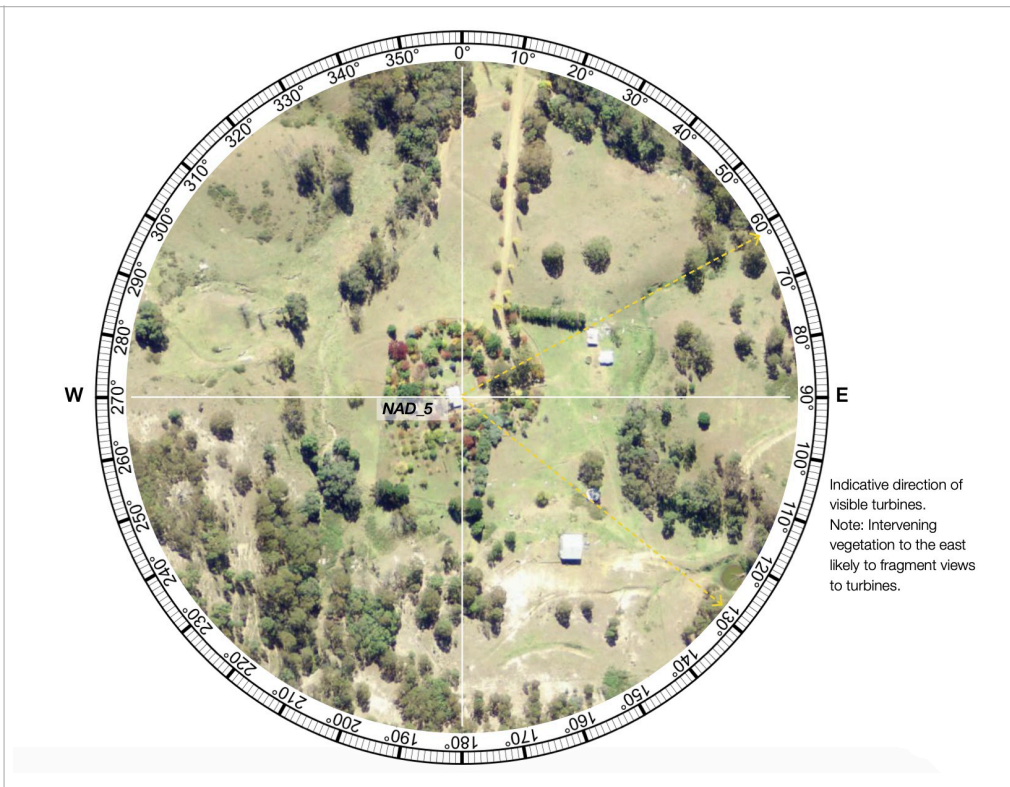
VISUAL ASSESSMENT – For nearly 2years we have been asking will we be affected by visual impact. Finally September 2020 our property undertook a visual assessment by WEP. Even Jamie Chivers arrived at our property for assistance. (he didn't mention the Windfarm information night at the Nundle Bowling Club to us, which was very **disappointing**). We asked if the visual montage represents our property not just the house yard. As having a large acreage you don't spend all your time in or around your house. They said “ **They don't have time** “ We did advise them prior to the visit weeks before it is 4WD access only as we had a NATURAL DISASTER IN JANUARY 2020 which damaged access road. They turned up in 2 x 2WD vehicles, hence had to walk to house yard. (loss of time). Plus they only allocated **30min** intervals for property visual assessments.

Aref, a **new** community consultant representative, met with my partner in November 2020 at our property to release photomontage & discuss compensation, which was declined.

FIRST TURBINE IS 1.79 KM / NUMBER VISABLE 10 VISABLE (DESKTOP ASSESSMENT REFER TO APPENDIX NAD 5) Our property is classified as moderate. **THEY ARE STATING IT IS LARGLY SCREENED BY TOPOGRAPHY WHICH IS NOT THE CASE AS PER PHOTO**
Why are they giving false representation of our property in the DA ?

This image shows amount of plantings already around our house. How is proposed “screen planting” going to make a difference to block out turbines???

This plantings in the image are from 1960s



E5. NAD_5 Dwelling Assessment Refer to Photomontage 13

NAD_5			
Nundle Creek Road			
Nearest visible turbine (km):*	1.79km	Visibility Distance Zone:	Far Foreground (FF)
Total number of visible turbines:*	10	Viewer Sensitivity Level:	Level 2: Rural Dwelling
Number of visible turbines within 3100m:*	8	Landscape Character Unit:	LCU07: Nundle Creek
Number of theoretical 60° Sectors (Based on 2D Assessment):	3	Scenic Quality Rating:	Moderate
Number of 60° Sectors (Based on 3D Assessment):*	1	Visual Influence Zone:	VIZ1

*Based on an assessment of topography alone. Screening factors such as vegetation may reduce the potential visibility of the proposed turbines.

Assessment Notes:

Moir LA attended this property on 17th June 2020 to undertake a visual assessment. The dwelling is located in an isolated location off Nundle Creek Road. Views from the property are expansive across the valley associated with Nundle Creek to the north. Topography rises to the south of the dwelling. Views to the Project are largely screened by topography. Up to 10 proposed turbines are likely to be visible (based on topography alone) to the east of the dwelling. Existing vegetation may assist in screening views to a few proposed turbines from the dwelling.

Visual Performance Objectives Evaluation (VIZ1):

Visual Magnitude: Seven (7) visible turbines are located within the 'black line' of visual magnitude.

Multiple Wind Turbine Effects: The Project will be visible in up to one (1) 60° sector which is deemed acceptable for a rural dwelling.

Landscape Scenic Integrity: The proposed turbines will not cause significant modification of the visual catchment from this viewpoint. Desired views from the dwelling are generally to the north in the direction the dwelling is orientated.

Key Feature Disruption: The Project will not alter or disrupt identified key landscape features viewed from this location. Views of the valley associated with Nundle Creek and distant vegetated ranges to the north will remain undisturbed.

Mitigation Methods:

Screen planting close to the eastern side of the dwelling would be an acceptable form of mitigation to reduce the visibility of turbines to the east. Desirable views to the north would be maintained. This is a long-term solution which would require consultation with the landowner.

Photomontage 13



Proposed View - 60 degree Field of View

The tree on the right side of image in 30 YEARS OLD!! And it's still not blocking out turbine. If they plant more, trees will take long time to grow. Wind farm will be gone by then. The tree on the left side is now dead. It died in the drought! Trees on the ridge covering bottom parts of turbines belong to wind farm host and we have no confidence in their future.

We can't plant any more plants closer to house because of fire risk!!

It will block sun to the bedroom window!!

SHADOW FLICKER ASSESSMENT – 27.55 hours per year / 117 days / 0.19mins a Day NAD 5.
So we are 2.45 hrs under the maximum level. WE REQUEST ANOTHER ASSESSMENT FROM AN INDEPENDENT COMPANY !!

*** LAND CLEARING & MITIGATION** – As a qualified horticulturist & having worked in the field for over 20years within the Tamworth district, I have a great understanding of the harsh weather conditions / feral animals / weeds / human vandalism we deal with on a day to day basis when planning, preparing, planting & maintaining large scale vegetation sites. The time and money involved in clearing land for transportation of materials / powerlines / access road seems so unnecessary. And then just to compensate destruction of such a unique area BY PAYING ANOTHER LANDOWNER TO PROTECT AND MANAGE BIODIVERSITY ON THEIR LAND, KNOWN AS BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP SITE. **PROPERTY OWNERS ARE ALL READY DOING THIS! THIS IS THE REASON THAT THEIR HAVE BROUGHT THIS LAND!**

RENEWABLE PROJECTS ARE IMPLEMENTED TO REDUCE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT. SO REMOVING VEGETATION INCREASES OUR CARBON FOOT PRINT. IT DEFEATS THE PURPOSE!

MAJOR ISSUES - SOIL & ELEVATION

On a final note objecting this **non significant government energy project**. I want to make sure who ever is reading this please pass the following photos onto the relevant person (s).

OUR PROPERTY IS AT AN ELEVATION OF ABOUT 900METRES ABOVE SEA LEVEL. WHAT EVER IS DISTURBED ABOVE WE SEE THE IMPACTS.

Soils are classified into class eg class 1 able to be disturbed while class 8 no disturbance. The project area and surrounds are classified from a 7 to 8 so it's not a good idea to disturb the soil structure \ remove vegetation.

Between January 24th and 26th in 2020. We have received over 300mm of rain with one period 100mm in less than an hour. (Werris Creek was also impacted) Many years of drought, land clearing, over grazing, bushfires had a huge impact on the environment. Creek & Tributary filled with soil or hollowed out from impact. I've never witnessed anything like this.

IMAGINE WHAT THE LANDSCAPE WOULD HAVE LOOKED LIKE IF THE WIND FARM HAD ALREADY STARTED CONSTRUCTION PHASE.

Where is the planning for this amount of water coming down the side of the mountain in EIS?? WE WOULD CALL IT A MAN MADE DISASTER

PLEASE DON'T ALLOW THIS INDUSTRIAL POWER PLANT TO BE APPROVED NO MONEY WILL COMPENSATE OUR FAMILY OR OUR BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE.

Photos taken during and after torrential rain in January 2020

