

As a young woman who recently settled in Nundle along Crawney Road, my residence has a direct view of the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm. Nestled on a cattle farm, our livelihood relies heavily on the integrity of the land, with water quality being a paramount concern. I express strong objection to the construction of the Hills of Gold Wind Farm, citing numerous reasons that significantly impact both my personal living situation and the broader community as well as being a member of the younger generation, I harbor scepticism about the true environmental friendliness of this "green" energy project.

What Will this mean for our Tourists

Upon relocating to Nundle, my initial exploration focused on local attractions. A swift Google search directed me to a website where the foremost attraction was identified as the Hanging Rock Lookout, lauded for its "impressive" features. Another noteworthy discovery was Crawney Pass National Park. Nundle has successfully nurtured its community, drawing strength from its breathtaking views and natural landscapes. Introducing wind turbines raises concerns about the potential repercussions for a community reliant on the influx of travelers who are captivated by the area's scenic beauty. The impact of such developments could potentially alter the dynamics that sustain Nundle's charm and economic vitality.

No Local Job Creation

One of the topics that has arose for the support of the wind Turbines of our small community is that the project would create more job opportunities for locals. This simply is not the case as raised concerns about potential exaggeration of the project's benefits. Initially, the developer estimated 35 ongoing jobs, later reduced it to 16. In contrast, the community organization has estimated in its submission that only 12 ongoing positions would be generated. Considering the amount of stress and impacts this would have on local businesses and people living around the wind turbines only creating 12 jobs for the duration of the build is simply not enough to sustain our community which will be impacted in many ways, a big one being tourism. Not to mention these "jobs" will have to be outsourced due to the qualifications required to maintain and operate the turbines these jobs will not be given to members of our local community.

Wind Turbines High Global Warming Potential

Some individuals may overlook the potential threat posed by the construction of wind turbines to our existing global warming crisis. The concern lies in the use of sulfur hexafluoride (SF6), a potent greenhouse gas employed as an insulator in electrical components, including those integrated into wind turbines. SF6 is notorious for its susceptibility to leakage into the atmosphere during the operational, maintenance, and decommissioning phases of electrical equipment. Even minor leaks can have a significant

impact due to the high Global Warming Potential (GWP) of SF6, estimated to be more than 23,000 times greater than carbon dioxide over a 100-year period. The extended atmospheric lifespan of SF6 substantially contributes to global warming.

Several states, including California with its Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, are implementing bans on the use of SF6 due to its environmental impact. This raises questions about the contradiction in promoting wind farms as green energy while simultaneously contributing to environmental issues through the use of SF6. The replacement of natural ecosystems with wind turbines fails to address the underlying problem, as it perpetuates the addition of potent greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. This calls for a more comprehensive evaluation of the environmental impact of wind energy projects and the development of alternative technologies that align with sustainable practices that don't take away from the land that our community so heavily relies upon to make a living.

Critical Concerns and Deficiencies in Bushfire Assessment

The bushfire assessment for the Hills of Gold Wind Farm project is deemed inadequate. The information provided appears generic, offering little insight into the unique characteristics of the Project Area and its surroundings.

Concerns extend to inaccuracies in bushfire history mapping, omitting major fires in 2009 and 1994, as well as the incomplete representation of the Pages Creek fire's extent.

Contradictions arise regarding the availability of the "Nycooma" dam for aerial firefighting. Furthermore temperature and wind data from Tamworth Airport and Quirindi Post Office are criticized as irrelevant, while rainfall data from Nundle Post Office and "Head of Peel" is noted to be up to 50% lower than actual rainfall in the Project Area. Additionally, the positioning of turbines along the ridge line poses obstacles to safe helicopter operations for water extraction from dams, with specific turbines and the Battery (BESS) hindering access to the "Nycooma" dam. The arrangement of turbines along the ridgeline is highlighted as a limiting factor for effective aerial firefighting efforts.