

I own Wombramurra Station 12 000 acres of prime agricultural land in the Peel River Valley that neighbours the Hills of Gold proposed Wind Farm for approximately 20 km. We are surrounded on three sides by the development footprint and are a non associated landholder NAD 33 and do not intend to sign a Neighbourhood agreement. This project has impacted our family life, business operations and general well being for the past five years and is a prime example of a renewable project in the wrong location. Being outside the renewable energy zone it is not fair to force a development such as this on a community and region that clearly does not want it. The map included in the recent wind energy draft guidelines demonstrates clearly there are many other suitable sites for renewable projects, and these are mostly within the renewable zones where the infrastructure and community support are being provided to facilitate these projects.

Tamworth regional Council have 19 other renewable energy projects in this region they are currently assessing and this is the only one they are opposing. There is also lack of suitable access for the construction of this project and access should be a clearly identified and formalised before any type of approval can be considered not as a condition of consent. In Our communication with the DPE over the past five years we were told no access means no project however that seems to have been turned on its head. I appeal to the Commissioners to demonstrate their commitment to ensuring regional communities and rural land holders are treated fairly by rejecting this project on the basis of lack of access.

The EIS included an assessment of the soil, concluding that there is a moderate to high erosion risk across the site. In areas with slopes greater than 20% or where concentrated flows occur, specialised erosion and sediment controls are proposed.

Greg Chapman and Rob Banks Presentations at the recent IPC hearing identified the fragile state of this ridgeline and the consequences of landslips (in 2022 I counted over 20 new landslips within the project footprint as seen from our property) and sedimentation of this particular soil type entering our river systems and waterways. The specialised erosion and sediment control measures may be unsuccessful and the lack of detail surrounding their construction is extremely worrying. On this ridgeline huge downpours of rain can occur over short periods ie 200-300 mm in a couple of hours this would put extreme pressure on any specialised erosion and sedimentation control measure.

The following is taken from The DPE Assessment Report Recommendations to the IPC

Table 17

any water sourced for the project is required to be appropriately licensed. I refer to slide taken from the Engie Website

#### What water supply will be used during construction of the wind farm?

It is estimated that around 55ML of water will be required during the two-year construction phase of the wind farm. This water will be used to facilitate the construction of access tracks, concrete foundations, dust suppression and cleaning of the wind turbine components before erection.

There are currently four viable options available to source that water, including:

- Council water supply, with agreement from Council
- Extraction from a nearby existing landowner bore, with agreement from landowner
- Extraction from a new groundwater bore (once approval is sought)
- Extraction from a surface water source (Peel River)

The options will be reviewed by DPE, with the project contractor then determining the best source based on the approved options.

I object to any water being taken from the Head of Peel River or its tributaries higher up also all existing bores on the major landholders property if registered are registered for Stock and domestic use and should not be used for construction of an industrial site. There is also noted in the bushfire report a requirement for 22,000l storage for bushfire purposes and this is totally inadequate. This project does not have a suitable and acceptable water source for construction and decommission purposes. The proponent has not identified where the gravel for this project will be sourced. I have concerns it will come from within the existing project footprint and again this will add further pressure on erosion and sedimentation control measures across the site.

#### Aboriginal Heritage Assessment Report Recommendations IPC Table17

Eight sites were identified in the ACHAR comprising three isolated finds, four artefact scatters and one potential archaeological deposit (PAD). Most of the sites were of low overall significance, except for the PAD and two artefact scatters (Hills of Gold AFT 1 and AFT3). No other sites were recorded during survey of the amended development corridor.

I support the information presented by Ian Worley at the IPC Hearing that the indigenous studies are in complete and from our own experience there are significant sites on the Wombramurra Creek side which have not been assessed. Please note in reports provided by the Proponents consultants on Indigenous and heritage matters much of the land within the project site has been largely disturbed by clearing and building of roads tracks and new cattle related infrastructure making assessment of this area challenging. Ironically these are the very sites the proposed wind farm associated structures will be located. Is this not preempting a State Significant project and sets a dangerous precedent for other land holders contemplating similar actions.

#### Table 17 Aviation Safety

Who will be responsible is this may not be affective?

Fund to the affected landowner the reasonable cost difference between pre-construction aerial spraying and the increased cost.

#### Table 17 Bush Fire

Ensure the site is suitably equipped to respond to fires on site, including the provision of a 20,000 litre water supply.

- Ensure compliance with relevant asset Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019 (or equivalent).
- Ensure the site is suitably equipped to respond to fires on site, including the provision of a 20,000 litre water supply.
- Prepare and implement a Bushfire Management Plan, and an Emergency Response Plan.
- Landscape planting to be in accordance with Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019

This Bushfire plan in my experience appears very generic. I believe the proposed wind farm will hugely impact our ability to fight fires in this high fire prone area from the air which is one of the main affective ways to control fires on very steep slopes. The proposed development being on top of a ridgeline means there is a very wide corridor where planes and helicopters will not be able to operate, nor can they work near high voltage power lines. These factors have not been properly addressed.

I also believe this project will have a huge devaluating effect on our property Wombramurra Station killing all subdivision potential which could bring more families to the district. The jobs the proponent claims this project will create are mainly short term and skilled labor that will likely operate on a fly in fly out basis similar to the mines and contribute little to the community as a whole. Throwing money at rural communities does not always bring long term benefits and this project has already and will continue to destroy the rich tapestry that is Nundle and Hanging Rock.