

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tamworth NSW
2340

Chairperson IPC
Hills of Gold Wind Farm,

My name is Megan Carberry, until August 2023 I was the owner of the Hills of Gold Motel, Jenkins st Nundle NSW 2340.

Unfortunately due to my diagnosis I'm no longer able to work or run the motel. I am a supporter of the Wind Farm, my opinion is that the wind farm is a wonderful opportunity for our small village. Nundle stands to receive benefits from the wind farm from economic benefits to population benefits and more I feel.

I have watched the public meetings on YouTube, and I feel I must write to you and express my thoughts.

In regards to the draft so far, I am confident that ENGIE will be held to the agreements and guidelines as set out by yours and the Department conditions of construction and further operation of the wind farm. I don't think for one minute that any stakeholder will deliberately commit an offence that would see them leave themselves open to litigation, Nor would any stakeholder leave themselves open to unsafe practices resulting in injury or litigation.

I believe that the components will be transported to the site in the best way with the utmost care and consideration.

I'm excited to see how the village can benefit and how tourism to Nundle can grow and provide many with profits and new ideas to improve Nundle.

It is a great concern to me that some members of the Preserve the Hills of Gold inc are still making claims that the demise of the Go Gold Gold Festival is a victim of the wind farm!! Please let me be very clear, the wind farm has had absolutely NOTHING to do with the disbandment of the committee. As I last and resigning president of the committee I made it very clear to all members that I would not allow any discussion regarding the wind farm during meetings. The wind farm has no relevance to the planning and running of the Festival, the claim that the committee was divided because of the wind farm is incorrect and I have said so in my open statement which is attached.

CORRECT INFORMATION

The festival cost \$70000.00 to run so any help from anyone was very welcome

Council regulated the number of volunteers we needed to run the festival and if this was not met then we were not having the festival.

Some members of the PTHOG inc were asked to take up positions on the committee but they refused, these same members had a deliberate agenda to access the festival money for the purpose of redirecting the funds for their own purposes.

I resigned as president so that council would secure the bank account which protected the funds for the running of the festival.

The same mentioned members of PTHOG inc, put forward a motion to cancel the delegation for the festival and then seconded the motion so then the festival was dead in the water, not from a divided committee as claimed.

IPC can access the meetings from all the festival committee meetings as well as the letter sent to the festival committee stating that the festival funds can not be used for any other purpose, only the festival. Council also sent the festival committee a letter of disbandment stating that Council was taking this measure due to a lack of committee positions being filled.

Unlike others I am not worried nor feel jealous about land holders who will benefit from the wind farm. Good on them I say, how good will it be when a farmer can drought proof their livelihood? How good will it be when farmers can afford to employ people again? How good will it be when a small village like Nundle can access funds that will make many improvements to the village? We couldn't spend all that money and we will run out of projects!! How good will it be when local businesses can benefit from loyalty discounts on power bills, for a motel that is GOLD, just think how much a power bill is at a motel??

Thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts and concerns and look forward to your decision.

Kind Regards
Megan Carberry

As the resigning chairperson for the Go for Gold Festival Committee, I strongly feel the need to comment on the incorrect information posted here.

Let me be very clear, the committee was disbanded because members would not step up and take on committee roles. The committee was not sacked which implies misappreciation, this is not the case. There was absolutely no involvement by the Wind Farm and also NO MENTION OF THE WIND FARM DURING MEETINGS, because I as the chairperson refused to allow any discussion during meetings that involved the wind farm as it had NOTHING to do with the running of the festival.

Up until June 2021, the committee was working towards holding a festival in 2022.

Then a group of opinionated people came onto the committee with an agenda that did not include holding a Go For Gold festival in 2022.

These people had previously left the committee in 2019 because they were unhappy with the committee decision to accept volunteers from Hills of Gold Wind Farm pty ltd. In fact [REDACTED] was one person whom stormed out mid meeting because she didn't like the committee decision. The committee also accepted volunteers from other organisations and these volunteers for filled a requirement by council to have adequate numbers of volunteers that met councils' health and safety regulations.

I dispute the statement by [REDACTED] that there was division between the committee regarding the wind farm, this is in NO WAY correct.

It was in fact [REDACTED] & her supporting followers combined intention to not hold a Nundle Go For Gold festival ever again, stating that two prominent business's in Nundle receive the majority of their business from online sales and therefore they did not need the larger festival.

At the AGM and the committee meeting that followed soon after, the vacant positions were called to be filled but no one took on the roles. [REDACTED] continued to push her agenda regardless of other members comments and meetings become consumed by these people and when asked by myself to take on executive roles on the committee, their reply was NO.

The reference to a "micro event" was in fact put to council, at the insistence of [REDACTED], even after been advised by a council representative and myself that it would not be accepted because the proposal involved access and using the funds in the Festival committee bank account. However, [REDACTED] and a non-committee member continued to insist otherwise. So the proposal was put to council, the Go for Gold Festival funds are in fact council monies, as the committee was a council delegated committee, these funds can ONLY be used for a Go For Gold Festival. At the last committee meeting the proposal was for some businesses in Nundle to hold acts or music or stalls in their own right and this would be the "micro event" with the idea of eliminating all of council's regulations.

The fact is – the funds can NOT be used for this purpose- after the last committee meeting held, I felt that I should resign to protect the committee money from any attempt to use it for any other purpose, this money was raised solely for the running of the Go for Gold Festival, and to best of my knowledge, that is the only purpose this money can be used. Council has left the door open for anyone who wants to put a committee together

for the purpose of holding another Go for Gold Festival and will then be able to access the money held by Council.

I refute [REDACTED] comment "We don't want people to come to Nundle at Easter expecting a Go for Gold Festival". When in fact it is [REDACTED] and the other people mentioned who don't want a festival, I am still receiving MANY messages from stall holders, visitors, and enquiries who are all disappointed that the festival is not going ahead, it appears that people do indeed want the festival to continue, I have had several disappointed messages from people who have been coming to Nundle every Easter to enjoy the festival.

I want to very clearly say that the wind farm does NOT and has NOT had any part in the disbandment of the Go for Gold Committee and anyone who says it has, is using this disbandment to rally an anti-wind farm agenda. The disbandment was in fact a result of not filling the positions of executive committee members and directly from the actions of the people I mentioned throughout this statement.

Any member of the community is welcome to access the committee minutes, these minutes are available at Council and will support my statements.

From Megan Carberry facebook page