

**From:** [REDACTED]  
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**Subject:** IPC submission  
**Date:** Thursday, 15 February 2024 2:21:49 PM

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To: Hills of Gold Wind Farm IPC  
From: Nick Bradford [REDACTED]  
Tel: [REDACTED]  
I confirm to publish my name and region on the website  
I am a resident of Nundle.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I do NOT support the Hills of Gold Wind Farm

, I am a resident of Nundle with my wife and 14 year old son. We purchased Nundle Woollen Mill in June 2007. Our move from Sydney was the best move we could have ever made. Nundle is our home, Nundle is very much part of our lives.

I attended the very first wind farm meeting with a representative of Someva Renewables and about six local community members in February 2018. I can clearly remember the representative saying "if the community do not want this project, it will not go ahead". That was the last assurance we were ever given by Someva, Wind Energy Partners or Engie in regard to community concern. This has been a project where they have failed to listen or even consult in an effective way, most of the time.

The development manager at Engie promised that she would come to the Woollen Mill to chat to me about the project, this has never happened. Too often Engie has blamed COVID for not following up on meetings, this excuse is now well outdated.

As residents of Nundle, for most of us, educating ourselves against corporate bodies like Someva or Engie, who have great experience in managing communities and their expectations, this task has been overwhelming. For six years, we have lost sleep, lost quality family time, suffered increase stress and mental anguish, trying to bring ourselves up to speed as quickly as possible. Small communities like ours are always "behind the 8 ball" while the likes of big corporate dismiss our concerns and ridiculing us as the vocal minority. It is clear, the majority of the community do not want this project, we are the vocal majority.

One of the biggest disappointments was the recent approval, albeit with conditions, by the Department of Planning. We have been encouraged by many to keep up the fight, people power is important, the social license of projects like these is a powerful part of the assessment process. I hope that this IPC process is not simply lip service and that you genuinely listen to the serious concerns regarding the underestimated extreme road construction and environmental and visual impacts.

The ridge line was more heavily timbered just twenty years ago. The host land holder told us that during a visit to USA about 15 years ago, he saw turbines from the plane window and thought that he could do the same to his Hanging Rock held land. The Department acknowledges there has been land clearing on the project site prior to any approval of vegetation clearing under this project development application.

This issue came up at the ONE AND ONLY PUBLIC MEETING HOSTED BY THE DEVELOPER in the hall at Nundle in March 2018.

The Department Assessment Report states that some areas were cleared without prior approval and a Biodiversity Conservation Order has been issued for these areas. Some clearing occurred with approval of Local Land Services, which are included in the calculation of the offset liability for the project. Neither makes it right and sets a dangerous precedence for any new development in Australia. It is also a major obstacle to the social license for this project.

This is not reflected the the Department Recommendation.

There has been an almost irretrievable devaluation of the community spirit and cohesion within the Nundle & Hanging Rock communities. Some neighbours now can't talk with other neighbours, long term friendships are well strained and the unwritten rule now is "just don't talk about the wind farm".

A few weeks ago (Jan 26), Nundle celebrated Australia Day at the Nundle Sport & Rec Club. The problem was, only a handful of people turned up. For the second year in a row, there were no nominations for Nundle Citizen of the year, Nundle junior of the year or Nundle Australian of the year. I can remember only 5 or so years ago, we would have 150 to 200 people at the Nundle Public School for a bacon and egg breakfast and some sheep shearing. The Australia Day Awards were a great highlight of the Nundle calendar, the wind farm has killed off our enthusiasm.

Another major event, The Nundle Go for Gold Festival held over the Easter weekend was a wonderful event for Nundle, attracting upwards of 16 to 18,000 people to our little village, bringing an estimated income of \$350,000 for stall holders. I was on the committee for the best part of 12 years in various roles including committee chair for 6 years. In 2020, the committee voted to accept in-kind sponsorship from Engie. I, along with a few other committee members, pleaded for the committee to not accept this sponsorship, we were in a good financial position and their support was not needed. As a consequence of the acceptance of Engie support, a number of community members withdrew their willingness to volunteer at the festival, the festival died in that moment. It is unlikely to be resurrected; this is just a couple of examples of how deep the community division runs.

I please with you, members of the IPC, to remember the small communities of Nundle, Hanging Rock, Crawney and Timor. We have dedicated 6 years of our lives to make sure if this project was to go ahead, it would go ahead having considered every aspect of the development. There are so many issues still unresolved, yet Engie wants the project approved with conditions. This is like asking council to approve a residential build with only half the building plans prepared.

An approval with conditions leave the community in limbo for possibly another 6 years, maybe longer. There is a further possibility that this project may never be built, transport routes, access approvals and First Nations acceptance still to be sought. It would be prudent to reject this project to allow for the many other projects in assessment phase throughout NSW, projects with good community support, projects that have less environmental impact and projects that are within the Renewable Energy Zones of NSW.