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To: [Do-Not-Reply IPCN Submissions Mailbox](#)
Subject: Hills of Gold Wind Farm - Reference number SSD-9679 - Objection
Date: Thursday, 15 February 2024 2:00:48 PM

Submission by [REDACTED]
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***** Start of Submission *****

I reside on one of the neighbouring properties of the project area on Shearers Road Hanging Rock on the map we are NAD_4c, and have owned this property for the better part of 40 years, with our family running their business here which supplied Nundle and surrounding areas for many years. I wish object to the Hills Of Gold Wind Farm project and implore you to consider the impacts these turbines will have on our Landscape & Biodiversity, our roads and access ways, the hazards and risks it will create and most importantly the impact to our water supply in this area, particularly turbines 65 through to 70 as these will affect not only access to my property but pose a safety risk to residents along this route as well as those who visit the trout farm.

1. Landscape and biodiversity

I'll start off by saying this project is out of character for this area, we live in a community filled with lifestyle property owners and retirees who moved here to avoid urban environments and to enjoy unobstructed views of the native flora and fauna which we have grown up and are accustomed with. Minimal consideration has been made towards ensuring we preserve the natural beauty and ecology of this area which is known to have animals such as Koalas, Spotted Quoll, Wombats and wedge tailed eagles to name a few. They said their plan with the wombats is "excavate and relocate" but no consideration was given to wombats being territorial and relocations will not be successful.

Our family was asked to engage in a biodiversity assessment and stewardship of our properties to offset the destruction this project will cause. Most of our land has remained in its natural state and I fail to see how "locking it up" with a paper contract can create additional biodiversity on top of what is already there; maybe its to offset the clearing within the construction corridor? Should we have agreed to the terms of this our land we cant develop the land, we cant utilise the land for grazing or harvest trees or even build any recreational dirt tracks for our kids, all we are allowed to do maintain the fences and clear any debris whilst the project area will continue to clear large sections of trees and land for the construction of these turbines.

Roads and accessways

Reading through the documentation supplied by the Applicant, it seems that they are going to construct the tracks on Morrisons Gap road required for the installation of the wind turbines across the existing public road, digging trenches across road to put down electrical cables running between turbines. We don't know how long and how often the road will be closed as a result of this construction, this information has not been supplied. The applicant said they will issue residents of Morrisons Gap and Shearers Roads with hand held radios so we can communicate our travel plans to the site manager. We will basically need to ask for permission to travel to and from our properties and through their compound on Morrison Gap Road. Does this mean they can limit us access down the ONLY public road to our property. What happens if the trip is urgent but we are not given permission to go because they have a trench open across the road? Or a wide load is coming down Morrisons Gap road. What if there is a medical emergency and the paramedics can't get in?

IF the turbines are built, we will have to access our property by driving UNDER turbine number 70, and in close proximity to turbines 66, 67, 68 and 69. All of these turbines are within the ice throw distance from the road. As you may be aware Hanging Rock

gets near 0, or sub zero temperatures at night from the end of April to beginning of October. And there are many days during the winter when it stays around 0 all day resulting in a few snow events every year. I say this as I don't want to have an icicle coming through my windscreen as I drive home. Its worth noting that sections of Morrisons Gap Road are marked for "development and sections for internal roads", am I lead to believe we will be required to share the only access road with construction machinery and project specific cars and trucks? **This section of the project needs to be removed.**

In many cases they have proposed to mitigate the visual impact to nearby properties by reliance on existing trees or additional tree plantings close to peoples homes. This is not acceptable, it puts people at risk of fires and takes away the ability to improve their safety in the heating up climate.

2. Water supply and social and economic impacts

Now this brings me on to my next topic the applicant of the project boasts the positive impacts it will have on community and economy. These benefits are temporary at best and there will be certain tourism focused businesses and members of the community who will experience negative impacts. The balance of the benefit vs disbenefit was never looked at. It was stated that this project will create in excess of 600 FTE as a direct result of this project during the construction phase and drops down to 76 FTE during operational stages. It is doubtful that any locally based but no mention if all these jobs will be created. **Based on the experience on other wind farms, the workforce here; is there is drive in drive out and contributes little to local employment;** will this not create another FIFO style labour force. The other possible benefits stated were the increased tourism value which has yet to be substantiated, there is no proof that windfarms generate any meaningful tourism benefits anywhere in the world. What about property values, who wants to live near turbines and the constant sounds it makes, 35db can be annoying all night long.

Moving on to my next topic, water supply and access to water. It is worth noting our property currently has access to pristine water of the Barnard River, fed by the ground water and numerous springs originating on the site of the proposed wind farm. The applicant identified that approx. 55ML of water is required for the project, but after many years in development they still have not identified where the water will come from. We fear it will be sourced on site. A project such as this would/could severely impact the water supply in the area and affect the livelihoods of adjoining neighbours especially those down stream from the project. especially during periods of severe drought. **The SEARS required that the Applicant needs to identify how much water they will need and where they will get it from. They have not identified sources of water apart from throwing a few guesses on the table. How is it possible that this project was recommended for approval without this information in place?**

3. Hazards

Bushfire hazards, we already live in a bushfire prone zone yet this project will impact the ability of aerial water bombing, access to fire fighting resources and lastly the possibility that these turbines may cause some of the fires in densely vegetated areas particularly blocking our only access out of the property safely.

Overall the approval of such a project will destroy an amenity of the small town and has already resulted in the fractured and divide its community and should be rejected.

***** End of Submission *****

Kind Regards,

Timothy Vlasoff