

12th February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

We make this submission on behalf of a community group, Voice for Walcha.

We are happy to have the community groups' name used for the purposes of publication.

We object to the Hills of Gold Wind Farm based on the primary premise that this project is simply in the Wrong Place, it is of the Wrong Size and has little Social Licence.

The Tamworth Regional Council has openly objected to the Hills of Gold Wind Farm and raised what they see as significant concerns regarding this project. That the Council of the LGA has rejected the proposed development and the Developer has not addressed the reasons for its objection, does give the community much faith in the planning process.

Tamworth Council has clearly stated that the road and traffic report submitted by the developer is inadequate and incomplete. On this premise we feel that the project has not considered the impacts to the existing town and businesses of Nundle.

The biodiversity impacts of this project are too high. A renewable project that impacts at the expense of the environment cannot be condoned by a developer's push for profit and a government's push to achieve nett zero. The location of the project in pristine wilderness surrounded by prime agricultural land simply highlights that this project is in the wrong place. The risks of erosion and soil run off are too great for a planning department to approve this project if following good planning principles.

The fact that the developer has placed turbines well within a 2500m offset from affected neighbours without agreement, highlights an arrogance by the developer, placing profit before people and place.

The fact that this project has been in the planning system for 6 years highlights a poorly planned project with little social licence. It should never have got to EIS stage. It has done little but cost the developers, the planning department but most importantly the community. It should be thrown out now, so as not to subject the community to an even higher cost of community resilience. It will also free up the planning department to consider good projects of the right size in the right location with community support and promoted by a well-established developer that cares for people and the environment following good planning principles.

Kind regards
Voice for Walcha