

WIND FARM OBJECTION

Yellow Rock South Pty. Ltd.

Yellow Rock South lies towards the upper end of Nundle Creek Road, No 867, on the slopes of the Great Dividing Rang, directly under and in close proximity to the mooted Wind Farm and turbines.

The proposed Wind Farm area is all part of a huge catchment area for surrounding gullies and creeks that all eventually run into the Peel River. This is the main source of water for not only Nundle but Tamworth and surrounding areas. I have personally seen the effect of construction works and machinery operation in this area and the damage it has on Nundle Creek. Nundle Creek runs through Yellow Rock South property and is the water source for livestock, including dams that fill from natural runoff and from springs.

Nundle Creek has platypus habitat along its course. It runs with clear, clean water over gravel and rocks. Disturbance of soils above with consequent soil erosion caused by huge runoffs, unimpeded by natural vegetation, will have disastrous effects on the water courses and fauna habitat.

The proposed wind farm will have a devastating impact on the native Flora and Fauna not only within but also surrounding the proximity of the works. The proponent has identified numerous Fauna habitats, including many of which belong to threatened or endangered species that can only survive in specific and undisturbed conditions. Many Native Flora species have also been identified, many of which will be completely cleared in order to begin construction. The clearing will not be localized, but rather extended outside of the project works boundaries to cut paths for access tracks and off-site compounds. Construction of a project of this size in the terrain suggested is ill conceived and completely indefensible.

The suggested terrain of the Wind Farm borders national park area and nature reserves, and is positioned in extremely steep mountainous terrain, home to very unsuitable soil that is prone to slips and extreme erosion when disturbed. Not only will the landslips caused by construction result in degradation to the environment, it also poses a significant risk to construction and maintenance of the Wind Farm. Management plans for events such as land slips, flooding or extreme wind events will be extensive and difficult to be cleared by the Independent Certifiers for the project.

Even small earthworks cause the water to turn brown with silt and become un-usable for agricultural or personal purposes. The waste products that will be created from this inappropriate project, including oils, poisonous chemicals, battery waste and biodegrading vegetable matter will end up in the river system.

This project has caused a significant amount of stress in many individuals, and the community as a whole. Regardless of opinion on the wind farm, it is undeniable that it has impacted many people mentally as they try to fit their everyday lives, family and jobs into a mix of meetings, reading engineering reports and drawings, researching laws and regulations, visiting site boundaries and keeping up to date with what is happening within the project.

No doubt there are people being influenced by offerings of personal financial gain. Engie is a multinational utility company with a market cap of close to 40 billion dollars, their concern is to make money, large amounts of which will be sent offshore to satisfy shareholders in other countries. The number of turbines has already been halved by the Department in its assessment and should decrease again substantially before the IPC makes its decision. The Enhancement fund will no doubt decrease massively in size too.

Destroying Nundle's natural untouched beauty, tranquil bushlands, quiet environment, flora and fauna habitat to build a huge industrial power facility allegedly to save the planet is not only self-defeating but ludicrous. The wind farm will ruin the tranquil environment and the impact of construction traffic on local roads and centre of town will be huge and detrimental.

There is no *viable* route to this ill-advised, ill-conceived project. Different transport routes have been suggested, with plans to make huge changes to Nundle's current traffic flow and to remove trees and nature strips from the main street of the town. The roads are already narrow, dangerous, and busy during peak holiday hours. More heavy vehicles and machinery will add to this. This impact cannot be ignored or amended in any way. It is tied to the project...All travel within Nundle will be affected, including parking.

The turbines will have an obvious visual impact on almost all residents within Nundle and Hanging Rock. They will be visible from all parts of Nundle and surrounds, both during the day and at night due to their flashing aviation lights. The plan to plant trees in people's residences to block their view is completely unrealistic and ineffective.

Engie has so far not succeeded in obtaining agreements from major affected landowners.

As Director of Yellow Rock South Pty. Ltd. I object to the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm due to the detrimental impact on Yellow Rock South that will be caused together with extensive associated social and environmental impacts on the land and community. I do not give permission for Hills of Gold Wind Farm or its associated structures onto Yellow Rock South property.