



# Hills of Gold Wind Farm Project

## Independent Planning Commission

Judy Coates – Deputy Mayor Tamworth Regional Council

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# ROADS AND ACCESS



Many Unanswered Questions: ?

- ?? Lindsay's Gap Road including Sandy Creek Crossing;
- ?? Morrisons Gap Road;
- ?? Devils Elbow and the Black Snake Gold Mine;
- ?? Crawney Road.

## Nundle Village

- X Industrial-style bypass;
- X Impact on green space and leafy streets;
- X Flooding;
- X Heritage properties.



# VISUAL AMENITY

“The Project” moves through,  
and sits on, a beautiful and

dramatic natural landscape: river flats, undulating land,  
mountains and villages.

- Visual amenity is multi-dimensional, changing with location – lookouts, ridges, outcrops, low land.
- Now – it is picturesque.
- Future – will be scoured by roads and swathes of bare land for all manner of access and infrastructure.





# BIODIVERSITY



- Biodiversity Offsets **DO NOT** mitigate the **REAL LOSSES** – they appease – through legislation. What is lost cannot be put back.
- Threatened flora and fauna need their unique locations and symbiotic relationships to survive.
- Economic benefit versus biodiversity destruction.



# THEM and US? or... THEM vs US?

- **Government Mandates** – community consultation; least environmental impact.
- **EnergyCo** – social licence central to delivery of REZ, electricity infrastructure and enabling legislation.
- **DPIE** – projects must work closely with communities → build in right place to COMPLEMENT land use (which includes recreation and biodiversity).
- **PUBLIC INTEREST??**
- **OUTCRY AND OUTCOME – Blue Mountains vs Hills of Gold**

The Blue Mountains



Hills of Gold – Nundle – Hanging Rock



# PAST..... PRESENT..... FUTURE

- Past - 6 year protracted project application → many unanswered questions, fractured community.

✓ **Present – Just occasionally we need to STAND UP for unique places that offer beauty, heritage and biodiversity that is irreplaceable.**

- Future - Unknown → repairs, maintenance, replacement, decommissioning. Impacts on land, flora, fauna, people??

