

Vladimir Vlasoff

transcript Notes

1/2/2024

Hanging Rock Rural Fire Service Brigade  
Submission to Hills of Gold Wind Farm Proposal

The local Hanging Rock RFS Brigade express the following comments in relation to the Hills of Gold Wind Farm Proposal:

- In its current form the proposal could inhibit aerial firefighting operations in the vicinity of the towers. Smoke, wind and terrain could restrict aerial operations to the east, north and west of the Wind Farm.
- Our experience in the Hanging Rock district tells us that if fires have the opportunity to get established in the timbered country surrounding the Wind Farm, they are hard to control and can last for several day and even weeks.
- The danger of such a fire becoming established poses a significant risk to the safety of Hanging Rock village and is likely to make the village undefendable.
- The location of the wind towers on one of the highest ridges of the Great Dividing Range north of Sydney will inhibit the safe operation of control and management activities of a fire in the vicinity by restricting the ability of helicopters to land, take off and access water without a significant climb to the area of operation.
- The advantage of water availability on the top of the ridge for helicopter bucketing is that no climbing is required to deliver their load.
- The location of a wind tower and battery close to the big dam at "Nycooma", the most reliable water source on the top will mean that the dam will not be available for fire-fighting operations.
- The location of wind towers WP 45, 55, 56 and 57 will render the most suitable location on the ridge for a helipad, an assembly point, and fire control operations unsuitable for that purpose.
- It is noted that the SEARS requires the proponent to consult with the local RFS Brigade on bushfire matters. The only consultation that has taken place is one telephone conversation with the Hanging Rock Senior Deputy Captain.
- The proposed siting of wind towers as shown in Figure E-1 in close proximity to heavily timbered country indicates that the risk profile of the probability of the scenario outlined above is unacceptably high.

Secretary

Hanging Rock RFS Brigade

Submission will be upload  
at a later date.

To:

the Department of Planning and Environment.

From:

Vladimir Vlasoff

The manager of Lot 22,

DP 1044936

Morrison's Gap Road Hanging Rock. 2340 NSW

LOT OWNERS

A.Yakimov

V.Neradovsky

C & D Shvesoff

V & S Vlasoff

I am writing on behalf of myself, the manager, and the landowners/ rate payers of Lot 22, DP 1044936 Morrison's Gap Road, Hanging Rock. There are 6 co-owners of this Lot. I am the son of V and S Vlasoff and manage the property for the landholders. Lot 22 is in within the 3km boundary of the proposed wind farm. It shares the north eastern and part of the eastern boundary of the proposed wind farm, and it is adjacent to the proposal.

Contrary to the EIS report, NONE of the landholders have been consulted or even contacted by WEP or Hills of Gold Energy or the consultancy firm Inclusive Engagement in regards to the proposed development.

There has been NO Environmental, Social, Visual or Noise impact study or assessment done on this Lot, only 2 receivers placed lower down towards the eastern border.

I request that an Environmental, Social, Visual and Noise impact study or assessment of the whole Lot 22 be included in any further assessments/ and the SEARS report. As per the landholders' request, please contact me directly via email [vlad.vlasoff@gmail.com](mailto:vlad.vlasoff@gmail.com) to organise a convenient time to conduct these assessments.

I also request that all landholders within the 3 km be included in an Environmental, Social, Visual and Noise Impact Study.

In fact, ALL properties and community assets within 20km of the proposed project be included in an Environmental, Social, Visual and Noise Impact Study.

On the northern border of Lot 22, the elevation is higher than the proposed site. This will dramatically affect the use of the property as not only will the view be completely of the turbines, the 72 members in our family who use the property will be forever subjected to blade flickers, constant aviation lights and noise from the turbine engines and blade movements. We will completely lose the tranquillity of the land and our escape from industrialisation. This property is our sanctuary that has been in the family for 40 years. It will be passed on to the children of the landholders, including myself, and then onto our children. There has been minimal human impact on the property as we have maintained it to be in its most natural state to ensure the most enjoyment of the natural Australian landscape. This proposal will ruin that natural state completely.

The block is a lifestyle block, yet our needs and use of our land has been totally ignored. We have all been treated as if we do not exist.

We want to leave our land as a legacy to our children and grandchildren as well as those who will follow them, so that they will learn bush skills, survival skills, appreciation for fauna and flora and preserving the natural environment. Not how to destroy it.

I am also concerned about the health effects of this project. The Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) has declared that the "noise annoyance" caused by wind turbine-generated low-frequency noise and infrasound "is a plausible pathway to disease". With 72 people using this property, there are too many of us at risk of negative health problems due to this proposal. I am also concerned about the increase of the electromagnetic fields and that even the EIS has identified as a detrimental health hazard and risk to our health.

'The wind farm site contains the head waters of the Peel River, with several low order streams and springs located at the higher elevations.' I am concerned about the construction causing a detrimental affect to the property's natural water supply, its contamination and reduction. Best practises are not infallible, and any risk to the water supply is too big a risk.

I am concerned about the digging into our cavernous water table and pouring in concrete to support the massive poles (220 meters high) for the turbines.

I am concerned about the huge amount of oil that each turbine contains and the potential risk of an accident devastating our environment.

1.3 Preliminary investigation: worst case approach. 'An indicative turbine layout, including turbine siting, requires agreements with potentially affected landholders.' Myself and all landholders of Lot 22 do not agree with wind turbines adjacent to the property.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Bulletins-and-Community-Updates/wind-energy-noise-assessment-bulletin-2016-12.ashx>

'The NSW Government recognises that rural land use zones in NSW are often more densely settled than those of South Australia and that there is a relatively high density of rural residential living in parts of regional NSW with reliable wind resources. Therefore only the lower base noise criteria in SA 2009 will be applied in NSW. This criteria is defined as: The predicted equivalent noise level (LAeq, 10 minute)\*, adjusted for tonality and low frequency

noise in accordance with these guidelines, should not exceed 35 dB(A) or the background noise (LA90(10 minute)) by more than 5 dB(A), whichever is the greater, at all relevant receivers for wind speed from cut-in to rated power of the wind turbine generator and each integer wind speed in between.'

'2 Noise criteria' the EIS the second dot point – 45 dBA for project involved receptors, contrary to the above - mentioned government guidelines.

'1.4. Sound power levels. The preliminary noise assessment has assumed a maximum sound power Level of 106.8 dBA, which is consistent with the estimates provided by the manufacturer for a WTG of this capacity.'

Now imagine 106.8 dBA, for one (1) turbine, with 'downwind noise propagation' multiplied by 97. '1.5 Noise sensitive locations' - Lot 22, its owners and heirs, have been completely ignored and not even considered in this report.

We are not invisible, this project will affect all our co-owners and their families who frequent the Hanging Rock area; we also have extended family not included on the list for Lot 22, that are owners of other lots in Hanging Rock:

I believe the value of the property will decrease significantly if this proposal is approved. This would mean financial hardship for all of us involved.

I am concerned that the landscape will be altered, the characteristics of the whole of Hanging Rock Village will be altered, I believe to the detriment. The construction alone will cause massive damage and destruction to the landscape and community.

There is a complex of 80 caves in Timor which contains subterranean water system, which needs to be taken into consideration in a hydrological study. The main cave is only 5 km from the project site. The presence of these caves was not noted by WEP and the owner of the camping ground was not aware of the project until last week when concerned members of the community notified them. The caves are on a combination of private land and public caves reserve.

As secretary and treasurer of Hanging Rock Rural Fire Brigade, there has been no bush fire safety plan consultation. Therefore, no report or bush fire risk has been provided from the local fire brigade; as the wind turbines will house equipment containing flammable oils, there is a risk the turbines can catch on fire and trigger a bushfire. Also, due to the height (220 metres), spacing and breadth of the wind farm, there is also a risk that the ability to fight bushfires via aerial water dropping would be limited. This is a concern considering that the neighbouring properties are heavily wooded, have steep valleys and have only small private carriageways for access.

There has been no mention of lightning strikes by WEP, we have a lot of electrical storms in the mountains of Hanging Rock and no report has been given of this as a risk factor. No study for lightning strike in the area has been supplied.

WEP acknowledges that the area is a precious water source, but has not supplied a geological report about the precarious geology of the area or our water supply. I request that this be followed through.

I believe the topography will amplify sound through the troughs of the valleys, by 'Down wind noise propagation' We can hear a car engine or motor bike in the distance well before we can even see it. Sound carries through the hill exponentially.

I wish to object to this application on the grounds that it has been submitted without a fully detailed assessment. It is clear that this is a proposal for a major industrial development that could have a very significant impact on the surrounding area and as such current planning law demands that a full and thorough assessment should be submitted with any application. It seems clear that without the benefit of a complete and comprehensive assessment this application cannot be properly considered by your department .

Regards,

Vladimir Vlasoff