

From: [Anne Jones](#)
To: [Do-Not-Reply IPCN Submissions Mailbox](#)
Subject: SSD-9679 Submission
Date: Sunday, 14 July 2024 4:23:31 PM

To the Commissioners
RE : SSD-9679 (Hills of Gold)


I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Hills of Gold Wind Farm project and the recent change in recommendations by the Planning Department.

I stand with the local farmers and their land rights based on three objections:

1. Precedent for Voluntary Acquisition: Although termed voluntary, this acquisition policy imposes significantly on the rights of regional Australians. Such measures impacting regional land owners would be unacceptable in urban areas. Landowners who for example provide food security for the wider population may be reluctant to participate in renewable projects if their neighbours face the risk of voluntary acquisition. This threatening situation is creating community division over renewable developments, and appears to be diminishing support from landholders for hosting such projects.
2. Shift from Merit-Based to Public Benefit Assessments: The Planning Department's shift from merit-based project assessments to those focused on public benefit raises substantial concerns. Is the Planning Department compromising its independence, by approving projects based on public policy needs rather than objective evaluation? This change will result in a loss of rights for regional Australians, as all renewable energy projects appear to be approvable regardless of their impact. Such a shift lowers the standard for what constitutes a reasonable project.
3. Developer Responsibility: It is the responsibility of developers to design projects that are both economically viable and compliant with well-defined planning guidelines. The Planning Department should not compromise its assessment standards to accommodate developers who fail to adhere to these guidelines.

These points unless defended by your Department represent a significant departure from fair and objective project assessment processes, ultimately undermining the rights and interests of regional communities.

I urge the Planning Department to reconsider these recommendations and ensure that future projects adhere to established guidelines, maintaining the balance between public benefit and the rights of regional communities.

Sincerely
Anne Jones OAM
Gamaragal Country

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AUSTRALIA

Message from iPhone