

Hills of Gold (SSC-9679) – Ecological Self Harm.

I wish to object to this proposed development and expansion on a number of grounds but mostly ecological.

This proposal is clearly excessive when it has to be about balance. What is the balance between clean energy, local ecology, agriculture, regional and rural town life and those vistas that make the Hills of Gold.....the Hills of Gold?

What sort of state is prepared to vandalise its own natural heritage for so little and inflict on its citizens the quantum of increases in energy costs that every power grid in the world has experienced when so called renewables of wind (and solar) are introduced? To commit such ecological destruction to such an area with soon to be gone blasted away hill tops, ridges, flora and fauna around Nundle and the so called Hills of Gold, more like Hills of self delusion.

What State does not start this without first insisting these developments be subject to the Resources Act? Knowing the history of any resource development and knowing there is always a clean up. Why are future tax payers being openly deliberately and somewhat maliciously committed to cleaning up the Hills of Gold when it is de-commissioned? Nothing lasts forever.

What state does not assess the cumulative effect of all these so called renewable energy projects – before approving any individual project such as the Hills of Gold?

It is bad enough the local community has to pay such a price even mooted loss of Property Rights - 1000 years to develop but now sacrificed for such a reckless expensive exercise - but why should our ecology pay the ultimate price? It would make some sort of sense and some resemblance of balance if such destruction was to make a difference – but it simply won't. Dealing with such low level and dispersed energy source cant – you can't fool nature.

The balance of ecology and clean energy using “industrial Wind factories” is not championed by destroying our ecology – the only interest that serves is the absentee remote proponents. Expansion should be focused using existing infrastructure e.g roof tops with socially licensed small scale so called renewables for micro local grids and centralised “denser” energy power generation to run our increasingly complex and energy dependent infrastructure. Without even considering AI and the energy hungry “bit sheds” that will be critical in that new economy and society.

Whilst a long time land owner and “intermittent” occupant in the New England area I have lived the last few years overseas and look back at Australia and projects like the Hills of Gold Wind factory and wonder if they really have become the village idiot of South East Asia as has been described to me by other residents of SE Asia.

What sort of nation is prepared to commit so much self harm of widespread irreversible ecological damage sacrificed on an altar of intermittent asynchronous aka expensive energy in some sort of medieval crusade to avert or slay the infidel of Climate Change?

The Crusaders didn't need to save the planet - but we lost the Hills of Gold and Nundle to them. They eventually awoke to the facts we all need cheap abundant energy and CO2 to feed, clothe and house 10bn people – but by then they had slaughtered most flora and fauna in the Crusade anyway. Try explaining that to the grandkids - they will be digging up the Crusader corpses and beheading them they will be so angry - and I don't blame them.

W. A. Rainnie



Dumeresq, NSW 2350