

From: [Brietta Hague](#)
To: [Do-Not-Reply IPCN Submissions Mailbox](#)
Subject: Hills of Gold Wind Farm (SSD-9679)
Date: Sunday, 14 July 2024 7:57:34 AM

To the Panel:

Protecting biodiversity and heritage is imperative for Australia and the world; it could (and should) be deemed in the public interest to preserve these habitats for future generations of Australians. Engie and the DPHI's argument that approving this wind farm (with the re-instated 15 turbines) is in the public interest, is flimsy at best and discounts the very reason these turbines were removed from the project in the first place: they are non-compliant. They did not comply with the 2016 Noise and Visual guidelines, nor meet biodiversity conservation measures, and they still don't. There have been no material changes to the project, it is still a non-compliant, poorly designed and badly sited project – with no clear way for them even to get them up to the top of the ridge-line!

The DPHI is setting a dangerous precedent for future State Significant projects by:

- reinstating non-compliant turbines into the project to the dis-benefit and suffering of surrounding NADs (effectively not upholding the 2016 guidelines),
- approving turbines close to one of the states most precious Nature Reserves (Ben Halls Gap) – home to Critically Endangered Ben Halls Gap Sphagnum Moss Cool Temperate Rainforest (among other rare and endangered flora and fauna),
- prioritising private profit and private benefit over community, environment and heritage,
- Not respecting dwelling entitlements and approved development applications
- Imposing a Voluntary Land Acquisition on a non-associated neighbour and offering screening as the only mitigation for other non-associated neighbours (without their agreement or consideration of bushfire risk)
- Approving a State Significant Development on unlawfully cleared land
- Not insisting the Developer provide detailed engineering for transport and roads and other infrastructure on a ridge line with Class 8 soil.

It is not a public benefit to approve a marginal to unviable wind farm, it is unacceptable for the DPHI to assert the “public benefit” argument and one I wholeheartedly reject. I once again request that the Independent Planning Commission Determine Rejection of Hills of Gold Wind Farm.

With regards

Brietta Hague

Journalist/Filmmaker

