

From: [Heidi](#)
To: [Do-Not-Reply_IPCN_Submissions_Mailbox](#)
Subject: Submission re proposed Hills of Gold, Nundle NSW wind project by applicant Engie
Date: Monday, 15 July 2024 10:02:38 AM

Re: Proposed Hills of Gold wind development in Nundle NSW

Dear Commissioner,

I wish to express my opposition to the above project for the following reasons:

1. The fire risk posed by wind turbines appears to be significant, making them inappropriate for the Australian landscape. In the past approximately 18 months there have been four wind turbine fires in Australia alone. This is of particular concern in the case of the Nundle Hills of Gold proposal due to the proximity of two national parks, one containing an area of critically endangered forest.
2. It is clear that this project will have adverse impacts on flora and fauna. For example to build turbine 28, which has been reinstated to achieve the 62-turbine layout, will require clearing of forest habitat which is home to endangered species including the iconic koala, the barking owl and the large-eared pied bat.
3. It is my understanding that turbines previously recommended for removal from the development in order to comply with 2016 noise and visual guidelines have been reinstated. Would DPHI please advise the justification for the waiver of these regulations, or please advise the class of exemption that has been granted and the reasons for it.
4. I am not a resident of the Nundle area, however I understand that there is significant opposition to this project by the local community and I share their concerns regarding harms to landscape, environment, water, wildlife and people. I hope that the NSW government will defend their interests and not fall into the trap of effectively acting as an agent for a foreign owned corporation, Engie.

In summary, I am gravely concerned about the roll-out of “renewable” energy projects across NSW and Australia, of which this one is an example. These projects seem to have some common features which ought to alarm us all:

- a. The proponents/applicants are mostly foreign corporations.
- b. There appears to be a lack of concern regarding the considerable harms entailed.
- c. Our government is either allowing or enabling avoidance of existing zoning and other regulations by the proponents/applicants.
- d. The projects are mostly being proposed or built in rural areas far from where most of the power generated will be consumed. Problems inherent in this are transmission losses and the inequity of exporting the harms associated with enormous power consumption in cities to rural communities and environments.
- e. The embodied energy of huge wind turbines: there is a lack of transparency around the calculation of this important measure, leaving doubt as to the extent to which wind turbines actually constitute renewable energy. If the applicant, as in this case, makes a claim as to benefits outweighing harms they must provide detailed evidence to support their claim, however such evidence seems to always be lacking.
- f. Relatively short useful life of wind turbines and concerns as to the cost of dismantling these gigantic structures, and who will bear it in the end.

Thank you for your consideration of my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Heidi Howden

Address: [REDACTED] Chatham Valley NSW 2787

Phone: [REDACTED]