

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Do-Not-Reply IPCN Submissions Mailbox](#)
Subject: ACKMA submission to IPCN regarding Hills of Gold wind farm
Date: Sunday, 7 July 2024 6:13:46 PM
Attachments: [Extended deadline Hills of Gold 20240707.pdf](#)

Good evening,

Please find attached the submission by ACKMA on this proposed development.

Ian Eddison

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I pay my respect to the traditional custodians of the land where I live and work

7th July 2024

**Hills of Gold Wind Farm SSD 9679
(Refer our letters dated 23rd January 2021 and 22nd December 2023)**

Sent by email: submissions@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

7th July 2024

ACKMA submits to the IPCN - reopening of public submissions on this proposed development

ACKMA – the Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association – is an association concerned with the conservation, presentation and management of caves and karst. Land areas with caves and karst both private and public and its flora, fauna, geology and hydrology are interrelated and are a focus of our interests. ACKMA has members from five continents, with most members from Australia and New Zealand. Members include scientists, managers of show caves and karst areas, guides, rangers, and cavers.

The ACKMA membership includes organisations and individuals that have research, management and recreational interests in caves and karst. Karst is a term used to describe a landscape principally formed by the dissolution of rock and characterised by landforms such as caves, closed and underground drainage systems. As an organisation, ACKMA advocates and facilitates sustainable management of caves and karst and encourages public education and research and training to improve cave and karst management.

I write to express the Association’s concerns about the Hills of Gold Wind Farm proposal, particularly the intent to clear vegetation, as well as the direct and indirect impacts on the nearby Timor Caves and other geological features and also bats which roost in the area proposed for the wind farm.

ACKMA supports the transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy so that Australia can meet its zero emission targets and limit the effects of climate change, which are already being expressed as widespread bushfires and floods. There is no doubt we need to consider the benefits of alternative energy however, this should not be at the expense of destroying valuable existing habitat. **We have not altered our position after careful consideration of the Hills of Gold proposal.** Our concerns are not allayed about the clearing of habitat and that erosion will be part of the impact in the hydrological process associated with caves and karst let alone the loss of flora for all animals and the insects which are the food source of microbats whether they be forest dependant or cave dependant species.

We are in support on the suggested removal of turbines T24 and T28, and removal of any other turbines from the plan, that can reduce impacts on the Ribbon Gum, Mountain Gum, Snow Gum habitat that supports the ecosystem favoured by identified species of the area including the Koala, Barking Owl and Large eared Pied bat.

Yours sincerely
Ian Eddison

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President ACKMA
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