

Submission

NSW Government
Major Projects
Hills of Gold Wind Farm

It's hard to believe this inappropriate industrial proposal is still on the table for one of the most ecologically sensitive and picturesque landscapes of the world.

The passage of time has not been kind to proponents/ owners of wind turbine industrial facilities. We now have so much more information about the industry, manufacture, energy output and lifespan. Far from reducing emissions for the production of power, the manufacture of these so-called renewables in China, a country which has the largest carbon emissions in the world, produces more emissions than they will ever save in the long run—in addition to needing far more energy than they will ever produce. Once thought of as a rare occurrence, the threat of these turbines catching fire is much more prevalent now that there are more them.

These facilities will have no effect at all to our climate other than negative, high emissions during manufacture, degradation of pristine landscapes and biodiversity during construction, raping of bushland and plugging up natural water recharge areas. It is impossible for the proponent to mitigate bird and bat strike.

The threatened ridges and mountains of Hanging Rock and the surrounding range are the vital water recharge points where rainfall filters through the rocks and tree roots, moving down into the ground to the water table and aquifers in the valley catchments to the Barnard River to the east and the Peel River to the west, joining into the Namoi and continuing to the mighty Murray River. The Eastern Australian landscape, and all those who live there, depends on the flow of this water. Plugging up these recharge areas with a string of monolithic concrete platforms joined together with roads will prohibit the natural flow of water in these important Australian water systems.

Far from "*saving the planet*", these industrial facilities are about only one thing, **money**. Money going offshore to foreign investors as subsidies. It was stated last week that Australian citizens have already paid \$29 Billion as subsidies to these foreign companies to date. When we only have a fraction of the required renewables needed to be able to power our country. What will the subsidy bill look like in the future as we drain all of our wealth from Australia?

When this project was first proposed and the majority of the wider Nundle community opposed it:

Engie Australia & NZ should have walked away.

When it was determined that the location was not appropriate for a project of 64 wind turbines:

Engie Australia & NZ should have walked away.

When the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (the Department) recommended a reduction to 47 turbines to avoid a range of anticipated environmental and social impacts, and Engie knew this was no longer economically viable:

Engie Australia & NZ should have walked away.

Go away Engie, I do not want one cent of my taxpayer dollars to be handed over as subsidies to you or any other inappropriate, reckless “renewable” project.

Sincerely yours,

Leslye Cole