

From: [Limbri](#)
To: [Do-Not-Reply IPCN Submissions Mailbox](#)
Subject: RE : SSD-9679 (Hills of Gold)
Date: Friday, 12 July 2024 5:32:15 PM

To the Commissioners,

RE : SSD-9679 (Hills of Gold)

My submission refers to the change in recommendations by the Planning Department for the Hills of Gold project.

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Hills of Gold Wind Farm project and the recent recommendations by the Planning Department. My objections are summarised below:

1.

Precedent for Voluntary Acquisition: Although termed voluntary, this acquisition policy imposes significantly on the rights of regional Australians. Such measures would likely be unacceptable for private enterprise projects in urban areas. This policy could negatively impact the renewable transition, as landowners may be reluctant to participate in renewable projects if their neighbors face the risk of voluntary acquisition. This situation fosters community division, increases dissent towards renewable developments, and diminishes support from landholders for hosting such projects.

2.

Shift from Merit-Based to Public Benefit Assessments: The Planning Department's shift from merit-based project assessments to those focused on public benefit raises substantial concerns. This change suggests that the Planning Department has compromised its independence, now approving projects based on public policy needs rather than objective evaluation. This results in a loss of rights for regional Australians, as all renewable energy projects appear to be approvable regardless of their impact. Such a shift lowers the standard for what constitutes a reasonable project.

3.

Developer Responsibility: It is the responsibility of developers to design projects that are both economically viable and compliant with well-defined planning guidelines. The Planning Department should not compromise its assessment standards to accommodate developers who fail to adhere to these guidelines.

These points illustrate a significant departure from fair and objective project assessment processes, ultimately undermining the rights and interests of regional communities. I urge the Planning Department to reconsider these recommendations and ensure that future projects adhere to established guidelines, maintaining the balance between public benefit and the rights of individual landowners.

Thank you for your attention to these important concerns.

Sincerely,