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To: [Do-not-Reply: IPCN Submissions Mailbox](#)
Subject: Hill of Gold Objection
Date: Monday, 15 July 2024 5:00:48 PM

Dear IPCN
ENGIE's Hills of Gold

The recent decision by the New South Wales Department of Planning (DPHI) to approve the Hills of Gold Wind Electricity Generating Works at Nundle, despite their previously stated concerns, is a profound injustice that undermines the principles of sound governance and environmental stewardship. The reversal to reinstate 15 of the 17 turbines previously deemed non-compliant due to their detrimental environmental, noise, and visual impacts raises serious concerns about the integrity of the decision-making process and its implications for the broader community and environment.

Initially, the DPHI's recommendation to exclude 17 turbines was a prudent move based on rigorous adherence to noise, visual, and environmental guidelines. These guidelines are crucial to protecting local communities and ecosystems from the adverse impacts of industrial wind developments. However, the DPHI's recent backflip, influenced by ENGIE's arguments and a questionable reinterpretation of public benefit versus individual disbenefit, represents a fundamental shift in policy that appears to prioritize the interests of a multinational corporation over those of Australian citizens and the environment.

The reinstatement of these turbines is particularly egregious given the project's demonstrated unviability. The Independent Expert Advisory Panel for Energy Transition (IEAPET) has highlighted that a 62-turbine layout is deemed the only potentially viable scenario, yet this is based on dubious assumptions and a disregard for practical realities. The fact that IEAPET's advice suggests a significant expenditure on further assessments underscores the speculative nature of this project's viability. It disregards the severe risks associated with the project, including increased build costs, site complexity, and the extensive environmental damage that will result from clearing vegetation and disrupting water systems.

Moreover, the DPHI's reliance on the now-discredited CSIRO GenCost report and the skewed assumptions of the Integrated Systems Plan (ISP) reveals a troubling bias. These reports have been criticized for inflating the benefits of renewable energy projects while downplaying their costs and reliability issues. The reality is that industrial wind electricity generating systems are notoriously unreliable, often producing power only intermittently, and are heavily dependent on unstable supply chains for critical materials, such as cobalt from the Congo. These systems are also associated with significant environmental and health risks, including the leakage of SF₆, a potent greenhouse gas, and the release of toxic substances from turbine blades.

The decision to approve this project despite these substantial concerns not only undermines environmental protections but also sets a dangerous precedent for future developments. It reflects a troubling shift towards accommodating corporate interests at the expense of community well-being and environmental integrity. The imposition of voluntary land acquisition on non-associated neighbours, and the disregard for established noise and visual guidelines, further exacerbate these issues.

The DPHI's actions are emblematic of a broader, troubling trend of prioritizing short-term corporate gains over long-term public and environmental health. By approving the Hills of Gold project under these flawed premises, the DPHI is not only failing in its duty to safeguard Australian landscapes and biodiversity but also contributing to a national energy strategy that is neither reliable nor sustainable. The decision is a glaring example of moral hazard and gross negligence, representing a severe departure from the principles of responsible governance and ecological stewardship.

Industrialised Solar/
Wind/BESS ARE NOT IN
THE INTERESTS OF
CONSUMERS - DEFYING
NATIONAL ELECTRICITY
LAW OBJECTIVES OF:-
***PRICE, QUALITY,**
SAFETY, RELIABILITY &
SECURITY OF SUPPLY
OF ELECTRICITY.
***THE RELIABILITY,**
SAFETY & SECURITY OF
THE NATIONAL
ELECTRICITY SYSTEM.