



Independent Planning Commission
submissions@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

15th July, 2024

Dear Commissioners,

As previously advised the majority of Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc members have objected to Hills of Gold Wind Farm since March 2018. It is noted that several NBTMG members are associated with the proposal.

The new Information from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure published on the Independent Planning Commission website causes continuing concern and objection.

The use of two sets of Wind Energy Guidelines from 2016 and 2023 is confusing. Why isn't one set of guidelines used and applied to the whole site instead of two sets of guidelines applied to only selective sections of the site? This appears to be using the guidelines for the benefit of the Applicant, not neighbouring landowners, the community or the environment.

The decision to give greater weighting to Public Benefit than Individual Disbenefit and reinstate 15 wind turbines for project viability is based on inconclusive data. The Independent Expert Advisory Panel for Energy Transition (IEAPET) advice suggests many variables with the potential for impacting viability of the recommended 62-turbine scenario.

It is disappointing that the IEAPET didn't consult Tamworth Regional Council for its concerns about gaps in important information about constructibility and costs.

That the Applicant is to spend \$7 million on detailed reports before committing investment is an insult to the erosion of social capital of Nundle, Hanging Rock, and Timor that has occurred since the proposal was publicised in March 2018. Are you telling us that even if approved, the community will endure further uncertainty before the detailed reports are completed and an investment commitment made - or not?

It makes the Applicant's Timelines advertised to the community for more than six years completely misleading.

This is not the way to treat rural communities. Our community is already stretched to the limit with tension, and having this project hanging over us has placed individuals, families and businesses in a holding pattern. People are disengaged and unmotivated in a previous poster-community for rural Australia.

That immediate non-associated neighbours of the wind farm are being treated unfairly with Voluntary Land Acquisition imposed on them, vegetation screening for unacceptable Visual Impacts, and curtailment for non-compliant Noise, and Bird and Bat Deaths are further strikes against Engie, the proposal, and jeopardise the transition social licence.

If the Applicant doesn't know if it will commit to investment, and the IEAPET advice is not conclusive, please Determine Rejection of Hills of Gold Wind Farm and enable our community to rebuild from this sloppy, unprofessional, divisive experience.

There are less complex locations for renewables in NSW, away from national park biodiversity assets, water storage, and steep terrain, and not partly proposed on unauthorised cleared land. This project should never have progressed to this stage.

Yours faithfully,

Megan Trousdale

Chair

Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc