


From: 
To: [Do-Not-Reply IPCN Submissions Mailbox](#)
Subject: Hills of Gold Wind Farm (SSD-9679): submission
Date: Sunday, 14 July 2024 11:45:56 AM

Dear Members of the Independent Planning Commission,

I am writing to strongly reject the latest assessment by the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), which reinstates 15 of the 17 non-compliant turbines, expanding the HOG wind farm to 62 turbines. This decision contradicts the DPHI's Final Assessment Report to the IPC in February 2024, which recommended a wind farm with 47 turbines. I urge the IPC to reinstate the February 2024 assessment and reject the current proposal.

Furthermore, I strongly object to the DPHI's agreement to grant Engie the right to a Voluntary Land Acquisition imposed on a private landowner's property (DAD 01). This decision sets a dangerous precedent by allowing a private multinational company to acquire land forcibly, disregarding legal dwelling entitlements and approved development applications. Such actions undermine the security and rights of landowners in NSW.

I urge the IPC to reread my previous submission from February 2024, as all my objections still stand. The proposed wind farm development on the Great Dividing Range poses significant environmental, visual, heritage, economic, and social concerns. The project threatens to fragment vital environmental corridors, destroy native vegetation, and endanger multiple threatened species, including koalas. The reliance on outdated and inaccurate data in the DPE's assessment further undermines the project's credibility and effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures.

New issues arising from DPHI's latest response underscore the unviability and detrimental impact of this project:

Unviability

Engie claims financial viability only with a 62-turbine wind farm, yet the DPHI's Assessment recommended removing 15 non-compliant turbines due to visual, noise, and biodiversity concerns. Engie's insistence on acquiring land (DAD 01) with an approved CDC to mitigate non-compliance is unacceptable. The DPHI's inconsistent application of draft guidelines over the ratified 2016 Visual Assessment Bulletin further highlights the project's lack of credibility.

Biodiversity

DPHI's latest recommendation prioritizes private profit over biodiversity. Turbines next to Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve and other critical habitats should be removed. The reinstatement of turbines like Turbine 28, which threatens endangered species and ecological communities, is unacceptable. The community lacks confidence in Engie's capacity for effective self-monitoring and mitigation strategies.

Water

Approving 62 turbines exacerbates vegetation clearing, reducing rainwater infiltration and impacting local water systems. The DPHI has not adequately addressed soil scientist Greg Chapman's concerns about erosion, sedimentation, and mass movement risks.

Public Benefit Claim

The claim of public benefit for this project is baseless. It is not beneficial to approve a marginally viable wind farm, a state significant development on unlawfully cleared land, or a project that sets a dangerous precedent for land acquisition by private entities. The environmental and financial liabilities of such a project far outweigh any perceived public benefits.

Dangerous Precedent

The DPHI's recommendation to allow Engie to a Voluntary Land Acquisition of private land sets a dangerous precedent for future developments. The inconsistent application of guidelines, disregard for dwelling entitlements, and inadequate consideration of biodiversity costs undermine the integrity of planning processes in NSW.

In conclusion, I urge the IPC to reject the current proposal and reinstate the February 2024 assessment. The environmental, social, and economic costs of this project are too high to ignore. The rights of landowners, the protection of biodiversity, and the adherence to proper guidelines must be prioritized over the interests of private multinational companies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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