

Dear Commissioners,

I continue to object to the Hills of Gold Wind Farm Case and the new information from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

My son and daughter-in-law own a property 1.7km from the nearest wind turbine in proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm. They are the third generation to be caretakers of the property for the next generation. My ancestors on both sides settled at Nundle in the 1850s and we have been connected to Nundle and Hanging Rock ever since.

The property is a haven for all our extended family and friends.

I am concerned about the way Noise and Visual Impacts have been discounted by the Applicant's and Department's consultants for my family's property. No matter what weasel words are used, the impacts will be severe and lessen our enjoyment of this beautiful place.

Noise is exceeded at NAD_05 and the reinstated turbines will need to be curtailed to be noise compliant. Is this taken into account when considering viability of the project?

The consultants say that the primary view from the house to the north west is the only outlook to be considered. This is not the consultant's decision to make.

Both the 2016 and 2023 wind energy guidelines require the assessment of the house and its **CURTILAGE**. We spend most of our time outside and the undercover entertaining area on the southern side of the house only has one view, east towards the wind farm. That's where we sit and watch the eagles soaring on the range. We are extremely concerned about potential bird and bat strike. We also enjoy the stars in the night sky and the aviation lighting will be an unacceptable imposition on our family and property.

Our family's property is a lifestyle property and the only value of the block is the peace, quiet, views, and birdlife. The suggestion that vegetation can be used to screen the turbines is not accepted. The three trees proposed to be planted on the northern side of the driveway will have to be planted into the septic tank and absorption trench. The three trees on the southern side of the driveway would have to be planted into hard shale soil in a narrow strip between the edge of the driveway and rockwall. Impossible.

Our feedback regarding this issue has not been taken into account. The time it will take for the vegetation to grow and provide effective screening will exceed the lifespan of the wind farm. The proximity of suggested screening close to the house would block all morning sunshine coming into the house.

The majority of the existing trees close to the house are deciduous, which are low fire risk. The suggestion to plant gum trees is an unacceptable fire and safety risk. The majority of the trees already planted in the garden do not provide effective screening, despite their mature age, because of the elevation of the range and the height of the proposed turbines.

Under the 2023 guidelines, which DPPI now applies to this project, we expect a landscape plan prepared by a qualified person which must be accompanied by evidence of consultation with the

landowners and how any feedback has been incorporated and addressed. The landscape plan must include details of soil, tree species, expected growth rate, height and width at maturity, and the time it takes to provide effective screening.

Our family is very aware of the risk of erosion from high rainfall on the range. Access to the wind farm from the western end will be crossing this type of country.

I give permission for my submission to be emailed on my behalf because my email [REDACTED] is not working.

Thank you for your time in making your determination.

Narelle Langfield
Tamworth/Nundle
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