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To: [Do-Not-Reply IPCN Submissions Mailbox](#)
Subject: Upper Peel Landcare: Objection to the Hills of Gold Windfarm development
Date: Monday, 15 July 2024 12:00:00 PM

The views on this project by Upper Peel Landcare Group and Nundle Community Garden have not changed. We cannot support a project which goes against the core values of our umbrella organisation, Landcare Australia, which has worked tirelessly since 1989 to conserve our natural environment. Landcare Australia does not take sides and is not motivated nor swayed by profit or political power. The grassroots work of the 6000 plus landcare groups and >140,000 volunteers is undertaken from a place of true integrity and environmental stewardship. This is why the approach of Landcare Australia and the thousands of other groups such as ours needs to remain a flagship for true environmental management, and should be taken into consideration in the decision-making process of this development.

As a reminder, here are the core values of Landcare Australia:

1. support the sharing of knowledge and promote the development of community leadership and resilience

This project has divided an otherwise cohesive community. The 'community funds' offered by the proponent have only caused further division. The recent ABC Four Corners Program which featured Nundle, revealed that funds had been given to our local Bowling Club to pay their insurance. This may appear to be an act of benevolence, 'saving' a community asset that was struggling, however this wind project has been the cause of the division that has resulted in the downfall of a previously politically neutral community venue. No 'money' can save or rebuild community resilience. This must come from within the community itself. The lack of transparency in the allocation of the community funds by the proponent in no way promotes community resilience and in fact, these funds in this instance, has eroded community cohesion.

2. encourage participation in landcare activities and the recruitment and retention of volunteers

We have lost volunteers as a result of this development project. Our group has also lost momentum and there is a general feeling of volunteer fatigue and disillusionment. Our efforts in establishing wildlife corridors will be in part negated by the broadscale land clearance being approved by a Government department whose role is to protect our natural and sensitive ecosystems. It is much to ask for volunteers to remain engaged in tree-planting efforts which have been supported by Government funding, and yet the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) has approved the reinstatement of turbines alongside a National Park and reserve, which were originally removed to reduce environmental impacts. How do we explain to our volunteers that environmental impact now comes second to 'economic viability'?

3. support the adoption of sustainable agriculture practices that will deliver a more productive and profitable agriculture industry.

This project has always sold itself as an essential developmental step in creating a green, renewable future. Renewable Energy Zones have been established all over NSW in an attempt to meet emissions targets. Many of these zones have been placed in productive agricultural land and directly threaten the future viability of Australia's agricultural industry. This project does not even lie within a REZ, setting a precedent that developments which claim to be sustainable simply because they are 'meeting energy targets', are able to go ahead with disregard for the other ecological, social and cultural destruction which may occur as a result.

This project threatens the biodiversity of an ecologically sensitive community and the greater ecological communities in this unique sub-alpine environment. We do not support it. Our views remain unchanged that it should not be approved.