From: Ryan Brooke

To: <u>Do-Not-Reply IPCN Submissions Mailbox</u>

Subject: IPC public comment on Hills of Gold Wind Farm

Date: Monday, 15 July 2024 11:50:23 AM

I would like to take the opportunity to comment to express my continued opposition to this project. Although I am personally very much in favor of renewable projects being established to capture the immense renewable potential of the New England REZ and the wider areas of our region, in our state's transition to clean energy, I believe this proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm is untenable for a variety of reasons. These can be broadly divided into two main categories:

Firstly, environmental. The proposed project would include clearing of ecologically crucial native forest and endangered species habitat. Further to this, the construction of the project would require road construction which is expected to have severe impacts in sediment control and run-off.

Secondly, the social license. Throughout the last 5 and a half years French multinational Engie have drastically mishandled the consultation process with directly affected communities of Nundle, Hanging Rock and Crawney. This has led to intense and protracted division among many within our community. I believe this project is emblematic of an unjust transition to clean energy.

It is my belief that regardless of the revised recommendation of the DPHI, this project should be a non-starter, as despite the number of turbines, the concerns above are not adequately addressed. We not only can, but must, go about our state's transition to renewable energy in a way that is beneficial to all stakeholders in appropriate locations.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Ryan Brooke, Tamworth

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