

From: [Selena Sylvester](#)
To: [Do-Not-Reply IPCN Submissions Mailbox](#)
Subject: Public Comment Hills of Gold Wind Farm
Date: Monday, 15 July 2024 11:08:40 AM

15th July, 2024

Independent Planning Commission
Suite 15.02, 135 King St
Sydney NSW 2000
submissions@ipcn.nsw.gov.au
Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Hills of Gold Wind Farm (SDD-9679) Public Comment

As a Veterinarian and business owner located at Nundle NSW, I object to the amended consent to reinstate 15 turbines to the Hills of Gold proposed Wind Farm.

The project is located adjoining the Ben Halls Nature reserve and Crawney National Park which are both important corridors for the movement of birds and wildlife on the eastern Australia seaboard. Ben Halls Nature Reserve needs to be protected due to the critically endangered Sphagnum Moss ecosystem and the scientific and ecological value this area holds.

Project infrastructure including roads, erosion protection areas, bores, powerlines, turbines, substations and lay down areas should not be permitted within 500m of the boundary. The proponent and major landholder have already demonstrated they can not be trusted to look after this area. Many of the areas either legally or illegally cleared for agriculture purposes (this includes areas of State Forrest) are now hosting proposed windfarm infrastructure. The request to reset the baseline for biodiversity offsets encourages this type of behaviour and environmental destruction to continue. Proponents and landholders should not be rewarded for this type of behaviour.

The ecosystems that have already been removed or damaged and the areas proposed to be cleared within the project footprint are irreplaceable and their unique character means biodiversity offsets in my opinion are not a satisfactory option. The smart curtailment systems proposed to protect birds and bats are experimental and their efficacy from preventing blade strikes and effect on power generation and turbine life are debatable. This technology cannot be relied on for the Hills of Gold Wind Farm.

The IPC commissioners should reject this project and allow other projects in my suitable locations that are economically more viable progress through the planning process

Yours sincerely

Selena Sylvester



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