

[REDACTED]
Armidale NSW 2350

14 July 2024

IPC Panel Members

Submission SSD9679

I wish to lodge objections to the request for the Dept Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to provide further information on the 'Hills of Gold' wind farm project.

A good deal of time and money has been invested by the DPHI in researching and assessing the viability of this project, finding it to be high cost and lacking economic viability. This was the case for a number of reasons, many of which are related to the site selected including where the site is (close to homes and towns) as well as the difficult terrain and high clearing costs.

With the DPHI recommending against the 15 towers, it seems absurd that a foreign (French) entity Engie can try to overturn this. It is not in the interest of landholders affected at the micro level, or faith in the professional government agency (funded by Australian taxpayers) at the macro level.

Self-interest and developer profit is what underlies this appeal. Why have local planning bodies and rules if a foreign entity can overthrow these? The potential for a dangerous precedent being set exists. We could see developers being able to overrule our planning authorities and existing legislation, for example by enabling them to compulsorily acquire land and trying to offset biodiversity considerations through so called 'monetary compensation'. There is no such thing as compensation for lasting damage to flora and fauna.

Existing rights of landholders must be maintained, as well as those of the community via the impact on transport and established commuting activities.

Yours faithfully

Susan K Peatfield