

Please find attached my objection to the development of SSD-9679 Hills of Gold Windfarm.

Please note, I do not want my name to be published, my name is to be redacted.

my name is to be redacted NSW 2024

My order of preference, as per my selection on the submission link, which was not received by the commission on 8 February 2024, is:-

The impact to:-Biodiversity Traffic Visual

SSD-9679 Hills of Gold Wind Farm

I object to the development of the Hills of Gold wind farm.

I have been staying in the magnificent, naturally beautiful Hills of Gold region annually for the past 20 years.

I am concerned about the negative impact to the biodiversity of flora and fauna in this region during the construction of the roads that will need to be created for the purpose of installing the turbines, transmission lines and battery storage.

I am also concerned about the negative impact to the biodiversity during the construction of the proposed wind farm and during the ongoing maintenance of the components of the wind farm, the turbines, transmission lines etc.

The animals, birds, amphibians, insects, bats, reptiles and the trees and shrubs having to adapt to climate change and altered rainfall cycles, is a big enough challenge, without more direct human impact.

The loss of ground habitat and tree habitat and the displacement and loss of fauna and the loss of flora would be, in my mind, too big a toll on this natural environment.

I think there are many sites in NSW where there is much less biodiversity, where wind farms could be constructed.

The increased traffic in the proposed development area and surrounds during the preconstruction and construction time frames would impact the biodiversity and also alter the aesthetic and peaceful ambiance of the proposed site and neighbouring districts / regions.

The increased construction traffic would also reduce the number of visitors to the region, not wanting to contend with the extra volume of worksite vehicles on the roads.

If the proposal were to proceed, the natural landscape and views would be forever changed to a vista of human impact.

I have also been made aware that the area flagged for the wind farm construction is outside of a Renewable Energy Zone. If this proposed wind farm were to proceed, it sets a precedent for future non-REZs to have developments proposed and/or built within those non-REZ boundaries.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my submission.

I hope the decision is made to leave this beautiful environment in its natural state.