From: [redacted]
To: IPCN Enquiries Mailbox
Subject: Hills of gold Submission
Date: Monday, 12 February 2024 11:06:06 AM
Attachments: windfarm objection [redacted].docx

To Whom it may concern

I have attached my submission as advised via phone call today as I did not get an acknowledgement via email.

Just to let you know I am against the wind farm and I have attached my submission.

Thank you

Kind Regards

[redacted]

I am AGAINST this project!

Let me reiterate that my FAMILY, have not be consulted over this project and we will be affected. They have not consulted us and have tried to list our land as a green reserve. WITHOUT CONSULTATION! So, they have lied and not given any proper evidence that they have researched this properly. A desktop analyses does not give you a proper scope of the land and the environment. I have written a list of concerns about this project.

Water use, no one can or have told us where the water will be coming from. So, will they take the precious water and pollute it? Will they take it and then cause drought to the area?

Last update in January 2022, there isn't specific information available about a "Hills of Gold Windfarm Project" and its water sourcing plans. However, in general, the water required for construction activities in projects like wind farms is typically sourced from local water utilities or private water suppliers. So, who will be the private water suppliers? Who are the local water utilities? Most people up in Hanging Rock use tank water. SO, no utilities are used. If people do use the water that are in the creeks or rivers it is for personal use only. As in drinking and cleaning not building these monstrosities. So, we still have not been informed where the water will be coming from. Will it be stolen like neighbours have done in the past? The water that flows through these mountains are precious and vital to the surrounding areas. Good luck to Tamworth and the surrounding areas that have drought issues. If this goes forward since no proper assessment has been done this WILL occur.

Depletion of Local Water Sources: Drawing water from local sources without proper management can deplete groundwater reserves, rivers, streams, and other water bodies. This can negatively impact ecosystems that rely on these water sources and reduce water availability for other uses such as agriculture, industry, and drinking water supplies.

Habitat Destruction: Extracting water from local ecosystems can disrupt aquatic habitats and ecosystems, particularly if the water source is a sensitive ecosystem such as wetlands or a critical habitat for endangered species. Changes in water levels and flow patterns can affect aquatic plants, fish, and other wildlife that depend on these habitats for survival.

Water Quality Degradation: The extraction of water for construction purposes can lead to water quality degradation if not managed properly. Sediment runoff, spills of construction materials or chemicals, and other pollutants associated with construction activities can contaminate nearby water bodies, affecting water quality and aquatic life.

Impact on Agriculture: Drawing water from local sources for construction activities can compete with agricultural water needs, especially in areas where agriculture is a significant economic activity. Reduced water availability for irrigation can affect crop yields and agricultural productivity, impacting local livelihoods and food security.

Community Concerns: Local communities may be concerned about the impact of water extraction on their access to clean water for drinking, sanitation, and other essential needs. Competition for water resources between construction activities and local communities can lead to conflicts and tensions.

Long-term Sustainability: Unsustainable water extraction practices during the construction phase can have long-term implications for the sustainability of the project and the surrounding area. It's essential to consider the long-term water needs of both the project and the local ecosystem to ensure sustainable water management practices are implemented.

Unfortunately, the soil in the surrounding area has not been tested properly. Since it has not been properly these problems are likely to occur.

Foundation Stability: Wind turbines require sturdy foundations to support their weight and withstand the forces generated by wind. Poor soil conditions, such as soft or unstable soils, can compromise the stability of the foundation. This may necessitate additional foundation design considerations or soil stabilisation measures to ensure the turbine's structural integrity.

Load-Bearing Capacity: The load-bearing capacity of the soil is crucial for supporting the weight of the turbine and resisting lateral forces, such as wind and dynamic loads. Soil with low bearing capacity may require special foundation designs, such as deep foundations or ground improvement techniques, to distribute loads effectively and prevent settlement or foundation failure.

Soil Erosion: Wind turbines are often installed in open and exposed locations where soil erosion can occur, particularly on sloping terrain or in areas with high rainfall or runoff. Soil erosion can undermine the stability of turbine foundations and access roads, leading to safety hazards and increased maintenance costs. Erosion control measures, such as vegetation management, erosion barriers, and drainage systems, may be necessary to mitigate these risks.

Construction Access: Poor soil conditions can make construction access more challenging, especially in remote or geographically challenging locations. Soft or unstable soils may limit the types of equipment that can be used for construction and transportation, increase construction costs, and prolong construction timelines.

Environmental Impact: Soil disturbance during construction can have environmental impacts, such as habitat disruption, soil compaction, and sediment runoff. Developers must implement erosion control and land reclamation measures to minimize these impacts and restore disturbed areas after construction.

Once again, the above has not been properly researched.

If a wind farm is built in a high lightning strike area, there are several potential outcomes and considerations:

Increased Risk of Lightning Strikes: Wind turbines are tall structures that can attract lightning strikes, particularly in areas with frequent lightning activity. Installing wind turbines in high lightning strike areas increases the likelihood of lightning strikes hitting the turbines or nearby infrastructure.

Potential Damage to Turbines: A direct lightning strike to a wind turbine can cause damage to various components, including the blades, nacelle, electrical systems, and control mechanisms. Lightning strikes may result in downtime for affected turbines, repair costs, and potential safety hazards for maintenance personnel.

Fire Risk: Lightning strikes can also pose a fire risk to wind turbines and surrounding vegetation. The high temperatures generated by a lightning strike can ignite flammable materials, leading to fires that may spread to other turbines or nearby structures.

Fire destroys wind turbine at Pacific Blue's Clements Gap

In South Australia a windfarm caused a fire. So, you think it is safe to have these in a heavily wooded area? When we will not be able to use Helicopters for water dropping.

Electrical Damage: Lightning strikes can induce electrical surges and transients in wind turbine systems, potentially damaging sensitive electronic components and control systems. Surge protection devices and grounding systems are typically installed to mitigate the risk of electrical damage from lightning strikes.

Safety Concerns: Lightning strikes pose safety risks to personnel working on or near wind turbines, especially during thunderstorms. Wind farm operators implement safety protocols and procedures to minimize the risk of injury from lightning strikes, such as suspending operations during severe weather events and providing lightning detection and warning systems.

Operational Impacts: Wind turbines may need to be temporarily shut down or taken offline for inspection and repairs following a lightning strike. This can result in decreased energy production and revenue losses for wind farm operators.

I don't see ENGIE putting in more money to make sure any of this occurs.

My other concern with this project is the ability to be to seek medical care. If the road is blocked and we are not given a walkie talkie. So, we have to wait for a truck or for the road to be passable? So, do we then sue or be compensated if one of our loved ones are seriously injured, killed or disabled due to ENGIE and all those involved?

So how will the turbines be carried up into the range? Will they be cutting into the range to make the road flat and passable? There are serpentine roads, how can such a large structure be safe to take up those hills? No one wants to give their land to the project other than instigator of this mess. No one knows yet which road they want to take. None of them are catered to large, oversized trucks.

My concerns are below.

Weight and Size: Wind turbines are massive structures, with components such as turbine blades, tower sections, and nacelles weighing several tons each. Transporting such heavy and oversized components up steep inclines would require specialized heavy-duty trucks and equipment, as well as significant engineering considerations to ensure stability and safety.

Road Grade Limitations: Most standard trucks and transport vehicles are not designed to navigate steep inclines, especially those approaching 45-degree angles. Roads with such steep grades typically have weight and size restrictions, and transporting oversized loads on such roads may not be permitted due to safety concerns.

Turning Radius: Serpentine roads, with their tight curves and switchbacks, pose additional challenges for transporting oversized loads like wind turbine components. Manoeuvring large trucks around sharp turns on steep inclines would be extremely difficult and could pose risks to both the vehicle and surrounding infrastructure.

Risk of Accidents: Attempting to transport wind turbine components up serpentine roads with steep angles would present significant safety risks for drivers, pedestrians, and other road users. The potential for accidents, vehicle breakdowns, or damage to the cargo or roadway would be high.

Instead, wind turbine components are typically transported over relatively flat and straight roads, often using specialized vehicles and equipment such as heavy-duty trailers, hydraulic trailers, or modular transporters. These vehicles are designed to distribute the weight of the load evenly and navigate challenging terrain while minimizing risks to safety and infrastructure.

So why in the hills?

For wind farms located in remote or mountainous areas with limited road access, developers may need to invest in infrastructure improvements or construction of

access roads specifically designed to accommodate the transportation of wind turbine components. These roads would be engineered to meet appropriate standards for grade, width, turning radius, and load-bearing capacity to facilitate the safe and efficient delivery of wind turbine components to the installation site.

I don’t think they have the money to pay for all the upgrades that are needed on the roads to make them safe.

One thing that I do find that is unusual is that you can’t even google review this company. Such large company and no one can comment on how they have acted on this project? So, we cant complain about not being consulted and it cant be on public record.