



Independent Planning Commission  
[submissions@ipcn.nsw.gov.au](mailto:submissions@ipcn.nsw.gov.au)

July 15th, 2024

Dear Commissioners,

I write as a partner in Nundle and online retailer Odgers and McClelland Exchange Stores.

I have previously stated that the construction impacts of Hills of Gold Wind Farm will cause us to close our bricks and mortar store. The forecast 282 daily light and heavy vehicle movements approaching and through Nundle village for 6-14 months, and up to six daily vehicle movements requiring escort for nine months will negatively impact tourism numbers and turnover to the point where our retail store will be unviable.

This will have negative impacts for other Nundle retail and hospitality businesses and Tamworth regional tourism.

The new information provided by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure is a disappointing prioritisation of Corporate Gain after more than six years of demonstrated poor site selection and poor community engagement, leaving important issues unaddressed.

Community members entered engagement with the DPHI in good faith and have participated in reviews, forums and meetings in Sydney, Nundle, Tamworth and across the New England.

This has come at an opportunity cost. Time spent learning about the State Significant Development assessment process and National Electricity Market, and engaging in DPHI/EnCo/Engie consultation was previously spent marketing our business, volunteering to co-operatively market Nundle, and helping to organise community events like Nundle Go For Gold Festival.

Now the DPHI is using both the 2016 and 2023 Wind Energy Guidelines to reinstate turbines. I request that the Independent Planning Commission insist that the DPHI use one set of guidelines consistently across the proposed project.

Public Benefit is the reason used to reinstate 15 turbines that were previously removed to reduce visual, noise and environmental impacts.

Those visual, noise and environmental impacts remain, however the neighbouring landowners and community are sacrificed for a Public Benefit that may not even eventuate. There are still too many factors that could blow out project costs, reduce project income and detract investment.

Please do not reward incomplete project information, poor site selection, and poor community consultation with project approval.

Yours faithfully,  
Megan Trousdale  
Partner  
Odgers and McClelland Exchange Stores  
Established 1891  
[REDACTED], Nundle, NSW