

Proposed Hanging Rock Nundle Wind Farm

Public Meeting 5th March 2018, hosted by Nundle Business Tourism and Marketing Group Inc (NBTMG Inc). 110 people attended, co-chaired by Nick Bradford/John Krsulja.

The meeting was called after initial meetings with proponent Wind Energy Partners representatives, Inclusive Engagement's John and Christine Willcox with five community members on Wednesday, February 7 and seven community members and Someva Pty Limited's Jamie Chivers on Wednesday, February 14. NBTMG Inc members voted unanimously on Monday, February 26th to host a public meeting to share details about the project openly with the community. It couldn't wait until the proponent's public meetings at Nundle and Hanging Rock on March 22 & 23.

Speakers

Robert Schofield, Shawn Stone, Michael Chamberlain, Mark Eather, John Sylvester, Stephen Gadd, Megan Trousdale, Fabian Norrie, Ian Worley, Bruce Moore, Brian Tomalin, Jim Robinson.

What we know

Location

- The proponent Wind Energy Partners is looking to install an industrial wind farm with up to 98 turbines from Morrison's Gap Rd, Hanging Rock to Head of Peel, Crawney.
- Wind Energy Partners' goal is to involve up to five landholders, the principal landowner being Jim Robinson.
- Some landholders within 3.4km of proposed turbines have been consulted individually.
- A supply power line will be required to transfer energy from the project area to transmission lines that cross Lindsay's Gap Rd, closer to the New England Highway.
- Wind Energy Partners is looking at three potential routes for power lines, north of The DAG.

Development Phase

- Assessment stations have been in place for 2-3 years, the viability was assessed as "C class", where "A" is best. Other areas of better wind quality are around Goulburn to Canberra, and Glen Innes for example.
- This is a State Significant Development because of its value, more than \$30million. Cost is estimated between \$600-\$800 million, depending if solar energy is generated closer to the New England Highway.
- Wind Energy Partners aims to apply for Standard Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARS) end of March. It will then have parameters to complete its Development Application and Environmental Impact Statement, which could take 12 months.
- Progress may be monitored on the NSW Dept of Planning website, Major Project Register <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/page/>
- Once the DA/EIS is lodged it will be exhibited for 30 days. State Significant Developments are usually assessed by the Planning

Minister. During this period if more than 25 objections are received it will be reviewed to an independent Planning Assessment Commission.

- <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Assess-and-Regulate/Development-Assessment/Systems/State-Significant-Development>
- <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Assess-and-Regulate/Development-Assessment/Systems/State-Significant-Infrastructure>
- Wind Energy Partners construction timeline is 2020 and it has been estimated it would require up to 270 people during 2 years, accommodated at Nundle/Tamworth.
- Ongoing employment is estimated to be up to 34 people for the 30-year life of the project.

Cost and size

- Payback is estimated at 8-12 years, potentially making an annual profit of \$80-\$100 million per year for the project owner/s.
- Estimated capacity is 300MW. Average output of wind energy is 30%.
- Turbines will be up to 220m from ground level to blade tip, equivalent to a 66-storey building.

Compensation

- Turbines generally attract compensation of \$10,000-\$15,000 per turbine per year. Turbines could reward compensation of \$700,000 to \$1 million per year to a small number of landholders.
- Wind Energy Partners has suggested establishing an annual community enhancement/compensation fund.

Compiled by Community

Advantages

\$600-\$800 million project

Construction over 2 years

Employment up to 30 years

Potential increased population for Nundle

Ongoing community fund – better services and more active environments

Income to investor, proponent, landholders

Improved roads in top country – access to national park?

Alternative to coal

Potential wind turbine tourism

Improving technology

Positive effect on greenhouse gas emissions, less demand on coal fired power stations

Disadvantages

Wherever wind development is planned, social upheaval follows

Damage to existing economic activity and jobs in tourism

Loss of population and businesses if proposed project goes ahead

Losing point of difference as nature and heritage destination

Fragile environment - Located in three ranges, three heads of rivers (Peel, Barnard, Isis/Hunter)

Loss of habitat and fragmented eco-systems

Bird and bat strikes, pressure on threatened species

Impact of hilltop erosion
Effect of airflow on immediate region
Road disruption during 2-year construction period – less motorcyclists, caravaners
Air traffic restrictions for agricultural spraying and bushfire control
Devaluation of properties in view shed
Air safety lighting on top of turbines disrupting night sky
Power lines and substation required to transfer power to transmission lines
Export power from Nundle, still blackouts, still paying same electricity rates
Wind power inefficiencies
Technology may be outdated in 5-10 years
Are jobs guaranteed in Nundle?
Potential white elephant with renewable technology improving
Ownership and income from project potentially going offshore
Construction and ongoing jobs not necessarily based in Nundle
Inconsistent information on potential community fund
Disproportionate share of profits from the project to the community
Blade throw
Bushfire hazard
Lack of control re. decommissioning of towers. Any guarantee?
Community health concerns, electromagnetic fields, noise, shadow flicker