

Hills of Gold Wind Farm

TOURISM FACT SHEET

January 2022

Overview

The Nundle region is already a popular tourist destination with its rich mining heritage and natural beauty, attracting visitors from across the state and nation-wide. ENGIE's plan and purpose for the proposed Hills of Gold Wind Farm is to co-exist and complement the region's existing heritage and natural elements, in turn contributing to an increased tourism economy.

In a business survey undertaken in 2021, 67% of existing local businesses supported the development of the wind farm. However, we understand there are tourism operators with concerns, a number of which were formally raised in the public submission period. In response, the following changes have been made to the proposed project:

- Incorporation of a temporary car park for construction workers in Nundle to access local goods and services without adding to local traffic.
- Upgrades to local bridges and roads and added a layby for traffic to overtake wind turbine components.
- Installation of a pedestrian crossing in Nundle to improve safety and amenity.

To further understand the potential impacts to local tourism, ENGIE engaged the University of Newcastle to conduct a desktop study on the industry impacts and opportunities for wind farm tourism. Overall, the report concluded the presence of wind farms is more likely to increase tourism rather than negatively impact the local industry. A summary of the key highlights is provided on this factsheet, and the full report is available on ENGIE's Hills of Gold Wind Farm website.

ENGIE looks forward to working with local and regional tourism businesses as we progress through the project.

Report Highlights

- 'Studies of stakeholder attitudes toward wind farms in rural areas often cite a 'fear' of negative tourism impacts'.
- 'There is very little academic evidence that the presence of wind farms has a significant negative economic impact on the tourism industry in rural localities'.
- 'Tourists are not deterred by the presence of wind turbines and wind farms, and in fact, are often drawn to them as points of interest'.



- 'There is evidence within the academic literature that renewable energy projects, including wind farms, can be actively incorporated into the rural tourism industry'.
- 'Adventure tourism, eco-tourism and educational tourism incorporating wind farm infrastructure are emerging globally as key opportunities for rural localities'.

Dr Barrie Shannon, School of Humanities and Social Science, University of Newcastle

The full report can be found on ENGIE's Hills of Gold Wind Farm website.