

RE: WINTERBOURNE WIND FARM | APPLICATION NO. SSD-10471

We, as beneficiaries of the above Superannuation Fund, are making a submission **in support** of the Winterbourne Wind Farm project.

RE: WINTERBOURNE WIND FARM | APPLICATION NO. SSD-10471

We, as beneficiaries of the above Superannuation Fund, are making a submission **in support** of the Winterbourne Wind Farm project.

1. We understand that Australia needs to use the best options available to maintain a reliable electricity supply. Coal fired power stations are closing down ahead of schedule and AGL, Origin Energy and Alinta Energy have all indicated that it is no longer profitable to keep operating their old and outdated power plants. Wind, Solar and pumped hydro are currently the only renewable energy systems available in Australia that are financially competitive and cheaper to establish than new coal-fired power plants and they need to be established where the wind and sun resources exist with reasonable access to the electricity grid.
2. By participating in the Winterbourne Wind Farm project, we are helping NSW achieve its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030.
3. The project will assist us with income in our retirement and help our 2 sons, who are also farmers, level out the volatile income that is a result of severe droughts and commodity downturns.
4. Walcha Wind Pty Ltd and the 10 founding directors are very proud of the fact that they negotiated a very generous and innovative Community Benefit Fund for the Walcha community as part of the project.
5. We support new projects to be constructed in regional areas in order to stimulate small communities, bring much needed income to these areas and provide resilience and sustainability to these LGAs. Local Councils should embrace the opportunities that these projects will provide for the Council, for local businesses, for tourism and for local jobs. We also support the project to help arrest Walcha's population decline.
6. The Walcha community should share with 3 other LGAs the hosting of renewable energy projects as part of the New England Renewable Energy Zone to supply the 8000MW of dispatchable energy required.

There is no doubt that there will be many challenges during the period of construction including:

- Traffic interruptions
- Code of Conduct compliance
- Interruptions to managing livestock.

The conditions of consent by the Department of Planning need to ensure that these interruptions are minimised.

Other challenges include:

- Aviation lights in close proximity to numerous residences
- Lack of decommissioning bond which could leave landholders financially vulnerable at the end of the project.

We would like to recommend that the Department of Planning ensures, as part of the development consent, that aviation lights are shielded from line of site to prevent any severe disturbance to residences. We would also recommend that the DPIE requires, as part of the development consent, the Operator of the Winterbourne Wind Farm creates a sinking fund to cover the cost of decommissioning.