

28/12/22 received

Name: John Wall
Address: 710 Brackendale Rd
Walcha NSW 2354

Date: 21/12/2022

Director – Energy Assessments, Development Assessment
Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Reference: Winterbourne Wind Farm SSD - 10471

I OBJECT to the Winterbourne Wind Farm development.

- I declare that I have not made any reportable political donations in the previous two years
- I acknowledge and accept the Department's disclaimer and declaration.

I object to the Winterbourne Wind Project for the following reasons.

I am concerned about the birdlife. I am a keen amateur bird watcher. I have been doing it for the last 20 years. I have been recording on e-bird for the past 3 years. I have recorded 135 species in the Walcha district in the last 3 years. The Walcha district is very diverse. I think there are around 220 species that have been recorded in the Walcha district. I have spent time birdwatching in the Winterbourne district.

There are known to be glossy black cockatoos on Rowleys Creek along the watercourses where the Casuarina trees are. There are casuarinas (she-oaks) along many of the waterways in the area. They are present in the Winterbourne area when the casuarina nuts are available.

The white-throated needletails are highly nomadic and chase insects. They are aerial and very rarely land. Often, you just hear their wings and you look up and the flock is there. They fly at high levels and are very fast, travelling in large flocks, following insects so would be at high risk of collision with the turbines. I have seen them in our local area a number of times. The wedge-tailed eagles use the National Park as a breeding ground. There are many of them in the area of the project. The numbers are very high because of the national park. These are obviously at risk of collision with the turbines as well.

Ibises and pelicans will also fly at high elevations if they are on migration and are present on the project site.

When you look on e-bird, some of the hotspots are out in this region and this is going to affect birdwatchers. People probably won't go to these places if they are going to see and hear turbines. To get to Budds Mare and Riverside, you will have to travel through the wind farm. This is a place many people visit to birdwatch.

There will be a significant number of trees that will be knocked down. The ridges where the turbines and roads are going to be are where there is remnant vegetation where farmers have left trees and habitat. The roads are going to have to be large and very high standard to get the cranes on site. These are going to be along the ridgelines.

All the turbines have to be linked together. This will involve a trench which will lead to further clearing of trees. Anything in the way will be levelled. This will lead to a loss of our valuable trees and habitat for our birds and animals.

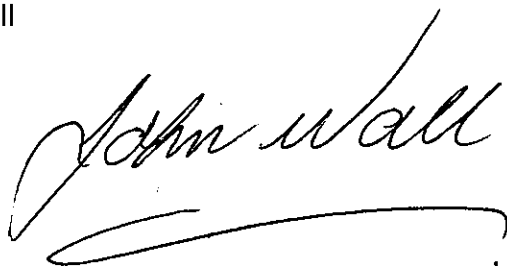
With regard to my business, I have steel and resources delivery at least once a week from Tamworth. There are no alternative routes. The traffic and the damage to the roads is going to cause major delays which will impact my business. I try to commit to a timeframe and do not like being late for jobs. This will cause me to get behind with the jobs I am doing.

I struggle to find anything good about this project. There will be some business created while the project being created but apart from that, there is no benefit to the town. There are many problems with the project apart from the things I have mentioned above. Examples of this are the lack of ability to fight fires with air support in the national park, the degradation to all the roads, the volume of water that is required – where will this water come from? Where will all the gravel come from? The amount of traffic, including light and heavy vehicles is a concern on our local and wider road network.

This project is too big and in the wrong location. Walcha is the New England pastureland but it is going to become the New England Industrial centre.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

John Wall

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'John Wall'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.