

I was born in Walcha in 1946 and grew up on my parent's farm in the Winterbourne area.

2023 is my 60<sup>th</sup> year as a Winterbourne farmer and a member of the Moona- Winterbourne Bush Fire Brigade. (30 years as a senior fire captain). Over these years I have witnessed a dramatic change in our climate. The intensity of rising temperatures, longer periods of drought and severe wild fires has increased dramatically. The whole environment – grasses, shrubs, trees, insects and animals are being severely impacted by all these events.

I am one of the original group of farmers who have been promoting the development of the Winterbourne Wind Farm for over 18 years. Our intention has always been to promote the development of renewable energy supported by Walcha Energy's vision.

As a group we helped write farmer, community and developer friendly agreements. The Winterbourne landowners included a Code of Conduct as part of their lease agreement with the developer. The Code of Conduct clarifies for all involved a user friendly set of regulations – a document covering issues like the environment, livestock, access, vegetation, underground cables, transmission lines and fire and hazard management.

The success of such a development will be of benefit in the following ways:

NSW carbon emissions will be reduced by approximately 3% by the Winterbourne Wind Farm

Low cost wind energy is necessary to replace ageing fossil fuel generation and to reduce Australia's high per capita emissions.

The Winterbourne Wind Farm will help to deliver local and regional benefits to NSW.

The Walcha Council and community has a limited and declining future without a clean energy development as proposed.

Winterbourne is a vital part of the Walcha Energy bigger vision of solar farms, wind farms and hopefully batteries and pumped hydro in the New England Renewable Energy Zone.

Financial benefits to the Walcha community over the life of the project will be substantial.

These benefits will help this community to prosper well into the future

I urge you as Director of Energy Assessments to favourably consider the development of the Winterbourne Wind Farm. This project is a significant part of the NSW target to reduce emissions.

We must play our part in saving the environment, our farms and ensuring a future for our families and the wider community.

Yours faithfully



Peter R. Blomfield



NSW 2354