

My name is Sam Lisle. I am a 40-year-old grazier. I was born in Walcha, and I am married with four wonderful children. I was always determined to live on the land. I love it. My parents continually encouraged me to get an education and to see the world, which I did for a few years before deciding to make Walcha my home permanently.

Walcha has always been amazing community, but I am very concerned for its future survival. The Winterbourne wind project has already seriously changed the dynamics of the Walcha community, with divisions, confronting behaviour and verbal abuse. This is not the Walcha I know, and this is not the Walcha I want my family to be involved in. I already know of several couples with young families who are thinking of leaving the area if the Winterbourne Wind Project goes ahead.

The EIS does not adequately address the numerous problems that will arise from the construction and decommissioning of the Winterbourne Wind Project. (I will not call it a 'farm' because it is basically a large area of industrial blocks).

The EIS does not adequately address the following problems: -

- 1) Increased traffic volume of large, oversized vehicles.
- 2) Traffic management during construction when widening roads
- 3) Waste management during construction and decommissioning
- 4) Cost of waste management
- 5) Where are the transmission lines being constructed?
- 6) Compensation to Walcha council for increased costs and pressure on their services
- 7) Access to suitable gravel
- 8) Water supply for dust suppression and construction purposes
- 9) Deterioration of roads and ongoing management of the road infrastructure
- 10) Cost of vehicle maintenance due to deterioration of roads
- 11) Health concerns from Bisphenol A
- 12) Health concerns from EMR from transmission lines
- 13) Ambulance travel in emergency situations and patient transfer guidelines
- 14) Impact on domesticated animals, agricultural animals and wildlife
- 15) Overloading of the local medical practice and health system
- 16) Flight concerns –ie- medical retrieval issues, spreading of superphosphate, aerial spraying
- 17) Aerial fire fighting
- 18) Cost of time delays to business caused by increased traffic and probable road closures
- 19) Increased cost of goods caused by time delays
- 20) Dust suppression in the Walcha township and surrounds
- 21) Safety of school children in Walcha and along the construction/bus routes.
- 22) Safety of preschool children as all traffic goes past the preschool
- 23) Access to our land during construction of transmission lines
- 24) Decrease in tourism due to altered visual aspects following construction of wind turbines
- 25) Cost of decommissioning- who is responsible?
- 26) Rehabilitation of the land following decommissioning
- 27) Weed management in areas of construction and the effect on neighbouring properties
- 28) Pedestrian safety in and around local showground and bus stop areas

With so many areas of concern (outlined above) which have not been adequately addressed by the EIS, it is clear, that the Winterbourne Wind project should not go ahead in Walcha. There are many other alternative avenues of renewable energy which the government should be considering.

Walcha's logo is 'Where the wild rivers run' and it should remain so. It must not be 'where the wind turbines are'. So, I say no the wind turbines in our area.

Sam Lisle

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Lisle', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.