

My wife and I own and operate two sheep studs just on the Eastern side of Walcha. They are the 'Old Woombi Poll Dorset Stud' and the 'Chain-of-Ponds Border Leicester Stud'. There are many areas of concern that I have if the Winterbourne Wind farm goes ahead.

Transport of goods from Tamworth to Walcha, and getting stock from Walcha to Tamworth on sale days is going to be a serious problem for sheep health, due to delays caused by the increase in heavy traffic volume. The EIS does not address this issue. Nor does the EIS address the issue of increase in costs in time and fuel caused by these delays. Who will be accountable if livestock trucks do not get to Tamworth on time for sale, and then, have to be transported back to Walcha.

The EIS does not address the issue of the delays to traffic, that will be caused by road works when the roads are widened. The EIS does not adequately address the issue of where the gravel for these roads will come from, or where the water will come from for dust suppression during construction. The EIS states that it has 4 options for the water supply of dust suppression. On closer examination of the EIS, none of these water sources will have the capacity to supply the amount of water that will be required. In this regard, the EIS is misleading, and does not adequately address the water issue.

Dealing with the last drought has made every Walcha resident very aware of the value of water. Walcha Council has made it very clear that water for the wind project, will not be sourced from council reservoirs. Yet the EIS states that one of their options for water supply is from Walcha's reserves and from a local private dam, if it has government approval. The EIS is wrongly assuming that there will be adequate water supply for dust suppression.

The EIS also states that water can be sourced from bores, which can be put down to supplement water supply but what will this do to the already fragile water table. As water is such a valuable resource, approval for new bores is not guaranteed.

Our business relies heavily on the quick transport of goods (plant and equipment and veterinary products) from Tamworth to Walcha for the successful operation of the sheep studs. Animal health is of utmost importance and the intervention in the event of a worm infestation, must be dealt with quickly for the growth and development of the stud rams. I am concerned that delays in getting goods (especially veterinary products) to Walcha will be detrimental to the overall health of the stud sheep. A delay of 24 hours in getting sheep drenched can be hugely significant, and can mean life or death for many sheep.

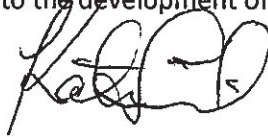
The clients who come and buy sheep from the studs travel large distances to attend the sales- from southern Queensland in the north to Victoria and South Australia and Kangaroo Island. The health and safety of my sheep when transporting sold stock across the state is of paramount importance. The least amount of time they are being transported is essential. Delays of several hours, can have a significant effect on their health. The EIS does not state or give any guideline as to when and how long the delays might be when the construction starts for the widening of roads and during the times of increased heavy traffic.

Traffic concerns, costs caused by delays (both in time and increased petrol costs), deterioration in road conditions and costs of increased vehicle maintenance and division within the community are just a few of the major concerns our business has, in the development of the Winterbourne Wind project.

Businesses in and around Walcha will be expected to absorb the negative aspects and costs caused by the development of the Winterbourne Wind project. This is not a viable option for our business or any other local business, and we should not be expected to carry this burden.

Our business enterprise strongly objects to the development of any Wind project in the Walcha area.

SD & K Lisle

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SD & K Lisle', written over the printed name.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K Lisle', written over the printed name.