
Letter of support for the Winterbourne Wind Farm (proposal ID SSD-10471).

As a 3rd generation Farmer in the Walcha district I am very pleased to see the investment in a large scale renewable energy project. It will hopefully be the start of more in the New England area and will have a positive effect on climate change which will also be a benefit to the next generation and others to follow. With our family farms hosting turbines and receiving a passive income from them, it will allow us to better manage and recover from drought and severe weather events.

The financial benefit as a farmer is great and it will also flow on to be very beneficial to local business, which will be a huge boost to the economy of the Walcha District. This benefit will also be boosted by the increased population that Walcha will gain during construction and once the project is operational with full time jobs. The Community Benefit Fund will be huge for Walcha as the \$750,000 a year that will be received for the life of the project will be invested into local associations, organisations, clubs and sporting facilities.

The Walcha Council will also benefit from this project as they will receive many infrastructure upgrades and the ability to earn extra income from providing equipment and materials during the construction period. It should also help to contribute to its ongoing resilience and sustainability to stay as an independent council and hopefully reduce the chance of Walcha being Amalgamated with a larger council. Amalgamation with a larger council is something that the whole of the Walcha community does not want to happen in the future ever.

As a host Landowner I would like to point out that the process of negotiations and communication with the developer has been very open and fair over many years. The developer has also done a great job with community consultation especially within the strict COVID restrictions. During this period there were 11 double page Project Updates published in the local Advocate with plenty of detail about where the project was up to each time. Once the COVID restrictions were lifted they also held two 2Day open days at the local Bowling club where everyone in the community was invited to come along and see where the project was up to and to ask any questions they may have had in relation to the project. The developer was also able to have a stall at the local show for the last 3 years running with lots of information about the project being available to everyone in the community.
