

Name: Richard Cook

Date: 25.11.22

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.

The reason for my position stated above is the following;

I did not hear of this windfarm development around me until quite recently, in the last year or so. The reason most certainly was that all the hosts, my immediate neighbours, had entered into legally binding agreements which prohibited them from discussing the project with non hosts and I believe even amongst themselves. The planning was done in complete secrecy by the developer without any discussions with the Walcha community as to their opinions or input.

As a grazier and conservationist, I am concerned about the change to biodiversity in our local area. I am particularly concerned about the impact to the native wedge - tailed eagle caused by the 119, 230m wind turbines and other birds and mammals such as bats. our resident koala population, kangaroos and small mammals. I'm also concerned that aerial spraying and fire fighting will not be available.

I object to the large amount of traffic that will disrupt our current farm activities. I believe that the developer has misinformed us in making a commitment to ensure current business practices of agriculturalists on agricultural land are not interrupted or indeed financially affected. It was negligent to say this, 558 extra traffic movements of a variety of vehicles including overweight, over length and over height per day cannot but interrupt severely, the whole community.

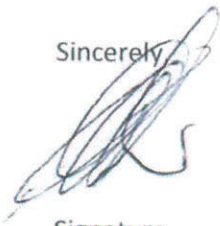
As a local grazier who will be surrounded by the winterbourne wind project my opinion is that the developer has demonstrated a complete lack of communication and consultation with me as a neighbour. It was indeed only when the EIS went on display that I learnt of the magnitude of change to my local and freehold landscape. The development is completely

inappropriate as demonstrated by not only my view point but that of the community of Walcha, whereby in a community survey it was demonstrated that the developer had failed to consult and communicate by 78.6% of the 523 respondents. The developer does not climb even the lowest rung of a Social Licence ladder to advance the proposal by despoiling our community with this gargantuan industrial complex. This is prime farming land.

Walcha Council is not flush with funds. The effect of a project such as the proposed one will impose on Council and the community of ratepayers the added burden of additional substantial road maintenance and services, meaning requests for additional funds to cover these added expenses. It will also be a drain on the resources in our area of ground water, gravel and sand. There will no doubt be other resources not mentioned, power/reticulated water and electricity etc.

Due to the lack of transparency and truthful factual dialogue from the developer Vestas, misrepresentation permeates where resources will come from and the traffic movements involved. I also object to their appropriateness as a developer of this project as it is causing mental strain and hardship on my family and my community. Vestas confidentiality agreements and lack of meaningful consultation have led to this state of mental pressure. The rights of the community not to have this development have been usurped by a few who stand to gain substantially in financial terms and who have invited this industrial complex into our traditional farming neighbourhood. What right have they to make this decision so far reaching that will change forever the rural views and aspect that the community and visitors come to see, on the majority communities behalf. They are a rump minority. A community which has not been consulted but presented with a fait accompli that will forever have to be lived with and which is now causing division and distrust. Rural people are being forced to be the cannon fodder of this destructive endeavour. They are bearing the load as they are a soft target, fewer of them. Those who do not move elsewhere away from the Walcha region because of neighbour divisions over what was forced upon them may not forget come next election time.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Smith', written over the word 'Sincerely'.

Signature