

## REASONS FOR SUPPORT

I declare that I am a landowner who stands to financially benefit from the Winterbourne Wind Farm project. I made many comments in my first submission which I will not repeat here but will concentrate on issues addressed in latest EIS and comments from anti renewable groups in the community.

1. There is much recent talk about how nuclear power plants will be the solution to Australia being able to meet its net zero targets by 2050. Whilst Australian Govt legislation currently bans the development of nuclear power in Australia, a change of government could see this legislation abandoned which could see a pathway for the development of nuclear power stations in Australia. Nuclear power could well be part of the energy mix in the future but the latest Gencost Report from the CSIRO and The Australian Energy Market Operator released in May 2024 found that nuclear power currently exceeds the cost of current wind and solar energy and that wind and solar still have the lowest cost range of any new build electricity generation technologies. As well, long lead times for development means that nuclear will not be able to make a significant contribution to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 given the fact that the total development time will be at least 15-20 years.

To back up this report, the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis released a report in Sept 2024 after analysing examples of international nuclear power construction projects and the report has concluded that if nuclear power plants were constructed in Australia, they would significantly increase power bills.

Given this information and the fact that the current coal fired power stations in Australia are beginning to shut down and are shutting down ahead of schedule, our only option to keep the lights on and create a reliable electricity supply for the next 20-25 years is to develop wind and solar farms.

2. I support the NSW State Government's aim to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050 and the renewable energy projects that are currently proposed in the Renewable Energy Zones.
3. The project has the support of the majority of the local community
4. The Winterbourne Wind Farm is in an ideal location and one of the best in NSW where it will have minimal visual impacts on neighbours and the rest of the community.
5. The Oxley Wild Rivers National Park and Wilderness areas were severely affected by the devastating 2019 drought and bushfires and those events have had a far greater impact on the biodiversity of these areas than any wind turbines will ever have so climate change events have had a massive impact on its biodiversity. We need to address these impacts with the best possible solutions rather than trying to denigrate a project by not even mentioning the impacts of 2019 or not even visiting the areas where the devastation occurred.
6. The Developer has engaged with all the host landowners in a meaningful and considered way and all the concerns have been discussed and dealt with over a long period of time. The Landowners were involved in the development of the Lease Agreements as well as the Code of Conduct. Anti wind farm groups came into being AFTER the Landowners had voluntarily signed their legally binding Lease Agreements with the Developer.

7. The Developer has identified very good gravel and water sources within the project area which will minimise traffic impacts through the local town
8. Access to fires around the perimeter of the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park will be improved with a new proposed network of roads within the wind farm.
9. The Community Benefit Fund for this project is one of the most generous CBFs for a wind farm in Australia. This fund will assist our community to create legacy projects that will benefit us, our children and generations to come.
10. All the initial concerns raised by the community and anti-wind groups as a result of the initial EIS have been addressed in the new EIS including changing the location of some turbines, transport issues, road issues, noise issues and environmental issues.
11. This project will have positive impacts on our local businesses and tourism and has the potential to create new job opportunities in Walcha.
12. The Landowners involved in this project involves approximately 40 families who have seen this development as an opportunity to diversify their income, provide funds for retirement, educate their families and assist with succession planning as well as contributing significant funds to the Walcha Community and attracting new businesses to the area.
13. The Developer has done everything in its power to minimise the negative impacts of this project but ALL IMPACTS CANNOT BE DELETED. It is part of the nature of new development. Some people will be more impacted than others with this project and those people are the Landowners and their neighbours, and they have mostly agreed to tolerate these impacts during the construction period as well as for the life of the development.
14. The original group of landowners (10 adjoining farmers) have worked on this project co-operatively over the last 20 years to try and see this project to fruition. They devised the original Lease Agreement and developed a Code of Conduct as well as proposed a very generous Community Benefit Fund for the community for a prospective Developer. The refined Lease Agreement, the Code of Conduct and the Community Benefit Fund have been used as a template for proposed wind farms all over Australia. To have 10 adjoining landowners working together co-operatively on a wind farm project is unique as is the location of the Winterbourne Wind Farm and this situation is likely never to be repeated.
15. As a small rural community that has an ideal wind resource for building a wind farm, we need to do our best to embrace solutions that are being offered to address the climate crisis which is resulting in severe weather events in order to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and the emissions of greenhouse gases.