

My family moved to the Walcha district in 1961 when I was 3 years old. I completed my schooling in Walcha and my whole life all residents were united in their love for our community. We universally recognize the unique beauty of our "pasture wonderland".

In recent days since the divisions surrounding the wind turbines has arisen the feeling between those with differing views has become a wedge. We are losing what it was to be a Walcha resident. I have friends who have been part of the initial process of the development with no word of their involvement being mentioned.

My family is in the process of transitioning our farming business to our children who share my love for Walcha. John and I had always planned to move closer to Walcha as part of the next stage of our lives. If this development goes ahead this is not an option for us and I am sure we are not alone in our prospective.

I am totally opposed to the development and am very disappointed in the process. There is evidence globally of the impact of such developments disrupting farm productivity and causing adverse health issues. I do not believe the short-term economic advantages to the few will outweigh the overall social impact on our community. I would also like to add that our family was approached with a proposal to construct turbines on our property. We unanimously rejected the proposal which would have provided significant short-term financial gains to us at an unspecified cost to our neighbours and the community in general. We believe the beauty and tranquility of the surrounding would be irreversibly impacted.