



Date 20/12/22

Director – Energy Assessments, Development Assessment  
Department of Planning and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
Parramatta NSW  
2124

Dear Director,

**RE: Winterbourne Wind Farm**

Farmers for Climate Action thanks the Department of Planning and Environment for the opportunity to provide a submission to the exhibition of Winterbourne Wind Farm.

Farmers for Climate Action is a movement of farmers, agricultural leaders and rural Australians working to pressure Australia to adopt strong climate policies by growing the number of farmers, farming communities and elected representatives championing ambitious action. We represent 7,500 farmers across Australia, and our supporter base includes over 35,000 Australians committed to climate action for agriculture.

We are supportive, in principle, of the proposed development. We acknowledge the need for a rapid and orderly shift away from fossil fuel energy sources to renewables. This is already happening and New South Wales is currently seeing record investment in renewable energies. Projects like this one will support Australia NSW and Australia to be powered by clean energy and we believe it is vital these projects continue apace.

At the same time, we would like to ensure that farmers and farming communities benefit from the proposed development. Historically, energy regulations, policies and programs have not sufficiently engaged nor accounted for farmers or regional communities. Existing large-scale renewable energy developments have often been delivered without adequate consultation or benefit sharing with the farmers and regional communities affected.

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We would like to see, with this project going ahead, world class consultation and engagement with the local community. There are so many benefits renewable energy projects bring to regional communities and an actively involved rural sector can see new diversity of income for farmers who host large-scale infrastructure, increasing resilience to seasonal variations. Energy generation facilities bring new jobs and throw an economic lifeline to regional towns, especially smaller towns that are seeing population decreases. Community funding must be provided from energy projects, and this makes a material contribution to the fabric of rural and regional towns.

We request that in considering this development the following two key principles be followed:

- The new mechanism for improved benefit sharing arrangements for transmission hosts and communities, including higher annual payments to hosts, payments to impacted neighbours, and funding for community benefit programs is applied in this case.
- That the development should have support available for farmers and communities with independent advice provided in the contract negotiation stage of the development.

If we act quickly, there are huge economic opportunities for farmers and regional Australians. Let's not miss the opportunity to create secure, resilient jobs and livelihoods for farmers and regional Australians.

Sincerely,

Campbell Klose  
Strategy Director of Farmers for Climate Action