

John Cross

211N Pakington St
Walcha NSW

Application Number SSD-10471

EPBC ID Number 2020/8734

Assessment Type State Significant Development

Development Type Electricity Generation - Wind

Local Government Areas Walcha, Uralla Shire

Objection to Winterbourne Wind Farm

I would like to lodge my objection to the Winterbourne Wind Farm development for the following reasons:

SITE SELECTION - PROXIMITY TO TOWN AND NATIONAL PARKS

I do not believe that the location of this project is appropriate. 230m turbines visual from 20km away, but the closest turbine is only 6km from the towns centre. They are too close. The fact that turbines surround the world heritage national park, destroying biodiversity and tourism is inappropriate.

IMPACT TO AVIATION ACTIVITIES

No fly zones around these turbines excludes recreational aviation activities around the beautiful gorge country, it is unsafe to fly near a turbine. The EIS doesn't even recognise in the social impact study that Walcha has an aerodrome. The bush fire risk is enormous. Aircraft are a very important tool used in the fighting of bushfires protecting assets.

IMPACT ON LOCAL ROADS

The 288 heavy vehicle movements a day is ridiculous. As a small business owner that relies on the route from Tamworth to Walcha daily, to claim that there is no significant impact on travel times in the EIS is false. I demand an independent inquiry. The curbs of our local roads are not made to support this amount of traffic. There is no provision from the developers to make good our roads, thus placing significant risk to local rate payers.

IMPACT ON TRANSPORT

Heavy vehicles, supporting established local industry will be greatly affected by the new traffic during construction of the Winterbourne wind farm. Why put at risk established industry for a new short term player. There is no provision from the developer to compensate increased travel time for trucks used in existing industry. Costs will go up and margins will be eroded to support an overseas developer that will come in and go out of this community.

GRAVEL AND WATER

Incorrect and misleading data within the EIS. No accurate provision or licensed source for either gravel or water for the construction period. 119 turbines and 113 km of new roads need a lot of water and gravel. I demand an accurate number of both from the developer and a firm source. I cannot decide when I don't know these facts accurately. Vestas must do better with the EIS.

SOCIAL LICENCE

Vestas have done a very poor job at consulting my community. They have refused to attend public meetings, preferring one on one conversations shrouded in secrecy. The community have been kept in the dark, with only a small percentage of rate payers, mostly with pecuniary interests supporting this project. I go to the show to socialise and look at cattle and produce, not to receive a Lego turbine and later read that this is community consultation.

Walcha is a tight community. I have owned a small business for over 40years, I was a councillor for 25years, and a grazier for 55 years. I have witnessed an overseas owned city centric developer come to town and erode its social fabric and capital. If they were fair dinkum, they would have communicated with the whole community. They are simply the wrong type of developer.

The community consultation process should start again, as too should the writing of the EIS document, it cannot be fluid at this point in time.