

I was a resident of Walcha for many years. I remain a regular visitor to town and a ratepayer to the Walcha Council.

I object to the proposed Winterbourne Wind and other similar projects.

This objection is based on the following:

While the areas proposed are somewhat isolated and probably not a visual issue, siting a major industrial installation in an historically rural area is completely out of context.

From reporting of the recent public meeting at the Walcha Bowling Club and the attendance of one hundred and fifty people, it was apparent to the presenters that the EIS was deficient in detail and possibly flawed. If so, the proposal should be rejected on this basis alone.

The installation could cause the destruction of native and migratory birds.

Towers are known to emit a droning noise. There seems to be no known impact this will have on native wildlife, stock and those who may live within their range. However, this cannot be beneficial at all.

The developer or any subsequent owner may not have the necessary finances to commit to the maintenance of the towers, nor the subsequent dismantling or disposal of the infrastructure when the equipment becomes obsolete.

If either the developer or subsequent owner becomes bankrupt then who pays for the consequence - the property owner, Council or other Governments?

The scale of implementation would mean a very significant cost in upgrading roads to cater for the transportation of cumbersome equipment

The proposed developments are in isolated areas. This presents its own problem - a rural area against a National Park. Some turbines have been known to spontaneously combust. Such a fire would be beyond the RFS to control. The damage to local properties and the National Park would be nigh on impossible to control. The response time to attend such a disaster would be lengthy. To contain a burning motor some 180-200 metres above the ground is beyond RFS capabilities. As wind towers are built in windy areas embers of any sort could easily be blown a great distance.

The alienation within the small Walcha community is already damaging. Vested property owners see financial gain to themselves. Many people probably see no significant benefit to the Walcha community, nor possibly any benefit in lower energy costs.

The tower turbines are a drain on current energy supplies producing equipment that in some cases cannot be recycled (turbine blades) and are destined to landfill.

Kind Regards,
Phil Hogan
c/o 112W Commercial Lane
Walcha 2354