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Intro: My personal ethos has developed from a life time interest in the physical world, especially in relation to Australia's unique environment.

- a belief in the equality of the community - such that
- we should do to others as we would have them do to us.

Geography

Walcha has a unique, rugged terrain along the Eastern Fall of the Great Dividing Range (especially the Mid-North Coast section). This brings with it a multitude of points which need addressing:

- Biodiversity - the impact on wild-life corridors to/from the National Parks affecting marsupials, birds - migratory and raptors.
- Long-term degradation of vegetation - the rugged hilly terrain will make visible scars from land-clearing, and road building.
Lack of ground-cover will bring increased erosion and run-off in to the coastal water sources (another impact on the Wilderness area!)
- Global warming - increasing intensity of rain, wind and lightning in storm events; the unpredictability of floods, droughts, bushfires - - -
All play a part in rural life especially in this area!
The Gorge country is renowned for difficult fire-fighting conditions and aviation is a major aid in this.
- Social Impacts to a small, sparsely populated community cannot be overemphasised.
Substantial financial long-term benefits to a few which are hugely offset by disadvantages to the majority:
 - day-to-day community activities;
 - travel to regional centres for medical appointments
 - safe school transport
 - tourism - a major income stream
- Structural Issues.
Developers should/must have long-term contractual responsibility - for regular assessment, maintenance and involvement as technology and knowledge improve.

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Choice of Lifestyle

Walcha is a scenic, agriculturally productive but remote rural community, with a history of extremely strong community values.

Many residents have chosen the caring, healthy town for these and other reasons. Not only for their "Tree Change" but since Covid in 2020....

- Political decisions (State and Federal) for the increasing urban and coastal energy needs are made without due appreciation of the pressures in a concentrated 'green energy' hub.

My conclusion from the initial ^{Walcha hub} proposals has been
"Spread the load"!

Look at options closer to the Greater Sydney area

• old mine sites

• the area west of Sydney

My conclusion for the Winterbourne Wind Farm
"Wrong place. Wrong size."

- Transmission lines to the grid will create further tree loss, biodiversity impacts.

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