

WINTERBOURNE WIND FARM EIS

(application SSD-10471, EPBC ID 2020/8734)

I support the construction of Winterbourne Wind Farm.

My reasoning is simple. Australia and more particularly NSW electricity supply needs to transition from burning fossil fuels to generate electricity to supply from renewable generators. The driver for this transition is set by the economics of running old, expensive, difficult to maintain coal generators when cheaper non-polluting renewable energy is available. Also, to meet the timeline for Federal and NSW Government for emissions reduction objectives, renewables must supply 82% of electricity generated in 2030. NSW currently generates about 32% of electricity from renewables and must double the installation rate if the emissions reduction target of 82% by 2030 is to be met.

The NSW Government has recognised the need to facilitate the energy transition by producing a framework for developers, the Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap. A key feature of the EIR is the creation of Renewable Energy Zones with coordinated build of shared infrastructure, particularly transmission. 5 REZs have been defined with the most important in terms of scale and location is the New England REZ with an anticipated 8 GW of RE and proximity to NSW – QLD interconnector, Hunter nascent clean industry and Sydney transmission lines. Within the New England REZ, Winterbourne Wind Farm is one of the largest, well thought through, trail-blazing projects that must rapidly progress to construction for the Government and societal needs for secure low-cost energy to have any chance of success.

The project developers have spent many years gaining the trust of landholders to join with them and share the benefits of building the Winterbourne Wind Farm. The broader community also benefits directly through profit sharing and 16 new full time jobs, to inject a significant sustainable economic boost to the region.

I have made no political donations in the last 2 years.

I acknowledge and accept the Department of Planning and Environment's disclaimer and declaration.