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- 21 x 21 Angus and Angus, Angus droughtmaster Senopol Cows 2022 drop calf at foot by Pharo Bulls 4-12 weeks

For further information
Nick Rogers 0429 382 108

Josie strikes silver at National Hockey Championships

St Patrick's Primary student Josie returned home with a silver medal around her neck last week after delivering a great performance for New South Wales at the Under 12 Girls National Hockey Championships in Newcastle.

The week-long national tournament brought together Australia's top young talent, and Josie stood tall among them as NSW fought their way to a second-place overall finish.

The campaign kicked off with a tough opening match against Queensland. In a tightly contested battle, NSW narrowly fell 1–0 to the Queenslanders, who eventually went on to claim the overall national title. Refusing to let the opening loss dampen their spirits, the NSW squad bounced back that very afternoon, securing a dominant 5–0 victory over the ACT.

On Tuesday, NSW kept the momentum rolling with another convincing 5–0 triumph, this time against Tasmania. It was a career-highlight performance for Josie, who was named Player of the Match after netting two crucial goals for her side.

Following a midweek rest, the NSW offensive attack proved unstoppable. The team recorded a third consecutive 5–0 win over South Australia before battling through a tense afternoon thriller against Western Australia to claim a hard-fought 3–2 victory.

On the final day of competition, NSW faced Victoria in a high-stakes clash to determine the final standings. Josie delivered once again under pressure, striking the back of the net for a goal in a thrilling 2–1 win.

The victory cemented NSW as the national runners-up, capping off a remarkable week of high-level hockey, outstanding teamwork, and exceptional individual sportsmanship from Josie.

The entire school and local community extend their warmest congratulations to Josie on her outstanding national achievement!



Josie with her silver medal at the end of the National Hockey championships

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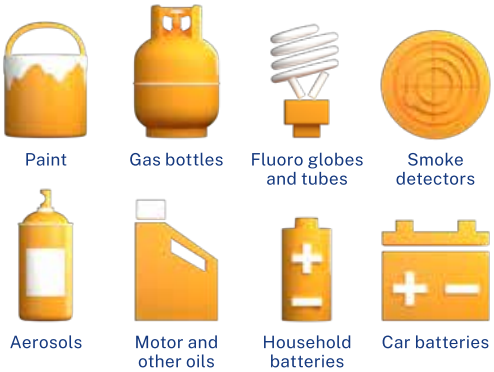
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around the traps

By SIMON NEWTON

Our season continues to defy the El Nino forecast and goes from good to better with yet another fall of rain on Sunday morning. Tuesday was also set to drop more moisture and by the time you read this hopefully another fall eventuated for us all. The grass is really firing and now and we are looking into the new year with plenty of feed in front of our livestock. Plenty of producers have told me they are still in need of runoff rain as dams remain low and we must remember that most of our falls have been below 25mm in most cases. Temperatures look very pleasant for the last month of spring as temperatures are forecasted to creep up towards a respectable 25 degrees towards the end of the month, we do live in a nice climate.

An interesting article has been written about our local council in the New England Times and has raised some very dramatic concerns. Now I urge everyone to do your own homework as it affects us all and you all can go back, watch and listen to these council meetings. The biggest concern for me is the overspending, how can we blow out our labour cost by $1.761 million dollars over budget, which isn't sustainable and it needs to be explained. We also need to look at the overall council budget to see where and how the money is being spent and its overall sustainability for our community.

Another interest rate rise will have been most likely handed down on Tuesday night after the Melbourne Cup, the race that stops the nation has been run and won. Economists have forecasted there could be another rate rise which will once again hurt borrowers and push lenders to the wall. It's a tale of two sides though with savers raking in higher interest payments on their deposits, now this also has an age demographic attached to the lenders and savers equation. Most lenders are in their younger years with families while the savers are closer to retirement and their children have left the family household. So, the inflation fight is hurting the younger borrowers who are tightening their belts and not spending due to large mortgages while the older demographic are making up for the younger generation belt tightening as they have more cash to spend due to their savings which continues to grow with lifts in interest rates. The people who are also on their knees are the small business owners, 46 businesses have shut their doors every day for the past 4 months, those statistics are ludicrous and major concern for the government who appear to be more worried about themselves.

There is only one way to test the beef market and that is to sell 4000 Northern Territory Brahman feeder steers and heifers in one single lot on AuctionsPlus. The largest ever single offering in one lot sold for 474.3c/kg and are expected to weigh 349kg, that's $1653 per head and a whopping $6.6 million gross figure for the consignment. Generally, cattle like these are destined for the live export market but the recent widespread rain and a lift in the restocker demand helped the vendor's decision to sell them online which yielded an excellent result. The cattle are reportedly destined for a single producer in QLD which is a huge play for a large number of cattle that will be destined for the feedlot in 2027, another indication that these values are here to stick around if the weather does. This sale was not isolated as the majority of the cattle last Friday exceeded sale expectations with one lot of light Angus steers at Armidale, 205kg making a whopping $1980, that's $9.63 per kilo liveweight. Multiple lots of steers made over $7 per kilo and well into the $8/kg range if they were sub 200kg, but interestingly the feeder steers only topped at 608c/kg. The feedlots are holding firm on feeder values, and the background phase is getting squeezed on profit, but not for long as I expect feeders to march north in values in the new year. Heifers still seem to be the most affordable, a whopping 100c/kg less than their steer counterparts and a lot closer to parity with feedlot values.

These values have helped the EYCI surge to 1040c/kg as grass demand outstrips supply as the EYCI hits its highest since 2022. What we are seeing in the feeder and slaughter physical markets is a surge in saleyard spot prices. Droughtmaster feeder steers more than 500kg made 585c/kg in Roma last week, heavy Angus cows in the western districts of Victoria topped at 450c/kg this week while bullocks at the same centre made in excess of 500c/kg.

‘Create in Walcha’ a huge success

On the October long weekend, *Create In Walcha* held a very successful workshop event at Walcha Central School. There were 10 courses available, Weaving, Leather Whip Making, Woodturning, Eco Dyeing, Felt Hat Making, Hardanger Embroidery, Ukelele, Pottery, Cold Climate Gardening and held off site – Lino Cut printing. The positive feedback from participants was overwhelming according to the surveys that each student filled in. Approximately 60% of participants were from out of town and came from as far away as Albury, Sydney, Narrabri and Tamworth just to name a few. Most said they will be returning and some also stated that they will bring others with them, which will be a beneficial to Walcha as most participants browsed Walcha’s shopping precinct. Other suggestions from the participants were different courses they would like to see next year, such as Flower Arranging, Gel Plate Printing, Jewellery, Mosaics, Advanced Pottery.

The top results for what was enjoyed the most were, Tutor Experience and Knowledge, Trying Something New, Learning, and Value for Money.

There was a well-attended dinner on Saturday night at the Walcha Bowling Club and Dianna and her team did not disappoint with a beautiful buffet.

With the overwhelmingly successful feedback, *Create In Walcha* is planning to make this an annual event. There is a lot to coordinate and to keep improving the event we are calling on interested people to join a committee. We would especially welcome people with web design experience, event planning, and any interested community members who have an idea for a course and/or would like to teach a course. The event will continue to be held on the October Long Weekend, during School Holidays so the fabulous school facilities can be utilised.

Thanks also to Amanda Cooper and Kimberlee Pascoe from Walcha Central School who were so helpful with making it possible for the event to utilise the excellent facilities at the school. Mel Benson for her logistical help and Tony Batterham and Adam Hall for their help with technology on the day.

A special thanks to Nicole from Camp Creative Bellingen who promoted our event and Arts Northwest for their help with ticketing.

Looking forward to getting organised for next year. Please contact Sue Jackson sue.18@hotmail.com/ Ph: 0400 425 185 or Fiona Barden fionabarden1704@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the *Create In Walcha* Committee.







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Niangala Public School wins Scarecrow award

Niangala Public School students have been recognised for their creativity and commitment to the environment, taking home the Judges' Choice award in the 2026 Dreamworld Scarecrow Project competition.

The school's entry, created by the students' Nature Guardians, impressed judges with its clever design, transforming a scarecrow into a functional bug hotel to provide a safe habitat for native insects.

Built using a repurposed hardwood plank frame, recycled materials and natural resources, the scarecrow was designed to withstand the harsh conditions of the NSW New England Tablelands, from freezing winters and strong winds to hot summers.

Every nook and cranny of the structure incorporates materials to provide shelter for insects, supporting local biodiversity and helping protect habitats for native species.

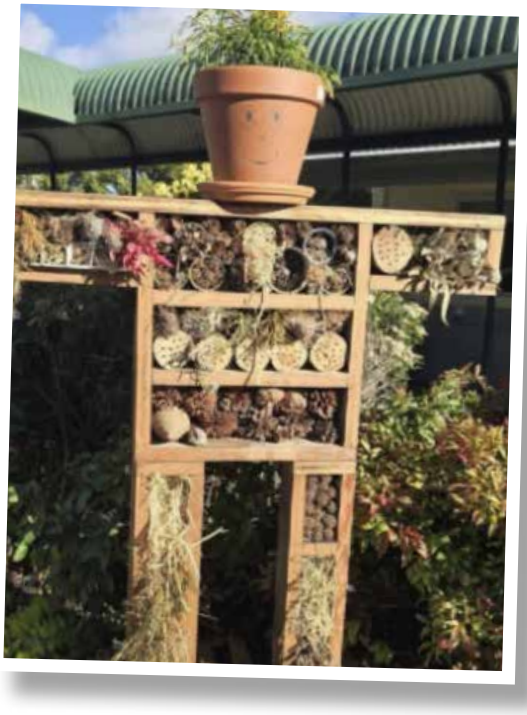
The project reflects the students' learning and dedication to sustainability, habitat protection, waste reduction and caring for Country.

Judges praised the thoughtful use of recycled materials and the strong connection to the competition's "Nature Guardians" theme, describing the project as an inspiring achievement for a small school with a big environmental heart.

Along with the prestigious award, Niangala Public School received $2,500 in recognition of its efforts.

The award-winning scarecrow now stands proudly at the school entrance, welcoming visitors and serving as a reminder of the importance of protecting the natural environment.

The achievement is a wonderful recognition of the creativity, teamwork and environmental awareness demonstrated by the school's staff and students.



Walcha, we're still in town every fortnight

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IT TAKES A LITTLE

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Mayoral Column

Hyde Thomson, Walcha Mayor



This month I have had the immense pleasure of attending the Walcha Support Group's Annual Luncheon. A very special group of people offering a unique service of caring and sharing to our community members who have various health challenges. There was also an invitation to the Diwali celebration. An amazing evening of Indian culture, fun and food, generously hosted by Sheetal and Raghav of the Walcha Motel.

October has been a huge month. Mid-month we held an Extraordinary Meeting where we voted down a proposed community ballot that was mooted to gauge community sentiment towards renewable energy developments. Council also approved the nomination of Dr Meredith Caelli to the Riverview Advisory Committee. On 15 October, EnergyCo released its EIS and gave us 28 days to read and respond to more than 16,000 pages. I encourage you to make your own submission and to also help Council make an informed submission on behalf of the community. Submissions close on Thursday 12 November.

The October Ordinary Meeting saw Council not approve the redevelopment and expansion of the Caravan Park after a very lengthy debate. The decision was predominantly made on strong community sentiment and reservations regarding the density and use of the accommodation. The meeting also presented the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2026. Historically it has proven difficult to formalise and maintain youth engagement, hence it was recommended to facilitate a youth forum and seek direction from our young people on the path they would choose. All Walcha Council meetings are open to the public, live-streamed and recorded on the Council website and YouTube.

This month also saw the resignation of Councillor Adam Iuston, citing health reasons. This requires us to go to a by-election on 16 January 2027.

Walcha also featured in the 2026 Tidy Towns Awards. Walcha township was a finalist in Category A, and WinterFest received a Highly Commended. Peter Blomfield was awarded the prestigious Local Heroes Award. Sadly, Peter has since passed away, and I offer my sincerest condolences, and those of Council, to Peter's family.

The General Manager and I met with Telstra at their request. They admitted frustration and annoyance that the transmitter's alternative power supply lasted only two hours in the recent power outage, and they are looking at other options to fix this. They are also concerned about Walcha's ability to maintain service capacity during the construction of renewable energy developments, and intend to contact Winterbourne Wind and EnergyCo.

The Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW Renewable Infrastructure Team will hold a drop-in session at the Sports Club on Saturday 7 November, between 8am and 11am. They want to hear about the impacts of renewable energy infrastructure.

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Brendan **Moylan** MP

MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

Old Hospital Site

I want to provide an update on the progress to have the old Walcha Hospital site repurposed.

The issue lies with Minister for Health and Minister for Regional Health Ryan Park at the moment.

I've been told Hunter New England Health District, NSW Health and Crown Lands are looking at alternative solutions and funding options for the site but no further information has been given on how that will proceed, and when.

I'm disappointed with the interest and replies from the New South Wales Government but I've been working on these concerns since being elected in 2024 and I will keep it on the agenda.

It's like an episode of Yes Minister or Utopia!

Asbestos needs to be cleared and the building must be repurposed.

The site is overgrown and there's also been unauthorised access and vandalism. It's not good enough.

Gun buyback scheme

I maintain my opposition to the uncosted, unfair and pointless firearms legislation changes and the so called "buyback scheme".

I have opposed this legislation since day 1 and will continue to do so.

The NSW Labor Government's buyback scheme is slated to begin on November 2 with eligible licence holders receiving correspondence from the NSW Firearms Registry on how to make a booking to hand over their guns.

I urge all fellow firearms holders to hold off, as the Opposition if elected in March next year will repeal this legislation.

Even the Premier has admitted that buybacks won't take any illegal guns off the streets yet he is still persisting with it. This is bad policy and bad law and I will continue to oppose it.

Brendan **Moylan** MP

MEMBER FOR NORTHERN TABLELANDS

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WE NEED YOU

WALCHA'S FUTURE IS AT STAKE!

Our community needs your voice! We are asking every resident, landholder and local business to spend just 5 minutes submitting a response to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed New England Transmission Project – a massive transmission corridor planned to cut through our town and region. Thursday 12 November is the deadline, and we need as many submissions as possible raising concerns and objections to this seriously flawed EIS. Not sure what to write? See this week's flyer inside *The Advocate* for ideas. We will also have a local office available to help with submissions (see flyer for dates/ times), and Rebecca Onslow is happy to assist by phone on 0402 234 320.

Let's not sit back and watch our region follow the path of the Central West. Five minutes of your time could help protect Walcha's future. Make your voice count!

Services Australia Mobile Service Centre

Walcha residents will have the opportunity to access a range of Australian Government services when the Services Australia Mobile Service Centre visits town on Tuesday, 10 and Wednesday, 11 November 2026.

The mobile service centre will be located opposite McHattan Park on Fitzroy Street, operating from 11am to 4pm on Tuesday and 9am to 4pm on Wednesday.

The visit aims to make government services more accessible to regional communities, reducing the need for residents to travel long distances to seek assistance.

Services Australia staff will be available to provide face-to-face information, assistance and support with Centrelink and Medicare services, including new claims, updating personal information and accessing payment options.

Residents can also receive assistance with registering for and using myGov, applying for Medicare cards, and accessing social work support and referrals.

The service is available to a wide range of community members, including families, older Australians, students, job seekers, people with disability, carers, farmers and self-employed residents.

Veterans and their families can also receive assistance connecting with the Department of Veterans' Affairs phone line and online services.

The mobile service centres travel extensively throughout rural and regional Australia, helping communities access essential government services closer to home.

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the visit if they require assistance or have questions about government payments and services.

For further information, visit servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice.



Walcha Rams 2026 Presentation night

The 2026 Presentation night for the Walcha Rams was a great night celebrating the players, coaches, volunteers, supporters and everyone who has played a part in making this season such a memorable one.

We're incredibly grateful for the support and community that surrounds the Walcha Rams. Congratulations to reserve Grade for their 2026 premiership for the second time since joining the New England Competition.

Congratulations to our award winners:

First grade

Best and fairest: ..... Joel Ballon
Best and fairest R/U: ..... Hamish Heeney
Players Player: ..... Chaden Hawkins

Reserve Grade

Best and fairest: ..... Stephen McAnally
Best and fairest R/U: ..... Harry Partridge
Players Player: ..... Troy Tape

U19

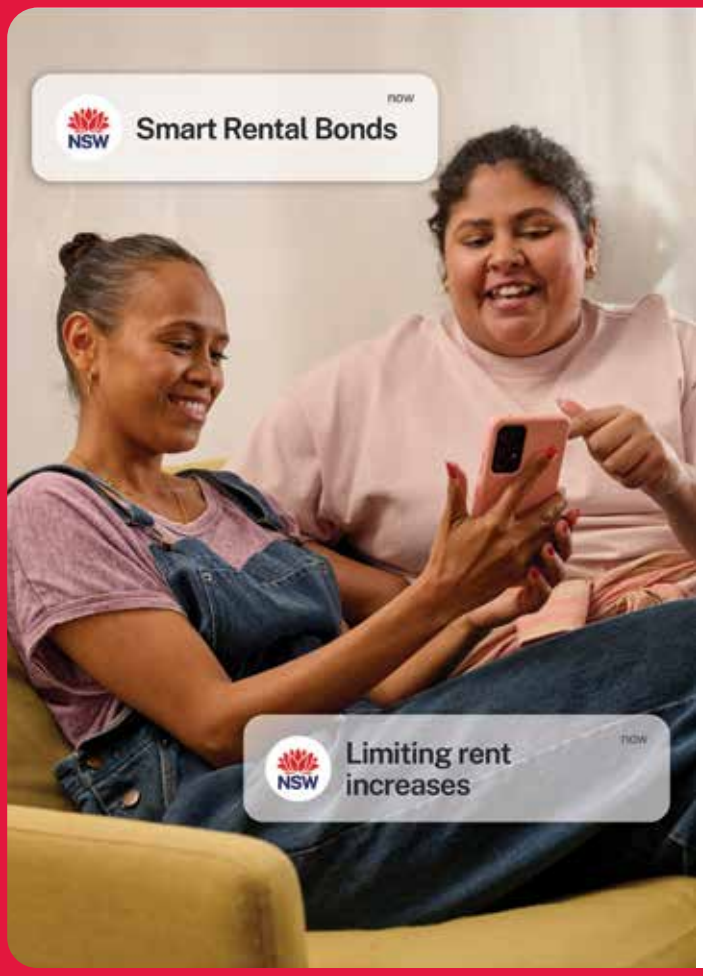
Best an d fairest: ..... Chaden Hawkins
Best and fairest R/U: ..... Banjo Lawrence

Club Awards

Best defence award: ..... Ed Churchill
Fitness/training award: ..... Jim Boyd
Most improved player: ..... Chaden Hawkins
Highest Point scorer: ..... Ed Pitt
"The Harry", most dedicated committee member as voted by the committee: ..... Charlie Keen
"The Lynchy", most dedicated player on and off the field as voted by the players: ..... Will Jameson
International player: ..... Ben Fussell

We look forward to seeing you at the Walcha Rams Trivia night hosted at the New England Hotel on 25th November from 6pm. Get your teams together, register with Megan at the bar or via 0419 188 534 and support the boys funding raising for their tour to UK.





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New entry set-up for Walcha Showground

The Walcha Showground has received a new entry set-up, thanks to funding through the 2025 Community Building Partnership grant.

Brendan Moylan MP recently visited the Walcha Showground, where he met with members of the Walcha Show Society to inspect the improvements.

The new entry set-up is designed to make things more comfortable and convenient for volunteers working on the gates during the annual Walcha Show.



thumbs

- To Luke Mills at the Walcha Caravan Park for lending a hand mowing my mothers lawn. Your time and generosity was greatly appreciated. Thank you!
- To the lifeguards at the Walcha pool. Always so helpful!
- To Jacqui and your lovely gold bunny roses.
- To Cynthia at the Walcha Council for planting the red poppies in front of the memorial at McHattan Park and ANZAC Park.
- To the kind people who took the time to get the wayward cattle safely back in on the Oxley Highway.
- To Walcha Coffee's Bahn Mi! From the fresh crunchy bread, homemade pâté and birds eye chilli. Yum!

Contributions will be received in person, by phone or email and must be accompanied by your name and contact details. They will be printed at the discretion of the editor.

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Evie earns place at National Singing School

Ten-year-old Walcha singer Evie Hayton has earned a place at the Gondwana National Choral School in Ballarat, bringing her a step closer to a remarkable opportunity to learn alongside young singers from across Australia.

Evie was invited to audition when she was just nine, before reaching the minimum age of 10 for the program. After successfully completing three stages of auditions and celebrating her tenth birthday, she is now eligible to attend the school from 11 to 23 January 2027.

Her selection is for the training program; any selection for a performance choir is a separate process.

Evie has been developing her singing with teacher Hester Wright and is excited to learn from experienced musicians and meet other young singers.

Her family is raising approximately $5,000 to help cover the program fee, travel and accommodation costs. The program fee is $1,875 and includes Evie's accommodation and meals, with travel and accommodation for her mum Kelly additional.

To support the fundraising effort, Evie is singing a song or a verse each day on Instagram at Eve and Dad, taking suggestions from the community and sharing her love of music along the way.

Donations can be made at gofundme.com/f/singevie. Sharing the fundraiser and following Evie's daily songs are also welcome ways to support her.



NSW GOVERNMENT

New England Renewable Energy Zone
Have your say on the environmental impact statement

EnergyCo is planning the New England REZ network infrastructure project to connect renewable energy projects to the electricity grid and deliver reliable power to homes and businesses across NSW.

The environmental impact statement (EIS) is now on exhibition. It explains how the project could impact people and the environment during construction and once operational.

View the EIS and make a submission via the NSW Planning Portal: **planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects** and searching SSI-74175972.

Upcoming events

Join a drop-in information session to learn more about the EIS and speak with the project team.

- **Rouchel:** Wednesday 4 November, 3-6pm, Rouchel School of Arts Hall
- **Scone:** Thursday 5 November, 3-6pm, Scone Motor Inn Conference Centre
- **Muswellbrook:** Friday 6 November, 11am-2pm, Muswellbrook Library Seminar Room
- **Walcha:** Monday 9 November, 4-6pm, Walcha Central School Hall
- **Uralla:** Tuesday 10 November, 3-6pm, Uralla Courthouse
- **Armidale:** Wednesday 11 November, 3-6pm, Armidale Town Hall
- **Tamworth:** Thursday 12 November, 12-2pm, Tamworth Community Event Centre

Learn more

Visit **energyco.nsw.gov.au/nerez** to view the interactive EIS map, fact sheets, register for our webinars and more.

If you have questions, you can contact our team on 1800 061 114 (toll free) or by emailing **nerez@energyco.nsw.gov.au**. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Wealth Architects Tamworth has been supporting clients across Tamworth and Walcha for the past 18 months under Paul Macfarlane, Principal and seasoned financial planner.
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Walcha Bowling Club Fishing Club Trophy List 2025 - 2026

Saltwater

Man Champion Saltwater..... Kristian Rizzi, 1453.5 points
Man Heaviest Saltwater Fish ..... Dom Hill, 88cm Jew fish
Lady Champion Saltwater..... Kathy Rizzi, 477 points
Lady Heaviest Saltwater Fish..... Carol Bird, 40cm F/H
Boy Champion Saltwater ..... Toby Rizzi, 1500 points
Boy Heaviest Saltwater Fish..... Toby Rizzi, 51cm F/H

Freshwater

Man Champion Freshwater..... Darren Bird, 2916 points
Man Heaviest Freshwater Fish. Drew Bird, 80cm Cod
Lady Champion Freshwater ..... Kathy Rizzi, 608 points
Lady Heaviest Freshwater Fish Zoe Partridge, 54.5cm Yellow Belly
Boy Champion Freshwater..... Toby Rizzi, 857 points
Boy Heaviest Freshwater Fish Toby Rizzi, 57cm Yellow Belly
Girl Champion Freshwater..... Grace Curtis, 700 points
Girl Heaviest Freshwater Fish .Holly Partridge, 50cm Yellow Belly
Ray Bird Memorial Flathead ....Kristian Rizzi, 79cm
Paul Hoy Memorial Best Table Fish .John Brazel, 47cm Flathead

Trout

Brooks Memorial Shield Biggest Trout of Season - Red Hoy, 51cm Brown Trout

Past Presidents Trophy Best Brown Trout – Red Hoy, 51cm

Nowendoc Trophy Best 3 Perch – Nil

Fish on Board Not Winning Major Trophy

- Reid Withers, 51cm Yellow Belly
- Riley Curtis, 38cm Bass
- Amelia Curtis, 47cm Yellow Belly
- Audrey Curtis, 47cm Yellow Belly

16,17 and 18th of October - Glenbawn Dam, Scone – 23 adults, 4 children.



The Trusty Rusty Kingswood makes it home

Cameron Norbury and Jed Wittig have returned home after another successful Mystery Box Rally, completing thousands of kilometres through Queensland while raising money for the Cancer Council.

The Walcha pair arrived home last Friday night after setting off from Charleville on October 23 for the six-day rally, once again taking on the challenge in their trusty old Kingswood.

The Mystery Box Rally sees teams travel in vehicles at least 25 years old, following a route that is kept a mystery until shortly before departure each morning.

This year's event attracted 165 teams, with 330 participants taking part in the adventure.

Despite the wet conditions, Cameron and Jed managed to complete the rally without any major mechanical troubles.

After preparing for the possibility of breakdowns and repairs along the way, the pair were fortunate to have a relatively uneventful trip, with their Kingswood proving itself once again.

Although the rally provided another opportunity for the boys to put their old car to the test, the main purpose of the trip was to raise funds for the Cancer Council. Rallying under the team name *Man's Not a Camel*, Cameron and Jed exceeded their original fundraising goal of $4,000, raising an impressive $5,245 for the cause.

Ahead of the rally, the pair had also encouraged the local community to get behind their fundraising efforts, including through the collection and recycling of used car batteries at Peter Norbury Mechanical.

Having now completed another Mystery Box Rally, Cameron and Jed can add another successful trip to the Kingswood's growing list of adventures.

With the boys safely home, the Kingswood still going strong and their fundraising goal well and truly exceeded, it was another successful effort for the Walcha duo.



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AUCTION - 10am, Sat 5th Dec

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Contact: Andrew Blomfield
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ablomfield@dcco.com.au

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Join the Elders Walcha team and guest speakers Adam Turnbull (Elders Livestock Production Advisor) and Luke Wiggan (Zoetis) for on-hand training and practical information sharing on early weaning practices for cattle.

BBQ and cold drinks provided.

To RSVP, text or call Ryan Brady **0409 885 177** or the Walcha Office **02 6774 2600** by Wednesday 28 October.

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what's the goss

with AJ Cross

Sad to hear two local citizens who have dedicated a lot of their life time to our community left this world last week. Former Walcha Councillor and long time Rural Fire Service Captain Peter Blomfield along with Walcha Indoor Hockey Life Member and former Walcha Scouts leader Peter Hayes are no longer with us. Condolences to the family and friends of both men. May Peter Richard Blomfield and Peter Michael Hayes Rest in Peace.

•••

Received an interesting Walcha News paper clipping from Sarah Mansfield found under the carpet at the 'Croyde' house in Yarrowitch recently dated Thursday 19th September 1968. At a court of petty sessions a couple of days before Magistrate Mr K.R. Webb fined L.P. Cross and Company truck drivers I.J. Cross and Gordon Cecil Brooks $80 each for exceeding their axle load while John 'Jack' Morley copped a $50 fine. Their excuse was there was a large consignment of superphosphate at Walcha Road Railway Station which they were eager to get out of the way and it was very difficult to get an accurate weight of the vehicle. Yeah Good One Boys.

•••

The Walcha Flippers Swimming Club will commence their 2026/27 season next Tuesday November 10th from 3.30pm. Registrations are open and can be found on the clubs Facebook page. Hopefully the weather will be kind for the opening day of competition.

•••

Congratulations to Walcha/Uralla cricketers Ed Blomfield, Shannon Rafferty, Dave Ford and Matt Harper who have been selected to play for the Central North (New England) Thunderbolts in the NSW Over 40's State Championships at Dubbo 8th to 10th November. Ed was named captain while former Walcha Cricketers of the year Jamie Andrews (1999/2000) and Andrew Brownlie (2003/04) have also been picked.

•••

Golf Club Captain Willy Brennan had one of those rounds of golf last Sunday where he chipped in on three occasions at the 6th, 10th and 16th holes which helped him register just 20 putts for the round. By all accounts Club Handicapper Don Brooks was 'Tickled Pink' for his playing partner especially after Willy predicted the chip ins on each occasion. Well according to Willy anyway.

•••

According to Bowling Club Director Dave Butler there were a few teething problems with the 1st seafood raffle run last Friday but hopefully everything will be back together on track this Friday. Tickets can now be purchased during the week during club opening hours but a contact phone number needs to be provided in case the winner isn't present when the raffle is drawn. Anyone who falls into that category must collect their prize by 5pm the following day. 'Disco Dave' would like to thank Wayne from Drews Seafood for his support.

•••

After sampling a couple of cool drinks at the Newie last Saturday I was about to leave the premises when my across the road Apsley St neighbour Mark Peters asked me if I was leaving after finishing the beer I was drinking and when I replied in the affirmative 'Turbo' told me he might get a lift home with me. My reply was along the lines of 'Yeah that will be fine it's just you will have to walk back to pick up your Ute which is currently parked next to my car.'

•••

On the subject of beer drinking did you hear about the bloke who grabbed one out of his fridge and just as he did his wife told him 'That will be your last one today!' Quick as a flash the 'Old Mate', returned the beer back into the 'Ice Box' and seized a different one prompting his other half to ask what he was now doing. He Replied 'Well if that beer is going to be my last as he pointed to the one he had just returned 'I'm not in a big hurry to drink it straight away!'

•••

Congratulations to local golfer and Roosters supporter Anne Martin on winning the final of the New England District Golf Association Medal Round Division 2 with a 78 nett early last week in Uralla. Caroline Street and Rebecca Hall also represented Walcha both finishing equal on 83 nett. Anne is now off to Stone Cutters Ridge Colebee in Western Sydney for the State Final later in the year.

sport

Bowls

Thursday results: Brian Goodwin & Peter Halliday defeated Noel Goodwin & Tony Batterham 25/11. Barry Kliendienst x2 defeated Alan Kirby & Warwick Hogan 21/10. Brian & Pete won the vouchers.
Members were saddened by the passing of Peter Hayes. Peter was a valued member of our club and members offer June and her family their deepest sympathies.
There are still a couple of competition games to be played when it suits players involved.
Pole and helpers have the top green looking good for the Pasture Wonderland Carnival on the 28th & 29th Nov.

Tennis News

Round 1 of the 26 Spring Comp was played out on Tues 27th October in pleasant conditions.
Our top four at this stage are: 1- Hyde Thomson on 26 points, 2- Andrew Blomfield on 21 points, 3- Jake Wellings on 21 points and 4- Jock Rutherford on 19 points. Well done to these players but it's only early days yet. Thanks to our lone floater Trevor Gibson. Thanks to all our players for showing up on time. See you all at the net soon.

Ladies Bowls

What a beautiful day it was last Thursday for two very enjoyable games of bowls. Lee McCoy had a win against Esther Hunt in the Ivy Makeham Memorial Singles Trophy. In the other game Wendy Moore lost to Jan Cross. Jan will now play Lyn Burnell at a future date. Lee McCoy plays Marie Spink tomorrow with Jan Cross as marker. In a social game of triples Marg Morris, Denis Yarnold and Phyllis Hoy lost to Janice Rizzi, Marg Tickle and Emily. Please keep in mind our street stall on Friday 13 November. Our deepest sympathy to June Hayes and family on the passing of Peter. There will be social bowls tomorrow 9.00am for 9.30am start.

Cricket

Walcha/Uralla Cricket Club had a 50% record when they played their Round 3 Armidale District matches last Saturday.
At Rologas Oval in Armidale the visitors won the toss before sending TAS into bat in their 3rd Grade fixture where they managed to score 75 runs from the 33 overs they faced.
In the bowling department Matt Tasik lead the way taking 4 for 19 off his overs and received valuable support from opener Stephen Bishop who collected 3 for 6 from his 5.1 overs.
Skipper Nathan Laurie, Jack and Glen Young all snared a victim each.
Veteran opener Nick Endacott batted throughout the 23 overs finishing with an unbeaten 37 runs while Glen Young was the only other batsman to reach double figures as the visitors passed their assignment five wickets down.
Here in 1st Grade at Peter Fenwicke Oval Hillgrove won the toss and batted where they finished 8 for 160 off their 40 overs.
Opening bowler David Ford sent down 7 overs to capture 5 for 25 whereas fellow opener Matt Harper, Preston Boyd and Jay Grills all picked up a wicket each.
In reply the homeside were in more trouble than 'Speed Gordon' after 14 overs having lost 6 wickets while scoring just 29 runs.
Number 6 batsman Sinclair Little steadied the ship a bit when he made 28 runs, Cooper Boyd scored 17 and David Ford 11.
Walcha/Uralla were dismissed for 105 while facing their 35th over.
This Saturday 1st Grade receive the Bye and 3rd Grade do battle with Ex Services Blue here a Peter Fenwicke Oval.

Walcha/Uralla v Hillgrove 1st Grade

Hillgrove

B HEAGNEY c P Boyd b D Ford 19
A STARR b M Harper 4
T CHAPMAN c B Moore b D Ford 36
F BERRY c&b P Boyd 2
H FREEMAN b J Grills 28
B KING c E Blomfield b D Ford 39
S COWAN b D Ford 0
C LITCHFIELD c P Boyd b D Ford 18
M WOODS n.o 2
R HARRIS n.o 7

Total 160. Extras 5 – Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt) M Harper 8-1-37-1, D Ford 7-1-25-5, P Boyd 5-0-15-1, W Hall 4-0-18-0, J Grills 6-1-27-1, E Blomfield 8-0-25-0, C Boyd 2-0-11-0.

Walcha/Uralla

E BLOMFIELD lbw C Litchfield 4
B MOORE b C Litchfield 0
S RAFFERTY b R Harris 0
B DWYER c B Heagney b D Cassidy 4
W HALL lbw M Woods 4
S LITTLE c B Heagney b R Harris 28
J GRILLS c S Cowan b D Cassidy 2
C BOYD b M Woods 17
D FORD b C Litchfield 11
PRESTON BOYD c C Litchfield b D Cassidy 9
M HARPER n.o 1

Total 105. Extras 25 – Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt) R Harris 8-0-31-2, C Litchfield 8-3-12-3, M Woods 8-2-20-2, D Cassidy 6.1-2-14-3, A Starr 4-0-20-0.

Walcha/Uralla v TAS 3rd Grade

TAS

B BUTCHER b S Bishop 4
J BARTOLO c N Laurie b M Tasik 12
J WOOD b S Bishop 2
T CAMERON b N Laurie 6
T WARD c&b J Young 17
X STEPHEN c B Muggsy b G Young 2
A BYRNE c N Endacott b M Tasik 4
C HOWLETT b M Tasik 0
X KELLY st B Jex b M Tasik 2
P BRYANT n.o 7
E MAYNE c B Muggsy b S Bishop 10

Total 75. Extras 9 – Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt) N Laurie 6-1-12-1, S Bishop 5.1-1-6-3, M Tasik 8-0-19-4, L Hunt 1-0-6-0, G Young 5-2-6-1, J Young 5-1-19-1, T Morley 3-1-5-0.

Walcha/Uralla

N ENDACOTT n.o 37
B MUGGSY lbw E Mayne 0
L HUNT b T Ward 1
G YOUNG c X Kelly b A Byrne 10
J Young b A Byrne 0
S BISHOP c T Cameron b A Byrne 0
N LAURIE n.o 6

Total 76. Extras 22 – Bowling (overs/maidens/runs/wkt) T Ward 5-1-8-1, E Mayne 4-1-8-1, X Kelly 1-0-5-0, B Butcher 1-0-10-0, P Bryant 4-0-18-0, A Byrne 5-0-11-3, J Wood 2.4-0-10-0.

At the Nineteenth

The opening round of the 2026 patrons (Margaret Davidson) Trophy was played last Sunday where Mata Matapakia accumulated 39 stableford points which entitled him to a daily prize donated by Lee Fletcher and a seven point lead at the halfway mark of the event.
Runner up was club Captain Willy Brennan on 32 points whereas the remaining sweepstakes went to Michael Stackman 28 and Will Hall 26.
No player was clever enough to reach the beach on both 3 and 18.
A disappointing number of just 10 players teed off on Sunday the same as the previous day when 10 registered for the weekly 9 hole competition.
Winner was the consistent Pete Whellan after he racked up 21 points while Runner Up was Jock McLaren on 18 points from his four over par 38 off the stick after he counted out Mark Hogan also on 18 points.
Once again no player was accurate enough to land their tee shot on the 3rd beach.
Last Thursday Rd 6 of the NE Medal was played here where Cark Street counted out Julie Hoad to win the Ladies division after both competitors compiled 35 points each the best score on the day. In Mens Division 1 Bruce Rutherford with 34 points was a comfortable winner by five points from Greg Constatine and Steve Zahn both from the Glen Innes Club on 29 points.
Another Glen Innes visitor Colin Brooke took out the Mens Division 2 on 34 points from Guyra player Jon Cummings 33 with Barry Hoad next best on 32.
N.T.P's to Cheryl McDonald (3) and Allan Laurie (16).
This Sunday is the closing round of the Patrons trophy where Robert 'Crichton' Barr is in charge of supplying the daily prize.

Wednesday Golf



Last Wednesday the lady golfers had their annual Charity Day and this year the charity was MND.
We played stableford, and we played in teams of three. We actually play two different games.
The first is the pink ball game, where the three partners take in turns of playing the pink ball. This means each player has six turns of playing the pink ball. If you lose the ball your team are immediately out of the game.
Out of the seven teams playing only three returned with the pink ball still in hand!
Simone Sweeney, Maddie Lance and Sal Rutherford were the winners with 32 points, closely followed by Margaret Davidson, Pauline Carter and Prue Morgan with 31 points.
The second game is called the 3,2,1. For a par 3 hole all 3 scores are recorded. For a par 4 hole, the best 2 scores are recorded, and for the par 5's, the best score is recorded.
The winners of this competition were Robyn Salt, Donna Martin and Anne Martin with 77 points. The runners up were Cark Street, Lorraine Walshe and Jill Burnell with 75 points and the sweepstakes went to Cheryl McDonald, Alison Cameron and Suzanne O'Keefe with 68 points.
Our golf was followed with a delicous lunch, prize giving, raffles, tombolas, and a multitude of fines for a plethora of misdemeanours!
We managed to raise over $1200 for MND, which was a great effort for so few players. Well done girls.
A big thank you also to our sponsors, Walcha Vet Supplies and Ultra Violet Sunscreen.
This Wednesday is stroke, putting and monthly mug, with New Birds supplying the trophy.

Funeral Notice

Peter Michael Hayes

'Pete'

03/01/1944 - 30/10/2026

Of Darjeeling Road, Walcha.
Dearly beloved husband of June.
Loving father and father-in-law of Jane, Sandy & Michael, and Kylie & Bob.
Loved Poppy Pete of Jackson, Thomas and Grace.
Adored Great Poppy Pete to his little man Darcy.
Much loved brother, brother-in-law, uncle and great uncle of his family.

Aged 82 years.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Walcha Support Group, a donation box will be available at the Church.

A Funeral Service will be held at St Patricks Catholic Church, Walcha on Friday 6th November 2026 commencing at 12pm followed by interment at the Walcha General Cemetery.

Piddingtons Armidale 02 6772 2288

Peter Richard Blomfield

10/4/1946 – 27/10/2026

Of 'Denham', Walcha

Loving husband of Robin (dec'd) and now loved partner of Caroly.

Adored dad, father-in-law and Papa of Jordie & Dan, Sal & Rich, Claire & Scotty, Ben & Em and his 12 grandchildren.

A celebration of Pete's wonderful life will be held early in the New Year.

Public Notices

Remembrance day commemoration service Wednesday 11th, 11am at Walcha Memorial Park. All welcome.

Flippers Registrations are now open! Season will commence: Tuesday, 10th of November 2026. Time: 3:30pm-5pm. For further information, please visit Facebook or email walchaflippersswimmingclub@gmail.com.

Public Notices *(cont)*

Thunderbolts Way Cafe will be closed Friday 27th, 11am and open again Monday 30th.

Church service at Woolbrook Church, 2pm, this Sunday. For info Graham Barnes 6777 2539.

The Barber Shop is closed this Saturday 7th Nov.

Pop-Up Community Event – Regional Australia Bank Walcha

Join us outside Regional Australia Bank in Walcha on ***Thursday, 5 November***, from 10am for a friendly morning with our local team!
Enjoy some morning tea, grab a goodie bag and meet our Home Lender, who will be available to chat about home lending options and the support available to help you take your first steps towards owning a home.
As a customer-owned bank, we're passionate about supporting our local community and building strong relationships. Whether you're looking at buying a home, exploring your banking options or simply stopping by for a chat, we'd love to see you there! Everyone is welcome!

Position Vacant

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Small Council, Big Opportunities

- Tourism Officer
- Ranger & Compliance Officer
- Manager Urban & Utilities
- Labour/Operator

Stephen Parry, General Manager
Walcha Council, PO Box 2, Walcha NSW

Thank you

To the Walcha doctors and for the flowers cars and love we have received. From the Swanton Family.

Positions Vacant *(cont)*

Brian Smith Timber Transport

We're looking for a reliable person to wash trucks on Saturdays.

- Hours: 7:00am – 5:00pm
- Every Saturday
- Must be reliable and willing to work

Great opportunity for someone looking for regular Saturday work.

Please contact Brian Smith on 0427 780 216.

Meeting Notice

Walcha Garden Club meeting Friday, 6th November,2026, at Gary & Rhonda Olrich's garden, "Boxley" 1386 Scrubby Gully Rd, Walcha. Cars will depart McHattan Park at 9.30am. BYO chair, cup & lunch. Enquiries- S. Law 0467450243, D.Lisle 0429799083. New members most welcome.

The Walcha Jockey Club AGM will be held on Monday 9 November 2026 at 7pm at the Walcha Council Chambers.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Walcha Rugby Union Football Club will be held Tuesday, 24 November 2026, 5:30pm at the Club House.

Raffle Results

Walcha Lions stall - 1st Bec Taiki, 2nd Jan Cross and 3rd Pam Makeham. Thank you for your continued support

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DEADLINE MONDAY 4.30PM Editor: Anthea Nivison. Advertising/Sport: Joscisca Matapakia, Kate Connors and Kersten Wall.

church notices

ANGLICAN

November 7 - 7.00am Men's Breakfast in hall
November 8 - 9.30am Family Service
2.00pm Nowendoc Service
Anglican Church
Phone 6777 2543
or email: walchaanglican@gmail.com

PRESBYTERIAN

Walcha: every Sunday 9:30am
Youth Group every Saturday 5pm - 7pm, during term.
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BOWLS 9.00am Ladies, 1pm Social
BINGO 12.30pm

Friday 6 3.00pm – Close
Free Bingo drawn at 7.30pm
Raffles drawn at 8pm

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- Home Made Baked Chicken Parmigiana

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Saturday 7 11.00am – Close
5.00PM BISTRO

Sunday 8 11.00am – Close
12.00PM BISTRO
Raffle tickets from 12pm, drawn 1pm.

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DRAWN AFTER THE RAFFLES
FRIDAY $500
YOU MUST BE A MEMBER FOR 2026/2027 TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN

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COMMUNITY EIS SUBMISSION GUIDE

NEW ENGLAND REZ TRANSMISSION PROJECT

What is *at stake* for our communities?

THE PROPOSAL

EnergyCo proposes around 240 km of dual 500 kV transmission lines, additional 330 kV and 500 kV connections, five energy hubs, access roads and major construction facilities across the New England and Upper Hunter. This will change our landscape and affect communities, farms, forests and waterways for generations.

Use the bold demands in your submission. Add your own local knowledge and evidence.

Project Need and Design

> Is the transmission network larger than necessary?

The proposed 6 GW network would be delivered in two stages.

Require EnergyCo to justify its size and timing against credible generation projects, and assess the consequences if those projects do not proceed.

> Why build through new country?

Existing transmission easements may offer alternatives to opening new corridors.

Require EnergyCo to publish a fair comparison of existing-corridor upgrades and the proposed route, covering environmental, farming, construction and lifetime costs.

> Is it necessary? Central South Hub

The proposed hub west of Walcha needs major earthworks, roads and connections.

Require EnergyCo to justify the hub against credible generator demand and test smaller alternatives. Remove it if its need cainnot be demonstrated.

Landscape and Environment

> Steep country, difficult construction

The route crosses rugged, heavily timbered country around Nundle and the Upper Hunter.

Require EnergyCo to demonstrate safe construction and maintenance on steep slopes, with site-specific assessments of erosion, landslips and access before approval.

> Loss of forests and wildlife habitat

Clearing would fragment habitat for koalas. gliders. birds. bats and threatened ecological communities.

Require EnergyCo to redesign the route to avoid important habitat and wildlife corridors, rather than relying on biodiversity offsets.

> National parks, wilderness and scenery

Towers and tracks could affect Nundle State Forest, and scenic areas of the New England, impacting important tourism businesses.

Require EnergyCo to assess landscape and tourism impacts and compare routes that avoid sensitive areas.

> Waterways, erosion and sediment

Clearing, excavation and drainage changes can send sediment into creeks, dams and rivers.

Require EnergyCo to provide site-specific erosion and runoff assessments before approval, showing how waterways and neighbouring properties will be protected.

> Bushfire risk and aerial firefighting

The route crosses fire-prone country with difficult access.

Require EnergyCo to assess restrictions on aerial firefighting, firebreaks and emergency access, demonstrate how damaged infrastructure can be reached, and compare safer routes.

Farming and Heritage

> Productive agricultural land

Easements, towers and tracks can disrupt grazing, cropping, stock movement and farm infrastructure.

Require EnergyCo to assess each affected farm as a working business and specify protections, not dismiss its losses as negligible across the region.

> Aerial agriculture and rural aviation

Transmission lines could restrict essential aerial farming and rural aviation.

Require EnergyCo to protect airstrips and aerial operations, with workable alternatives where affected.

> Aboriginal and historical heritage

The heritage assessment acklilowledges unsurveyed areas requiring further investigation.

Require EnergyCo to complete surveys of affected cultural and historic sites and identify protections before approval, not leave discoveries until construction.

Project at a Glance

6GW Planned Transfer Capacity

240km DUAL **500kV** Route

5 Proposed **Energy Hubs**

Continued Over >

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE
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Walcha High Country Guardians

Rouchel Brook Action Group

Protect the Valley Upper Hunter – Responsible Infrastructure Group

Voice for Walcha

COMMUNITY EIS SUBMISSION GUIDE

NEW ENGLAND REZ TRANSMISSION PROJECT

What is *at stake* for our communities?

Construction and Community

> Water availability - Where will it come from?

The project needs an estimated 1913 ML of potable water, but detailed sourcing is deferred.

Require EnergyCo to confirm reliable water supplies before approval, assess drought availability and trucking impacts, and demonstrate that town, farm and environmental needs will be protected.

> Heavy vehicles and damaged roads

Heavy construction traffic will share local roads with school buses, emergency vehicles, livestock trucks and residents.

Require EnergyCo to prove roads and bridges are suiitable, protect essentia'I access, and fund project-related upgrades and repairs.

> Noise, dust and disruption

Traffic, blasting, crushing and earthworks may expose neighbours to prolonged noise, dust and vibration.

Require EnergyCo to set enforceable noise, dust and vibration limits, with monitoring and corrective action, especially near homes and unsealed roads.

> Workforce camps and community services

Around 1,400 workers and five proposed camps could add pressure to small towns.

Require EnergyCo to demonstrate that health, emergency, road, water and wastewater services can cope with overlapping projects, and fund necessary additional capaciity.

> Waste, gravel and rehabilitation

Construction will generate substantial waste, cleared vegetation and wastewater.

Require iEnergyCo to confirm material sources and waste capacity, and set enforceable rehabilitation standards, funding and responsibility for failures.

Agriculture and Property

> Biosecurity risks

Farm access raises weed, pest and disease risks, including concems about historically anthrax-affected land in Rouchel.

Require EneryCo to agree enforoeable, farm-specific biosecurity measures before entry, with clear accountability for failures.

> Landholders and neighbouring properties

Hosts face easement restrictions; neighbours can suHer impacts without hosting infrastructure.

Require EnergyCo to set clear protections, compensation arrangements, dispute processes and maintenance responsibilities for hosts and affected neighbours.

> Visual impacts and rural character

Towers, cleared easements and hubs will be visible from homes and roads.

Require EnergyCo to assess affected views and test relocation, better siting and other visual protections.

The Bigger Picture

> Cumulative impacts - more than - one project

Other energy projects may compound demands on roads, water, accommodation and services.

Require EnergyCo to assess the combined impacts of overlapping projects on communities and farms, not just its own construction work.

> Too many answers lett until after approval

Water sources, access tracks, drainage, construction methods and property arrangements remain subject to further design.

Require EnergyCo to provide the missing assessments before approval, with a meaningful, opportunity for public comment. Do not approve a project whose fundamenta1I impacts remain unresolved.

Your Submission Matters!

Choose a demand.
Add a local example.

What Concerns you?
Name a real local impact.

What was missed?
Give examples, photos or evidence.

What should change?
Ask for redesign or firm protections.

* Get handy tips for writing your submission at ... **voiceforwalcha.com/any-project-eis-online-submission/**

* If you need support in getting your submission in please come and talk to one of our group at the **Walcha Telecottage Monday 9th or Tuesday 10th November from 10am - 2pm** and they can assist in getting your response in.

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For the Transmission EIS, not separate wind or solar projects. These are submission prompts, not established findings.

Rouchel Brook ACTION GROUP | PROTECT THE VALLEY UPPER HUNTER | Voice for Walcha