

To the Independent Local Government review panel

Re: Walcha needs to be Independent

As Walcha resident ratepayer *I* wish to maintain our separate identity for Walcha.

Being able to meet and speak with our council on a face to face basis and see the results is something one would never expect or receive from a larger council. (Having previously lived in Tamworth where we found that different sections of the Council there don't even speak to each other).

Our Walcha Council has managed the finances and resources that they have available and as a result we are a proud successful Community.

Leave us to manage our own community. If you move the seat of power 80 km away we become the distant poor cousin. We have a successful Council and both the Council and residents wish to keep it that way.

You have agreed for us to stand alone in the past. Why do you keep changing your mind?

Walcha is a strong and caring community and we urge that we be left with our own identity.

Cherie Pethard

[REDACTED]

Walcha

6 June 2013