

Below is the letter we submitted in 2013 and progress on this matter seems to have stalled. We see no reason to change our earlier point of view—this is basically “the Walcha Community wishes to maintain its independence”.

To the Independent Local Government review panel

**Re: Walcha needs to be Independent**

As Walcha residents/ratepayers we and other residents wish to maintain our own 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 have managed the finances and resources that they have available and as a result we have a town to be proud of both now and into the future.

Leave us please to manage our own community and don't move the seat of power 80 km away and we become the distant poor cousin. We have had a successful run to date and both the Council and residents wish to keep it that way.

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

George Pethard

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of George Pethard.