

Objection

Hills of Gold Wind Farm SSD 9679

Suburb: Hanging Rock

I object to the Hills of Gold Wind Farm for the following reasons.

Our family has a property in Hanging Rock which we bought for the peace, quiet, remoteness and serenity. One of its "selling points" is the "peace, quiet, remoteness and serenity." If this project proceeds, none of that would apply anymore; the ambience would be lost and it would reduce its appeal, not only to our family but to any prospective buyers and visitors.

NOISE

One of my top concerns would be noise.

I do not trust the background monitoring figures. During the monitoring period, widespread aerial baiting was being undertaken across the project zone. Precise details of this would be available from the Local Land Services who co-ordinate these activities together with NPWS and local Wild Dog associations. I am sure that these unusual activities would have impacted on the baseline data.

We especially chose to purchase a property in a quiet location. Sleep is far more efficient and there is headspace to think and relax when in such a peaceful environment.

I have heard that turbines can be turned off once operational if found to be exceeding parameters. I was reading in the CEF that payments are based on turbines being operational. So who wants to be **that person** who loses the community \$2500 pa through complaining? I can only imagine the backlash and the effort to go through it anyway; most people would just "put up and shut up."

However I don't think it is acceptable that there should be **any questions** unanswered or inadequately answered. A droning sound can be very wearying, which can adversely affect health.

SAFETY

The EIS does not mention worker accommodation. It is therefore assumed that all workers will be housed off-site.

It is unfair to the landowners in the area that such an influx of workers overrun these private areas. Workers must be directed to exit the project area and not go for scenic or exploratory drives around the surrounding roads - Nundle creek road, Shearer's road, Andeva road etc. When Malcolm Nader was on the loose, the Police SWAT team searched for him in Hanging Rock and Timor; this is a reflection on the ruggedness and remoteness of the area.

Residents are always concerned about trespassers and this anxiety will only increase, if the workers start wandering the local area.

With the raw materials not having been sourced yet, it may be possible that local suppliers or access roads would be used and these should also be assessed for biodiversity, Traffic and Transport impacts, bushfire hazard and any other assessments required by SEARS.

BIODIVERSITY

Now that the figures for traffic and traffic delays have become available, it is possible that many people coming from Tamworth will choose to divert through Duncans Creek Road Woolomin for a straightforward trip and to avoid the certain delays through Nundle and Hanging Rock.

It is therefore requested that Duncans Creek road be considered part of the transport route and appropriate biodiversity and transport assessments be done. It is noted that a load limit was placed on this road due to damage from logging trucks, however it is still open for general use.

BUSHFIRE

It was astounding to learn that the proponents were unaware that the project was situated in bushfire prone land until being advised by CCC members.

This is very disturbing because of the proximity of the wind farm to Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve, Ben Halls Gap Forest and especially the restrictions that wind turbines have on aerial fire fighting.

The Dec 19 - Jan 20 Pages Creek fires were frightening and devastating. The whole community was scared and warnings were issued to evacuate. Add the Pearson Trail bushfire at Niangala and Duncans Creek and the whole of Hanging Rock and surrounds was under threat. A diagram is attached.

After the devastating fires of 2019/2020, it is vital and expected that the proponents **prove beyond any doubt prior to approval**, that aerial firefighting can continue unheeded. The safety of the community and pre-existing property should trump the wind farm construction.

It is noted that the water source on Nycooma won't be available if the wind farm is built, yet the assessment has no definite approved plans for a replacement water source. To submit a DA with a "we'll decide that later" attitude regarding protecting life shows either the desperation to submit, lack of understanding of the risks or a disregard for them.

Why should anyone be put at greater risk because of the wind farm? If there was an easy way to reduce the risk, it would have been spelled out in the assessment. This is completely unacceptable and greatly concerning.

It is also noted that turbines are sited close to the existing helipad on Malonga, a key meeting point under the existing Fire Management Plan for Ben Halls Gap Nature Reserve. How is it possible to have a helipad close to a wind turbine? A diagram is attached.

There should be no construction or infrastructure within flame zone areas as outlined in AS3959.

VISUAL ASSESSMENT

Landowners will be at the mercy of other landowners as to exposure to turbines. Comments about vegetation and topography acting as a screen only apply on that day. There are many situations which may result in that vegetation being removed, one of which is any neighbour's plans for their property. It is noted that the major host landowner operates a cattle farm and their land clearance practices could change the projected visual assessment.

The Secretary requires that

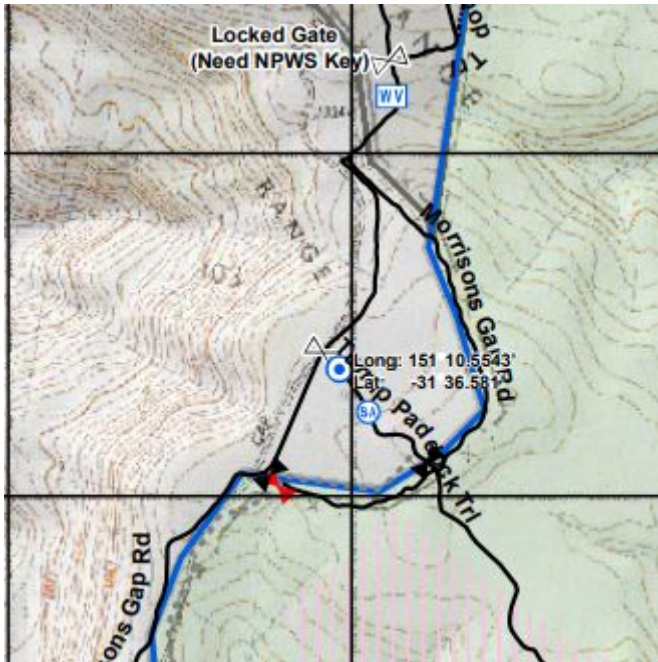
*“the EIS must include a detailed assessment of the visual impacts of **all components** of the project”*

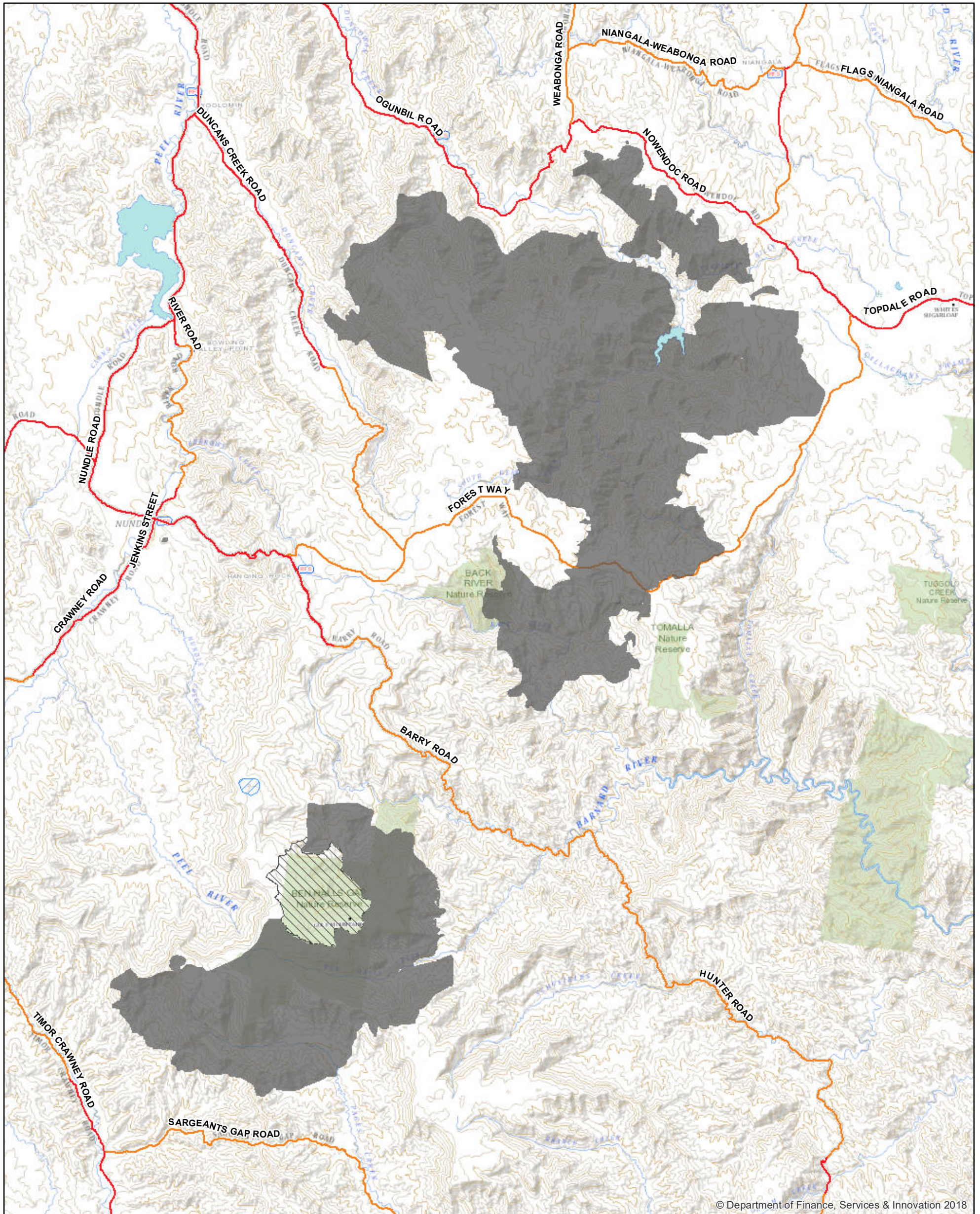
The photomontages have not included clearing for roads or images of the substation etc nor do they reflect the cleared hardstands or Asset Protection Zones around turbines and infrastructure due to bushfire protection zones. These are as much as 25 metres in places. The photo montages must therefore be redone to comply with SEARS.

This wind farm must be rejected. It fails to satisfy SEARS in several areas which have been brought to the attention of DPIE. There is clearly insufficient detail to approve the DA, however there is already compelling evidence that would enable a rejection of the DA.

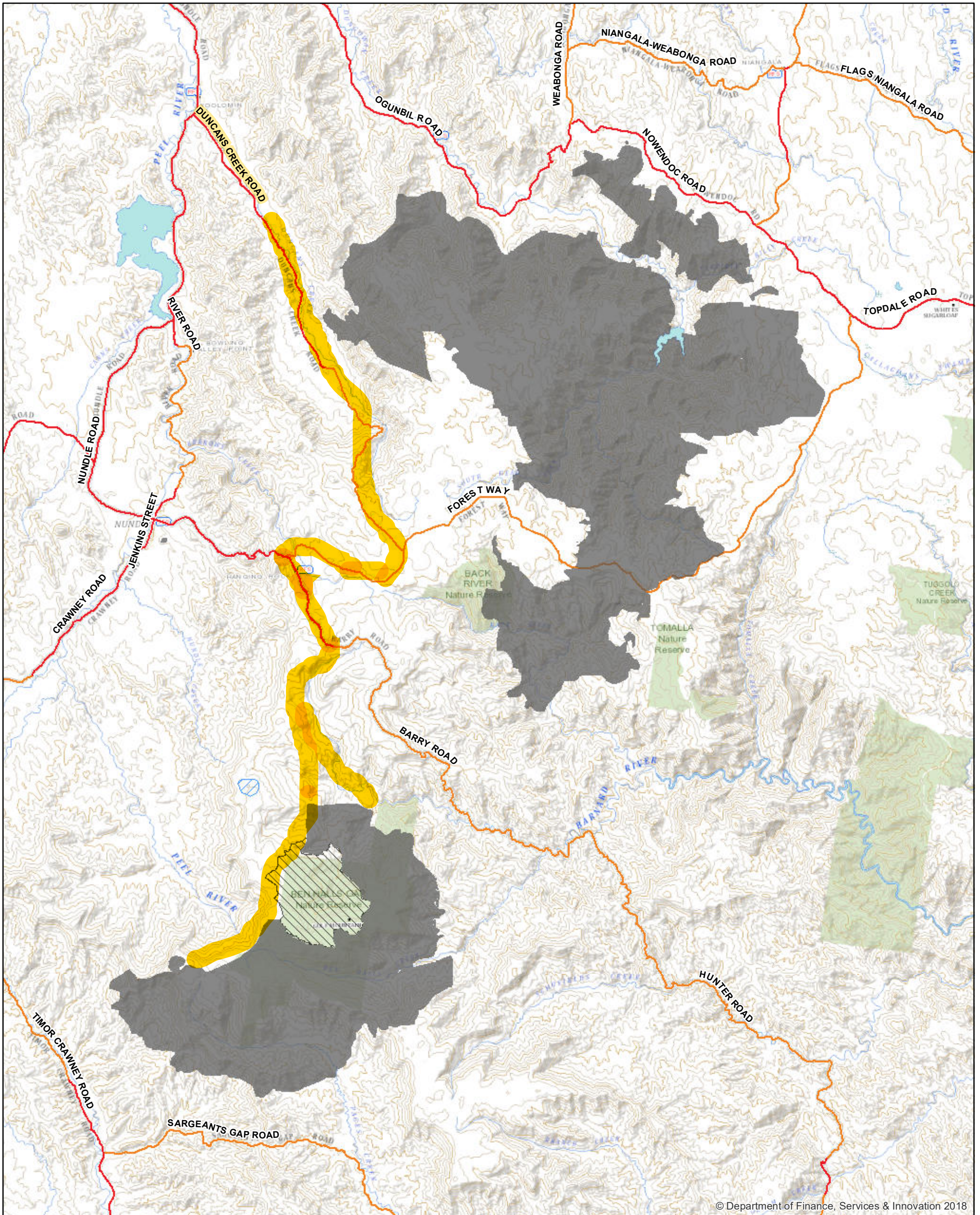
We implore you to be fair to the communities who live here, who have invested here and the people who have planned their lives around a heritage country town with a unique reputation and beautiful mountain vista that attracts visitors from across the state.

Turbines in Relation to Aircraft Landing Area - Helipad for Firefighting Purposes





 TAMWORTH REGIONAL Pearson Trail Public Liaison Map	<p>PRODUCTION INFORMATION</p> <p>Plot Information: Date: 2/01/2020 Time: 10:12:20</p> <p>Fire Statistics: Burnt Area: 19626 Ha Burnt Perimeter: 163 Km</p> <p>Map Details: Base Data: © LPI, SPOT, AAM, SKM, OEH, Sensis, Katron Map Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56 Print Date / Time: 2/01/2020 6:55:06 PM Produced by: NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service</p>	<p>LEGEND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ● ● Active Fire ▨ Emergency Alert ■ Burnt Area ■ Backburn 🏠 Neighbourhood Safer Place 🏠 Evacuation Centre 📍 Information Point 🚧 Road Closure 🏥 Health Facility 🏠 Aged Care 🏠 Hospital - Private 🏠 Hospital - Public 🏠 Nursing Home 	<p>Education Facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎓 Childcare Centre 🎓 Kindergarten 🎓 Primary School 🎓 Secondary School 🎓 College 🎓 TAFE 🎓 University <p>Accommodation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🏠 Aged Care 🏠 Camping Ground 🏠 Caravan Park 🏠 Club 🏠 Hotel 	<p>WARNING INFORMATION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This map has been prepared by a NSW Government Agency ("the Agency") using data supplied to it by other agencies and entities. 2. The Agency has not verified or checked the data used to prepare this map. The map may contain errors and omissions. The Agency has not made any attempt to ground truth the map. 3. There will be a margin of error in relation to the location of features recorded on the map. The Agency is unable to specify the extent or magnitude of that margin of error. 4. Significant changes may have occurred: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. in the time between which the data was originally collected and the map produced; and ii. since the map was produced. 5. Users must, wherever possible, ground truth the map before relying on it or the accuracy of the map or the information recorded on the map for any purpose. 6. The Agency accepts no responsibility for any injury loss or damage arising from the use of this map or any errors or omissions in the information recorded on the map. 	<p>NSW RFS INFORMATION LINE 1800 NSW RFS 1 8 0 0 6 7 9 7 3 7</p> <p>PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.</p>
	<p>SCALE</p> <p>Scale: 1 : 154,494</p> <p>0 3.5 7</p> <p>Km</p>				




TAMWORTH REGIONAL

**Pearson Trail
Public Liaison Map**

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Plot Information:
 Date: 2/01/2020
 Time: 10:12:20

Fire Statistics:
 Burnt Area: 19626 Ha
 Burnt Perimeter: 163 Km

Map Details:
 Base Data: © LPI, SPOT, AAM, SKM, OEH, Sensis, Katron
 Map Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56
 Print Date / Time: 2/01/2020 6:55:06 PM
 Produced by: NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service

LEGEND

●●● Active Fire	Education Facility
Emergency Alert	Childcare Centre
Burnt Area	Kindergarten
Backburn	Primary School
Neighbourhood Safer Place	Secondary School
Evacuation Centre	College
Information Point	TAFE
Road Closure	University
Health Facility	Accommodation
Aged Care	Aged Care
Hospital - Private	Camping Ground
Hospital - Public	Caravan Park
Nursing Home	Club
	Hotel

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SCALE

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0 3.5 7
 Km

NSW RFS INFORMATION LINE
1800 NSW RFS
 1 8 0 0 6 7 9 7 3 7

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