

UNSUITABLE LOCATION = UNACCEPTABLE RISK

Timor / Isis River Community Presentation

Independent Planning Commission
Hills of Gold Wind Farm (HOG Wind Farm)
February 2024



Unsuitable Location =
Unacceptable Risk

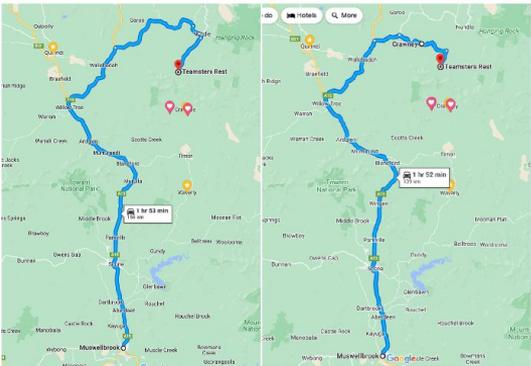
Community
Engagement
(or Lack of it)

Upper Hunter LGA

Local Rural Road Impacts

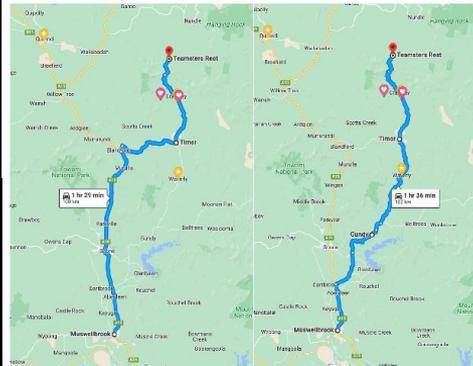
UHSC requested that as a condition of DPE consent that UHSC Local Roads not be used.
This has not happened

Access from the South via Nundle ~ 35km further and ~25 minutes longer!!



HOG Farm Access Route: Via Wallabadah and Nundle	HOG Farm Access Route: Via Morrisons Gap Road
Distance: 156 km	Distance: 139 km
Time: 1 Hr 53 mins	Time: 1 Hr 52 mins

Contractors from the South will obviously travel via Gundy and Timor to save time and km!!



HOG Farm Access Route: Via Blandford and Timor	HOG Farm Access Route: Via Gundy and Timor
Distance: 108 km	Distance: 102 km
Time: 1 Hr 29 mins	Time: 1 Hr 36 mins

Broader Community Impacts

- 9 months disruption to the businesses and communities of the villages of Murrurundi, Aberdeen and Willow Tree.
- 6 OSOM / day / 9 months.
- There are **no bypasses** for these villages.
- Highlighted by the Timor Community to the UHSC (Mayor, Councillors and GM) in Feb and March 2021.

*These communities, to this day, remain largely **unaware** of the disruption this Project will cause.
**This excludes any cumulative impacts from future New England / Northern NSW RE Proposals

Upper Hunter Council - ~~Community~~ Council Enhancement Fund

UHSC with the proponents have effectively restructured the CEF to move funding away from the most impacted communities

Originally: 100% CEF to Impacted Communities within 20 km

Now: Only 33% CEF to Impacted Communities within 20 km

7.6.2 Community Enhancement Fund

As discussed in Section 6.2.4.5, the Project proposes a Voluntary Planning Agreement in the form of a Community Enhancement Fund. A draft Community Enhancement Fund Charter has been consulted with Tamworth Regional, Upper Hunter and Liverpool Plains councils. The operation of the Fund commits to the following in accordance with the draft Charter:

- annual contributions of \$2,500 per WTG per year from the Project into the Fund;
- establishment of a Community Enhancement Fund Committee to administer and oversee the operation of the Fund, and includes membership from the community, at least one indigenous member, and representatives from each of the three councils; and
- protocols for the assessment and funding approval of projects with a direct benefit to the community within 20 km of the Project, based on established eligibility criteria across four key areas, being community upgrades, social or environment, education and flexible projects determined by majority of the committee.



Turbines in LGA	11 turbines of 64 turbines (based on current design)	
Fund	Total \$ Amount (indicative, subject to finalising the CIV)	Timing
Community Enhancement Fund 0.5% CIV	\$661,718	\$20,625 Annually from the start of construction and for the life of operations (32 years)
Regional Enhancement Fund 1.0% CIV	\$1,323,437	\$44,171 Annually for the life of operations (30 years) OR (for negotiation) \$661,718 during construction if capital works project/s could be agreed on with the Council that benefit the wider region (Upfront Payment) and then \$22,000 annually for the life of operations (30 years)
Total	\$1,985,155	\$64,796 per annum + CPI

Unsuitable Location = Unacceptable Risk

Western/Southern Project Area
Great Dividing Range
Isis Valley

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Suitable Location =
Acceptable Risk

Ideal Wind Farm

Flat historically cleared Land



As depicted : DPE Assessment Report HOG
WFarm

VERSUS

Unsuitable Location =
Unacceptable Risk

Great Dividing Range

Mountainous Pristine Environment



Reality - Great Dividing Range - HOG WFarm proposal

Has the NSW Government now backflipped on protection of the Peel and Isis River Headwaters and the Great Dividing Range BioDiversity? What has changed in 5 years?

Crawney National Park Management Plan DPE 2019

1.2 Statement of significance

Crawney Pass National Park is significant because of its natural and cultural values.

Landscape and catchment values

The park encompasses an area of steep topography and terraced landscape with scenic values typical of the Liverpool Range. **It protects the headwaters of the Isis and Peel rivers. The park is part of a regional corridor providing habitat connectivity along the Liverpool Range and is also located within the broader Great Eastern Ranges Initiative conservation corridor.**

Biological values

The park protects habitat for 13 threatened native animal species and three plant species of conservation significance. Of particular significance is a population of Booroolong frog recorded in the park. This frog has experienced massive population declines in parts of its range and is now highly restricted within New South Wales.



Hills of Gold Proposal directly
Contradicts this.....

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Biodiversity

Sample of the Clearing by the Major Landholder prior to EIS being published

Before (Six Maps 2017)



After Google Maps (Winter 2020)



Tamworth LLS approved “Agricultural” clearing in 2020
HOG W Farm Project Area (WTG21&22)



195. Biodiversity impacts must be offset prior to the Applicant carrying out any development that could directly or indirectly impact biodiversity values requiring offset in accordance with the requirements of NSW Biodiversity Offset Scheme.

Hills of Gold Wind Farm (SSD 9679) Assessment Report | 60

186. The Department is aware that land clearing has occurred on the project site prior to any approval of vegetation clearing under this development application. The Department acknowledges that some of this clearing has occurred with approval under the *Local Land Services Act 2013* (LLS Act), and some areas had been cleared without prior approval and a Biodiversity Conservation Order has been issued for these areas. The Department notes that these cleared areas have been included in the calculation of the offset credit liability for the project.

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SOILS AND WATER

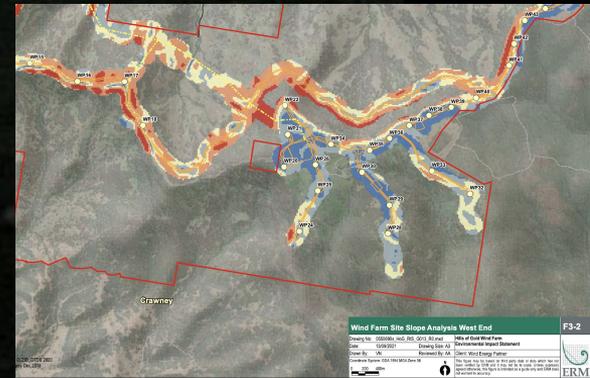
Great Dividing Range (Crawney NP to Ben Halls Gap NR)

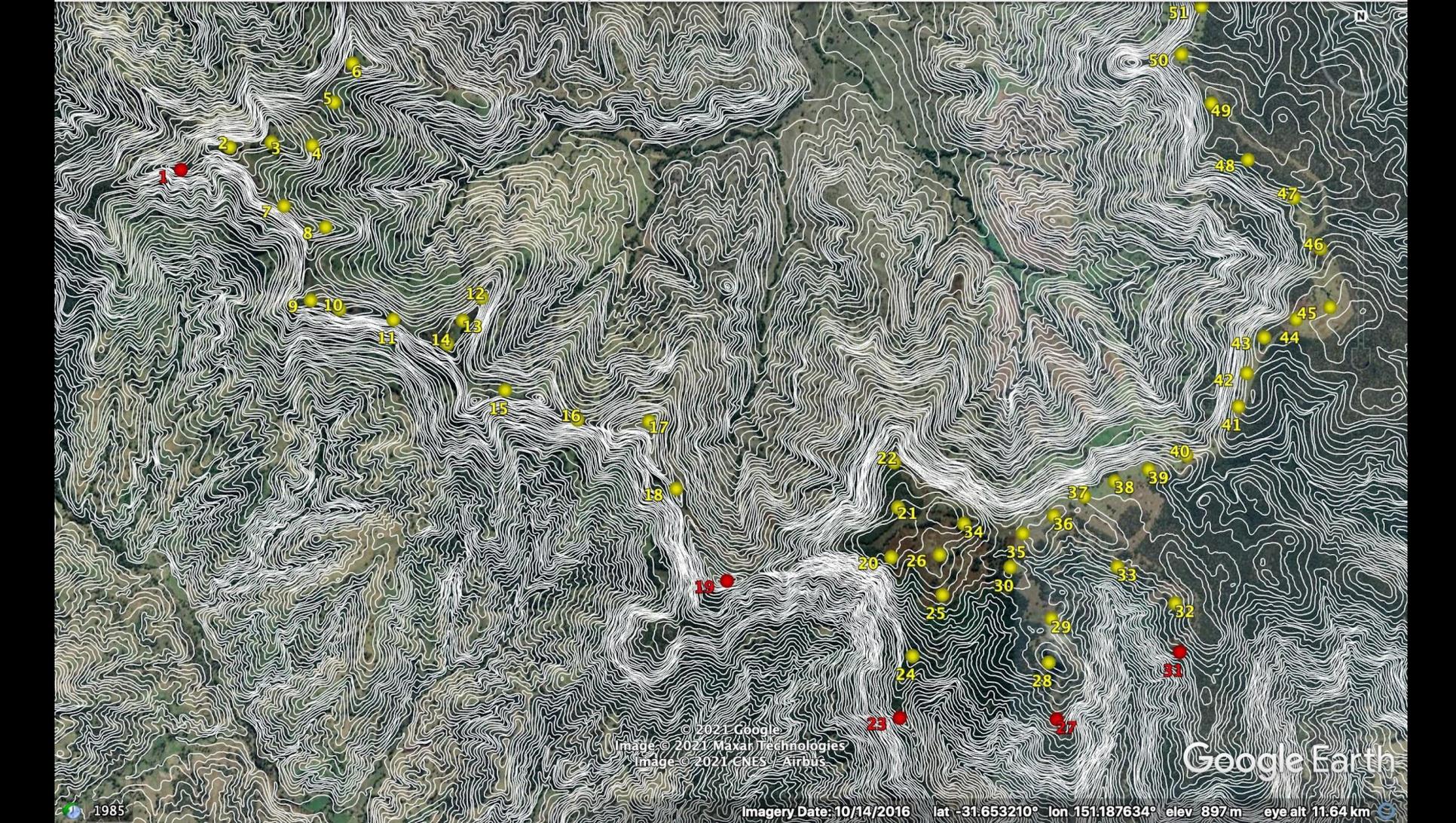
Looking towards the
Western Section/South Facing Slopes - Project area - Hills of Gold Wind Farm



Pages Creek Fire – Dec 2019 – Looking up Perry's Creek towards the Wind Farm Project Area (WTG 18 - 25)

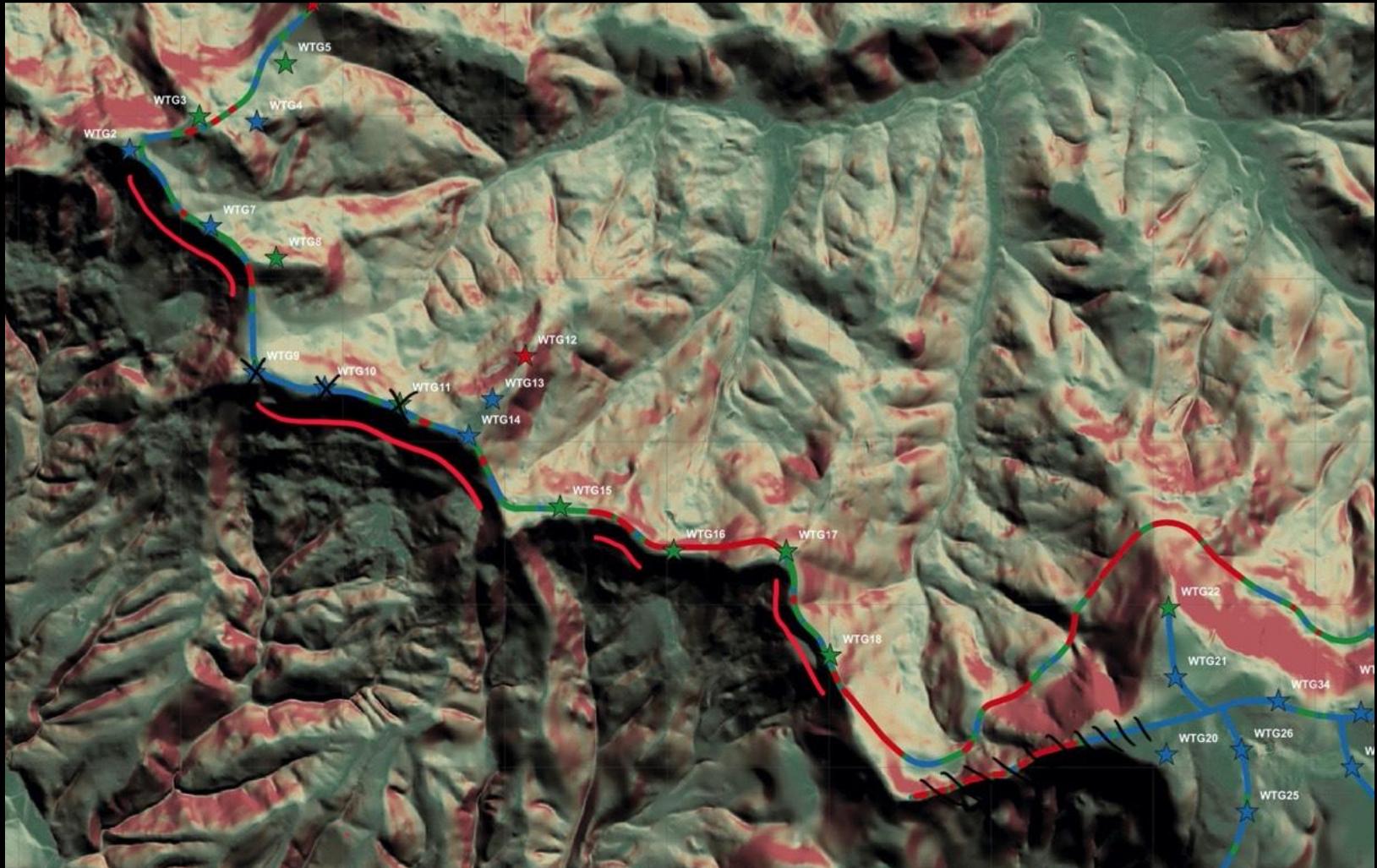
WTGs 2,7,8,14,15,16,17,18,20,22,24,28,29,32,33 - All on the Precipice





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Image © 2021 CNES / Airbus

Google Earth



Water and Soils Assessments use incorrect Rainfall Data and does not account for snow



Crawney Mountain snowfall, June 2021



Hanging Rock snowfall, June 2021



2020 rainfall event demonstrating the volume and velocity of runoff on a property neighbouring the Project Area.



Silt from Perry's Creek entering the Isis River
19th of January 2022

What you will see next - note these are largely undisturbed Soils:



Landslides on the escarpment



Highly Erodible Valleys leading up to
Ridgeline



More Landslides on the escarpment



Silt Perry's Creek entering the Isis River Dec
2021 and Jan 2022 (following disturbance)

Landslides

Southern side of the range

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