#### **Opening Address**



Hon Ted O'Brien

### **Navigating Nuclear** UNSW Sydney - 13 May 2024

A one day opportunity to learn everything you need to know about nuclear energy and what it means for Australia's future from global experts.

#### **Closing Address**



Dr Adi Paterson

#### **Speakers & Organising Committee**



Jaz Diab - Women in Nuclear



Prof Koroush Shirvan - MIT



Prof Jacopo Buongiorno - MIT



Prof Rob Hayes - North Carolina State University



Dr Dave Collins MIT/PhD UMelb



Prof Simon Michaux -Geological Survey of Finland/PhD UO



Dr Sarah Lawley -PhD UAdelaide



Mark Nelson - Radiant Energy/UCambridge



Sai Prasad Balla MIT



Rainforest Reserves Australia



Helen Cook -**GNE Advisory** 



Dr Ross Koningstein - Atte Harjanne - MP Google/PhD Stanford Finland Greens/PhD



Candidate UAalto



Prof Mike Golav -MIT/PhD CornellU



Tony Irwin - ANU



Dr Mark Ho -Australian Nuclear Association



Dr John Harries -Australian Nuclear Association





#### **Organising Committee**

Dr Dave Collins (Chair), Dr Mark Ho (President, Australian Nuclear Association), Jasmine Diab (President, Women in Nuclear), Dr John Harries (Secretary, Australian Nuclear Association).

#### **Acknowledgments**

Sincere thanks to the following for their support and advice without whom the workshop would not have been possible: Dr Robert Barr, Connor Davies, Prof Julien Epps, Prof Stephen Foster, James Fleay, Tony Irwin, Prof Ed Obbard, Hasliza Omar, Robert Parker, Dr Adi Paterson, Chiara Scalise, Peter Sjoquist, Dr Tim Stone, Prof Peter Tyree, Darka de Vries and the speakers and organising committee.

#### **Chatham House Rules**

The Q&As and the Discussion panel were not recorded under the agreed Chatham House Rules.

#### **Speakers & topics**

No	Topic	Speakers and affiliation
1	Opening address	Hon Ted O'Brien – Australian Parliament
2	Introduction to Navigating Nuclear	Jasmin Diab – Global Nuclear Security Partners
3	How does nuclear energy work?	Prof Koroush Shirvan - MIT
4	Nuclear energy in the 21st century	Professor Jacopo Buongiorno - MIT
5	Radiological risk in perspective	Professor Robert Hayes - North Carolina State University
6	What would the environmental impacts of nuclear energy in Australia be?	Dr Dave Collins - MIT
7	Challenges and bottlenecks to the green transition	Professor Simon Michaux - Geological Survey of Finland
8	Australia's electricity system	Dr Sarah Lawley - PhD University of Adelaide
9	What is the value of nuclear energy?	Mark Nelson - Radiant Energy Group
10	What happens inside an operating nuclear power plant?	Sai Prasad Balla - MIT
11	Environmental impacts of renewable energy in Queensland	Steven Nowakowski and Jeanette Kemp - Rainforest Reserves Australia
12	Current nuclear energy developments around the world	Helen Cook - GNE Advisory
13	A discovery that nuclear was nonpartisan in the USA	Dr Ross Koningstein - Google
14	How nuclear became green in Finland	Atte Harjanne - Finland Parliament
15	Experience and lessons from creating nuclear safety cultures	Professor Michael Golay - MIT
Not recorded	Discussion panel	Chair: Tony Irwin - ANU
16	Closing address	Dr Adi Paterson – ANSTO (retired)

# Renewable energy in Queensland

Steven Nowakowski and Jeanette Kemp Rainforest Reserves Australia













### Introduction to Kaban



























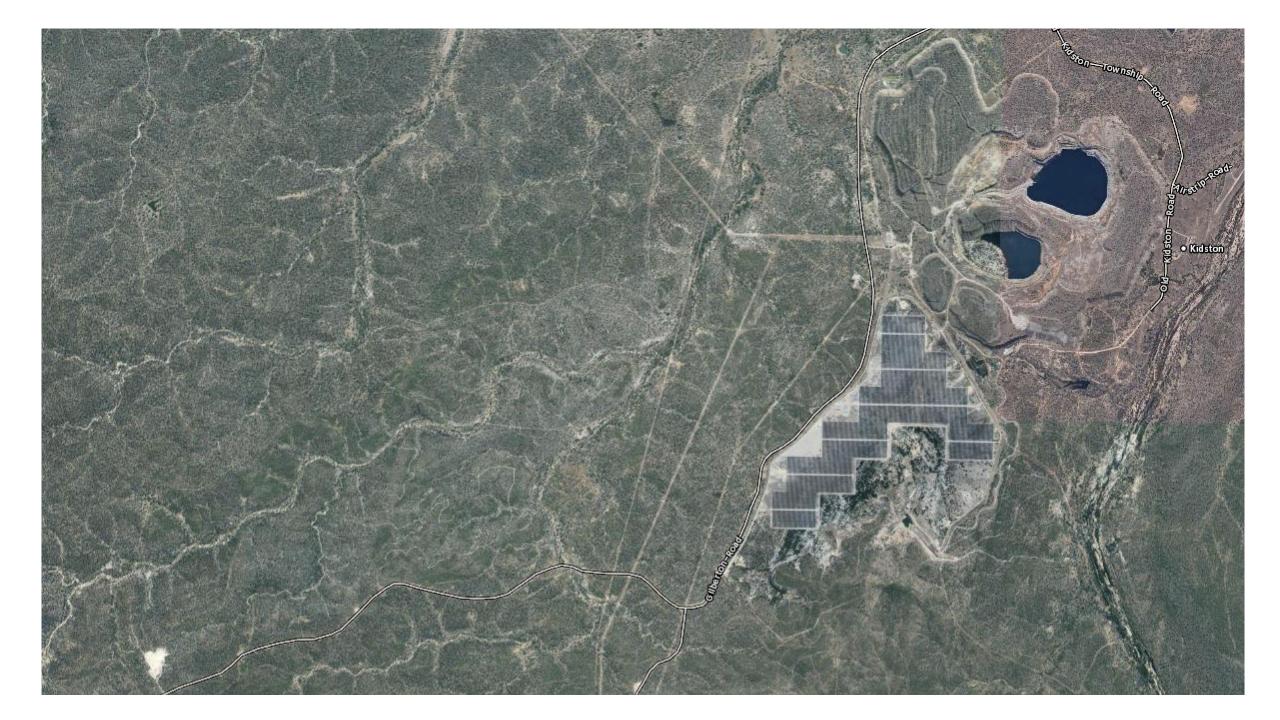
# What's next?

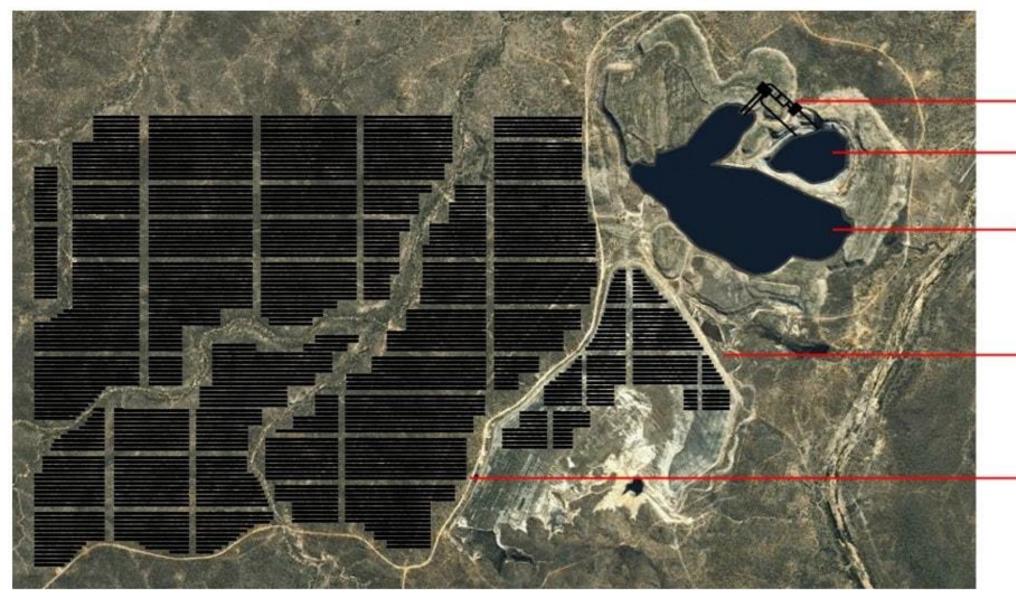
#### JUST NORTH QUEENSLAND – INGHAM TO LAKELAND

Mount Emerald Wind Farm \$380 million – completed Kaban Green Power Hub \$350 million – completed Atherton Solar Park \$100 million - proposed Chewko Road Solar Park \$100m - proposed Mareeba Solar Farm \$100 million - proposed Cape York Solar Storage \$150 million - proposed Lakeland Wind Farm \$200 million – approved – awaiting construction Archer Point Wind Farm \$250 million - proposed Mt. Fox Wind Farm \$300 million – under EPBC referral Mt. Fox BESS \$260 million - proposed Forsayth Wind Farm \$250 million – proposed Windy Hill Wind Farm upgrade? – proposed Karma Wind Farm \$1.5 billion – proposed High Road Wind Farm \$90 million – proposed Hidden Valley Wind Farm \$1 billion – proposed Desaily Solar Park \$2 billion – proposed Kidston Pumped Hydro \$800 million – *in progress* Upper Burdekin Wind Farm (Gawara Baya) \$1.5 billion – under EPBC referral

# Total to be cleared approx. 13,500ha 'remnant' Total (approx.) = \$9.5 billion

## Kidston Pumped-Hydro





( 9 S



A monster of them all...

Upper Burdekin Wind Farm

renamed

Gawara Baya Wind Farm







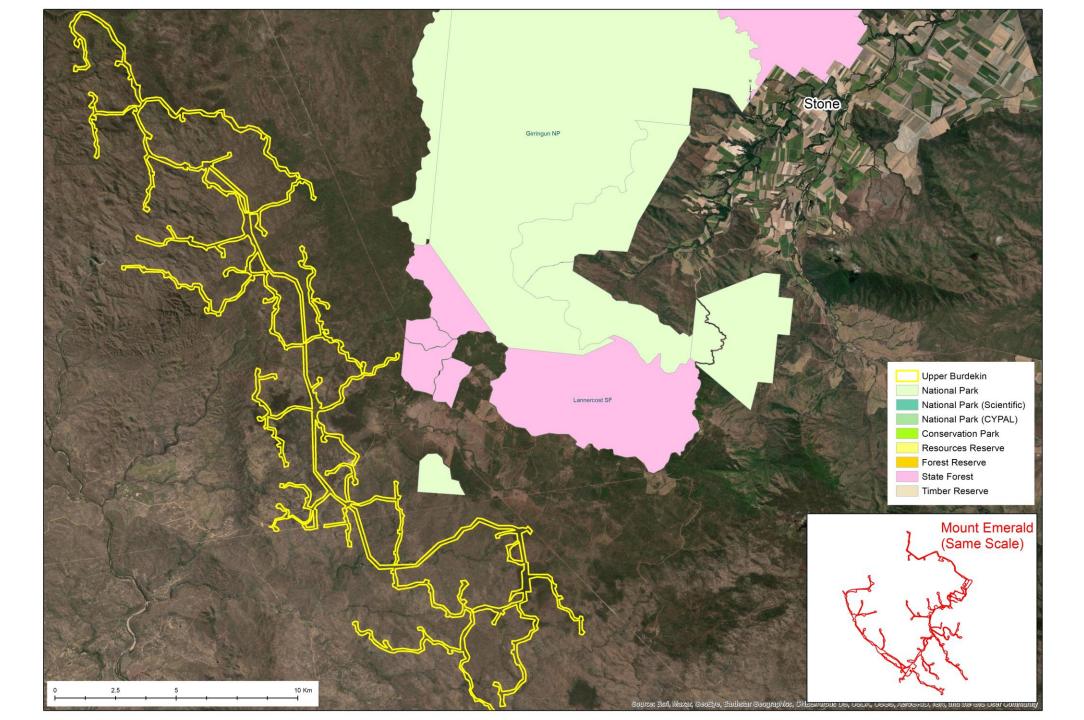


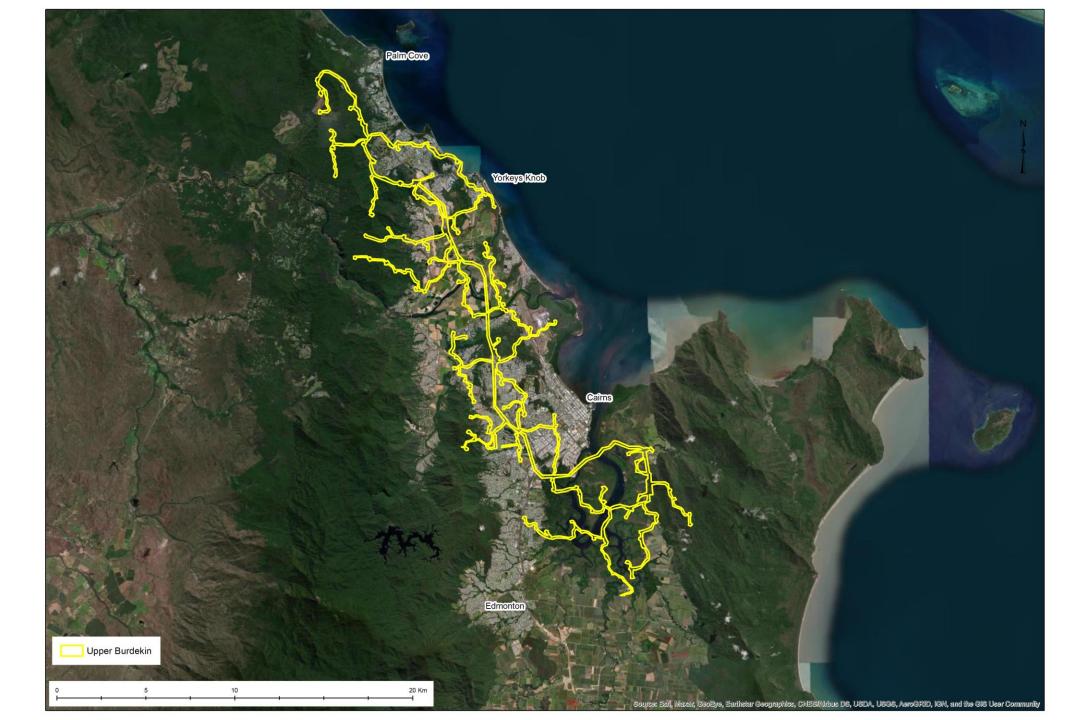












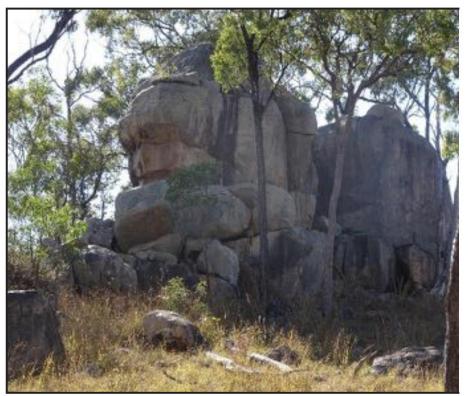
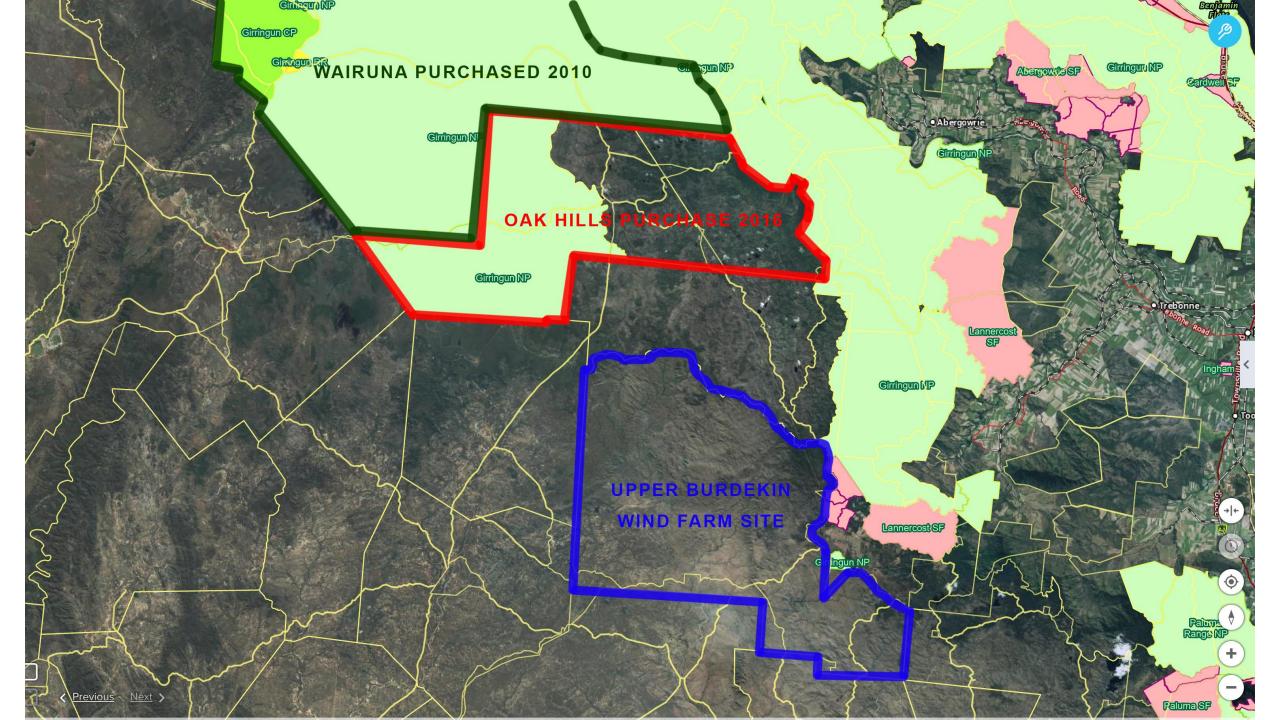




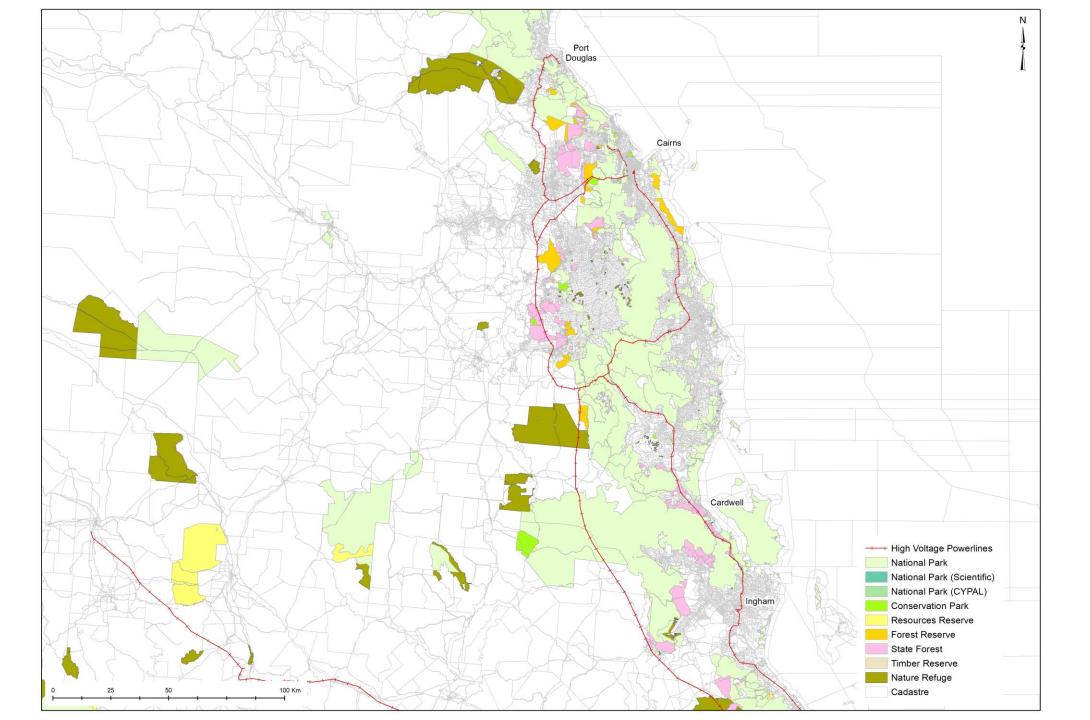
Figure 5-5: Sharman's rock-wallaby observed on granite boulders

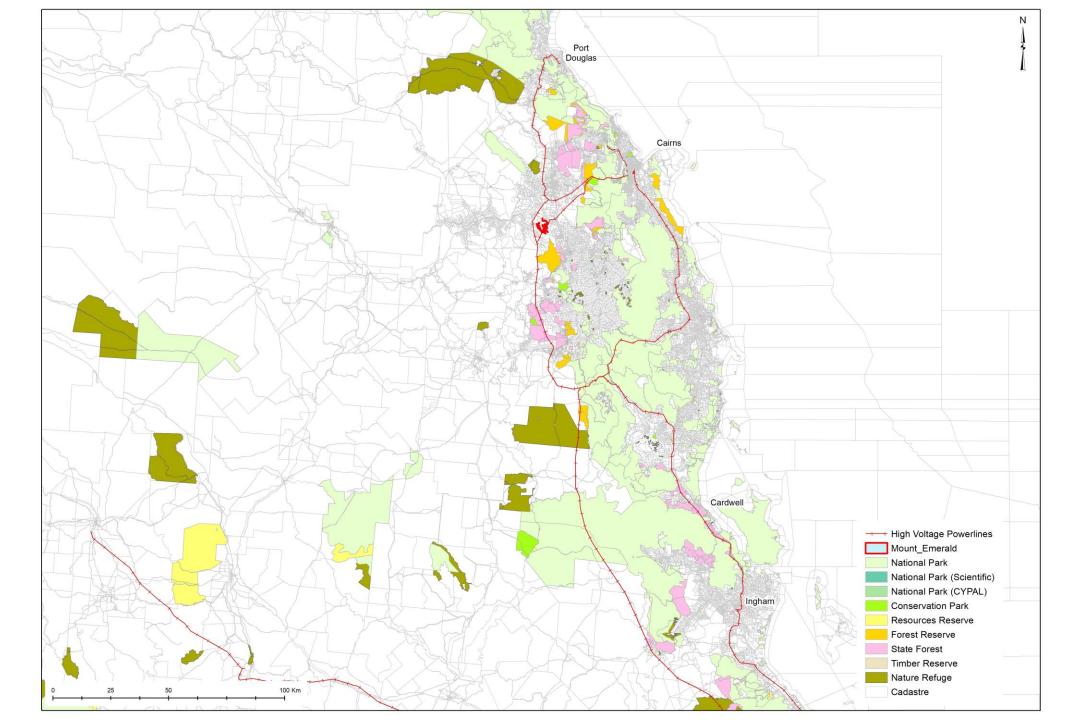
130 bird species including the red goshawk and masked owl
2 flying-fox and 25 microbat species
16 terrestrial mammals including the Sharman's Rock-wallaby
6 arboreal mammals including the koala and greater glider
12 reptile species
5 amphibian species

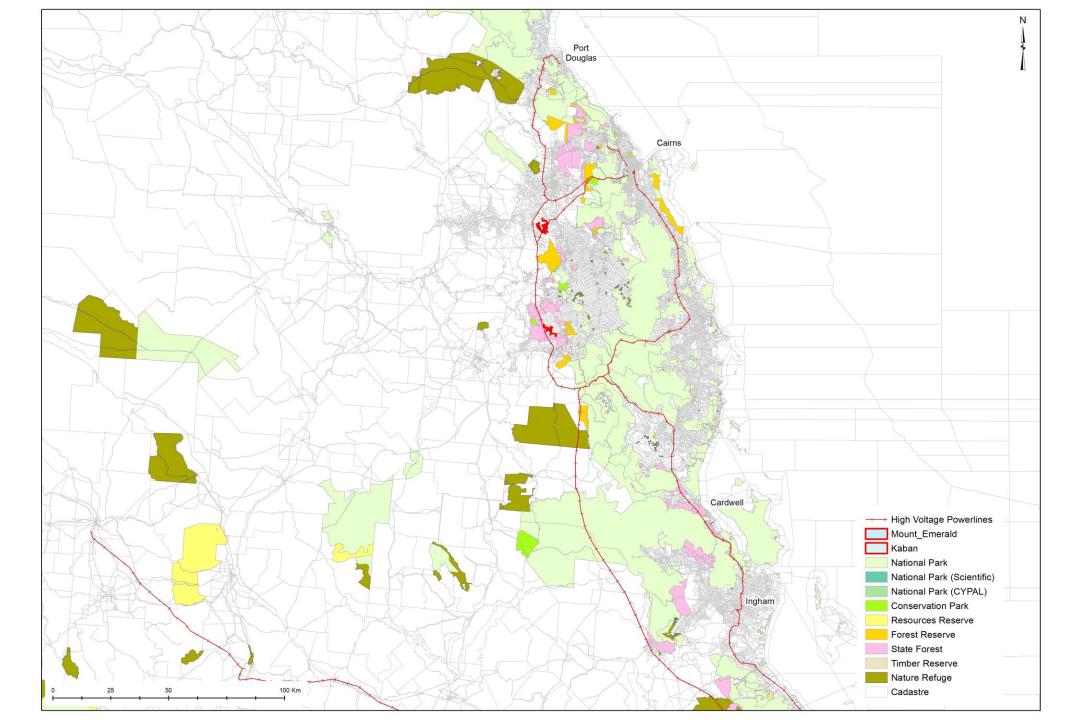


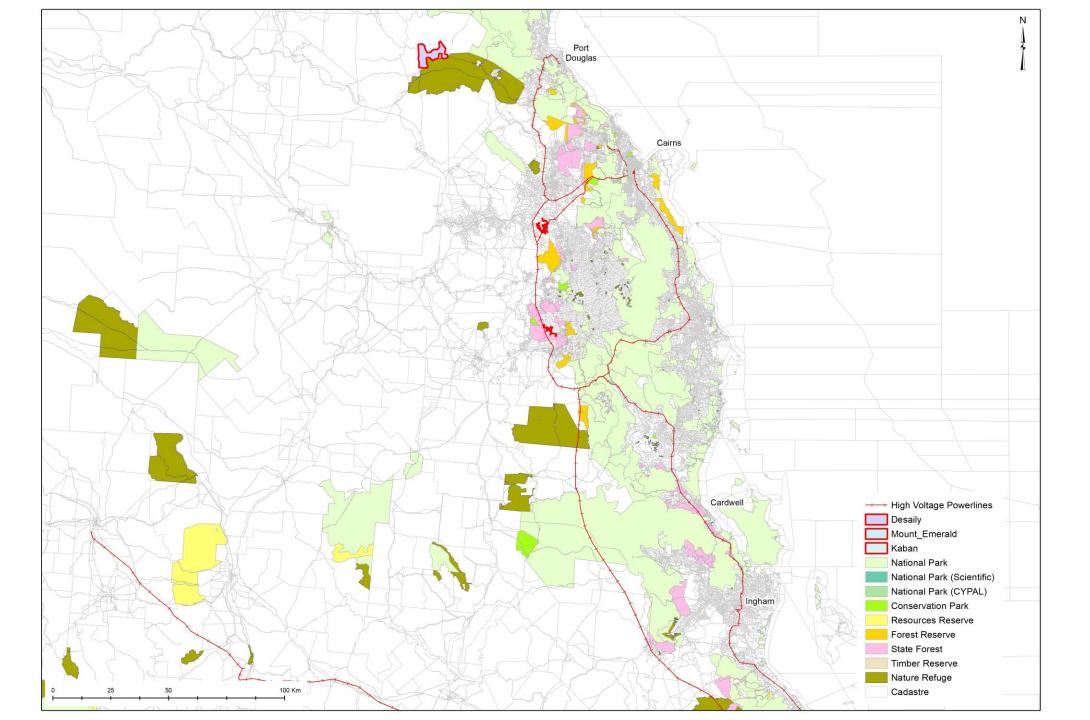
## Why here?

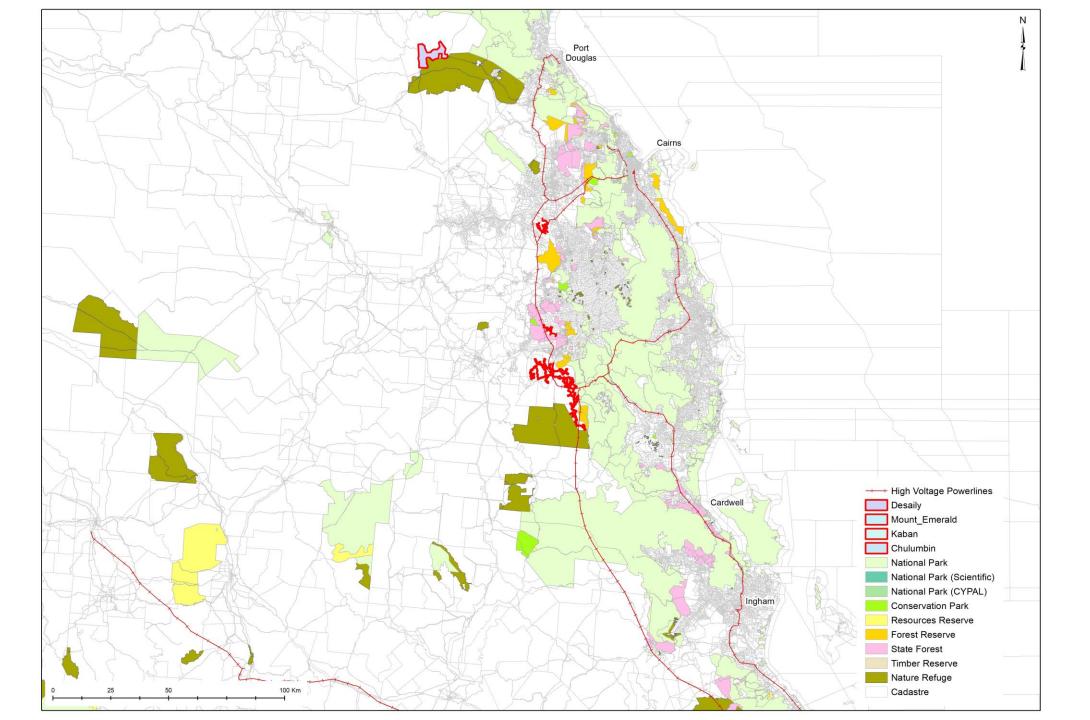
It's all about the transmission lines.

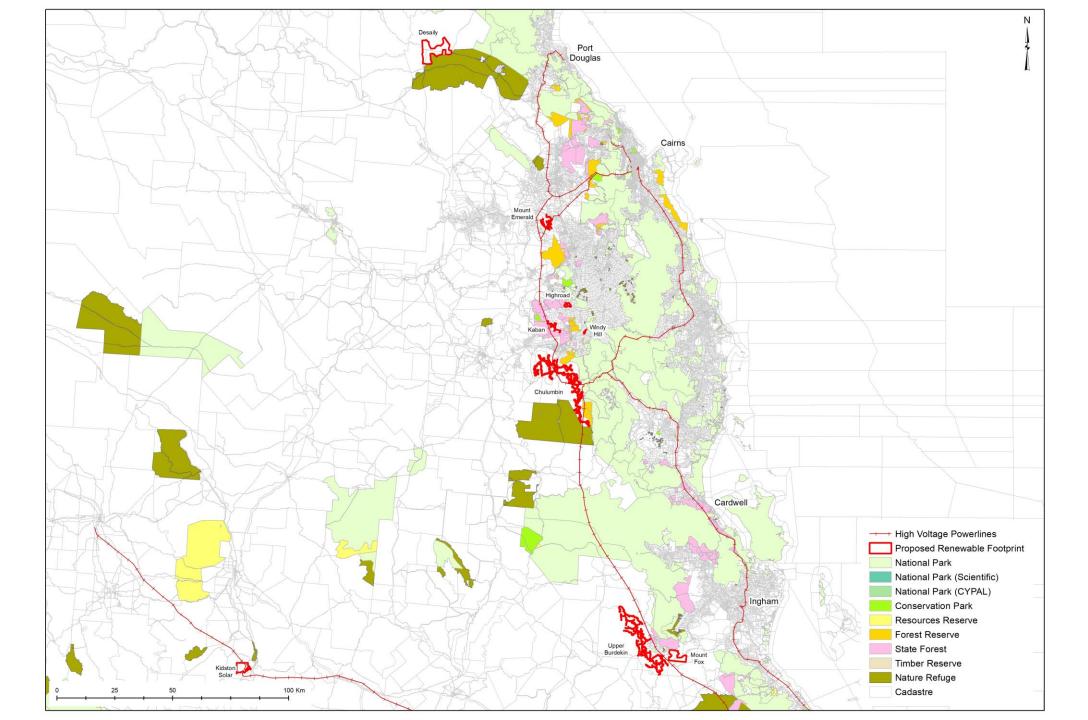








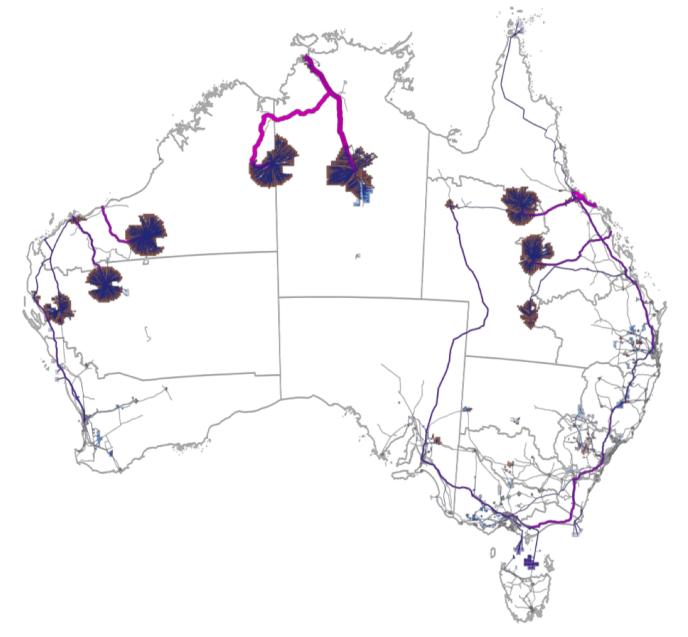




## This is what the conservation sector wants!

## Solar, wind and electricity transmission siting.

E+ Scenario, 2060.



## **NET ZERO REPORT**

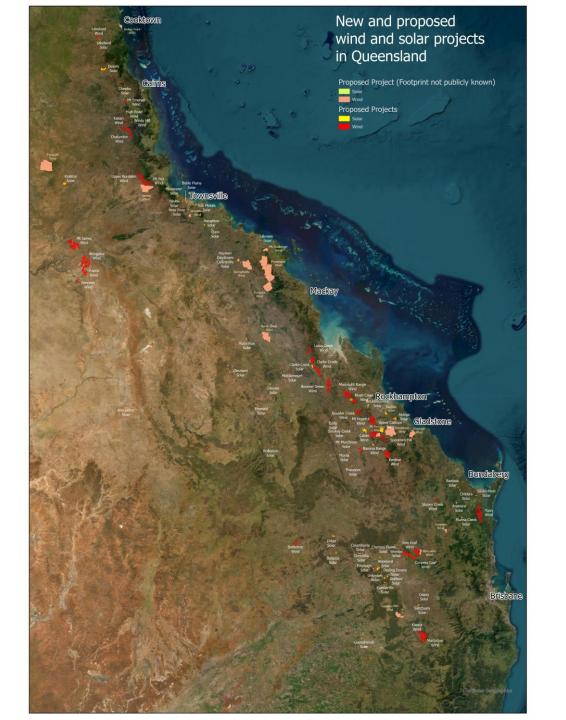
https://www.netzeroaustralia.net.au

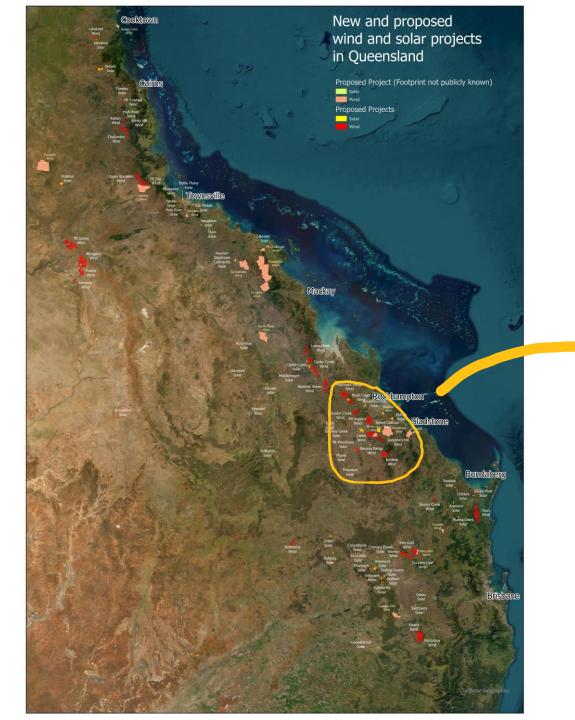


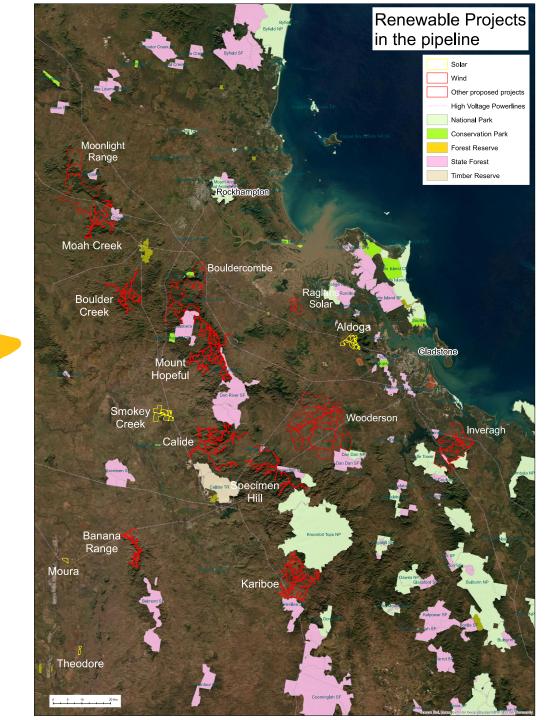
This is the reality!

Conservation sector is in la-la land.

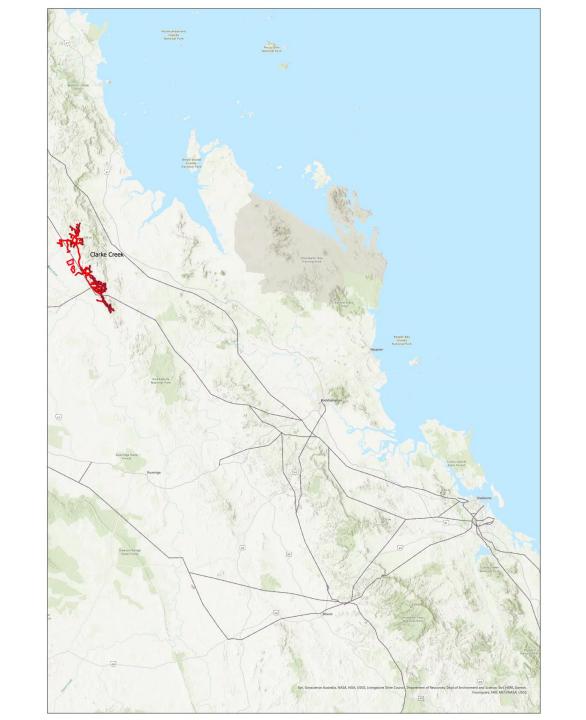
Number	Name	TYPE	CAPACITY	38	Ross River	Solar	148	75	Everleigh	Solar	139
1	Haughton	Solar	500	39	Clare	Solar	127	76	Brooyar	BESS	500
2	Barcaldine	Solar	25	40	Clermont	Solar	93	77	Mount Rawdon	PumpHydro	2000
3	Emerald	Solar	72	41	Lilyvale	Solar	100	78	Big T	PumpHydro	400
4	Middlemount	Solar	34	42	Aldoga	Solar	600				
5	Rugby Run	Solar	65	43	Banana Range	Wind	280	79	Herries Range	Wind	1,000
6	Sun Metals	Solar	125	44	Calide	Wind	400	80	Proserpine	Wind	900
7	Susan River	Solar	95	45	Specimen Hill	Wind	336	81	Eungella	Wind	500
8	Boulder Creek	Wind	360	46	MacIntyre	Wind	1026	82	Wongalee	Wind	1400
9	Tuan	Wind	1200	47	Wambo	Wind	252	83	Moonlight Range	Wind	400
10	Chinchilla	Solar	100	48	Mount Hopeful	Wind	350	84	Springlands	Wind	800
11	Cooper's Gap	Wind	453	49	Karara	Wind	103	85	Mt. Challenger	Wind	80
12	Mount Fox	Wind	290	50	Lotus Creek	Wind	341	86	Captains Mountain	Wind	380
13	Mount Emerald	Wind	180	51	Aramara	Solar	140	87	•	Wind	500
14	Chewko	Solar	60	52	Banksia	Solar	68		Tarong West		
15	Kennedy	Wind	50	53	Beelbee	Solar	240	88	Karma	Wind	600
16	Collinsville	Solar	43	54	Bohle Plains	Solar	124	89	Boomer Range	Wind	1,000
17	Daydream	Solar	150	55	Bowen	Solar	120	90	Moah Creek	Wind	375
18	Hayman	Solar	50	56	Bluewater	Solar	100	91	Moah Creek	Solar	285
19	Hamilton	Solar	138	57	Chances Plains	Solar	100	92	Bouldercombe	Solar	285
20	Desaily	Solar	75	58	Delga	Solar	250	93	Boulder Creek	Wind	372
21	Lakeland	Wind	100	59	Dulacca	Solar	180	94	Raglans	Solar	300
22	Lakeland	Solar	13	60	Eungella	PumpHydro	250	95	Mount Rainbow	Wind	270
23	Clarke Creek	Solar	200	61	Mica Creek	Solar	44				
24	Clarke Creek	Wind	800	62	Moura	Solar	110	96	Mt. Murchison	Solar	200
25	Chalumbin	Wind	400	63	Rolleston	Solar	90	97	Upper Calliope	Solar	1000
26	Windy Hill	Wind	20	64	Sanctuary	Solar	25	98	Kariboe	Wind	1000
28	High Road	Wind	80	65	Sanctuary2?	Solar	75	99	Callide	Wind	430
29	Kaban	Wind	157	66	Smokey Creek	Solar	540	100	Forsyth	Wind	250
30	Kidston 1	Solar	50	67	Theodore	Solar	70	103	North Creek	Wind	330
31	Kidston	PumpHydro	250	68	Kumbarilla	Solar	100	104	Iveragh	Wind	340
32	Kidston 2	Solar	270	69	Wooderson	Wind	816	105	Goomeri	Wind	250
33	Columboola	Solar	162	70	Goondiwindi	Solar	94				
34	Oakey	Solar	75	71	Mount James	Wind	1000	106	Stoney Creek	Wind	166
35	Darling Downs	Solar	110	72	Eungella 2	PumpHy	5000	107	Mannuem	Wind	57
36	Borumba	PumpHydro	2000	73	Stony Creek	Wind	160	108	Iron Leaf	Wind	500
37	Childers	Solar	120	74	Prairie	Wind	800	109	Bottletree	Wind	420

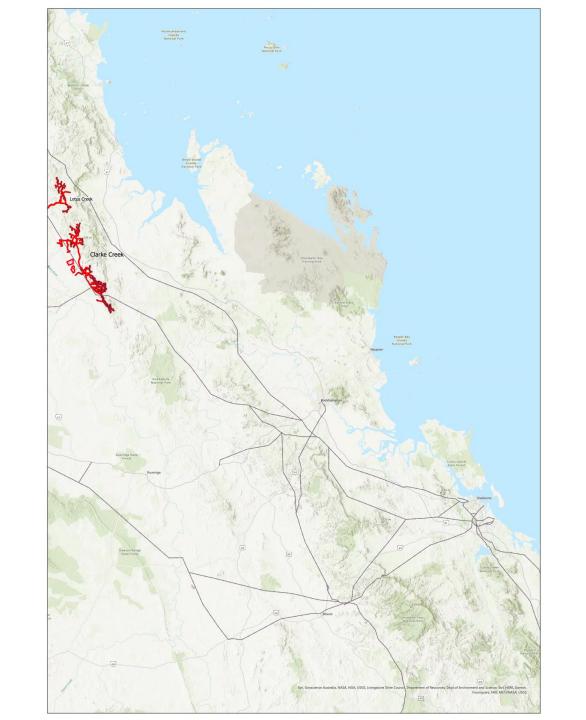


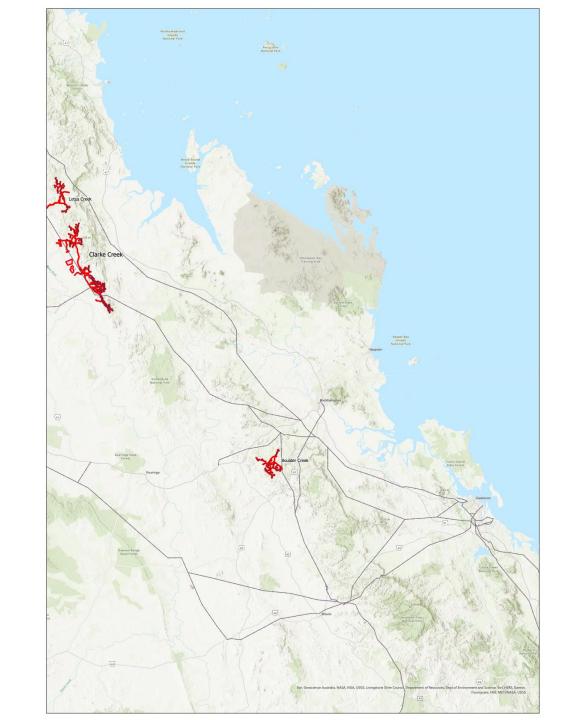




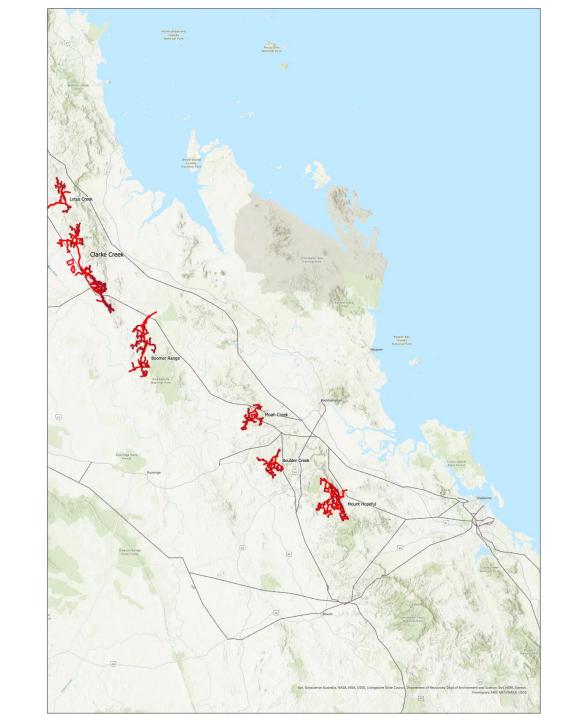




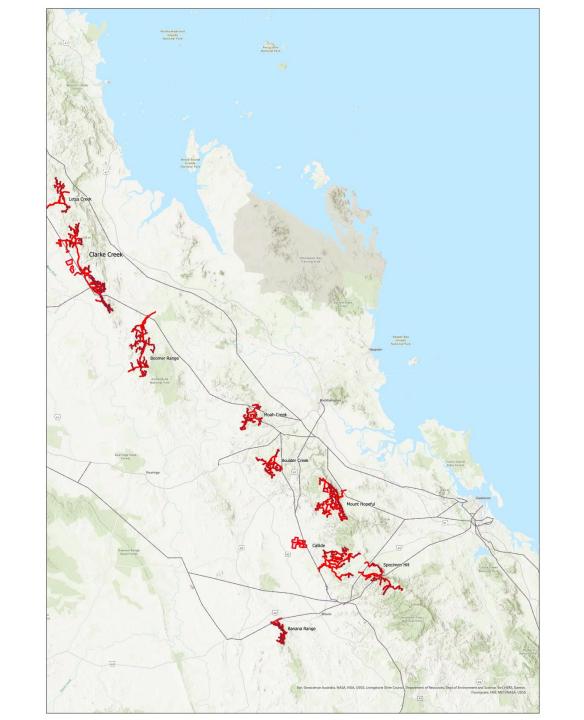




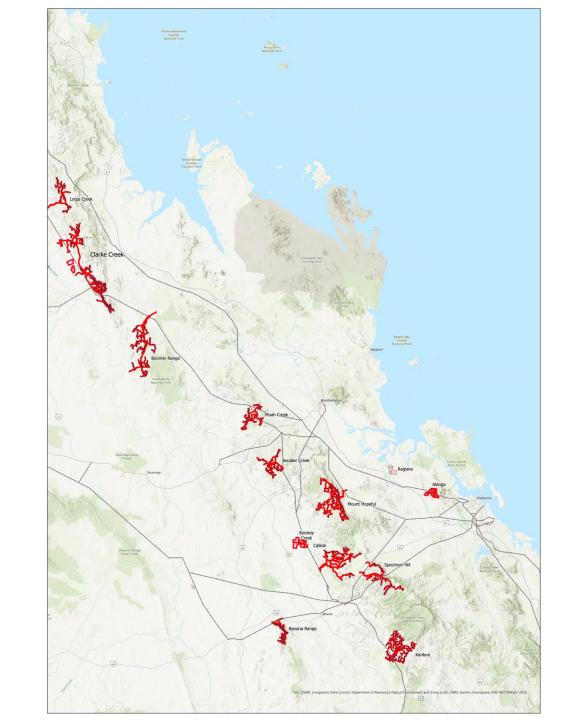


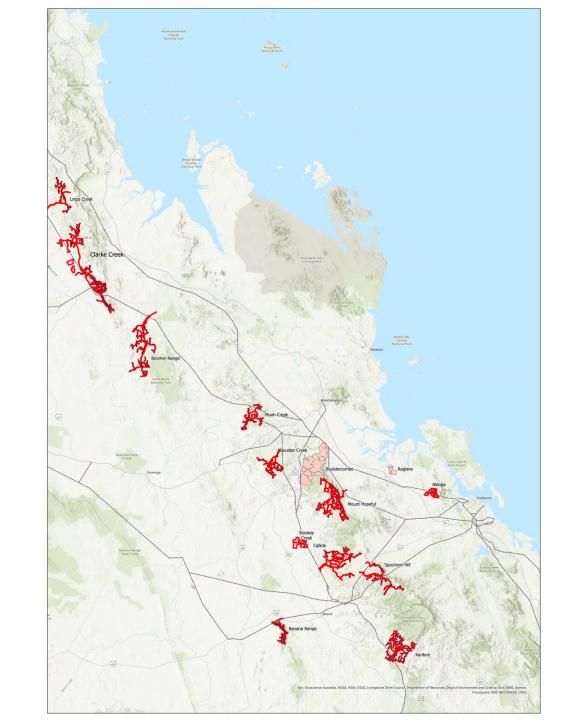


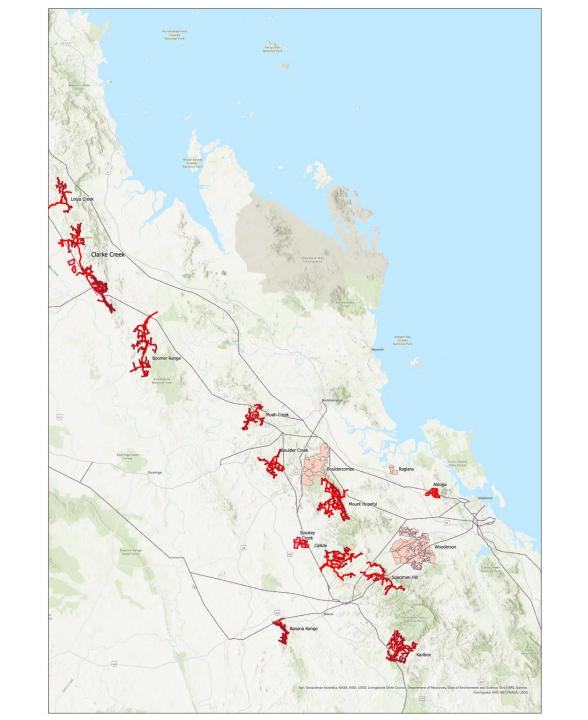


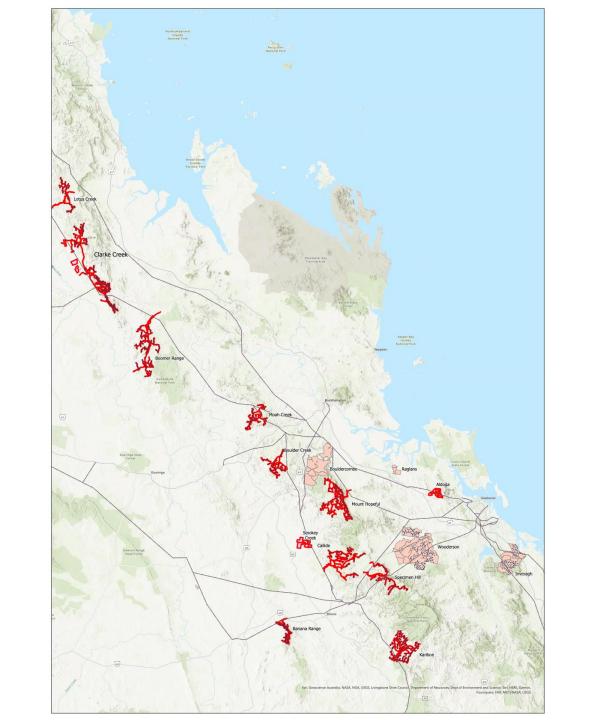


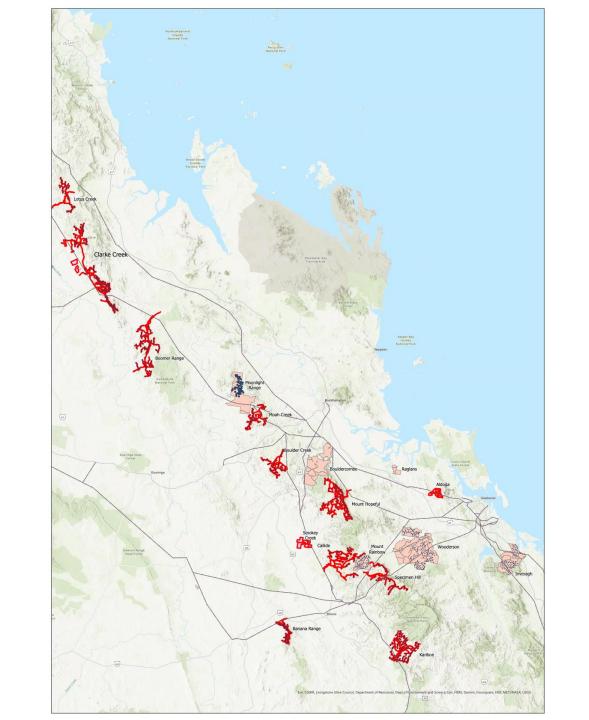


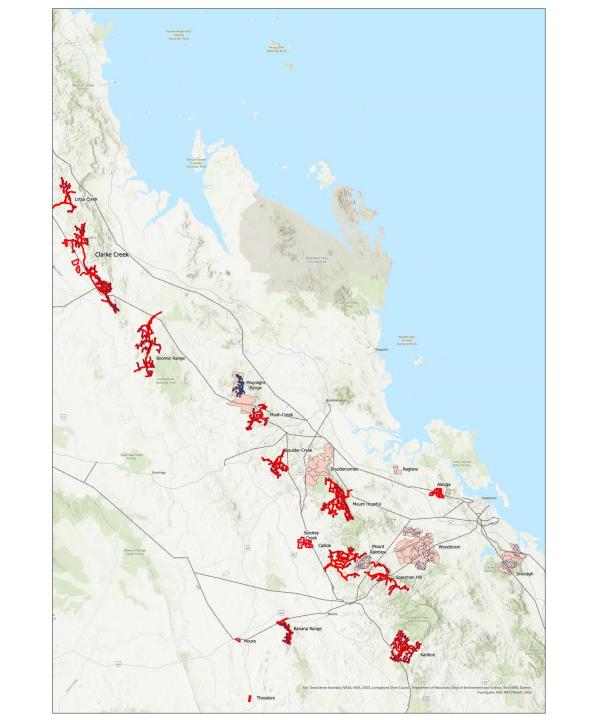


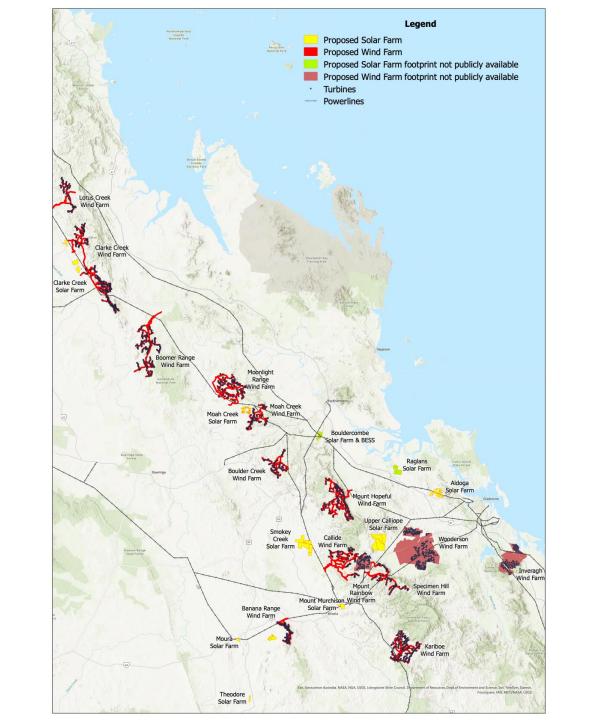


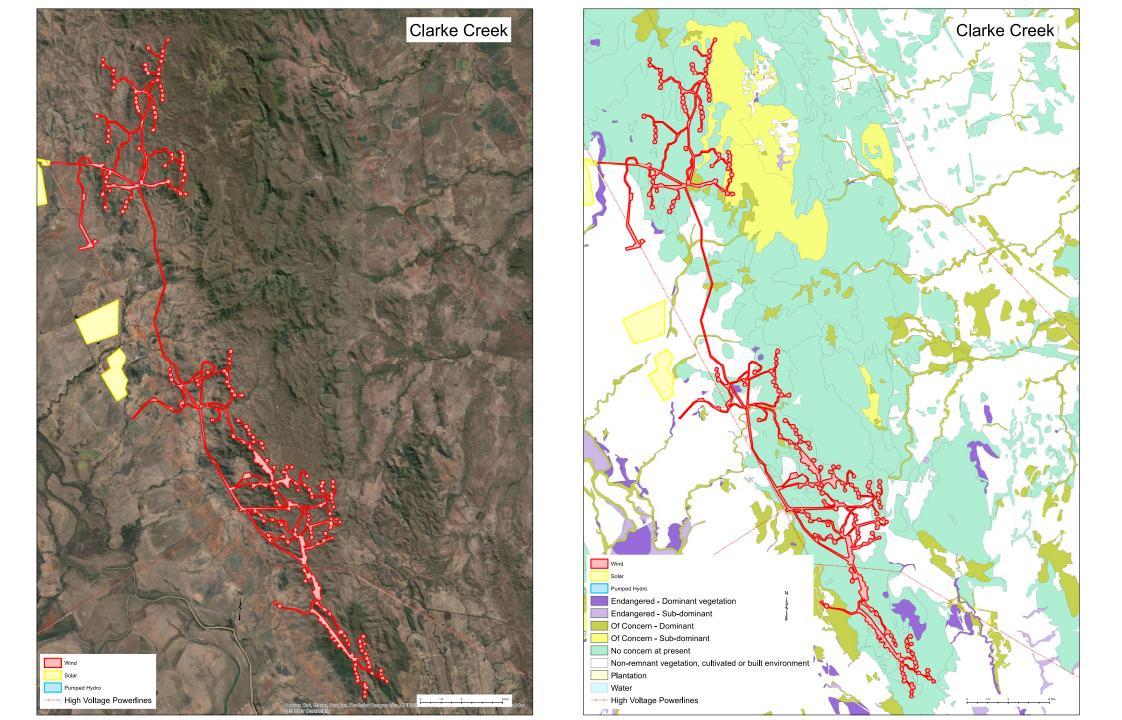




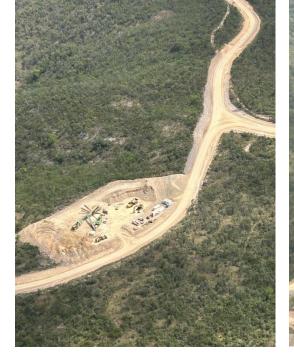






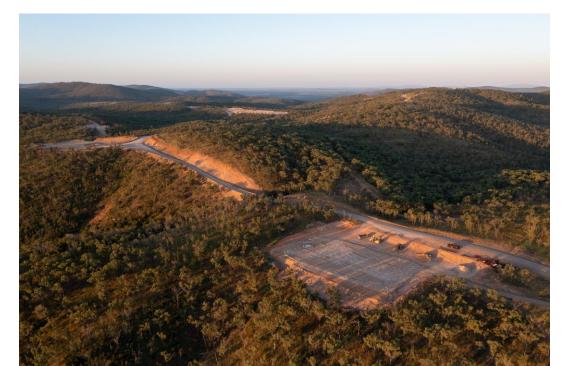




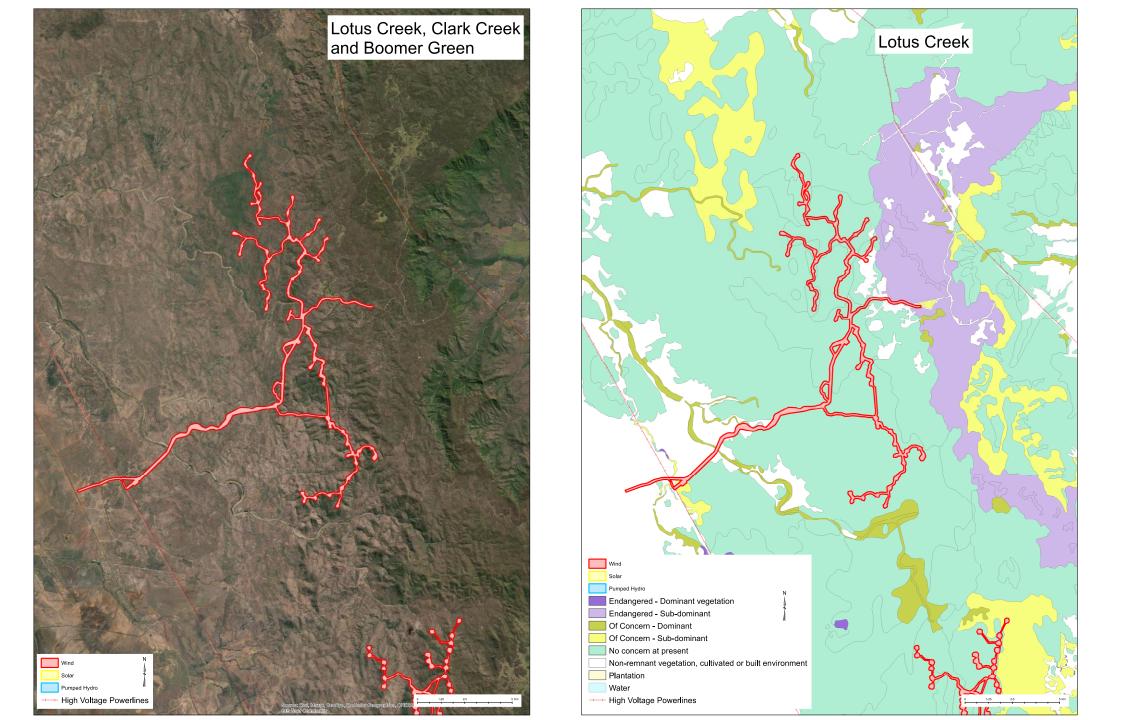
















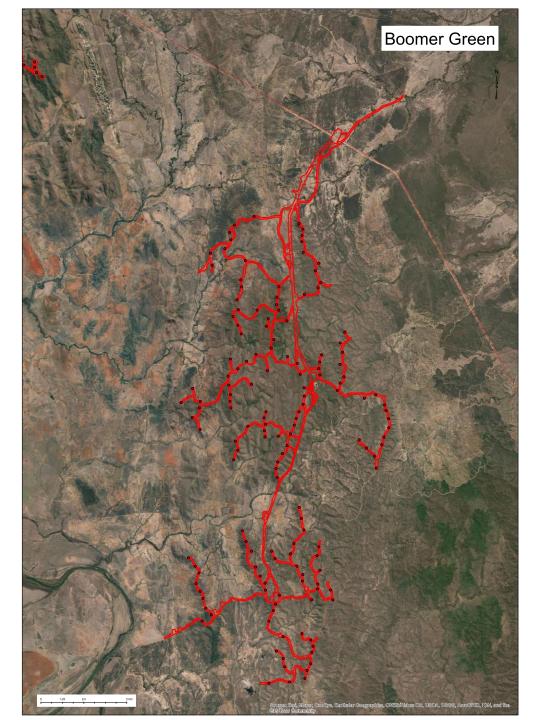


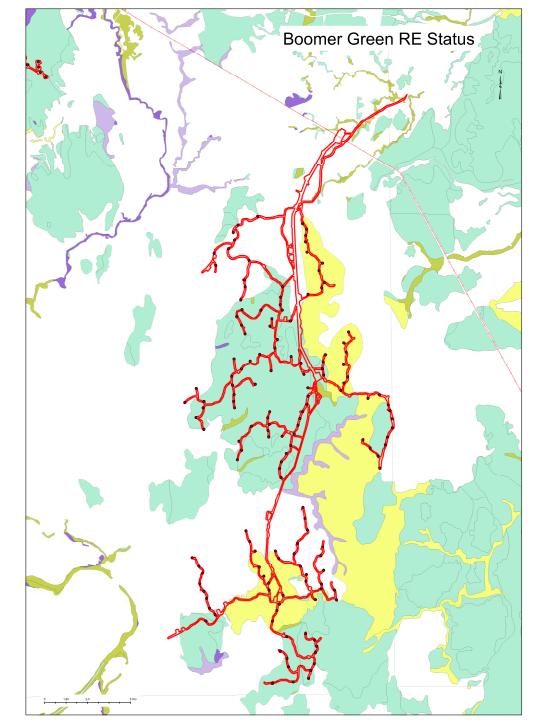


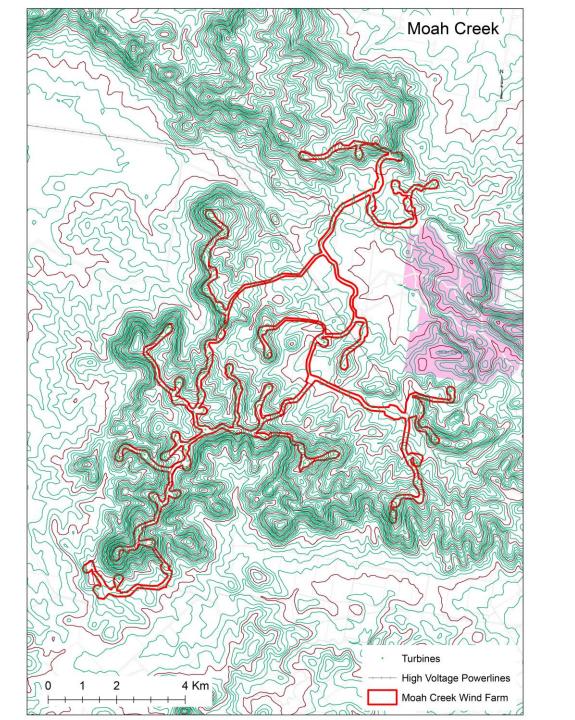


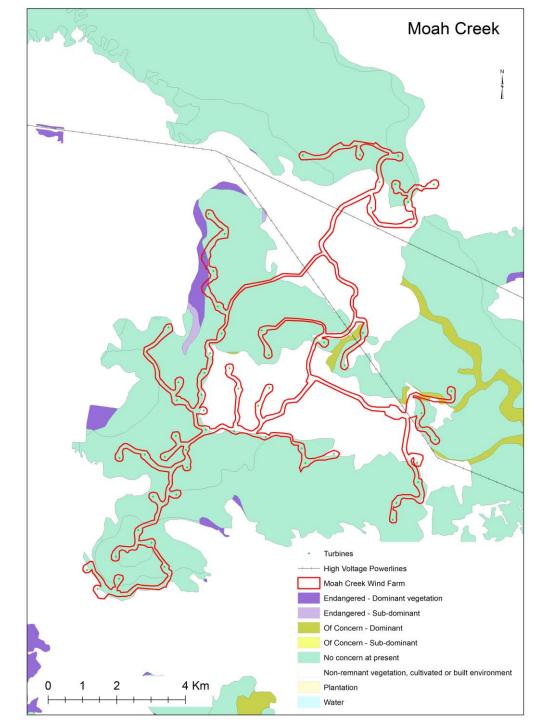










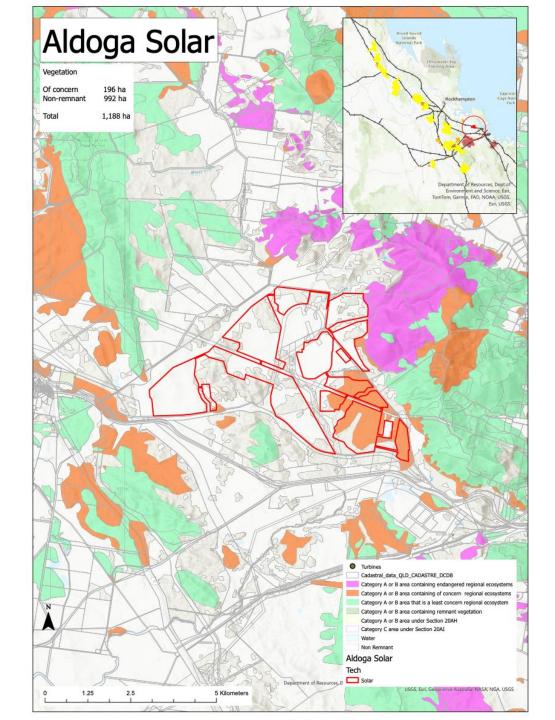














Solar within yellow polygon and purple and green is offset area.



Diatreme Resources says it's confident that having its Northern Silica Project, near Cape Flattery, awarded Coordinated Project status will

Proposed silica mine within Cape York deemed to have World Heritage Values. This will be mined for solar panel production.

Number	Name	TYPE	CAPACITY	38	Ross River	Solar	148	75	Everleigh	Solar	139
1	Haughton	Solar	500	39	Clare	Solar	127	76	Brooyar	BESS	500
2	Barcaldine	Solar	25	40	Clermont	Solar	93	77	Mount Rawdon	PumpHydro	2000
3	Emerald	Solar	72	41	Lilyvale	Solar	100	78	Big T	PumpHydro	400
4	Middlemount	Solar	34	42	Aldoga	Solar	600				
5	Rugby Run	Solar	65	43	Banana Range	Wind	280	79	Herries Range	Wind	1,000
6	Sun Metals	Solar	125	44	Calide	Wind	400	80	Proserpine	Wind	900
7	Susan River	Solar	95	45	Specimen Hill	Wind	336	81	Eungella	Wind	500
8	Boulder Creek	Wind	360	46	MacIntyre	Wind	1026	82	Wongalee	Wind	1400
9	Tuan	Wind	1200	47	Wambo	Wind	252	83	Moonlight Range	Wind	400
10	Chinchilla	Solar	100	48	Mount Hopeful	Wind	350	84	Springlands	Wind	800
11	Cooper's Gap	Wind	453	49	Karara	Wind	103	85	Mt. Challenger	Wind	80
12	Mount Fox	Wind	290	50	Lotus Creek	Wind	341	86	Captains Mountain	Wind	380
13	Mount Emerald	Wind	180	51	Aramara	Solar	140	87	•	Wind	500
14	Chewko	Solar	60	52	Banksia	Solar	68		Tarong West		
15	Kennedy	Wind	50	53	Beelbee	Solar	240	88	Karma	Wind	600
16	Collinsville	Solar	43	54	Bohle Plains	Solar	124	89	Boomer Range	Wind	1,000
17	Daydream	Solar	150	55	Bowen	Solar	120	90	Moah Creek	Wind	375
18	Hayman	Solar	50	56	Bluewater	Solar	100	91	Moah Creek	Solar	285
19	Hamilton	Solar	138	57	Chances Plains	Solar	100	92	Bouldercombe	Solar	285
20	Desaily	Solar	75	58	Delga	Solar	250	93	Boulder Creek	Wind	372
21	Lakeland	Wind	100	59	Dulacca	Solar	180	94	Raglans	Solar	300
22	Lakeland	Solar	13	60	Eungella	PumpHydro	250	95	Mount Rainbow	Wind	270
23	Clarke Creek	Solar	200	61	Mica Creek	Solar	44				
24	Clarke Creek	Wind	800	62	Moura	Solar	110	96	Mt. Murchison	Solar	200
25	Chalumbin	Wind	400	63	Rolleston	Solar	90	97	Upper Calliope	Solar	1000
26	Windy Hill	Wind	20	64	Sanctuary	Solar	25	98	Kariboe	Wind	1000
28	High Road	Wind	80	65	Sanctuary2?	Solar	75	99	Callide	Wind	430
29	Kaban	Wind	157	66	Smokey Creek	Solar	540	100	Forsyth	Wind	250
30	Kidston 1	Solar	50	67	Theodore	Solar	70	103	North Creek	Wind	330
31	Kidston	PumpHydro	250	68	Kumbarilla	Solar	100	104	Iveragh	Wind	340
32	Kidston 2	Solar	270	69	Wooderson	Wind	816	105	Goomeri	Wind	250
33	Columboola	Solar	162	70	Goondiwindi	Solar	94				
34	Oakey	Solar	75	71	Mount James	Wind	1000	106	Stoney Creek	Wind	166
35	Darling Downs	Solar	110	72	Eungella 2	PumpHy	5000	107	Mannuem	Wind	57
36	Borumba	PumpHydro	2000	73	Stony Creek	Wind	160	108	Iron Leaf	Wind	500
37	Childers	Solar	120	74	Prairie	Wind	800	109	Bottletree	Wind	420

Queensland needs 13,000 MW (peak at 6pm with no solar)

Capacity factor of wind is 15-35% efficiency Assume 25% capacity this will deliver 5,718MW

# THEREFORE, WE NEED TO MULTILPY THESE 53 WIND PROJECTS BY AT LEAST TWICE TO REACH TARGETS! (WHEN THE WIND BLOWS)

#### NOTE:

This excludes all the critical mineral mining and rare earth mining to facilitate this rollout.

It also excludes vast transmission infrastructure and back up storage and gas peaking plants when all fails.

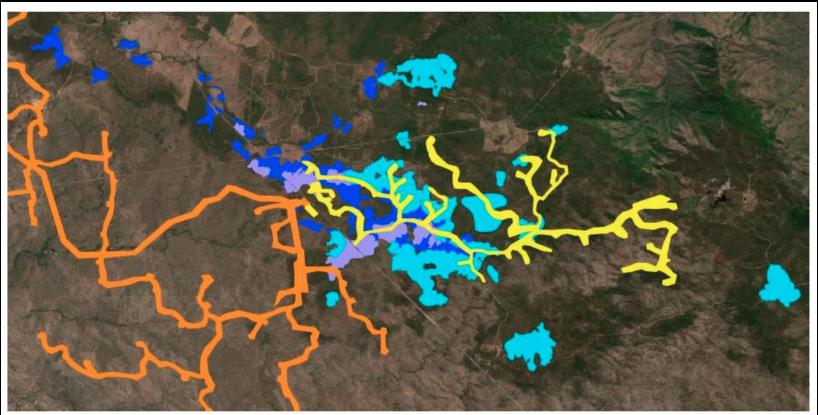
## <u>The breakdown is (just for wind) – study by Jeanette Kemp</u> (former Queensland Government Principal Botanist):

**Table 2.** Area of Endangered, Of Concern and Least Concern, according to the Queensland Biodiversity Status, which is within the renewables clearing footprint. Table also includes area with 200 m buffer (i.e. the area likely to undergo secondary impacts).

Biodiversity Status	Area of Clearing (Ha)	Area of Clearing with 200 m buffer (Ha)
Endangered	370	1,935
Of concern	2612	1,1402
No concern at present	25956	100,671
Grand Total	28,938	114,007

**4,132km of new haulage roads** (this excludes transmission easements) will be built within remnant and non-remnant forests across the state, a total area of disturbance is 114,007ha.

## Mt. Fox Wind Farm Jeanette Kemp (former Queensland Government Principal Botanist)



**Fig. 1** Regional Ecosystems 7.8.18a (dark blue), 7.8.18c (purple) and 7.5.4f (light blue) are rare or restricted ecosystems listed as Of Concern under both the Vegetation Management Act and Biodiversity Status ranking. Mount Fox Energy Park clearing footprint is shown in yellow, and parts of the Gawara Baya Wind Farm are shown in orange. The Mount Fox Energy Park will fragment the largest, most intact examples of these ecosystems remaining.

#### Impacts on threatened and restricted plants

There is a large number of threatened or restricted plant species that will be affected by the renewable energy proposals. For example, the following 52 Queensland listed threatened or near- threatened species are likely to (or known to) occur within or close to the footprint of one or more of the renewables proposals. Note that for several of these species, their core habitat lies in the rugged ridges and knolls of the coastal ranges, which is precisely where the windfarms are proposed.

#### Note:

CE = Critically Endangered

E = Endangered

V = Vulnerable

NT = Near Threatened

Species	Qld Status
Calotis glabrescens	CE
Melaleuca uxorum	CE
Prostanthera albohirta	CE
Zieria fordii	CE
Acacia <u>pedleyi</u>	E
Comesperma anemosmaragdinum	E
Cycas megacarpa	E
Cycas ophiolitica	E
Glossocardia orthochaeta	E
Macrozamia pauli-guilielmi	E
Macrozamia serpentina	E
Melaleuca sylvana	E
<u>Prostanthera clotteniana</u>	E
Rhodamnia sessiliflora	E
Solanum graniticum	E
Vincetoxicum forsteri	E
Vincetoxicum rupicola	E
Acacia crombiei	V
Acacia purpureopetala	V
Acacia tingoorensis	V
Capparis thozetiana	V
Coleus <u>amoenus</u>	V
Coleus eungallensis	V
Commersonia reticulata	V
Corchorus subargenteus	V
Corunastylis alticola	V

Corymbia leptoloma	٧
Cycas couttsiana	V
Cycas terryana	V
Eucalyptus infera	V
Gastrodia urceolata	V
Goodenia stirlingii	V
Grevillea glossadenia	V
Homoranthus porteri	V
Leichhardtia brevifolia	V
Macrozamia cardiacensis	V
Macrozamia conferta	V
Ozothamnus eriocephalus	V
Samadera bidwillii	V
Thesium australe	V
Triplarina nitchaga	V
Zieria obovata	V
Achronychia eungellensis	NT
Aggreflorum pallidum	NT
Cerbera dumicola	NT
Calochlaena villosa	NT
Chiloglottis longiclavata	NT
Corybas abellianus	NT
Corybas cerasinus	NT
Diuris oporina	NT
Dodonaea uncinata	NT
Sannantha brachypoda	NT

There are around seven North Queensland plant species that could now be considered for listing as a threatened species given their very restricted occurrence, and possible occurrence within the proposed windfarm footprints:

Caldesia reniformis
Comesperma rhyoliticum
Hibbertia concinna
Hibbertia malacophylla
Pterostylis borealis
Synostemon anemoniflorus
Schoenus thedae
Zieria whitei

There are at least three plant species which are significant outliers from southern populations (and may be genetically significant) which may occur in the proposed windfarm footprints:

Lindsaea incisa
Boronia bipinnata
Zieria cytisoides

There are at least 18 restricted plant species for which their core habitat lies overlaps with the North Queensland windfarm proposals, and which will result in substantial habitat fragmentation for these species:

Arthrochilus oreophilus Coronidium fulvidum Corymbia abergiana Cryptandra debilis Dodonaea uncinata Eucalyptus lockyeri subsp. lockyeri Pimelea chlorina Platysace sp. (Watsonville P.I.Forster PIF6259) Pterostylis aquilonia Pterostylis stricta Pterostylis taurus Sannantha angusta Stylidium oviflorum Styphelia piliflora Synostemon aphyllus Thelymitra queenslandica Trachymene tenuifolia

# State Energy and Jobs Plan says 600,000ha of land will be required for 10 GW (therefore x 3 considering 15-30% capacity factor therefore 1.8 million hectares required.)

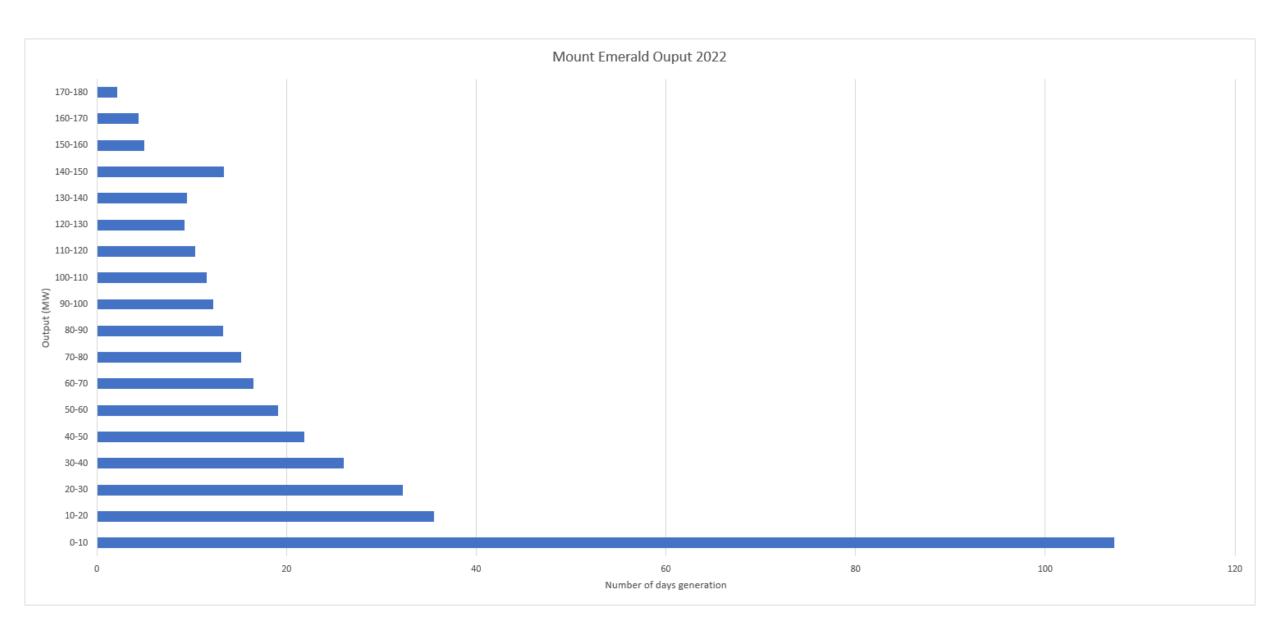
To go all electric transport we will need to perhaps double or triple our current generation (Elon Musk).

If we want redundancy then double this again.

For hydrogen production double again.

And to become a 'green' superpower double or triple again.....

Cost \$1.5 trillion to 2030 and \$7 to \$9 trillion over the next 36 years
(Net Zero report July 2023)



#### **MOUNT EMERALD WIND FARM OUTPUT FOR 2022**

Max capacity = 180 MW

Actual 2022 average output = 48.3 MW (26.8% capacity factor)

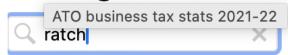
Median = 32.6MW (18.1% capacity factor)

(50% of the time i.e. 182 days, the generators produced this or less output)

63 days Mount Emerald produced zero MW (0% capacity factor)

107 days Mount Emerald produced less than 10 MW (<5.5% capacity factor)

#### ATO large business tax stats 2021-22



Taxable income				
Total income \$	\$	Tax payable \$		
161,859,092				
	Total income \$	Total income \$		

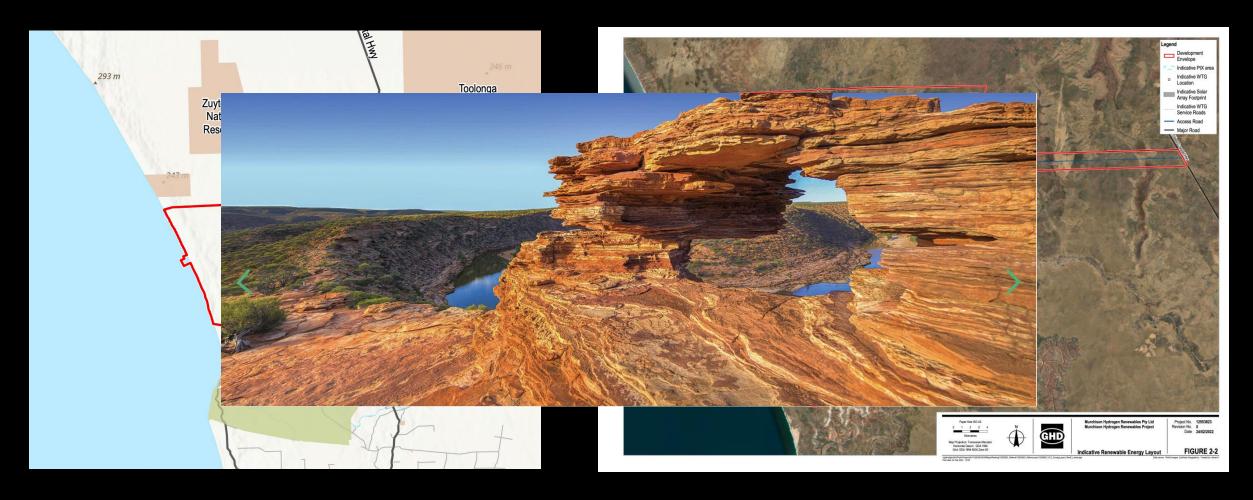
ABC News / Source: ATO / Get the data

Approx. 3,365 turbines are in the pipeline for Queensland!

Millions and millions and millions of solar panels.

Upper Calliope Solar Farm alone will have 2 million panels.

## Hydrogen blows my brain...



Murchison Hydrogen Footprint
700 x turbines over 50,000ha
and 10,000ha of solar and deep water port

### Hydrogen blows my brain...

Murchison Hydrogen Footprint 700 x turbines over 50,000ha and 10,000ha of solar and deep water port

## Gladstone Renewable Hub

A world leading multi-commodity ports corporation

PORT OF MARYBOROUGH

45GW capacity QLD by 2040 H2 Export

4 MT/year powered by additional 110GW renewable capacity



10,000 Wind Turbines Average size 4.8MW

2,500km2 Solar farms



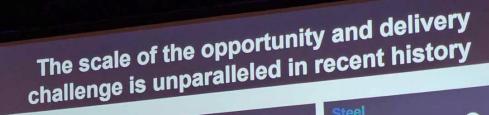
45,000ML water per year











ORDERS OF MAGNITUDE MORE TO DELIVER

CHALLENGES...

...AND MAJOR

EXTERNAL

COMPLEXITY

ystem Services Managing TECHNICAL

fleet and new connections

Transmission towers

Tightening markets challenge project lead times

Conductors

37,200km

Circumference of the Earth

Planned network outages

Planning maintenance and augmentations becoming increasingly

Integrating customer

Equivalent to

Residential solar, batteries and EVs



200,000 TONNES OF STEEL

Frameworks need to ke pace with the changing



Entering new hosting communities, delivering









Total Pumped-hydro and batteries in the pipeline = 9,900 MW

This only delivers some power for up to 24 hours!

THE ENTIRE ELECTRICAL GRID WILL STILL NEED TO BE BACKED UP BY GAS.

## My thoughts...

Should we be clearing and fragmenting forests for renewables?

Are we going down the wrong path that has failed elsewhere?

Where is our model for 100% renewables?

Which countries are carbon free?

# It is a climate emergency and all options need to be on the table.

75% coal and gas has to be replaced with clean energy options.

## Solutions...

#### 1) Good renewables

i.e. rooftop solar, small community grids, locally owned wind farms and some industrial with social license on altered or degraded land.

#### 2) Nuclear

### Nuclear must be part of our solution.

I agree that nuclear, as depicted in the media, appears to have some scary shortcomings (waste, radiation, nuclear weapons, cost and slow rollout speed). However, my research has led me to understand I was misled about nuclear. Most, if not all, of the apparent scary shortcomings are not supported by the scientific literature.

I now see nuclear as an important piece of the solution to the climate crisis. Nuclear combined with appropriately placed renewables is a safe, cost-effective way to rapidly reduce fossil fuel generation. James Hansen – first warned of global warming in 1988. he says, "Nuclear Power must make a comeback for climate's sake."

Dalai Lama – "A role for Nuclear in the absence of more efficient alternative energy sources. He added that energy sources like wind and solar are too inefficient to put into realistic practice to meet the needs of developing nations."

James Lovelock – author of *Gaia Hypothesis* says "Nuclear is the only green solution."

Dick Smith — "There's no alternative to nuclear power, I'm a big fan of renewables but the longer we delay going to nuclear, the more carbon we'll have in the atmosphere".

Bill Gates—is transforming the coal plant in Kemmerer, USA with his companies new SMR.

And even our very own Prof. Bill Laurance signed An Open Letter to Environmentalists on Nuclear Energy.

### Nuclear must be part of our solution.

Nuclear eliminates the need for new transmission lines and provides enormous power generation in a tiny footprint.

400 MW within 18ha

I think you will find over time, more people like myself will come out and support nuclear energy as the best way to protect biodiversity.

## Thank You



Thank you to Rainforest Reserves Australia, Jeanette Kemp, Carolyn and Phil Emms, Dr. Michael Seebeck, Simon Thompson, Anastasia Klose, and the thousands of supporters who have helped in many ways.