

WOLGAN ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

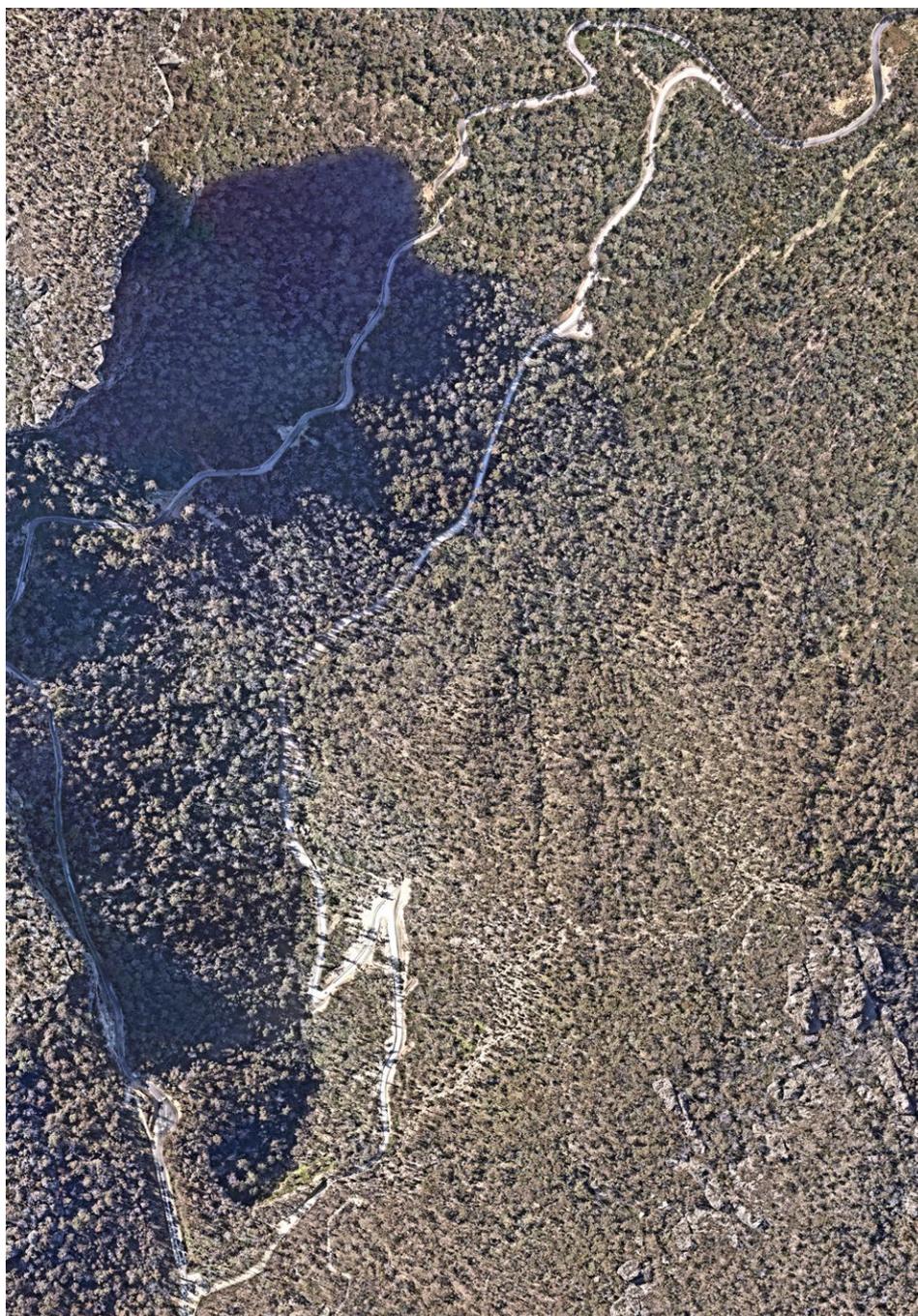
GHD peer review now live

A section of Wolgan Road was closed to traffic in November 2022 by Lithgow City Council (Council) due to the high risk of harm resulting from continued slope instability.

In January 2023, WSP conducted a slope risk assessment on the closed section of Wolgan Road, which led Council to decide to close it permanently. In late 2024, Council engaged GHD to undertake a fast-tracked peer review of WSP's previous slope risk assessment. GHD's review recommended that a new slope risk assessment be completed. Details on the procurement of this new assessment are contained below.

In response to community feedback, Council has now published GHD's peer review on the project webpage. WSP has also provided Council with a response to GHD's peer review, which has been published alongside GHD's peer review for transparency.

We encourage you to read Council's published cover letter first as it provides helpful context for interpreting the documents.



A new Slope Risk Assessment is underway

Council recently ran a competitive tender process to procure a new slope risk assessment for the closed section of Wolgan Road. On 25 June 2025, GHD was awarded this tender.

GHD's assessment is being conducted in accordance with the Australian Geomechanics Society (AGS 2007) Landslide Risk Management Guidelines and the TfNSW Guideline for Slope Risk Analysis.

GHD are currently undertaking the following activities:

-  Site reconnaissance and inspections
 -  Development of a landslide inventory
 - Review of Council records and reports.
 - Historical images.
 - Survey data.
 - Media reports.
 - Community feedback (anecdotal).
 -  Development of a Digital Terrain Model
 -  Rockfall modelling
 -  Development of landslide volume frequency and process rate models
 -  Risk evaluation – FINAL STEP
-  Completed  In progress  Not started

The outcomes of the new slope risk assessment will be made public. It will also be reviewed with Council's tripartite partners, Transport for NSW and NSW Reconstruction Authority, to agree next steps and to ensure ongoing compliance with the Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) under which this project is funded.

Community input required for the assessment

We know that the community holds valuable knowledge about geological activity along Wolgan Road. To help capture this, we've worked with GHD to prepare a survey to share community observations and experiences including any supporting files, images or videos. This information will inform the development of the slope risk assessment.

You can access the survey using the QR code, or via <http://bit.ly/4lDXtZE>



If you have trouble submitting information through the survey, please email wolgan.reconstruction@lithgow.nsw.gov.au so we can help you find another way to share it.

The survey will close COB Friday 18 July 2025.

EPBC Act referral

Public comment on the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) referral has now closed. The referral contains information on the likely impacts from construction activities on flora, fauna and heritage in the identified area. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water will now assess whether the project requires approval under the EPBC Act.

Outcomes from the Community Consultative Group (CCG)

On 3 July 2025, we met with members of the Community Consultative Group (CCG) to discuss GHD's slope risk assessment approach and explore how best to gather community experiences of geological movements. This was a valuable opportunity to introduce GHD to the wealth of knowledge held by the Wolgan Valley community.

In response to feedback from the CCG, GHD is developing a profile of the "person most at risk". We will share this with the community once it is complete.

Timeline

We are working to the following milestones. These are indicative only, but we will keep the community informed as more information becomes available.

Stage	Timing	Milestone
Design	Q3 2025	Concept design complete for preferred road option
Approvals	Late 2025	Public exhibition of the EIS
Delivery	2026	Detailed design and construction contract awarded
	2030	Completion of construction and commencement of operation

Our next community briefing will be held at
LEEP hub, 176 Mort Street, Lithgow
Wednesday 23 July, 4.00 – 5.00pm.

An option to attend online will be available.

The briefing will provide an update on:

- responses to GHD's community survey on experiences of geological movement on Wolgan Road,
- progress of project work streams, and
- upcoming investigations.

Further information

We are committed to keeping you informed through monthly updates.

To find out more about the project visit the project web page at:
<https://council.lithgow.com/projects/wolgan-gap>

You can also get in touch directly with the project team at wolgan.reconstruction@lithgow.nsw.gov.au