



NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc.

Incorporation No: Inc 1200398

www.napfa.net

secretary@napfa.net

PO Box 4529

Dubbo NSW 2830

"Fights for fairer access to land in NSW and represents the interests of prospectors and fossickers"

Access and requirements for Fossicking on Tambaroora Common.

Recently NAPFA has been requested by members to clarify the situation at Tambaroora for access and permit to Fossick in the Tambaroora Common.

NAPFA has contacted both the Chair of the Tambaroora Common Trust and Crown Lands in Orange and can confirm the following.



Crown Lands has erected the signs shown at left on both sides of the Golden Gully Creek crossing, which is the most used access to the Common.

These signs were put up as a direct result of the removal of gravel and large rocks from the crossing itself by unknown person(s).

The result has left the crossing in a poor condition and created significant difficulties for local land holders to cross to get to private land surrounded by the Common.

It is unknown if the removal of material was for prospecting purposes, or simply to use for other purposes such as filling holes elsewhere.

This road is no longer maintained by the Bathurst Council and effectively Crown Lands has responsibility. With a safety issue becoming apparent Crown Lands intend to add further signs to restrict Fossicking within 10m of either side of the crossing.

When accessing the Common from the main road through here you:

- a) Firstly, cross a 20m section of land owned by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS);
- b) Secondly, enter a parcel of Crown Land; and
- c) Thirdly, enter the Common.

The requirements for each land parcel.

Each of these land parcels has different requirements.

1. The 20m section of land owned by NPWS.

This is part of NAPFA’s submission on the new draft policy for Hill End. It is critical to keep this open and essential for Fossickers to do the right thing here. It is in NPWS hands.

2. The Crown Land parcel.

Crown Lands maintains the road here and again digging or removing material from the crossing itself creates difficulties for others and a safety issue to Crown Lands. To Fossick on the Crown Land you do need a permit from Crown Land as it is “unmanaged” Crown Land.

This issue was raised by NAPFA with the Resources Regulator during the drafting of the 2020 Fossicking Guide, and many times before it was issued. Despite the Regulator assuring us (and the Minister) there was no change, NAPFA were certain it did.

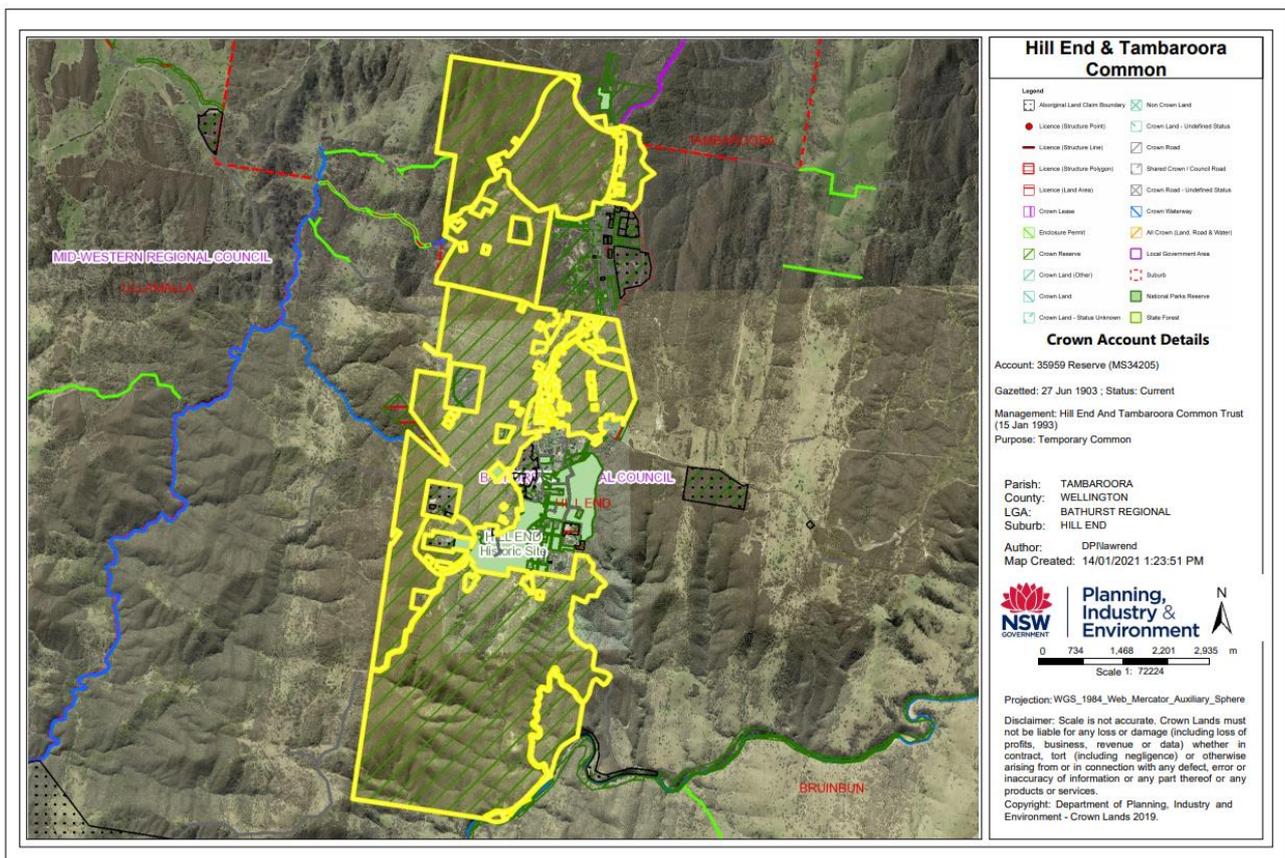
It has now become apparent that NAPFA are correct and Crown Lands must issue a permit to access “unmanaged” Crown Land, which they have now put in place. Now that this has been proven NAPFA can contradict the statements given to the Minister on this issue.

3. The Common.

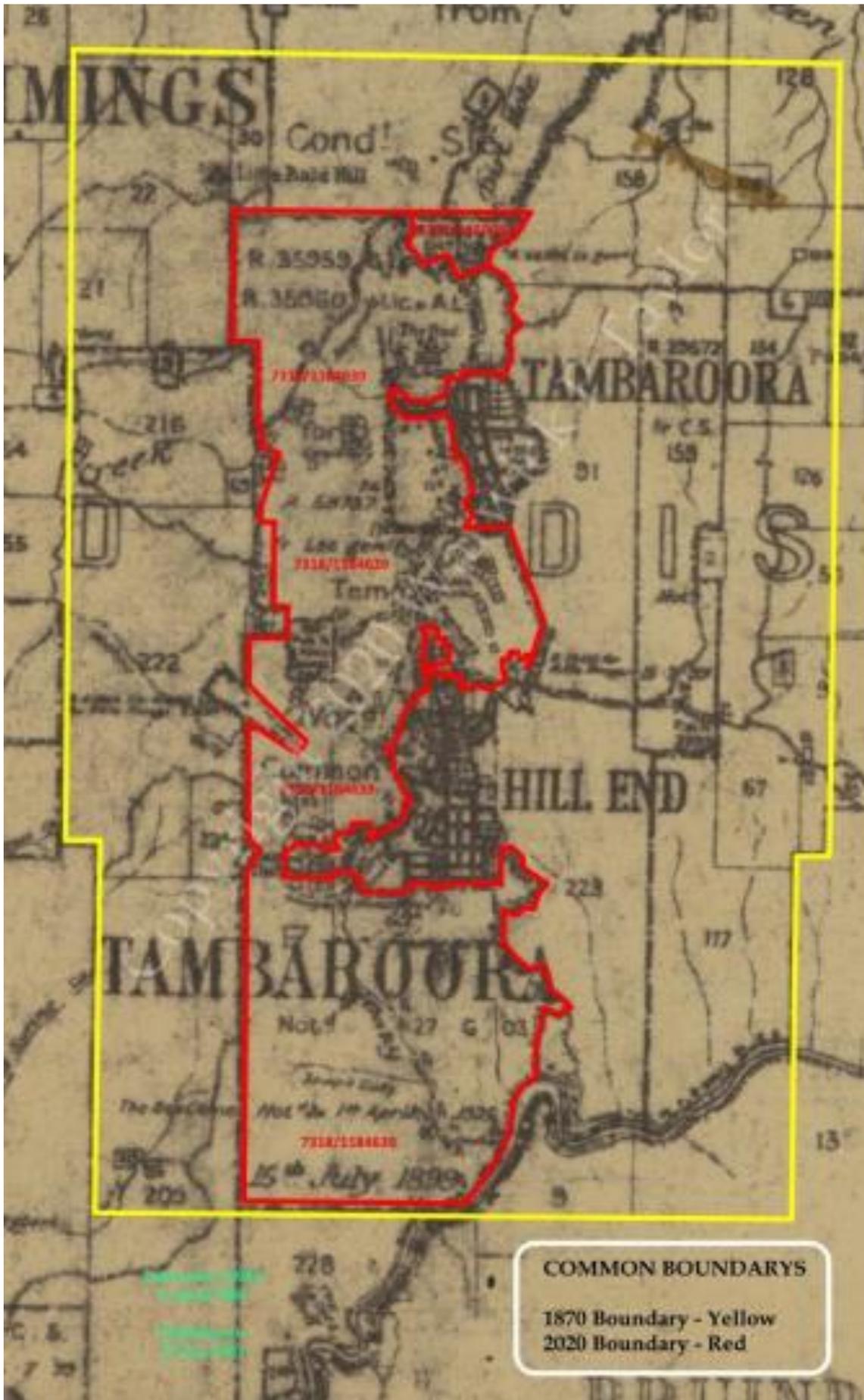
The Common Trust (or committee) are the Land Manager for the Common and do allow fossicking as per the Mining Regulations and Fossicking Guide.

Maps showing the land parcels.

Crown Lands has given us a low-resolution map today and will update with a high-resolution map early next week. Crown Lands map below showing the Common in yellow, and the dark Green parcels are NPWS at Hill End and Tambaroora.



Of note is the original boundary in 1870 in yellow below, and the current boundary as end of 2020 in red. Over time other interests incrementally take away public and fossickers access.



NAPFA have attached a more detailed map below to demonstrate the layout to members with the following key:

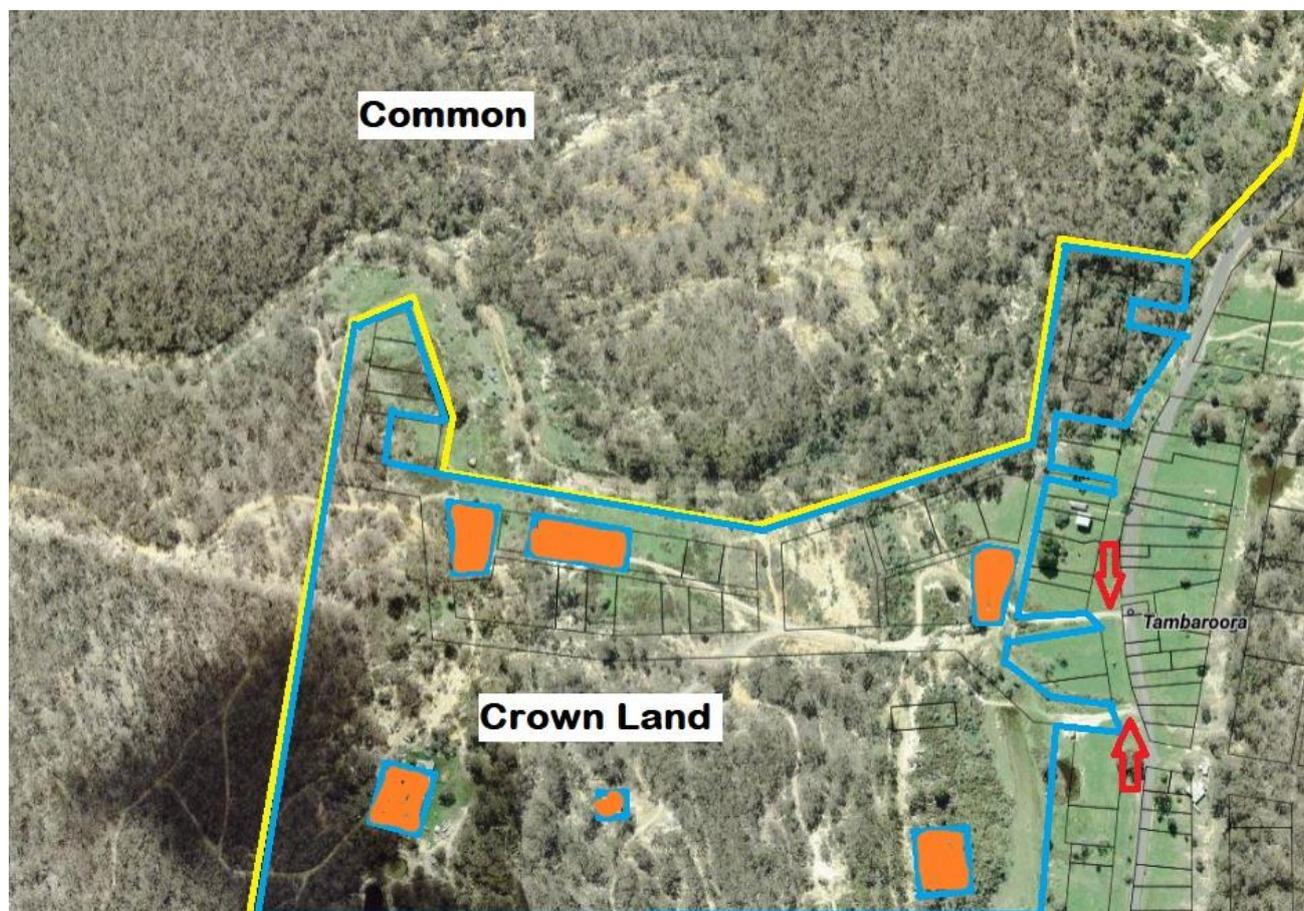
Yellow line = the Common boundary

Blue = Crown Land

Orange infill = other land including private land within the Crown Land

Black = various boundaries of original land parcels, now owned by multiple entities

- Note:**
1. Areas to the right of the blue Crown Land is mostly owned by NPWS with some private land.
 2. The red arrows denote access to Crown Land and the Common that are owned by NPWS.



Going Forward.

NAPFA will update members next week with information from Crown Lands including the contact for permits and higher resolution maps.

NAPFA will be submitting documentation to NPWS for the draft plan of management of the Hill End Historic Reserve which includes Tambaroora. We urge members and non-members to register to receive a letter they can submit themselves and ask members to pass this on to **non-members** as the number of submissions is critical. Please read: [Hill End Draft Plan.pdf](#)