



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

EPBC 2010/5566

Mr Andrew Wright
Superintendent – Group Biodiversity
Whitehaven Coal Limited
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Gunnedah NSW 2380
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Approval of Offset Management Plan for Maules Creek Coal Mine, Boggabri, NSW

Dear Mr Wright

Thank you for your email dated 21 March 2025 to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department), seeking approval of a revision to the Offset Management Plan required under Condition 12A of the above project under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Officers of the department have advised me on the Offset Management Plan and the requirements of the conditions of the approval for this project. On this basis, and as a delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Water (the Minister), I have decided to approve the *Maules Creek Coal Mine Biodiversity Management Plan, Issue 3.3, 28 February 2025*.

Now this revised plan has been approved, it must be implemented.

As you are aware, the department has an active monitoring program which includes monitoring inspections, desk top document reviews and audits. Please ensure that you maintain accurate records of all activities associated with, or relevant to, the conditions of approval so that they can be made available to the department on request.

Should you require any further information, please contact Tony Dowd by email to PostApproval@dceew.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Gowland', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kate Gowland
Branch Head

Nature Positive Regulation Division | Environment Assessments (NSW, ACT)

5 June 2025

Our ref: MP10_0138-PA-116

Tony Dwyer
Group Manager – Approvals and Biodiversity
Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd

7 March 2025

Maules Creek Coal – Biodiversity Management Plan

Dear Mr. Dwyer

Thank you for submitting the Biodiversity Management Plan in accordance with Condition 52, Schedule 3 of the consent for the Maules Creek (MP10_0138-PA-116). I also acknowledge your response to the Department's review comments and request for additional information.

I note the Biodiversity Management plan

- has been prepared in consultation with Conservation Programs, Heritage & Regulation NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- revised to address an independent review commissioned by the Maules Creek Community Council; and
- contains the information required by the conditions of approval.

Accordingly, as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I approve the revised Biodiversity Management Plan (Rev.3, February 2025).

You are reminded that if there are any inconsistencies between the Plan and the conditions of approval, the conditions prevail.


Please ensure you make the document publicly available on the project website at the earliest convenience.

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Charissa Pillay on 02 99955944.

Yours sincerely



Stephen O'Donoghue
Director Resource Assessments
As nominee of the Planning Secretary

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| | | Document Approver: | Group Superintendent - Biodiversity |
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| WHC_PLN_MC_BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN | | | |


MAULES CREEK COAL MINE

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

(for PA10_0138 & EPBC 2010/5566)

Whitehaven Coal Limited and Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd
on behalf of Aston Coal 2 Pty Ltd ACN 139 472 567

28 February 2025

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DOCUMENT HISTORY

| Edition | Rev. | Comments | Author | Date |
|---------|------|---|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 | 3 | Approval of the BMP by DP&I (now DPHI) | Whitehaven Coal | 21 June 2013 |
| 1 | 7 | Approval of the BMP by DP&E (now DPHI) | Whitehaven Coal | 14 May 2014 |
| 1 | 10 | Approval of the BMP by DP&E (now DPHI) | Whitehaven Coal | 23 October 2014 |
| 2 | 5 | Approval of the BMP by DP&E (now DPHI) | Whitehaven Coal | 26 April 2017 |
| 2 | 5 | Approval of the BMP Addendum by DP&E (now DPHI) | Whitehaven Coal | 24 August 2022 |
| - | - | Approval of the OMP* by DAWE (now Cth DCCEEW) | Whitehaven Coal | 20 December 2021 |
| - | - | Submitted revised OMP* to include the additional offset areas approved by Condition 11A on 9 November 2023 | Whitehaven Coal | 8 December 2023 |
| 3 | 1 | New edition of the BMP* to incorporate the approved OMP and additional offset areas, and to reflect Modification 9 (for stakeholder review) | Whitehaven Coal | 13 June 2024 |
| 3 | 2 | Revisions to the BMP* incorporating stakeholder review from consultation and submitted to NSW DPHI and Cth DCCEEW for approval | Whitehaven Coal | 16 October 2024 |
| 3 | 3 | Revisions to the BMP* incorporating NSW DPHI and Cth DCCEEW feedback | Whitehaven Coal | 12 February 2025 |

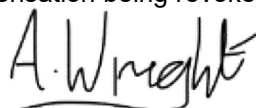
* Incorporated into this BMP

DECLARATION OF ACCURACY

In making this declaration, I:

- a) am aware that section 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) makes it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents to specified persons who are known to be performing a duty or carrying out a function under the EPBC Act or the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* (EPBC Regulations). The offence is punishable on conviction imprisonment or a fine, or both.
- b) am authorised to bind Whitehaven Coal to this declaration and have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.


Signature:



Full name (please print) Andrew Wright (Group Superintendent - Biodiversity)

Organisation (please print) Whitehaven Coal Limited on behalf of subsidiary Aston Coal 2 Pty Limited as the Approval Holder for EPBC 2010/5566


Date: 28 February 2025

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| Acronym | Description |
|--------------------|---|
| ASC | Australian Soil Classification |
| BBAM | Biobanking Assessment Method |
| BBS | Brigalow Belt South Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia Bioregion |
| BC Act | Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 |
| BCS | Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Group within NSW DCCEEW |
| BCT | Biodiversity Conservation Trust |
| BOA | Biodiversity Offset Area |
| BOMP | Biodiversity Offset Management Plan |
| BOS | Biodiversity Offset Strategy |
| CA | Conservation Agreement |
| Cth DCCEEW | Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (formerly Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment [DAWE]) |
| CEEC | Critically Endangered Ecological Community |
| DAWE | Former Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, now Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (CDCCEEW) |
| DNG | Derived Native Grassland |
| DPE | Former NSW Department of Planning and Environment, now NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) and NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) |
| EEC | Endangered Ecological Community |
| EP&A Act | NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 |
| EPBC Act | Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 |
| GSG | Greater Soil Group |
| ha | Hectares |
| HTE | High Threat Exotic |
| IBRA | Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia |
| KTP | Key Threatening Process |
| LGA | Local Government Area |
| NAN | Nandewar Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia Bioregion |
| Maules offset area | Encompassing the Offset Areas Subject to this Biodiversity Management Plan in Table 4-1 |
| NCM | Narrabri Coal Mine |
| NCO | Narrabri Coal Operations Pty Limited |
| NET | New England Tablelands Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia Bioregion |
| NPWS | NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service |
| NSW | New South Wales |
| NSW DCCEEW | NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water |
| NSW DPHI | NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (formerly Office of Environment and Heritage [OEH]) |
| NWRSWMP | North West Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022 |
| OEH | Former Office of Environment and Heritage, now NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) |
| OMP | Offset Management Plan |
| PCT | Plant Community Type |
| RBOS | Revised Biodiversity Offset Strategy |
| SSD | State Significant Development |
| TEC | Threatened Ecological Community |
| VCM | Vickery Coal Mine |
| VZ | Vegetation Zone |
| WHC | Whitehaven Coal Limited |
| WoNS | Weeds of National Significance |

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Maules Creek Coal Mine (MCCM) is located in the Gunnedah Basin approximately 18 kilometres (km) to the north-east of Boggabri in the north-west region of New South Wales (NSW) (Figures 1 and 2). The MCCM is a joint venture between Aston Coal 2 Pty Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited [Whitehaven]) (75 percent [%]), ICRA MC Pty Ltd (an entity associated with ITOCHU Corporation) (15%) and J-Power Australia Pty Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of Electric Power Development Co., Ltd.) (10%). Maules Creek Coal Pty Ltd (MCC) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven which manages the MCCM on behalf of Aston Coal 2 Pty Ltd, ICRA MC Pty Ltd and J-Power Australia Pty Ltd.

Project approval under the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) was granted for the MCCM by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) under delegation of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure on 23 October 2012 (Project Approval [PA] 10_0138). The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment granted approval for the MCCM under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on 11 February 2013 (EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566). Both PA 10_0138 and EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 have been modified / varied on several occasions subsequent to their grant. The most recent modification of PA 10_0138 occurred with the approval of Modification 9 on 20 March 2024, whereas the most recent variation of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 occurred with the approval of a variation on 21 October 2022.

Construction of the MCCM commenced in December 2013 and was substantially completed in 2015. Figure 2 shows the current extent of the MCCM and native vegetation within the Project area. Progressive rehabilitation is underway at the MCCM aiming to re-establish pre-mining native vegetation communities at the MCCM.

1.1.1 Obligation to Minimise Harm to the Environment

In accordance with PA 10_0138 Schedule 2 Condition 1; MCCM commit to implement all reasonable and feasible measures to prevent and/or minimise any material harm to the environment that may result from the construction, operation, or rehabilitation of the development.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The purpose of this Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) is to provide a consolidated plan for the management of flora and fauna within the MCCM Project Boundary and the MCCM offset areas associated with the construction of the MCCM coal mine including the main potential and realised impacts of the approved action that require for those Matters of National Environmental Significance (i.e. White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community, Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Greater Long-eared Bat) to have offsetting strategies documented in this OMP.



MCC-20-74_BMP24_201A



- LEGEND**
- MCCM Project Boundary
 - Mine Site
 - Local Government Boundary
 - NPWS Estate
 - State Forest
 - Rail Line

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); Geoscience Australia (2011)

WHITEHAVEN COAL
MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Regional Location

Figure 1




MHC-20-74_BMP24_228A

- LEGEND**
- MCCM Project Boundary
 - MCCM Approximate Extent of Existing/Approved Surface Development
 - NPWS Estate
 - State Forest
 - Rail Line
 - MCCM Biodiversity Corridor

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021);
Orthophoto: Whitehaven Coal (2019)

Figure 2

| | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
|  | MAULES CREEK | Document Owner: | Environmental Superintendent - MCCM |
| | | Document Approver: | Group Superintendent - Biodiversity |
| | | Issue: | 3.3 |
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This BMP addresses the relevant requirements outlined in the NSW PA 10_0138 (as modified), and the Offset Management Plan requirements set out in the Commonwealth EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 (as varied). Upon its approval by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Cth DCCEEW), this BMP will replace the Offset Management Plan approved in December 2021 and serve as a combined Offset Management Plan for all of the EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 offset areas. This BMP supersedes any previous BMP (2017 and Addendum 2022) that was approved for the MCCM.


1.3 STRUCTURE OF THIS BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

This BMP is divided into two primary parts. Part A of this BMP describes the management of flora and fauna within the MCCM Project Boundary and Part B of this BMP describes the management of flora and fauna within the offset areas. The structure of this plan is as follows:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Section 2 | Requirements for this BMP. |
| Section 3 | Description of the management actions to be undertaken at the mine site. |
| Section 4 | Description of the existing environment relevant to the offset areas. |
| Section 5 | Description of the management actions to be undertaken within the offset areas. |
| Section 6 | Description of reporting and review requirements. |
| Section 7 | List of relevant references. |

The following are appended to this BMP:

| | |
|------------|---|
| Appendix A | MCCM Threatened Fauna Implementation Plan Supplementary Report and MCCM Box-Gum Woodland Endangered Ecological Community Implementation Plan Supplementary Report |
| Appendix B | Reconciliation of the Biodiversity Management Plan against the Leard Forest Mining Precinct Regional Biodiversity Strategy |
| Appendix C | Maules Creek Coal Mine Offset Area Vegetation Mapping Report |
| Appendix D | Maules Creek Coal Mine Additional Offset Areas Vegetation Mapping |
| Appendix E | Baseline Survey Sites and Photo Reference Points |
| Appendix F | Maules Creek <i>Tylophora linearis</i> Offset Package and <i>Tylophora linearis</i> Propagation and Translocation Program |
| Appendix G | <i>Pomaderris queenslandica</i> Propagation and Translocation Program |
| Appendix H | <i>Pultenaea imminuta</i> Propagation and Translocation Program |
| Appendix I | Completion Criteria for Key Biometrics of Vegetation Classes and Corresponding BVTs/PCTs Mapped Within the Offset Area |
| Appendix J | Annual Performance Criteria for Key Biometrics of Vegetation Classes Mapped Within the Offset Area |
| Appendix K | Offset Area Risk Assessment |
| Appendix L | Agricultural Suitability Assessment Supplementary Report |

| | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
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- Appendix M Review of Habitat for Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Corben's Long-eared Bat in the Existing Offset Areas
- Appendix N Maules Creek Coal Mine Additional Offset Areas Habitat Mapping
- Appendix O Biodiversity Corridor (Vegetated Buffer Corridor) Plan

This BMP was prepared in consideration of, among other documents, the *Environmental Management Plan Guidelines* (Cth DCCEEW, 2024).


1.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

MCC is responsible for monitoring, reviewing and implementing the BMP and responsible for biodiversity management on the mine site. On behalf of MCC, the Whitehaven Group Biodiversity Team is responsible for managing, monitoring and implementing the management activities for the external Offset Areas within biodiversity properties. In accordance with Condition 12C(f) of the EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566, Table 1-1 outlines the staff and contractors responsible for managing, monitoring and implementing the offset management activities identified in this BMP and well as the emergency contacts details responsible for managing biodiversity in accordance with this BMP.

**Table 1-1
Responsible Parties**

| MCCM Mine Site Key Contact | MCCM Offset Areas Key Contact |
|--|--|
| Attention: MCC Superintendent - Environment mccenvironment@whitehavencoal.com.au and 0447 908 585 | Attention: Whitehaven Group Superintendent - Biodiversity biodiversity@whitehavencoal.com.au and 0488 407 000 |

| Organisation | Position | Status | Responsibilities |
|--|--|-------------|---|
| Whitehaven MCC | Group Manager/ General Manager | Employee | Obtain and provide adequate resources for the Group Superintendent - Biodiversity to implement this BMP. |
| Whitehaven - MCC | Group Superintendent - Biodiversity | Employee | To authorise this BMP and undertake associated compliance and reporting requirements. Implement the overall biodiversity strategy for the offset areas. Coordinate and supervise biodiversity management and monitoring activities on the offset areas. |
| Whitehaven - MCC | Biodiversity Specialist and Field Officers | Employees | Support the Group Superintendent - Biodiversity and supervise biodiversity management and monitoring activities on the offset areas. |
| Pest Management Consultant/ Contractor | Scientists and Field Technicians | Contractors | Undertake biodiversity management activities as directed by the Group Superintendent - Biodiversity and Biodiversity Specialist /Field Officers for feral and pest animal monitoring and management/control. |
| Land Management | Field Operators and Technicians | Contractors | Undertake biodiversity management activities as directed by the Group Superintendent - Biodiversity and Biodiversity |

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| Organisation | Position | Status | Responsibilities |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------|---|
| and Weed Spraying Contractor | | | Specialist /Field Officers for weed spraying, habitat augmentation, threatened species, revegetation ground preparation and other minor earthworks and waste/infrastructure removal, plus tree planting and maintenance activities. |
| Fire and Ecological Burn Contractor | Fire Fighters and Controlled Burn Practitioners | Contractors | Undertake biodiversity management activities as directed by the Group Superintendent - Biodiversity and Biodiversity Specialist /Field Officers for fire management planning, hazard reduction management and ecological burn implementation. |
| Ecological Consultant | Ecologists | Contractors | Undertake monitoring as directed by the Group Superintendent - Biodiversity and Biodiversity Specialist/Field Officers for threatened species and ecological communities assessment and flora/fauna surveys. |


* Role/responsibilities can vary over time based on ongoing performance, compliance and commercial aspects that change as required.

1.5 CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY BOND

MCC is responsible for funding the offset area management activities described in this BMP. In accordance with Condition 55 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138 and Condition 4 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566, the offset areas have an approved Conservation and Biodiversity Bond with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). The Conservation and Biodiversity Bond ensures that the MCCM Biodiversity Offset Strategy could be implemented in accordance with the applicable performance and completion criteria if MCC were unable to continue to manage the offset areas. The sum of the Conservation and Biodiversity Bond is determined by calculating the full cost of implementing the MCCM Biodiversity Offset Strategy (other than land acquisition costs) and by employing a suitably qualified quantity surveyor to verify the calculated costs, to the satisfaction of the NSW Planning Secretary.

The latest Conservation and Biodiversity Bond value (February 2025) was calculated at \$27,079,314.27, and verified by an independent suitably qualified quantity surveyor. The Conservation and Biodiversity Bond will be updated annually to account for findings made and a revised bond lodged. In accordance with Condition 55 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138, within 6 months of approval of any revision to the Biodiversity Management Plan, MCC will review and update the Conservation and Biodiversity Bond as necessary. The sum of the bond will include all management measures prescribed within this BMP and is based on third party rates for fencing, fire management, weed management, feral animal control, seed collection, replanting/revegetation, monitoring, auditing and reporting. Once the revised bond is lodged with NSW DPHI, MCC will notify the Cth DCCEEW (including providing the independent third-party report of the suitably qualified quantity surveyor) of the updated bond amount.

If the Biodiversity Offset Strategy is completed generally in accordance with the completion criteria in the BMP to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary, the Planning Secretary will release the Conservation and Biodiversity Bond. If the Biodiversity Offset Strategy is not completed generally in accordance with the completion criteria in the BMP, the Planning Secretary will call in all or part of the conservation bond and arrange for the satisfactory completion of the relevant works. In accordance with Condition 55 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138, alternative funding arrangements for long term management of the Biodiversity Offset Strategy, such as provision of capital and management funding as agreed by

| | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
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Biodiversity, Conservation and Science (BCS) Directorate as part of a Biobanking or Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement or transfer to conservation reserve estate, can be used to reduce the liability of the Conservation and Biodiversity Bond.

1.6 OFFSET AREA DIVESTMENT


As noted in the above section regarding the transfer to conservation reserve estate, the long-term securement for the MCCM offset areas will be for the ownership to be divested at an appropriate time in the future to another organisation best placed for in perpetuity management of lands for biodiversity conservation and restoration. One such divestment option that has been considered in the Approvals is the transfer to conservation reserve estate managed by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). In a letter dated 16 August 2017, NPWS advised MCC of its interest in the transfer and reservation of offset areas including Wirradale and Wongala South, Mt Lindesay, Roseglass and Bimbooria, subject to payment of an in perpetuity management fee and based on a certain standard of biodiversity and property condition (i.e. fencing and fire trials constructed, advanced revegetation, infrastructure/waste removed and hazardous/contaminated material remediated). At the time, due to the elongated transfer period and imminent EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 offset area securement due date, it was agreed to defer further transfer negotiations until after offset area securement had been achieved via conservation agreements. The NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) have advised that on 19 March 2024 the final offset area Conservation Agreement was registered on title and that all of the MCCM offset area was now secured in perpetuity; therefore MCC will reengage with NPWS regarding transfer to conservation reserve estate of those offset areas in respect of which NPWS has previously shown interest in, and to discuss if NPWS would now have interest in other MCCM offset areas.

MCC will seek endorsement from DPHI, the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEEW) and Cth DCCEEW when a transfer agreement is executed with NPWS, and this BMP will be revised accordingly. For any offset areas not transferred to conservation reserve estate for in perpetuity management by NPWS, MCC will continue to be responsible for the ongoing management in accordance with this BMP until another appropriate organisation best placed for in perpetuity management of lands for biodiversity conservation and restoration is identified (and suitable arrangements are made with that organisation for transfer of such responsibilities).


1.7 CONSULTATION

A draft of this BMP was provided to all of the below listed stakeholders in June 2024 for comment on those parts of the BMP which are relevant to the stakeholder:

- DPHI;
- BCS;
- Cth DCCEEW;
- North West Local Land Services; and
- MCCM Community Consultative Committee (CCC).

| | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
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Comments have been received from BCS, Cth DCCEEW, North West Local Land Services and the CCC. All comments have been considered and addressed in this version of the BMP.

| | | | |
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2 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The State PA 10_0138 and Commonwealth EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 have informed the structure and scope of this BMP. The key relevant conditions of PA 10_0138 are listed in Section 2.1 and the key relevant conditions of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 are listed in Section 2.2.

2.1 KEY RELEVANT STATE APPROVAL CONDITIONS

Conditions of PA 10_0138 relevant to this BMP are detailed in Table 2-1, together with a reference to where these conditions are addressed in this BMP.

**Table 2-1
Project Approval 10_0138 Requirements**

| Condition Number | Condition | Relevant BMP Section | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------|--|-----|---------|-----|------------|-----|--------------|-----|-------------|-----|------------|-----|---------|-----|-----------|-------|-----------|-----|-----------------------------|-------|----------------|-------|----------|-----|----------------|-----|---------|-----|------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------|-----|--|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| SCHEDULE 3: ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE CONDITIONS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Biodiversity Offset Strategy | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 44 | <p><i>The Applicant must implement the biodiversity offset strategy summarised in Table 16 to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.</i></p> <p><i>Table 16: Summary of the Biodiversity Offset Strategy</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Offset Area</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Offset Type</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Nominal Size of the Offset Area (ha)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Kelso</td> <td rowspan="16" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;"> <i>Existing native woodland/forest of approximately 10,547.8 ha to be protected and enhanced (including approximately 4,114.4 ha of Box-Gum Woodland [woodland form] and approximately 17.6 ha of Belah Woodland).</i> <i>Restoration of woodland/forest within approximately 4,327 ha of derived native grassland and/or cleared land (including approximately 1,518 ha of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC [grassland form] and approximately 5 ha of Belah Woodland).</i> </td> <td style="text-align: center;">489</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Velyama</td> <td style="text-align: center;">703</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Louenville</td> <td style="text-align: center;">213</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teston South</td> <td style="text-align: center;">336</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wollandilly</td> <td style="text-align: center;">804</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thornfield</td> <td style="text-align: center;">171</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Onavale</td> <td style="text-align: center;">558</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roseglass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1,465</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bimbooria</td> <td style="text-align: center;">623</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wirradale and Wongala South</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4,447</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mount Lindesay</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2,337</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Triangle</td> <td style="text-align: center;">742</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neranghi North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">567</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coonoor</td> <td style="text-align: center;">574</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Long Gully</td> <td style="text-align: center;">353</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teston North</td> <td style="text-align: center;">205</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tralee</td> <td style="text-align: center;">294</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Subtotal</td> <td style="text-align: center;">14,881</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Offset Area | Offset Type | Nominal Size of the Offset Area (ha) | Kelso | <i>Existing native woodland/forest of approximately 10,547.8 ha to be protected and enhanced (including approximately 4,114.4 ha of Box-Gum Woodland [woodland form] and approximately 17.6 ha of Belah Woodland).</i> <i>Restoration of woodland/forest within approximately 4,327 ha of derived native grassland and/or cleared land (including approximately 1,518 ha of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC [grassland form] and approximately 5 ha of Belah Woodland).</i> | 489 | Velyama | 703 | Louenville | 213 | Teston South | 336 | Wollandilly | 804 | Thornfield | 171 | Onavale | 558 | Roseglass | 1,465 | Bimbooria | 623 | Wirradale and Wongala South | 4,447 | Mount Lindesay | 2,337 | Triangle | 742 | Neranghi North | 567 | Coonoor | 574 | Long Gully | 353 | Teston North | 205 | Tralee | 294 | | Subtotal | 14,881 | Sections 4.1 and 5 |
| Offset Area | Offset Type | Nominal Size of the Offset Area (ha) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kelso | <i>Existing native woodland/forest of approximately 10,547.8 ha to be protected and enhanced (including approximately 4,114.4 ha of Box-Gum Woodland [woodland form] and approximately 17.6 ha of Belah Woodland).</i> <i>Restoration of woodland/forest within approximately 4,327 ha of derived native grassland and/or cleared land (including approximately 1,518 ha of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC [grassland form] and approximately 5 ha of Belah Woodland).</i> | 489 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Velyama | | 703 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Louenville | | 213 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Teston South | | 336 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wollandilly | | 804 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thornfield | | 171 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Onavale | | 558 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Roseglass | | 1,465 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bimbooria | | 623 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wirradale and Wongala South | | 4,447 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mount Lindesay | | 2,337 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Triangle | | 742 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Neranghi North | | 567 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coonoor | | 574 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Long Gully | | 353 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Teston North | | 205 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tralee | 294 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Subtotal | 14,881 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |


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Table 2-1 (Continued)
Project Approval 10_0138 Requirements

| Condition Number | Condition | | | Relevant BMP Section |
|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
| SCHEDULE 3: ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE CONDITIONS | | | | |
| Biodiversity Offset Strategy (Continued) | | | | |
| 44 (Cont.) | <i>Rehabilitation Area</i> | <p><i>Except for the area of the minimised final void, pre-mining native vegetation communities to be re-established (including 544 ha of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC) for a biodiversity conservation land use objective, with the area subject to finalisation of the Rehabilitation Management Plan as required under this approval.</i></p> <p><i>Note: the final mix and area of native vegetation communities is subject to the Rehabilitation Management Plan.</i></p> | <p>2,078</p> <p><i>(less the area of the minimised void approved under the closure plan required under this approval)</i></p> | Section 3.4 |
| Total | | | 16,959 | |
| Security of Offsets | | | | |
| 45 | <p><i>By 30 March 2025, unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Secretary, the Applicant must make suitable arrangements to secure in perpetuity the Long Gully, Triangle, Neranghi North and Coonoor offset areas identified in Table 16, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.</i></p> <p><i>Note: All other biodiversity areas in Table 16 have been secured under conservation agreements</i></p> | | | Sections 2.3.1 and 4.1 |
| 45A | <p><i>By the end of December 2034 unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Secretary, the Applicant must make suitable arrangements to secure in perpetuity the Rehabilitation Area identified in Table 16, to the satisfaction of the planning Secretary.</i></p> | | | Section 3.4 |
| Agricultural Production in Offset Areas | | | | |
| 46 | <p><i>Offset areas are to be managed primarily for the purposes of compensating for biodiversity impacts of the project, and improving regional biodiversity outcomes. However, to the extent that limited agricultural production on the lots purchased for offsets is compatible with these objectives, the Biodiversity Management Plan and other conditions of this approval, the Applicant must:</i></p> <p><i>(a) include in the Biodiversity Management Plan (see condition 52 below) an agricultural suitability assessment of surplus land on the offset properties, in particular for proposed corridor enhancement zones; and</i></p> <p><i>(b) maintain the agricultural productivity of the surplus areas.</i></p> | | | Section 5.12 and Appendix K |
| 47 | <p><i>For the vegetated buffer corridor required to be retained and protected under condition 7 of schedule 2 of this approval, the Applicant must:</i></p> <p><i>(a) use its best endeavours to work cooperatively with the Applicant of the Boggabri Coal Project to enhance the functioning of the area as a biodiversity corridor; and</i></p> <p><i>(b) include in the Biodiversity Management Plan (see condition 52 below) the details as to how impacts on the corridor are to be minimised, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.</i></p> | | | Section 3.14, Figure 2 |


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Table 2-1 (Continued)
Project Approval 10_0138 Requirements

| Condition Number | Condition | Relevant BMP Section |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| SCHEDULE 3: ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE CONDITIONS | | |
| Threatened Species | | |
| 48 | <p><i>For the White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodland Endangered Ecological Community the Applicant must:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>ensure that the Biodiversity Offset Strategy and site Rehabilitation Strategy is focused on protection rehabilitation, re-establishment and long-term maintenance of viable stands of this community;</i></p> <p>(b) <i>investigate in consultation with BCS and the North West LLS, all factors likely to enhance or impede the effective long term restoration of degraded remnants of this EEC in offset areas or regeneration of this EEC on disturbed areas (both offset areas and the site);</i></p> <p>(c) <i>within 24 months of the date of this approval (and if possible in conjunction with Stage 2 of the Leard Forest Mining Precinct Regional Biodiversity Strategy), submit a report of this investigation and provide an implementation plan to maximise the prospects for rehabilitation and regeneration of this EEC on the offset areas and the site, for approval by the Planning Secretary; and</i></p> <p>(d) <i>incorporate the approved implementation plan into the revised Biodiversity Management Plan, required under condition 52.</i></p> | Sections 2.3.3, 5 and Appendix A |
| 49 | <p><i>For all threatened species on site, the Applicant must ensure that the Biodiversity Offset Strategy and Rehabilitation Strategy are focused on protection, rehabilitation and long-term maintenance of viable stands of suitable habitat for these species.</i></p> <p><i>Note: the threatened fauna species on site include: Regent Honeyeater, Fork Tailed Swift, White Throated Needle-tail, Rainbow Bee-eater, Satin Flycatcher, Speckled Warbler, Swift Parrot, Brown Treecreeper, Diamond Firetail, Grey-crowned Babbler, Hooded Robin, Little Lorikeet, Varied Sittella, White-browed Woodswallow, Black Chinned Honeyeater, Painted Honeyeater, Little Eagle, Spotted Harrier, Black Necked Stork, Square Tailed Kite, Turquoise Parrot, Barking Owl, Masked Owl, Eastern False Pipistrelle, Greater Long-eared Bat, Yellow-bellied Sheath Tail Bat, Eastern Cave Bat, Eastern Bent-wing Bat, Little Pied Bat and Koala.</i></p> | Sections 4.6 and 5 |
| 50 | <p><i>The Applicant must:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>investigate, in consultation with BCS and the North West LLS, all factors likely to enhance or impede the effective long term provision of suitable habitat(s) for the following species: Regent Honeyeater, Speckled Warbler, Brown Treecreeper, Diamond Firetail, Grey-crowned Babbler, Hooded Robin, Little Lorikeet, Varied Sittella, Black Chinned Honeyeater, Painted Honeyeater, Little Eagle, Spotted Harrier, Turquoise Parrot, Barking Owl, Masked Owl, Eastern False Pipistrelle, Greater Long-eared Bat, Yellow-bellied Sheath Tail Bat and Little Pied Bat;</i></p> <p>(b) <i>within 24 months of the date of this approval (and if possible, in conjunction with Stage 2 of the Leard Forest Mining Precinct Regional Biodiversity Strategy), submit a report of this investigation and provide an implementation plan to ensure delivery of suitable areas of viable habitat for the species included in (a) above, for approval by the Planning Secretary; and</i></p> <p>(c) <i>incorporate the approved implementation plan into the revised Biodiversity Management Plan, required under condition 52.</i></p> | Sections 2.3.3, 5 and Appendix A |


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Table 2-1 (Continued)
Project Approval 10_0138 Requirements

| Condition Number | Condition | Relevant BMP Section |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| SCHEDULE 3: ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE CONDITIONS | | |
| Biodiversity Management Plan | | |
| 52 | <i>The Applicant must prepare and implement a Biodiversity Management Plan for the project to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This plan must:</i> | Section 1.7 |
| | <i>(a) be prepared in consultation with BCS, Commonwealth DCCEEW, CCC, and the North West LLS, and be submitted to the Planning Secretary for approval prior to commencement of construction;</i> | |
| | <i>(b) describe how the implementation of the biodiversity offset strategy would be integrated with the overall rehabilitation of the site.</i> | Section 3.4 |
| | <i>(c) describe the short, medium, and long term measures that would be implemented to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - manage the remnant vegetation and habitat on the site and in the offset area/s (if and when applicable); and - implement the biodiversity offset strategy (if and when applicable), including detailed performance and completion criteria; | Sections 3 and 5 |
| | <i>(d) include detailed performance and completion criteria for evaluating the performance of the biodiversity offset strategy, and triggering remedial action (if necessary);</i> | Sections 5.16 and 5.18 |
| | <i>(e) include a detailed description of the measures that would be implemented including the procedures to be implemented for:</i> | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enhancing the quality of existing vegetation and fauna habitat; - restoring native vegetation and fauna habitat on the biodiversity areas and rehabilitation area through focusing on assisted natural regeneration, targeted vegetation establishment and the introduction of naturally scarce fauna habitat features; | Section 5 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maximising the salvage of resources within the approved disturbance area – including vegetative, top and sub-soils and cultural heritage resources – for beneficial reuse in the enhancement of the biodiversity areas or rehabilitation area; | Sections 3.1.5, 3.1.6 and 5.6 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collecting and propagating seed; | Sections 3.3 and 5.3 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - minimising the impacts on fauna on site, including undertaking pre-clearance surveys; | Section 3.1 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improving the connectivity and corridor function of the offset areas to provide an east/west corridor to the Namoi River and demonstrating that this corridor is enhanced and maintained; | Section 5.4 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - managing any potential conflicts between the proposed restoration works in the biodiversity areas and any Aboriginal heritage values (both cultural and archaeological); | Section 5.7 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - managing salinity; | Sections 3.4 and 5.11 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - controlling weeds and feral pests; | Sections 3.5, 3.6, 5.8 and 5.9 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - controlling erosion; | Sections 3.7 and 5.11 | |



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Table 2-1 (Continued)
Project Approval 10_0138 Requirements

| Condition Number | Condition | Relevant BMP Section |
|--|---|--|
| SCHEDULE 3: ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE CONDITIONS | | |
| Biodiversity Management Plan (Continued) | | |
| 52 (Cont.) | - <i>managing grazing and agriculture on site, including detailed assessment of the suitability of grazing for conservation management outcomes;</i> | Sections 3.8 and 5.12, Appendix K |
| | - <i>controlling access; and</i> | Sections 3.9 and 5.13 |
| | - <i>bushfire management.</i> | Sections 3.11 and 5.14 |
| | (f) <i>include a seasonally based program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of these measures, and progress against the detailed performance and completion criteria.</i> | Sections 3.13, 5.17 and 6 |
| | (g) <i>identify the potential risks to the successful implementation of the biodiversity offset strategy and include a description of the contingency measures that would be implemented to mitigate against these risks.</i> | Section 5 (including, in particular, Section 5.18), Appendix J |
| | (h) <i>include details of who would be responsible for monitoring, reviewing, and implementing the plan.</i> | Section 1.4 |
| | <i>Note: The Biodiversity Management Plan and Rehabilitation Management Plan need to be substantially integrated for achieving biodiversity objectives for the rehabilitated mine-site.</i> | Section 3.4 |
| Conservation Bond | | |
| 55 | <i>Within 6 months of approval of any revision to the Biodiversity Management Plan required under condition 52 above, the Applicant must review and update as necessary the Conservation and Biodiversity Bond lodged with the Department to ensure that the biodiversity offset strategy is implemented in accordance with the performance and completion criteria of the Biodiversity Management Plan. The sum of the bond must be determined by:</i> | Section 1.5 |
| | (a) <i>calculating the full cost of implementing the biodiversity offset strategy (other than land acquisition costs); and</i> | |
| | (b) <i>employing a suitably qualified quantity surveyor to verify the calculated costs, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.</i> | |
| | <i>If the biodiversity offset strategy is completed generally in accordance with the completion criteria in the Biodiversity Management Plan to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary, the Planning Secretary will release the bond.</i> | |
| | <i>If the biodiversity offset strategy is not completed generally in accordance with the completion criteria in the Biodiversity Management Plan, the Planning Secretary will call in all or part of the conservation bond and arrange for the satisfactory completion of the relevant works.</i> | |
| <i>With the agreement of the Planning Secretary, this bond may be combined with rehabilitation security deposit administered by the Resources Regulator.</i> | | |
| | <i>Note: Alternative funding arrangements for long term management of the Biodiversity Offset Strategy, such as provision of capital and management funding as agreed by BCS as part of a Biobanking or Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement or transfer to conservation reserve estate can be used to reduce the liability of the conservation and biodiversity bond.</i> | |

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**Table 2-1 (Continued)
Project Approval 10_0138 Requirements**

| Condition Number | Condition | Relevant BMP Section |
|---|---|----------------------|
| SCHEDULE 3: ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE CONDITIONS | | |
| Biodiversity Audit | | |
| 56 | <p><i>By the end of December 2017 and then every 5 years, unless the Planning Secretary agrees otherwise, the Applicant must commission suitably qualified, experienced and independent person/s, whose appointment has been approved by the Planning Secretary, to undertake an audit of the revegetation of the rehabilitation area, management and restoration within the Biodiversity Offset Strategy areas to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This audit must:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>include consultation with BCS, North West LLS, DPHI Crown Lands, Commonwealth DCCEEW, CCC and the Resources Regulator;</i></p> <p>(b) <i>assess the performance of the revegetation in the rehabilitation area completed to date against the completion criteria in the Rehabilitation Management Plan;</i></p> <p>(c) <i>assess the performance of management and restoration in the off-site Biodiversity Offset Strategy areas completed to date against the completion criteria in the Biodiversity Management Plan;</i></p> <p>(d) <i>identify any measures that should be implemented to improve the performance of rehabilitation, management and restoration within the rehabilitation and biodiversity offset areas; and</i></p> | Section 6.6.2 |
| 56 (Cont.) | <p>(e) <i>if the completion criteria have not been met, or are not adequately trending towards being met, determine the likely ecological value of the rehabilitation and restoration once completed, and recommend additional measures to augment the Biodiversity Offset Strategy to ensure that it adequately offsets the project's impacts on biodiversity.</i></p> <p><i>If the audit recommends the implementation of additional measures to augment the Biodiversity Offset Strategy in accordance with (e) above, then within 6 months of the completion of the audit the Applicant must revise the Biodiversity Offset Strategy, in consultation with the Department, BCS and Commonwealth DCCEEW, and to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.</i></p> | Section 6.6.2 |

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**Table 2-1 (Continued)
Project Approval 10_0138 Requirements**

| Condition Number | Condition | Relevant BMP Section |
|---|--|--|
| SCHEDULE 5: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, REPORTING AND AUDITING | | |
| 3 | <p>Management Plan Requirements</p> <p><i>The Applicant must ensure that the management plans required under this consent are prepared in accordance with any relevant guidelines, and include:</i></p> | <p>As identified throughout the BMP, the BMP was prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines such as the <i>Environmental Management Plan Guidelines</i> (Cth DCCEW, 2024)</p> |
| | (a) <i>detailed baseline data;</i> | Section 4 |
| | (b) <i>a description of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>the relevant statutory requirements (including any relevant consent, licence or lease conditions);</i> - <i>any relevant limits or performance measures/criteria;</i> - <i>the specific performance indicators that are proposed to be used to judge the performance of, or guide the implementation of, the development or any management measures;</i> | Sections 2, 3 and 5 |
| | (c) <i>a description of the measures that would be implemented to comply with the relevant statutory requirements, limits, or performance measures/criteria</i> | Sections 2, 3 and 5 |
| | (d) <i>a program to monitor and report on the:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>impacts and environmental performance of the project;</i> - <i>effectiveness of any management measures (see c above);</i> | Sections 3.13, 5.17 and 6 |
| | (e) <i>a contingency plan to manage any unpredicted impacts and their consequences;</i> | Section 5.18 and Appendix J |
| | (f) <i>a program to investigate and implement ways to improve the environmental performance of the project over time;</i> | Sections 5.18 and 6 |
| | (g) <i>a protocol for managing and reporting any:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>incidents;</i> - <i>complaints;</i> - <i>non-compliances with statutory requirements; and</i> - <i>exceedances of the impact assessment criteria and/or performance criteria; and</i> | Section 6 |
| | (h) <i>a protocol for periodic review of the plan.</i> | Section 6 |

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2.2 KEY RELEVANT COMMONWEALTH APPROVAL CONDITIONS


As stated above, this BMP addresses the Offset Management Plan requirements set out in the Commonwealth EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 (as varied) and will serve as a combined Offset Management Plan for all of the EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 offset areas.

Key conditions under EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 that are relevant to the management of the offset areas are presented in Table 2-2 and addressed in Part B of this document.

In addition to the conditions presented in Table 2-2, it is noted that EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 also contains conditions which regulate the management of biodiversity at, and rehabilitation of, the MCCM site. For example, conditions 1, 2, 3 and 5-8 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 regulate disturbance within the MCCM "project area".


**Table 2-2
EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 Offset Related Requirements**

| Condition Number | Requirement | Relevant BMP Section |
|------------------|--|--|
| 4 | <p><i>The person taking the action is required to submit a Conservation and Biodiversity Bond under condition 55 of the NSW state government project approval dated 23 October 2012 (Application 10_0138). It is noted that this bond may be combined with the rehabilitation security deposit as required under the NSW Mining Act 1992. The person taking the action must submit details of this bond and the rehabilitation security deposit, to the Minister. If the Minister is not satisfied that the bond and the rehabilitation security deposit lodged by the person taking the action is adequate to provide for the implementation of the requirements referred to under conditions 3, 12A, 12B, 25-28 the Minister may require the person taking the action establish an additional bond or equivalent financial instrument in trust, under conditions approved in writing by the Minister.</i></p> | Section 1.5 |
| 9 | <p><i>Direct Offsets</i></p> <p><i>The person taking the action must register a legally binding conservation covenants over offset areas containing, to the satisfaction of the Minister, of no less than:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>9,334 ha that must be managed to achieve equivalent or better quality of habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat; and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>5,532 ha of the White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community, that must be managed to achieve equivalent or better quality.</i></p> <p><i>Note: the 5,532 ha of White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland ecological community may be included within the 9,334 ha of offset area for the threatened species if it meets the listing criteria for the EPBC-listed critically endangered ecological community as defined in the EPBC listing advice for that community and the requirements of condition 9.</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sections 4.3 and 4.5 respectively address the extent of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC and extent of relevant potential habitat within the offset areas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Section 5 provides for the management of the offset areas to achieve the outcomes identified in condition 9.</p> |

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**Table 2-2 (Continued)
EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 Requirements**

| Condition Number | Requirement | Relevant BMP Section |
|------------------|---|----------------------|
| 10 | <p><i>The person taking the action must verify through independent review the quantity and condition class of White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community and the quantity and quality of habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat within all offset areas proposed in the Environmental Assessment, as specified at Attachment B of these conditions, and any additional offsets as required under condition 11. Details of all independently verified offset areas proposed in the Environmental Assessment must be submitted to the Minister for approval by 30 December 2013. The findings of the independent review must be published on the website of the person taking the action and remain published until the expiry of this approval.</i></p> | Section 4.1 |
| 11 | <p><i>If the independent review finds that the offset areas proposed in the Environmental Assessment do not meet the requirements of condition 9, then additional areas must be included in the offset areas until the independent review finds that the relevant criteria under these conditions are met.</i></p> | Section 4.1 |
| 11A | <p><i>Replacement and new offsets</i></p> <p><i>For the purpose of condition 9, the offset areas may include additional offset areas to the offset areas which were the subject of independent review under conditions 10 and 11 if:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(a) the person taking the action submits a report to the Minister for approval, which has been subject to additional independent review, that identifies and verifies the quantity and condition classes of White Box—Yellow Box— Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community and the quantity and quality of habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat within the additional offset areas;</i> <i>(b) that report is submitted to the Minister for approval by 30 June 2022, unless otherwise agreed by the Minister in writing; and</i> <i>(c) the Minister has approved that report.</i> <p><i>The person taking the action must publish the report on its website within 30 days of the Minister's approval, unless otherwise agreed by the Minister in writing.</i></p> | Section 4.1 |

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**Table 2-2 (Continued)
EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 Requirements**

| Condition Number | Requirement | Relevant BMP Section |
|------------------|---|---|
| 12A | <p>Offset Management Plans</p> <p><i>The person taking the action must submit to the Minister for approval an Offset management plan for all of the offset areas proposed in the Environmental Assessment, specified in Attachment B, within 12 months of this approval. The approved Offset management plan must be implemented for all of the offset areas proposed in the Environmental Assessment, specified in Attachment B, and any offset areas agreed as a result of independent verification process as specified in conditions 10 and 11, unless the Minister agrees to the removal of any specific properties as an offset area under this approval.</i></p> <p><i>If, after 31 October 2021, the Minister informs the person taking the action that the submitted Offset management plan is not suitable for approval, the Minister may, after 30 December 2021, approve a version of the Offset management plan revised by the Department.</i></p> <p><i>Note: for consistency, the person taking the action may develop a Biodiversity Management plan that includes the requirements set for managing offsets and set out in these conditions, to align with the requirements of the NSW state government Project Approval dated 23 October 2012 (application number 10_0138) and this approval.</i></p> | <p>The Maules Creek Coal Mine Offset Management Plan (OMP) (5 November 2021) submitted pursuant to this condition was approved by a delegate of the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment on 20 December 2021.</p> <p>This BMP replaces the OMP and serves as a combined OMP for the purpose of this condition and condition 12B.</p> |
| 12B | <p><i>The person taking the action must submit to the Minister for approval an Additional Offset management plan for the additional offset areas within 6 months of their approval under condition 11A. The person taking the action must implement the approved Additional offset management plan.</i></p> <p><i>If, after a further 3 months, the Minister informs the person taking the action that the submitted Additional Offset management plan is not suitable for approval, the Minister may, after a further 3 months, approve a version of the Additional Offset management plan revised by the Department.</i></p> <p><i>Notes:</i></p> <p><i>(1) for consistency, the person taking the action may develop a Biodiversity Management plan that includes the requirements set for managing offsets and set out in these conditions, to align with the requirements of the NSW state government Project Approval dated 23 October 2012 (application number 10_0138) and this approval.</i></p> <p><i>(2) with the agreement of the Minister, the person taking the action may combine the Offset management plan and the Additional Offset management plan.</i></p> | <p>A draft version of the Additional OMP was submitted to the Cth DCCEEWS pursuant to this condition.</p> <p>This BMP serves as a combined OMP for the purpose of this condition and condition 12A.</p> |

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**Table 2-2 (Continued)
EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 Requirements**

| Condition Number | Requirement | Relevant BMP Section |
|--|--|---|
| 12C | <i>Each offset management plan must include, but not be limited to, the following:</i> | |
| | <i>(a) a text description and map which clearly defines the location and boundaries of the offset areas. This must be accompanied by the offset attributes and shapefiles;</i> | Section 4.1 and Figure 3 This BMP will be accompanied by the "offset attributes" and "shapefiles". |
| | <i>(b) a description of the methodology and results of the surveys measuring the baseline ecological conditions in the offset areas. This must be consistent with the State and Transition Model and include but not be limited to:</i> | Section 4 |
| | <i>i. the extent and condition of all vegetation communities, including a description of the structure, floristics and tree age class representation of each community;</i> | Section 4.2, Figures 5a to 5h, Appendices C and D |
| | <i>ii. the extent and condition class of all areas of the White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community;</i> | Section 4.3, Figures 5a to 5h, Appendices C and D |
| | <i>iii. surveys targeting the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat;</i> | Section 4.4 |
| | <i>iv. the extent and quality of all areas of habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat;</i> | Section 4.5, Figures 7a to 7h, Appendices L and M |
| | <i>v. the location of all survey sites (including co-ordinates);</i> | Appendix E |
| | <i>vi. photo reference points at survey sites.</i> | Appendix E |
| <i>(c) clearly defined ecological management objectives for the offset areas;</i> | Section 5.1 | |
| <i>(d) detailed description of all ecological management activities proposed to be undertaken, including maps and/or diagrams showing areas to be managed and the timing of proposed activities;</i> | Section 5, Figures 6a-g, Figures 7a-h, 8a-h, 9 and 10a-h | |



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Table 2-2 (Continued)
EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 Requirements

| Condition Number | Requirement | Relevant BMP Section |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| 12C (Cont.) | (e) <i>details of ongoing ecological monitoring programs, performance criteria, targets and provisions for adaptive management, including but not limited to:</i> | Section 5 |
| | <i>i. a set of measurable ecological indicators for detecting changes to the White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community, including those that may be ascribed to ongoing water stress;</i> | Section 5.16.1 |
| | <i>ii. a monitoring plan to assess the success of the management activities measured against the baseline condition. The monitoring must be statistically robust and able to quantify change in the extent and condition of the White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community and habitat for the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Greater Long-eared Bat. This should include the use of control sites and periodic ecological surveys to be undertaken by a qualified ecologist;</i> | Section 5.17, Figures 11a-h |
| | <i>iii. a list of performance criteria based on the ecological management objectives for the White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community and habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat;</i> | Section 5.16 |
| | <i>iv. measures to exclude weeds from all offset areas for the period covered by this approval;</i> | Section 5.8 |
| | <i>v. a description of the potential risks to successful management against the performance criteria, and a description of the contingency measures that will be implemented to mitigate against these risks;</i> | Section 5.18 |
| | <i>vi. a process by which to report to the department the progress of management activities undertaken in the offset areas and the outcome of those activities, including identifying any need for improved management and activities to undertake such improvement.</i> | Section 6 |
| | (f) <i>details of all parties responsible for management, monitoring and implementing the management activities, including their position or status as separate contractor.</i> | Section 1.4 |
| (g) <i>details of the funding requirements for the ongoing management activities, including an estimate of the costs of the activities and details of the parties responsible for funding the activities.</i> | Section 1.5 | |
| 12D | <i>Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the department, the baseline surveys for threatened species must be undertaken in accordance with the department's Survey Guidelines for Australia's Threatened Birds and the Survey Guidelines for Australian Threatened Bats. Subsequent monitoring must be carried out annually at the same time of year as the baseline surveys unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the department.</i> | Sections 4.4 and 5.17.2 |

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EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 Requirements**

| Condition Number | Requirement | Relevant BMP Section |
|------------------|--|---|
| 13 | <p>Mechanisms to protect offset areas</p> <p><i>The mechanism/s for registering a legally binding covenant must provide protection for the offset areas proposed in the Environmental Assessment as specified at Attachment B of these conditions, in perpetuity and be registered by 30 June 2021, unless the Minister agrees in writing to removal of any specific properties.</i></p> <p><i>Evidence of compliance with condition 13 must be provided to the Department within 30 days of registering a legally binding covenant.</i></p> <p><i>The person taking the action must report on progress meeting these requirements in each annual compliance report required under condition 34 and as otherwise requested by the Department.</i></p> | Section 4.1 |
| 13A | <p><i>For any approved replacement and new offset area, the person taking the action must:</i></p> <p><i>(a) implement an approved offset management plan (as per condition 12B);</i></p> <p><i>(b) submit an application to establish legally binding covenants that provide protection for the offsets areas in perpetuity within 60 business days of securing the Minister's approval of the report prepared pursuant to condition 11A of these approval conditions; and</i></p> <p><i>(c) by 31 March 2024, register the legally binding covenants that provide protection for the offset areas in perpetuity.</i></p> <p><i>The approval holder must report on progress meeting these requirements in each annual compliance report required under condition 34 and as otherwise requested by the Department.</i></p> | <p>This BMP serves as a combined OMP for the purpose of this condition and condition 12A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Section 4.1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Section 6.3</p> |
| 15 | <p>Indirect Offsets</p> <p><i>To compensate for the loss of the White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community and habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat the person taking the action must submit to the Minister for approval, within 2 years of the date of this approval, a project plan to invest \$1 million for research that will identify effective methodologies for achieving rehabilitation and restoration of functioning White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland endangered critically ecological community on mining sites. The research must be undertaken by a third party and be available to industry and governments generally. The approved project plan must be implemented.</i></p> | Section 4.1 |

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**Table 2-2 (Continued)
EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 Requirements**

| Condition Number | Requirement | Relevant BMP Section |
|------------------|---|----------------------|
| 16 | <i>To compensate for the loss of the habitat for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat the person taking the action must provide \$1.5 million over the life of the approval (comprising \$500,000 for each of the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat), to deliver activities that implement priority recovery actions for the regent honeyeater, swift parrot and greater long-eared bat. A detailed project plan governing the timing of the \$1.5 million funding for the activities and outcomes must be developed. The project plan must be submitted to the Minister for approval by 30 April 2017, or otherwise agreed in writing by the Minister. The project plan should demonstrate consultation with relevant species experts and be consistent with approved National Recovery Plans where they are available, and as agreed with the relevant Recovery Planning Teams. The approved project plan must be implemented.</i> | Section 4.1 |
| 24 | Leard Forest Mining Precinct Regional Biodiversity Strategy <i>The person taking the action must implement the regional biodiversity strategy as required under condition 41 of the NSW state government project approval dated 23 October 2012 (application number 10_0138). The required scoping report for the development of the strategy must be submitted to the Minister for approval on or before 31 July 2013. The approved strategy must be implemented.</i> | Section 2.3.2 |
| 34 | <i>By the end of March of each year after the commencement of the action, the person taking the action must publish a report on their website addressing compliance with the conditions of this approval over the previous 12 months, including implementation of any approved management plans as specified in the conditions. Non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be reported to the department at the same time as the compliance report is published.</i> | Section 6.3 |
| 35 | <i>Upon the direction of the Minister, the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister. The independent auditor must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.</i> | Section 6.6.1 |
| 36 | <i>If the person taking the action wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with the approved plans, as specified in the conditions, the person taking the action must submit to the department for the Minister's written approval a revised version of that plan. The varied activity shall not commence until the Minister has approved the revised plan in writing. The Minister will not approve a revised plan, unless the revised plan would result in an equivalent or improved environmental outcome. If the Minister approves the revised plan that plan must be implemented in place of the plan originally approved.</i> | Section 6.5 |



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Table 2-2 (Continued)
EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 Requirements

| Condition Number | Requirement | Relevant BMP Section |
|--|--|--|
| 37 | <p><i>If the Minister believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of listed threatened species and communities or listed migratory species to do so, the Minister may request that the person taking the action make specified revisions to the management plan specified in the conditions and submit the revised plan for the Minister's written approval. The person taking the action must comply with any such request.</i></p> <p><i>The revised approved plan must be implemented. Unless the Minister has approved the revised plan then the person taking the action must continue to implement the originally approved plan, as specified in the conditions,</i></p> | Section 6.5 |
| 39 | <p>Publication of plans</p> <p><i>The person taking the action must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities and outcomes associated with or relevant to the above conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the management plans required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the department. Such records may be subject to audit by the department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.</i></p> | Section 6.1 |
| 40 | <p><i>Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the person taking the action must publish all approved management plans referred to in these conditions of approval on their website. Each management plan must be published on the website within 1 month of being approved and remain published until the expiry of the approval.</i></p> | Section 6.2 (see https://whitehavencoal.com.au/our-business/our-assets/maules-creek-mine/) |
| Relevant definitions include: | | |
| <p>Condition class – One of three states in which the White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community may exist, as defined within the Commonwealth listing advice for the listing of this ecological community as critically endangered under the EPBC Act.</p> <p>Equivalent or better quality means:</p> <p>a. for the White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland critically endangered ecological community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. offset areas meet the definition of the critically endangered ecological community described in the listing advice; ii. offset areas are of an overall equivalent or better condition class than the areas of White Box—Yellow Box—Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland being cleared within the project area; and iii. based on the proportion of each condition class represented and other relevant ecological attributes. <p>b. for the threatened species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the overall quality of the habitat within the offset areas, taking account of the ecological requirements for the relevant threatened species, is equivalent to or better than the areas of relevant habitat being cleared within the project area. <p>Habitat – areas in which a species or community is known to occur or is thought to have the potential to occur based on the biophysical conditions prevailing in the area and the ecological requirements of the species or community</p> | | |

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Tylophora linearis, a small twining plant, was identified within the MCCM Project Boundary during pre-clearing flora surveys in 2014. The Commonwealth Department of the Environment (DotE) (now Cth DCCEEW) was notified in 2014 that *Tylophora linearis* had been found and MCC was requested to revise the then OMP to reflect the compensatory measures being undertaken for *Tylophora linearis* in accordance with Conditions 32 and 37. Accordingly, this BMP describes relevant measures for *Tylophora linearis* in accordance with the *Maules Creek Tylophora linearis Offset Package* (Hunter Eco Pty Ltd [Hunter Eco], 2021) approved on 28 September 2021 (Appendix F).

2.3 RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN GUIDELINES

As stated above, this BMP was prepared in consideration of the *Environmental Management Plan Guidelines* (Cth DCCEEW, 2024). The relevant environmental management plan guidelines are presented in Table 2-3.

**Table 2-3
Environmental Management Plan Guidelines**

| Guideline | Relevant BMP Section |
|---|-----------------------------|
| GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN | |
| Key principles | |
| <i>An environmental management plan should:</i> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>be balanced, objective and concise</i> | Throughout this BMP |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>state any limitations that apply, or should apply, to the use of the information in the environmental management plan</i> | None |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>identify any matter in relation to which there is a significant lack of relevant information or a significant degree of uncertainty</i> | None |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>include adaptive management strategies for managing uncertainty</i> | Section 5.18 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>be written in a way that is easily understood by other parties</i> | Throughout this BMP |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>clearly present how conclusions about risks have been reached</i> | Section 5.18 and Appendix J |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ensure that the person taking the action takes full responsibility for the content and commitments contained in the plan.</i> | Section 1.4 |
| Including commitments in management plans | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All commitments must be specific and auditable with measurable outcomes and clear timeframes.</i> | Throughout this BMP |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To ensure readability, write clearly and avoid long sentences with complex clauses.</i> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Always use the terms 'will' and 'must', rather than 'should' or 'may' when committing to carry out management actions.</i> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Avoid use of ambiguous terminology such as 'where possible', 'as required', 'to the greatest extent possible'. If it is necessary to include ambiguous terminology, it should be explained and examples given.</i> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clearly explain any technical terms or acronyms used, and/or define them in a glossary.</i> | |
| <i>It is also important that commitments or statements within the management plan are consistent with other relevant management plans or conditions of approval.</i> | |



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Table 2-3 (Continued)
Environmental Management Plan Guidelines

| Guideline | Relevant BMP Section |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (Continued) | |
| Cross-referencing | |
| <i>Where the plan refers to material in other documents, it should include cross-references that are clear, complete and that specify the document version and date. Use tables, diagrams and maps where their inclusion would provide a better understanding and implementation of the management plan. Link all tables, diagrams and maps into the text through cross-referencing.</i> | Throughout this BMP and Section 7 |
| CONTENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN | |
| Cover page and declaration of accuracy | |
| <i>Cover page detailing:</i> | Cover Page |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>EPBC number</i> • <i>project name</i> • <i>proponent /approval holder and ACN or ABN</i> • <i>the proposed/approved action</i> • <i>location of the action</i> • <i>date of preparation of the environmental management plan</i> • <i>person accepting responsibility for the environmental management plan – signed declaration (see below).</i> | Section 1.4 |
| Document version control | |
| <i>The document version control should be a simple system that ensures that details of all key changes to the document over time are properly recorded. Identified changes should include details of timings, persons responsible and reasons for changes.</i> | Page i |
| Table of contents | |
| <i>Table of contents page detailing:</i> | Table of Contents |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>all section headings and page numbers</i> • <i>all figures, tables, plans and maps (should be numbered)</i> • <i>all appendixes (with meaningful titles, including for sub-appendixes if any). If the appendixes contain a collation of data, include summary of the contents.</i> | |
| Executive summary or introduction | |
| <i>The executive summary should note the key elements of the project, the purpose of the document, the main potential impacts and the primary strategies planned to address these impacts.</i> | Section 1.2 |
| Conditions of approval reference table | |
| <i>When an environmental management plan is prepared after the project has been approved under the EPBC Act, the management plan should include a table detailing the information noted below:</i> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The EPBC Act approval condition requirements the plan is intended to address. These are best presented broken down into each of the individual actions that the conditions require.</i> • <i>The section and page numbers which address the approval conditions.</i> • <i>A summary of the key commitments relating to each of the approval conditions.</i> | Table 2.2 |
| | Section 2.2 |
| | Section 5.16 |

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**Table 2-3 (Continued)
Environmental Management Plan Guidelines**

| Guideline | Relevant BMP Section |
|--|-----------------------|
| CONTENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (Continued) | |
| Project description | |
| <p><i>The environmental management plan should provide a description of the project as this provides context for the plan. The location of all project actions should be described and a map showing their location provided. Basic information on the environment at these locations should also be included as this helps provide the environmental context to which the environmental management plan applies. The plan should include a description of the activities that will be undertaken as part of the project including project details relevant to any approval conditions and with potential impacts on matters protected under the EPBC Act. The plan should distinguish between construction and operational activities, if relevant. A schedule of intended commencement and completion dates should be provided. Projects undertaken in stages should identify each stage in the schedule. Contingency schedules can also be included along with examples of events that could result in the use of the contingency schedules.</i></p> | Section 1 |
| Objectives | |
| <p><i>The environmental outcomes of the plan should be defined. These should be tailored to the environmental issues outlined in the plan.</i></p> | Section 1.2 |
| Environmental management roles and responsibilities | |
| <p><i>Once an action is approved, the approval holder is responsible for complying with the conditions of approval, including the commitments made in environmental management plans. The plan should define the roles and responsibilities of personnel in charge of the environmental management of the project. The roles and responsibilities of each relevant position should be documented, including the responsibilities of subcontractors. The names of the responsible personnel do not need to be included. Identification of the position titles, roles and responsibilities is sufficient. If the roles and responsibilities are expected to change over time the long-term variations should also be documented.</i></p> | Section 1.4 |
| Reporting | |
| <p><i>An environmental management plan will usually require reporting arrangements for two purposes. Reporting arrangements assist with effective implementation and with external reporting. External reports may include reports on environmental incidences to the regulator, reports to stakeholders, reports to inform reviews of the plan and reports to meet the reporting requirements of the conditions of approval.</i></p> <p><i>The description of reporting requirements should include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>a list of required reports including where appropriate monitoring, environmental incidents, non-compliance, corrective action and auditing</i> • <i>a description of the standard report content</i> • <i>the schedule or triggers for preparing a report</i> • <i>who the report is provided to</i> • <i>document control procedures.</i> <p><i>Reporting commitments should also be consistent with any reporting to us required by the conditions of approval.</i></p> | Sections 6.3 |
| Environmental Training | |
| <p><i>All people involved with the project should receive relevant environmental training to ensure they understand their responsibilities when implementing the environmental management plan. People to be trained include those at the site/s of all project activities and operations, including contractors, subcontractors and visitors. The training should be tailored to the role of the individual in the project.</i></p> | Sections 3.12 and 6.9 |

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**Table 2-3 (Continued)
Environmental Management Plan Guidelines**

| Guideline | Relevant BMP Section |
|--|--|
| CONTENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (Continued) | |
| <i>Environmental Training (Continued)</i> | |
| <p><i>The environmental management plan should describe the training to be implemented and could include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>site inductions</i> • <i>identification of key points of environmental value and any relevant matters of national environmental significance</i> • <i>understanding the requirements of the environmental management plan and the individual's role</i> • <i>environmental incident emergency response procedures</i> • <i>site environmental controls</i> • <i>an outline of the potential consequences of not meeting their environmental responsibilities.</i> <p><i>Records of all training conducted should be maintained and include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the person receiving the training</i> • <i>the date the training was received</i> • <i>the name of the person conducting the training</i> • <i>a summary of the training.</i> | <p>Sections 3.12 and 6.9</p> |
| <i>Emergency contacts and procedures</i> | |
| <p><i>The environmental management plan should identify the key emergency contacts responsible for managing environmental emergencies associated with the project and their contact details. These personnel should have the power to stop and direct works so that they can manage emergencies effectively. In addition, the plan should establish procedures for managing environmental emergencies and ensure that those procedures are implemented and maintained.</i></p> | <p>Sections 1.4, 6.10, 6.11 and 6.12</p> |
| <i>Potential environmental impacts and risks</i> | |
| <p><u>Threats to matters protected under the EPBC Act</u></p> <p><i>The environmental management plan should summarise all the identified threats to matters protected under Part 3 of the EPBC Act in the management plan. The matters protected by the EPBC Act include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the 9 matters of national environmental significance (listed in Appendix A)</i> • <i>the environment in general (for actions by Commonwealth agencies or actions on Commonwealth land) or the environment on Commonwealth land (for actions outside Commonwealth land).</i> <p><i>The plan should refer to relevant information provided in the EPBC Act assessment documentation, such as an environmental impact statement or preliminary documentation. If the project has already been approved, the plan should detail all new information relevant to the conditions placed on the approval. The key sensitivities of the environmental values potentially impacted by the action should be identified.</i></p> <p><u>Potential impacts</u></p> <p><i>The potential impacts section of the plan should focus on identifying, locating and quantifying the potential impacts (direct and indirect) of the project on the matters protected by the EPBC Act. It should discuss:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the relevant impacts of the project</i> • <i>the nature and extent of the potential short-term and long-term effects</i> • <i>any uncertainties regarding the predicted impacts.</i> <p><i>This may include a summary of any relevant information previously provided in assessment documentation, such as an environmental impact statement or preliminary documentation.</i></p> | <p>Section 2.4.3 Section 5.18 Appendix A</p> |


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Table 2-3 (Continued)
Environmental Management Plan Guidelines

| Guideline | Relevant BMP Section |
|--|----------------------------|
| CONTENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (Continued) | |
| <i>Potential environmental impacts and risks (Continued)</i> | |
| <p><i>Impacts from relevant stages of the action (for example, pre-construction, construction and operation) should be delineated in this section and should reflect the relevant conditions of approval. It may be necessary to divide the potential impacts into subsections reflecting the stages of the project.</i></p> | |
| <p><u>Risk assessment</u></p> <p><i>Once the potential impacts of the proposal are clearly identified a risk assessment should be undertaken for each potential impact. This means that the likelihood and consequences of each potential impact need to be estimated. An example of a methodology for risk assessment is at Evaluating risk.</i></p> <p><i>The function of the risk assessment is not to repeat or supersede the original assessment of a project or its conditions of approval. Rather it is to ensure that these risks are effectively translated into actual mitigation and management actions. Impacts with higher risk ratings usually require more management actions and controls. This minimises the likelihood of the risk occurring and reduces the consequences to acceptable levels.</i></p> | Appendix J |
| <i>Environmental management measures</i> | |
| <p><i>The environmental management plan should clearly state how the potential impacts of the proposal will be managed and this information usually forms the bulk of the content of the plan. For each potential impact, the plan should address:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>environmental management activities, controls and performance targets</i> • <i>environmental management maps and diagrams</i> • <i>monitoring programs with trigger values for corrective actions</i> • <i>corrective actions and non-compliance reporting</i> • <i>environmental schedules</i> <p><i>These topics are described in more detail below. It is helpful if management plans present the information on these topics for one potential impact at a time. This ensures that all the management measures for each potential impact are in the same section of the document and easy to locate.</i></p> | Section 5 |
| <p><u>Environmental management activities, controls and performance targets</u></p> <p><i>The environmental management plan should describe all the environmental management activities and control measures that will be implemented to avoid or minimise environmental impacts. The description of each measure should also specify the timeframes for implementation and the performance targets or outcomes to be achieved. The timing of measures is often best presented in a timetable. Performance targets and outcomes should be quantitative and auditable.</i></p> | Sections 5.16 and 5.17 |
| <p><u>Environmental management maps and diagrams</u></p> <p><i>Environmental management maps and diagrams are useful visual tools that aid in environmental management activities. Maps can provide useful spatial information about areas that require environmental management. Diagrams can illustrate the design of environmental control measures and the flow of environmental management procedures. For example, a map could be used to show:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>environmentally sensitive areas on or near a project site</i> • <i>vegetation that requires protection</i> • <i>buffer zones or 'no-go zones'</i> • <i>monitoring locations.</i> | Figures throughout the BMP |



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Environmental Management Plan Guidelines

| Guideline | Relevant BMP Section |
|---|---------------------------|
| CONTENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (Continued) | |
| <i>Environmental management measures (Continued)</i> | |
| <u>Environmental monitoring</u> <i>The environmental management plan should specify how the effectiveness of environmental management measures will be monitored. It should include the methodology, frequency and duration of monitoring activities. It should also include trigger values or conditions under which corrective actions are taken. The plan should also specify if, and when, follow up action is required and how monitoring records will be maintained.</i> | Sections 5.16 and 5.17 |
| <u>Corrective actions</u> <i>The environmental management plan should include procedures for addressing:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>monitoring results which exceed the trigger values for corrective action</i> • <i>potential corrective actions</i> • <i>reporting non-compliance with approval conditions to the relevant authority</i> • <i>environmental incidents and emergencies.</i> | Section 5.18 Section 6 |
| <i>The plan should also identify who is responsible for implementing the above procedures. Auditable systems should be developed for recording the implementation of these procedures and their outcomes.</i> | Section 1.4 |
| <i>Audit and review</i> | |
| <u>Environmental auditing</u> <i>The environmental management plan should include the schedule or triggers for auditing the implementation and effectiveness of the plan. It should address both internal and external audit requirements including who is responsible for undertaking the audits and reporting the results.</i> | Section 6.7 |
| <u>Environmental management plan review</u> <i>The environmental management plan should specify the schedule or triggers for reviews of the plan. A review should assess whether the plan is achieving its objectives and the requirements of any relevant approval conditions. A review should take into account environmental monitoring records, corrective actions and the results of any audits. The plan should also identify who will be responsible for undertaking the review. During the review process, any reasons for varying the environmental management plan should be documented.</i> | Sections 6.4 and 6.5 |
| <i>Review of an environmental management plan would typically be undertaken:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>following significant environmental incidents</i> • <i>when there is a need to improve performance in an area of environmental impact</i> • <i>periodically for actions undertaken over long timeframes such as one, two or five years.</i> | Section 6.7 |
| <i>However, if the person taking the action wishes to carry out any activity other than in accordance with the approved management plan specified in the approval conditions, the person taking the action is usually required to submit to us for the Minister's written approval a revised management plan. In these cases, the varied activity should not commence until the Minister has approved the varied management plan in writing. As a guiding principle, the Minister will not approve a varied management plan unless the revised management plan would result in an equivalent or improved environmental outcome over time.</i> | Section 6 |
| <i>Glossary</i> | |
| <i>This should include any acronyms, all terms which are open to different interpretations or terms which are not in common use. Terms which are defined in the approval conditions should retain the same meaning as that used in the conditions.</i> | Page viii |


**Table 2-3 (Continued)
Environmental Management Plan Guidelines**

| Guideline | Relevant BMP Section | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|--|
| EVALUATING RISK | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>The following section sets out a qualitative risk assessment methodology that can be applied to the environmental risks associated with a wide range of projects. It is provided as an example of one approach to risk assessment and the Department does not require that this particular approach be used when preparing an environmental management plan. Further guidance on evaluating and managing risk can be found in AS ISO 31000:2018 Risk management – Guidelines (Standards Australia 2018).</p> | Section 5.18 and Appendix J | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Likelihood and consequence | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Each environmental risk should be given a rating in terms of likelihood and consequence using the criteria in the table 1 and table 2 below. These ratings are then combined using the risk rating table to generate a risk rating of low, medium, high or severe.</p> | Appendix J | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p><i>Table 1 Likelihood</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Qualitative measure of likelihood</th> <th style="text-align: left;">How likely is it that this event/issue will occur after control strategies have been put in place</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Highly likely</td> <td>Is expected to occur in most circumstances</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Likely</td> <td>Will probably occur during the life of the project</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Possible</td> <td>Might occur during the life of the project</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unlikely</td> <td>Could occur but considered unlikely or doubtful</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rare</td> <td>May occur in exceptional circumstances</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | Qualitative measure of likelihood | How likely is it that this event/issue will occur after control strategies have been put in place | Highly likely | Is expected to occur in most circumstances | Likely | Will probably occur during the life of the project | Possible | Might occur during the life of the project | Unlikely | Could occur but considered unlikely or doubtful | Rare | May occur in exceptional circumstances |
| Qualitative measure of likelihood | How likely is it that this event/issue will occur after control strategies have been put in place | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Highly likely | Is expected to occur in most circumstances | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Likely | Will probably occur during the life of the project | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Possible | Might occur during the life of the project | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unlikely | Could occur but considered unlikely or doubtful | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rare | May occur in exceptional circumstances | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p><i>Table 2 Consequences</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Qualitative measure of consequences</th> <th style="text-align: left;">What will be the consequence/result if this issue does occur rating</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Minor</td> <td>Minor incident of environmental damage that can be reversed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moderate</td> <td>Isolated but substantial instances of environmental damage that could be reversed with intensive efforts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>High</td> <td>Substantial instances of environmental damage that could be reversed with intensive efforts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Major</td> <td>Major loss of environmental amenity and real danger of continuing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Critical</td> <td>Severe widespread loss of environmental amenity and irrecoverable environmental damage</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | Qualitative measure of consequences | What will be the consequence/result if this issue does occur rating | Minor | Minor incident of environmental damage that can be reversed | Moderate | Isolated but substantial instances of environmental damage that could be reversed with intensive efforts | High | Substantial instances of environmental damage that could be reversed with intensive efforts | Major | Major loss of environmental amenity and real danger of continuing | Critical | Severe widespread loss of environmental amenity and irrecoverable environmental damage |
| Qualitative measure of consequences | What will be the consequence/result if this issue does occur rating | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Minor | Minor incident of environmental damage that can be reversed | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Moderate | Isolated but substantial instances of environmental damage that could be reversed with intensive efforts | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| High | Substantial instances of environmental damage that could be reversed with intensive efforts | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Major | Major loss of environmental amenity and real danger of continuing | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Critical | Severe widespread loss of environmental amenity and irrecoverable environmental damage | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Risk rating | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>You should give each of your risks a likelihood rating and a consequence rating. Using the rating table below you can determine whether your risk is low, medium, high or severe.</p> | Appendix J | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>The risk rating generated using the above table can be used as a guide to the amount of time and resources that will be required to manage each risk. Risks with 'low' risk ratings will usually require significantly less management than 'medium', 'high' and 'severe' risks.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>This is usually reflected in the environmental management plan where issues with higher risk ratings require more detailed information regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the description of the risk • the measures and commitments to minimise and manage the risk • the performance objectives and monitoring programs • trigger values for additional action, review and reporting. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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**Table 2-3 (Continued)
Environmental Management Plan Guidelines**

| Guideline | Relevant BMP Section | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| EVALUATING RISK (Continued) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Risk rating (Continued) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p><i>Table 3 Risk Rating</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th colspan="5" style="text-align: center;">Consequence</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;"><i>Minor</i></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><i>Moderate</i></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><i>High</i></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><i>Major</i></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><i>Critical</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Highly Likely</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Medium</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>High</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>High</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Severe</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Severe</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Likely</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Low</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Medium</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>High</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>High</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Severe</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Possible</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Low</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Medium</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Medium</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>High</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Severe</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Unlikely</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Low</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Low</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Medium</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>High</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>High</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Rare</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Low</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Low</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Low</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Medium</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>High</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | Consequence | | | | | <i>Minor</i> | <i>Moderate</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>Major</i> | <i>Critical</i> | Highly Likely | <i>Medium</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>Severe</i> | <i>Severe</i> | Likely | <i>Low</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>Severe</i> | Possible | <i>Low</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>Severe</i> | Unlikely | <i>Low</i> | <i>Low</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>High</i> | Rare | <i>Low</i> | <i>Low</i> | <i>Low</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>High</i> | Appendix J |
| | | Consequence | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <i>Minor</i> | <i>Moderate</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>Major</i> | <i>Critical</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Highly Likely | <i>Medium</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>Severe</i> | <i>Severe</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Likely | <i>Low</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>Severe</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Possible | <i>Low</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>Severe</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Unlikely | <i>Low</i> | <i>Low</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>High</i> | <i>High</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rare | <i>Low</i> | <i>Low</i> | <i>Low</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>High</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FORMAT OF SUBMISSIONS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p><i>Each page of the environmental management plan should include the name of the project, the date of the environmental management plan and sequential page numbering. An environmental management plan can be submitted via standard post or electronically. Submissions should be titled 'Environmental Management Plan' with the project name and EPBC approval number.</i></p> | Header and Footer of each page | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General requirements for maps, plans and sections | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p><i>All maps and sections should conform to the following standards.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Scale – an appropriate standard metric scale should be chosen to best represent the information required (for example 1:25 000, 1:10 000 and 1:5000).</i> • <i>Datum – plans and cross sections should refer to Australian Height Datum.</i> • <i>Title Block – plans should have a title block in the lower right-hand corner of the sheet with the following information:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>EPBC number and project name</i> – <i>title and number of the plan</i> – <i>author</i> – <i>scale</i> – <i>date</i> – <i>source and date of data</i> • <i>Legend – plans should have a clear and comprehensive legend to identify the symbols and colours used.</i> • <i>Maps, plans, figures, images and sections should also:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>use metric measurements throughout</i> – <i>show a graphic bar scale</i> – <i>show any local grid lines and standards</i> – <i>have a north point or orientation of sections</i> – <i>include a key.</i> <p><i>Maps may also be submitted in ESRI Shapefiles containing '.shp', '.shx' and '.dbf' files.</i></p> | Figures throughout the BMP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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2.4 OTHER REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE OFFSET AREAS

2.4.1 Conservation Agreements

All MCCM offset areas are secured under Conservation Agreements under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NP&W Act) or *NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) in accordance with Conditions 13 and 13A of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 and Condition 45 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138. Details are provided in Section 4.1. These Conservation Agreements are regulated by the NSW BCT and include requirements for the management of the offset areas.

2.4.2 Leard Forest Mining Precinct Regional Biodiversity Strategy

Conditions 41-43 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138 provide for a Leard Forest Mining Precinct Regional Biodiversity Strategy, and Condition 24 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 requires MCC to implement this Strategy (as approved).

Condition 53 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138 relevantly provided for the BMP to be revised within a specified period after the completion of Stage 2 of the Strategy, and for this revised BMP to demonstrate consistency with the findings of the Leard Forest Mining Precinct Regional Biodiversity Strategy to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.

To the extent that the Leard Forest Mining Precinct Regional Biodiversity Strategy is relevant to this BMP, the BMP is considered to be consistent with the relevant findings of the *Leard Forest Mining Precinct Regional Biodiversity Strategy* (Umwelt Environmental & Social Consultants Pty Ltd [Umwelt], 2017).


In this regard, the reconciliation tables at Appendix B:

- set out the matters in Tables 2.1 (Strategic Biodiversity Offset Management Actions), 2.2 (Strategic Biodiversity Offset Monitoring Actions) and 2.3 (Strategic Biodiversity Performance Measures and Preliminary Completion Criteria) in the Leard Forest Mining Precinct Regional Biodiversity Strategy; and
- identify corresponding relevant content set out in this BMP.

In relation to Tables 2.1 - 2.3, the Leard Forest Mining Precinct Regional Biodiversity Strategy acknowledges that the detailed provisions as to management actions, monitoring actions and performance measures/completion criteria is to be provided in the BMPs for the individual project sites (rather than the Strategy).

2.4.3 Threatened Species and Box-Gum Woodland Implementation Plans

The *MCCM Threatened Fauna Implementation Plan* (Whitehaven, 2015a) and *MCCM Box-Gum Woodland Endangered Ecological Community Implementation Plan* (Whitehaven, 2015b) have been prepared by MCC in accordance with Conditions 48 and 50 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138. These implementation plans were approved by NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) (now DPHI) on 14 January 2015.

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The *MCCM Threatened Fauna Implementation Plan* (Whitehaven, 2015a) was developed to maximise the likely prospects for the provision of suitable habitats for threatened fauna on the offset areas and on the post mining landform (including threatened species listed in Condition 49 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138). A Supplementary Report to the *MCCM Threatened Fauna Implementation Plan* (AMBS, 2024b) was prepared to contemporise threatened fauna management and inform preparation of this BMP including updating the 21 individual actions relating to the Biodiversity Offset Strategy and have been incorporated into this BMP (Appendix A).

The *MCCM Box-Gum Woodland Endangered Ecological Community Implementation Plan* (Whitehaven, 2015b) was developed to maximise the prospects for rehabilitation and regeneration of the Box-Gum Woodland Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC) on the offset areas and the mine site. A Supplementary Report to the *MCCM Box-Gum Woodland Endangered Ecological Community Implementation Plan* (AMBS, 2024a) was prepared to contemporised Box Gum Woodland management and inform preparation of this BMP including updating the 51 individual actions relating to the Biodiversity Offset Strategy and have been incorporated into this BMP (Appendix A).

2.5 CONSERVATION ADVICES, RECOVERY PLANS AND THREAT ABATEMENT PLANS


The following plans and advice was considered in the preparation of this BMP:

- *National Recovery Plan for White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland* (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water [DECCW], 2011);
- Threatened Species Recovery Plans (Saunders and Tzaros, 2011; DotE, 2016);
- *Approved Conservation Advice for Tylophora linearis* (Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts [DEWHA], 2008a);
- *Conservation Advice for the White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland* (Cth DCCEEW, 2023a);
- *Conservation Advice Anthochaera phrygia Regent Honeyeater* (DotE, 2015a);
- *Conservation Advice Lathamus discolor Swift Parrot* (Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2016);
- *Conservation Advice Nyctophilus corbeni South-eastern Long-eared Bat* (Threatened Species Scientific Committee [TSSC], 2015);
- *Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats* (DotE, 2015b);
- *Threat Abatement Plan for Competition and Land Degradation by Rabbits* (Department of the Environment and Energy [DEE], 2016);
- *Threat Abatement Plan for Predation, Habitat Degradation, Competition and Disease Transmission by Feral Pigs (Sus Scrofa)* (DEE, 2017);
- *Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by the European Red Fox* (DEWHA, 2008b); and
- *Threat Abatement Plan for Competition and Land Degradation by Unmanaged Goats* (DEWHA, 2008c).


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The following draft plans were considered in the preparation of this BMP:

- *Noisy Miner management: Review of the Decision on a Threat Abatement Plan for The Key Threatening Process of Aggressive Exclusion of Birds from Potential Woodland and Forest Habitat by Over-abundant Noisy Miners (Manorina melanocephala) (DAWE, 2020);*
- *Draft Updated Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats (Cth DCCEEW, 2023b); and*
- *Background Document for the Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats (Cth DCCEEW, 2023c).*

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PART A
MINE SITE MANAGEMENT OF FLORA AND FAUNA

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3 MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY AT THE MINE SITE

This section outlines the actions to be taken to minimise the impact of the MCCM on native flora and fauna species and to manage the impacts of exotic flora and fauna. This includes activities to be undertaken on areas to be cleared, prior to the removal of trees in order to minimise the impact to fauna species, and it also includes measures to control the potential impact of weeds and pest animals on the remaining biodiversity within the MCCM Project Boundary and in nearby areas of the Leard State Forest.

3.1 PRE-CLEARANCE AND POST-CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES

Vegetation clearance will be staged over the life of the mine and therefore pre-clearance and clearance activities will be implemented for each stage of clearing. The following activities will take place prior to each stage of clearing to minimise adverse impacts to native wildlife and other environmental and regulatory issues.

A Land Disturbance Protocol (LDP) form was prepared to manage the clearance process and to document all licensing, safety and management requirements. The LDP form is an environmental checklist that must be completed for each stage of clearing by the person responsible for the clearing activities and the relevant technical expert (e.g. Electrical Engineer to confirm no presence of cables etc) and signed off by MCCs Environmental Officer or a delegate and final authorisation by the Environmental Superintendent or delegate.


3.1.1 Marking Limits of Clearing

Disturbance of vegetation will be limited to the minimum necessary for each stage of the clearing. Woodland clearance for mining will take place during the nominated clearing window (refer to Section 3.2 for details on timing), and will occur no more than 12 months in advance of the proposed mine plan during operations, excluding time allowed for progressive vegetation disturbance, mulching, topsoil recovery and stockpiling activities required to occur prior to mining activities being able to commence in a particular area.

The current limits of clearing will be marked either by high visibility tape at appropriate intervals, fencing or an equivalent boundary marker that will be installed any time prior to clearing. To avoid unnecessary or inadvertent vegetation and habitat removal, disturbance will be restricted to the delineated area and no stockpiling of equipment, machinery, soil or vegetation will occur beyond this boundary.

The person responsible for the clearance activities will be responsible for ensuring that the boundary markers are installed to enable the suitable environmental and technical inspections of the proposed disturbance to be undertaken, and ultimately that disturbance can be limited to the marked area approved for disturbance. The completion of this activity will be recorded and signed off in the LDP form.

In order to protect the Biodiversity Corridor (vegetated corridor) (as described in Section 3), this area will be marked in a similar way to the disturbance area where disturbance activity is within 10 metres (m) of the Biodiversity Corridor boundary. No disturbance will be permitted to occur within the Biodiversity Corridor (vegetated corridor); that is, no vehicles or machinery will be permitted entry and general pedestrian traffic will be discouraged.

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3.1.2 Pre-clearance Flora and Fauna Surveys

Initially, the environmental assessment will be reviewed to identify known locations of biodiversity features such as hollow bearing trees or bush rocks. These will be recorded on the LDP form.

During the pre-clearance process, threatened flora and fauna that have the potential to be disturbed as a result of clearing activities will be identified.

Flora Pre-clearing Surveys

Prior to clearing, a pre-clearing flora survey will be conducted to search for threatened plant species that have potential to occur, based on habitat available. If a threatened plant species is identified, the numbers of plants will be counted and/or the population estimated/mapped. A review of translocation methods, collection of propagules, and propagation from seeds or cuttings from plants within the MCCM disturbance area and/or surrounds will be undertaken. Following this review, a translocation/propagation program will be developed and implemented where appropriate in consultation with BCS, DPHI and Cth DCCEEW (for Matters of National Environmental Significance [MNES]). The program will be documented in this BMP via an addendum or new revision (as part of the Annual Review process).

All threatened plant species identified during pre-clearing will be reported to BCS (and to Cth DCCEEW for relevant MNES species).

Tylophora linearis was identified during pre-clearing flora surveys during 2014 and 2015. Appendix F provides a propagation and translocation program for the species.


Pomaderris queenslandica was identified during pre-clearing flora surveys during 2015. Appendix G provides a propagation and translocation program for the species.

Pultenaea imminuata was identified during pre-clearing flora surveys during 2024. Appendix H provides a propagation and translocation program for the species.

Fauna Pre-clearing Surveys

Habitat features that have a high potential to support native fauna species will be identified prior to any clearing activities. These include significant rock outcrops and crevices, large boulders, nests and in particular trees bearing hollows that have potential to contain species such as bats, gliders, possums, reptiles and birds. Trees containing hollows or nests that have a high potential to contain fauna will be identified, recorded, flagged with fluorescent marking tape, and marked with a large (>1 m) "H" (to indicate that it is a Habitat Tree) using spray paint on two sides of the tree.

The location of suitable nearby habitat for the release of fauna that may be encountered during the pre-clearing process will be identified and marked on a map. Wildlife relocation beyond the coal lease boundary within the Leard State Forest will be done in accordance with a relevant permit from Forestry Corporation NSW.

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Updated maps/plans, pre-determined habitat for the release of fauna, habitat features present in the site and recommended clearing procedures will be submitted to the Environmental Officer and shall be recorded and signed off in the LDP form.

Within one week prior to clearing trees, a pre-clearing fauna survey will be conducted by the suitably qualified ecologist for the presence of fauna species in order to identify and minimise impacts to resident fauna. Any fauna utilising the area will be recorded. Hollows will be watched in the early evening to see if any arboreal fauna (e.g. gliders [such as the Squirrel Glider], bats) are using them. The ground around each tree will be inspected for scats, and the trees for scratch marks. Spotlighting will be undertaken for arboreal animals. If necessary (to be recommended by the suitably qualified ecologist), a burrow scope will be used by the suitably qualified ecologist to ascertain whether a particular hollow is being used by native fauna.


Additional pre-clearance survey requirements relating to the timing of clearing are provided in Sections 3.1.3, 3.16 and 3.2.

3.1.3 Clearing Activities

Before clearing woodland/forest native vegetation and isolated trees in grasslands, licensed wildlife carers and/or ecologists will attempt to capture and/or remove fauna that have the potential to be disturbed as a result of clearing activities. This fauna will be relocated into pre-determined habitat identified for fauna release. All fauna handling will be carried out by licensed wildlife carers and/or ecologists. Clearing contractors will then be informed of any changes to the sequence of clearing if required (see below). Ecologists will be present on site during clearing and will provide ecological supervision to the clearing contractors throughout the process.

The clearing of woodland/forest native vegetation and isolated trees in grasslands will be conducted using a two-stage clearing process:

1. Clearing will commence following the identification of potential habitat trees by the suitably qualified ecologist. Trees and/or logs/log piles marked with an “H” will not be cleared during the first stage; however, all vegetation around the marked features will be isolated. The suitably qualified ecologist will be present during the clearing to ensure the preservation of these marked features.
2. Identified habitat trees will be left to stand overnight after Stage 1 clearing to allow resident fauna to voluntarily move from the area. Then, the habitat trees will be cleared using the following protocols:
 - if possible, trees marked as containing hollows will be shaken by machinery prior to clearing to encourage any animals remaining to leave the hollows and move on;
 - use a bulldozer or other suitable machinery to start pushing the tree over. Move the bulldozer over the roots and continue gently pushing the tree over. The tree should not fall heavily to the ground;
 - remove branches with hollows and sections of trunk and set aside for immediate transfer to a storage area for eventual placement within rehabilitation areas (once available);

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- the suitably qualified ecologist will investigate all hollows for the presence of fauna following felling of the tree; and
- the felled habitat tree will be left overnight to allow any remaining fauna time to leave the hollows and move on.

Additional mitigation measures relating to the timing of clearing are provided in Section 3.2. The two-stage clearing process allows fauna a chance to self-relocate upon nightfall, when foraging typically occurs. Fauna are not likely to re-inhabit trees, as they are not likely to feel secure in their tree with all trees around it cleared.

The suitably qualified ecologist will be present while clearing to rescue animals injured during the clearance operation. Any fauna found will be captured and relocated to nearby remnant vegetation and released after nightfall to minimise the risk of predation by diurnal predators. Any animals that are inadvertently injured will be taken to the nearest veterinary clinic for treatment, or if the animal is unlikely to survive, it will be humanely euthanized. The closest veterinary clinics to the MCCM Project Boundary are noted below:

Narrabri Veterinary Clinic

Martyn Powell and Michael Read
 24 Francis Street
 NARRABRI NSW 2390
 Telephone: (02) 6792 4388

Gunnedah Veterinary Hospital

14-16 Barber Street
 GUNNEDAH NSW 2380
 Telephone: (02) 6742 1834 (all hours)
 Facsimile: (02) 6742 4422
 Email: gunvet@bigpond.com


One or more of the above clinics will be notified prior clearing of woodland/forest native vegetation and isolated trees in grasslands and prior to animal transportation to ensure they are willing to treat injured animals. A record of the contact will be documented.

All persons working on the vegetation clearing will be briefed about the possible fauna present during land clearance, and what procedures will be undertaken in the event of an animal being injured or disturbed. A qualified animal rescue person (e.g. NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service Inc [WIRES]) or the suitably qualified ecologist will be on call at all times during clearing.

If boulders are to be moved during clearing, the suitably qualified ecologist will catch any snakes or frogs that may be sheltering under them. These animals will be relocated to suitable habitat elsewhere in the Leard State Forest.

Results and outcomes of pre-clearance and clearance fauna surveys will be documented by the suitably qualified ecologist and submitted to MCCs Environmental Officer. This includes:

- species and numbers of individuals recorded;
- incidence of sick or injured animals and the actions taken to care for the fauna; and
- the species and numbers of individuals that were relocated.

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If a new threatened species is identified that has not previously been identified as having potential to occur, the occurrence will be surveyed and fully documented. Results will be made available to BCS and to Cth DCCEE (if it is a species that is a MNES).

3.1.4 Weed Management

Prior to clearing activities, infestations of significant weeds (priority weeds or Weeds of National Significance [WONS]¹) will be recorded in the LDP form and mapped. If recommended by MCCMs Environmental Officer or suitably qualified ecologist, control of weeds will be undertaken to minimise the risk of spread of weeds during clearing. Weed control measures will be species specific and will be guided by published control measures (e.g. NSW Department of Primary Industries [DPI], 2018).

Prior to clearing, all plant equipment to be used on the clearing program will be inspected and recommended for wash down (in designated wash down areas) as required to ensure weed material from off-site locations do not establish or spread into native vegetation within the MCCM Project Boundary.

Any weed materials will need to be carefully removed off site in a manner appropriate to the species or at the direction of the suitably qualified ecologist so as to prevent the spread of propagules to uncleared areas of native vegetation.


Machinery involved in weed management will also be washed down prior to removal from site to prevent weeds from spreading into off site areas.

3.1.5 Management of Cultural Heritage Values

Aboriginal and cultural heritage values within the MCCM Project Boundary will be primarily managed under the MCCM *Aboriginal Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management Plan* (Whitehaven, 2022). To ensure that ecological pre-clearing and clearing works are consistent with the objectives of the *Aboriginal Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management Plan* (Whitehaven, 2022), the following will be undertaken by the suitably qualified specialist:

- Prior to commencement of pre-clearing and clearing works, the suitably qualified ecologists involved in the pre-clearing surveys will be briefed as part of the induction process on the identification of any Aboriginal culturally modified trees. Any suspected culturally modified trees identified by the suitably qualified specialist during pre-clearance surveys will be assessed by an archaeologist following the Procedure on the Discovery of Aboriginal Archaeological Objects (refer to the *Aboriginal Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management Plan* (Whitehaven, 2022)).
- As part of the pre-clearing works, the suitably qualified ecologist will identify and tag (using flagging tape or an alternative method) cultural heritage resources under advisement from the Environmental Officer. The identified cultural heritage resources will be inspected by the archaeology team prior to clearing of these items to allow for the collection of seeds, fruits, bark,

¹ A total of 32 introduced plants have been identified as Weeds of National Significance (WONS) under the National Weeds Strategy.

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roots, or any other relevant material. Collection activities will be undertaken by the archaeology team. Cultural heritage items may include the following species:

- Native Pear (*Marsdenia viridiflora*);
- Quinine Bush (*Alstonia constricta*); and
- Native Orange (*Capparis mitchellii*).

The Teston GG4 grinding grooves site was originally identified within the MCCM clearing area that contained 4 features with 19 grooves of anthropogenic origin (UQ Cultural & Heritage Unit, 2016a). Detailed archaeological recording was completed to maintain the research potential of the site (UQ Cultural & Heritage Unit, 2016b) and through consultation it was determined that the best approach to preserve the cultural and scientific value was to salvage the site. On 28 March 2017; the grinding groove rocks were successfully lifted and relocated from MCCM by geotechnical specialists while observed by registered Aboriginal participants to a new secure location established on the Teston North offset area as the Teston GG4 new heritage site (Whincop Archaeology, 2017).

3.1.6 Maximising Salvage of Habitat Resources

A selection of hollow-bearing trees, hollow-bearing logs and rocks will be salvaged for reuse in rehabilitation areas and/or selected recipient sites within nearby offsets that require enhancements (Section 5.6). Such materials vary in quality and quantity among different parts of the MCCM Project Boundary. Whilst some woody materials provide a valuable habitat resource for native fauna, others are not suitable for salvage because they are structurally unsound and/or decayed to the extent that they may not survive felling, relocation and replacement on the recipient site.


The following method will be applied to rationalise the salvage of habitat resources and select key habitat resources to retain for re-use in mine site rehabilitation and offset areas (where appropriate).

Quantifying the Habitat Resource for Replication at Recipient Sites

Prior to clearing, 20 m x 50 m plots will be surveyed in each vegetation type to quantify the habitat resource. The number of plots per vegetation type will be commensurate with the area of clearing to be undertaken. Within these plots the following information will be recorded as a minimum:

- photographs;
- Global Positioning System (GPS) location;
- numbers of tree hollows;
- size class of tree hollows;
- species of trees;
- structural integrity of timber;
- percentage cover of bush rocks; and
- length of fallen logs (>200 millimetre [mm] diameter).

This data will document the types and densities of resources available to be relocated to recipient sites.

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Selection Criteria for Salvage Material

Prior to clearing, suitable salvage items will be identified, recorded, flagged with fluorescent marking tape, and marked with a large (>1 m) “S” using spray paint on two sides of the tree. The following criteria will apply as part of the selection process:

- **Hollow trees** will be considered for salvage based on structural integrity, number and size of hollows. Hollows to be salvaged will include a range of diameter sizes. Ideally, hollows will be in trunks or solid living branches to maximise the chance that they will survive the felling process. Trees will be favoured if single stemmed to ensure that they will remain intact during felling. Stags (dead trees) will be selected if they appear solid and have good hollows in the trunk.
- **Woody ground debris** (fallen timber) will be selected based on size, structural integrity and presence of good hollows. Larger logs (in both length and girth) will be typically selected with large hollows (i.e. large diameter hollows through the length of the stem or at least a significant portion) through the stems. Logs that had been felled during past forestry activities will be selected rather than old naturally fallen logs because these are typically better preserved (having fallen prior to attack by insects etc).
- **Trees and fallen logs without hollows.** It is also intended, where possible, that a number of trees without hollows, or large logs in good condition, will be collected for retention in addition to those marked by ecologists during pre-clearing. As these trees/logs do not require identification by ecologists, they can be selected at random during clearing and stock-piled to provide additional habitat features in rehabilitated land.
- **Large flat or creviced rocks** (>500 mm width) that appear solid enough to survive translocation will be considered for translocation to rehabilitation or offset sites.


In areas where few hollow trees or logs are present, most of the habitat features are likely to be marked for collection. In areas where hollows and logs are abundant, only those with significant value as habitat features (as described above) will be marked for retention as habitat. All habitat features selected for salvage will be stockpiled until required.

Timing of Salvage Activities

Salvage of habitat features will take place during both Stage 1 and Stage 2 of clearing. The salvaged habitat features will be moved to a holding site for storage until a time that they can be emplaced in mine rehabilitation areas and in nearby offset areas to allow their continuation as potential fauna refuge sites. This will take place before and after clearing.

Some such materials may be transported to interim storage areas though such materials will be preferentially transported immediately to pre-identified sites if available. Vegetation that is not salvaged as a habitat feature will be mulched and spread back over the topsoil. The topsoil and mulch will then be removed and transported to interim storage areas and applied to rehabilitation areas to provide additional organic matter.

Relocation of bush rocks within the Leard State Forest or beyond the forest boundary will be undertaken as agreed with Forestry Corporation NSW.

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Section 5.6 describes the reuse of salvaged habitat resources in the offset areas. The MCCM Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP) will describe the reuse of salvaged habitat resources on the mine rehabilitation.

3.2 TIMING OF CLEARING

Subject to exceptional circumstances, clearing of woodland/forest native vegetation will be undertaken in late summer and early autumn (herein referred to as the “clearing window” between 15 February to 30 April) in order to avoid key breeding or hibernation seasons for threatened bat and bird species known to reside in the Leard State Forest. If the temperature is predicted to exceed 35 degrees Celsius (°C), the temperature at the mine will be monitored and clearing of understorey and tree felling including habitat trees will be halted if the temperature exceeds 35°C. Mulching and stick raking of already felled trees can continue when temperatures exceed 35°C.

Under exceptional circumstances, minor clearing of woodland/forest native vegetation is permissible outside of the period of 15 February to 30 April with the prior written consent of the Planning Secretary of DPHI. The clearing that may be so approved is limited to minor clearing. Where clearing is carried out pursuant to this exception, additional mitigation measures (i.e. additional to those measures in Section 3.1.3) will be employed (refer Section 3.2iii).

Other land disturbance activities (such as clearing grasslands, raking of felled trees, mulching, topsoil removal and the removal of regrowth in previously cleared areas) may occur year-round and are not subject to the above timing of clearing and/or temperature restrictions.

i. Pre-clearing Fauna Surveys


The below pre-clearing fauna survey measures were proposed in the event that clearing of woodland/forest native vegetation in spring or early summer was approved by the Planning Secretary of DPHI, however, this BMP, other than in exceptional circumstances, does not propose or permit clearing of woodland/forest native vegetation to occur in spring or early summer (between 1 November and 15 February). The below pre-clearing fauna survey measures will apply to clearing of isolated trees in grassland between 1 May and 15 February.

As described in Section 3.1.2, within one week prior to clearing trees, a pre-clearing fauna survey will be conducted by the suitably qualified persons for the presence of fauna species in order to identify and minimise impacts to resident fauna. Any fauna using the area will be recorded.

Nesting Birds

For clearing of woodland/forest native vegetation between 1 November and 15 February, the following pre-clearing survey methods will be employed in relation to arboreal and ground nesting birds (including threatened bird species):

- For arboreal nesting birds, all trees will be circled by an observer to identify hollows and/or nests that may be used as nesting resource.

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- Inspections and/or observations will be carried out to confirm that birds are using the arboreal hollow and/or arboreal and ground nest as a nesting resource.
- Repeat observations will be carried out to determine the completion of nesting activities (i.e. young have left the nest and the hollow and/or nest is no longer used for nesting).

Nesting birds maybe identified either by sight, vocalisations, inspection cameras and/or a cherry picker. Where possible, the species using the nest will be identified to inform likely timing for completion of nesting activities.

Bat Roosts

For clearing of woodland/forest native vegetation between 1 November and 15 February, trees that contain hollows/fissures that are likely to be used by microbats (including threatened microbat species) will be surveyed prior to clearance by either hollow watching (Section 3.1.2) or using Anabat electronic detectors. Surveys will also be undertaken at any rock overhangs in the clearance area that are potentially suitable for cave-dwelling bats.

Pale-headed Snake

All trees will be circled by an observer to identify any tree-dwelling snakes (e.g. the Pale-headed Snake) that may be within the tree. Hollows identified as having potential to contain Pale-headed Snake will be checked with a burrow scope.

Squirrel Glider

Hollows will be watched in the early evening to see if any arboreal fauna (e.g. Squirrel Glider) are using them. Spotlighting will be undertaken for arboreal animals. If necessary, a burrow scope will be used by the suitably qualified ecologist to ascertain whether a particular hollow is being used by native fauna.


ii. Clearing Activities – Minimising the Impacts on Fauna

The below clearing measures were proposed in the event that clearing of woodland/forest native vegetation in spring or early summer was approved by the Secretary of DPHI, however, this BMP, other than in exceptional circumstances, does not propose or permit clearing to occur in spring or early summer (between 1 November and 15 February).

Nesting Birds

The following clearing strategies will be employed in relation to habitat trees with bird nests for clearing activities between 1 November and 15 February:

- If the nest is suspected to be active (i.e. it suspected to contain eggs or young), the tree will not be cleared until after fledglings have left the nest or advanced fledglings are old enough to be cared for by a wildlife career for subsequent release; or
- if the nest is suspected to be inactive (i.e. not to contain eggs or young):
 - the tree will be cleared within two weeks following the confirmation that the nest is inactive; or


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- the nest will be removed from the tree to minimise the chance of the nest becoming active prior to clearance.

Bat Roosts

The following clearing strategies will be employed in relation to habitat trees with suspected bat roosts for clearing activities between 1 November and 15 February:

- Habitat trees with confirmed bat roosts will be managed by:
 - shaking the tree with machinery prior to clearing to encourage bats to move to an alternative roost site;
 - gently lowering the tree to the ground with the objective of causing minimal impact to the roost;
 - placing the tree on the ground so the entrance to the hollow faces upwards (i.e. so bats are able to exit);
 - inspecting the felled tree to confirm whether for bats have exited the tree; and
 - leaving the felled tree overnight to allow any remaining bats time to leave the hollow.
- If a bat roost containing a maternity colony (young bats) is found during inspection of the felled tree, the following will be undertaken:
 - If the roost is located in a portion of the tree that is not able to be relocated, the bat fauna will be collected and temporarily stored in a cool location for release at night.
 - If the roost is located in a portion of the tree able to be relocated:
 - a. The cavity opening will be temporarily blocked with a piece of cloth.
 - b. The section of the tree will be removed using a chainsaw (or a suitable alternative low-impact method) (noting that use of a chainsaw will be undertaken by a qualified chainsaw operator).
 - c. Adults and young captured leaving the roost are to be placed within the roost.
 - d. The ends of the extracted tree section and cavity openings will be temporarily blocked with a piece of cloth during transportation.
 - e. Collected roost and bat fauna will be temporarily stored in a cool location.
 - f. The roost will be returned to the location prior to dusk and positioned above the ground with a freefall of approximately 1-3 m.
 - g. The pieces of cloth will be removed once the tree section is fixed in an undisturbed location to allow bats to leave.
 - h. The roost to be checked the following morning for success of adult retrieval of young.
 - i. In the case of unsuccessful adult retrieval of young then the juvenile bats will be assessed by a veterinarian or experienced wildlife carer.
- If habitat trees with suspected bat roosts are considered unlikely to contain bat roosts (following bat surveys), clearance will proceed. In consideration of the behaviour of many bat fauna species to use a number of roosts, trees containing potential bat habitat are to be felled, as soon as possible (ideally the following day) after a negative Anabat survey result.

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If overhangs with suspected bat roosts are found during the pre-clearance surveys, the strategy may involve waiting until the bats have left the rock overhanging and block the entrance so they are unable to re-enter prior to clearance. Consideration will also be given to blocking tree hollows prior to clearance in the event that trees with empty hollows are left standing for more than 48 hours after checking the hollows.

Pale-headed Snake

Refer to the clearing process described in Section 3.1.3.

Squirrel Glider

Refer to the clearing process described in Section 3.1.3.

iii. Mitigation Measures - Minor Clearance

Under exceptional circumstances, minor clearing of woodland/forest native vegetation is permissible outside of the period between 15 February and 30 April with the prior written consent of the Planning Secretary of DPHI.

Fauna mitigation measures will be developed and implemented as appropriate to minimise the impacts on fauna. The fauna mitigation measures for minor clearing will vary depending on the location of the proposed clearing, the time of year, susceptible threatened species, and habitat that is required to be cleared.


3.3 SEED COLLECTION AND PROPAGATION

Seed Collection, Management and Storage

Seed collection will be synchronised with clearing of vegetation where possible to optimise seed collection – particularly from trees and taller shrubs when the canopy seed bank is accessible from the ground. Collection of available seed will take place for shrubs and groundcover species independent of clearing. Seed collection may occur at any time of year to coincide with the optimal seed collection times for each target flora species.

Seed collection, management and storage will be undertaken in consideration of Greening Australia (various dates) *Florabank Guidelines* and as described in Rawlings *et al.* (2010) for local and regional provenance seed collection includes:

- collection of seed from several source sites with similar rainfall, soil, altitude, aspect and slope position to the revegetation site to ensure they are most adapted to the landscape and environmental conditions;
- collection of seed from between 20-50 plants of each species for genetic diversity; and
- collection of seed from plants spaced approximately three plant-heights apart to prevent collection of too many closely related seeds.

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The seed species, location of collection, volume of seed and storage methods will be documented appropriately as part of the reporting requirements for the RMP.

Propagation

Propagation of seedlings should be undertaken by nurseries that can effectively handle commercial quantities of seed, propagate and grow the seed and harden the seedlings.

Seedlings orders need to be placed well in advance of revegetation works to meet the likely timeframes for plants to reach transplantable sizes; depending on the species and method of propagation (e.g. most species require one season to be of sufficient size, but other species such as *Xanthorrhoea*, *Callitris* and *Bursaria* can take two or more years).

In addition, or alternatively, direct seeding can be carried out by an appropriately qualified operator. Only those species that are locally known to establish reliably from sown seed should be included in direct seeding operations. Seed from species that are difficult to propagate, or when seed is rare (costly), seedling propagation in a nursery is preferable.

Records will include all source of propagation, species, quantities and dates.

3.4 REHABILITATION


The procedures, protocols and targets for revegetation of the post-mining rehabilitation areas are covered in the RMP that NSW Resources Regulator and DPHI, as the primary regulators of rehabilitation, accept as meeting the requirement of a RMP under the Project Approval. An overview of some aspects of rehabilitation are provided below.

Revegetation

The final outer surfaces of the mine landforms will be designed to be safe, stable, provide an adequately drained post-mining landform, and have a shape that is consistent with the types of naturally occurring landform features in the region. They will also be designed to provide a final surface that facilitates revegetation and growth of species that occurred in the native woodland and forest communities that were present prior to the commencement of mining.

Condition 25 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 requires rehabilitation within the MCCM Project Boundary to include no less than 1,665 ha of native forest and woodland in the Project area, including 544 ha using species consistent with Box-Gum Woodland.

Condition 44 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138 requires that, except for the area of the minimised final void, pre-mining native vegetation communities to be re-established (including 544 ha of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC) for a biodiversity conservation land use objective, with the area subject to finalisation of the RMP.

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Salinity

Overburden and soil analysis undertaken as part of the Environmental Assessment for MCCM have not identified any saline material that would limit plant growth and development. MCCM implements a soil sampling program including the rehabilitation areas and if saline material is encountered then soil amelioration options would be considered. Based on Subject Matter Experts advice. Options for managing salinity in the rehabilitation area could consider utilising saline tolerant colonising species as part the revegetation species mix as well as targeted engineering solutions to address hydrological (recharge and discharge) or material aspects to manage and mitigate future salinity impacts.

Reuse of Salvaged Habitat Resources

A selection of hollow-bearing trees, hollow-bearing logs and rocks will be salvaged for reuse in rehabilitation. Hollow limbs salvaged during vegetation clearance at the mine will be installed in select trees without hollows (once the revegetation is sufficiently mature to hold the hollow limb).

Long-term Conservation Security

In accordance with Condition 45A of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138, by the end of December 2034, unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Secretary, MCC will make suitable arrangements to secure in perpetuity the Rehabilitation Area (2,078ha less the area of the minimised void to be approved by the Final Void and Mine Closure Plan) identified in Table 16 of PA 10_0138 to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.


Integration of Rehabilitation Area with the Biodiversity Offset Strategy

The MCCM Biodiversity Offset Strategy is summarised in this BMP in **Section 4** based on the detailed descriptions in Appendix C, D, M and N have been aligned with this **Section 3** of the BMP and the linkage to the detailed documents that describe management of the post-mine landforms in accordance with the MCC Rehabilitation Management Plan (November 2023) and the MCCM Forward Program (January 2024) as well as the EPBC Approval 2010/5566 required MCCM Mine Site Rehabilitation Plan (August 2016). This BMP describes some aspects relevant to rehabilitation such as collection and propagation of seed (**Section 3.3**) consistent with Offset Area management (**Section 5.3**) as well as salvaging and reusing material for habitat augmentation (**Section 5.6**) as examples of the integrated approach taken.

3.5 CONTROL OF WEEDS

Objective

Environmental and priority weeds can have detrimental effects on native remnant vegetation and have the potential to compromise the establishment of native vegetation on the post-mine landforms. The objective of weed management in the MCCM Project Boundary is to control the occurrence and spread of weed species (e.g. including but not limited to Weeds of National Significance (WONS) and priority weeds). Landholders are obliged to control priority weeds under the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

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Weed Prevention

Weed management will be undertaken as described in Section 3.1.4 to minimise the risk of spread of weeds during clearing. The spread of weeds from disturbance areas will be minimised through inspections of and where required washing down vehicles and machinery as required.

Weed Control Program/Timing

The weed control program will involve:

- identifying weeds (Section 3.13.2);
- application of weed control techniques in areas requiring weed control; and
- follow-up inspection weed control as required.

Weed control will be undertaken for the targeted weed species based on seasonal conditions. Follow-up weed control will be undertaken as required, in areas that have received past weeding treatments. Follow-up treatments ensure pressure is maintained on weeds, assisting regenerating or planted native plants to out-compete weed species.


Weed Control Techniques

A number of priority weeds are known to occur in the MCCM Project Boundary and surrounds. Initially weeding will target the priority weeds and other environmental weeds present in the MCCM Project Boundary. However, if new weeds species are found those new weeds species will also be managed in accordance with this BMP.

Recommended techniques for removal of priority weeds that have been published by DPI – Agriculture will be consulted prior to weed control (e.g. *New South Wales Weed Control Handbook* [7th Edition] [DPI, 2018a]). Local weed management plans published by the Narrabri Shire Council (2014) also provide information on the control of priority weeds. Relevant control methods for priority weeds known to occur in the MCCM Project Boundary and surrounds are summarised in Table 3-1.

**Table 3-1
Control of Example Target Priority Weeds**

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Control Methods (DPI, 2018) |
|------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Devils Rope Pear | <i>Cylindropuntia imbricata</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physically remove • herbicide application |
| African Boxthorn | <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physically remove • herbicide application |
| Blue Heliotrope | <i>Heliotropium amplexicaule</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • herbicide application |

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**Table 3-1 (Continued)
Control of Example Target Priority Weeds**

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Control Methods (DPI, 2018) |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Mimosa | <i>Mimosa sp.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical removal • herbicide application |
| Tiger Pear | <i>Opuntia aurantiaca</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical removal • herbicide application |
| Common Prickly Pear | <i>Opuntia stricta</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical removal • herbicide application |
| Velvet Tree Pear | <i>Opuntia tomentosa</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical removal • herbicide application |
| Blackberry | <i>Rubus fruticosus aggregate sp.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • herbicide application |
| Fireweed | <i>Senecio madagascariensis</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • herbicide application |
| Galvanised Burr | <i>Sclerolaena birchii</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • herbicide application |
| Columbus Grass | <i>Sorghum sp.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • herbicide application |

Sources: Croft and Associates (1979); Dames and Moore (1983-1984); Cumberland Ecology (2010 and 2014); Parsons Brinkerhoff (2010); EcoLogical Australia Pty Ltd (2010).

All personnel involved in weed management will be required to hold relevant and valid licences/ permits for weed works, including a chemical licence to use herbicides and a chainsaw certificate to operate chainsaws (where applicable).

Weed control techniques in Table 3-1 (i.e. physical removal and herbicide application) are described below. Additional techniques may be undertaken depending on the environmental (e.g. WONS) and priority weeds present and the success of these control techniques.

Physical Removal

Physical removal of weeds will involve techniques such as but not limited to:


- selective hand removal of weeds; and
- wick wiping with herbicide of tall weeds in situations where damage to proximate, low growing native plants can be avoided.

After physical removal of any plant material, the plant material will be stockpiled well away from sensitive areas and disposed of in an environmentally sensitive manner to prevent the spread of propagules or further seed production on the cut plant material.

Herbicide Application

Removal of weeds with herbicide will involve techniques such as, but not limited to:

- selective spraying of weeds, with selective and non-selective herbicide;

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- cutting or scraping deep rooted woody weeds and climbers with hand tools, chainsaws and brush cutters, and painting cut stumps with herbicides; and
- target drilling and injecting large tree weeds with herbicides.

Herbicide sprays will only be used during suitable weather conditions (i.e. not during wet or windy conditions), and during appropriate seasons (e.g. during active plant growth).

Weed Monitoring and Reporting

Weed monitoring is discussed in Section 3.13.2 and reporting survey data is discussed in Section 6.1. Guidance on weed control will be available to employees and/or contractors through ongoing communications and training to raise awareness of biodiversity issues in the region (e.g. weed spread prevention through the washing of vehicles and equipment).

3.6 CONTROL OF PEST ANIMALS

Objectives

The goal of pest animal management will be to reduce the abundance of pest animals in the MCCM Project Boundary and maintain a low abundance of pest animals (in consideration of potential drought conditions and seasonal trends).

Pest Animal Prevention

Pest animals congregate and breed in windrows of felled trees. Felled trees will be wood chipped and stockpiled in a suitable area away from retained remnant vegetation until it can be used in rehabilitation, to assist in the wood chipping trees will be temporarily windrowed. This will be done after all the salvageable logs with hollows have been removed. Any temporary piles of vegetation will be monitored to determine whether they are being used by pest animals (Section 3.13.3).


Controls will be placed on the disposal and handling of garbage in the MCCM Project Boundary. All garbage bins will be constructed from sturdy materials and will be closed at all times to avoid the smell attracting pest animals (e.g. foxes and pigs). Garbage bins will be emptied regularly and the garbage appropriately disposed of offsite by a licensed waste contractor at a suitable facility.

Pest Animal Control Program/Timing

The pest animal program will involve:

- identifying pest animals through monitoring;
- application of pest animal control techniques in areas requiring control;
- follow-up monitoring of pest animal control areas; and
- follow-up pest animal control if required.

The program will also consider advice from neighbouring landowners regarding observations of target pest animals upon the mine site. Pest animal monitoring is described in Section 3.13.3. Pest animal

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control will typically occur in autumn and spring each year (the period of time applicable to the survival of offspring of native fauna species).

Pest Animal Control Techniques

Pest animal management will focus on the main pest animals recorded from the MCCM Project Boundary (Tables 3-2 and 3-3). However, all identified pest animals will also be managed in accordance with this BMP. The control of pest animals is intended to be adaptive and will be informed/reviewed based on the findings from the Pest Animal Monitoring Program (Section 3.13.3).

**Table 3-2
Control Methods for Target Pest Animals – Mine Site**

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Status ¹ | Control Methods | Relevant Documents |
|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--|---|
| Feral Pig | <i>Sus scrofa</i> | Declared pest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ground shooting; and/or • ground baiting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Threat Abatement Plan for Predation, Habitat Degradation, Competition and Disease Transmission by Feral Pigs</i> (DEE, 2017); • <i>PestSmart Toolkit</i> (Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, 2023); and • <i>Ecology and Management of Vertebrate Pests in NSW</i> (DPI, 2018b). |
| European Red Fox | <i>Vulpes</i> | Declared pest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ground shooting; and/or • ground baiting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by European Red Fox</i> (DEWHA, 2008b); • <i>NSW Threat Abatement Plan For Predation by The Red Fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>)</i> (Office of Environment and Heritage [OEH], 2011); • <i>PestSmart Toolkit</i> (Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, 2023); and • <i>Ecology and Management of Vertebrate Pests in NSW</i> (DPI, 2018b). |
| European Rabbit | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> | Declared pest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • warren ripping/fumigation; • ground shooting; and/or • ground baiting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Threat Abatement Plan for Competition and Land Degradation by Rabbits</i> (DEE, 2016); • <i>PestSmart Toolkit</i> (Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, 2023); and • <i>Ecology and Management of Vertebrate Pests in NSW</i> (DPI, 2018b). |
| Brown Hare | <i>Lepus capensis</i> | - | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ground shooting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Integrated Hare Control</i> (Department of Environment and Primary Industries [Victoria], 2015); and • <i>Ecology and Management of Vertebrate Pests in NSW</i> (DPI, 2018b). |


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Table 3-2 (Continued)
Control Methods for Target Pest Animals – Mine Site

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Status ¹ | Control Methods | Relevant Documents |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Feral Cat | <i>Felis catus</i> | - | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ground baiting; and/or ground shooting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats</i> (DotE, 2015b)²; <i>PestSmart Toolkit</i> (Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, 2023); and <i>Ecology and Management of Vertebrate Pests in NSW</i> (DPI, 2018b). |
| Black Rat | <i>Rattus</i> | - | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ground baiting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Vertebrate Pest Control Manual</i> (DPI, 2020). |
| House Mouse | <i>Mus musculus</i> | - | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ground baiting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Vertebrate Pest Control Manual</i> (DPI, 2020). |

¹ NSW Rural Lands Protection Act, 1998.

Control measures will be implemented by mine staff or by an appropriate Pest Control Contractor(s) as required. All personnel involved in pest animal control will be required to hold relevant and valid licences/permits, including any relevant chemical licences for pesticide use or a firearms licence for shooting. Pest animal control will be undertaken in consideration of the control recommendations outlined in the DPI *Vertebrate Pest Control Manual* (DPI, 2020) and that control strategies follow the NSW Codes of Practices (COPs) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) (DPI, 2022a to 2022f).

MCC will seek to co-ordinate pest animal control around the MCCM Boundary Project with neighbouring landholders and other mine operators (i.e. to avoid duplication of pest animal control methods).

Examples of pest animal control techniques are described above in Table 3-2. A selection of these techniques or additional techniques may be undertaken depending on the pest animal species in an abundance which requires control (as determined through monitoring) and the success of these control techniques.


Ground Shooting

Ground shooting can be used for controlling small, isolated feral populations of large feral pests (<http://www.feral.org.au/pestsmart/>). Shooting by an experienced marksman is a target-specific and humane form of pest animal control (Gregory, 2003). Such shooting is usually done at night from a vehicle, with the aid of spotlights. The use of firearms will conform to relevant firearm legislation.

Ground Baiting

Ground baiting with licensed substances, such as 1080, is regulated in NSW by the NSW *Pesticides Act 1999* and can be carried out only under the conditions specified in the Pesticide

² Noting that there is a draft revision of the *Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats*. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (2023b).

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Control (1080 Liquid Concentrate and Bait products) Order. The use of poison baits requires a minimum chemical use accreditation at AQF3 level or training specified for the licensed substance.

In NSW, pest control baits to assist in the management of pest animals are available for purchase through the North-west Local Land Service. Signage will be erected in areas where baiting is occurring in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Act 1999*, the *Pesticides Regulation 2009* and all relevant Pesticide Control Orders.

Ground baiting of the Feral Pig will involve:

- Construction of bait stations as described in DPI (2022b).
- Non-poisoned baits (for free feeding) will be added to the bait stations as described in DPI (2022b).
- The period of free feeding will be between 3 days and 2 weeks.
- Toxic baits will be introduced to the bait stations once free-feed bait uptake levels off, and this is continued until toxic bait uptake ceases (1 to 3 nights).
- After a maximum of 3 consecutive nights, all remaining poisoned bait will be removed and, where possible, carcasses of poisoned pigs should be collected and disposed of to prevent poisoning of non-target wildlife or domestic animals.

Ground baiting of the European Red Fox will involve:

- Burying baits (10 centimetre [cm] deep) near fences and tracks and in former paddocks no closer than 200 to 500 m intervals (or 50 baits per 400 ha) (DPI, 2022b).
- Bait will be added at weekly intervals until bait uptake is minimal.
- After baiting is complete, all untaken baits and carcasses should be recovered and disposed of.


European Rabbit are the main prey of most foxes so a coordinated European Rabbit control program may assist to suppress the red fox population. In summary, ground baiting of the European Rabbit will involve:

- A minimum of three 'free' feeds (without toxin) at 2-to-3-day intervals will be provided.
- After baiting is complete, all untaken baits and carcasses should be recovered and disposed of in accordance with Condition 4.8 of Schedule 2 of the Pesticide Control Orders 2010.

Warren Ripping/Fumigation

Warren ripping is highly target specific and can be successfully employed during the breeding season (when poisoning programs are less effective). Mechanical rippers will be used to destroy the structure of the warren and kill rabbits.

Fumigation can be very effective for controlling rabbits where other methods are unsuitable. Fumigants are used to fill the warren with gas that is heavier than air. Phosphine may be used as rabbit fumigants (DPI, 2020). When using fumigation, all burrow entrances must be closed to prevent the escape of

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rabbits. It is important to check treated warrens soon afterwards for new openings of burrows, and re-treat these (DPI, 2020).

Ground Baiting Black Rat and Mice

Several poisons are marketed, including RATTOFF® Zinc Phosphide baits and MOUSEOFF® Bromadiolone Rodent Bait. If significant increases in Black Rat and Mice populations are observed during monitoring activities, a poisoning program will be implemented.

Pest Animal Monitoring and Reporting

Pest animal monitoring is discussed in Section 3.13.3 and reporting survey data is discussed in Section 6.1. Key messages on pest animal prevention will be available to employees and/or contractors through ongoing communications and training to raise awareness of biodiversity issues in the region.


3.7 CONTROL OF EROSION

Erosion and sediment control measures are contained within the *MCCM Water Management Plan* (Whitehaven, 2023). Sediment mobilisation and erosion will be minimised by:

- installation of appropriate erosion and sediment controls;
- limiting the extent of the disturbance to the practical minimum;
- reducing the flow rate of water across the ground particularly on exposed surfaces and in areas where water concentrates;
- progressively rehabilitating disturbed land and constructing drainage controls to improve stability of rehabilitated land;
- treating rehabilitation areas to promote infiltration;
- protecting natural drainage lines and watercourses by the construction of erosion control devices such as diversion banks, channels and sediment retention dams;
- installing appropriate erosion and sediment controls around all soil stockpiling areas;
- installing suitable control measures in areas with steep gradients, as required (e.g. rock riprap, geotextile fabric); and
- restricting access to rehabilitated areas.

3.8 MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK GRAZING AND AGRICULTURE

Livestock will be excluded from active mine areas. Livestock will be excluded from areas undergoing active revegetation (i.e. planting or seeding) and all those areas with a Land Capability Class unsuitable for grazing.

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3.9 CONTROL OF ACCESS

Measures will be implemented to control public access to the MCCM Project Boundary and to regulate personnel access to areas of the Leard State Forest during weed or feral control (e.g. signage, fencing, locked gates). This is important to:

- limit the disturbance to rehabilitation areas;
- limit disturbance and spread of seed propagules during weeding; and
- ensure the safety of mine staff during live baiting programs, when feral shooting is taking place or when pest animal traps are being used.

3.10 VEHICLE DRIVING AND SIGNAGE

A vehicle driving standard will be implemented with speed restrictions that will assist to minimise the risk to fauna, especially collision risks on internal roads due to the extent of woodland habitat. Speeds on internal roads within the MCCM Project Boundary should not exceed the sign-posted limits. Signs will be erected to remind drivers to be alert at known fauna crossings and to signal the speed limit.

3.11 BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT

Condition 69 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138 requires MCC to ensure that the MCCM is suitability equipped to respond to any fires on site and assist the NSW Rural Fire Service, Forestry Corporation NSW, emergency services and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) as much as possible if there is a fire in the surrounding area. MCC will assess each request from emergency services to consider the risk to people and plant that may be provided to assist. Bushfire management of the MCCM Project Boundary will be undertaken as part of the Project's Bushfire Management Plan and will include provisions for the following:


- perimeter asset protection zones; and
- maintaining perimeter tracks according to specifications.

The Bushfire Management Plan will describe the management measures to ensure that the mine site is protected safely.

3.12 INDUCTIONS AND STAFF EDUCATION

Inductions for staff, contractors and visitors to the mine site will be conducted to make them aware of the ecological issues present in the MCCM Project Boundary and their role and responsibilities for the protection and/or minimisation of impacts to all native biodiversity.

Inductions will address the location of sensitive flora and fauna and the mitigation measures being implemented to protect the biodiversity values present on the MCCM Project Boundary.

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Additional targeted and specific inductions/training will be provided for contract and operational staff directly involved in clearing of native vegetation in relation to the two-staged clearing protocols, exclusions zones, types of flora and fauna, in particular threatened species.

3.13 MONITORING PROGRAM

3.13.1 Rehabilitation Area

A description of rehabilitation monitoring is provided within the RMP.

3.13.2 Weed Monitoring

Purpose

Monitoring will be undertaken to document the change in the type, extent and density of major weed occurrences in the MCCM Project Boundary over time and provide recommendations about appropriate weed control required. Regular inspections will also facilitate detection of new infestations of weeds and enable assessment of the effectiveness of the weed management measures as outlined in Section 3.5.

Methodology

Environmental (e.g. WONS) and priority weeds will be monitored via inspections in the MCCM Project Boundary by a suitably qualified person(s) with experience in identification of weeds. If major weed infestations are discovered in the MCCM Project Boundary, the coordinates will be recorded, including the boundaries of large populations and details recorded regarding the estimated density of the infestation and the number of plants. Mapping will be prepared showing the extent of weeds requiring control.

The weed monitoring program will target areas that are more susceptible to weeds (e.g. topsoil stockpiles, roadsides, drainage areas and mine rehabilitation).


The weeds will be controlled as outlined in Section 3.5. Follow-up inspections will be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the weed management measures implemented and the requirement for any additional management measures.

Frequency

Environmental (e.g. WONS) and priority weeds will be monitored twice a year. Each weed monitoring period will include primary monitoring and secondary monitoring after weed control (a total of four weed monitoring events per year).

Data Analysis and Storage

All weed monitoring data (all activities and their GPS locations) will be entered in a database and stored for later use and analysis. New species detected during surveys will be added to the database.

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3.13.3 Pest Animal Monitoring

Purpose

The abundance and distribution of pest animals within the MCCM Project Boundary will be monitored to provide the necessary information to trigger management actions and determine the efficacy of control measures aimed at reducing pest animal abundance. The mine site monitoring program will be integrated with the offset area monitoring program to provide an ongoing collective management approach.

Methodology

Pest animal monitoring will adopt the relevant methodologies for specific pest animals, generally in accordance with the NSW DPI *Monitoring Techniques for Vertebrate Pests* (Mitchell and Balogh, 2007a to 2007e) so that a range of methods may be used such as transects/spotlighting, sand pads, cameras, traps, etc. Table 3-3 provides a list of target pest animals. Data on pest animal population/abundance from monitoring and control outcomes (e.g. date, activity, location) will be recorded.

**Table 3-3
Target Pest Animals**

| Common Name | Scientific Name |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Feral Pig | <i>Sus scrofa</i> |
| European Red Fox | <i>Vulpes</i> |
| European Rabbit | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> |
| Brown Hare | <i>Lepus capensis</i> |
| Feral Cat | <i>Felis catus</i> |

Native grazers that potentially inhibit restoration/revegetation (e.g. kangaroos) will be recorded. If grazing kangaroos are determined to be overabundant, the need for kangaroo control measures will be reviewed (Section 5.19).


Frequency

In order to monitor population changes over time and efficacy of control measures, pest animals will be monitored. Review of the pest animal control measures will be annually, and follow-up works will be developed and implemented as required. Any proposed changes to frequency of monitoring will be discussed with BCS and formalised in a revision to this BMP.

Data Analysis and Storage

After each monitoring event is complete, the pest animal abundance will be estimated in accordance with NSW DPI *Monitoring Techniques for Vertebrate Pests* (Mitchell and Balogh, 2007a to 2007e).

Data will be updated annually to analyse for trends and effectiveness of the control program.

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3.14 BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR (VEGETATED BUFFER CORRIDOR)

Condition 7 (Schedule 2) and Condition 47 (Schedule 3) of PA 10_0138 require protection of the biodiversity corridor (vegetated buffer corridor) between the MCCM Project Boundary and that of the Boggabri Coal Project (Figure 2). At this stage, MCC does not intend to propose an alternate area in accordance with Condition 7 (Schedule 2) of PA 10_0138 and the existing 250m wide biodiversity corridor (vegetated buffer corridor) is to be retained. MCC manages the biodiversity corridor (vegetated buffer corridor) in accordance with the Maules Creek Coal Mine Biodiversity Corridor Plan (Whitehaven, 2021a) which addresses the requirements of Condition 3 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 and was approved by DAWE (now Cth DCCEE) in December 2021.

The Biodiversity Corridor Plan (Whitehaven, 2021a; Appendix O) provides measures to protect native vegetation within the biodiversity corridor and will be implemented to maintain the native vegetation in the biodiversity corridor and provide evidence that the Biodiversity Corridor will be protected in perpetuity. In 2013, when the EPBC Act approval was granted, it was acknowledged by the Department that the biodiversity corridor occurs in Leard State Forest (State-owned zoned for forestry and mining). Prior to expiry of the EPBC Approval 2010/5566, MCC will pursue an alternate legal mechanism over the biodiversity corridor (or an alternative corridor) if one becomes available through consultation with the NSW Government or otherwise seek to extend the approval period to cover the timeframe required to put in place the required legal mechanism.

A summary of the measures to protect and maintain native vegetation in the Biodiversity Corridor (vegetated corridor) is provided in Table 3-4.

**Table 3-4
Summary of Measures to Protect and Maintain Native Vegetation in the Biodiversity Corridor
(Vegetated Buffer Corridor)**

| Measure | Timeframe for Implementation | Targets | Corrective Actions | Monitoring |
|--------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Land Disturbance Protocol | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to clearing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No unauthorised clearing | N/A | Authorisation by the Site Manager or a delegate |
| Marking the Limits of Clearing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to clearing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No unauthorised clearing | N/A | Authorisation by Site Manager or a delegate |
| Controlling Access | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to entry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No staff, contractors or visitors entering the corridor without an induction | N/A | Periodic inspections. |
| Staff Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to entry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No staff, contractors or visitors entering the corridor without an induction | N/A | Periodic inspections. |
| Control of Weeds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring surveys biannually Management control informed by survey results | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control the spread of WONS and priority weeds. | Incorporate into subsequent monitoring and management | Biannual |



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Table 3-4 (Continued)
Summary of Measures to Protect and Maintain Native Vegetation in the Biodiversity Corridor
(Vegetated Buffer Corridor)


| Measure | Timeframe for Implementation | Targets | Corrective Actions | Monitoring |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|-------------|
| Control of Animal Pests | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring surveys biannually. Feral animals will be monitored on a frequency agreed with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring completed bi-annually Feral animal control informed by monitoring | Feral animal control undertaken considering the DPI Vertebrate Pest Control Manual (DPI, 2020) | Biannual |
| Bushfire Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response provided as required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No uncontrolled fires caused by the MCCM mining activities | N/A | As required |

3.15 AQUATIC HABITAT

Condition 51 (Schedule 3) of PA 10_0138 requires MCCM to consult with DPI Fisheries regarding the general operation and design of the pump station and screens prior to construction of the permanent Namoi water pipeline and pump station. At this stage no permanent pump station has been implemented. Once a permanent pumping station is decided upon MCC will consult with DPI Fisheries.

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PART B
OFFSET AREA MANAGEMENT OF FLORA AND FAUNA

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| | | Issue: | 3.3 |
| | | Last Revision Date: | 28 February 2025 |
| | | Revision Period: | Refer to Section 6.5 |
| WHC_PLN_MC_BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN | | | |

4 OFFSET AREAS - BASELINE ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This section provides a description of the methodology and results of the surveys measuring the baseline ecological conditions in the offset areas. Figures 3 and 4 shows the location of the offset areas relative to other local biodiversity offset areas. Figures 5a to 5h, 6a to 6g and 7a to 7h show vegetation communities and threatened species records in the offset areas.

All MCCM offset areas are secured under Conservation Agreements under the NP&W Act or BC Act in accordance with Conditions 13 and 13A of the EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 and Condition 45 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138. The offset areas are listed in Table 4-1 and the boundaries are shown on Figure 3.

**Table 4-1
Offset Areas Subject to this Biodiversity Management Plan**

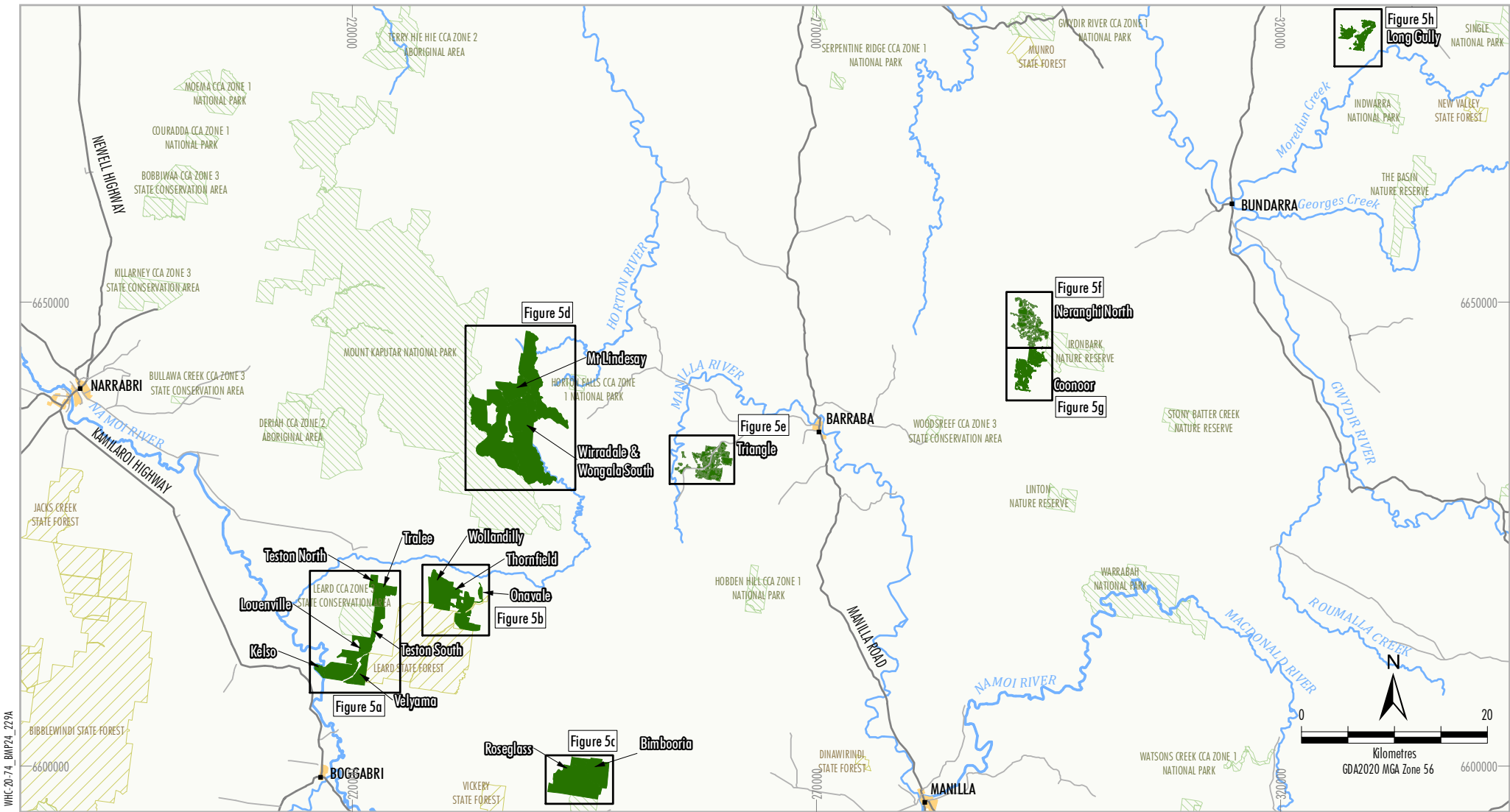
| Offset Area | Total Size of the Offset Area (ha) [^] | Conservation Agreement (CA) ID | Offset Area under PA 10_0138 | Offset Area under EPBC 2010/5566 |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Kelso | 489.4 | VCA0487 under the NP&W Act | ✓ | ✓ |
| Velyama | 702.6 | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Louenville | 213.1 | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Teston South | 336.2 | VCA0491 under the NP&W Act | ✓ | ✓ |
| Teston North [#] | 293.9 | | ✓ | - ⁺ |
| Tralee [#] | 205.2 | | ✓ | - ⁺ |
| Wollandilly | 804.4 | VCA0490 under the NP&W Act | ✓ | ✓ |
| Onavale | 557.7 | VCA0492 under the NP&W Act | ✓ | ✓ |
| Roseglass | 1,465.3 | VCA0489 under the NP&W Act | ✓ | ✓ |
| Bimbooria | 622.5 | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Wirradale and Wongala South | 4,446.6 | CA0234 under the BC Act | ✓ | ✓ |
| Mt Lindesay | 2,337.1 | CA0235 under the BC Act | ✓ | ✓ |
| [^] Thornfield | 171.3 | CA0268 under the BC Act | ✓ | ✓ |
| [^] Long Gully | 352.9 | CA0691 under the BC Act | ✓ | ✓ |
| [^] Neranghi North | 567 | CA0693 under the BC Act | ✓ | ✓ |
| [^] Triangle | 741.9 | CA0694 under the BC Act | ✓ | ✓ |
| [^] Coonoor | 573.9 | CA0690 under the BC Act | ✓ | ✓ |
| Total | 14,881 | | | |

^{*} Additional offset area approved under Condition 11A of the EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566.

⁺ Commonwealth Minister for the Environment agreed to the removal of these two properties as offset areas under EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 on 28 May 2021

[^] Areas in Table 16 of PA 10_0138 were rounded.

[#] Areas of Teston North and Tralee in Table 16 of PA 10_0138 were swapped.



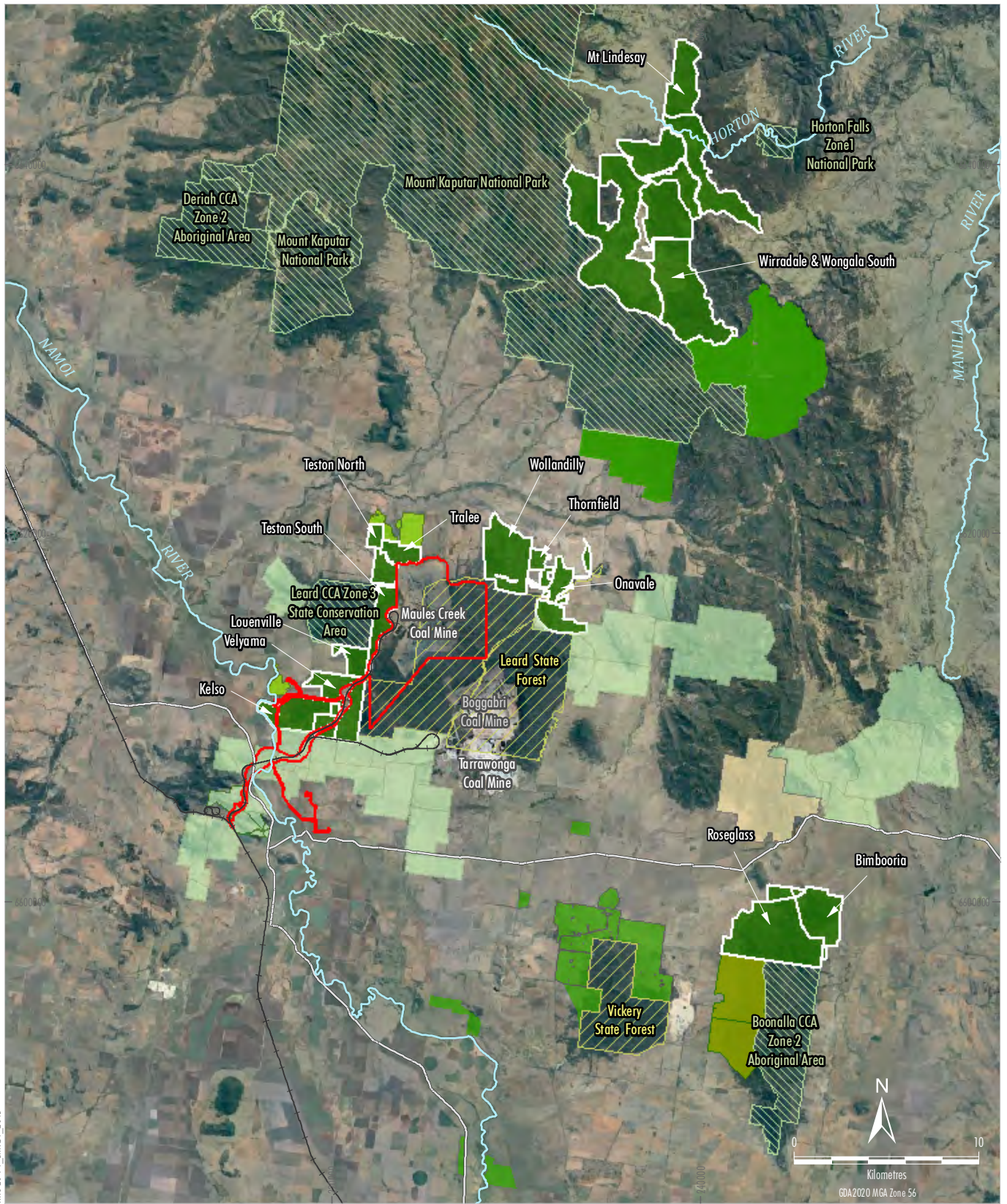
- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - State Forest
 - MCCM Offset Area

Source: Stewart Surveys (2018 - 2020); Whitehaven Coal Limited (2021); NSW Spatial Services (2021)



MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Biodiversity Offset Areas
 Subject to this Mangement Plan

Figure 3



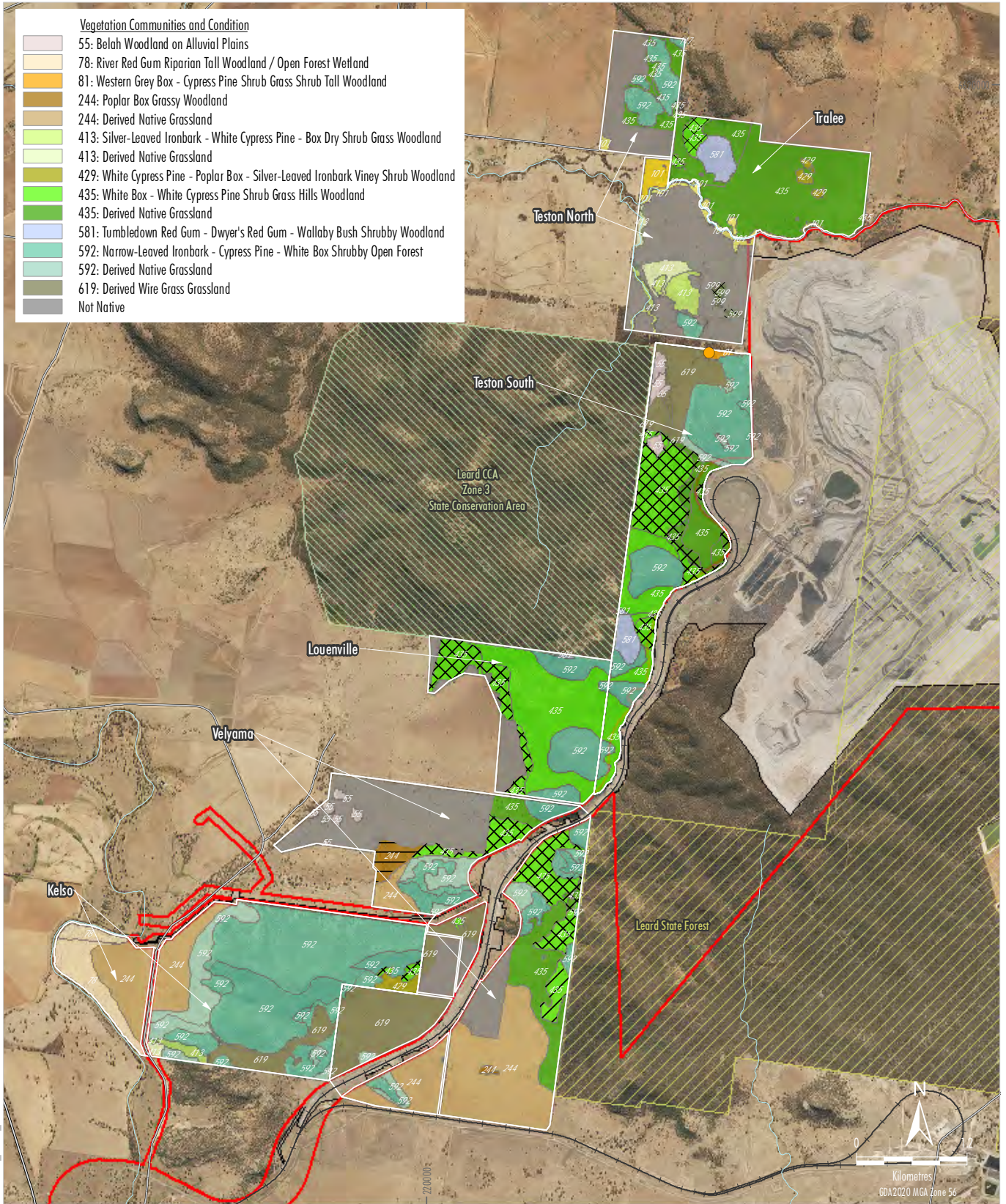
WMC-20-74_BMP24_2014B

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2020)
 Orthophoto: Google Earth (2020)

- LEGEND**
- MCCM Project Boundary
 - NPWS Estate
 - State Forest
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Other Whitehaven Offset Area
 - Other Whitehaven Conservation Agreement Area
 - Whitehaven Biobanking Site
 - Boggabri Coal Offset Area
 - Piney Range Biobanking Site

WHITEHAVEN COAL
MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Local Biodiversity Offsets

Figure 4



| Vegetation Communities and Condition | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| [Light Purple Box] | 55: Belah Woodland on Alluvial Plains |
| [Light Orange Box] | 78: River Red Gum Riparian Tall Woodland / Open Forest Wetland |
| [Orange Box] | 81: Western Grey Box - Cypress Pine Shrub Grass Shrub Tall Woodland |
| [Brown Box] | 244: Poplar Box Grassy Woodland |
| [Light Green Box] | 244: Derived Native Grassland |
| [Light Green Box] | 413: Silver-Leaved Ironbark - White Cypress Pine - Box Dry Shrub Grass Woodland |
| [Light Green Box] | 413: Derived Native Grassland |
| [Light Green Box] | 429: White Cypress Pine - Poplar Box - Silver-Leaved Ironbark Viney Shrub Woodland |
| [Light Green Box] | 435: White Box - White Cypress Pine Shrub Grass Hills Woodland |
| [Light Green Box] | 435: Derived Native Grassland |
| [Light Blue Box] | 581: Tumbledown Red Gum - Dwyer's Red Gum - Wallaby Bush Shrubby Woodland |
| [Light Blue Box] | 592: Narrow-Leaved Ironbark - Cypress Pine - White Box Shrubby Open Forest |
| [Light Blue Box] | 592: Derived Native Grassland |
| [Light Blue Box] | 619: Derived Wire Grass Grassland |
| [Grey Box] | Not Native |

MHC-20-74_BM/P24_2308

Kilometres
GOA2020 MGA Zone 56

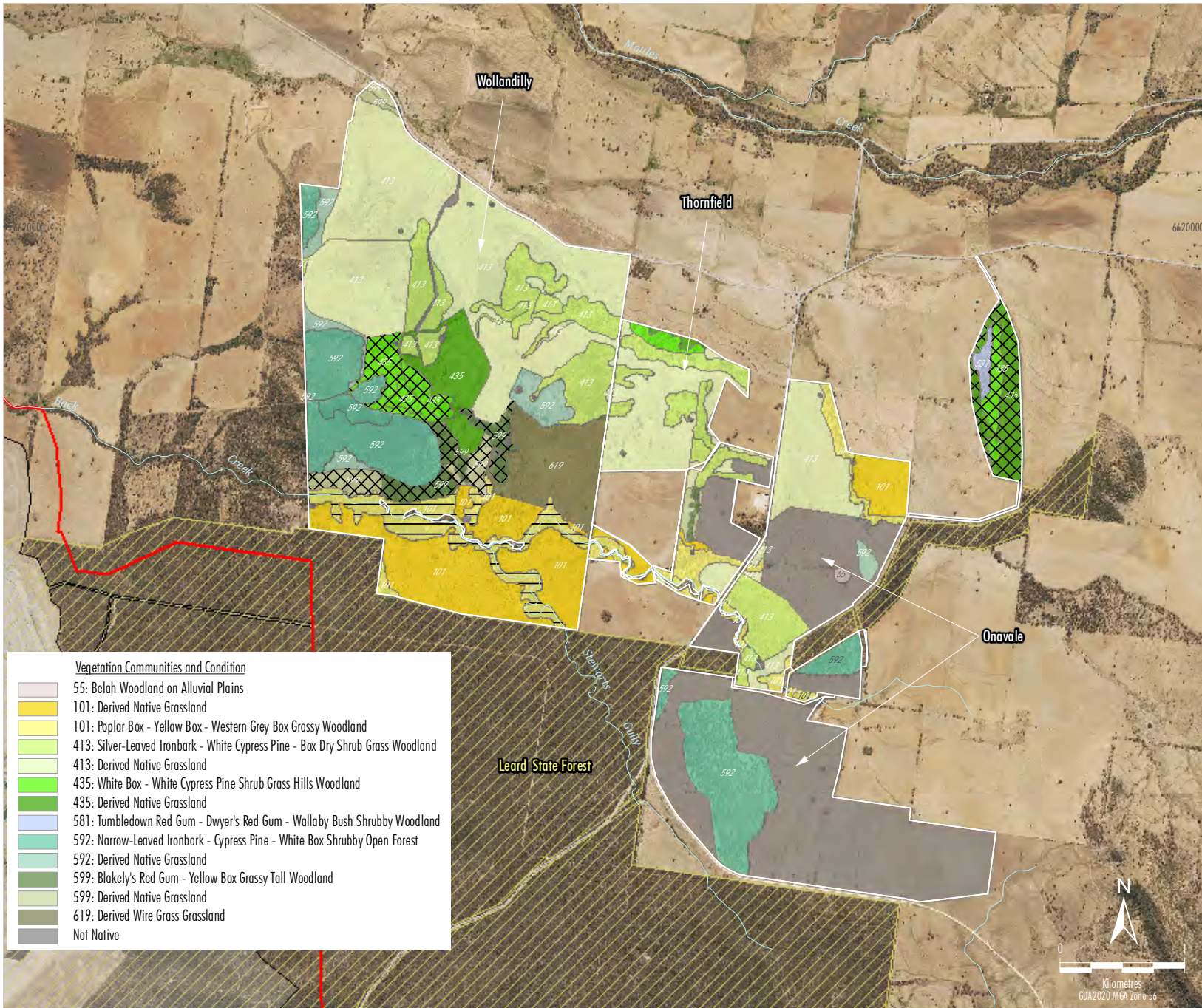
Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2022)
Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)

| LEGEND | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| [Diagonal Lines Box] | NPWS Estate |
| [Diagonal Lines Box] | State Forest |
| [Red Line] | MCCM Project Boundary |
| [Black Line] | Approximate Extent of Existing/Approved Surface Development |
| [Grey Line] | MCCM Offset Area |
| Threatened Ecological Communities | |
| [Diagonal Lines Box] | Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the BC Act |
| [Diagonal Lines Box] | Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the EPBC Act |
| [Diagonal Lines Box] | Poplar Box Grassy Woodland EEC listed under the EPBC Act |

● Grey Box Woodland EEC listed under the BC Act and EPBC Act

WHITEHAVEN COAL
MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Vegetation Communities -
Kelso, Velyama, Louenville, Teston South,
Teston North and Tralee

Figure 5a



- LEGEND**
- State Forest
 - MCCM Project Boundary
 - Approximate Extent of Existing/Approved Surface Development
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Threatened Ecological Communities**
 - Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the BC Act
 - Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the EPBC Act
 - Poplar Box Grassy Woodland EEC listed under the EPBC Act

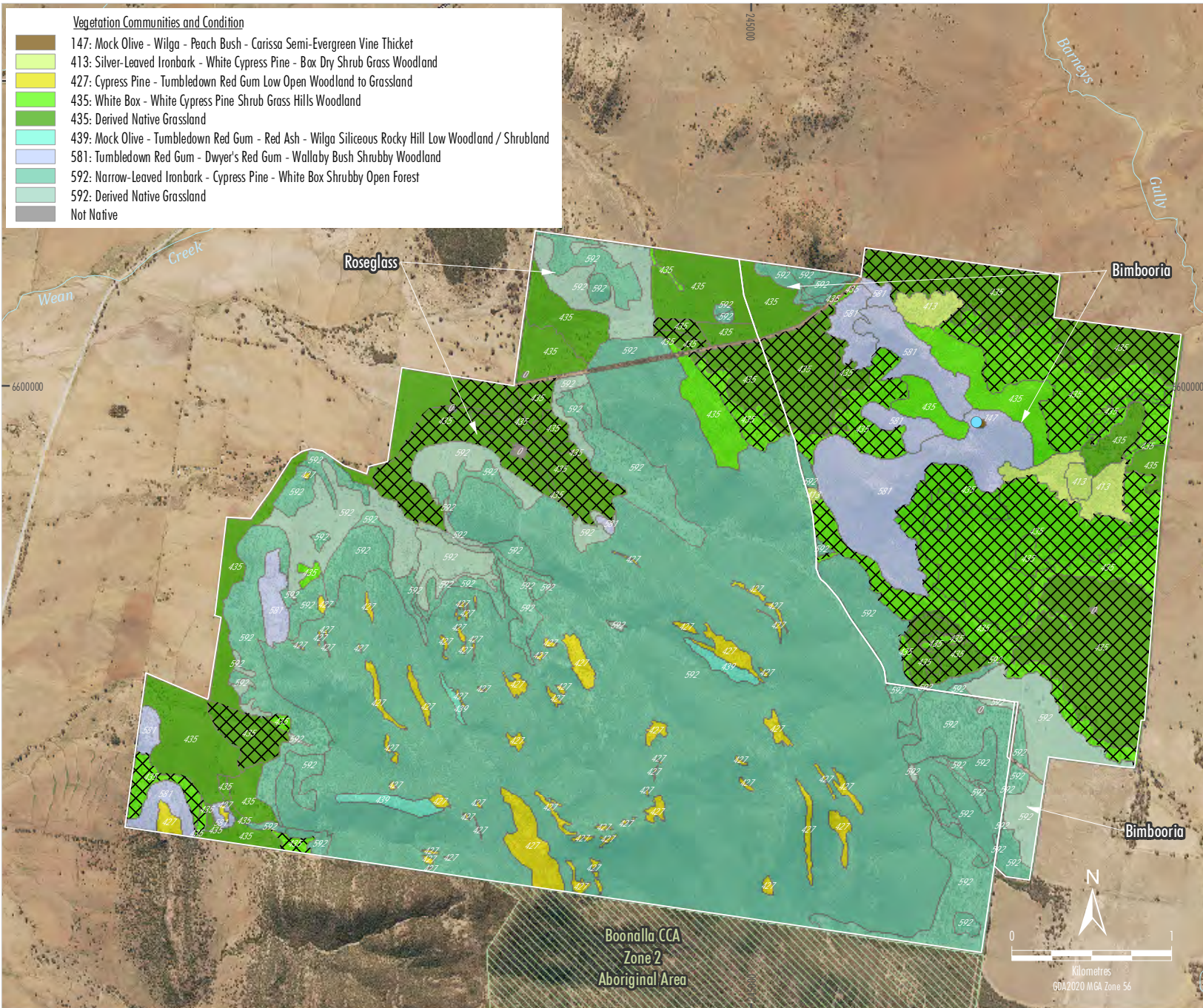
Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021)
 Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)

WHITEHAVEN COAL
 MAULES CREEK COAL MINE
 Vegetation Communities -
 Wollandilly, Thornfield and Onavale



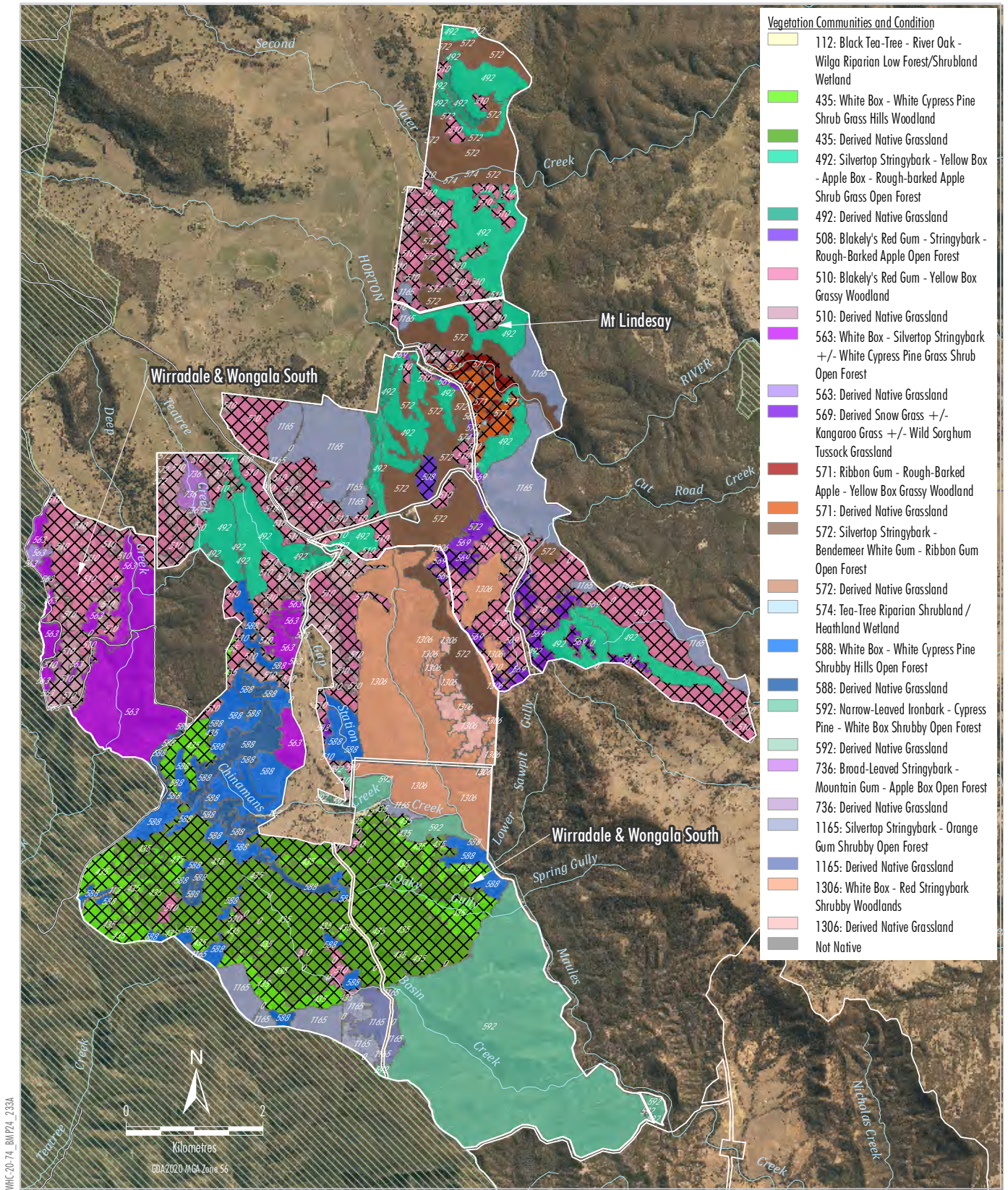
WHC-20-74_BMIP24_231A

Figure 5b



WHC-20-74_BIM24_232A

Figure 5c



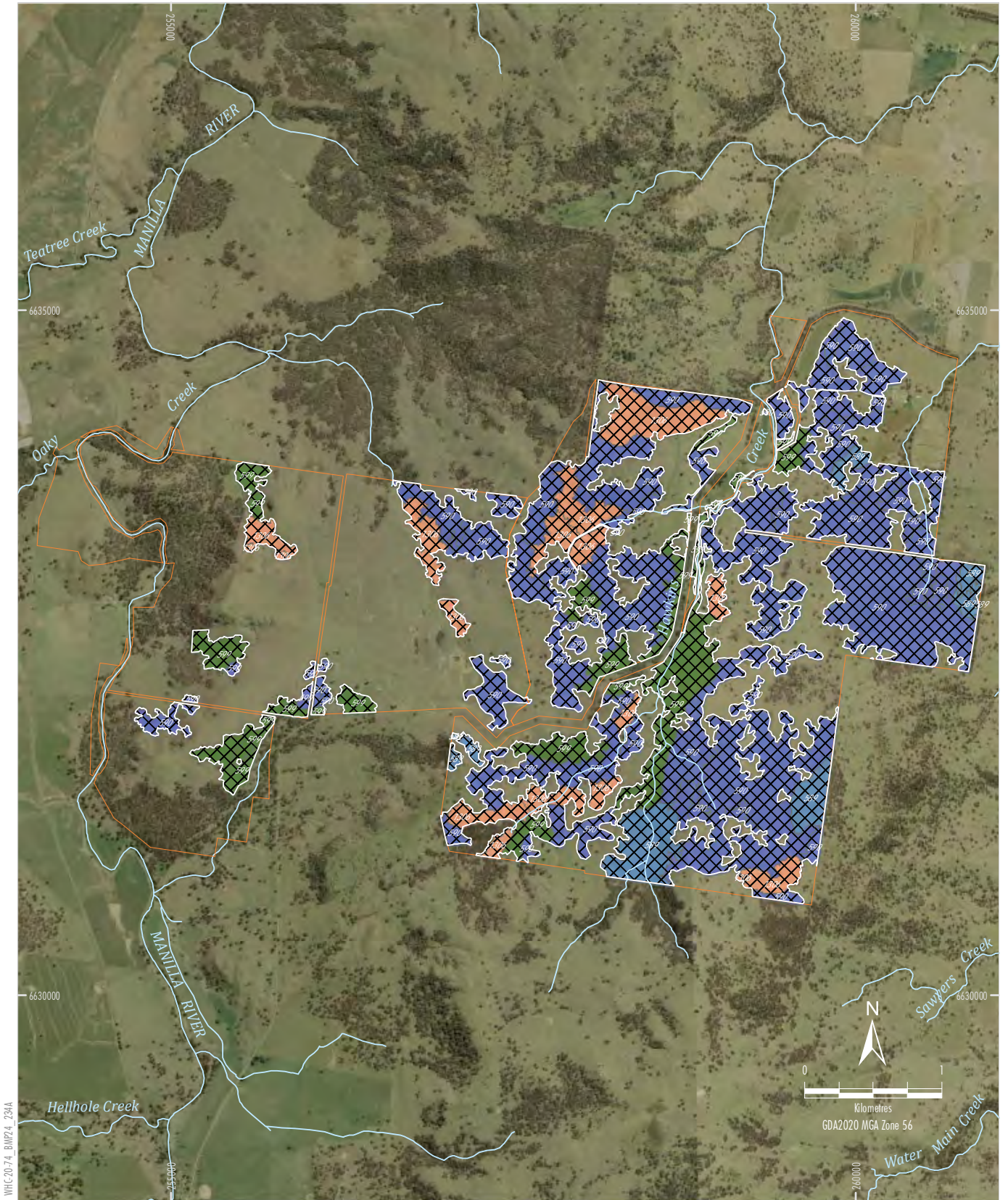
- Vegetation Communities and Condition**
- 112: Black Tea-Tree - River Oak - Wilga Riparian Low Forest/Shrubland Wetland
 - 435: White Box - White Cypress Pine Shrub Grass Hills Woodland
 - 435: Derived Native Grassland
 - 492: Silvertop Stringybark - Yellow Box - Apple Box - Rough-barked Apple Shrub Grass Open Forest
 - 492: Derived Native Grassland
 - 508: Blakely's Red Gum - Stringybark - Rough-Barked Apple Open Forest
 - 510: Blakely's Red Gum - Yellow Box Grassy Woodland
 - 510: Derived Native Grassland
 - 563: White Box - Silvertop Stringybark +/- White Cypress Pine Grass Shrub Open Forest
 - 563: Derived Native Grassland
 - 569: Derived Snow Grass +/- Kangaroo Grass +/- Wild Sorghum Tussock Grassland
 - 571: Ribbon Gum - Rough-Barked Apple - Yellow Box Grassy Woodland
 - 571: Derived Native Grassland
 - 572: Silvertop Stringybark - Bendemeer White Gum - Ribbon Gum Open Forest
 - 572: Derived Native Grassland
 - 574: Tea-Tree Riparian Shrubland / Heathland Wetland
 - 588: White Box - White Cypress Pine Shrubby Hills Open Forest
 - 588: Derived Native Grassland
 - 592: Narrow-Leaved Ironbark - Cypress Pine - White Box Shrubby Open Forest
 - 592: Derived Native Grassland
 - 736: Broad-Leaved Stringybark - Mountain Gum - Apple Box Open Forest
 - 736: Derived Native Grassland
 - 1165: Silvertop Stringybark - Orange Gum Shrubby Open Forest
 - 1165: Derived Native Grassland
 - 1306: White Box - Red Stringybark Shrubby Woodlands
 - 1306: Derived Native Grassland
 - Not Native

- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Threatened Ecological Communities**
 - Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the BC Act
 - Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the EPBC Act

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021)
 Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)







WHITEHAVEN COAL
 MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
 Vegetation Communities -
 Mt Lindsey, Wirradale
 and Wongala South

Figure 5d



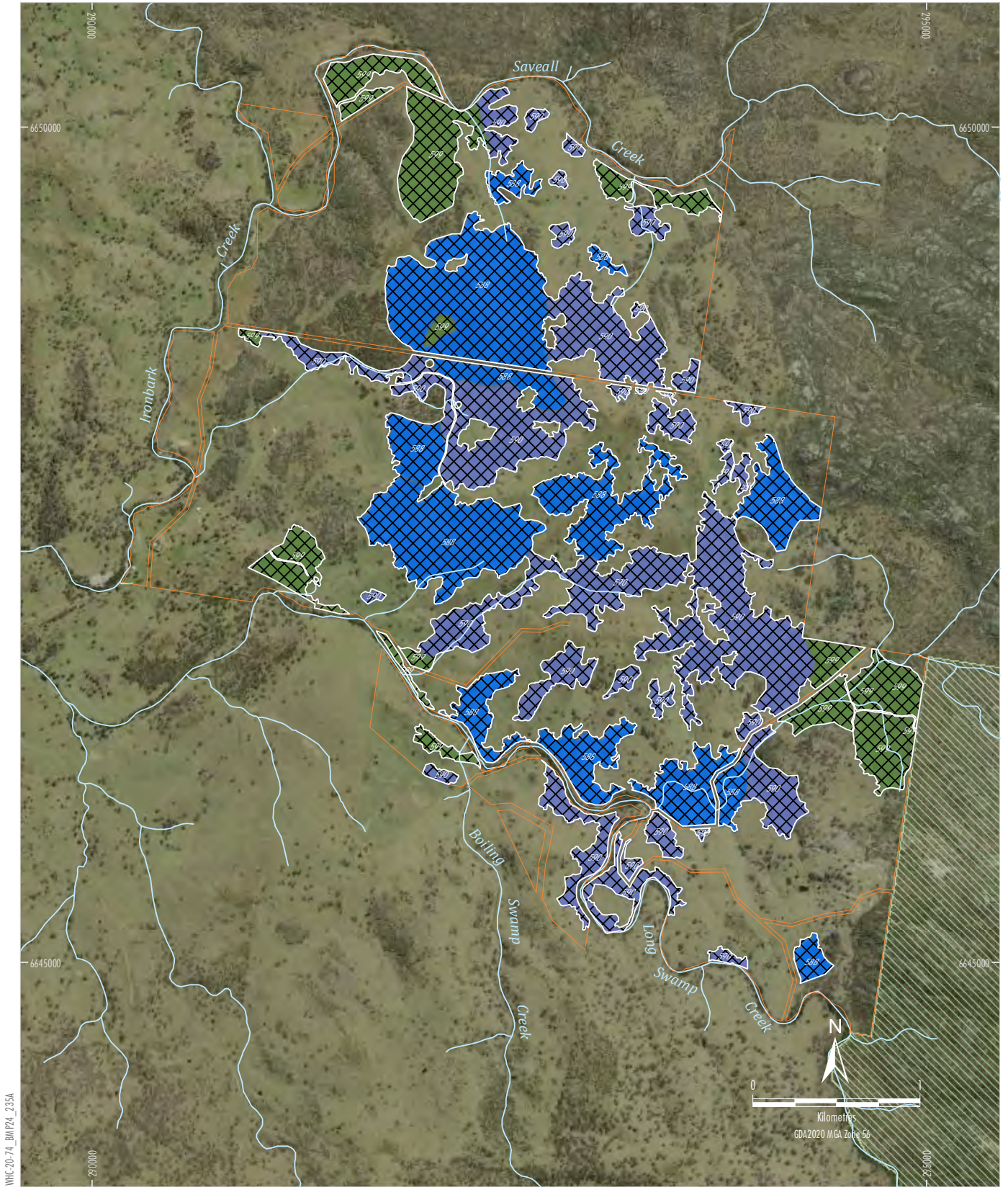
Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021)
AMBS (2021)

- LEGEND**
-  Property Boundary
 -  MCCM Offset Area

- Vegetation Communities and Condition**
-  589: White Box - White Cypress Pine - Silver-Leaved Ironbark Grassy Woodland
 -  590: White Box Grassy Woodland
 -  599: Blakely's Red Gum - Yellow Box Grassy Tall Woodland
 -  1306: White Box - Red Stringybark Shrubby Woodlands
- Threatened Ecological Communities**
-  Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the BC Act
 -  Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the EPBC Act

 **WHITEHAVEN COAL**
MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Vegetation Communities - Triangle

Figure 5e



WMC-20-74_BMP24_235A

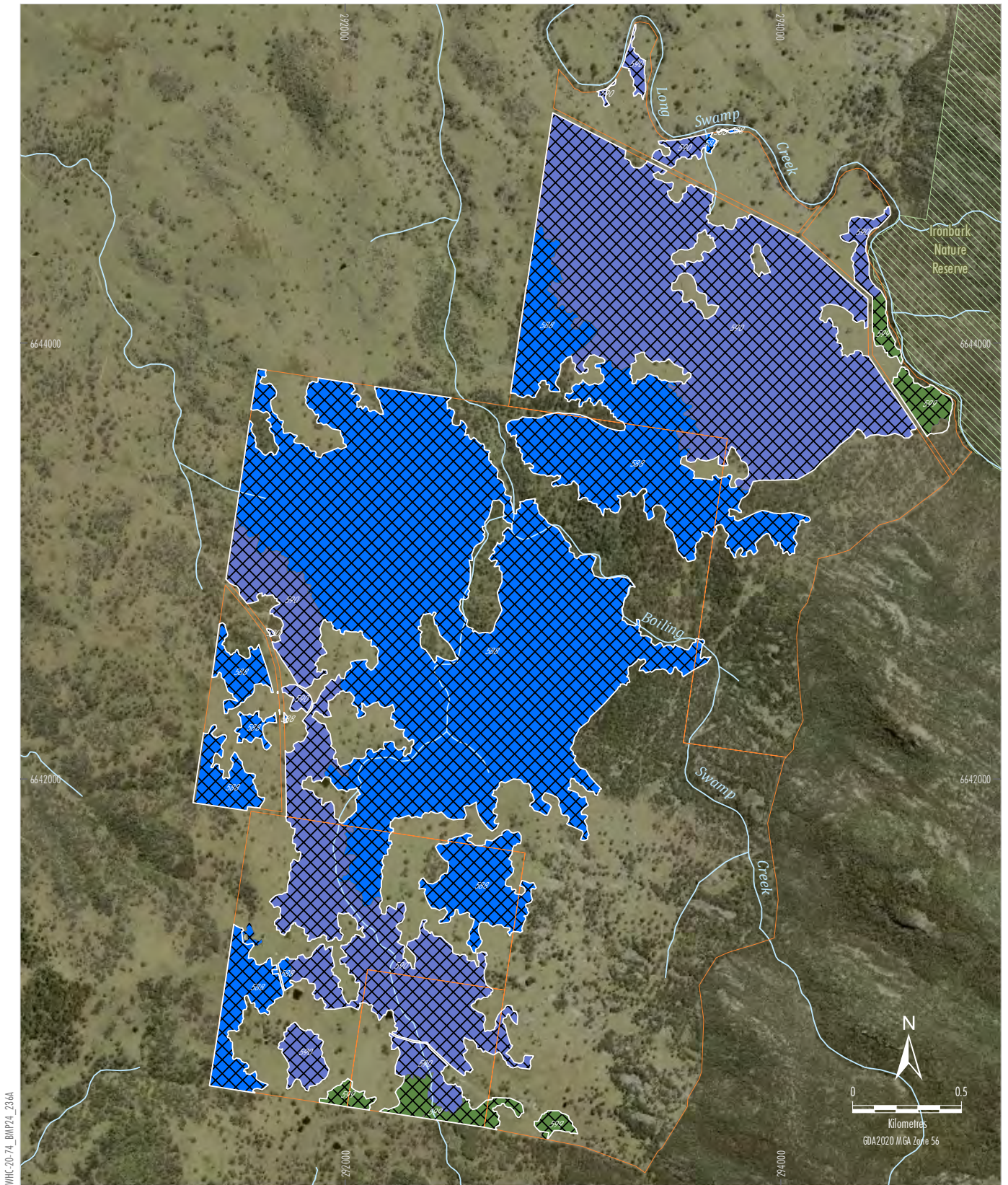
- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - Property Boundary
 - MCCM Offset Area

- Vegetation Communities and Condition**
- 588: White Box - White Cypress Pine Shrubby Hills Open Forest
 - 590: White Box Grassy Woodland
 - 599: Blakely's Red Gum - Yellow Box Grassy Tall Woodland
- Threatened Ecological Communities**
- Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the BC Act
 - Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the EPBC Act

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021)

WHITEHAVEN COAL
MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Vegetation Communities -
Neranghi North

Figure 5f






WHC/20/74_BMP/24_23.6A



LEGEND

-  NPWS Estate
-  Property Boundary
-  MCCM Offset Area

Vegetation Communities and Condition

-  588: White Box - White Cypress Pine Shrubby Hills Open Forest
-  590: White Box Grassy Woodland
-  599: Blakely's Red Gum - Yellow Box Grassy Tall Woodland

Threatened Ecological Communities

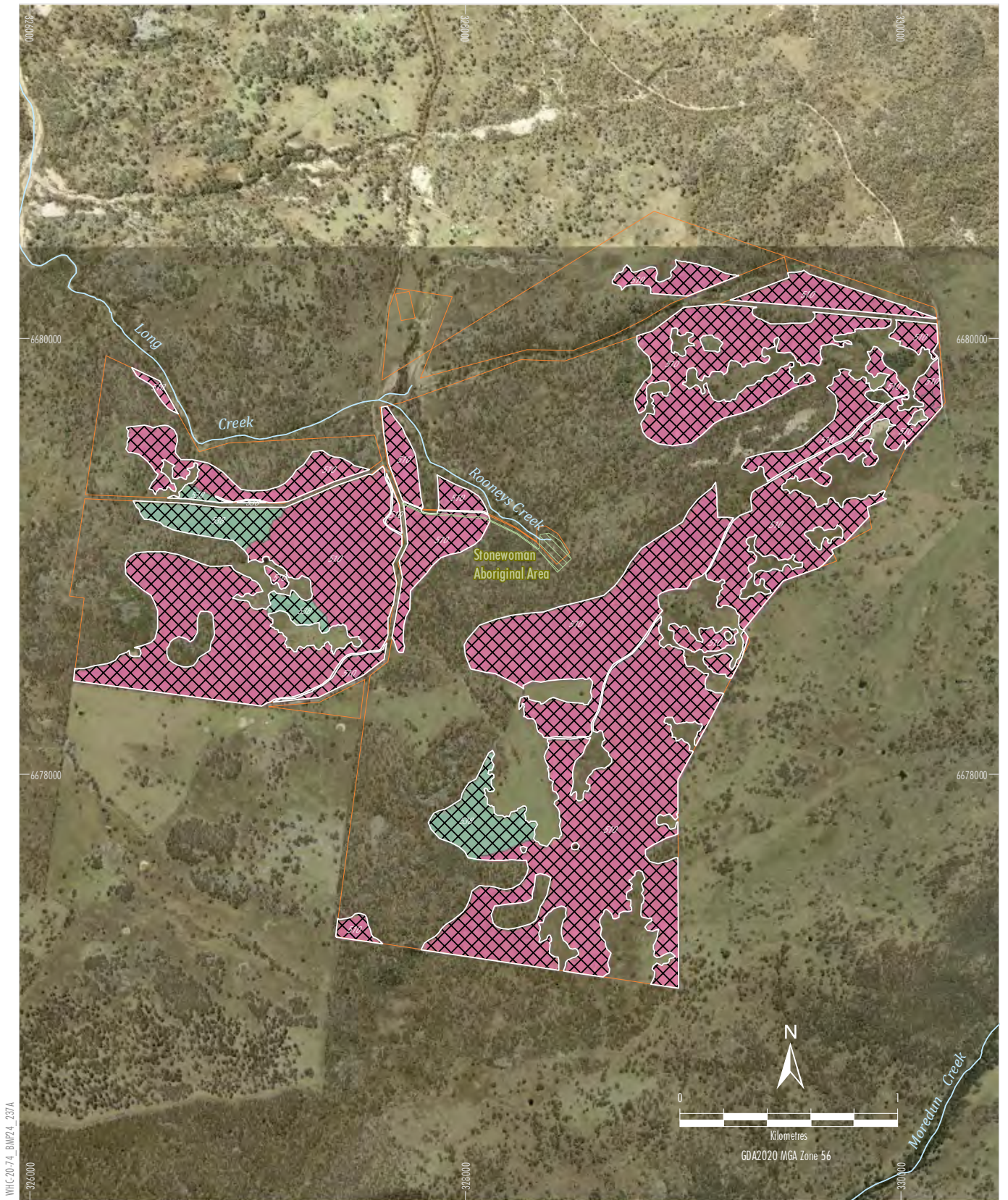
-  Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the BC Act
-  Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the EPBC Act

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021)




MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Vegetation Communities -
Coonoor

Figure 5g



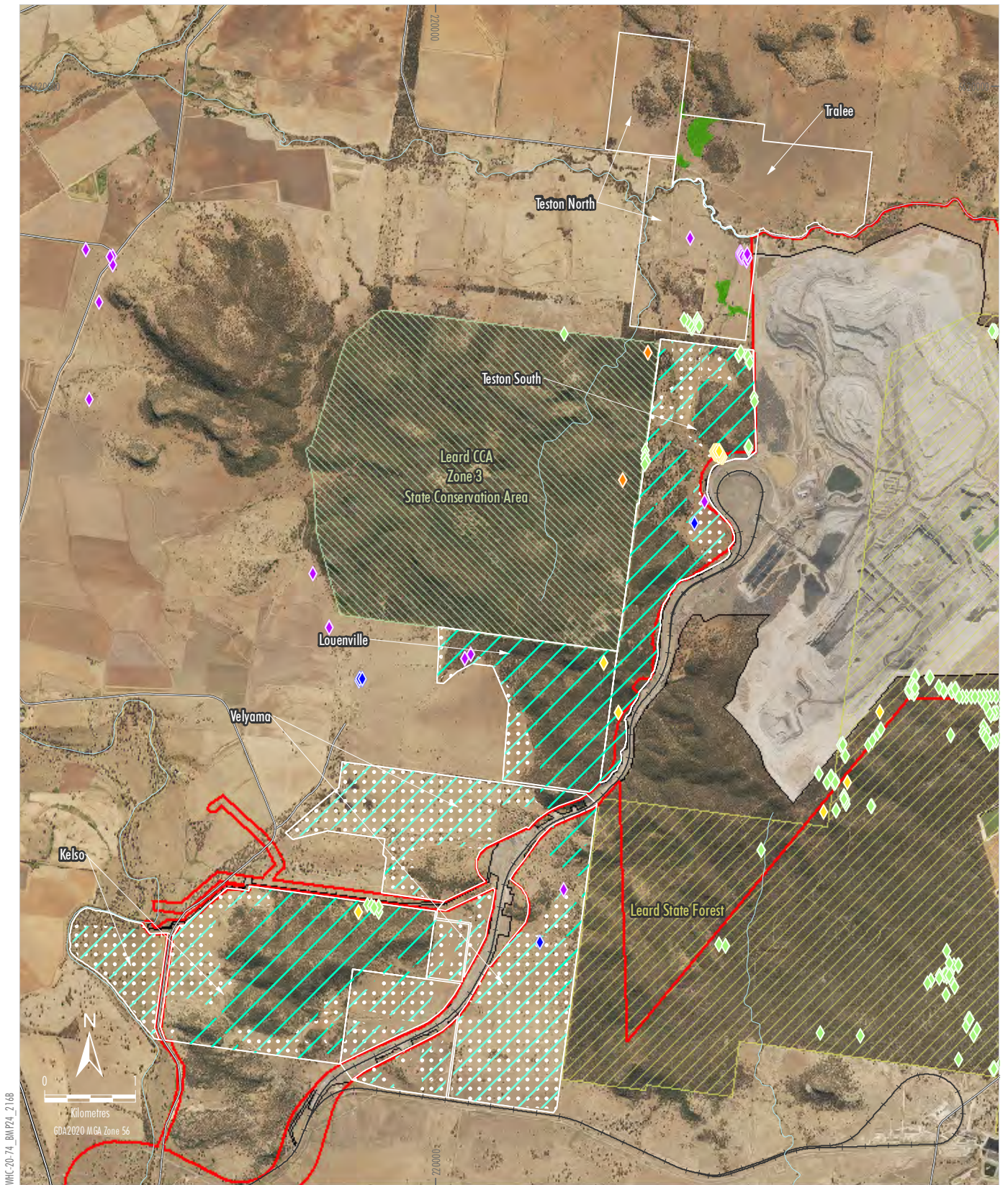
WHC20-74_BMP24_237A

- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - Property Boundary
 - MCCM Offset Area

- Vegetation Communities and Condition**
- 538: Rough-Barked Apple - Blakely's Red Gum Open Forest
 - 510: Blakely's Red Gum - Yellow Box Grassy Woodland
- Threatened Ecological Communities**
- Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the BC Act
 - Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the EPBC Act

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021)

Figure 5h



MHC-20-74_BMP24_2168

- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - State Forest
 - Approximate Extent of Existing/ Approved Surface Development
 - MCCM Project Boundary
 - MCCM Offset Area

- Tylophora linearis* Existing and Future Potential Habitat
- Area Undergoing Active Revegetation for *Tylophora linearis*

- Threatened Species**
- Bluegrass
 - Finger Panic Grass
 - Scant Pomaderris
 - Spiny Peppergrass
 - Tylophora linearis*

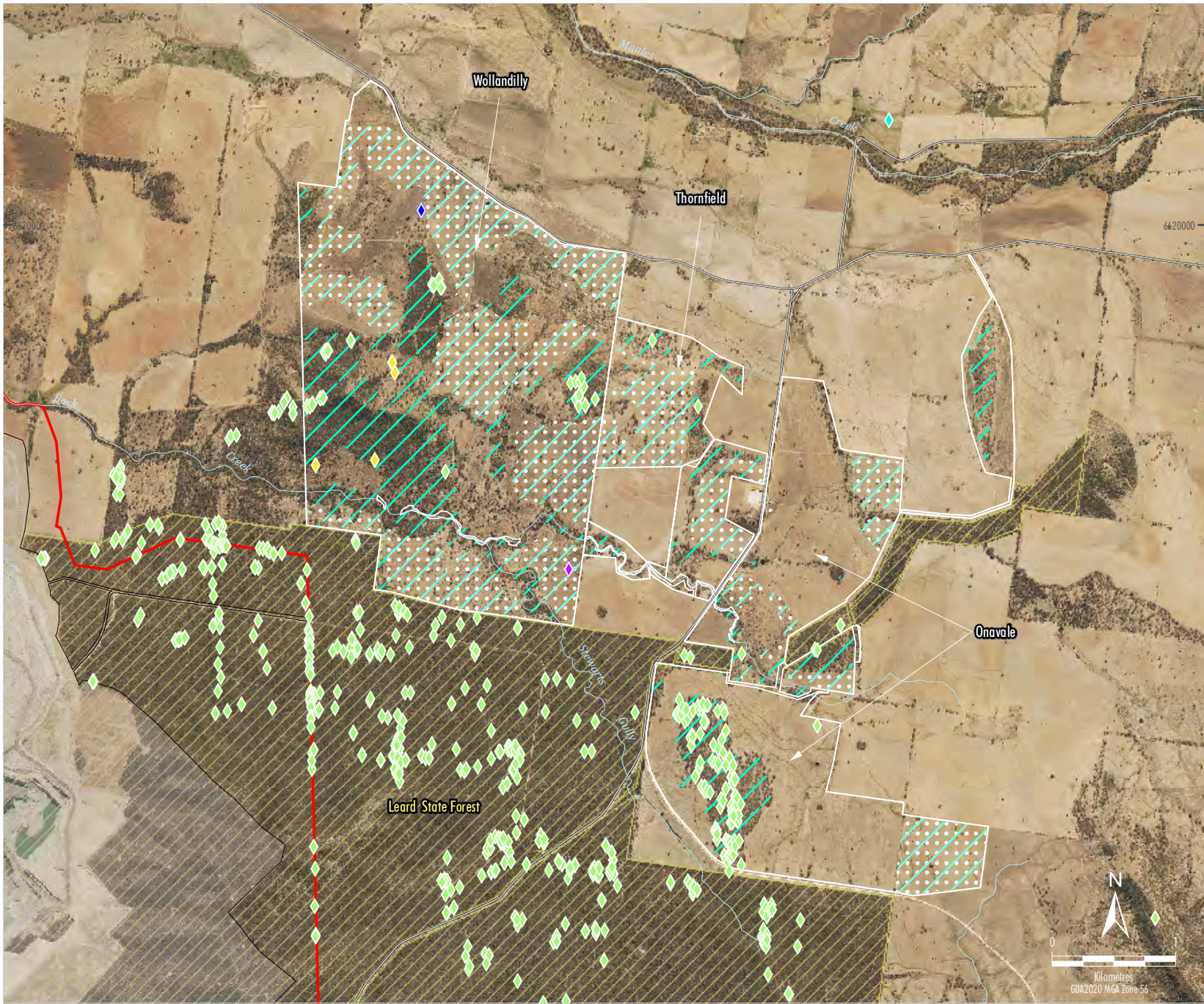
Source: NSW Spatial Services (2020); AMBS (2014a, 2017c, 2022); Cumberland Ecology (2015, 2020); DPE (2023a, 2023b); Ecoplanning (2020b, 2021a, 2022a, 2023); Niche (2014a); Parsons Brinckerhoff (2010); Whitehaven Coal (2023a) Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)



MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Threatened Flora - Kelso, Velyama, Louenville, Teston South, Teston North and Tralee

Figure 6a

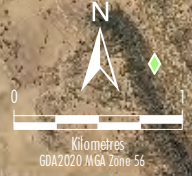


- LEGEND**
- State Forest
 - MCCM Project Boundary
 - Approximate Extent of Existing/Approved Surface Development
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Tylophora linearis* Existing and Future Potential Habitat
 - Area Undergoing Active Revegetation for *Tylophora linearis*
- Threatened Species**
- Bluegrass
 - Finger Panic Grass
 - Ooline
 - Scant Pomaderris
 - Tylophora linearis*

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2020); AMBS (2017c, 2021); Cumberland Ecology (2015, 2020); DPE (2023a, 2023b); Ecoplanning (2020a, 2020b, 2021a, 2021b, 2022a); Hunter Eco (2016, 2019b); Niche (2014a, 2014d); Whitehaven Coal (2018, 2019, 2023a); Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)

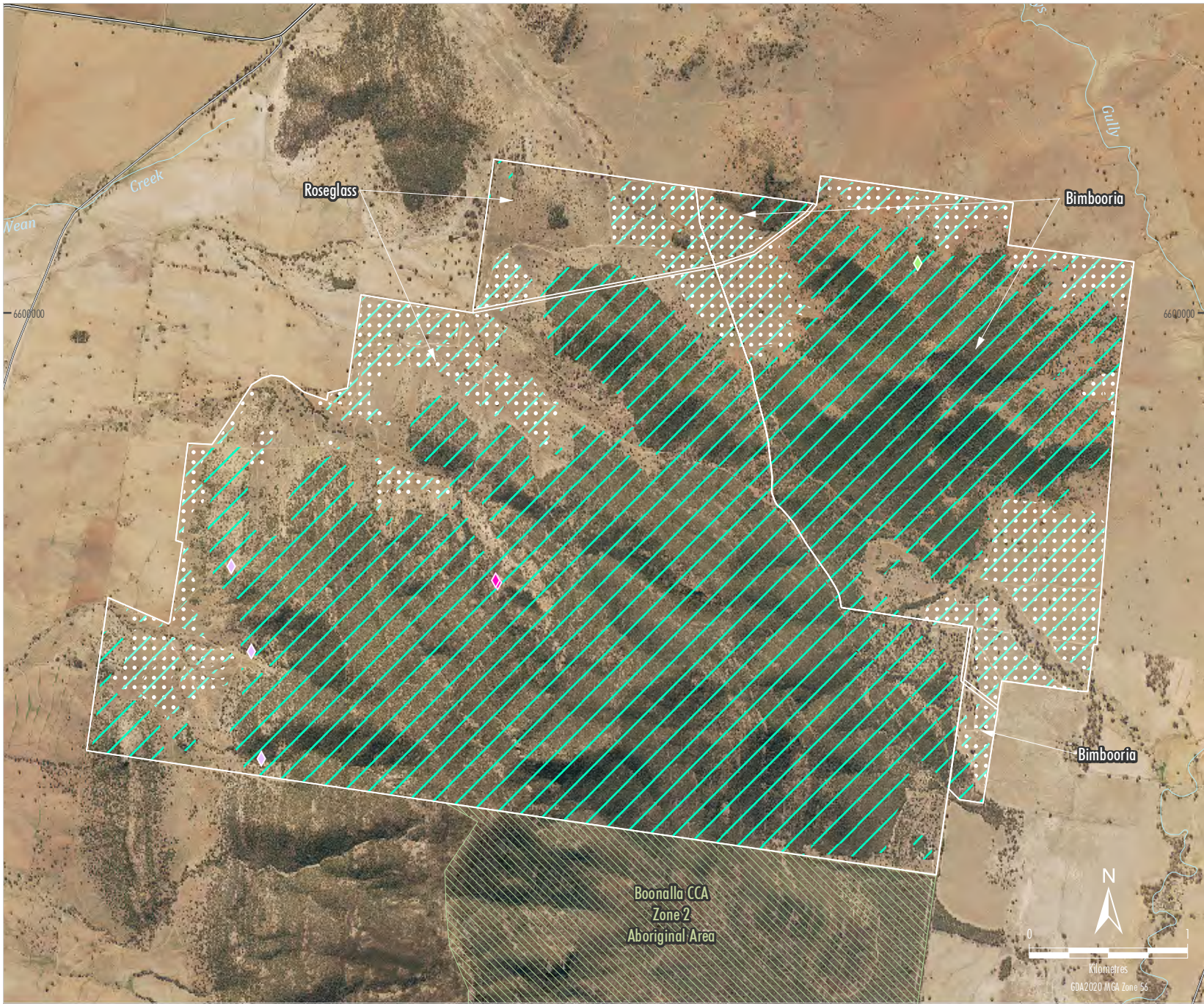


MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Threatened Flora -
Wollandilly, Thornfield and Onavale



WMC-20-74_BMIP24_215A

Figure 6b



- LEGEND**
-  NPWS Estate
 -  MCCM Offset Area
 -  *Tylophora linearis* Existing and Future Potential Habitat
 -  Area Undergoing Active Revegetation for *Tylophora linearis*
 - Threatened Species**
 -  Dungowan Starbush
 -  Granite Homoranthus
 -  *Tylophora linearis*

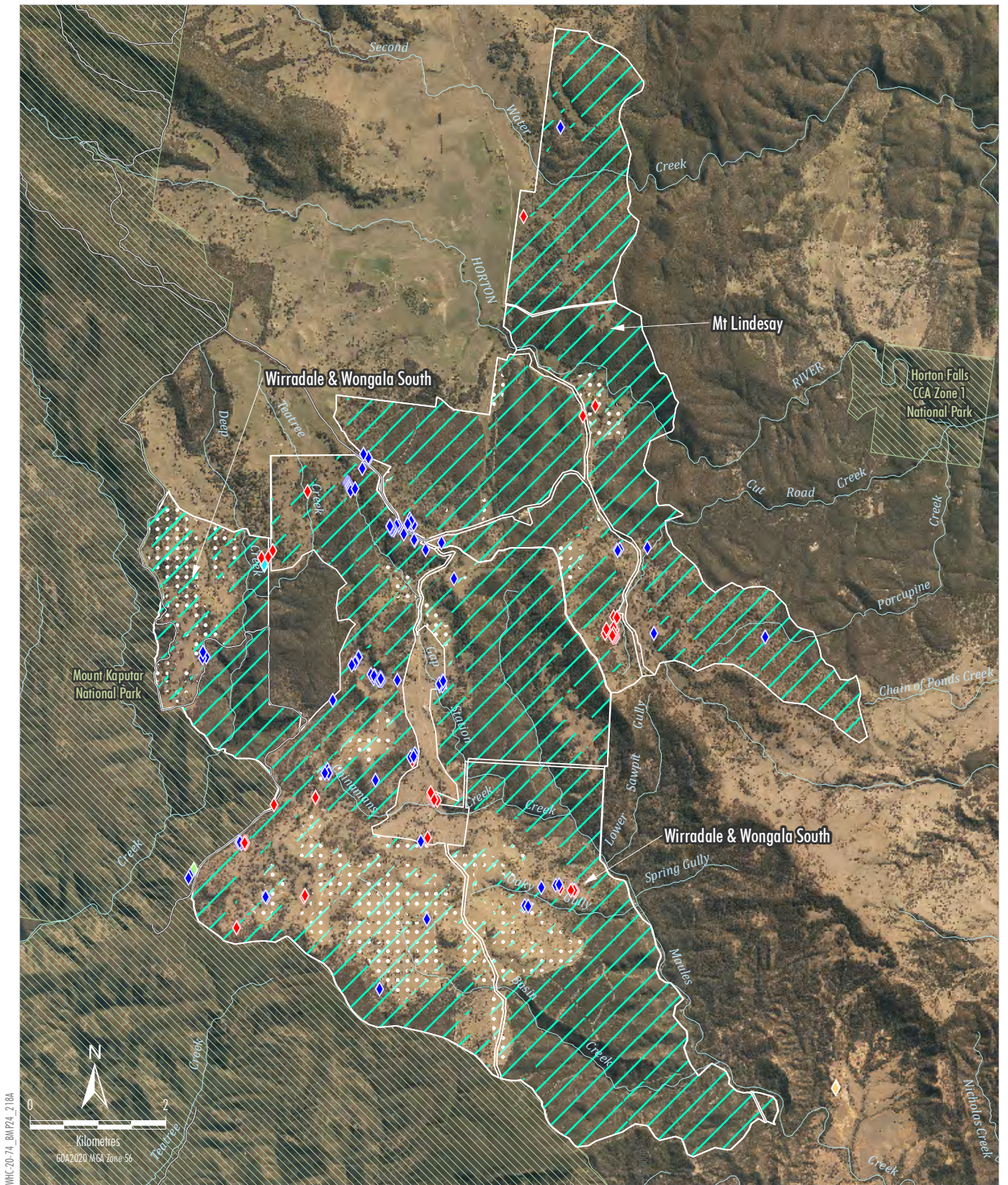
Source: NSW Spatial Services (2020); AMBS (2021); DPE 2023b); Niche (2012a; 2014a); Hunter Eco (2021); Whitehaven Coal (2023a) Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)



MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Threatened Flora -
Roseglass and Bimbooria

Figure 6c

WHC-20-74_BMP24_217A



WMC-20-74_BMP24_218A

LEGEND

- NPWS Estate
- MCCM Offset Area
- Tylophora linearis* Existing and Future Potential Habitat
- Area Undergoing Active Revegetation for *Tylophora linearis*

Threatened Species

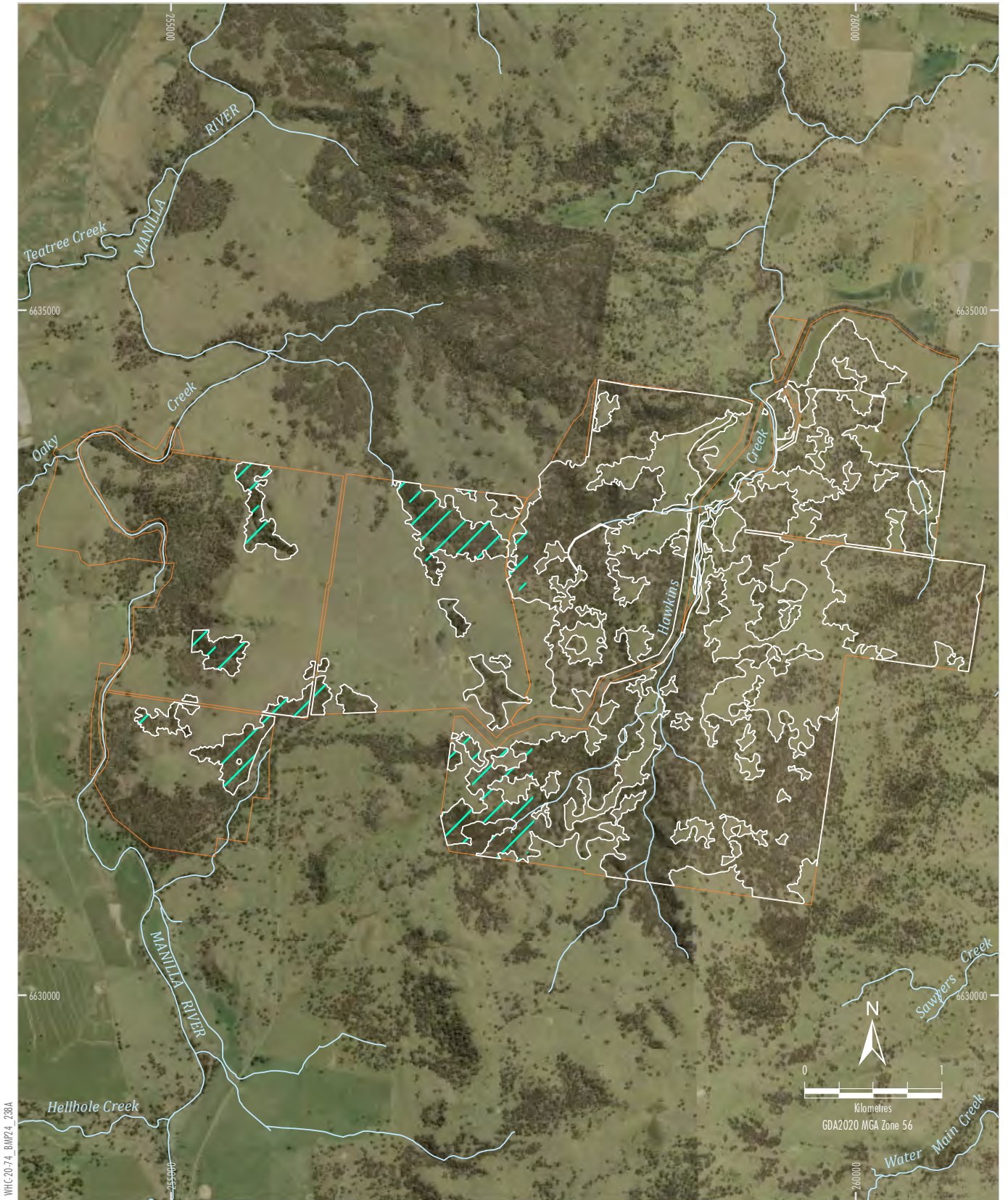
- Austral Toadflax
- Bluegrass
- Callistemon pungens*
- Silky Swainson-pea
- Tylophora linearis*

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2020); AMBS (2017c, 2021a); DPE (2023b); Hunter Eco (2021); Niche (2012b); Whitehaven Coal (2023a) Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)



MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Threatened Flora -
Mt Lindesay, Wirradale and Wongala South

Figure 6d



WHC-20-74_BMP24_238A

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); Whitehaven Coal (2023); AMBS (2023); Eco Hunter (2021)




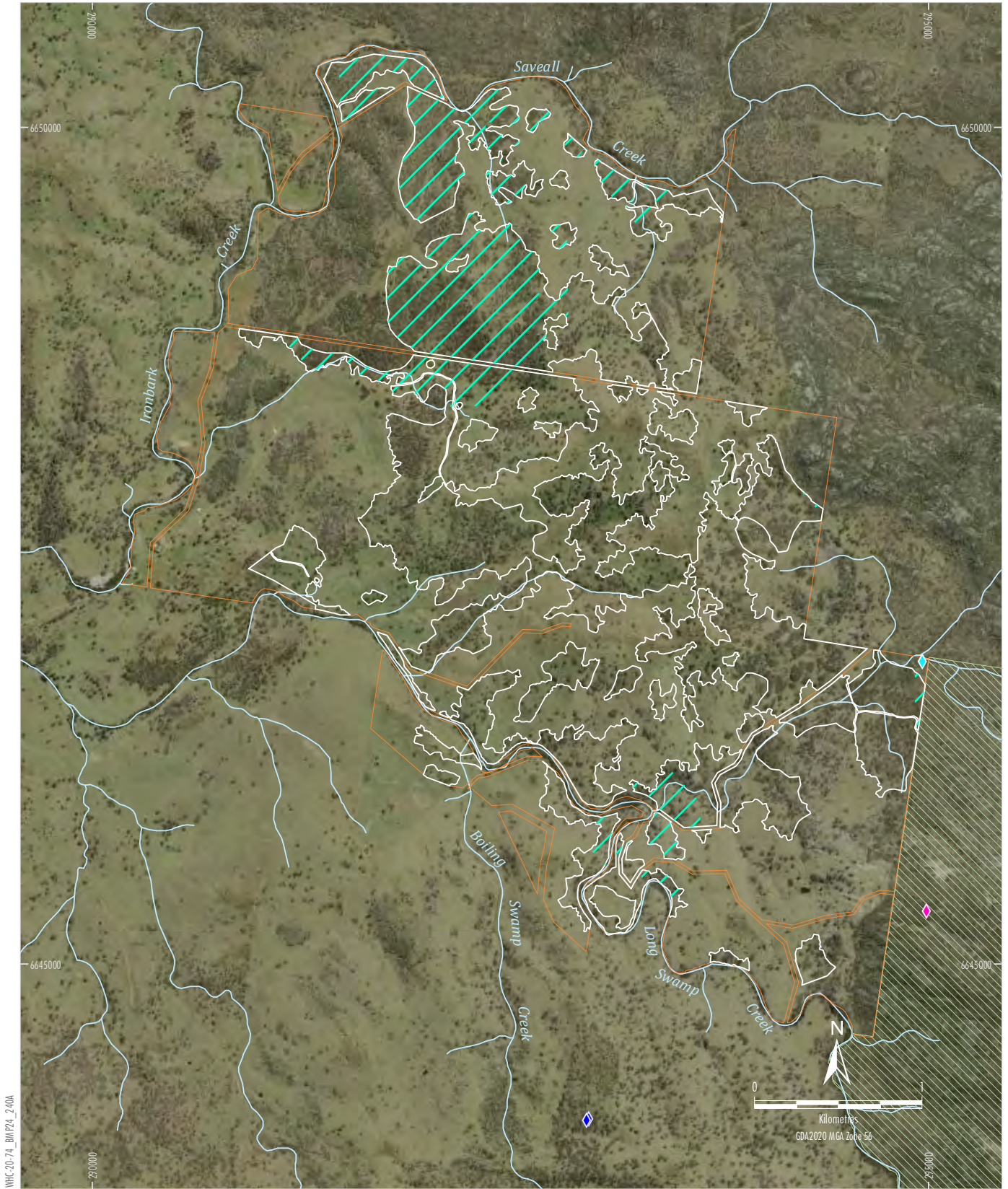
- LEGEND**
-  Property Boundary
 -  MCM Offset Area
 -  *Tylophora linearis* Existing and Future Potential Habitat

Figure 6e



MHC-20-74_BMP24_240A

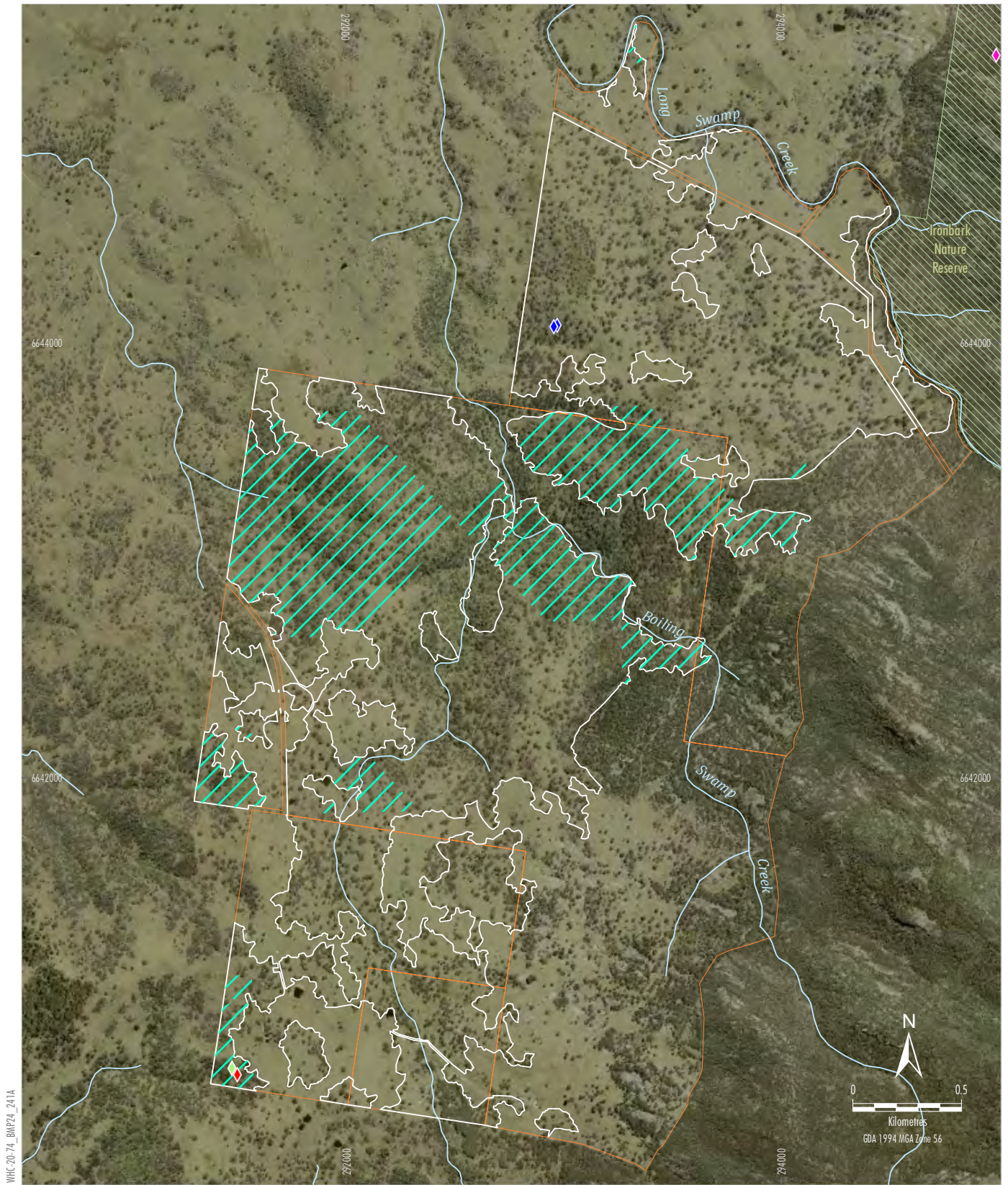
LEGEND

- NPWS Estate
- Property Boundary
- MCCM Offset Area

- Tylophora linearis* Existing and Future Potential Habitat
- Threatened Species
- Bluegrass
- Callistemon pungens*
- Granite Homoranthus






Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021b); DPE (2023b); Hunter Eco (2021); Whitehaven Coal (2023a)

Figure 6f



LEGEND

-  NPWS Estate
-  Property Boundary
-  MCCA Offset Area

-  *Tylophora linearis* Existing and Future Potential Habitat
- Threatened Species**
-  Austral Toadflax
-  Bluegrass
-  Granite Homoranthus
-  *Tylophora linearis*

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); Whitehaven (2023a); AMBS (2021b, 2023); DPE (2023b); Hunter Eco (2021)

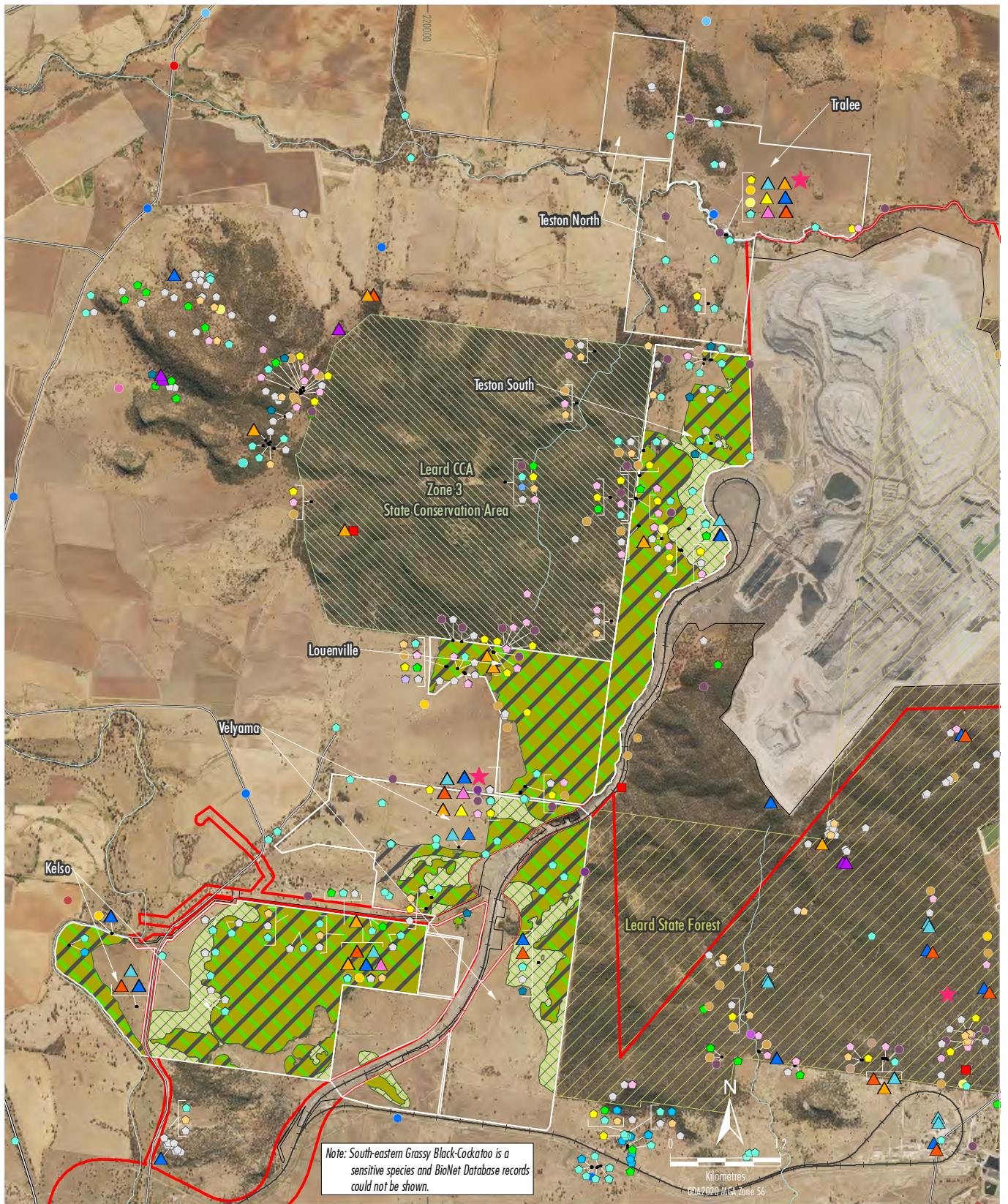


MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Threatened Flora - Coonoor

Figure 6g

MHC-20-74_BMP24_2248



Note: South-eastern Grassy Black-Cockatoo is a sensitive species and BioNet Database records could not be shown.

- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - State Forest
 - MCCM Project Boundary
 - Approximate Extent of Existing/Approved Surface Development
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Regent Honeyeater Existing Potential Habitat
 - Regent Honeyeater Future Potential Habitat (Areas to be Revegetated)
 - Swift Parrot Existing Potential Habitat
 - Swift Parrot Future Potential Habitat (Areas to be Revegetated)
 - Corben's Long-eared Bat Existing Potential Habitat
 - Corben's Long-eared Bat Future Potential Habitat (Areas to be Revegetated)

- Threatened Species**
- Pale-headed Snake
 - Freckled Duck
 - Black-necked Stork
 - Black Falcon
 - Square-tailed Kite
 - White-bellied Sea-eagle
 - Spotted Harrier
 - Little Eagle
 - Little Lorikeet
 - Blue-winged Parrot
 - Turquoise Parrot
 - Swift Parrot
 - Masked Owl
 - Barking Owl
 - Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
 - Speckled Warbler

- Southern Whiteface
- Painted Honeyeater
- Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
- Flame Robin
- Scarlet Robin
- Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies)
- Varied Sittella
- Dusky Woodswallow
- Diamond Firetail
- Koala
- Yellow-bellied Shearwater
- Large Bent-winged Bat
- Corben's Long-eared Bat
- Large-eared Pied Bat
- Greater Broad-nosed Bat
- Little Pied Bat
- Eastern Cave Bat

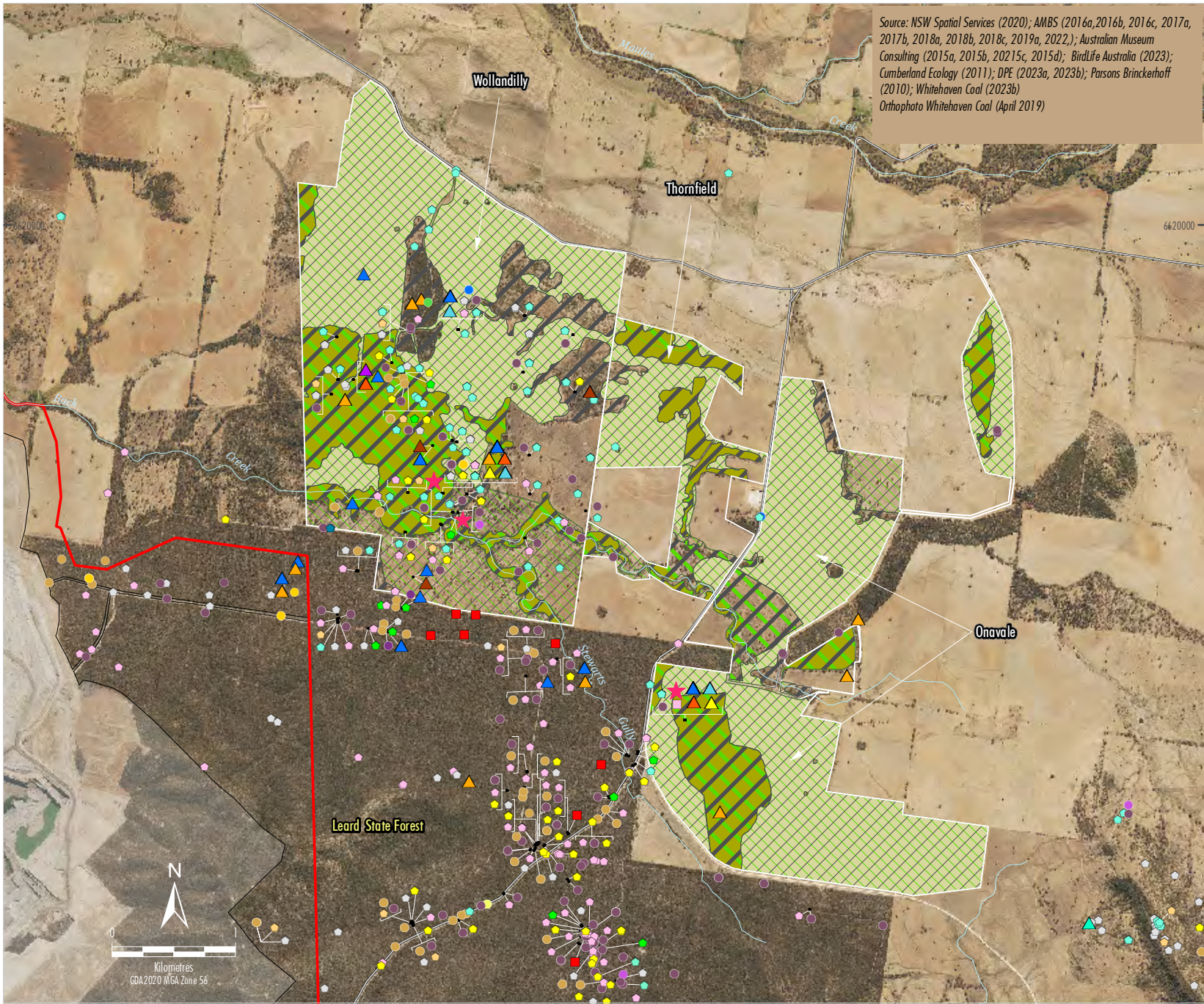
Source: NSW Spatial Services (2020); AMBS (2016a, 2016b, 2016c, 2017a, 2017b, 2018a, 2018b, 2018c, 2022); Atlas of Living Australia (2023); Australian Museum Consulting (2015a, 2015b, 2015c, 2015d); BirdLife Australia (2023); Cumberland Ecology (2011); DPE (2023a, 2023b); Parsons Brinckerhoff (2010); Whitehaven Coal (2023b) Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)

WHITEHAVEN COAL

MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Threatened Fauna -
Kelso, Velyama, Louenville, Teston South,
Teston North and Tralee**

Figure 7a



Source: NSW Spatial Services (2020); AMBS (2016a, 2016b, 2016c, 2017a, 2017b, 2018a, 2018b, 2018c, 2019a, 2022); Australian Museum Consulting (2015a, 2015b, 2015c, 2015d); BirdLife Australia (2023); Cumberland Ecology (2011); DPE (2023a, 2023b); Parsons Brinckerhoff (2010); Whitehaven Coal (2023b); Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)

- LEGEND**
- MCCM Project Boundary
 - Approximate Extent of Existing/Approved Surface Development
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Regent Honeyeater Existing Potential Habitat
 - Regent Honeyeater Future Potential Habitat (Areas to be Revegetated)
 - Swift Parrot Existing Potential Habitat
 - Swift Parrot Future Potential Habitat (Areas to be Revegetated)
 - Carben's Long-eared Bat Existing Potential Habitat
 - Carben's Long-eared Bat Future Potential Habitat (Areas to be Revegetated)
- Threatened Species**
- ★ Pale-headed Snake
 - Spotted Harrier
 - Little Eagle
 - South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo
 - Little Lorikeet
 - Turquoise Parrot
 - Swift Parrot
 - Masked Owl
 - Barking Owl
 - Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
 - Speckled Warbler
 - Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern subspecies)
 - Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
 - Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies)
 - Varied Sittella
 - Dusky Woodswallow
 - Diamond Firetail
 - Koala
 - Squirrel Glider
 - ▲ Grey-headed Flying-fox
 - ▲ Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail-bat
 - ▲ Large Bent-winged Bat
 - ▲ Carben's Long-eared Bat
 - ▲ Large-eared Pied Bat
 - ▲ Eastern False Pipistrelle
 - ▲ Greater Broad-nosed Bat
 - ▲ Eastern Cave Bat

WHITEHAVEN COAL

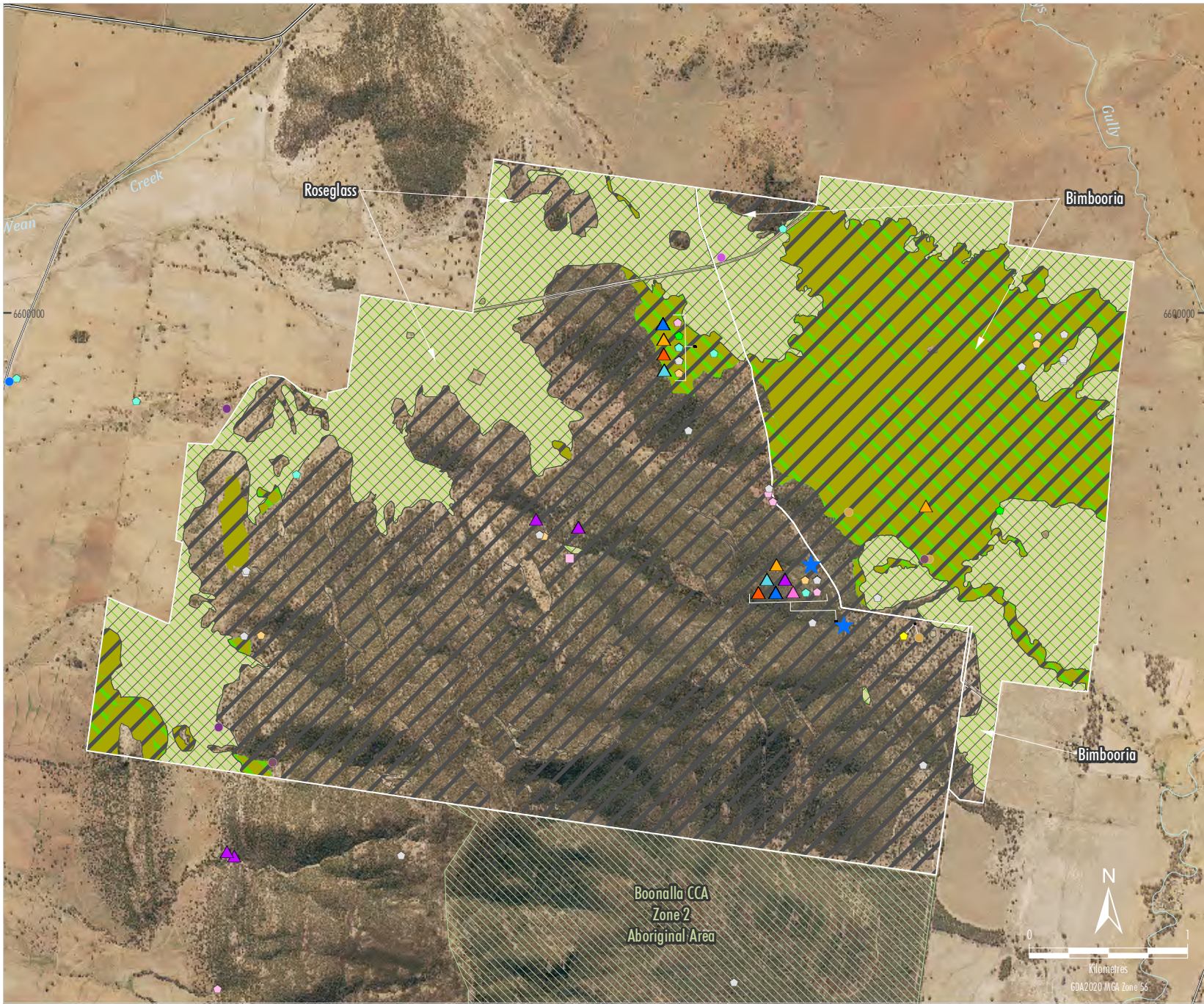
MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Threatened Fauna - Wollandilly, Thornfield and Onavale

Figure 7b

WHC-20-74_BMP24_223B



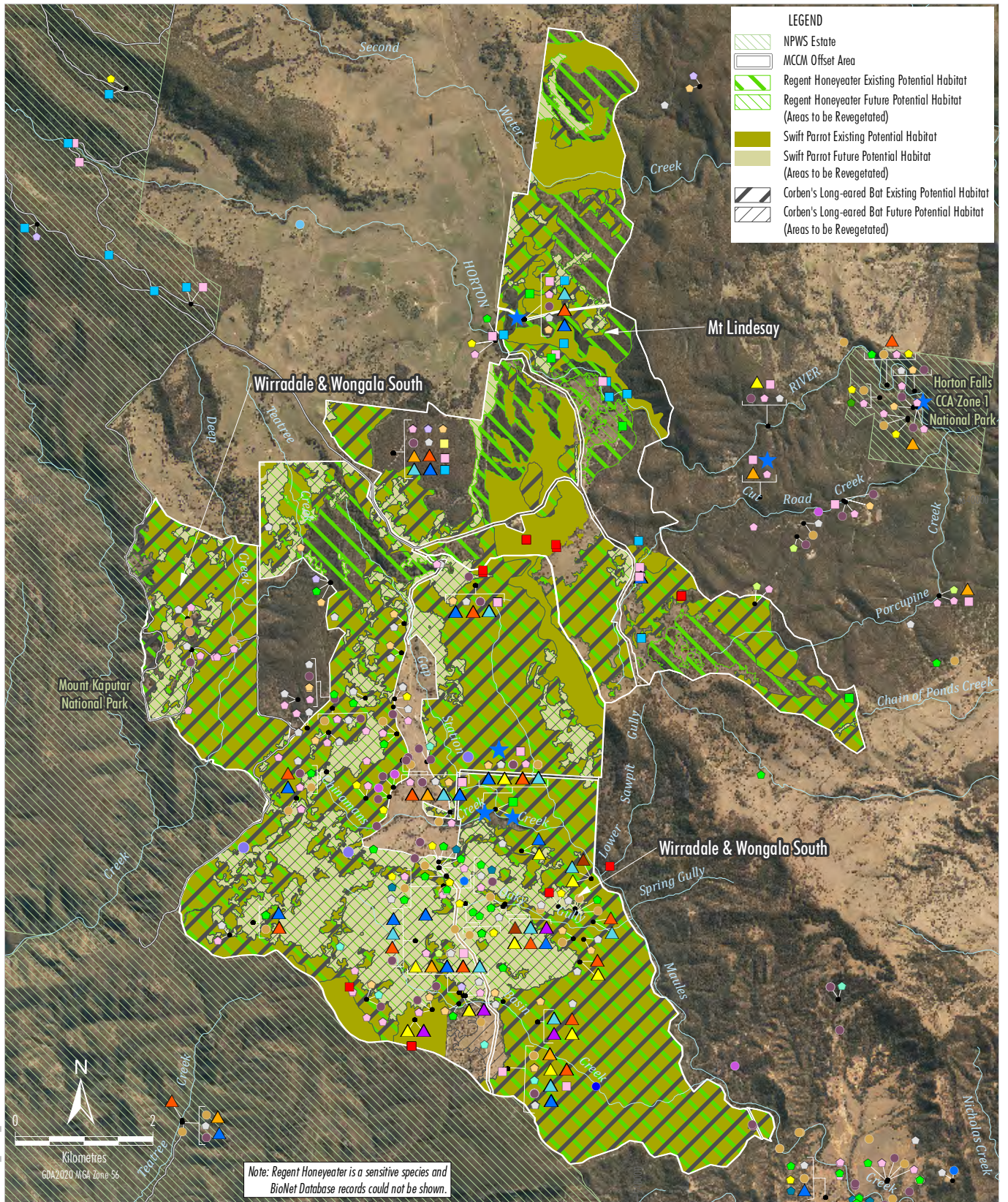


- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Regent Honeyeater Existing Potential Habitat
 - Regent Honeyeater Future Potential Habitat (Areas to be Revegetated)
 - Swift Parrot Existing Potential Habitat
 - Swift Parrot Future Potential Habitat (Areas to be Revegetated)
 - Corben's Long-eared Bat Existing Potential Habitat
 - Corben's Long-eared Bat Future Potential Habitat (Areas to be Revegetated)
- Threatened Species**
- Border Thick-tailed Gecko
 - Spotted Harrier
 - Little Lorikeet
 - Turquoise Parrot
 - Swift Parrot
 - Masked Owl
 - Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
 - Speckled Warbler
 - Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies)
 - Varied Sittella
 - Dusky Woodswallow
 - Diamond Firetail
 - Squirrel Glider
 - Yellow-bellied Sheathtail-bat
 - Large Bent-winged Bat
 - Corben's Long-eared Bat
 - Large-eared Pied Bat
 - Little Pied Bat
 - Eastern Cave Bat

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2020); AMBS (2016a, 2016b, 2016c, 2017a, 2017b, 2017d, 2018a, 2018b, 2018c, 2022); Australian Museum Consulting (2015a, 2015b, 2015c, 2015d); DPE (2023b); Ecoplanning (2021c); Niche (2012a); Whitehaven Coal (2023b)
 Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)

Figure 7c

WHC-20-74_BMP24_225B



WMC-20-74_BMP24_2268

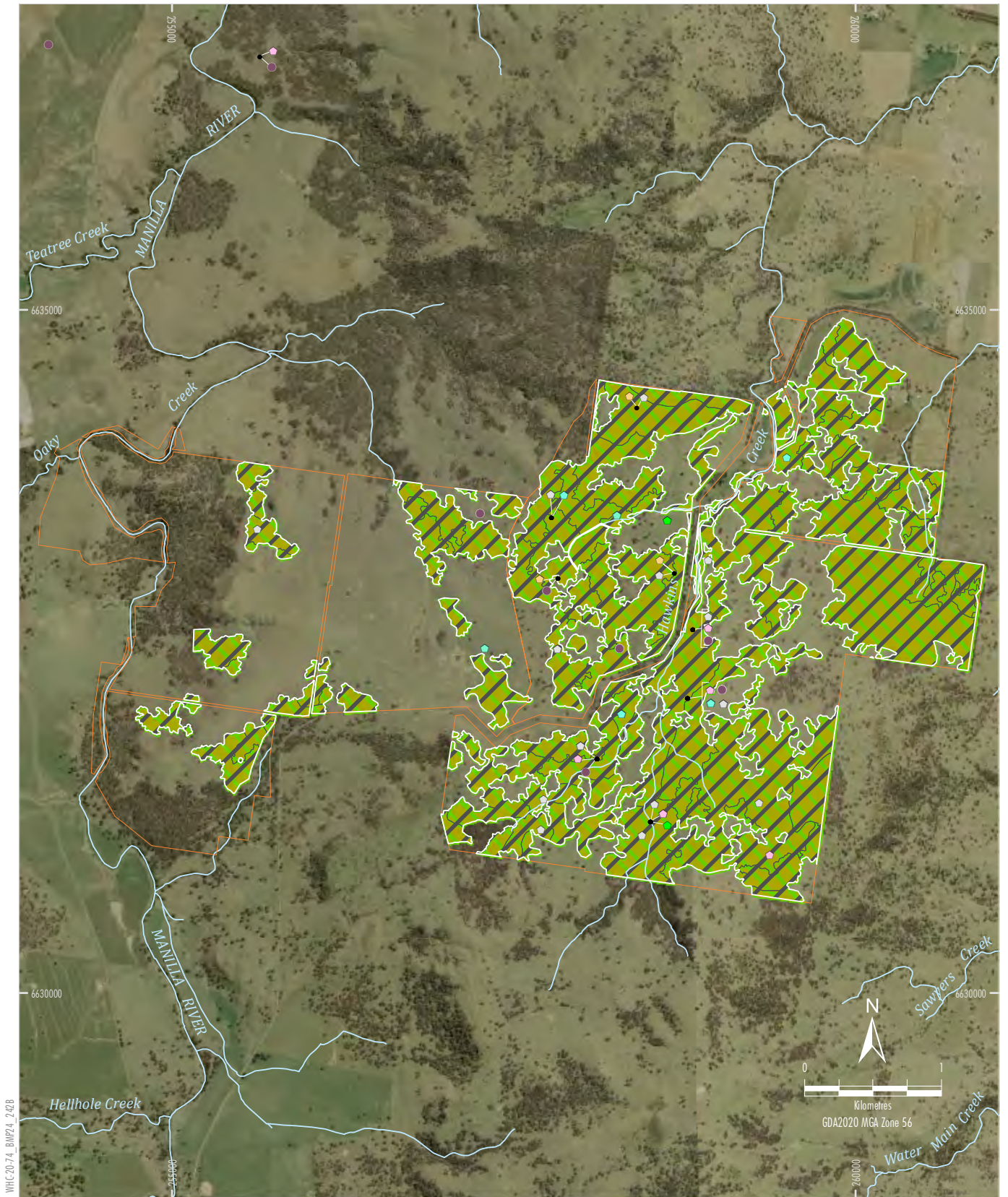
Threatened Species

- | | |
|---|---|
| ★ Border Thick-tailed Gecko | ◊ Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies) |
| ● Australian Brush-turkey population in the Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions | ◊ Varied Sittella |
| ● Black Falcon | ● Dusky Woodswallow |
| ● Spotted Harrier | ● Diamond Firetail |
| ● Little Lorikeet | ● Spotted-tailed Quoll |
| ● Turquoise Parrot | ■ Koala |
| ● Swift Parrot | ■ Yellow-bellied Glider |
| ● Powerful Owl | ■ Squirrel Glider |
| ◊ White-throated Needletail | ■ Greater Glider (southern and central) |
| ◊ Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern) | ▲ Yellow-bellied Shearwater |
| ◊ Speckled Warbler | ▲ Large Bent-winged Bat |
| ◊ Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern subspecies) | ▲ Corben's Long-eared Bat |
| ◊ Hooded Robin (south-eastern) | ▲ Large-eared Pied Bat |
| ◊ Flame Robin | ▲ Eastern False Pipistrelle |
| ◊ Scarlet Robin | ▲ Greater Broad-nosed Bat |
| | ▲ Eastern Cave Bat |

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2020); AMBS (2016a; 2016b; 2016c; 2017a; 2017b; 2018a; 2018b; 2018c; 2019a; 2021; 2023a; 2023b); Australian Museum Consulting (2015b; 2015c; 2015d; 2015e); DPE (2023b); EcoPlanning (2022); Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (2020)
 Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)

WHITEHAVEN COAL
MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Threatened Fauna -
Mt Lindesay, Wirradale and Wongala South






Figure 7d



Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021); DPE (2023b); Whitehaven Coal (2023b)

Figure 7e

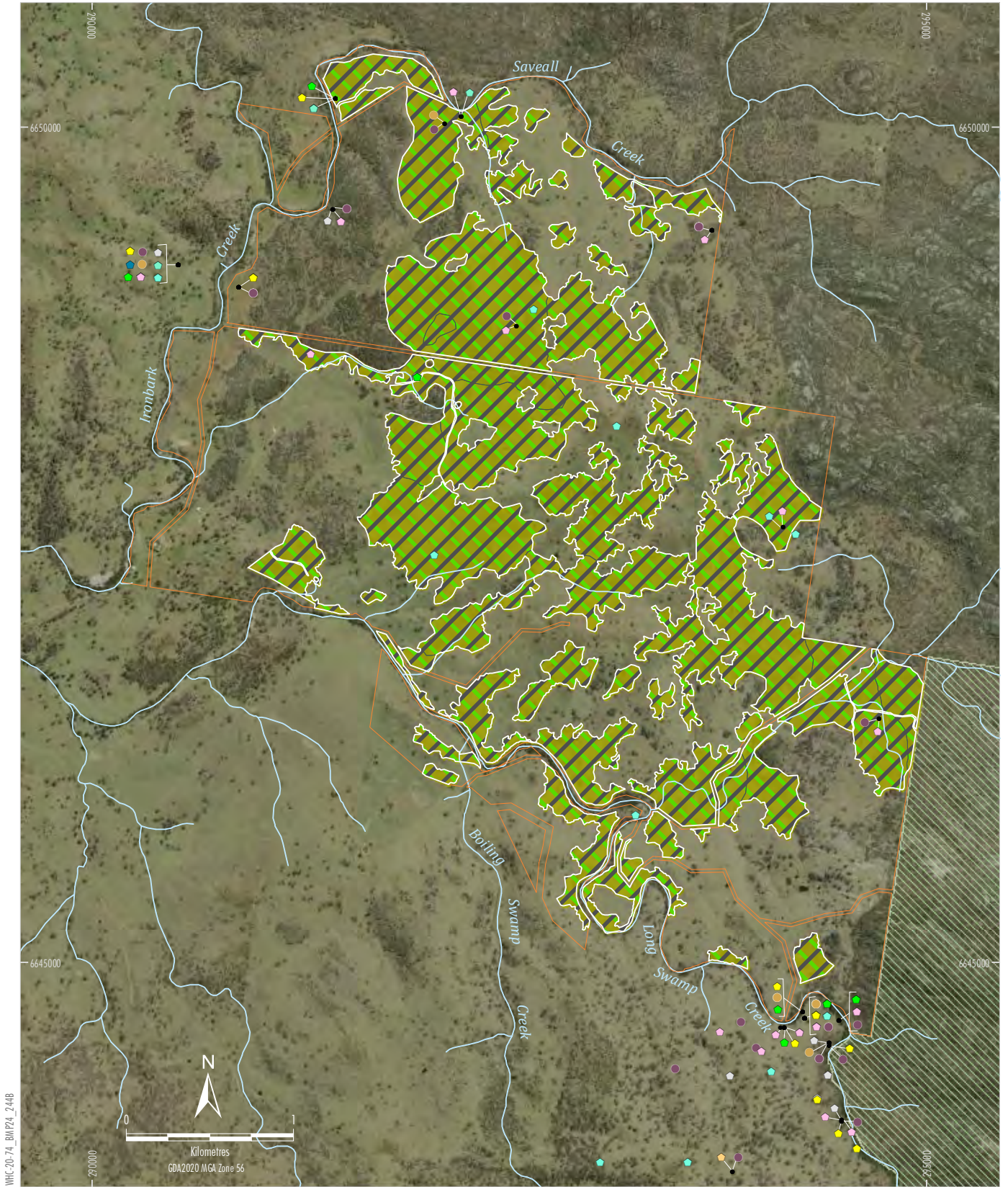
LEGEND

-  Property Boundary
-  MCM Offset Area
-  Regent Honeyeater Existing Potential Habitat
-  Swift Parrot Existing Potential Habitat
-  Corben's Long-eared Bat Existing Potential Habitat

Threatened Species

-  Little Lorikeet
-  Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
-  Speckled Warbler
-  Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern subspecies)
-  Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies)
-  Varied Sittella
-  Diamond Firetail

WHC-20-74_BMP24_2428



MHC-20-74_BMP24_2-4B

LEGEND

- NPWS Estate
- Property Boundary
- MCCM Offset Area
- Regent Honeyeater Existing Potential Habitat
- Swift Parrot Existing Potential Habitat
- Corben's Long-eared Bat Existing Potential Habitat

Threatened Species

- Little Lorikeet
- Turquoise Parrot
- Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
- Speckled Warbler
- Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern subspecies)
- Hooded Robin (south-eastern)
- Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies)
- Varied Sittella
- Dusky Woodswallow
- Diamond Firetail

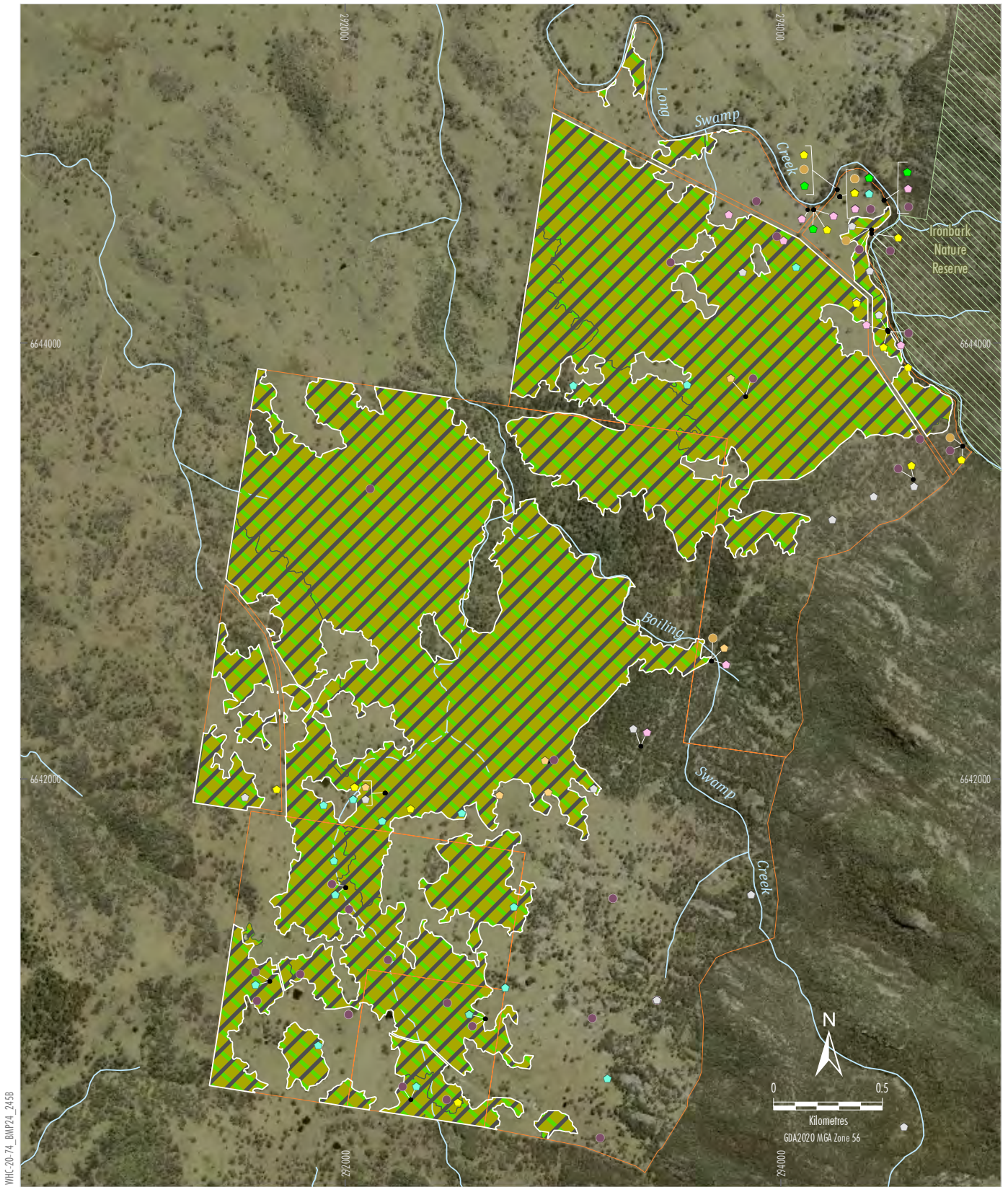
Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021);
DPE (2023b); Whitehaven (2023b)



MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Threatened Fauna -
Neranghi North**

Figure 7f



WHC-20-74_BMP24_245B

LEGEND

- NPWS Estate
- Property Boundary
- MCCM Offset Area
- Regent Honeyeater Existing Potential Habitat
- Swift Parrot Existing Potential Habitat
- Corben's Long-eared Bat Existing Potential Habitat

Threatened Species

- Little Lorikeet
- Turquoise Parrot
- Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
- Speckled Warbler
- Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern subspecies)
- Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies)
- Varied Sittella
- Dusky Woodswallow
- Diamond Firetail

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021);
DPE (2023b); Whitehaven (2023b)



MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Threatened Fauna -
Coonor**

Figure 7g




WHC20-74_BMP24_2438

- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - Property Boundary
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Regent Honeyeater Existing Potential Habitat
 - Swift Parrot Existing Potential Habitat
 - Corben's Long-eared Bat Existing Potential Habitat

- Threatened Species**
- Little Lorikeet
 - Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern)
 - Speckled Warbler
 - Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern subspecies)
 - Varied Sittella
 - Dusky Woodswallow

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021); DPE (2023b); Whitehaven (2023b)

Figure 7h


| | | | |
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Some of the offset areas adjoin NSW National Park and other Reserves, for example, the Louenville, Teston North and Teston South offset areas border the Leard Community Conservation Area (CCA) Zone 3 State Conservation Area; the Velyama offset area borders the Leard State Forest; the Roseglass and Bimbooria offset areas are directly north of the Boonalla CCA Zone 2 Aboriginal Area; the Mt Lindesay and Wirradale and Wongala South offset areas border Mount Kaputar National Park; and the Neranghi North and Coonoor offset area border Ironbark Nature Reserve (plus Long Gully surrounds the Stone Woman Aboriginal Area). Ongoing discussions will be held with the NPWS to investigate the potential to add areas to NSW National Park and Reserves.

In relation to the relevant history of the offset areas subject to EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566, it is noted that:

- an independent review was carried out pursuant to Conditions 10 and 11 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 for the purpose of verifying the quantity and condition class of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC and the quantity and quality of habitat for the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Corben's Long-eared Bat within the offset areas specified at Attachment B to EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 and additional offset areas. The "Independent Peer Review of Offsets for the Maules Creek Mine Project – EPBC 2010/5566" reports (Greenloaning Biostudies, 2013 and 2014) were submitted to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and are both published on the Whitehaven website;
- an additional independent review of a vegetation mapping report and habitat mapping report was carried out pursuant to condition 11A of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 for the purpose of verifying the quantity and condition class of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC and the quantity and quality of habitat for the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Corben's Long-eared Bat within proposed additional offset areas (being Triangle, Long Gully, Neranghi North, Coonoor and Thornfield). The "Additional Offset Areas Vegetation Mapping" report (AMBS, 2021b) and "Additional Offset Areas Habitat Mapping" report (AMBS, 2021d) which were subject to additional independent review and approved by a delegate of the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment on 9 November 2023 pursuant to condition 11A of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566, are also published on the Whitehaven website; and
- for the purpose of complying with the requirements of condition 9 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 (and condition 44 in Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138), the package of offset areas now includes the approved additional offset areas of Triangle, Long Gully, Neranghi North, Coonoor and Thornfield (see Table 4-1 above).

In addition to land-based offset areas, MCC will continue to provide \$2.5 million of funding as required by Conditions 15 and 16 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 and in accordance with approved funding schedules. Condition 15 requires the investment of \$1 million for research on methodologies for achieving rehabilitation and restoration of the *White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland Critically Endangered Ecological Community* (Box-Gum Woodland CEEC). To date, a total of \$440,000 of funding has been provided to meet Condition 15. Condition 16 requires the investment of \$1.5 million to deliver activities that implement priority recovery actions for the Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*), Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) and the Corben's Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus corbeni*) (formerly known as the Greater or South-eastern Long-eared Bat). All of this funding has been provided to meet Condition 16 and the approved funding schedule.

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In accordance with approved Research Project Plans, Maules Creek Coal funded the following activities to date:

- To manage Swift Parrot mainland winter monitoring program, implementing new survey protocols to evaluate habitat use and movement patterns across south-east Australia as well as for annual spring surveys at potential Swift Parrot foraging habitat sites across their breeding range in Tasmania;
- For targeted surveys of Regent Honeyeater; nest-protection measures (including designing, installation and undertaking surveys) and Noisy Miner management plus the coordination of range-wide volunteer surveys, newsletter and maintenance of sightings database and coordination and fieldwork for captive release program;
- For critical habitat mapping and genetic testing across its entire range for the Corben's (formerly South-eastern) Long-eared Bat as well as radio tracking of habitat and roost usage research and continuing development of acoustic techniques for *Nyctophilus* species call identification; and
- Including investigation of the root architecture of Box Gum Woodland species and the effect of soil depth/structure plus assessment of the seed bank within natural and stockpiled soil samples that identified a range of native species that likely to persist within soil stockpiles and have potential to transfer to the rehabilitation areas; as well as what management strategies can be implemented to maximise the native seed bank within topsoil onsite.


4.2 EXTENT AND CONDITION OF VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

AMBS Ecology and Heritage Pty Ltd (AMBS) (2021a; 2021b) (Appendices C and D) undertook surveys of the vegetation communities in the offset areas. The survey methodology by AMBS (2021a) included 130 full floristic 20 m x 20 m quadrats (nested within a 20 m x 50 m transect) and 271 rapid data points. The survey methodology by AMBS (2021b) included 55 full floristic 20 m x 20 m quadrats (nested within a 20 m x 50 m transect) and 91 rapid data points. Cluster analysis of full floristic plot data was undertaken (AMBS, 2021a; 2021b).

The identification of threatened ecological communities was undertaken in accordance with the relevant listings under the EPBC Act and BC Act. The co-ordinate location of all surveys sites and photo reference points is provided in Appendix E.

Assignment of vegetation communities to Plant Community Types (PCTs), the master community-level typology used in NSWs vegetation mapping programs, was based on the published descriptions and associated data for PCTs included in the *BioNet Vegetation Classification Database* (DPIE, 2020). The extent and condition (i.e. woodland or derived native grassland condition) of all vegetation communities are shown on Figures 5a to 5h.

The reports in Appendices C and D provide a description of the structure and floristics of each PCT. The tree age class of each PCT is variable across the offset areas depending on the amount of prior vegetation clearance from agricultural land use.

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4.3 EXTENT AND CONDITION CLASS OF BOX-GUM WOODLAND CEEC

A Guide to Managing Box Gum Grassy Woodlands (Rawlings *et al.*, 2010) (referenced in EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566) describes the different condition states (as reflected by disturbance, inputs and altered land use) in which a given vegetation can exist. State and Transition Models are based on the assumption that an ecosystem exists in a relatively stable state until a significant disturbance causes a transition to another state. The methodology and results of the surveys are consistent with the Box-Gum Woodland State and Transition Model as described below.

The *Conservation Advice for the White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland* (Cth DCCEEW, 2023a) notes:

Rumpff et al. (2011) and Good et al. (2021) have since updated and refined state and transition models for grassy eucalypt woodlands across southern Australia. These models show the non-linear and multidirectional nature of interactions between different states. Good et al. (2021) provide a management guide to help with decisions about appropriate actions to undertake (e.g. to improve condition of a site to transition it into another state, or to maintain in a state), or avoid (e.g. to prevent transitions to a more degraded state), for patches in different states.

During the surveys of the vegetation in the offset areas, AMBS (2021a; 2021b) identified the extent and condition class of all areas of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the EPBC Act as woodland or derived native grassland.

Areas with the potential to fit the criteria for the Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the EPBC Act were sampled with both full floristic 20 m x 20 m quadrats (nested within a 20 m x 50 m transect) and rapid data points. A cluster analysis of full floristic plot data was undertaken. The identification of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the EPBC Act was undertaken in accordance with the *Commonwealth Listing Advice on White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland* (TSSC, 2006).

The Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the EPBC Act is shown on Figures 5a to 5h. Table 4-2 provides a summary of the condition classes³ of the Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the EPBC Act within the offset areas. Plates 1 and 2 show examples of the Box-Gum Woodland CEEC in the offset areas.

³ **Condition class** – One of three states in which the Box-Gum Woodland CEEC may exist, as defined within the Commonwealth listing advice for the listing of this ecological community as critically endangered under the EPBC Act.


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Table 4-2
Box-Gum Woodland CEEC Listed Under the EPBC Act in the Offset Areas Approved under EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566

| Offset Area | Woodland Form of the Box-Gum Woodland CEEC Listed under the EPBC Act (ha) | Derived Grassland Form of the Box-Gum Woodland CEEC Listed under the EPBC Act (ha) | Total (ha) |
|-----------------------------|---|--|----------------|
| Kelso | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Velyama | 58.8 | 3 | 61.8 |
| Louenville | 36 | 0 | 36 |
| Teston South | 63.1 | 17.6 | 80.7 |
| Wollandilly | 52.3 | 17.3 | 69.6 |
| Onavale | 10.3 | 30 | 40.3 |
| Roseglass | 19.5 | 94.3 | 113.8 |
| Bimbooria | 212.9 | 160.3 | 373.2 |
| Wirradale and Wongala South | 729.8 | 970.9 | 1,700.7 |
| Mt Lindesay | 660.9 | 219.2 | 880.1 |
| Thornfield | 7.3 | 5.4 | 12.7 |
| Long Gully | 352.9 | 0 | 352.9 |
| Neranghi North | 567 | 0 | 567 |
| Triangle | 741.9 | 0 | 741.9 |
| Coonoor | 573.9 | 0 | 573.9 |
| Total | 4,090.6 | 1,518 | 5,608.6 |



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Plate 1 Example of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC in the Offset Areas
Source AMBS (2021a)



Plate 2 Example of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC in the Offset Areas
Source AMBS (2021a)



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Table 4-3 provides the Condition States of Box-Gum Woodland according to the State and Transition Model in *A Guide to Managing Box Gum Grassy Woodlands* (Rawlings *et al.*, 2010).

Table 4-3
Condition States of Box-Gum Woodland According to the State and Transition Model

| State* | General Description* | Extent and Condition |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| State 1. Grassy woodlands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eucalypts spaced as woodland Large and medium tussock grasses High diversity of grasses and herbs All native species Mostly perennial, few annuals Regeneration present | The areas of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the EPBC Act in woodland form on Figures 5a to 5h are considered to be State 1, noting that areas that contain “all native species” rarely occur. Additionally, the proportion of annuals in the woodland and grassland forms is not significantly different. |
| State 2. Native pastures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eucalypts generally present Medium and small tussock grasses High diversity of grasses and herbs Mostly native species, some exotics Many native annuals Regeneration usually present | The areas of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the EPBC Act in grassland form on Figures 5a to 5h are considered to be State 2, with ability to transition to State 1 with grazing removed and assisted natural regeneration. |
| State 3. Fertilised pastures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eucalypts scattered or absent Few small perennial tussock grasses Low diversity of grasses and herbs Mostly exotic species Annuals tend to dominate Few native species regenerating | The areas of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the BC Act in woodland form on Figures 5a to 5h (that is not of sufficient condition to be listed under the EPBC Act due to exotic species) are considered to be State 3, with ability to transition to State 2 with management of weeds and grazing. |
| State 4. Crops and sown pastures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eucalypts very scattered or absent Dominated by sown species Mostly exotic annual species Few or no native species present Native generally not regenerating | A portion of areas mapped as ‘not native’ on Figures 5a to 5h are likely to have been formerly Box-Gum Woodland CEEC and are considered State 4. |
| State 5. Revegetated areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over storey planted at high densities Large perennial exotic grasses dominant Very low diversity of grasses and herbs Little or no regeneration of native species | Some areas mapped as Box-Gum Woodland CEEC listed under the EPBC Act in grassland form may be classified as State 5 due to plantings. |

* Rawlings *et al.*, (2010)

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4.4 SURVEYS TARGETING THE REGENT HONEYEATER, SWIFT PARROT AND CORBEN'S LONG-EARED BAT

Surveys targeting the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Corben's Long-eared Bat were undertaken by Australian Museum Consulting Pty Ltd (Australian Museum Consulting) (2015a, 2015b, 2015c and 2015d), and subsequently as part of the fauna monitoring program. The baseline surveys were undertaken in accordance with the *Survey Guidelines for Australia's Threatened Birds* (DEWHA, 2010a) and the *Survey Guidelines for Australian Threatened Bats* (DEWHA, 2010b).

Baseline bird surveys in all offset areas (except Thornfield, Long Gully, Neranghi North, Triangle and Coonoor) were undertaken in November 2014, February 2015, May 2015 and August 2015 (Australian Museum Consulting, 2015a, 2015b, 2015c and 2015d). Bat survey methods (harp traps) were undertaken between October 2014 and April 2015 to target the Corben's Long-eared Bat. The co-ordinate location of baseline surveys sites is provided in Appendix E.

Baseline surveys in the remaining additional offset areas (Long Gully, Neranghi North, Triangle and Coonoor) targeting the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot were undertaken by EcoPlanning Pty Ltd (EcoPlanning) (2022 and 2023a) in July/August 2021 and June/July 2022 (a habitat assessment was undertaken in Thornfield due to the smaller quantity of habitat compared to other offset areas); while surveys for Corben's Long-eared Bat on Thornfield, Long Gully, Neranghi North, Triangle and Coonoor were undertaken by AMBS in January 2024.


4.5 EXTENT AND QUALITY OF ALL AREAS OF HABITAT AND FUTURE POTENTIAL HABITAT FOR THE REGENT HONEYEATER, SWIFT PARROT AND CORBEN'S LONG-EARED BAT

During the baseline surveys, the Corben's Long-eared Bat was recorded on MCCM offset areas including Kelso (in November 2014), Wirradale and Wongala South (in November 2015), Coonoor and Long Gully (both in January 2024). This species has since been recorded in numerous other locations and the records of the species are shown on Figures 7a to 7d.

The Regent Honeyeater has not been recorded in the offset areas to date. A nearby record of the Regent Honeyeater is shown on Figure 7d. Swift Parrots have been detected during targeted surveys on the Wirradale and Wongala South offset area in 2018 and 2022, Bimbooria offset area in 2021 plus Wollandilly and Louenville offset areas in 2022 (Figures 7a to 7d). EcoPlanning (2023a) did not record the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot in the additional offset areas (Thornfield, Long Gully, Neranghi North, Triangle and Coonoor).

The area of existing potential habitat⁴ (woodland) for the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Corben's Long-eared Bat is quantified in Table 4-4 and shown in Figures 7a to 7h (and outlined in Appendices L and M).

⁴ Under EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566, "habitat" is defined to mean "areas in which a species or community is known to occur or is thought to have the potential to occur based on the biophysical conditions prevailing in the area and the ecological requirements of the species or community".

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The area of future potential habitat (areas to be revegetated) for these three species is also quantified in Table 4-4 and shown in Figures 7a to 7h. These areas contain low or moderate condition vegetation (mostly derived native grassland including some areas with scattered trees) and will be revegetated (i.e. self-sustaining vegetation communities will be restored) and managed in accordance with this BMP so that these areas provide potential habitat for the three species.

Active revegetation has been undertaken since 2016 as described in Section 5.4. Sections 5.16 and 5.17 provide measures to monitor the performance of the revegetation against performance criteria.

4.6 OTHER THREATENED SPECIES

The area of existing and future potential habitat for *Tylophora linearis* is quantified in Table 4-4. The extent of existing and future potential habitat for *Tylophora linearis* is shown on Figures 6a to 6g. These figures also show the areas undergoing active revegetation for *Tylophora linearis*.

In accordance with Condition 49 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138, the Biodiversity Offset Strategy and Rehabilitation Strategy is focused on protection, rehabilitation and long-term maintenance of viable stands of suitable habitat for threatened species within the MCCM Project Boundary and surrounds.

To date, a total of 45 threatened species have been recorded within the offset areas or have database records that plot within the offset areas (listed in Table 4-5 and shown on Figures 6a to 6g and 7a to 7h) comprising:

- eight threatened flora species (two under the BC Act, one under the EPBC Act and five listed under the BC Act and EPBC Act);
- two threatened reptile species (one under the BC Act, the other listed under the BC Act and EPBC Act);
- 22 threatened bird species (14 listed under the BC Act, one under the EPBC Act and seven listed under the BC Act and EPBC Act);
- five threatened terrestrial and arboreal mammals (two listed under the BC Act and three listed under the BC Act and EPBC Act); and
- eight threatened bat species (six listed under the BC Act and two listed under the BC Act and EPBC Act).

The offset areas provide potential habitat for a further two threatened bird species listed under the BC Act and two migratory bird species (Table 4-5).



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Table 4-4

Potential Habitat for Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Corben's Long-eared Bat and *Tylophora linearis* in the Offset Areas Approved under EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566

| Offset Area | Regent Honeyeater (ha) ¹ | | | Swift Parrot (ha) ¹ | | | Corben's Long-eared Bat (ha) ¹ | | | Total Existing and Future Potential Habitat for <i>Tylophora linearis</i> (ha) ² |
|-----------------------------|--|---|----------------|--|---|----------------|--|---|----------------|---|
| | Existing Potential Habitat (Woodland) (ha) | Future Potential Habitat (Areas to be Revegetated) (ha) | Total (ha) | Existing Potential Habitat (Woodland) (ha) | Future Potential Habitat (Areas to be Revegetated) (ha) | Total (ha) | Existing Potential Habitat (Woodland) (ha) | Future Potential Habitat (Areas to be Revegetated) (ha) | Total (ha) | |
| Kelso | 320.6 | 54.3 | 374.9 | 327.7 | 54.3 | 382 | 327.7 | 54.3 | 382 | 419.3 |
| Velyama | 128.9 | 97.4 | 226.3 | 133.3 | 97.4 | 230.7 | 142.2 | 97.4 | 239.6 | 530.6 |
| Louenville | 186.2 | 0 | 186.2 | 186.9 | 0 | 186.9 | 186.9 | 0 | 186.9 | 204.7 |
| Teston South | 215.3 | 51.8 | 267.1 | 228.8 | 51.8 | 280.6 | 238.9 | 51.8 | 290.7 | 291.6 |
| Wollandilly | 185.5 | 466.2 | 651.7 | 185.5 | 350.3 | 535.8 | 276.1 | 466.2 | 742.3 | 539.6 |
| Onavale | 123.9 | 106.5 | 230.4 | 95.1 | 86.8 | 181.9 | 139.4 | 106.5 | 245.9 | 181.3 |
| Roseglass | 35.1 | 304.5 | 339.6 | 55.9 | 304.5 | 360.4 | 1,109.4 | 304.5 | 1,413.9 | 1,172.1 |
| Bimbooria | 267.2 | 217.3 | 484.5 | 364 | 217.3 | 581.3 | 405.1 | 217.3 | 622.4 | 520.8 |
| Wirradale and Wongala South | 3,027.5 | 1,165.1 | 4,192.6 | 2,975.4 | 1,158.1 | 4,133.5 | 2,864.1 | 1,193.7 | 4,057.8 | 704.7 |
| Mt Lindesay | 1,212.8 | 171.3 | 1,384.1 | 1,110 | 126.2 | 1,236.2 | 686.6 | 83.2 | 769.8 | 392.5 |
| Thornfield | 61 | 84.4 | 145.4 | 61 | 75.6 | 136.6 | 61 | 84.4 | 145.4 | 99.8 |
| Long Gully | 330.7 | 0 | 330.7 | 352.9 | 0 | 352.9 | 330.7 | 0 | 330.7 | 0 |



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Table 4-4 (Continued)

Potential Habitat for Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Corben's Long-eared Bat and *Tylophora linearis* in the Offset Areas Approved under EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566

| Offset Area | Regent Honeyeater (ha) ¹ | | | Swift Parrot (ha) ¹ | | | Corben's Long-eared Bat (ha) ¹ | | | Total Existing and Future Potential Habitat for <i>Tylophora linearis</i> (ha) ² |
|----------------|--|---|-----------------|--|---|-----------------|--|---|-----------------|---|
| | Existing Potential Habitat (Woodland) (ha) | Future Potential Habitat (Areas to be Revegetated) (ha) | Total (ha) | Existing Potential Habitat (Woodland) (ha) | Future Potential Habitat (Areas to be Revegetated) (ha) | Total (ha) | Existing Potential Habitat (Woodland) (ha) | Future Potential Habitat (Areas to be Revegetated) (ha) | Total (ha) | |
| Neranghi North | 567 | 0 | 567 | 567 | 0 | 567 | 567 | 0 | 567 | 107.9 |
| Triangle | 741.9 | 0 | 741.9 | 741.9 | 0 | 741.9 | 741.9 | 0 | 741.9 | 39.9 |
| Coonoor | 573.9 | 0 | 573.9 | 573.9 | 0 | 573.9 | 573.9 | 0 | 573.9 | 82.7 |
| Total | 7,977.5 | 2,718.8 | 10,696.3 | 7,959.3 | 2,522.3 | 10,481.6 | 8,650.9 | 2,659.3 | 11,310.2 | 5,287.5 |

¹ AMBS (2021c; 2021d)

² Hunter Eco (2021)

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**Table 4-5
Threatened and Migratory Species and/or Their Habitat in the Offset Areas**

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Conservation Status ¹ | | Occurrence |
|---|---|----------------------------------|----------|---|
| | | BC Act | EPBC Act | |
| Flora | | | | |
| Dungowan Starbush | <i>Asterolasia beckersii</i> | CE | CE | Database records of this species occur within the Roseglass Offset Area (NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (NSW DCCEE, 2024)). These records are attributed to surveys undertaken by Niche Environment and Heritage (Niche) in 2012 for the Roseglass Offset Area Flora and Fauna Assessment in which <i>Asterolasia sp. Kelvin</i> was recorded (Niche, 2012) (Figure 6c). |
| - | <i>Callistemon pungens</i> | - | V | There are records of this species within the Wirradale & Wongala South Offset Area (Figure 6d). |
| Bluegrass | <i>Dichanthium setosum</i> | V | V | There are records of this species in Velyama, Teston South, Wollandilly, Wirradale & Wongala South, Mt Lindesay and Coonoor Offset Areas (Figures 6a, 6b, 6d and 6g). |
| Finger Panic Grass | <i>Digitaria porrecta</i> | E | - | There are records of this species within the Velyama, Louenville, Teston South, Teston North and Wollandilly Offset Areas (Figures 6a and 6b). |
| Granite Homoranthus | <i>Homoranthus prolixus</i> | V | V | There are records of this species within the Roseglass Offset Area (Figure 6c). |
| Scant Pomaderris | <i>Pomaderris queenslandica</i> | E | - | There are records of this species within the Kelso, Louenville, Teston South and Wollandilly Offset Areas (Figures 6a and 6b). |
| Austral Toadflax | <i>Thesium australe</i> | V | V | There are records of this species within the Wirradale & Wongala South, Mt Lindesay and Coonoor Offset Areas (Figures 6d and 6g). |
| - | <i>Tylophora linearis</i> | V | E | There are records of this species within the Teston South, Teston North, Kelso, Wollandilly, Thornfield, Onavale, Bimbooria and Coonoor Offset Areas (Figures 6a to 6c and 6g). It was also recorded outside of the Wirradale and Wongala South Offset Area (Figure 6d). The existing and future potential habitat for <i>Tylophora linearis</i> is also quantified in Table 4-4. |
| Reptiles | | | | |
| Border Thick-tailed Gecko | <i>Uvidicolus sphyrurus</i> | V | V | There are records of this species within the Roseglass, Wirradale & Wongala South and Mt Lindesay Offset Areas (Figures 7c and 7d). |
| Pale-headed Snake | <i>Hoplocephalus bitorquatus</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Louenville, Teston North, Wollandilly and Onavale Offset Areas (Figures 7a and 7b). |
| Birds | | | | |
| Australian Brush-turkey population in the Nandewar and Brigalow Belt South Bioregions | <i>Alectura lathami - endangered population</i> | EP | - | There are records of this species within the Wirradale & Wongala South Offset Area (Figure 7d). |
| Black-necked Stork | <i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i> | E | - | Potential habitat. |


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Table 4-5 (Continued)
Threatened and Migratory Species and/or Their Habitat in the Offset Areas

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Conservation Status ¹ | | Occurrence |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|---|
| | | BC Act | EPBC Act | |
| Birds | | | | |
| Square-tailed Kite | <i>Lophoictinia isura</i> | V | - | Potential habitat. |
| Spotted Harrier | <i>Circus assimilis</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Tralee, Wollandilly and Wirradale & Wongala South Offset Areas (Figures 7a, 7b and 7d). |
| Little Eagle | <i>Hieraetus morphnoides</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Teston South and Teston North Offset Areas (Figure 7a). |
| South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo | <i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i> | V | V | There is a record of this species within the Wollandilly Offset Area (Figure 7b) and a record of this species within the Velyama Offset Area (NSW DCCEEW, 2024). |
| Little Lorikeet | <i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Kelso, Louenville, Teston South, Teston North, Tralee, Wollandilly, Thornfield, Onavale, Roseglass, Bimbooria, Wirradale & Wongala South, Mt Lindesay, Triangle, Neranghi North, Coonoor and Long Gully Offset Areas (Figures 7a to 7h). |
| Turquoise Parrot | <i>Neophema pulchella</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Louenville, Teston South, Tralee, Wollandilly, Roseglass, Bimbooria, Wirradale & Wongala South, Neranghi North and Coonoor Offset Areas (Figures 7a to 7d, 7f, 7g). |
| Swift Parrot | <i>Lathamus discolor</i> | E | CE | Potential Habitat and Future Potential Habitat within the offset areas (Figures 7a to 7h). Records of the Swift Parrot within the Louenville, Wollandilly, Bimbooria and Wirradale & Wongala South Offset Area are shown on Figures 7a to 7d. |
| Masked Owl | <i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Louenville and Roseglass Offset Areas (Figures 7a and 7c). |
| Powerful Owl | <i>Ninox strenua</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Wirradale & Wongala South Offset Area (Figure 7d). |
| Barking Owl | <i>Ninox connivens</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Kelso, Teston North and Wollandilly Offset Areas (Figures 7a and 7b). |
| White-throated Needletail | <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i> | - | V, M | There are records of this species within the Wirradale & Wongala South and Mt Lindesay Offset Areas (Figure 7d). |
| Fork-tailed Swift | <i>Apus pacificus</i> | - | M | Potential habitat. |
| Rainbow Bee-eater | <i>Merops ornatus</i> | - | .* | This species was removed from the EPBC Act migratory species list in 2016 but was recorded within the Offset Areas (Australian Museum Consulting, 2014; Cumberland Ecology, 2011). |
| Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern) | <i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i> | V | V | There are records of this species within the Louenville, Teston South, Tralee, Wollandilly, Roseglass, Wirradale & Wongala South, Mt Lindesay, Triangle, Neranghi North, Coonoor and Long Gully Offset Areas (Figures 7a to 7h). |


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Table 4-5 (Continued)
Threatened and Migratory Species and/or Their Habitat in the Offset Areas

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Conservation Status ¹ | | Occurrence |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|--|
| | | BC Act | EPBC Act | |
| Birds | | | | |
| Speckled Warbler | <i>Chthonicola sagittata</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Kelso, Velyama, Louenville, Teston South, Teston North, Tralee, Wollandilly, Roseglass, Bimbooria, Wirradale & Wongala South, Mt Lindesay, Triangle, Neranghi North, Coonoor and Long Gully Offset Areas (Figures 7a to 7h). |
| Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern subspecies) | <i>Melithreptus gularis</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Wollandilly, Triangle, Neranghi North, Coonoor and Long Gully Offset Areas (Figures 7b, 7e to 7h). |
| Regent Honeyeater | <i>Anthochaera phrygia</i> | CE | CE | Potential Habitat and Future Potential Habitat within the offset areas (Figures 7a to 7h). There are records of this species close to the Teston North and Mt Lindesay Offset Areas (NSW DCCEEW, 2024). |
| Painted Honeyeater | <i>Grantiella picta</i> | V | V | There are records of this species within the Kelso Offset Area (Figure 7a). |
| Hooded Robin (south-eastern) | <i>Melanodryas cucullata</i> | E | E | There are records of this species within the Velyama, Teston South, Wollandilly and Wirradale & Wongala South Offset Areas (Figures 7a, 7b, 7d). |
| Scarlet Robin | <i>Petroica boodang</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Kelso, Louenville, Wirradale & Wongala South and Mt Lindesay Offset Areas (Figures 7a, 7d). |
| Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies) | <i>Pomatostomus temporalis</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Kelso, Velyama, Louenville, Teston South, Teston North, Tralee, Wollandilly, Thornfield, Onavale, Roseglass, Bimbooria, Wirradale & Wongala South, Mt Lindesay, Triangle, Neranghi North and Coonoor Offset Areas (Figures 7a to 7g). |
| Varied Sittella | <i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Kelso, Velyama, Louenville, Teston South, Wollandilly, Roseglass, Bimbooria, Wirradale & Wongala South, Mt Lindesay, Triangle, Coonoor and Long Gully Offset Areas (Figures 7a to 7e, 7g, 7h). |
| Satin Flycatcher | <i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i> | - | M | There is a record of this species within the Triangle Offset Area (NSW DCCEEW, 2024). |
| Dusky Woodswallow | <i>Artamus cyanopterus</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Velyama, Louenville, Teston South, Teston North, Tralee, Wollandilly, Roseglass, Wirradale & Wongala South, Neranghi North, Coonoor and Long Gully Offset Areas (Figures 7a to 7d, 7f to 7h). |
| Diamond Firetail | <i>Stagonopleura guttata</i> | V | V | There are records of this species within the Kelso, Louenville, Teston South, Wollandilly, Roseglass, Bimbooria, Wirradale & Wongala South, Mt Lindesay, Triangle, Neranghi North and Coonoor Offset Areas (Figures 7a to 7g). |
| Mammals | | | | |
| Spotted-tailed Quoll | <i>Dasyurus maculatus</i> | V | E | There are records of this species within the Wirradale & Wongala South and Mt Lindesay Offset Areas (Figure 7d). |


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Table 4-5 (Continued)
Threatened and Migratory Species and/or Their Habitat in the Offset Areas

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Conservation Status ¹ | | Occurrence |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|---|
| | | BC Act | EPBC Act | |
| Mammals | | | | |
| Koala | <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> | E | E | Records of the Koala are shown on Figures 7a, 7b and 7d. There are records of this species within the Wirradale & Wongala South and Mt Lindesay Offset Areas (Figure 7d). |
| Yellow-bellied Glider | <i>Petaurus australis</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Mt Lindesay Offset Area (Figure 7d). |
| Squirrel Glider | <i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Onavale, Roseglass, Wirradale & Wongala South and Mt Lindesay Offset Areas (Figures 7b to 7d). |
| Greater Glider (southern and central) | <i>Petauroides volans</i> | E | E | There are records of this species within the Mt Lindesay Offset Area (Figure 7d). |
| Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail-bat | <i>Saccolaimus flaviventris</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Kelso, Velyama, Louenville, Teston South, Teston North, Wollandilly, Onavale, Roseglass, Wirradale & Wongala South and Mt Lindesay Offset Areas (Figures 7a to 7d). |
| Large Bent-winged Bat | <i>Miniopterus orianae oceanensis</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Kelso, Velyama, Louenville, Teston South, Teston North, Wollandilly, Onavale, Roseglass, Wirradale & Wongala South and Mt Lindesay Offset Areas (Figures 7a to 7d). |
| Corben's Long-eared Bat | <i>Nyctophilus corbeni</i> | V | V | Potential Habitat and Future Potential Habitat within the offset areas (Figures 7a to 7h). There are records of this species within Kelso, Louenville, Teston South, Teston North, Wollandilly, Onavale, Roseglass, Bimbooria, Wirradale & Wongala South and Mt Lindesay Offset Areas (Figures 7a to 7d). |
| Large-eared Pied Bat | <i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i> | V | E | There are records of this species within Kelso, Velyama, Louenville, Teston North, Wollandilly, Onavale, Roseglass, Wirradale & Wongala South and Mt Lindesay Offset Areas (Figures 7a to 7d). |
| Little Pied Bat | <i>Chalinolobus picatus</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within Kelso, Louenville, Teston North and Roseglass Offset Areas (Figures 7a and 7c). |
| Eastern False Pipistrelle | <i>Falsistrellus tasmaniensis</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Wollandilly and Wirradale & Wongala South Offset Areas (Figures 7b and 7d). |
| Greater Broad-nosed Bat | <i>Scoteanax rueppellii</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within Kelso, Louenville, Teston North, Wollandilly, Onavale and Wirradale & Wongala South Offset Areas (Figures 7a, 7b, 7d). |
| Eastern Cave Bat | <i>Vespadelus troughtoni</i> | V | - | There are records of this species within the Wollandilly, Roseglass and Wirradale & Wongala South Offset Areas (Figures 7b to 7d). |

Current as of May 2024

¹ Threatened species conservation status V = Vulnerable, E = Endangered, EP = Endangered Population, CE = Critically Endangered, M = Migratory.

* The Rainbow Bee-eater was previously listed as Migratory under the EPBC Act.

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5 MANAGEMENT OF THE OFFSET AREAS

This section provides short, medium and long-term measures that will be used to manage the vegetation and habitat in the offset areas. The management regime in the offset areas will be adapted over time to achieve the ecological management objectives and targets. These measures are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timebound), as described below.

5.1 OBJECTIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE


5.1.1 Ecological Management Objectives

Table 16 under Condition 44 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138 provides for existing native woodland/forest of approximately 10,547.8 ha in the offset areas to be protected and enhanced (which includes approximately 4,114.4 ha of Box-Gum Woodland [woodland form] and approximately 17.6 ha of Belah Woodland). Table 16 under Condition 44 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138 also provides for the restoration of woodland/forest within approximately 4,327 ha of derived native grassland and/or cleared land (including approximately 1,518 ha of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC [grassland form] and approximately 5 ha of Belah Woodland).

Condition 9 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 provides for at least 9,334 ha of land within the offset areas to be managed to achieve "equivalent or better quality" habitat for the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Corben's Long-eared Bat, and for at least 5,532 ha of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC to be managed to achieve "equivalent or better quality" (as defined under the EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566). The specific objectives of the offset areas are to:

- protect and enhance existing native woodland/forest (including areas of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC);
- restore self-sustaining vegetation communities within derived native grassland (including woodland within existing areas of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC [derived native grassland]) and 'non-native' areas;
- protect and enhance existing woodland and forest habitat for threatened species listed under the BC Act (those listed in Conditions 49 and 50 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138) and threatened species listed under the EPBC Act, namely the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, Corben's Long-eared Bat and *Tylophora linearis*;
- restore self-sustaining woodland and/or forest within derived native grasslands and 'non-native' areas to provide habitat for the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, Corben's Long-eared Bat and *Tylophora linearis*; and
- effectively manage the offset areas to achieve the habitat and Box-Gum Woodland CEEC outcomes identified in Condition 9 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566.

These objectives have informed the designation of management zones, final completion criteria and annual management performance criteria, and the design of the monitoring program.


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5.1.2 Implementation Schedule

Table 5-1 summarises the management actions for the offset areas and the frequency/timing of when those actions are to occur.

**Table 5-1
Biodiversity Management Plan Implementation Schedule**

| Section | Management Action | Frequency and/or Timing |
|---------|---|---|
| 5.3 | Seed management | As required, and based on seasonal assessment results and revegetation requirements |
| 5.4 | Revegetation management | As required, and based on annual assessment results |
| 5.5 | Ecological thinning | As required, and based on thinning assessment results |
| 5.6 | Habitat augmentation | As required, and based on habitat needs assessment results |
| 5.7 | Heritage management | As required |
| 5.8 | Weed management | As required, and based on seasonal assessment results and/or from other opportunistic observations |
| 5.9 | Pest animal management | As required, and based on seasonal assessment results and/or from other opportunistic observations |
| 5.10 | Noisy miner control | As required, and based on seasonal assessment results |
| 5.11 | Erosion and soil management | As required, and based on annual assessment results |
| 5.12 | Agriculture management | As required |
| 5.13 | Access and infrastructure management | Biannually |
| 5.14 | Inspection of fire breaks and access trails | Annually, prior to the fire season |
| | Maintenance of fire breaks and access trails | As required |
| | Fuel load monitoring | Annually |
| | Controlled (Ecological) burns | As required (subject to consultation with NSW Rural Fire Services, Environment Protection Agency and Biodiversity Conservation Trust) |
| 5.15.1 | Management of <i>Tylophora linearis</i> | As required |
| 5.15.2 | Management of <i>Pomaderris queenslandica</i> | As required |
| 5.17.1 | Flora Monitoring Program | Annually |
| 5.17.2 | Fauna Monitoring Program | Annual/Biennial |
| | Monitoring for Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot | Annually |
| | Monitoring for Corben's Long-eared Bat | Annually |

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5.2 MANAGEMENT ZONES

The offset areas will be managed to achieve the ecological management objectives in Section 5.1.1. In order to facilitate the management of the offset areas and track progress towards meeting the objectives, the offset areas have been stratified into broad management zones based on (Figures 8a to 8h):

- presence of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC and its condition 'state' (i.e. woodland or derived native grassland);
- presence of other native vegetation and its condition (woodland/forest or derived native grassland); and
- presence of 'non-native' areas.

Existing woodland and forest will be mostly subject to a low level of management intervention, focusing on natural regeneration (including some areas assisted with active revegetation), whereas the derived native grassland and non-native areas will be subject to more intensive management intervention and active revegetation.

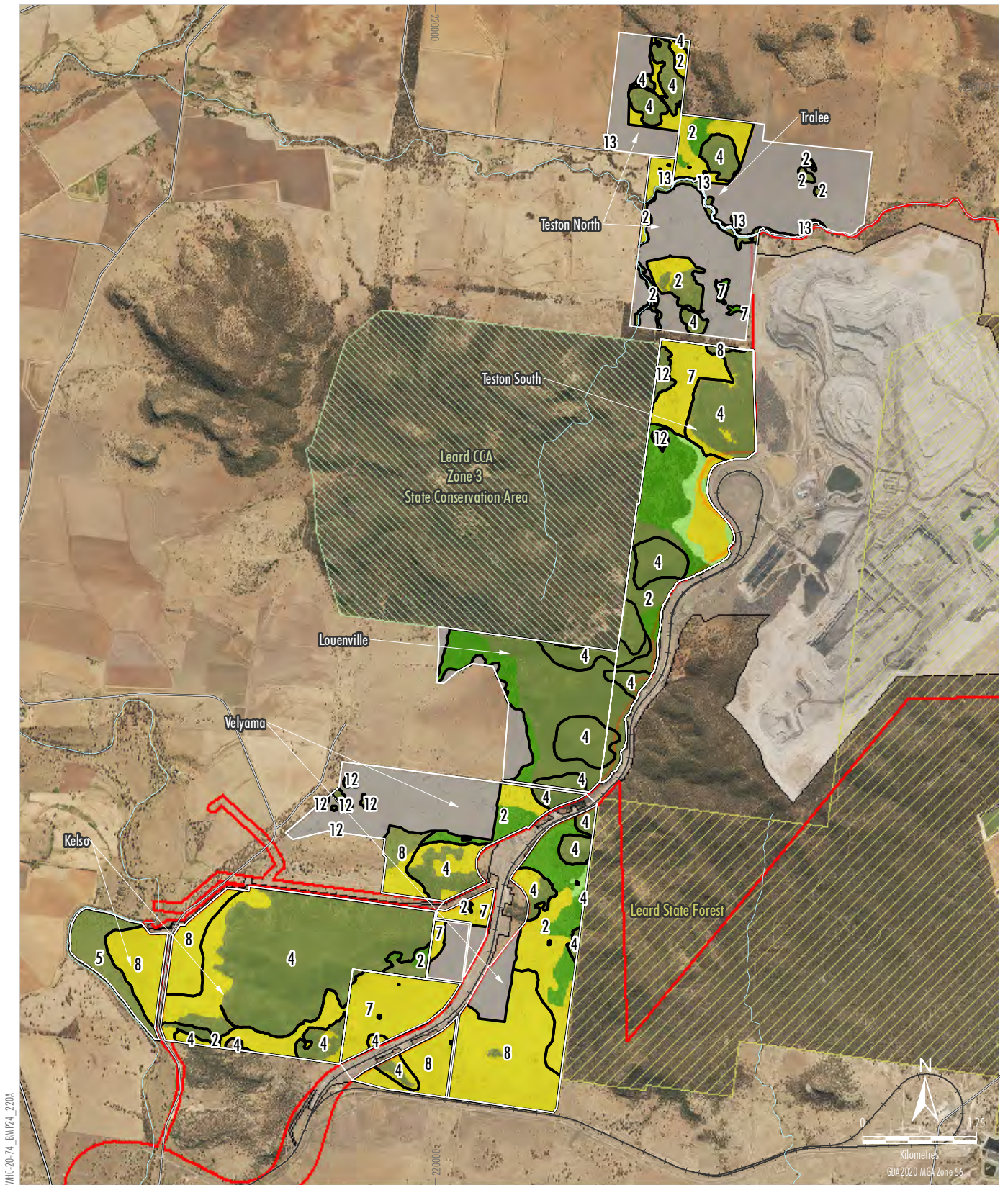
5.3 SEED MANAGEMENT

Whitehaven coordinates routine seed assessment programs designed to identify on a seasonal basis the life cycle and development stages of native plants across a range of offset areas to determine the best strategy in order to collect seeds for future revegetation programs. The format of the seed assessments ensures that timely and prioritised seed collection is implemented, and that reporting includes information required by seed collection contractors to undertake the required works. Seed collection will be based on seed assessment results and from other opportunistic observations, but the collection and propagation will only be undertaken as required depending on the revegetation needs.

Seed collection, management and storage will be undertaken in consideration of Greening Australia (various dates) *Florabank Guidelines* and Conservation Agreement limitations and permissions. Currently accepted best practice, as described in Rawlings *et al.* (2010) for local and regional provenance seed collection, which will be implemented includes:

- Collection of seed from several source sites with similar rainfall, soil, altitude, aspect, and slope position to the revegetation site to ensure they are most adapted to the landscape and environmental conditions;
- Collection of seed from between 20-50 plants of each species for genetic diversity; and
- Collection of seed from plants spaced approximately three plant-heights apart to prevent collection of too many closely related seeds.

A summary of annual seed collection activities will be reported in the MCCM Annual Review but details such as species, quantities, dates and locations will be recorded separately.



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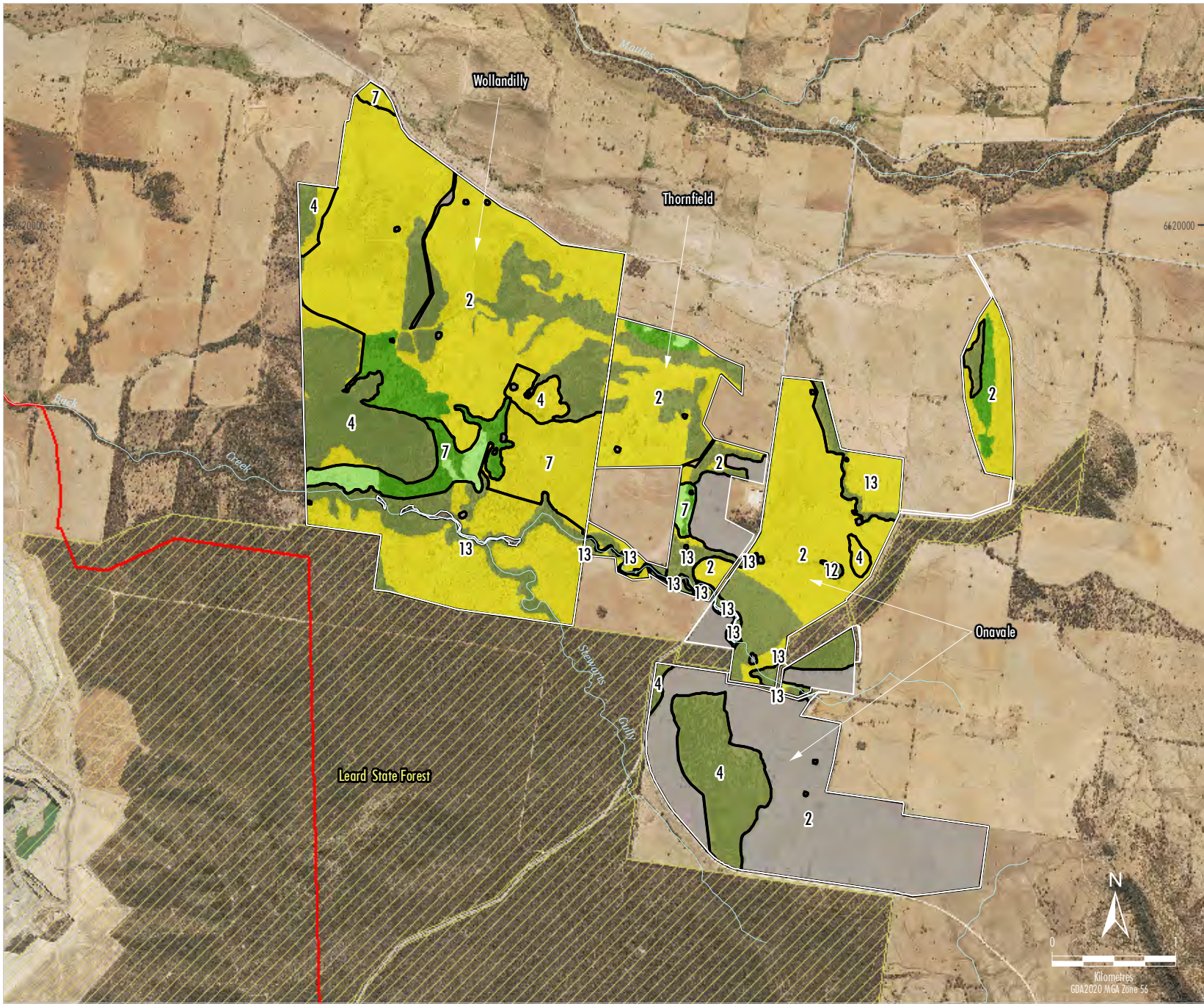
- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - State Forest
 - MCCM Project Boundary
 - Approximate Extent of Existing/Approved Surface Development
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Box-Gum Woodland (Grassland Form)
 - Box-Gum Woodland (Woodland Form)
 - Other Derived Native Grassland
 - Other Existing Woodland/Forest
 - Not Native Area

- Vegetation Class**
- 2 North-west Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Woodlands
 - 4 Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests
 - 5 Inland Riverine Forests
 - 7 Western Slopes Grassy Woodlands
 - 8 Floodplain Transition Woodlands
 - 12 Northwest Floodplain Woodlands

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2020); AMBS (2021)
Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)

WHITEHAVEN COAL
MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Management Zones -
Kelso, Velyama, Louenville,
Teston South, Teston North and Tralee

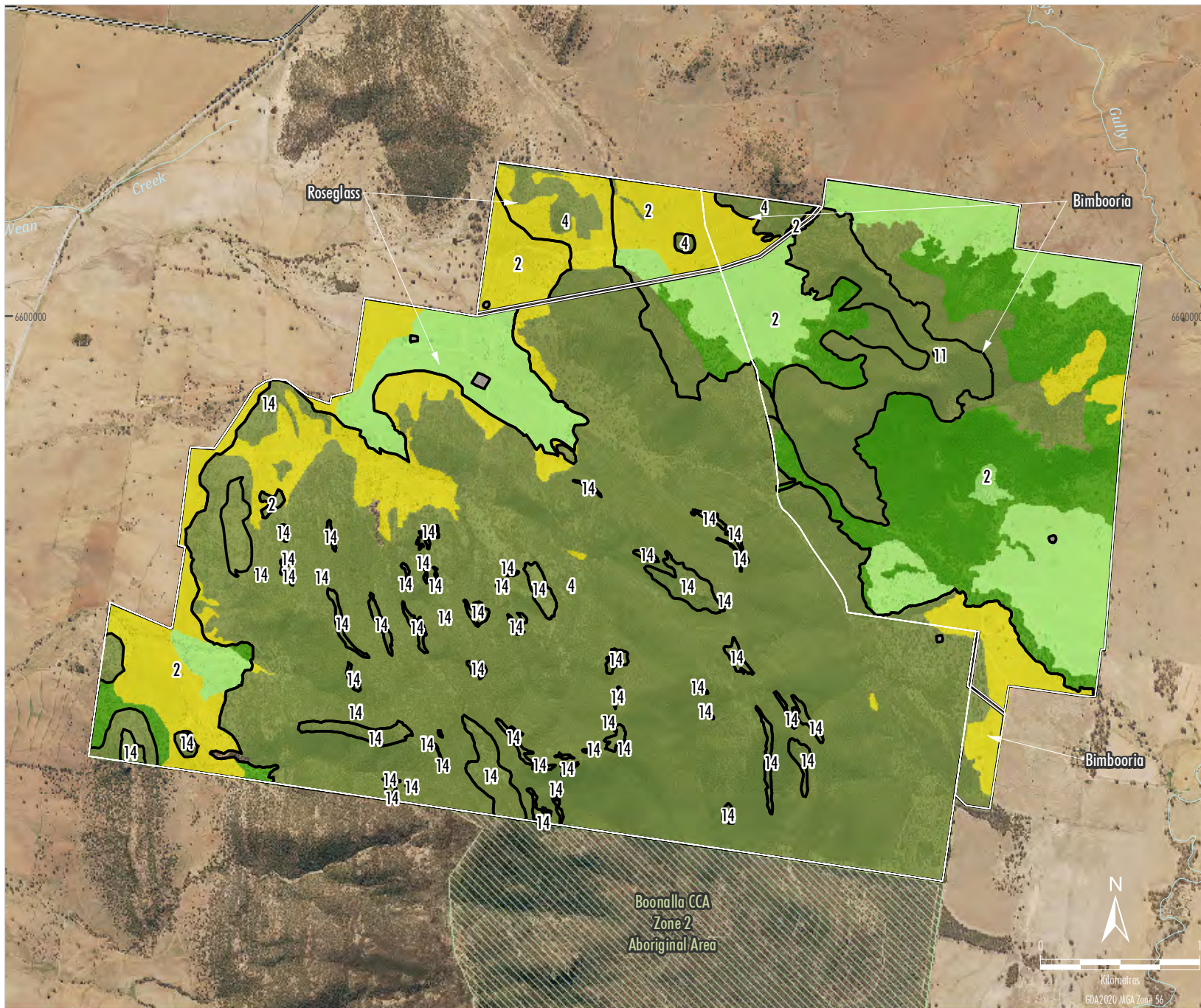
Figure 8a



Source: NSW Spatial Services (2020); AMBS (2021)
 Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)

WHITEHAVEN COAL
 MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
 Management Zones -
 Wollandilly, Thornfield and Onavale

Figure 8b



LEGEND

- NPWS Estate
- MCCM Offset Area
- Box-Gum Woodland (Grassland Form)
- Box-Gum Woodland (Woodland Form)
- Other Derived Native Grassland
- Other Existing Woodland/Forest
- Not Native Area

Vegetation Class

- North-west Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Woodlands
- Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests
- Western Vine Thickets
- Inland Rocky Hill Woodlands

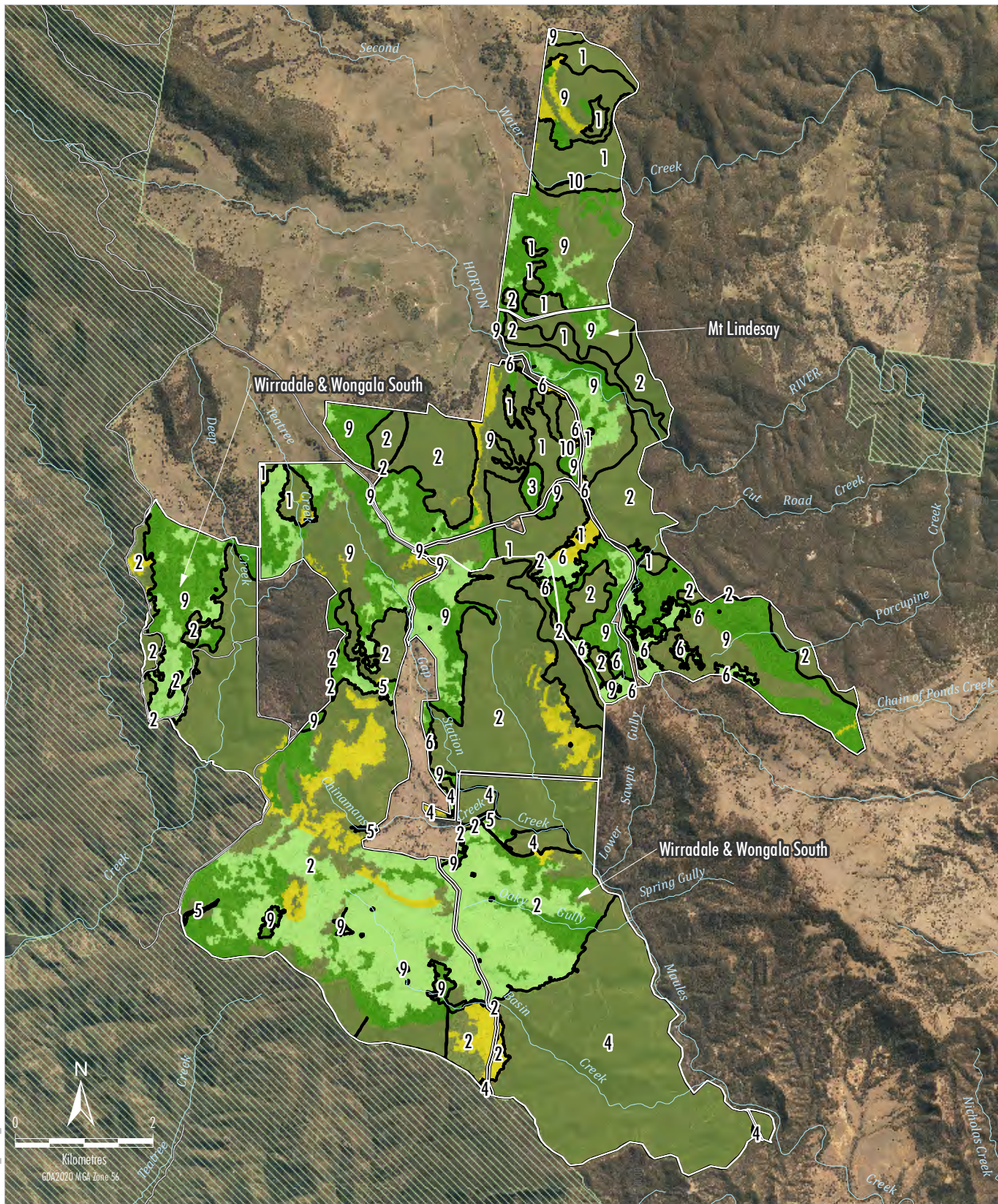
Source: NSW Spatial Services (2020); AMBS (2021)
 Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)

WHITEHAVEN COAL

MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Management Zones -
Roseglass and Bimbooria

Figure 8c

WHC-20-74_BMP24_221A



WMC-20-74_BMP24_222A



- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - State Forest
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Box-Gum Woodland (Grassland Form)
 - Box-Gum Woodland (Woodland Form)
 - Other Derived Native Grassland
 - Other Existing Woodland/Forest
 - Not Native Area

- Vegetation Class**
- New England Dry Sclerophyll Forests
 - North-west Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Woodlands
 - Northern Tableland Dry Sclerophyll Forests
 - Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests
 - Inland Riverine Forests
 - Temperate Montane Grasslands
 - New England Grassy Woodlands
 - Northern Montane Heaths

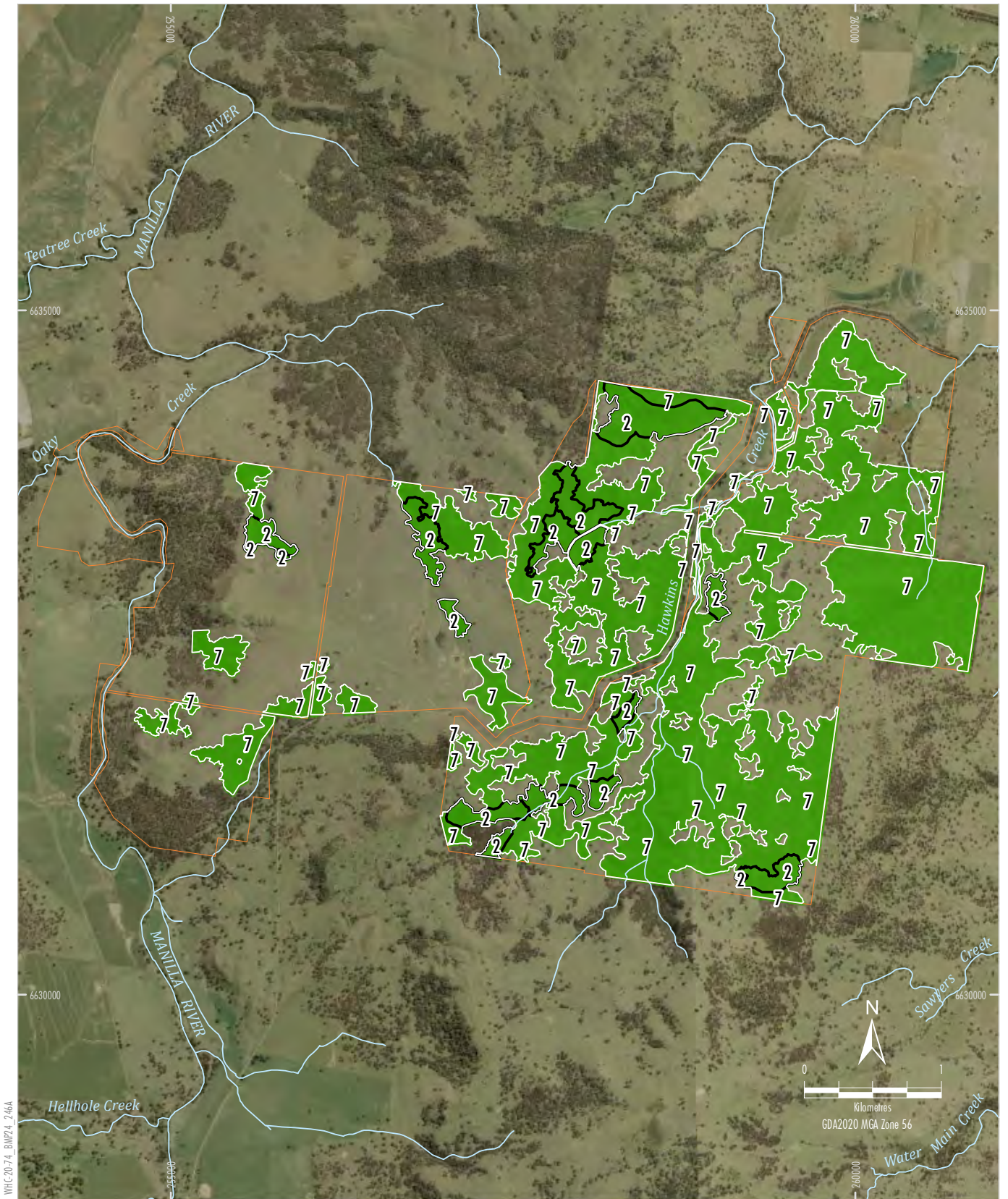
Source: NSW Spatial Services (2020); AMBS (2021)
Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)

WHITEHAVEN COAL






MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management Zones - Mt Lindesay, Wirradale and Wongala South

Figure 8d



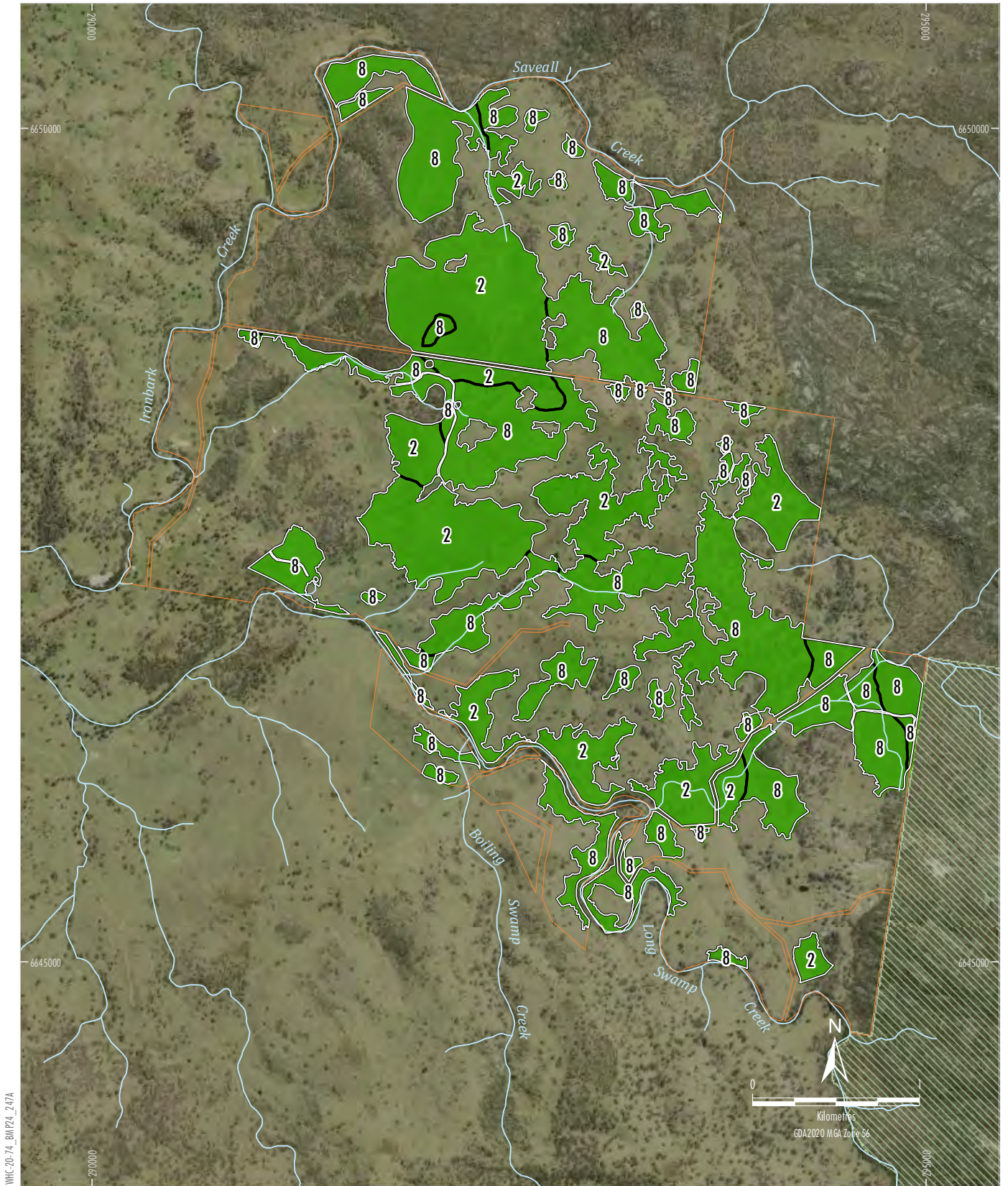
Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021)
AMBS (2021)

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| LEGEND | | <u>Vegetation Class</u> | |
|  | Property Boundary |  | North-west Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Woodlands |
|  | MCM Offset Area |  | Western Slopes Grassy Woodlands |
|  | Box-Gum Woodland CEEC (Woodland Form) | | |









MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Management Zones -
Triangle

Figure 8e



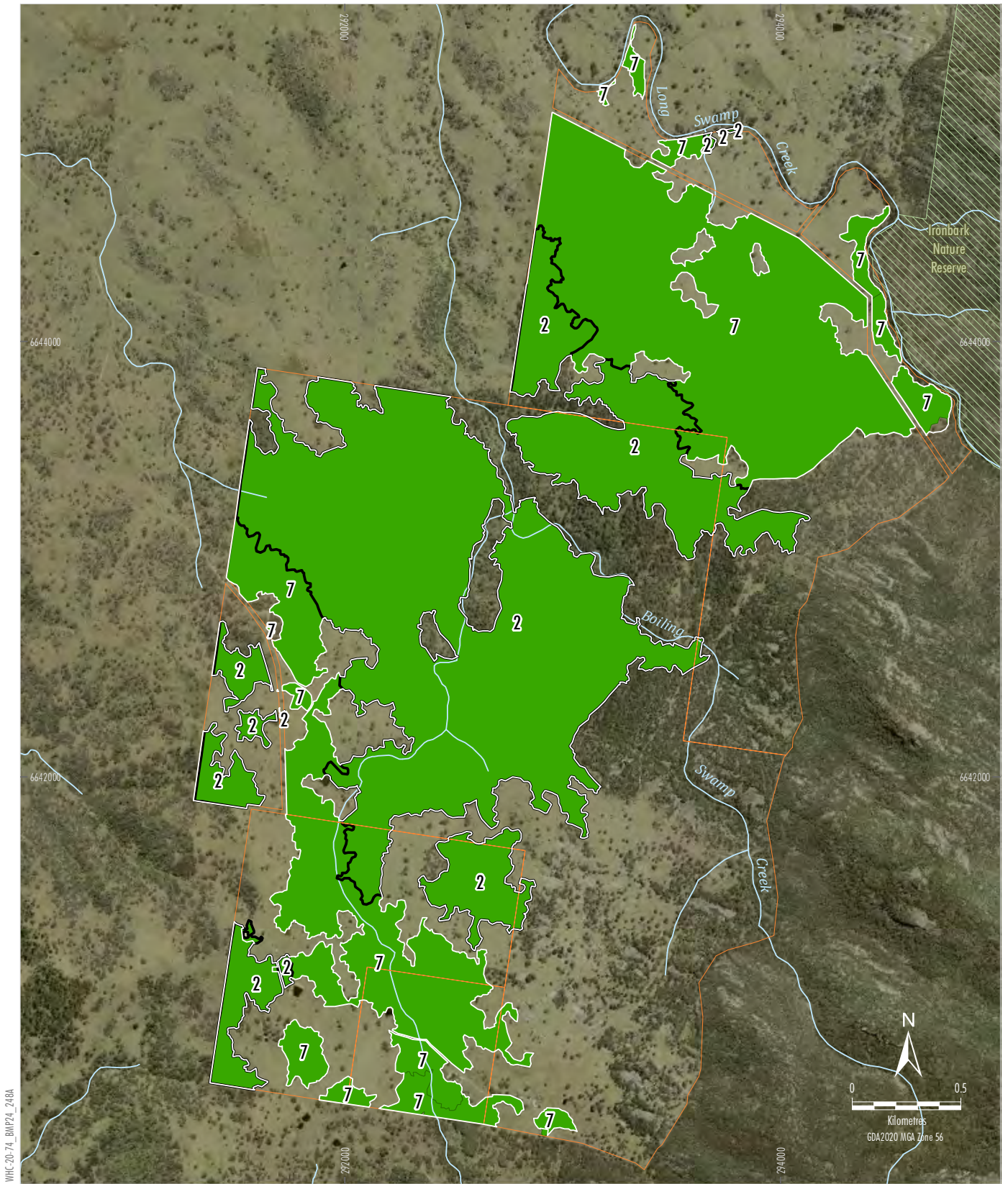
MHC-20-74_BMP24_247A

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021)

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| LEGEND | | Vegetation Class | |
|  | NPWS Estate |  | North-west Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Woodlands |
|  | Property Boundary |  | Western Slopes Grassy Woodlands |
|  | MCCM Offset Area | | |
|  | Box-Gum Woodland CEEC (Woodland Form) | | |


MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Management Zones -
Neranghi North

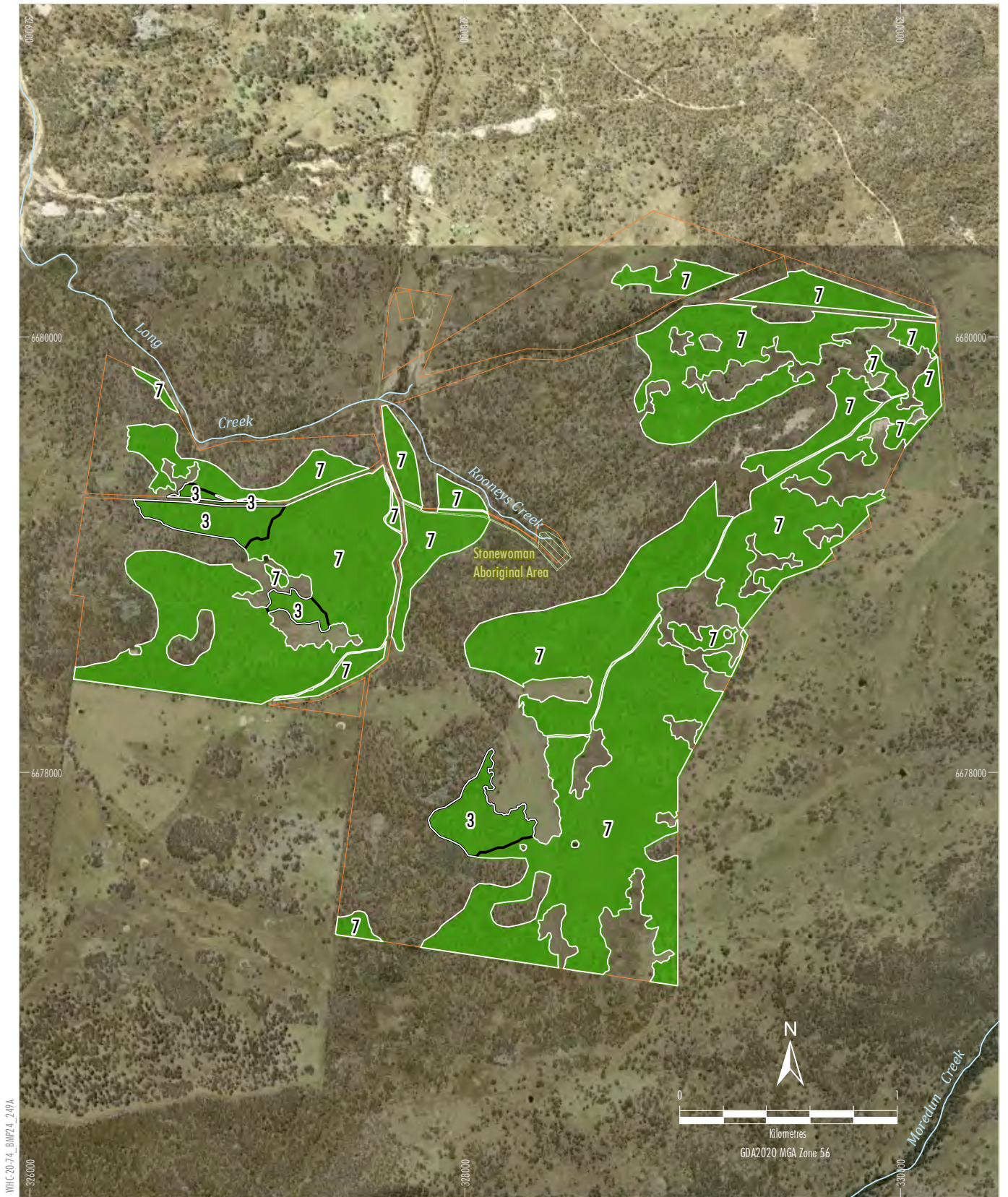
Figure 8f



Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021)

| LEGEND | | Vegetation Class | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| | NPWS Estate | | North-west Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Woodlands |
| | Property Boundary | | Western Slopes Grassy Woodlands |
| | MCCM Offset Area | | |
| | Box-Gum Woodland CECC (Woodland Form) | | |

Figure 8g



Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021)


LEGEND

-  NPWS Estate
-  Property Boundary
-  MCCM Offset Area
-  Box-Gum Woodland CEEC (Woodland Form)

Vegetation Class

-  3 Northern Tableland Dry Sclerophyll Forests
-  7 Western Slopes Grassy Woodlands

Figure 8h

| | | | |
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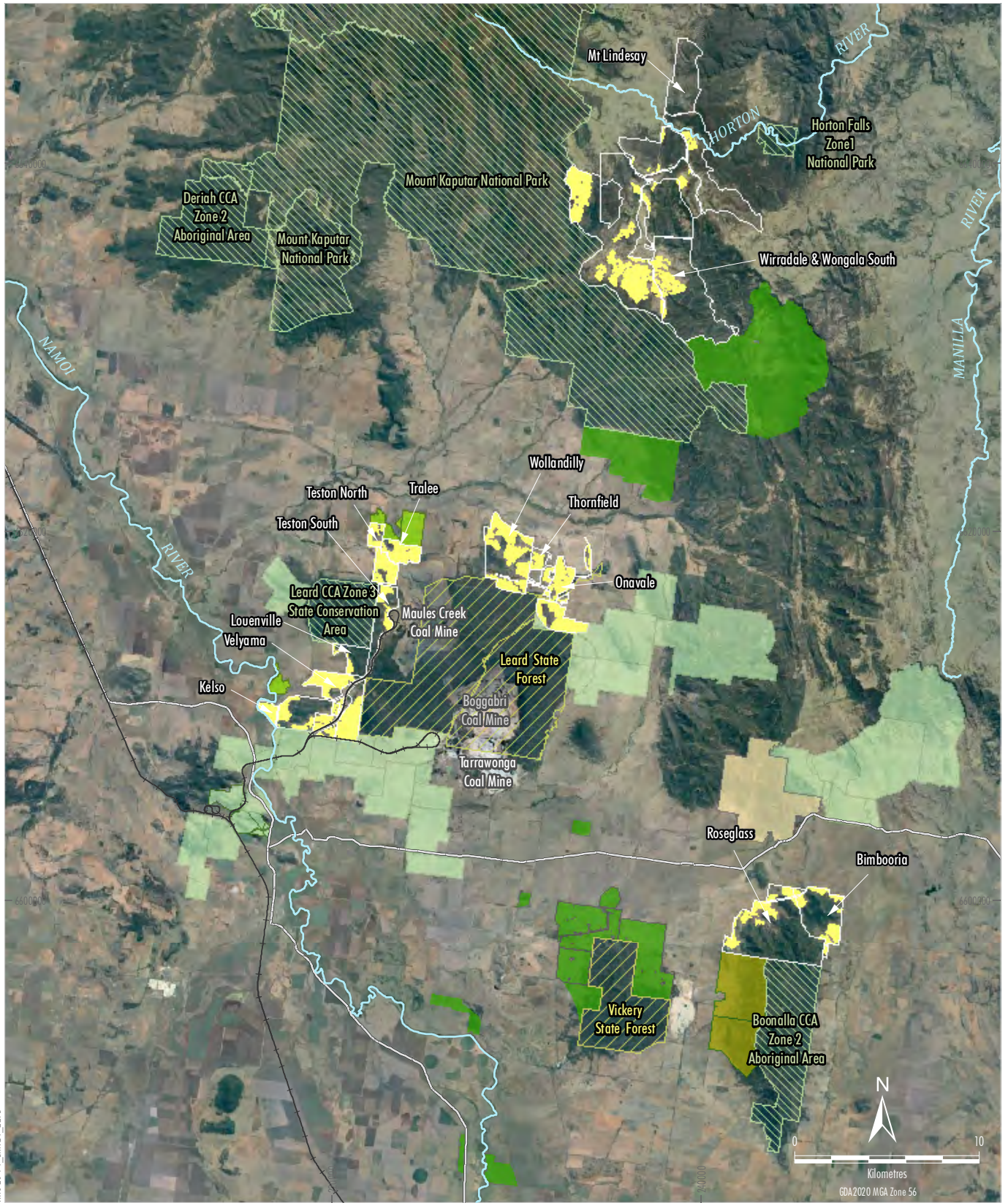
5.4 REVEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Natural regeneration will be favoured over planting or direct seeding in areas of native woodland/forest and derived native grassland (moderate to good condition) because natural regeneration conserves the natural genetic diversity of the local vegetation.

As determined by annual revegetation assessments, active revegetation (direct seeding and/or seedling planting) is undertaken to restore self-sustaining woodland within existing areas of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC and derived native grassland. Additionally, the restoration of self-sustaining woodland and/or forest including derived native grasslands and 'non-native' areas will provide a significant area of additional habitat for the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, Corben's Long-eared Bat and *Tylophora linearis*.

The objective of the revegetation program is to increase the area (woodland patch size), quality and connectivity of native vegetation and habitats, focusing on assisted natural regeneration and targeted vegetation community establishment using active revegetation methods such as direct seeding or seedling planting in consideration of Conservation Agreement conditions. This revegetation program is being implemented in consideration of the *Florabank Guidelines* (Greening Australia, various dates) and *A Guide to Managing Box Gum Grassy Woodlands* (Rawlings *et al.*, 2010).

Primary revegetation planting within the offset areas commenced in 2016 and is now materially complete (Figure 9) (Plate 3); only subject to maintenance revegetation activities as determined by annual revegetation assessments. Figures 6a to 6d also show the area undergoing active revegetation for *Tylophora linearis*. A total of 3,126 ha has been actively planted with new plantings since 2016 in the offset areas.



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- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - State Forest
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Other Whitehaven Offset Area
 - Other Whitehaven Conservation Agreement Area
 - Whitehaven Biobanking Site
 - Boggabri Coal Offset Area
 - Piney Range Biobanking Site

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2020)
 Orthophoto: Google Earth (2020)

MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
 Area Undergoing Active
 Revegetation 2016-2023

Figure 9




MAULES CREEK

| | |
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Plate 3 Example of Areas Undergoing Active Revegetation across MCCM Offset Areas

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A secondary revegetation program involving passive or assisted natural regeneration (i.e. maintenance revegetation, ecological burns, weed and pest animal control) and ongoing revegetation maintenance programs will also be undertaken. MCC will undertake annual revegetation assessments of previous revegetation areas to determine what and where any active maintenance revegetation is required for the upcoming season of the annual revegetation program.

Annual revegetation assessments will consider key species required to match the target vegetation communities as well as natural or physical constraints to revegetation. The information from the annual revegetation assessments will be used to determine what plant species and the quantity of seed and seedlings that need to be ordered for the annual revegetation program. Orders will be placed in advance to allow sufficient time for additional seed collection (if required, Section 5.3) and for seedling germination/propagation to occur in time for the upcoming annual revegetation program. Revegetation in the offset areas will use both local providence seed as well as regionally provident seed sourced by reputable seed collectors.


Flora species indicatively used in areas under active revegetation (Table 5-2) include a variety of grasses, herbs, forbs, shrubs and trees (including species associated for Box-Gum Woodland CEEC such as Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*)) to create a structurally diverse habitat (for the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, Corben's Long-eared Bat and *Tylophora linearis*).

The annual revegetation program timing is to occur during periods of desirable seasonal conditions (times of opportunistic high soil moisture and moderate diurnal temperature variation) and/or will be undertaken between autumn and spring seasons when conditions are closest to optimal for revegetation.

The MCCM *Threatened Fauna Implementation Plan* (Whitehaven, 2015a) was developed to maximise the likely prospects of providing suitable habitats for threatened fauna within the offset areas (including those species listed in Condition 49 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138). Table 5-2 includes flora species known to be used as habitat resources for threatened fauna that were identified in the *MCCM Threatened Fauna Implementation Plan* (Whitehaven, 2015a).

**Table 5-2
Indicative Revegetation Species List**

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Common Name | Scientific Name |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Trees | | Grasses | |
| Western Rosewood | <i>Alectryon oleifolius</i> | Kangaroo Grass | <i>Themeda triandra</i> |
| Red Ash | <i>Alphitonia excelsa</i> | Wallaby Grass | <i>Rytidosperma spp.</i> |
| Rough-barked Apple | <i>Angophora floribunda</i> | Plains Grass | <i>Austrostipa aristiglumis</i> |
| Whitewood | <i>Atalaya hemiglauca</i> | Barbed Wire Grass | <i>Cymbopogon refractus</i> |
| Kurrajong | <i>Brachychiton populneus</i> | Slender Bamboo Grass | <i>Austrostipa verticillata</i> |
| #White Cypress Pine | <i>Callitris glaucophylla</i> | Slender Rats Tail Grass | <i>Sporobolus creber</i> |
| #Belah | <i>Casuarina cristata</i> | Tall Oats Grass | <i>Themeda avenacea</i> |
| *#White Box | <i>Eucalyptus albens</i> | Red Grass | <i>Bothriochloa macra</i> |
| #Apple Box | <i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i> | Spear Grass | <i>Austrostipa scabra</i> |
| **Blakely's Red Gum | <i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i> | Blue Grass | <i>Dichanthium sericeum</i> |

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**Table 5-2 (Continued)
Indicative Revegetation Species List**

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Common Name | Scientific Name |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Trees | | Shrubs and Sub-shrubs | |
| #Narrow-leaved Ironbark | <i>Eucalyptus crebra</i> | Native Olive | <i>Notelea microcarpa</i> |
| #River Red Gum | <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> | Sticky Daisy Bush | <i>Olearia elliptica subsp. Elliptica</i> |
| Tumbledown Red Gum | <i>Eucalyptus dealbata</i> | Sticky Hop-Bush | <i>Dodonaea viscosa ssp. angustifolia</i> |
| Dwyers Red Gum | <i>Eucalyptus dwyeri</i> | Wilga | <i>Geijera parviflora</i> |
| Silver-top Stringybark | <i>Eucalyptus laevopinea</i> | Bluebush | <i>Maireana microphylla</i> |
| Red Stringybark | <i>Eucalyptus macrorhyncha</i> | Ruby Saltbush | <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> |
| #Silver-leaved Ironbark | <i>Eucalyptus melanophloia</i> | Forbs | |
| **Yellow Box | <i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i> | Yellow Burr-daisy | <i>Calotis spp.</i> |
| #Western Grey Box | <i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i> | Common Everlasting | <i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i> |
| Pilliga Box | <i>Eucalyptus pilligaensis</i> | Winter Apple | <i>Eremophila debilis</i> |
| Poplar Box | <i>Eucalyptus populnea</i> | Narrawa Burr | <i>Solanum cinereum</i> |
| Manna Gum | <i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> | Fuzz Weed | <i>Vittadinia spp.</i> |

* Species associated with the Box-Gum Woodland CEEC to create structurally diverse habitat (as per the NSW Final Determination and Commonwealth Listing Advice for these communities).


Species associated with habitat for the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, Corben's Long-eared Bat and/or *Tylophora linearis*.

Ground truthing and mapping of proposed revegetation paddocks will determine what preparation and maintenance works are required for individual revegetation paddocks. Ground preparation methods that can be implemented (where required) include weed control, grass competition maintenance, soil disturbance (i.e. augering, mounding, ripping, harrowing or ploughing) as well as consideration of other ancillary items (i.e. tree guards to protect plants from grazing kangaroos) that are going to be needed to optimise revegetation success and growth/development of seedlings and seeding areas.

Post planting inspections will be undertaken progressively to survey performance/quality, methods and results to date, including a final end of season survival count of the previous annual revegetation program.

A summary of annual revegetation activities will be reported in the MCCM Annual Review.

As stated above, a component of the Biodiversity Offset Strategy is the restoration of woodland/forest including revegetation of derived native grassland areas of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC and Belah Woodland to maintain a possible future linkage from Nandewar Range to the Leard State Forest (through the Boggabri Coal Mine Offset Area and Onavale Offset Area), and from the Leard State Forest to the Namoi River (through Tralee, Teston North, Teston South, Louenville, Velyama and Kelso Offset Areas). Revegetation of these offset areas will improve the connectivity, and enhance and maintain the corridor function of, the offset areas to provide an east/west corridor to the Namoi River. Further, the Teston North, Teston South and Tralee offset areas are directly west of the mine site and the revegetation of these offset areas will integrate habitats with the overall rehabilitation of the site. Through the material completion of active revegetation on specifically Tralee, Teston North, Teston South, Louenville, Velyama and Kelso Offset Areas (Figure 9) has directly improved the connectivity and

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corridor function of the east/west corridor to the Namoi River and the further enhancement of will be achieved by maintain the biodiversity management works planned with Habitat Augmentation (Section 5.6), Weed Management (Section 5.8) and Pest Animal Management (Section 5.9).


5.5 ECOLOGICAL THINNING

Ecological thinning will only be considered in habitats identified as having dense regrowth, in particular *Callitris* species. MCC will undertake ecological thinning assessments to identify across the offset areas where dense regrowth is impacting on flora and fauna habitat condition or is adverse to natural regeneration/ecological restoration. If determined that ecological thinning is required; it will be staged reflective of existing flora and fauna habitat condition in consideration of Conservation Agreement conditions. A summary of annual ecological thinning activities will be reported in the MCCM Annual Review.

Ecological Thinning Assessment is undertaken in a staged process to monitor over time dedicated full floristic plots to measuring potential impacts from dense *Callitris* regrowth in Box Gum Woodland vegetation communities against a set of assessment criteria including *Callitris* stem and basal densities. The WHC Offsets Ecological Thinning Stage 1 Assessment (AMBS, 2020a) concluded that there was no evidence of direct impacts from *Callitris* (Cypress Pine) regrowth to native plant species richness (composition) or density (structure) within remnant Box Gum Woodland vegetation communities and did not establish a relationship between those variables and *Callitris* density (i.e. basal area). The WHC Offsets Ecological Thinning Stage 2 Assessment (AMBS, 2022) undertook desktop remote sensing to spatially analyse where potentially dense *Callitris* occurs in Box Gum Woodland across MCCM BOA and undertook targeted ground truthing field surveys to validate and quantify against Ecological Thinning criteria. Stage 2 Assessment concluded that no areas on MCCM BOA supported inappropriate *Callitris* regrowth therefore finding that Ecological Thinning management could not be justified at this point in time on MCCM Offset properties (AMBS, 2022) but to be reviewed in 5 years time (after the original Stage 1 surveys in 2019). WHCs commitment to ongoing monitoring through 5 yearly reassessments will ensure that Ecological Thinning program can continue to be adaptive and reactively refined to match the actual restoration of Woodland vegetation communities overtime.

5.6 HABITAT AUGMENTATION

Habitat augmentation using salvaged resources (including from the MCCM site where possible) or nest boxes will be undertaken in offset areas with habitats identified as having low habitat resources. MCC will undertake habitat needs assessments to identify across the offset areas where low habitat resources are to determine what habitat augmentation is required. Habitat augmentation will be staged reflective of existing fauna habitat condition and will utilise available salvaged resources such as coarse woody debris, rocky debris (bush rocks) and artificial hollows (including nest boxes) in consideration of Conservation Agreement conditions.

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Where nest boxes are to be installed; they will be made from high quality and durable materials that provide for a long lifespan and of designs that are targeted for hollow-dependent threatened species known to occur in the locality of the offset site such as small gliders, Greater Gliders, microbats, Turquoise Parrots, Brown Treecreepers and Pale-headed Snakes.

Habitat augmentation (using salvaged resources or nest boxes) located in the offset areas will be monitored in a staged program in conjunction with other annual fauna monitoring. The staged monitoring of nest boxes will commence the year following installation for their signs of use and condition at consistent times of the year across the offset areas targeting species type based on nest box design. Signs of use monitoring will aim to identify the species while minimising disturbance to any fauna if occupying the boxes at the time.


WHCs Habitat Augmentation program (AMBS, draft 2021e) estimated that approximately 2,900 nest boxes were needed for these low habitat resource areas across all WHC biodiversity properties to address the calculated deficit for hollow bearing trees in poor/medium broad habitat types; with Maules Offset Areas on average to have deploy nest boxes approximately 150 each year (varying dependent on suitable trees, size of habitat augmentation corridors and prevailing conditions) utilising designs suitable for the range of target species appropriate to the habitat at the installation locations/corridors. WHCs commitment to ongoing monitoring will ensure that the habitat augmentation program can continue to be adaptive and reactively refined to match the actual restoration of fauna populations and species measured overtime.

A summary of annual habitat augmentation activities will be reported in the MCCM Annual Review. A total of 327 next boxes have been installed on the offset areas between 2021 and 2023.

5.7 HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

Management of heritage sites and values across the offset areas have been identified in baseline surveys; the MCCM Heritage Management Plan as well as the Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Strategy (AHCS) (University of Queensland, 2017). There is not expected to be any conflict between biodiversity management works in the offset areas with any cultural and historical heritage values and sites by adopting the following measures:

- Heritage due diligence assessments will be completed prior to commencing biodiversity management works that cause surface disturbance within offset areas. In addition, biodiversity management works (such as fire break track maintenance, revegetation ground preparation or infrastructure/asset removal) proposed close to known cultural and historic heritage site locations will be reviewed to avoid impacts;
- Routinely maintain and update the Whitehaven Cultural and Historical Heritage Register and Spatial Database;
- All relevant identified cultural and historic heritage sites within offset areas will be demarcated and fenced (where appropriate). To avoid inadvertent disturbance; heritage sites will have demarcation fencing installed and signs that identify the offset area, type of heritage and site ID, and a Whitehaven contact number provided so that only authorised access can be permitted, and all activities must be authorised;
- All relevant identified cultural and historic heritage sites will have an Annual Heritage Site and Fencing Inspection undertaken by appropriately qualified heritage specialists to ensure the integrity

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of the fencing and site condition has not been compromised and that heritage sites are appropriately managed;

- If any potential heritage sites, remains or artefacts are identified during biodiversity management; the work will immediately stop within the vicinity of the suspected area and appropriately qualified heritage specialists will be engaged and an assessment undertaken to determine what action and reporting is required. Offset areas will need to meet all statutory requirements under the NP&W Act and NSW *Heritage Act 1977*.

Status of Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Strategy (AHCS)

The AHCS was approved by the former DPIE in November 2017 in accordance with PA 10_0138 Schedule 3 Condition 57 outlining an approach for conserving regional Aboriginal heritage values within the BTM mines and associated Biodiversity Offset Areas including assessing Cultural Values. The initial Cultural Values Surveys of the Existing MCCM Offset Areas was completed in 2020 and the report was acknowledged by the former DPIE on 29 June 2020 as fulfilling a number of commitments of the AHCS including endorsement by Registered Aboriginal Participants involved in the survey. Following PA 10_0138 MOD 9 BOS approval and Conservation Agreement registration in 2024, Cultural Values Surveys of the Additional MCCM Offset Areas were completed. A final Cultural Values Report will be prepared and consulted with the Registered Aboriginal Participants and community including an ‘On-Country’ event with access and educational opportunities in planning for the Onavale Offset Area (subject to Conservation Agreement Variation VC00492 under assessment by NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust).




Plate 4 Example of AHCS access to country in planning for the Onavale Offset Area

5.8 WEED MANAGEMENT

MCC aim to promote natural regeneration by reducing weeds so that perennial exotic plant cover does not comprise more than 20% of flora monitoring plots (aligned with the *Leard Forest Mining Precinct Regional Biodiversity Strategy* [Umwelt, 2017]) by implementing measures aiming to exclude WONS from the offset areas (EPBC 2010/5566, Condition 12C (e) iv).

MCC will manage weeds in accordance with the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* that introduced the “General Biosecurity Duty” (GBD) which requires all land managers and users to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable, that biosecurity risks are prevented, eliminated or minimised. In addition to MCC’s GBD responsibility, weed management will be implemented to align with the *North West Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan* (NWRSWMP) 2023 – 2027 (North West Local Land Services, 2022) and weed control measures will be guided by published control measures (e.g. DPI, 2018a).

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The NWRSWMP introduces a risk management approach (based on the weed invasion curve stages of prevention, eradication, containment and asset protection) to prioritise weeds for management based on those weeds that are “State Level Determined Priority Weeds for the Northwest Local Land Services Region” and additional “Regional Priority Weeds”.

The spread and introduction of weeds can be prevented by the practice of weed hygiene measures. MCC will instruct contractor vehicles and equipment entering the offset areas to be clean and free from weeds and/or seeds. Access to the offset areas will also be controlled as described in Section 5.13.


Seasonal weed assessment programs are undertaken across the offset areas to identify weed species, extent and condition of any infestations and the opportunity for control/management depending on seasonal conditions. The weed assessments ensure that timely and prioritised weed control is undertaken on a seasonal basis with the information given to contractors to identify what, where, when and how to target appropriate resources across the offset areas for weed control.

A number of environmental and priority weeds are known to occur in the offset areas as listed in Table 5-3 that are a legacy inherited from previous owners' management regimes. Based on seasonal weed assessment results; weed control will take place targeting the priority weeds (Table 5-3) and any other environmental weeds present in the offset areas. However, if new weeds species are found, those new weeds species will also be managed in accordance with this BMP.

Recommended techniques for removal of priority weeds that have been published by DPI will be consulted prior to weed control, e.g. *New South Wales Weed Control Handbook* (DPI, 2018a). Relevant methods for controlling priority weeds known to occur in the offset areas are summarised in Table 5-3.

**Table 5-3
Control of Example Target Priority Weeds**

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Example Control Methods (DPI, 2018a) |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Mother of Millions | <i>Bryophyllum delagoense</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • herbicide application |
| Paterson's Curse | <i>Echium plantagineum</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • herbicide application |
| African Boxthorn | <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physically remove • herbicide application |
| Prickly Pear | <i>Opuntia</i> sp. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical removal • herbicide application |
| Tiger Pear | <i>Opuntia aurantiaca</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical removal • herbicide application |
| Sweet Briar | <i>Rosa rubiginosa</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical removal • herbicide application |
| Fireweed | <i>Senecio</i> spp. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • herbicide application |
| Cockle Burr | <i>Xanthium occidentale</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical removal • herbicide application |
| Bathurst Burr | <i>Xanthium spinosum</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical removal • herbicide application |

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In addition to species listed in Table 5-3, Coolatai Grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*) is a recognised threat to Box-Gum Woodland CEEC (DECCW, 2011), although it is not a priority weed relevant to the offset areas. In the event that Coolatai Grass is found in the offset areas, individual plants can be physically removed or treated with herbicide (DPI, 2018a).

All personnel involved in weed management will be required to hold relevant and valid licences/permits for weed management works, including a chemical licence to use herbicides and a chainsaw certificate to operate chainsaws (where applicable).

A summary of annual weed management activities will be reported in the MCCM Annual Review. Guidance on weed control will be available to employees and/or contractors through ongoing communications and training to raise awareness of biodiversity issues in the region (e.g. weed spread prevention through the washing of vehicles and equipment and toolbox talk communications on potentially emerging weeds like Tiger Pear).

5.9 PEST ANIMAL MANAGEMENT


The overarching objective of the pest animal management program is to ensure that the impacts of pest animals to native species, existing vegetation and revegetation within offset areas are minimised. The goal of pest animal management is to achieve an overall reduction in pest animal species and population sizes targeted by control measures implemented across the offset areas (in consideration of potential drought conditions and seasonal trends).

MCC aims to apply an even and consistent pest animal management effort by routinely scheduling rolling monitoring and control programs across offset areas. This standardised approach can also be supplemented with periodic targeted programs that focus on specific areas with high pest animal detection, or, on species which have increasing rates of detection. Both the overall management and targeted programs are planned using data collected from grid-based motion detection camera monitoring program, pest animal observations and the results of previous control programs.

Pest animal management will focus on the pest animals in Table 5-4 that have been recorded in the offset areas that are a legacy inherited from previous owners' management regimes. However, if new pest animals are found, those new pest animals will also be managed in accordance with this BMP.

Control measures described in Table 5-4 will be implemented by Whitehaven staff or by an appropriate Pest Control Contractor(s) as required. All personnel involved in pest animal control will be required to hold relevant and valid licences/permits, including any relevant chemical licences for pesticide use or a firearms licence for shooting. Pest animal control will be undertaken in consideration of the control recommendations outlined in the *Ecology and Management of Vertebrate Pests in NSW* (DPI, 2018b) and *Northwest Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan 2018 – 2023* (Northwest Local Land Services, 2018).

A summary of annual pest animal management activities will be reported in the MCCM Annual Review. Key messages on pest animal prevention will be available to employees and/or contractors through ongoing communications and training to raise awareness of biodiversity issues in the region (e.g. reporting pest animal observations via centralised email address and toolbox talk communications on potentially emerging pest animal like Feral Deer).


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**Table 5-4
Control Methods for Target Pest Animals – Offset Areas**

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Example Control Method | Relevant Documents ¹ |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| Feral Pig | <i>Sus scrofa</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> trapping/ground shooting; and/or ground baiting (using poison). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Threat Abatement Plan for Predation, Habitat Degradation, Competition and Disease Transmission by Feral Pigs</i> (DEE, 2017); <i>PestSmart Toolkit</i> (Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, 2023); and <i>Ecology and Management of Vertebrate Pests in NSW</i> (DPI, 2018b). |
| Feral Goat | <i>Capra hircus</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> trapping/mustering; and/or ground shooting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Threat Abatement Plan for Competition and Land Degradation by Unmanaged Goats</i> (DEWHA, 2008b); and <i>PestSmart Toolkit</i> (Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, 2023). |
| European Red Fox | <i>Vulpes</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> trapping/ground shooting; and/or ground baiting (using poison). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by European Red Fox</i> (DEWHA, 2008b); <i>NSW Threat Abatement Plan For Predation by The Red Fox (Vulpes vulpes)</i> (OEH, 2011); <i>PestSmart Toolkit</i> (Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, 2023); and <i>Ecology and Management of Vertebrate Pests in NSW</i> (DPI, 2018b). |
| European Rabbit | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> warren ripping/fumigation; trapping/ground shooting; and/or ground baiting (using poison). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Threat Abatement Plan for Competition and Land Degradation by Rabbits</i> (DEE, 2016); <i>PestSmart Toolkit</i> (Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, 2023); and <i>Ecology and Management of Vertebrate Pests in NSW</i> (DPI, 2018b). |
| Brown Hare | <i>Lepus capensis</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ground shooting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Integrated Hare Control</i> (Department of Environment and Primary Industries [Victoria], 2015); and <i>Ecology and Management of Vertebrate Pests in NSW</i> (DPI, 2018b). |
| Feral Deer | <i>Cervus spp., Axis spp., or Dama spp.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> trapping; and/or ground shooting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Feral Deer</i> (DotE, 2011); and <i>Ecology and Management of Vertebrate Pests in NSW</i> (DPI, 2018b). |
| Feral Cat | <i>Felis catus</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> trapping; and/or ground shooting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats</i> (DotE, 2015b)⁵; <i>PestSmart Toolkit</i> (Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, 2023); and <i>Ecology and Management of Vertebrate Pests in NSW</i> (DPI, 2018b). |
| Wild Dog | <i>Canis familiaris</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> trapping/ground baiting (using poison); and/or ground shooting. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>New South Wales Wild Dog Management Strategy 2017-2021</i> (DPI, 2017); <i>PestSmart Toolkit</i> (Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, 2023); and <i>Ecology and Management of Vertebrate Pests in NSW</i> (DPI, 2018b). |

¹ An alternative published method may be used as required.

⁵ Noting that there is a draft revision of the *Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats* (Cth DCCEEW, 2023b).

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5.10 NOISY MINER CONTROL PROGRAM

Aggressive Exclusion of Birds from Woodland and Forest Habitat by Abundant Noisy Miners, (Manorina melanocephala) is a key threatening process listed under the BC Act and EPBC Act. The Additional Offset Independent Review (EastCoast Flora Survey, 2022) recommended the management of Noisy Miner (*Manorina melanocephala*) on the additional offset areas (Thornfield, Long Gully, Neranghi North, Triangle and Coonoor) to improve habitat value for the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot.

The primary, long term, management measure to address Noisy Miners (and other potential aggressive honeyeater species) is to facilitate natural regeneration. Increasing the structural density and complexity of existing habitats for Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrots and other threatened Woodland birds can reduce the suitability of habitats for Noisy Miners (DAWE, 2020).


Further, MCC will commit to a 5-year pilot Noisy Miner control program within existing potential Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot habitat on and adjoining the Offset Areas of Thornfield, Coonoor, Neranghi North, Long Gully and Triangle that is based on consultation with leading practice organisations, researchers and relevant government agencies (i.e. NPWS and BCT). Consistent with the Key Threatening Process Strategy for Noisy Miners (NSW DCCEEW, 2024), the aim of the pilot program will be to evaluate whether methods of control described in the published literature (i.e. Crates *et al.*, 2022, Melton *et al.*, 2021) can be used to lower Noisy Miner population density on the additional offsets. A Noisy Miner control program will be implemented in 2024/2025 (subject to obtaining the relevant licenses and approvals) at all additional offset areas where Noisy Miner densities are above levels reported as being detrimental to native fauna. After this initial program, further controls will be initiated based on a series of thresholds, specifically:

1. Regent Honeyeaters are detected (resulting in an as soon as practicable control prior to or at the commencement of the next Regent Honeyeater breeding period);
2. Swift Parrots are detected (resulting in control prior to the next winter bird feeding season); or
3. Noisy Miners are above thresholds (resulting in control prior to or at the commencement of the next Regent Honeyeater breeding period).

Noisy Miner densities thresholds described in the published literature (i.e. Crates *et al.*, 2022, Melton *et al.*, 2021) as being detrimental to native fauna are within a range between 0.44/ha to 0.83/ha.

Typically, the winter bird feeding season for Swift Parrots is May to August and the breeding period for Regent Honeyeaters is July through to January (Office of Environment and Heritage, 2014c). The Noisy Miner control program will be subject to obtaining any required licence and undertaking consultation with the BCT as relevant to Conservation Agreement conditions.

Monitoring of the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot (plus other threatened Woodland birds) will occur as described in Section 5.17.2. The described program results in minimum of 20 hours of bird survey across 8 days targeting winter flowering eucalypts (DEWHA, 2010). In addition to the winter bird survey program, ecologists have implemented a diurnal bird survey program between August and October each year, with the additional offset areas being surveyed since 2021 as described in Section 5.17.2. This annual diurnal bird survey program tallies all birds within a 1-hectare grid over the course of 10 minutes and notes additional species outside the 1-hectare grid. Survey intensity varies biennially with sites sampled 5 times than 2 times in alternating years.

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Estimates of baseline Noisy Miner density will be calculated from the existing monitoring data described above. The bird monitoring programs described above will also be used to determine if and when additional control programs will be required. At the end of the 5-year pilot program; MCC will analyse data from the two bird monitoring programs to determine what effects can be discerned from the Noisy Miner control and evaluate whether it is reasonable and feasible to continue such a control program for these offset areas.

Control of Noisy Miners will be implemented by an appropriate Pest Control Contractor(s) using methods similar to Crates *et al.* (2022). All personnel involved in Noisy Miner removal will be required to hold relevant and valid licences/permits, including any relevant firearms licence for shooting.

A summary of the Noisy Miner control program will be reported in the MCCM Annual Review. A report will be prepared at the end of the 5-year pilot program of Noisy Miner control that will outline recommendations on whether it is reasonable and feasible to continue such a control program for these offset areas.

5.11 EROSION AND SOIL MANAGEMENT


The proposed revegetation program (that aims to restore native vegetation cover) and exclusion of livestock grazing will likely mitigate any existing legacy erosion sites inherited from previous owners' management regimes, as well as reduce the potential for other erosion issues developing in the offset areas.

Erosion management is determined by annual inspection programs of known erosion sites, unsealed tracks and associated drainage structures across the offset areas to review appropriate erosion and sediment control measures required in accordance with the Blue Book (Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Volume 1 [Landcom, 2004]) and in consideration of Conservation Agreement conditions. Should annual inspection programs identify areas of unstable and active erosion, the erosion register will be updated including what (if any) active remediation works are required to be undertaken. Any erosion and sedimentation identified with tracks and associated drainage structures will be maintained through annual fire break track maintenance program. A summary of annual erosion management activities will be reported in the MCCM Annual Review.

Salinity is not known to be an issue for the offset areas, and the actions specified in this BMP are not likely to increase the level of salinity, and therefore no specific salinity management measures are proposed to be undertaken in this BMP.

5.12 AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT

Condition 46 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138 provides that the offset areas are to be managed primarily for the purposes of compensating for biodiversity impacts of the MCCM and improving regional biodiversity outcomes.

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In this regard, agricultural production and livestock grazing is currently excluded from the offset areas. Any inadvertent grazing from stray neighbouring stock will be removed as soon as practicable. Any proposed grazing for high threat weed infestations will be planned in consideration of Conservation Agreement conditions and aligned with the BCT (2021) *Livestock Grazing Guideline* and include a detailed assessment of the suitability of grazing for conservation management outcomes in accordance with Condition 52 (e) of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138.


Condition 46 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138 also provides that to the extent that limited agricultural production on the lots purchased for offsets is compatible with this BMP and other conditions of PA 10_0138, MCC must include in the BMP an agricultural suitability assessment of surplus land on the properties and maintain the agricultural productivity of the surplus areas. A Supplementary Report (Minesoils, 2024) to the original agricultural suitability assessment (McKenzie 2015) is provided in Appendix K. The original assessment was applied to those properties purchased by MCC for offset areas that included surplus land outside of the offset area which is suitable for agriculture.

In the time since the original agricultural suitability assessment report was completed, the offset areas have been revised (both in the preparation of Conservation Agreements aligned with PA10_0138 MOD9 and EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 variation 2022) and relevant land has successfully been transitioned from agricultural production to biodiversity management. The Supplementary Report provides updated recommendations for the agricultural exclusion management of the offset areas (reflecting the advanced stages of restoration and revegetation of biodiversity values within the offset areas), as well as updated recommendations for the continued agricultural production and livestock grazing on the relevant surplus land of the offset properties which is outside of the approved offset and conservation agreement areas.

5.13 ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

Vehicle access will be restricted to designated tracks to minimise ground disturbance (e.g. compaction); with the exception for biodiversity management actions and inspections which unavoidably result in vehicles and machinery travelling off-tracks within the offset areas. Fencing, gates, access tracks/fire trails and signage inspections will occur biannually. Maintenance of fences and gates will be undertaken as required, while access tracks/fire trails will be maintained in accordance with Section 5.14.

Fence lines are to be located on or adjacent to the actual offset area wherever practicable in consideration of biodiversity (such as threatened species) and heritage constraints. Maintenance and new fences will be constructed in consideration of Conservation Agreements which limits total clearing to 6 m total width. The use of existing fences will be maximised in the first instance as the offset area boundary, to reduce additional disturbance. This will secure the offset area by minimising the likelihood of inadvertent grazing, unauthorised disturbance, or unauthorised access into the offset area. If inspections note that any fences are causing impacts to the flight paths of birds, bats and gliders, alternatives to barbed wire fencing will be considered. Where offset areas share common boundaries, fencing designs will not be restrictive to native fauna movement or connectivity between habitats. Wherever the need to restrict livestock is not required, new fencing will be plain strand wire fencing to minimise the use of barbed wire.

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Offset areas can contain legacy infrastructure assets and items that are inherited from previous owners' agricultural management regimes. Existing infrastructure (such as electricity transmission lines, windmills/water bores and pipes, homesteads and sheds) wholly or partly within the offset areas will be retained and managed as required by the relevant owners and/or managers/licensees. New infrastructure will be located, if required, in consideration of biodiversity (such as threatened species) and heritage constraints, and due diligence inspections will be undertaken prior to any disturbance in consideration the limits specified in Conservation Agreements. Any remaining derelict assets/infrastructure items will continue to be assessed and if no longer required, will be progressively removed overtime and remediated as required.

Visitor impacts will be managed such that disturbance to the offset areas is minimised. Visitors must keep to designated tracks and trails except for management purposes, and equipment entering the area must be clean from weeds and/or seeds. Firewood collection will not be permitted unless in accordance with Conservation Agreements.

5.14 BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT

MCC will annually quantify bushfire fuel loads and threats to assess the bushfire hazard of various offset areas prior to each bushfire season. The assessment will consider human, environment and infrastructure assets within and adjacent to offset areas to quantify an overall bushfire risk. The feasibility of various hazard reduction methods will then be considered (for example, but not limited to, fire exclusion, mechanical fuel reduction such as slashing, or undertaking ecological burns) prior to determining annual treatment/actions for each offset property. Existing fire break tracks across the offset areas are shown on Figures 10a to 10h.

Offset areas with moderate to high overall bushfire risks will be prioritised as part of an annual ecological burn program and will be subject to conceptual and strategic fire planning and mapping. Once annual fire planning has identified individual paddocks in which ecological burns can feasibly be undertaken, and a burn plan has been prepared; MCC will consult where required with relevant stakeholders such NSW Rural Fire Services (RFS), Councils and neighbours/local community, as well as the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA Approval for Open Burning is required for ecological burns) and BCT in consideration of Conservation Agreement conditions.

MCC will establish and maintain fire breaks (using access tracks/fire trails) around the perimeter of and internally within offset areas (where practicable) to passively mitigate fire spreading onto or off the offset property, as well as for active ecological burning and bushfire containment purposes, in consideration of Conservation Agreement conditions. Fire breaks will be periodically maintained as zero fuel barriers (preferably mineral earth barriers up to 6 m total width of clearing); acknowledging that some fuel accumulation will occur in between maintenance. Fire breaks will be inspected annually prior to the fire season and the maintenance of fire breaks will be prioritised as required by the inspection.

MCC will undertake an annual ecological burn program within the feasible paddocks/burn blocks identified through the above assessment within the prioritised offset areas. The burn program will be conducted by suitably experienced and capable professionals with adequate firefighting resources and training to safely and competently light and extinguish ecological burns.



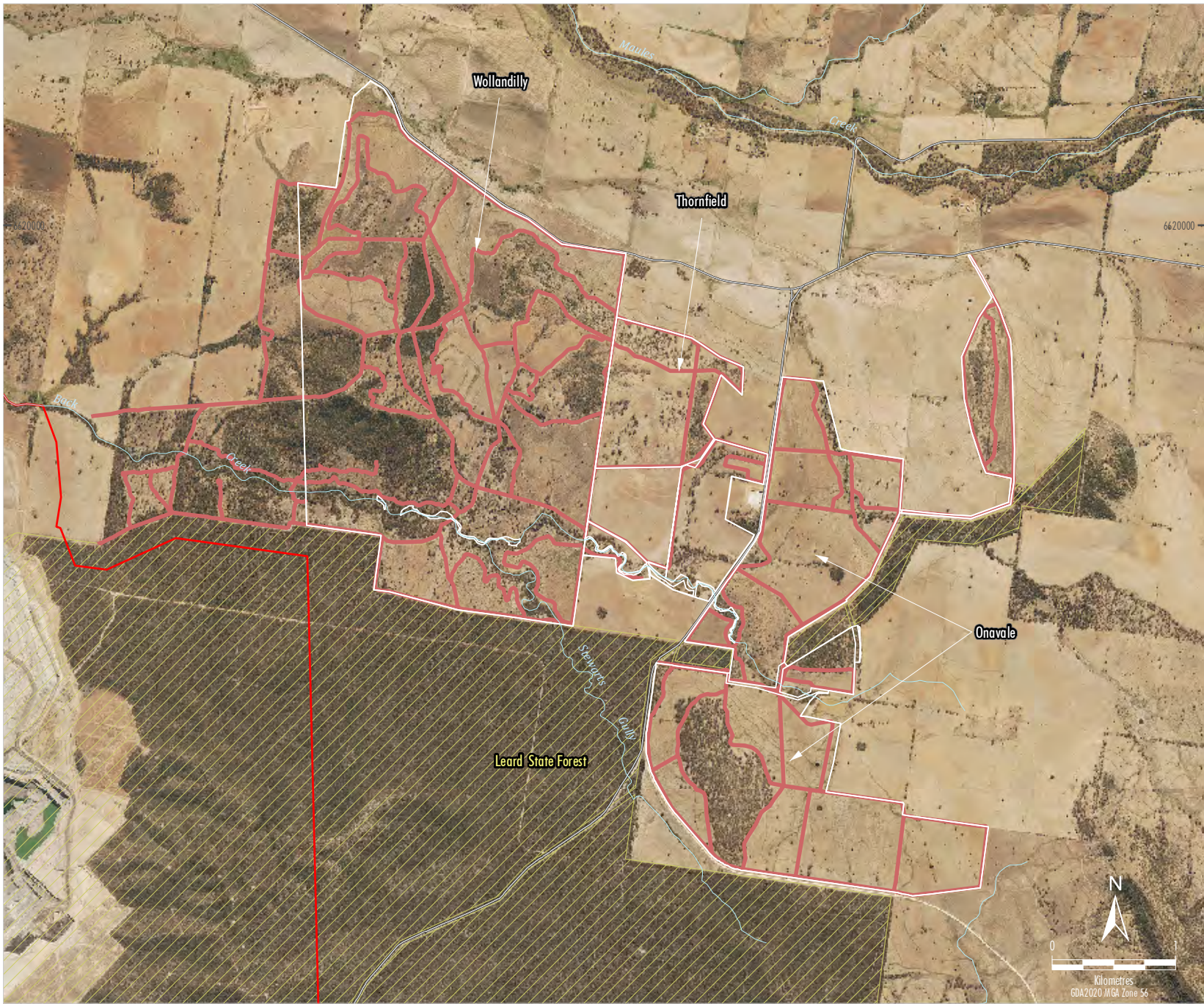
MHC-20-74_BMP24_250A

- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - State Forest
 - MCCM Project Boundary
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Fire Breaks

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2022)
 Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)

MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Bushfire Management -
Kelso, Velyama, Louenville, Teston South,
Teston North and Tralee

Figure 10a



- LEGEND**
-  State Forest
 -  MCCM Project Boundary
 -  MCCM Offset Area
 -  Fire Breaks

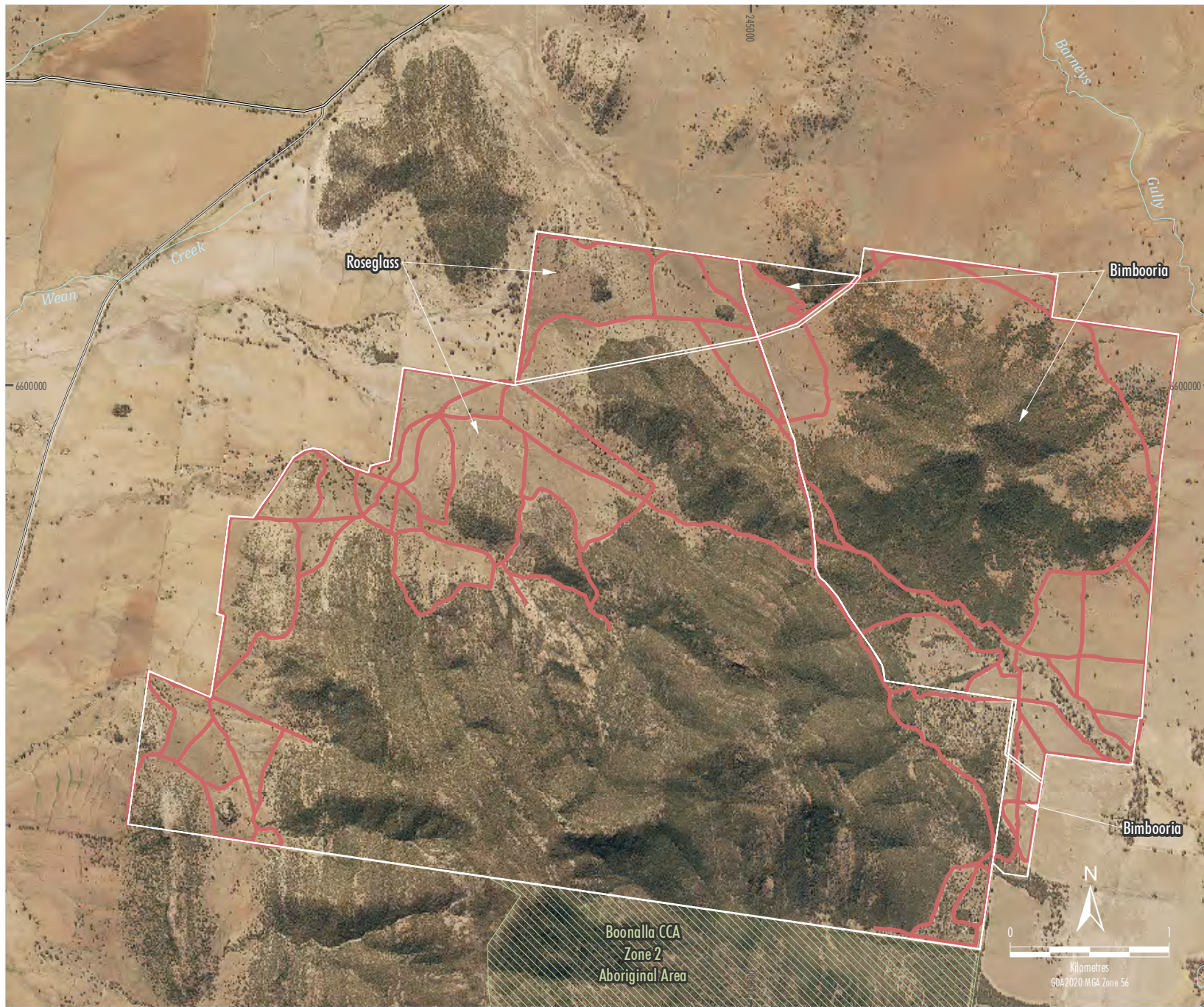
Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021)
 Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)

WHITEHAVEN COAL
 MAULES CREEK COAL MINE
 Bushfire Management -
 Wollandilly, Thornfield and Onavale

Figure 10b

WHC-20-74_BMP24_251A

WHC-20-74_BM24_252A



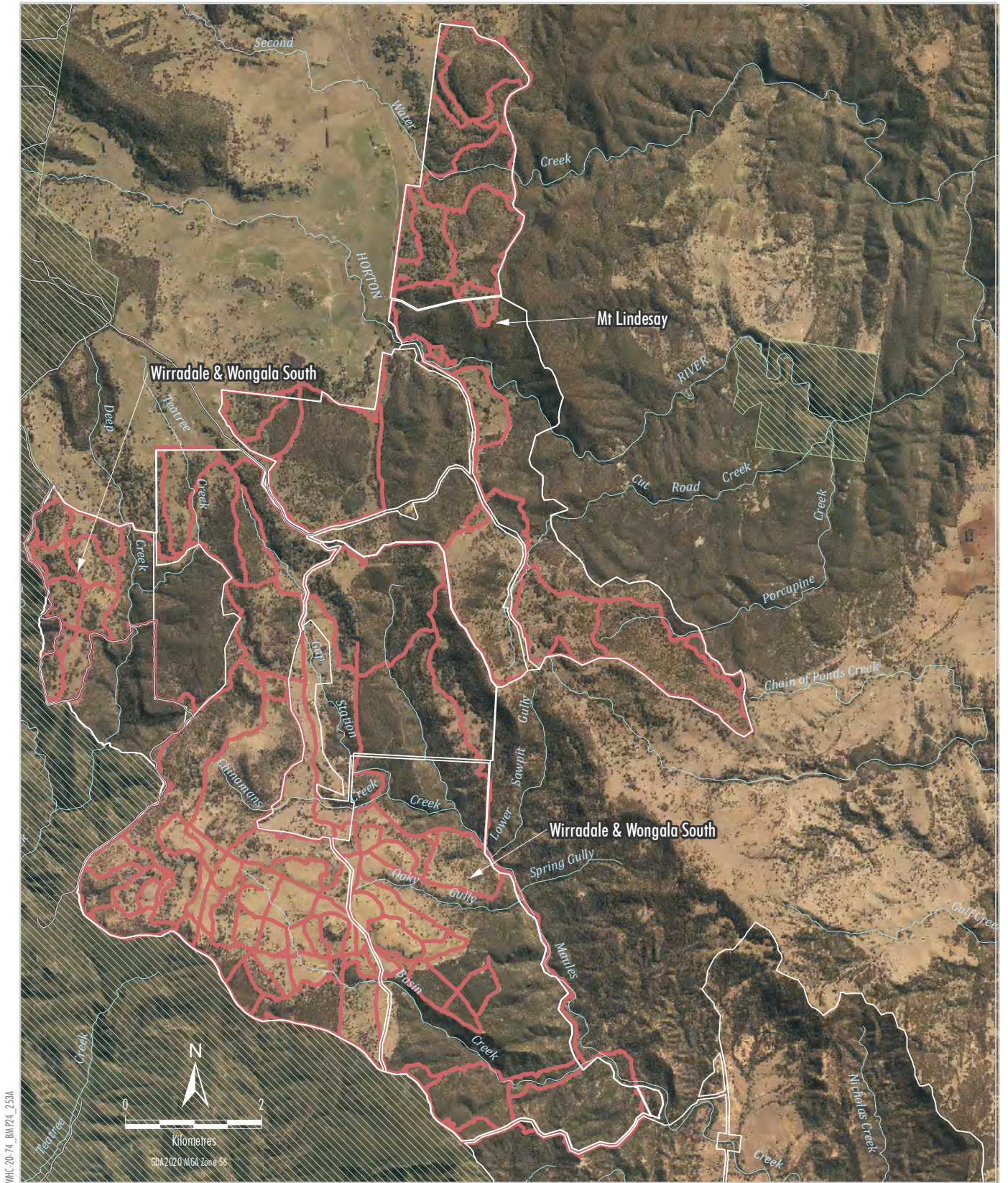
- LEGEND
- NPWS Estate
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Fire Breaks

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021)
Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)



MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Bushfire Management -
Roseglass and Bimbooria

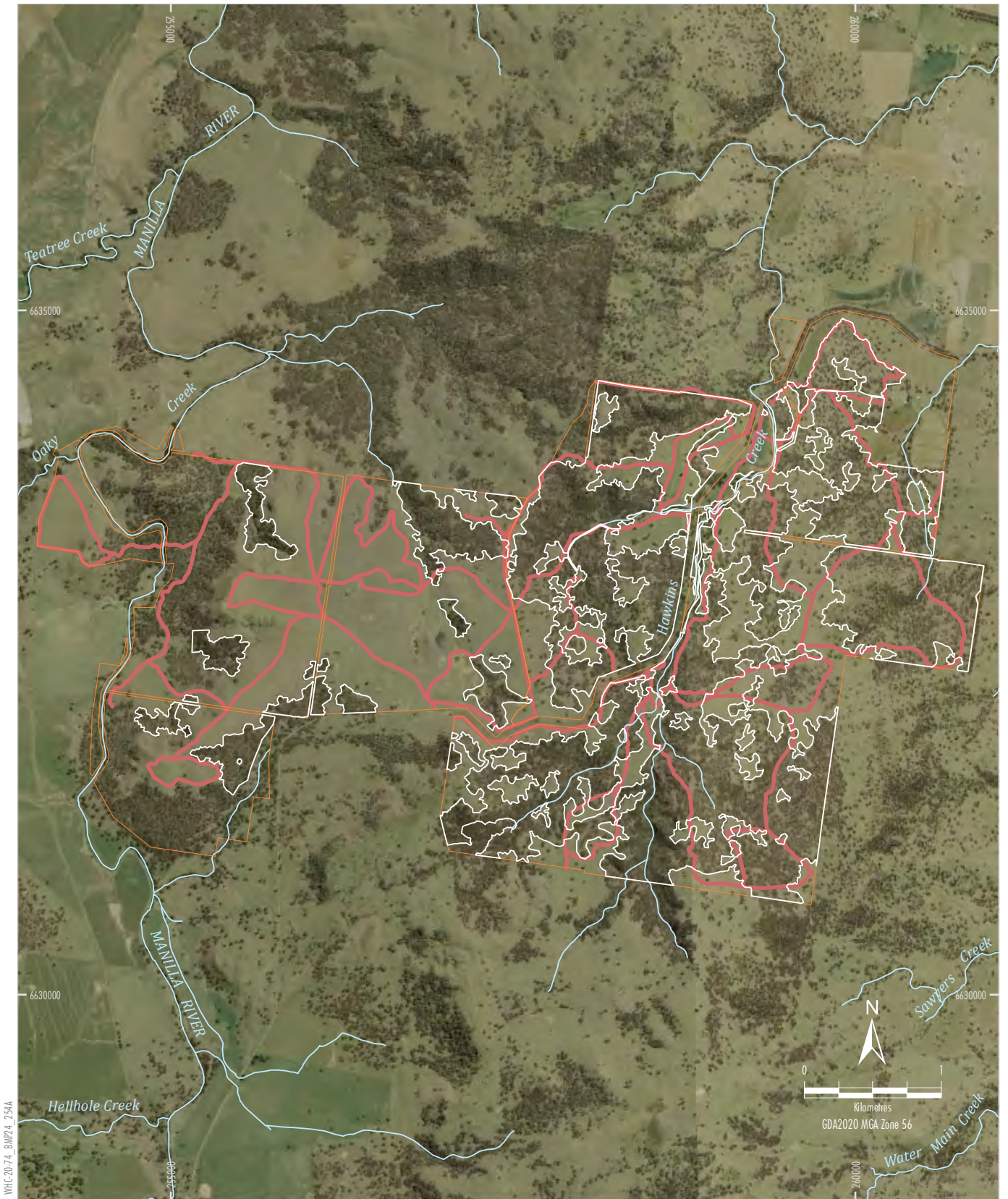
Figure 10c



Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021)
 Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)

- LEGEND**
-  NPWS Estate
 -  MCCM Offset Area
 -  Fire Breaks

Figure 10d



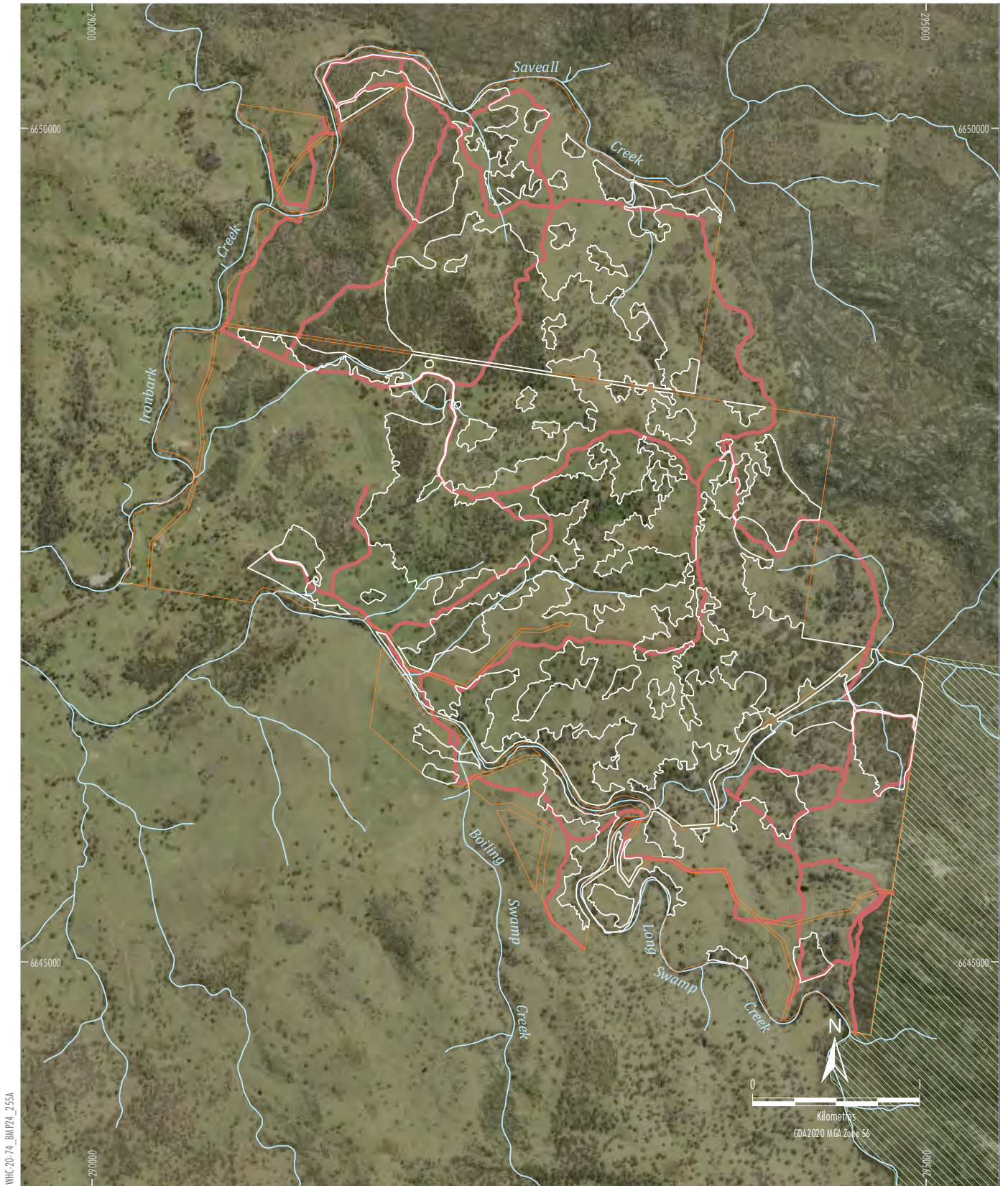
Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021)
AMBS (2021)

- LEGEND**
- Property Boundary
 - MCM Offset Area
 - Fire Breaks



MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Bushfire Management -
Triangle

Figure 10e

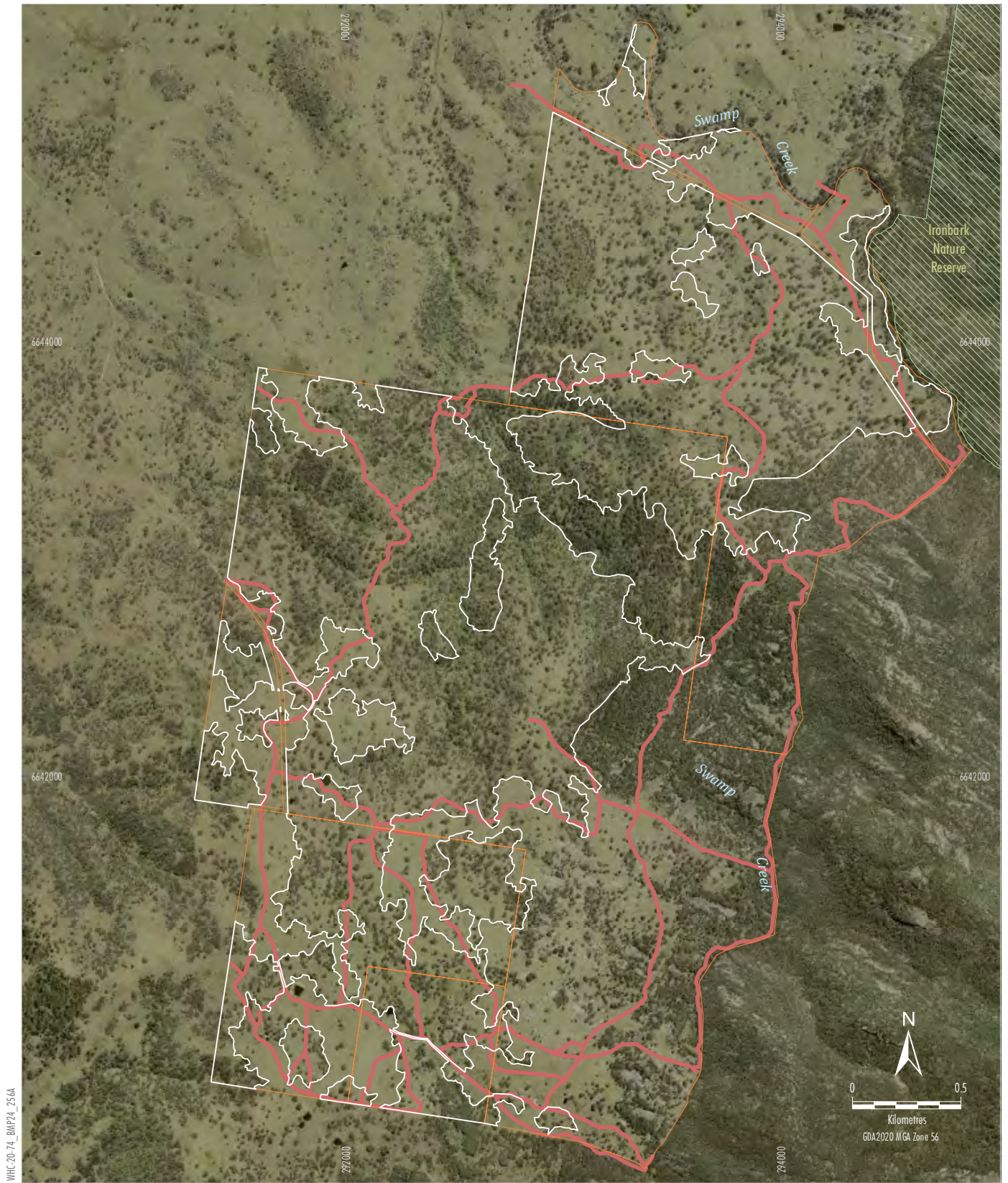


MHC-20-74_BMP24_255A

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021)

- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - Property Boundary
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Fire Breaks

Figure 10f



Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021)



- LEGEND**
-  NPWS Estate
 -  Property Boundary
 -  MCCM Offset Area
 -  Fire Breaks

Figure 10g



WHC20-74_BMP24_257A
326000

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021)






- LEGEND**
-  NPWS Estate
 -  Property Boundary
 -  MCCM Offset Area
 -  Fire Breaks

Figure 10h

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The location of ecological burns will consider existing fire intervals (in consideration of NSW RFS Bush Fire Coordinating Committee [2008] *Bushfire Fire Risk Management Guideline* intervals for grassy woodlands of 8 to 40 years; grasslands of 3 to 10 years; and dry sclerophyll forest shrub/grass sub-formation of 8 to 50 years) within non-woody (any areas considered with revegetation will be sufficiently mature to avoided fire impacts) and woody (existing remnant vegetation) areas, in consideration of Conservation Agreement conditions. Ecological burns will aim for low to moderate fire intensity burns by undertaking cool season burns when conditions are suitable (generally autumn to spring), as well as undertaking other burn preparations to mitigate impacts to environmental assets (such as hollow bearing trees) and other constraints identified within mapped burn blocks.

In the event of a bushfire within or adjacent to offset areas; MCC will assist bushfire emergency services and neighbours (such RFS, NPWS and Forestry Corporation NSW) as much as practicable, including, but not limited to, coordinating access to offset areas and facilitating available water sources.

A summary of annual bushfire management activities will be reported in the MCCM Annual Review.

5.15 THREATENED FLORA MANAGEMENT

MCC will manage, protect and enhance habitat for threatened flora species within and adjacent to the MCCM mining operations and offsets areas. While the focus is to guide management of those threatened flora species which are known to occur within MCCM, general principles and actions are also outlined which will be implemented for additional threatened flora species detected. Current and future management actions for the threatened flora species undertaken as required are:


- Maintenance of threatened flora database, sighting register and spatial data;
- Habitat protection with threatened flora fences and signage;
- Threat abatement and habitat enhancement within offset areas;
- Undertake translocations and transplantations where propagative material is available; and
- Monitoring of threatened flora habitat and populations.

In summary, to avoid inadvertent disturbance of known populations, MCC will maintain a threatened flora register and spatial database as well install demarcation fencing and signage of known threatened flora sites within offset areas. Additionally, the management program includes routine inspections and monitoring of known threatened flora sites with the aim to gain more knowledge of the threatened flora species, identify and respond to any identified threats, and as required prepare propagation and translocation programs for the following species.

5.15.1 *Tylophora linearis*

Tylophora linearis (a threatened flora species listed under the BC Act and EPBC Act) was identified in the MCCM Project Boundary during pre-clearing flora surveys in 2014. Following the identification of *Tylophora linearis* in the MCCM Project Boundary, MCC engaged Niche to undertake regional targeted surveys for *Tylophora linearis* within seven NPWS reserves and six State Forests within northern NSW. The study area was approximately 371,629 ha (Niche, 2014).

These surveys confirmed the presence of *Tylophora linearis* in six NPWS reserves and six State Forests, all of which were modelled as containing suitable habitat, namely: Bibblewindi State Forest; Pilliga East State Forest; Pilliga National Park; Pilliga Nature Reserve; Pilliga State Conservation Area;

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Timallallie National Park; Breeza State Forest; Boonalla Aboriginal Area; Kerringle State Forest; Baradine State Forest; Euligal State Forest; and Trinkey State Conservation Area.

Following the identification of *Tylophora linearis*, a propagation and translocation program was implemented in 2014 and 2015. This research approach has resulted in the examination of *Tylophora linearis* root architecture and species phenology; as well as the successful collection and germination of seed from *Tylophora linearis* plants and subsequent translocation of 77 seedlings within the Wollandilly offset property in December 2015. The threatened flora program will continue to inspect existing and translocated *Tylophora linearis* sites within offset areas as well as attempt to identify reproductive material for future potential translocation and/or transplantation opportunities. Superseding the previous propagation and translocation program, a revised propagation and translocation program is included in Appendix F; but in addition, the MCCM offset area has established direct and other compensatory measures for the species as part of the offsets package (Appendix F) including:

1. Conservation of existing habitat for *Tylophora linearis* within offset areas (Section 4.6);
2. Revegetation of woodland/forest within areas of former *Tylophora linearis* habitat (Section 4.6);
3. Implementation of a root architecture and growth study for *Tylophora linearis* completed in 2014 and 2015 (Appendix F);
4. Seed production monitoring for *Tylophora linearis* completed in 2014 and 2015 (Appendix F);
5. Collection and storage of seed (Appendix F);
6. *Tylophora linearis* propagation (Appendix F);
7. Translocation trials within Wollandilly Offset Area (Appendix F); and
8. Regional surveys completed in 2014 (Section 5.15).

Previous flowering observed for the transplanted *Tylophora linearis* indicates that the transplantation project is contributing towards an established and viable population of *Tylophora linearis* within the Wollandilly Offset Area.

Tylophora linearis was recognised as a little known and cryptic species (OEH, 2014a) and the measures have led to a greater understanding of the species and how it can be managed for conservation purposes. The approved *Tylophora linearis* offset package (Appendix F, Hunter Eco, 2021) provides a significant addition to the reserved *Tylophora linearis* habitat (including additional confirmed records). A summary of annual threatened flora management activities will be reported in the MCCM Annual Review.

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5.15.2 Pomaderris queenslandica

Scant Pomaderris (*Pomaderris queenslandica*) (a threatened flora species listed under the BC Act) was identified in the MCCM Project Boundary in 2015 during pre-clearing flora surveys .

Following the identification of *Pomaderris queenslandica*, a propagation and translocation program was implemented in 2015. This research approach has resulted in the examination of *Pomaderris queenslandica* root architecture; as well as the successful seed collection/germination and soil translocation of *Pomaderris queenslandica* with over 400 surviving plants within the Teston South, Louenville, Kelso and Wollandilly offset properties as at the end of 2023. The threatened flora program will continue to inspect existing and translocated *Pomaderris queenslandica* sites within offset areas as well as attempt to identify reproductive material for future potential translocation and/or transplantation opportunities. Superseding the previous program, a revised propagation and translocation program is included in Appendix G. A summary of annual threatened flora management activities will be reported in the MCCM Annual Review.


5.15.3 Pultenaea imminuta

Boggabri Bush-pea (*Pultenaea imminuata*) was identified in the MCCM Project Boundary in 2024 during pre-clearing flora surveys. As this *Pultenaea* species has only been recently described as a separate species; it is neither listed under the BC Act or EPBC Act. Because it is currently only known from 3 sites restricted to the Leard State Forest that it could meet the criteria for a threatened listing under the BC Act. WHC has become aware through genetic testing work undertaken by the Botanic Gardens of Sydney; that an application to nominate *Pultenaea imminuata* for listing as Critically Endangered is being planned.

While the timing of the BC Act threatened listing is unknown; in anticipation a Translocation and Propagation Program has been prepared and has been incorporated into this BMP. Following the identification of *Pultenaea imminuata*, these translocation actions have commenced ahead of any potential threatened listing nominations:

- A count/population estimate and map of *Pultenaea imminuata* plants within the clearing and adjoining areas was undertaken estimating a total population with the Leard State Forest of approximately 3,000 individuals;
- An estimated 300 cuttings and seeds of *Pultenaea imminuata* collected from the clearing area will survive to become seedlings that could be transplanted in 2025/2026;
- In October 2024, additional seed was collected from another *Pultenaea imminuata* site in Leard State Forest and will be germinated/propagated for these seedlings to be transplanted with the original cuttings; and
- Samples of the *Pultenaea imminuata* were taken for genetic studies that found moderately high levels of diversity. Testing confirmed that this species is genetically distinct from other *Pultenaea* species. The genetic material from the two *Pultenaea* sites that were tested can be mixed for translocations to minimise further inbreeding risks.

The propagation and translocation program are included in Appendix H. A summary of annual threatened flora management activities will be reported in the MCCM Annual Review.

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5.16 PERFORMANCE AND COMPLETION CRITERIA

This section provides detailed performance and completion criteria for evaluating the performance of the Biodiversity Offset Strategy and triggering remedial action (if necessary) in accordance with Condition 52 (d) of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138 and Condition 12C of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566. Contingency measures are provided in Section 5.18.

Performance criteria are interim yearly targets for assessing the performance of biodiversity management activities at plots, while completion criteria are the desired targets to be attained across a whole Vegetation Class, then maintained (at or above the desired target) averaged across five years. Once achieved; completion criteria indicate that management has been successful at obtaining the desired result towards woodland ecological restoration and annual monitoring can cease. MCC can revise the management descriptions/actions to reflect the lower intensity management required. In accordance with Condition 55 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138, if the Biodiversity Offset Strategy is completed generally in accordance with the completion criteria in this BMP to the satisfaction of the NSW Secretary of the DPHI, the NSW Secretary of the DPHI will release the conservation bond (Section 1.5).

5.16.1 Box-Gum Woodland CEEC

Condition 12C (e) i of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 requires a set of measurable ecological indicators for detecting changes to the Box-Gum Woodland CEEC. Table 5-5 outlines the ecological indicators relevant to the offset areas.

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**Table 5-5
Ecological Indicators for Detecting Changes to the Box-Gum Woodland CEEC**


| Ecological Indicators for Detecting Changes to the Box-Gum Woodland CEEC | Measure | Monitoring Method (Section 5.18) |
|--|---|--|
| Overstorey | | |
| Native overstorey cover | Projected foliage cover % | Native overstorey cover |
| Overstorey regeneration | Proportion of over-storey species occurring as regeneration | Recruitment of saplings |
| Vegetation water stress | Projected foliage cover % | Native overstorey cover |
| Understorey | | |
| Understorey cover | Cover of perennial native groundcover species | Native plant species richness (estimate % cover and abundance of each species) |
| Understorey diversity | Number of native and exotic understorey species present (excluding grasses) | Native plant species richness s |
| Important species | Number of important species present | Native plant species richness |
| Native groundcover (grasses and weeds) | Measured proportionately as a presence/absence metric | Native groundcover grasses |

As described in Section 5.1.1, the ecological management objectives for Box-Gum Woodland CEEC are to:

- protect and enhance existing Box-Gum Woodland CEEC (woodland form); and
- restore self-sustaining woodland within existing areas of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC (derived native grassland).

Condition 9 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 requires at least 5,532 ha of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC to be managed to achieve "equivalent or better quality" (as defined in the EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566). To this end, the outcomes being targeted include a reduction in weeds, evidence of natural regeneration in the woodland form of the Box-Gum Woodland CEEC and the establishment of additional woodland within existing areas of derived native grassland. Performance and completion criteria have been defined for the above selected ecological indicators that best assess the trajectory towards the ecological management objectives.

The performance of the offset areas towards meeting the ecological management objectives for the Box-Gum Woodland CEEC will be monitored against the measurable performance and completion criteria provided in Table 5-6. Table 5-6 links the above specific ecological indicators with the performance and completion criteria relevant to the two management objectives. The performance criteria have been measured annually since 2017 on the Kelso, Velyama, Louenville, Teston South, Wollandilly, Onavale, Roseglass, Bimbooria, Wirradale and Wongala South and/or Mt Lindesay Offset Areas, and the target is to meet the completion criteria within 20 years of 2017 (2037) and prior to the expiry date of the EPBC Act approval for all offset areas. Monitoring on the additional offset areas (Thornfield, Long Gully, Neranghi North, Triangle and Coonor) commenced in 2023 in accordance with the Integrated Monitoring Strategy as a condition of the various Conservation Agreements for these offset areas.

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**Table 5-6
Performance and Completion Criteria for Box-Gum Woodland CEEC**

| Management Objective | Ecological Indicators | Performance Criteria | Completion Criteria |
|---|---|--|---|
| Maintenance and enhancement of existing Box-Gum Woodland CEEC (woodland form) | Overstorey regeneration | Natural regeneration of all dominant overstorey Eucalypts relevant to the PCT within each patch sampled by a monitoring plot | Natural regeneration in >50% of plots in vegetation zone have dominant overstorey Eucalypts relevant to the PCT |
| | Weeds (as perennial exotic plant cover) | An overall decrease in weed (perennial exotic plant) cover compared to the baseline condition | Weed (perennial exotic plant) cover is less than 20% on average across monitoring plots |
| Restoration of self-sustaining woodland within existing areas of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC (derived native grassland) | Native overstorey cover | Native overstorey cover trending towards benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix I*) | Native overstorey cover within benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix H) |
| | Native midstorey cover | Native midstorey cover trending towards benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix I*) | Native midstorey cover within benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix H) |
| | Native species diversity (also indicator for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perennial native groundcover; • important species; and • weed richness. | Native species diversity trending towards benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix I*) | Native species diversity within benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix H) |
| | Native groundcover grass cover | Cover trending towards benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix I*) | Native groundcover grass cover within benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix H) |
| | Weeds (as perennial exotic plant cover) | An overall decrease in weed (perennial exotic plant) cover compared to the baseline condition | Weed (perennial exotic plant) cover is less than 20% on average across monitoring plots |

* Annual performance criteria in Appendix I are calculated by back-extrapolating lower and upper threshold completion criteria over 20 years to Year 0.

The benchmark ranges for four ecological indicators in Table 5-6 and Appendix H (i.e. native overstorey cover, native midstorey cover, native species diversity and native groundcover grasses) are sourced from the *BioMetric Vegetation Condition Benchmarks* (OEH, 2017). These benchmarks are relevant as these were in place at the time of the original PA10_0138 and EPBC 2010/5566 Approvals and therefore are compatible with the baseline data, subsequent monitoring data, and data collected by Whitehaven in other company-owned offset areas which is based on the *BioBanking Assessment Methodology* (BBAM) (OEH, 2014b). These benchmarks have an upper and lower threshold value (Appendix H).

Annual performance criteria in Appendix I are calculated by back-extrapolating lower and upper threshold completion criteria from 2037 to Year 0. Analysis of annual performance data aims to track progress towards the vegetation management objectives and allows for timely intervention with remedial action. Plots that fall below upper or lower threshold annual performance criteria will trigger a review of contingency measures as outlined in Section 5.18.

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5.16.2 Vegetation Communities (Other than Box-Gum Woodland CEEC)

As described in Section 5.1.1, specific objectives of the offset areas relating to vegetation communities (other than Box-Gum Woodland CEEC) include to:

- protect and enhance existing native woodland/forest; and
- restore self-sustaining vegetation communities within derived native grassland and 'non-native' areas.


Table 16 in Condition 44 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138 provides for existing native woodland/forest in the offset areas to be protected and enhanced (approximately 10,547.8 ha) as well as restoration of woodland/forest within approximately 4,327 ha of derived native grassland and/or cleared land.

Performance and completion criteria have been defined that best assess the trajectory towards the above ecological management objectives. The performance of the offset areas towards meeting the ecological management objectives will be monitored against the measurable performance and completion criteria provided in Table 5-7.

**Table 5-7
Performance and Completion Criteria for Vegetation Communities (other than Box-Gum Woodland CEEC)**

| Management Objective | Ecological Indicators | Performance Criteria | Completion Criteria |
|--|---|--|---|
| Protect and Enhance Existing Native Woodland/Forest | Overstorey regeneration | Natural regeneration of all dominant overstorey Eucalypts relevant to the PCT within each patch sampled by a monitoring plot | Natural regeneration in >50% of plots in vegetation zone have dominant overstorey Eucalypts relevant to the PCT |
| | Weeds (as perennial exotic plant cover) | An overall decrease in weed (perennial exotic plant) cover compared to the baseline condition | Weed (perennial exotic plant) cover is less than 20% on average across monitoring plots |
| Restoration of self-sustaining vegetation communities within derived native grassland and 'non-native' areas | Native overstorey cover | Native overstorey cover trending towards benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix I*) | Native overstorey cover within benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix H) |
| | Native midstorey cover | Native midstorey cover trending towards benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix I*) | Native midstorey cover within benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix H) |
| | Native species diversity | Native species diversity trending towards benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix I*) | Native species diversity within benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix H) |
| | Native groundcover grass cover | Cover trending towards benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix I*) | Native groundcover grass cover within benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix H) |
| | Weeds (as perennial exotic plant cover) | An overall decrease in weed (perennial exotic plant) cover compared to the baseline condition | Weed (perennial exotic plant) cover is less than 20% on average across monitoring plots |

* Annual performance criteria in Appendix I are calculated by back-extrapolating lower and upper threshold completion criteria over 20 years to Year 0.

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5.16.3 Habitat for Threatened Species


As described in Section 5.1.1, the ecological management objectives for threatened species listed under the EPBC Act are to:

- protect and enhance existing woodland and forest habitat for threatened species threatened species listed under the BC Act (those listed in Conditions 49 and 50 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138) and listed under the EPBC Act, namely the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, Corben's Long-eared Bat and *Tylophora linearis*; and
- restore self-sustaining woodland and/or forest within derived native grasslands and 'non-native' areas to provide habitat for the above listed threatened species listed under the EPBC Act.

Condition 9 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 requires 9,334 ha of land within the offset areas to be managed to achieve "equivalent or better quality" habitat for the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Corben's Long-eared Bat (as defined in the EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566).

The existing woodland and forest habitat will be enhanced by reducing weeds and achieving natural regeneration. Restoration in derived native grasslands and 'non-native' areas will aim to provide potential foraging habitat for the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Corben's Long-eared Bat and structure suitable to provide potential habitat for *Tylophora linearis*.

Box-Gum Woodland CEEC also provides habitat for the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Corben's Long-eared Bat and *Tylophora linearis* and therefore Box-Gum Woodland CEEC is also suitable as a surrogate for monitoring improvements over time to woodland and forest habitat quality for key fauna threatened species. Performance and completion criteria have been defined that best assess the trajectory towards the above ecological management objectives. The performance of the offset areas to meet these ecological management objectives for the Box-Gum Woodland CEEC will be monitored against the performance and completion criteria provided in Table 5-6. Habitat areas not associated with the Box-Gum Woodland CEEC will be monitored against the measurable interim performance and completion criteria provided in Table 5-8. Further, annual monitoring has demonstrated that measurement of these performance and completion criteria is both repeatable and reliable surrogate method of tracking against the ecological management objectives rather than adopting alternative metrics in this BMP (*Leard Forest Mining Precinct Regional Biodiversity Strategy* [Umwelt, 2017]).

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**Table 5-8
Performance and Completion Criteria for Habitat**


| Management Objective | Ecological Indicators | Performance Criteria | Completion Criteria |
|--|---|--|---|
| Enhancement of existing woodland/forest | Overstorey regeneration | Natural regeneration of all dominant overstorey Eucalypts relevant to the PCT within each patch sampled by a monitoring plot | Natural regeneration in >50% of plots in vegetation zone have dominant overstorey Eucalypts relevant to the PCT |
| | Weeds (as perennial exotic plant cover) | An overall decrease in weed (perennial exotic plant) cover compared to the baseline condition | Weed (perennial exotic plant) cover is less than 20% on average across monitoring plots |
| Restoration of self-sustaining woodland/forest | Native overstorey cover | Cover trending towards benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix I*) | Cover within benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix H) |
| | Native midstorey cover | Cover trending towards benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix I*) | Cover within benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix H) |
| | Native species diversity | Native species diversity trending towards benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix I*) | Native species diversity within benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix H) |
| | Native groundcover grasses | Cover trending towards benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix I*) | Cover within benchmark range for the relevant Vegetation Class (Appendix H) |
| | Weeds (as perennial exotic plant cover) | An overall decrease in weed (perennial exotic plant) cover compared to the previous year. | Weed (perennial exotic plant) cover is less than 20% on average across monitoring plots |

* Annual performance criteria in Appendix I are calculated by back-extrapolating lower and upper threshold completion criteria over 20 years to Year 0.

5.17 ECOLOGICAL MONITORING PROGRAM

Condition 52 (f) of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138 requires a seasonally based program to monitor and report on the effectiveness of offset management measures, and progress against the detailed performance and completion criteria. Condition 12C (e) ii of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 requires a monitoring plan to assess the success of the management activities for Box-Gum Woodland CEEC and habitat for the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Corben's Long-eared Bat measured against the baseline condition.

Australia Museum Consulting commenced the monitoring data collection in November 2014 on the Kelso, Velyama, Louenville, Teston South, Wollandilly, Onavale, Roseglass, Bimbooria, Wirradale and Wongala South and/or Mt Lindesay Offset Areas. Monitoring on the additional offset areas (Thornfield, Long Gully, Neranghi North, Triangle and Coonor) commenced in 2023 in accordance with the Integrated Monitoring Strategy as a condition of the various Conservation Agreements for these offset areas. The monitoring program described below is based on the continuation of the most relevant, and effective, components of the existing monitoring program for continuity of data collection and analysis, and to allow comparison against baseline data. Suitably qualified ecologists will be engaged to undertake the monitoring program in accordance with Condition 12C(e) ii of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566.

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5.17.1 Vegetation and Habitat Monitoring

Purpose

Vegetation and habitat monitoring will be undertaken to track changes in vegetation and habitat in the offset areas in response to management measures. The data collected will be used to evaluate the progress of the offset areas towards meeting the performance and completion criteria (Section 5.17). This monitoring program is based on the draft “Integrated Monitoring Strategy – Maules Creek Coal Mine Biodiversity Offset Area (Maules Offsets)” (Ecoplanning, 2024), which is currently in preparation in consultation with the BCT. The draft IMS (v4.3) succeeds the BCT approved version (final v2.4, dated 4 April 2023). The IMS is aligned with WHC’s Biodiversity’s Flora Monitoring Project Plan that provides overarching consistency across Whitehaven’s other company-owned offset areas. Flora monitoring will be undertaken on an annual basis in spring, when the highest diversity of plants is expected to be present (Rawlings *et al.*, 2010). The season of monitoring plots will be consistent (not rotated) in order to monitor trends in the data and that a similar range of species diversity has been found in other seasons (AMBS, 2020) not warranting seasonal surveys. Therefore, no autumn (or other seasonal) monitoring will be undertaken in offset areas.

Monitoring Design

Relevant ecological indicators (outlined in Table 5-9), based on a modified BioBanking Assessment Methodology (BBAM) (OEH 2014b), are monitored annually at treatment plots (within the offset areas) and compared to control plot and reference zone data (outside the offset areas) over time. All monitoring plots (treatment, control and reference) are 0.1 ha (20 x 50 m) inclusive of a 20 x 20 m floristic plot and 50 m transect (see Plate 4).


Treatment plots are established in the largest VZs, where the majority of MCC management actions occur, and are replicated based on Biobanking Assessment Method (BBAM) area threshold recommendations (OEH 2014) as per the Integrated Monitoring Strategy. VZs within the MCC offset areas are stratified based on:

- 1) Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) region (Nandewar [NAN], Brigalow Belt South [BBS] and New England Tablelands [NET])
- 2) Box-Gum Woodland CEEC, Potential Box-Gum Woodland CEEC* and Non-Box-Gum Woodland vegetation
- 3) Vegetation Class (Keith 2004) (known herein as Keith Class), and
- 4) Broad condition state (Good or DNG/Cleared)

*Areas mapped as ‘Potential Box-Gum Woodland CEEC’ are those in Plant Community Type (PCT) 435 (DNG/Cleared condition), that under management, have the potential to conform to EPBC criteria for Box-Gum Woodland CEEC.

The aim is not to sample every vegetation community, but to adequately sample to detect trends and changes in the vegetation condition. Treatment plots are permanently marked with star pickets at the start and end of the 50 m transect and at the four corners of the 20 m x 20 m floristic plot. The location of the start and end of the 50 m transect have been recorded using a GPS.

Control plots will be established in accordance with Condition 12C(e) ii of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 and are located outside the biodiversity offset area (called the ‘control zone’), within the same Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) region as the dominant Vegetation Classes (Keith, 2004) and representing a ‘business as usual’ land management scenario (as per BCT

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2021), where agricultural management continues. Where it is not possible to establish control plots in the same IBRA and Keith Class as treatment plots, control plots within the adjoining IBRA will be used.

The comparison of treatment and control plot data aims to account for changes that occur due to background environmental change and subsequently determine to what extent biodiversity management actions within vegetation zones are trending away from control plots still subject to agricultural management. Each control site is to have a minimum of three plots to allow for statistically robust data analysis. Additional monitoring sites may also be progressively established for testing specific management techniques in an adaptive management framework (e.g. testing a management technique and revising the technique based on a monitoring outcome). Control plots are not necessarily permanently marked as they are within land that is not under the direct management control of WHC Biodiversity.

Reference plots are located outside of the offset area/Conservation Agreements (CAs), within 'reference sites' that are in high-quality remnants of the dominant Keith Classes within the offset area/CA. The monitoring of reference sites provides local benchmark data for aspirational 100-year targets achievable beyond WHC's period of management. The comparison of VZ data (with relatively short management history) to the appropriate reference site, is to assess whether under WHC management VZ restoration is trending towards or away from reference site condition. This gives confidence that it will continue to trend towards reference condition after achievement of completion criteria and the WHC management period ends. Reference plots are not permanently marked as they are within public land. Some reference sites are used for more than one offset area/CA.

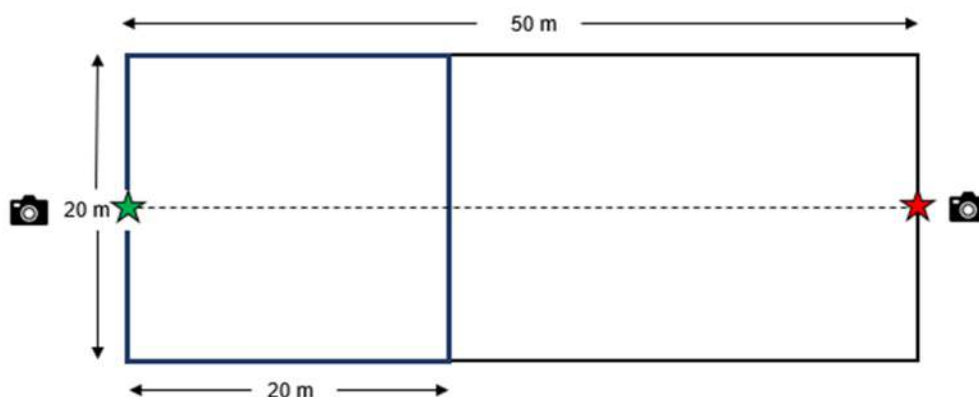



Plate 4 Layout of Flora Monitoring Plot

Treatment monitoring plots will be located across Vegetation Classes (Keith, 2004) in Table 5-10. The location of monitoring sites is shown on Figures 11a to 11h.

Figures 11a to 11f also include the locations of the control and reference sites surveyed in parallel with the treatment plots as part of Spring Flora Monitoring.

Photographic Monitoring

Photos will be taken at chest height at the start and end of each plots transect.


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General Observations

General observations on vegetation and habitat outside monitoring sites will also be made annually.

**Table 5-9
Vegetation and Habitat Monitoring Methods**

| Management Objective | Ecological Indicators | Measure | Monitoring Method | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Maintenance and enhancement of existing native woodland/forest (including areas of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC) | Over-storey regeneration | Proportion of over-storey species occurring as regeneration | Recruitment of saplings | Observation 20 x 50 m plot. |
| | Weeds | Number and percentage cover of non-native weed species | Mid-storey cover | 10 points along a 50 m transect |
| | | | Ground cover | 50 points along a 50 m transect |
| | | | Species richness | Count utilising a species list recorded within 20 x 20m sub-plot (estimate % cover and abundance of each species) |
| Restoration of self-sustaining woodland within derived native grassland (including woodland within existing areas of Box-Gum Woodland CEEC [derived native grassland]) and 'non-native' areas | Native overstorey cover | Projected foliage cover % | Native overstorey cover | 10 points along a 50 m transect (source BBAM [OEH, 2014b]) |
| | Vegetation water stress | Projected foliage cover % | Native overstorey cover | 10 points along a 50 m transect (source BBAM [OEH, 2014b]) |
| | Native midstorey cover | Projected foliage cover % | Native midstorey cover | 10 points along a 50 m transect (source BBAM [OEH, 2014b]) |
| | Native species diversity | Number of native understorey species present (excluding grasses) | Native plant species richness | Count utilising a species list recorded within 20 x 20m sub-plot (source BBAM [OEH, 2014b]) |
| | Understorey cover | Cover of perennial native groundcover species | Native plant species richness | Count utilising a species list recorded within 20 x 20m sub-plot (estimate % cover and abundance of each species) (source BBAM [OEH, 2014b]) |
| | Important species | Number of important species present | Native plant species richness | Count utilising a species list recorded within 20 x 20m sub-plot (source BBAM [OEH, 2014b]) |
| | Native groundcover grass cover | Measured proportionately as a presence/absence metric | Native groundcover grasses | 10 points along a 50 m transect (source BBAM [OEH, 2014b]) |
| | Weeds | Number and percentage cover of non-native weed species | Mid-storey cover | 10 points along a 50 m transect (source BBAM [OEH, 2014b]) |
| | | | Ground cover | 10 points along a 50 m transect (source BBAM [OEH, 2014b]). |

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| | | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------|---|
| | | | Species richness | Count utilising a species list recorded within 20 x 20m sub-plot (estimate % cover and abundance of each species) |
|--|--|--|------------------|---|


**Table 5-10
Schedule of Flora Monitoring Sites**

| Vegetation Classes | Total Area (ha) | No. of plots | Performance and Completion Criteria |
|---|------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Maintenance and Enhancement of Existing Woodland and Forest</i> | | | |
| New England Dry Sclerophyll Forests (NAN) | 595.2 | 7 | Table 5-7 |
| New England Grassy Woodlands (NAN), BGW | 1,033.8 | 8 | Table 5-6 |
| New England Grassy Woodlands (NET), BGW | 359.0 | 7 | Table 5-6 |
| North-west Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Woodlands (BBS) BGW | 230.9 | 6 | Table 5-6 |
| North-west Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Woodlands (NAN) | 2,664.0 | 8 | Table 5-7 |
| North-west Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Woodlands (NAN) BGW | 633.3 | 7 | Table 5-6 |
| Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests (BBS) | 777.9 | 7 | Table 5-7 |
| Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests (NAN) | 2,052.6 | 8 | Table 5-7 |
| Western Slopes Grassy Woodlands (NAN), BGW | 1,262.9 | 8 | Table 5-6 |
| <i>Restoration of Self-sustaining Woodland/Forest</i> | | | |
| Floodplain Transition Woodlands (BBS) | 648.37 | 7 | Table 5-7 |
| New England Grassy Woodlands (NAN), BGW | 376.0 | 7 | Table 5-6 |
| North-west Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Woodlands (BBS) | 721.33 | 7 | Table 5-7 |
| North-west Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Woodlands (BBS) Potential BGW | 148.3 | 6 | Table 5-6 |
| North-west Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Woodlands (NAN) BGW | 981.7 | 7 | Table 5-6 |
| North-west Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Woodlands (NAN) Potential BGW | 616.3 | 7 | Table 5-6 |
| Western Slopes Grassy Woodlands (NAN), BGW | 591.0 | 8 | Table 5-6 |
| Total monitored | 13,692.66 | 115 | |

Highlight = Vegetation Classes relevant to the Box-Gum Woodland CEEC
 NAN = Nandewar Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia Bioregion
 BBS = Brigalow Belt South Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia Bioregion
 NET = New England Tablelands Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia Bioregion

Back Creek Vegetation Monitoring

Consistent with the above monitoring methods in Table 5-9; MCC will monitor the health of the vegetation within Back Creek at existing replicated monitoring sites upstream (Site VS13) and downstream (Site VS14) of areas affected by water management at the MCCM (under agreement with

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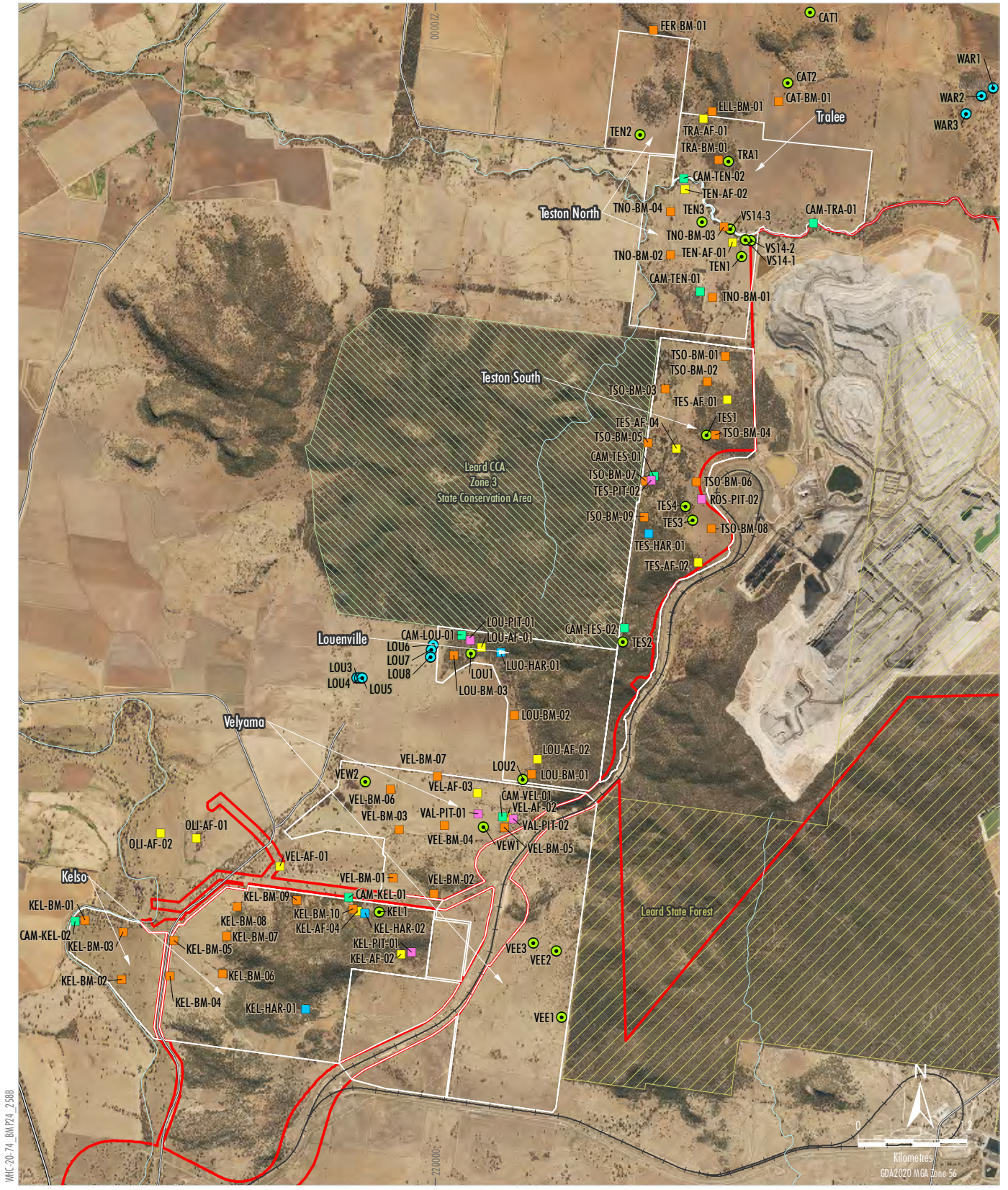
Natural Resources Access Regulator dated 2021) (Figure 11a and 11b). Three monitoring plots are established at each site. The trigger points/thresholds and contingency measures associated with these monitoring locations are presented in Tables 5-8 and 5-12 respectively.

Bushfire Treatment Plots

Two bushfire treatment plots have been installed in Wirradale Offset Area following a bushfire event in October 2019. This is in response to the requirements of the Leard Forest Regional Biodiversity Strategy Stage 2 – Strategy Report (RBS-2; Umwelt, 2017), Table 2.2, Section 4.2, which states “*In habitat restoration areas and regeneration/revegetation zones, monitoring will be required to record the response to a fire event and guide the need for potential active and adaptive management.*”. Three monitoring plots are established at each site, with a total of six plots monitored.

Threatened Flora

Monitoring of *Tylophora linearis* and *Pomaderris queenslandica* in the offset areas will also occur as part of the threatened flora management program as described in Sections 5.15.



WMC-20-74_BM/P24_2588

- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - State Forest
 - MCCM Project Boundary
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Flora Monitoring Sites (Treatment)
 - Flora Monitoring Site (Control)

- Fauna Monitoring Sites**
- Pitfall Trap
 - Camera Trap
 - Harp Trap
 - Bird Survey
 - Active Foraging

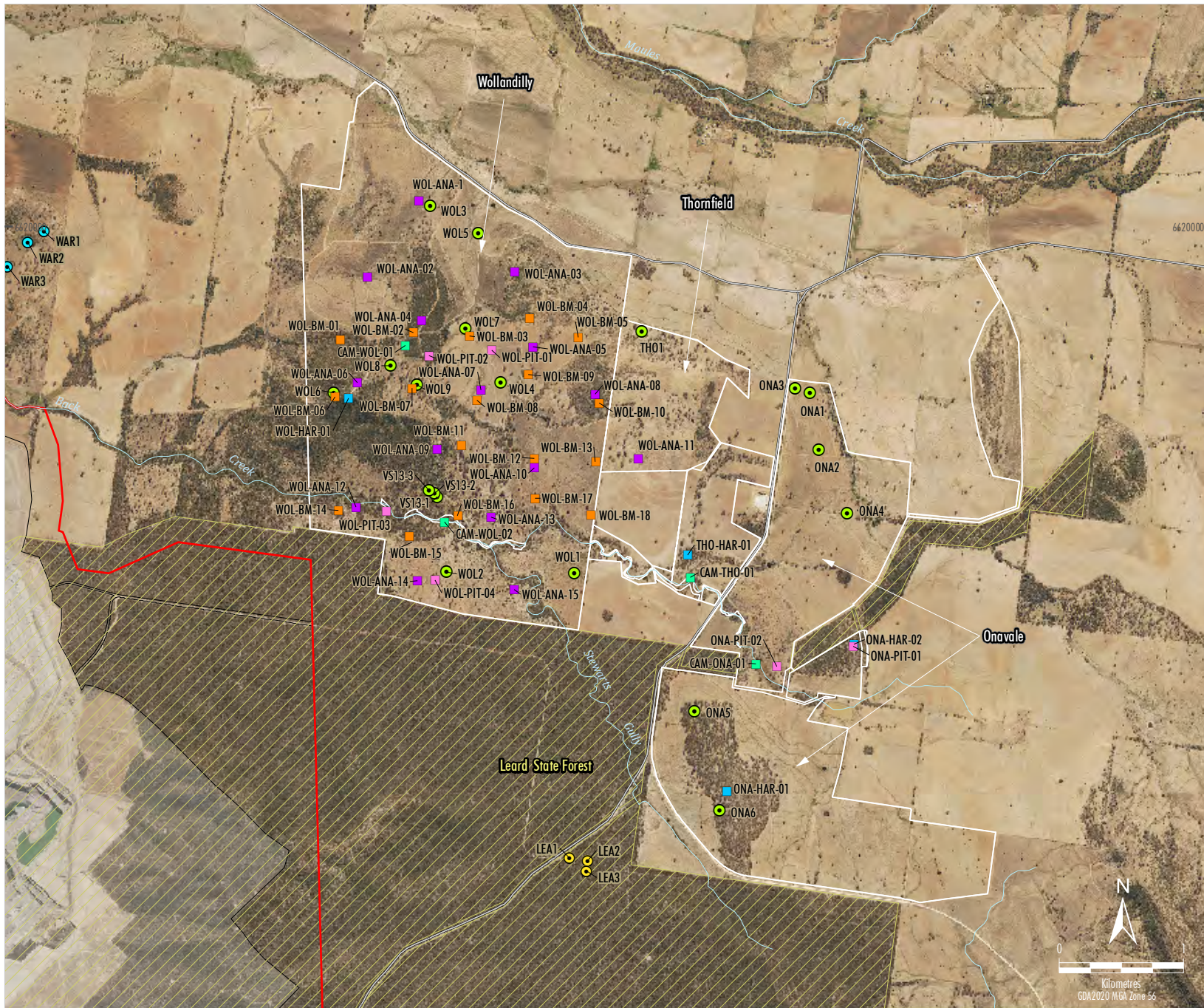
Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2022); Whitehaven (2024); Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)

WHITEHAVEN COAL

MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Monitoring Sites -
Kelso, Velyama, Louenville, Teston South,
Teston North and Tralee

Figure 11a

WMC-20-74_BM24_259B



- LEGEND**
- State Forest
 - MCCM Project Boundary
 - Approximate Extent of Existing/Approved Surface Development
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Flora Monitoring Sites (Treatment)
 - Flora Monitoring Site (Control)
 - Flora Monitoring Site (Reference)
 - Fauna Monitoring**
 - Pitfall Trap
 - Camera Trap
 - Harp Trap
 - Bird Survey
 - Anabat Detector

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021); Whitehaven (2024)

WHITEHAVEN COAL

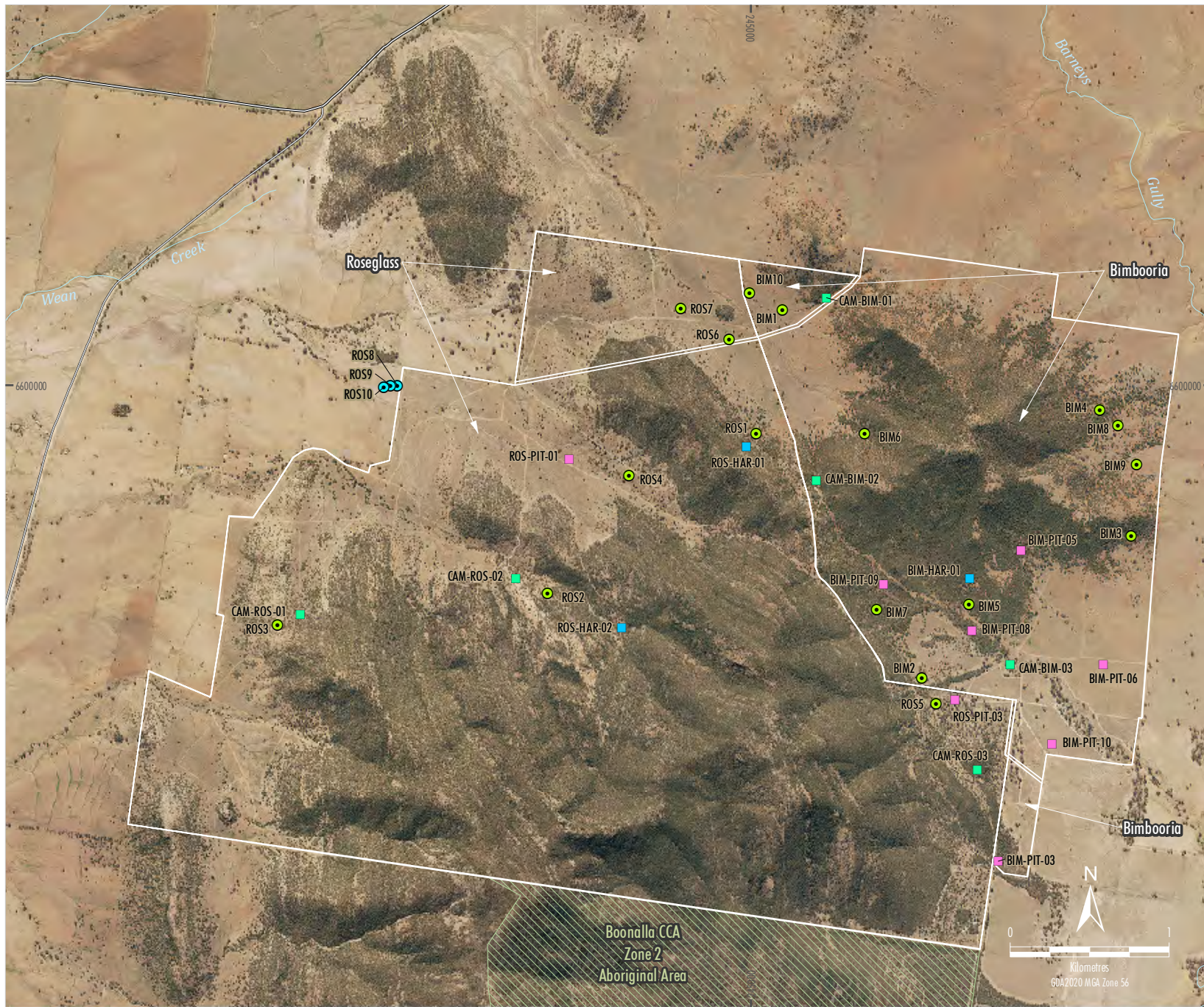
MAULES CREEK COAL MINE

Monitoring Sites -

Wollandilly, Thornfield and Onavale



Figure 11b



- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Flora Monitoring Sites (Treatment)
 - Flora Monitoring Site (Control)
 - Fauna Monitoring Pitfall Trap
 - Camera Trap
 - Harp Trap

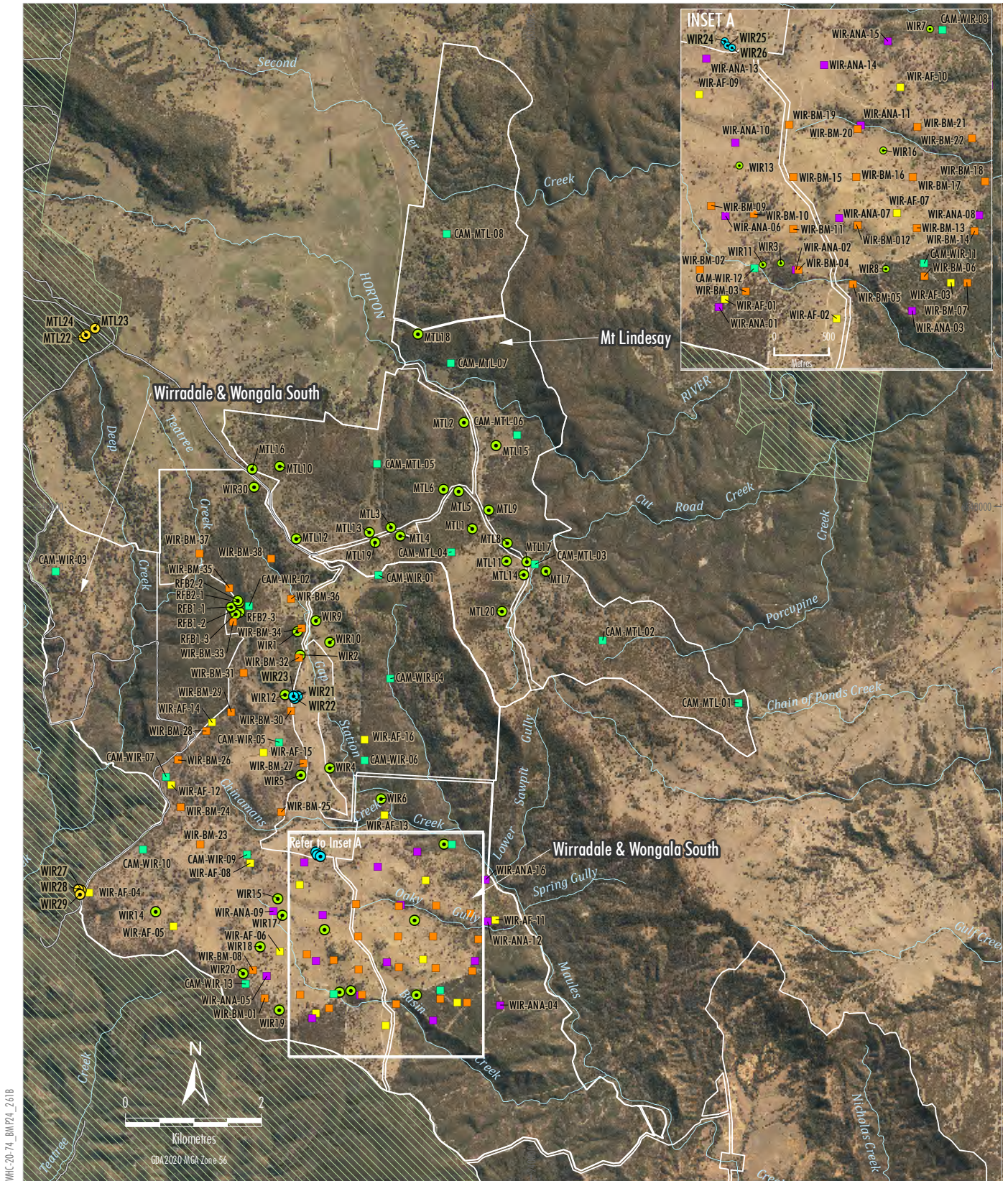
Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021); Whitehaven (2024)
 Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)



MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Monitoring Sites -
Roseglass and Bimbooria

Figure 11c

WHC-20-74_BIM24_240B



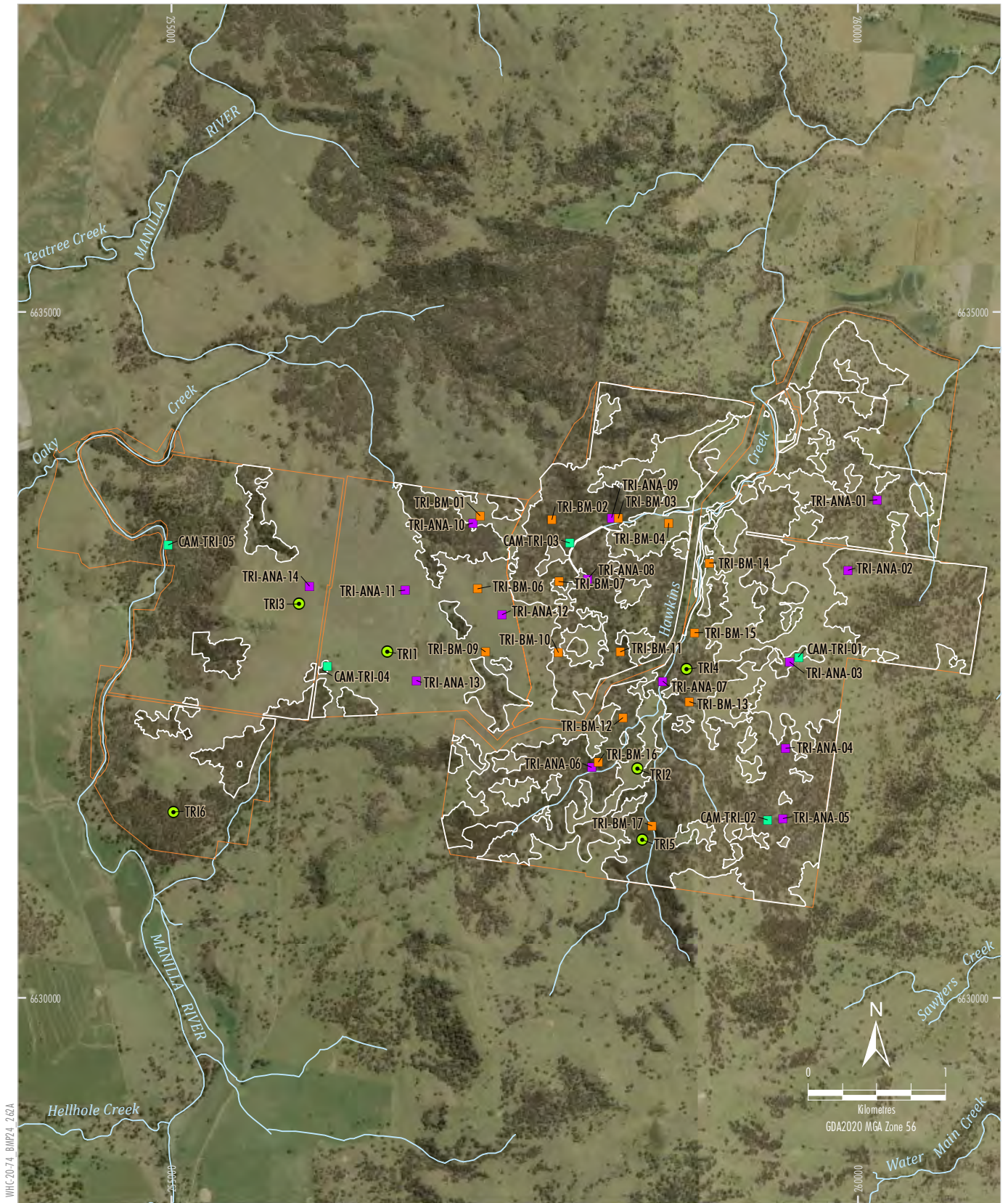
WMC-20-74_BMP24_261B

- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Flora Monitoring Sites (Treatment)
 - Flora Monitoring Site (Control)
 - Flora Monitoring Site (Reference)
 - Fauna Monitoring**
 - Camera Trap
 - Bird Survey
 - Anabat Detector
 - Active Foraging

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021); Whitehaven(2024) Orthophoto Whitehaven Coal (April 2019)

WHITEHAVEN COAL
MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Monitoring Sites -
Mt Lindesay, Wirradale
and Wongala South

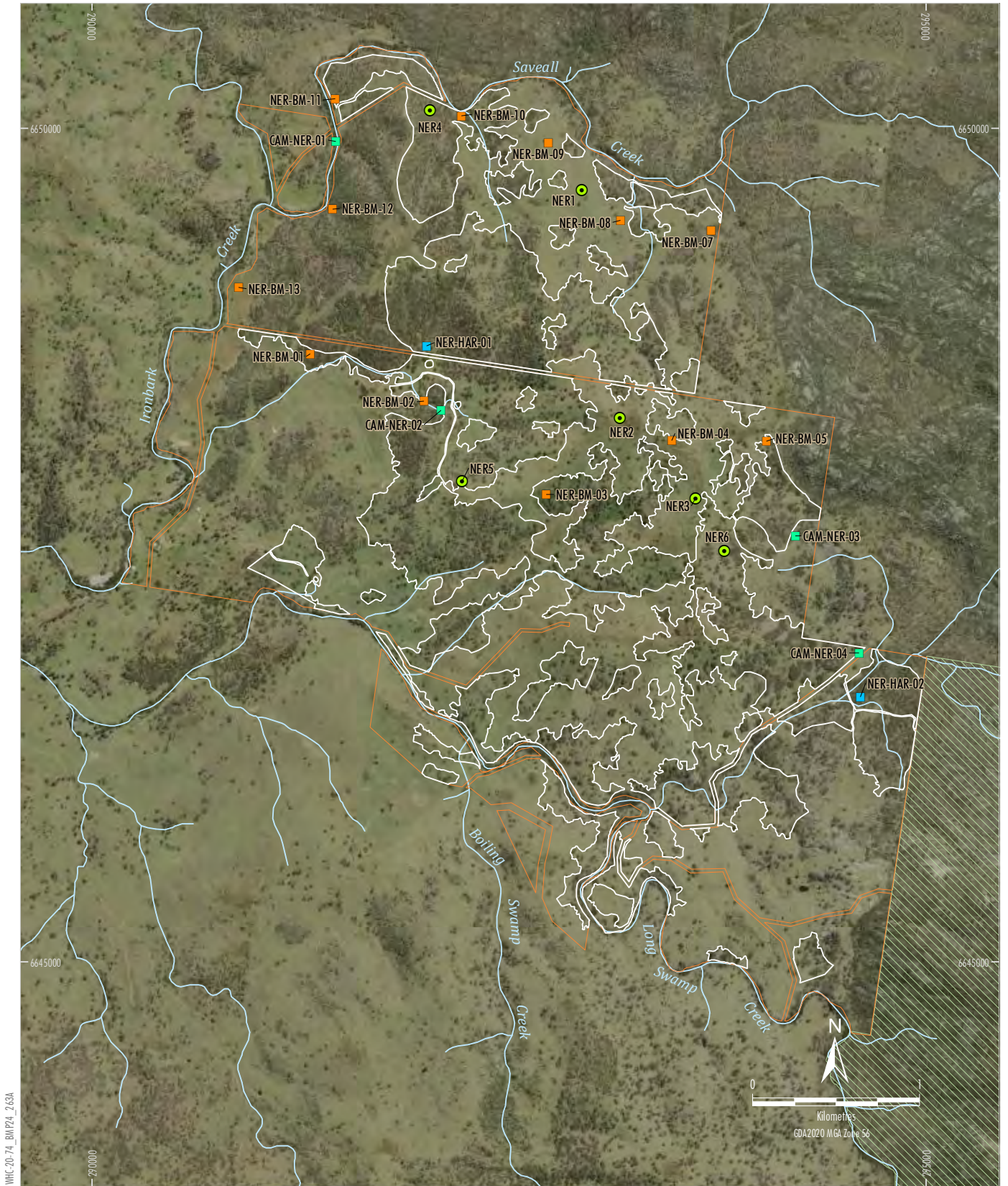
Figure 11d



Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021)
AMBS (2021); Whitehaven (2024)











- LEGEND**
- Property Boundary
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Flora Monitoring Sites (Treatment)
 - Fauna Monitoring
 - Camera Trap
 - Bird Survey
 - Anabat Detector

Figure 11e



MHC-20-74_BMP24_2.63A

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021); Whitehaven (2024)

- LEGEND**
-  NPWS Estate
 -  Property Boundary
 -  MCCM Offset Area
 -  Flora Monitoring Sites (Treatment)
 -  Fauna Monitoring
 -  Camera Trap
 -  Harp Trap
 -  Bird Survey
 -  Anabat Detector
 -  Active Foraging

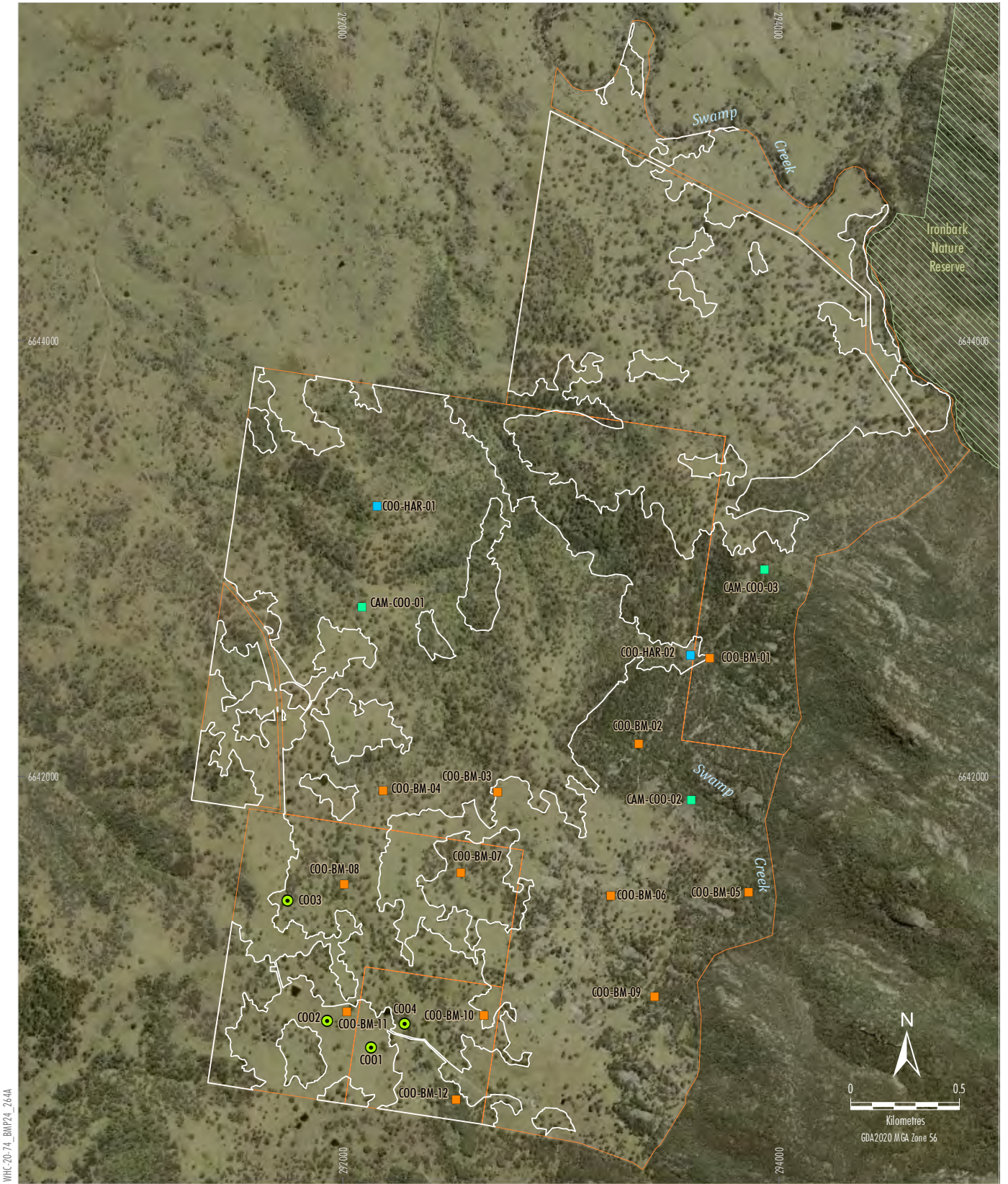


MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Monitoring Sites -

Neranghi North

Figure 11f

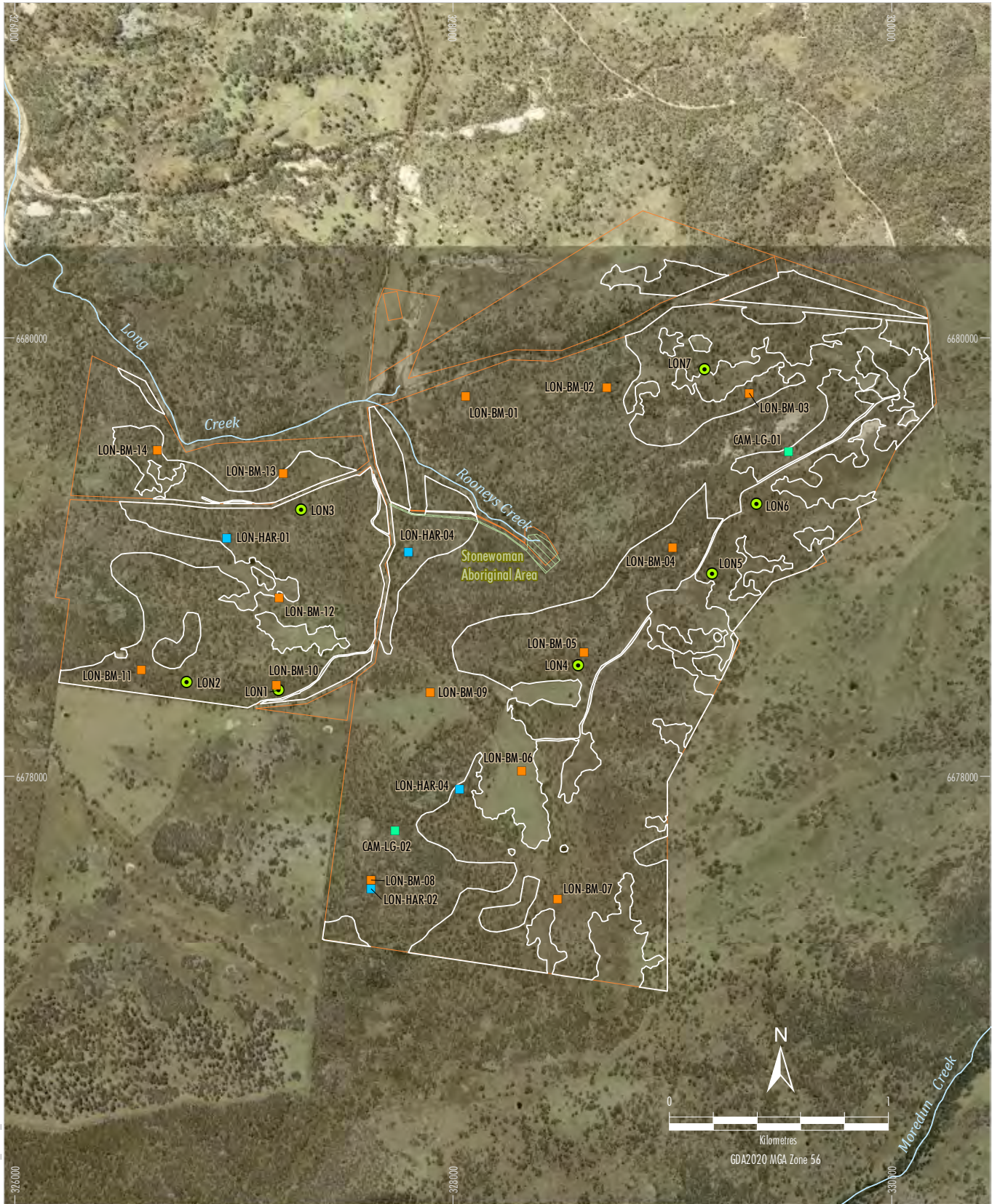


- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - Property Boundary
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Flora Monitoring Sites (Treatment)
 - Fauna Monitoring**
 - Camera Trap
 - Harp Trap
 - Bird Survey

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021); Whitehaven (2024)

WHITEHAVEN COAL
MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Monitoring Sites -
Coonor

Figure 11g




WHC20-74_BMP24_265A

Source: NSW Spatial Services (2021); AMBS (2021); Whitehaven (2024)

- LEGEND**
- NPWS Estate
 - Property Boundary
 - MCCM Offset Area
 - Flora Monitoring Sites (Treatment)
 - Fauna Monitoring**
 - Camera Trap
 - Harp Trap
 - Bird Survey

MAULES CREEK OFFSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
Monitoring Sites - Long Gully

Figure 11h

| | | | |
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5.17.2 Fauna Monitoring


Purpose

Monitoring will be undertaken to document the fauna species response to improvement in vegetation and habitat in the offset areas. Generally, an increase in the species richness and/or abundance is anticipated as the quantity and/or quality of habitat resources increases over time.

A 5-year review of the data collected from the Maules Creek and Willeroi Offset Annual Fauna Monitoring Programs surveyed between 2015 and 2019 (AMBS, 2020b) indicated that while general trends in species richness and abundance over time were detected by the current survey methodologies and survey effort, the variance in the data set was extremely high and no meaningful statistical analysis linking changes in species richness and abundance to specific variables was possible. A further review was undertaken for all fauna monitoring methodologies and survey designs used across all WHC Offset Areas (AMBS, draft 2020c) that identified the existing methods were somewhat effective at detecting fauna species richness and abundance, however there were aspects of each monitoring design and methodology that were contributing to high levels of variance in the data set. The previous monitoring design was struggling to deal with the spatial challenges associated with the large area of Offset Areas required to be monitored by WHC and the associated variables that were generated as a result of the large area. While the methods would continue to generate indicative species richness and abundance data sets, the data sets would not be sufficiently robust to link changes with specific variables including the management actions currently being undertaken by WHC.

Given the challenges faced by the monitoring projects managed by WHC and the strong desire of WHC to generate statistically robust data on the response of fauna assemblages to biodiversity management strategies; a series of structural modifications to the monitoring programs were implemented. The modifications to survey design and methods were selected after undertaking a thorough review of peer reviewed literature and consulting academic and industry experts in the fields of fauna that were being targeted. The modifications aimed to increase the likelihood that informative data on the influence of biodiversity management actions would be collected. The recommended modifications focused on adjustments to the timing of surveys, the number of survey sites, the number of replicates undertaken at each site, the area focused on by the surveys, and the methodology of the surveys. Specific modifications included:

- Changing the frequency of sampling for some monitoring components from annual to biennial, with the purpose of pooling resources for other structural survey modifications such as increasing the number of survey sites and increasing the number of replicates at each site.
- Designing sites to target specific target fauna groups rather than having generic sites focusing on all fauna groups.
- Using the focus on target groups to select appropriate seasons for each survey (i.e. bird surveys conducted early spring independent of microbat surveys which are conducted in summer).
- Selecting sites that better sampled revegetation and non-revegetation treatments.
- Targeting surveys on spatially explicit focus areas representative of the broader habitat variability of the Offset Areas but likely to show detectable responses to biodiversity management actions that are influencing fauna response while maximising the chance of revealing total Offset Areas species richness.

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In addition, Condition 12D of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 requires annual monitoring for the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Corben’s Long-eared Bat in the offset areas, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by Cth DCCEE. These species are known to use habitat within, or connected to, the offset areas (Sections 4.4 and 4.5).

Annual monitoring of fauna has been divided into a series of targeted programs focusing on specific fauna guilds. The surveys are primarily designed to detect changes in species richness and abundance over the duration of the management of the offset area. In addition to this overall aim, the monitoring program will attempt to evaluate guild and species level responses to revegetation programs, habitat augmentation and pest animal management. The ecological management objectives relevant to the purpose of fauna monitoring are:

- Protect and enhance existing woodland and forest habitat for Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot
- Protect and enhance existing woodland and forest habitat for Corben’s Long-eared Bat
- Protect and enhance existing woodland and forest habitat for Superb Parrot
- Restore self-sustaining woodland and/or forest within derived native grasslands and ‘non-native/Cleared’ areas to provide habitat for the threatened species listed under the BC Act and EPBC Act


Each survey method will target spatially explicit focus areas. The focus areas were designed to incorporate a matrix of remnant woodland, naturally regenerating woodland and revegetated woodland. As such, properly stratified survey designs should allow for a robust evaluation of fauna assemblage responses to revegetation program by comparing detection to other, non-revegetated habitats. The focus areas are different sizes and in different locations for each fauna guild. The location of all fauna monitoring sites for each offset area are shown in Figures 11a to 11h. The individual fauna monitoring methods are outlined below.

Diurnal Bird Surveys

Diurnal bird surveys will be undertaken within target focus areas between late winter into spring. Each bird survey focus area has been divided into grid areas, with one bird survey site placed within each grid. Bird surveys will be undertaken using a fixed time/area rapid survey design with survey site boundaries defined by having fixed start and end points. Counts of birds will be made for “in plot”, “outside plot, same habitat”, and “outside plot, different habitat”. Survey effort will vary across a biennial schedule. In year one, all sites will be surveyed up to five times and in year two, sites will be surveyed twice. Surveys will be spread between morning and afternoon survey windows, and if possible, on non-consecutive days.

Microbat Surveys

Microbat assemblages will be monitored using a combination of echolocation recorders and harp traps. Echolocation surveys will be undertaken each microbat focus area divided into a standardised grid appropriate for each focus area. One echolocation recorder will be placed within each grid and units deployed to start recording 30 minutes before last light and will stop recording 2 hours after last light. Survey effort will vary across a biennial schedule. Most sites will be surveyed once every two years while a selection of sites will be sampled annually to act as a control.

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In addition, harp traps will be deployed as a component of a broader targeted survey program focusing on monitoring Corben's Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus corbeni*) consistent with the *Survey Guidelines for Australia's Threatened Bats* (DEWHA 2010) as described below. Surveys will be undertaken annually, with each harp trap site comprised of at least one individual harp trap to sample revegetated habitats. All harp traps will be moved to a new location within the focus area after each survey night. All bats captured will be processed during the day and released the night following the morning of capture. Nontarget bat species will also be identified to species level (where possible), and have their sex, age and breeding condition noted.

Pitfall and Funnel Trap Surveys

Ground dwelling fauna will be monitored using grids of pitfall traps and funnel traps. Pitfall and funnel trap surveys will be conducted biennially within target focus areas. Pitfall trap arrays will be deployed at each focus area with sites paired between remnant woodland areas and revegetated areas. Revegetated areas will further be paired between augmented habitats and non-augmented habitats. Each pitfall trap array will consist of pitfall traps and funnel traps. Pitfall traps will be plastic buckets with lids dug into the ground. Each bucket will be joined by a drift fence. When the sites are open, the lid will be perched above the bucket to provide shade. Funnel traps will be covered with reflective shields or vegetation to ensure trapped fauna can thermally equilibrate. When traps are open, they will be checked in the morning and evening. Sites have been selected to evaluate the response of fauna to revegetation and habitat augmentation through the provision of coarse woody debris and rocks.


Motion Detection Camera Survey

A network of motion detection camera sites has been established across all offset areas for the purpose of native and pest animal monitoring (Figures 11a to 11h). Site selection was designed on an area grid to maximise the even spread of cameras across the entire area of the offset area with a portion of the motion detection cameras to specifically inform pest animal management (Section 5.9). The remaining cameras will be activated annually to target native vertebrate fauna. Motion detection camera survey data will be analysed for the following purposes:

1. Native Fauna – Cameras will be used to detect other native species that don't already have targeted survey methods for and will aim to identify longer-term trends in native animal species richness;
2. Pest Animals - Separate to the monitoring for pest animal management, data will be analysed to identify longer-term trends in pest animal occupancy and identify interaction with native fauna trends.

Cameras activated annually will use bait stations comprising of an enclosed PVC pipe on a small star picket with the other cameras to focus on animal activity points. Separate to the permanent motion detection camera surveys; habitat augmentation installation areas will be monitored using cameras as follows:

1. Nest Boxes – the results of annual ground-based inspections and 5 yearly direct inspections (either climbing or pole cameras to look inside boxes) will inform where and what boxes are to be targeted with seasonally based camera surveys;
2. Coarse Woody & Rock Debris piles – Annual ground-based inspections will inform where and what piles are to be targeted with seasonally based camera surveys.

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Corben's Long-eared Bat

Annual monitoring for the Corben's Long-eared Bat will be undertaken between October to April, consistent with the *Survey Guidelines for Australian Threatened Bats* (DEWHA, 2010a). Baseline surveys for the Corben's Long-eared Bat were undertaken within this period, during November 2014 for all of the offset areas except Thornfield, Long Gully, Neranghi North, Triangle and Coonoor; which were undertaken in January 2024.

The monitoring program is designed to measure abundance, occupancy and habitat use of Corben's Long-eared Bat to assess suitability and can be used to identify important areas of habitat for population connectivity and movement.

Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot


Baseline bird surveys for offset areas were undertaken in November 2014, February 2015, May 2015 and August 2015 except for Thornfield, Long Gully, Neranghi North, Triangle and Coonoor; which were undertaken in July/August 2021 and June/July 2022 (a habitat assessment was undertaken in Thornfield due to the smaller quantity of habitat compared to other offset areas). The ongoing monitoring for the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot will be undertaken annually between May and August, coinciding with the likely flowering period for winter-flowering Eucalypts, such as White Box.

The monitoring program is designed to detect and confirm presence (or absence) of the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot in targeted areas with flowering resources to identify its use over time.

The monitoring program is summarised as follows:

1. Trigger point for survey – Starting May each year, relevant Whitehaven staff to report on any observed presence of Winter flowering eucalypts. This will provide a trigger to initiate the scoping survey. If no trigger is provided, scoping survey to be initiated by the last week in July.
2. Scoping survey – Ecologists traverse the study area noting indicators for survey, such as flowering eucalypts and/or congregations of nectar feeding birds. Linear, well-connected patches will also be noted. Flower intensity score and patch quality to be used to inform subsequent surveys.
3. Field survey – Ecologists to traverse the study area and conduct bird surveys at previously identified sites (as in the Scoping survey above). Survey effort will be guided by the intensity score at a site. At each site, flowering intensity scores and all bird species (sighted or heard) are to be recorded. A total survey effort cannot be prescribed because this is ultimately dependant on flowering intensity in any one year. However, to meet Commonwealth survey guidelines for targeted surveys (DEWHA 2010a), there will be a minimum of 20 hours of bird surveys across 8 days targeted to sampling winter flowering species across all Whitehaven offset areas.

The application of the above method targeted to the location of and timing for winter flowering trees will enable increased survey effort for nectivorous birds during the optimum seasonal conditions increasing the chance of detection for rare species like the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot. Further, the selection of survey locations for the field survey step will prioritise high blossom areas within or adjoining known preferred habitat areas (such as riparian Casuarina species and presence of Mistletoe; presence of positively correlated species and absence of negatively correlated species like despotic/aggressive honeyeater species) as well as considering previous records of sightings and the mapped existing &

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potential habitat areas for these species (Section 4.5). The existing Winter Bird Survey timing overlaps with the commencement of Regent Honeyeater breeding season as well as the Diurnal Bird Surveys (Section 5.17.2) also replicate high survey effort within or adjoining known preferred habitat areas during the breeding season further extending the probability to detect this species.

5.18 POTENTIAL RISKS AND CONTINGENCY MEASURES

MCC intends to adopt an adaptive management approach for the purpose of achieving the environmental management objectives identified in Section 5.1.1 of this BMP. More specifically, MCC proposes to adopt a four-step "Plan, Do, Check, Review" adaptive management cycle (Cth Department of the Environment, March 2016).


A risk assessment was undertaken to confirm that appropriate measures are included in the BMP to manage risks (impediments) to achieving the objectives of the offset areas. A table analysing the risks and measures is provided in Appendix J in consideration of the *Environmental Management Plan Guidelines* (Cth DCCEEW, 2024).

Annual flora performance criteria (Section 5.16 and Appendix I) established interim yearly targets for tracking change in condition and activating management response. Table 5-12 outlines the offset areas Trigger, Action, Response Plan (TARP) which provides trigger points for contingency measures (corrective actions/response) to be implemented if the flora monitoring program identifies that the annual performance criteria are not being met. Contingency measures may not be limited to those listed in Table 5-12 and will only be implemented if in accordance with the relevant Conservation Agreements.

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**Table 5-12
Trigger, Action, Response Plan (TARP)**

| Aspect | Trigger | Action/Response |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Native species richness (NPS) | 1 st TIER – Offset treatment plots are below 80% annual performance benchmark following offset establishment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review factors leading to below benchmark performance. Evaluate whether supplementary planting of appropriate seedling or seeding is required. |
| | 2 nd TIER – Offset treatment plots are below 100% annual performance benchmark value but above 80% annual performance benchmark following offset establishment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine whether NPS is increasing or decreasing. If decreasing, investigate factors leading to decrease and monitor for further change. |
| Native overstorey cover (NOS) | 1 st TIER – Offset treatment plots are below lower annual performance criteria following offset establishment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For revegetation younger than five years – no action required, continue to monitor. For revegetation older than five years – Review factors leading to below benchmark performance. For revegetation older than five years – Evaluate whether supplementary planting of appropriate seedling is required. |
| | 2 nd TIER – Offset treatment plots are above upper annual performance criteria following offset establishment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review factors leading to above benchmark performance such as Biometric Vegetation Type (BVT)/PCT assigned to the treatment plot and/or management zone. If shown to be an increasing trajectory overtime, evaluate whether additional management is required. |
| Native midstorey cover (NMS) | 1 st TIER – Offset treatment plots are below lower annual performance benchmark following offset establishment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review factors leading to below benchmark performance. Evaluate whether supplementary planting of appropriate seedling is required. |
| | 2 nd TIER – Offset treatment plots are above upper annual performance benchmark following offset establishment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review factors leading to above benchmark performance such as BVT/PCT assigned to the treatment site and/or management zone. Evaluate whether additional management is required. |
| Native groundcover – Grass (NGCG) | 1 st TIER – Offset treatment plots are below lower annual performance benchmark following offset establishment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review factors leading to below benchmark performance. If shown to be a decreasing trajectory overtime, evaluate whether additional management (i.e. supplementary seeding or weed control) is required. |
| | 2 nd TIER – Offset treatment plots are above upper annual performance benchmark following offset establishment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review factors leading to above benchmark performance such as BVT/PCT assigned to the treatment site and/or management zone. Evaluate whether additional management (i.e. burning) is required. |
| Perennial exotic plant cover (PEPC) | 1 st TIER – All offset treatment plots across a management zone show an increase in PEPC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review factors leading to increase in perennial weed cover. Identify the location of weed infestations and review additional management (i.e. the need for control measures such as broad-acre spraying, spot-spraying, slashing, hand-removal or controlled burns). |
| | 2 nd TIER – Offset treatment plots record PEPC above 20% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review factors leading to high perennial weed cover. Identify the location of weed infestations and review additional management (i.e. the need for control measures such as broad-acre spraying, spot-spraying, slashing, hand-removal or controlled burns). |

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6 REPORTING AND REVIEW

6.1 REPORTING SURVEY DATA AND RECORD KEEPING

In accordance with Condition 31 of the EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566, survey data will be recorded so as to conform to data standards notified from time to time by Cth DCCEEW. When requested by the Cth DCCEEW, MCC will provide all species and ecological survey data and related survey information from ecological surveys undertaken for MNES. This survey data will be provided within 30 business days of request, or in a timeframe agreed to by Cth DCCEEW in writing.

In accordance with Condition 39 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566, MCC will maintain accurate records substantiating all activities and outcomes associated with or relevant to EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566, including measures taken to implement the BMP, and make them available upon request to Cth DCCEEW.

6.2 BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLISHING

This BMP will be published on the Whitehaven website in accordance with Condition 40 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566. Any revisions to this BMP will be published on the Whitehaven website within one month of being approved.


6.3 COMMONWEALTH APPROVAL COMPLIANCE REPORTS

A report pertaining to the annual compliance with EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566 will be published on the MCC website by the end of March each year after the commencement of the MCCM in accordance with Condition 34 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566. Non-compliance with any of the conditions will be reported to Cth DCCEEW at the same time as the compliance report is published.

6.4 MCCM ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT

An Annual Review which outlines the environmental performance of the MCCM over the previous calendar year will be submitted by the end of March each year in accordance with Condition 4, Schedule 5 of PA 10_0138. The Annual Review will include:

- a comprehensive review of the monitoring results and complaints records of the development over the previous calendar year, which includes a comparison of these results against the:
 - the relevant statutory requirements, limits or performance measures/criteria;
 - the monitoring results of previous years; and
 - the relevant predictions in the "EA";
- identification of any non-compliance over the last year, and a description of what actions were (or are being) taken to ensure compliance;

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- identification of any trends in the monitoring data over the life of the development;
- identification of any discrepancies between the predicted and actual impacts of the development, and analysis of the potential cause of any significant discrepancies; and
- a description of what measures will be implemented over the next year to improve the environmental performance of the MCCM.

The Annual Review will include a review of the actions undertaken against the performance criteria relevant to the previous calendar year. This BMP may be reviewed and revised as a result of the compilation of the Annual Review to improve environmental performance as per Condition 5 in Schedule 5 of PA 10_0138. This review will be conducted within three months of submission of the Annual Review.

In the Annual Review, a detailed section on Biodiversity Offset Management is included each year that will be the process by which Whitehaven will report:

- the progress of management activities undertaken in the offset areas;
- the outcome of those management activities;
- any need for improved management; and
- activities to undertake such improved management.


6.5 REVISION OF THE BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

This BMP will be reviewed and revised from time to time. An overview of the Commonwealth and NSW triggers are provided below.

Commonwealth Requirements

In accordance with Condition 36 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566, if MCC wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with this BMP (as it pertains to EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566), MCC will submit a revised BMP to Cth DCCEEW for the Minister's written approval. The varied activity will not commence until the Minister has approved the revised plan in writing. It is noted that the Minister will not approve a revised plan, unless the revised plan would result in an equivalent or improved environmental outcome.

In accordance with Condition 37 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566, if the Commonwealth Minister believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of listed threatened species and communities or listed migratory species to do so, the Minister may request MCC to make specified revisions to this BMP and submit the revised plan for the Minister's written approval. MCC must comply with any such request. The revised approved plan must be implemented. Unless the Minister has approved the revised plan, MCC must continue to implement the originally approved plan, as specified in the conditions.

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NSW Requirements

In accordance with Condition 5 of Schedule 5 of PA 10_0138, this BMP will be reviewed, and revised if necessary to the satisfaction of the NSW Secretary of DPPI, within three months of:

- the submission of an annual review (see Section 6.4);
- the submission of an incident report (Condition 8 of Schedule 5 of PA 10_0138);
- the submission of an audit report (see Section 6.6); or
- any modification to the conditions of this consent, (unless the conditions require otherwise).

Further, under Condition 4 in Schedule 2 of PA 10_0138, MCC must comply with reasonable requirements of the Secretary of DPPI in respect of DPPIs assessment of this BMP or the implementation of actions or measures under this BMP, including any reasonable request to amend this BMP. Under Condition 16 in Schedule 2 of PA 10_0138, MCC may progressively submit a BMP with the approval of the Secretary of the DPPI.


6.6 REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY ANNUAL BIODIVERSITY SUMMARY REPORT

MCCM undertakes routine communications between and with Tarrawonga and Boggabri Coal Mines (BTM Complex) inclusive of biodiversity issues regarding the mine and offset sites. In addition, the BTM Complex collaborate to prepare Annual Biodiversity Summary Reports in accordance with the *Leard Forest Mining Precinct Regional Biodiversity Strategy* (Umwelt, 2017) that detail the combined biodiversity performance of the individual mine sites and associated offset areas using the information sourced from each sites own individual reports on biodiversity monitoring in a consistent template to allow for the comparison of results including for areas of White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland CEEC. The Annual Biodiversity Summary Reports are reviewed during Biodiversity Audits and available to be used for targeted consultation with key stakeholders (i.e. neighbouring land managers and agencies such as NSW DPPI, NSW DCCEEW, NPWS, FCNSW, Councils and Local Land Service) as required.

6.7 BIODIVERSITY AUDIT

6.7.1 Commonwealth Audit

In accordance with Condition 35 of EPBC Act Approval 2010/5566, upon the direction of the Commonwealth Minister, MCC will ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Commonwealth Minister. The independent auditor will be approved by the Commonwealth Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria will be agreed to by the Commonwealth Minister and the audit report will address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Minister.

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6.7.2 NSW Audits

Independent Environmental Audit

Every three years after the end of June 2015, an Independent Environmental Audit will be conducted in accordance with Condition 10, Schedule 5 of PA 10_0138. This Environmental Audit will be conducted by a suitably qualified, experienced and independent team of experts whose appointment was endorsed by the NSW Secretary of the DPHI. The Independent Environmental Audit will assess the environmental performance of the MCCM and the MCCM's compliance with the conditions of PA 10_0138.

Independent Audit Reports and MCCM response to audit findings will be submitted to the Planning Secretary within two months of undertaking the independent audit site inspection as outlined in the Independent Audit Post Approvals Requirements (2020 or as updated) unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Secretary.

Biodiversity Audit

In accordance with Condition 56 of Schedule 3 of PA 10_0138, MCC will commission suitably qualified, experienced and independent person/s, whose appointment was approved by the NSW Secretary of the DPHI, to undertake an audit of the revegetation of the rehabilitation area, management and restoration within the Biodiversity Offset Strategy areas. In correspondence between Whitehaven (dated 18 August 2022) and DPHI (formerly DPE dated 26 August 2022), the five yearly audits scheduled for December 2022 was extended to September 2023 and a revised three yearly time period committed to so as to align future biodiversity audits with Tarrawonga Coal Mine (PA 11_0047) frequency and timing.

6.8 COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE


MCC has established a CCC for the MCCM in accordance with Condition 7 of Schedule 5 of PA 10_0138. The condition is reproduced below:

The Applicant must establish and operate a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) for the project to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This CCC must be operated in general accordance with the Guidelines for Establishing and Operating Community Consultative Committees for Mining Projects (Department of Planning, 2007, or its latest version), and be operating within 6 months of the date of this approval.

The CCC must include at least one member representing the Maules Creek community, one member from Aboriginal stakeholder groups, and seek to include some joint membership with CCCs for other operating coal mines within the Leard State Forest Mining Precinct, unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Secretary.

Notes:

- *The CCC is an advisory committee. The Department and other relevant agencies are responsible for ensuring that the Applicant complies with this approval; and*
- *In accordance with the Department's guideline, the CCC should be comprised of an independent chair and appropriate representation from the Applicant, Council, recognised environmental groups and the local community.*

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6.9 BIODIVERSITY TRAINING

Inductions for staff and contractors will be conducted to make them aware of the environmental issues relevant to MCC. Further targeted training (i.e. fire management) is to be undertaken appropriate to their role and responsibilities. Additional training relevant to this BMP will be undertaken for the Maules Creek Offset Area for the management of impacts to biodiversity and records will be retained by WHC.

6.10 ENVIRONMENTAL NON-COMPLIANCE

An environmental non-compliance is identified if one or more of the following has occurred:

- failure to comply with legislative requirements;
- failure to comply with the PA 10_0138, including Schedule 5 Condition 2 and operational criteria;
- failure to comply with EPBC 2010/5566 requirements;
- failure to comply with reasonable directions from regulatory agencies;
- failure to comply with management plans;
- repeated environmental incidents of similar nature;

The Planning Secretary must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website within seven days after MCC becomes aware of any non-compliance. A non-compliance notification must identify the development and the application number for it, set out the condition of consent that the development is non-compliant with, the way in which it does not comply and the reasons for the non-compliance (if known) and what actions have been, or will be, undertaken to address the non-compliance. A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a non-compliance.

6.11 EXTERNAL NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

The Planning Secretary will be notified via the Major Projects website and the notification will include the development application number, the name of the development and identify the location and nature of the incident that has actual or has the potential for material harm to the environment as defined in section 147 of the POEO Act:

147 Meaning of material harm to the environment

(1) For the purposes of this Part:


(a) harm to the environment is material if:

(i) it involves actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to ecosystems that is not trivial, or

(ii) it results in actual or potential loss or property damage of an amount, or amounts in aggregate, exceeding \$10,000 (or such other amount as is prescribed by the regulations), and

(b) loss includes the reasonable costs and expenses that would be incurred in taking all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent, mitigate or make good harm to the environment.


(2) For the purposes of this Part, it does not matter that harm to the environment is caused only in the premises where the pollution incident occurs.

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6.12 ACCESS TO INFORMATION


In accordance with Schedule 5 Condition 12, MCC will within three months of the date of the approval, make the following information available on the company website:

- the EA;
- all current statutory approvals for the project;
- approved strategies, plans and programs required under the conditions of this consent;
- a comprehensive summary of the monitoring results of the project, which have been reported in accordance with the various plans and programs approved under the conditions of this consent;
- a complaints register, which is to be updated on a monthly basis;
- minutes of CCC meetings;
- the last five annual reviews;
- any independent environmental audit, and the Applicant's response to the recommendations in any audit;
- any other matter required by the Planning Secretary; and
- keep this information up to date, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.

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APPENDIX B

RECONCILIATION OF THE BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN AGAINST THE LEARD FOREST MINING PRECINCT REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY



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**Table B-1
Strategic Biodiversity Offset Management Actions**

| Management Component | Management Actions | Section of this BMP |
|---|--|---|
| Strategic Focus Area 1 - Enhance the quality of habitats and landscapes at the offset sites for White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC | | |
| 1.1 Natural regeneration (undertaken in semi-cleared and remnant native woodland vegetation in good condition) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural regeneration is promoted through management of threatening processes including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the management of weeds (refer to Strategic Focus Area 3) the management of pest animals (refer to Strategic Focus Area 3) livestock restriction (where appropriate, in conjunction with strategic grazing). Natural regeneration management options (such as thinning, slashing, controlled burning) can be undertaken to promote canopy species regeneration in dense grasslands and cypress pine regrowth areas. Methods and results of this should be communicated and made available for future similar regeneration efforts in the region. | Section 5 including Sections 5.4, 5.5, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10, 5.12, 5.14 |
| 1.2 Collect and propagate seed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seed collection, management and storage should be undertaken in consideration of the Florabank Guidelines (www.florabank.org.au/). | Section 5.3 |
| 1.3 Active revegetation (undertaken in semi-cleared woodland, derived native grasslands and cleared land) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When restoring areas of White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC, active revegetation should be undertaken generally in accordance with the <i>Guide to Managing Box Gum Grassy Woodlands</i> (Rawlings <i>et al.</i> 2010). Direct seeding and/or tubestock planting should be undertaken in areas where natural regeneration is unlikely to occur (such as low-diversity derived native grassland, pasture and cultivated land) and where natural regeneration areas require supplementary actions (as per TARPs in Table 5-12). Seed and tubestock used in revegetation should include a variety of grasses, low shrubs, mid-sized shrubs and trees, characteristic of White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC (as per the NSW Final Determination and Commonwealth Listing Advice for the communities), to create structurally diverse habitat. | Section 5.4 Table 5-2 |



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| Management Component | Management Actions | Section of this BMP |
|--|---|---------------------|
| Strategic Focus Area 2 – Provide ongoing management and enhancement of existing habitats at the offset sites for threatened species | | |
| 2.1 Salvage of habitat resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salvage of habitat resources should be undertaken within approved disturbance areas for re-use in the areas surrounding the disturbance areas, rehabilitation areas and offset sites. This should include the salvage of one or more of the following habitat features where they are available and of suitable structural integrity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fallen timber arboreal hollows hollow logs bush rock. | Sections 3.1.6, 5.6 |
| 2.2 Habitat augmentation and nest box installation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat augmentation, using salvaged resources or nest boxes, should be undertaken in habitats identified as having low habitat resources. Where nest boxes are to be installed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> they are to be made from high quality and durable materials that, ideally, provide for a long lifespan. designs should be targeted to the hollow-dependent threatened species known to occur in the locality of the offset site such as woodland birds, arboreal mammals and micro-bats. The total number of hollows (existing hollows and nest boxes combined) at the offset sites should be at least the same as the number of hollows with signs of use (nesting material, feathers, fur, scratches, etc) and of suitable dimensions for species occupancy (suitable entrance size and a hollow chamber extending into the branch/trunk) removed from the impact site. It is expected that the installation of nest boxes would be staged over time to mirror the regeneration of the woodland and the species that are utilising each site. | Section 5.6 |
| 2.3 Access control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where offset sites share common boundaries fencing designs should not be restrictive to native fauna movement or connectivity between habitats. The need for fencing between contiguous offset sites that are managed in the same way should be investigated and wherever possible removed/avoided. Alternatives to barbed-wire fencing should be used, where appropriate, to avoid obstructing the flight paths of birds, bats and gliders. Any new fencing, where fence lines do not currently exist, should be installed in a way to avoid, or minimise clearing of any native trees or shrubs, where appropriate (Note: clearing/maintenance may still be required in accordance with relevant legislation of the time such as the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> or <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i>). | Section 5.13 |



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| Management Component | Management Actions | Section of this BMP |
|--|---|---|
| Strategic Focus Area 3 - Promote a consistent and coordinated approach to weed management and pest animal control | | |
| 3.1 Weed and pest prevention and communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed management and pest control conditions and trends are to be communicated across the BTM Complex and should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reviewing monitoring reports for up-to-date information on weeds and pests discussing and prioritising weed and pest animal prevention, control methods and target species across the BTM Complex for the following year liaising with local land managers and stakeholders on control measures and schedules. Develop a feedback loop to alert the BTM Complex of any new or emerging weeds or pest animal species recorded to be occurring on any of the offset sites. Public communication on pest animal records may be reported through FeralScan (www.feralscan.org.au). | Reported in the MCCM Annual Review |
| 3.2 Weed control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed control should be undertaken in consideration of the control recommendations outlined in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noxious and Environmental Weeds Control Handbook (6th Edition) (DPI 2014) Narrabri Shire Council Weed Management Plans (http://www.narrabri.nsw.gov.au/weeds-management-plans-1115.html) resources on the NSW WeedWise website (http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/). Adopt best-practice active and adaptive management of the density of invasive native plants such as white cypress pine (<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>) and black cypress pine (<i>Callitris endlicheri</i>) such as ecological thinning, targeted grazing and prescribed fire as per the recommendations set out in <i>Actively Managing for Better Ecological Outcomes for the Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation Areas</i> (NRC 2014). Undertake a coordinated approach to weed monitoring across the offset sites for consistent reporting and data analysis. | Section 5.8 Section 5.5, 5.12, 5.13 Section 5.8 |
| 3.3 Pest animal control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest animal control should be undertaken in consideration of the control recommendations outlined in the Department of Primary Industries <i>Vertebrate Pest Control Manual</i> (DPI 2014). Control strategies may include the destruction of burrows, shooting, trapping and baiting and should be undertaken following the NSW Codes of Practices (COPs) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) (http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/vertebrate-pests/publications/model-codes-of-practice). A coordinated approach to pest animal monitoring should be undertaken across the offset sites for consistent reporting and data analysis. | Section 5.9 |



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| Management Component | Management Actions | Section of this BMP |
|--|---|---|
| Strategic Focus Area 4 - Promote a consistent and coordinated approach to fire management for biodiversity | | |
| 4.1 Managing fuel loads | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The accessibility of fire trails and access tracks should be regularly maintained within the offset sites in accordance with relevant legislation of the time such as the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> or <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i>. A fuel load assessment and an assessment of the feasibility of completing fuel load reduction should be undertaken as identified on a risk basis or as recommended by the Rural Fire Service (RFS). Fuel reduction in the form of strategic grazing could be trialled in appropriate management zones within the offset sites. The timing of any fuel reduction strategies should be determined based on fuel loads, vegetation maturity and weather/seasonal conditions; however it should generally be undertaken in autumn to encourage native species recruitment. | Section 5.14 |
| 4.2 Ecological control burns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control burns should consider the recommendations outlined in Section 9 of the <i>Guide to Managing Box Gum Grassy Woodlands</i> (Rawlings <i>et al.</i>, 2010). Control burns should avoid burning trees containing hollow resources, where possible, to minimise impacts on roosting and nesting availability in the landscape. If controlled burning is undertaken, implement mosaic burning to reduce the extent of any negative outcomes, provide refuge for wildlife and promote structural and species diversity. | Section 5.14 |
| Strategic Focus Area 5 – Enhance the connectivity of habitats through corridor establishment and management | | |
| 5.1 Connected landscapes and broader regional corridors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offset sites and conservation areas should be managed to improve habitat connectivity and corridor function using management actions techniques such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> targeted revegetation including supplementary tubestock planting and seeding, targeted weed and pest management, and habitat augmentation with nest boxes and salvaged habitat resources. Enhancement efforts should be focused to improve habitat connectivity within and between existing offset areas in the region. These broad areas of BTM complex managed land include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> land south of Mount Kaputar National Park linking offset areas east of Leard State Forest, land south of Leard State Forest linking areas to Boonalla Aboriginal Area and Vickery State Forest, land west and northwest of Leard State Forest linking to Pilliga East. | Section 5 including Sections 5.4, 5.6, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10 |



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| Management Component | Management Actions | Section of this BMP |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| Strategic Focus Area 6 – Consult and workshop biodiversity issues with local stakeholders and land managers | | |
| 6.1 Biodiversity management consultation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity issues should be communicated across sites through the appropriate forums, including environmental representatives from each site (and the inclusion of relevant agencies, as relevant, such as OEH and DPE), to meet to discuss biodiversity issues within offset sites. This communication (across the BTM Complex, for example) should facilitate the preparation of an annual summary report detailing the overall biodiversity performance and outcomes of the offset sites using the information provided from annual biodiversity monitoring reports. This should include liaison with adjoining land owners and managers, as appropriate, to discuss concerns including offset site indirect impacts on adjoining agricultural land, emerging weed and pests, and opportunities to improve biodiversity links across properties. This should include liaison with local stakeholders such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Landcare, Forestry Corporation of NSW, Narrabri Shire Council and Local Land Service (LLS), as appropriate, to discuss biodiversity management actions and issues. | Section 6.4, 6.6 and 6.7 |



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**Table B-2
Strategic Biodiversity Offset Monitoring Opportunities**

| Monitoring Component | Monitoring Actions | Section of this BMP |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Strategic Focus Area 1 - Enhance the quality of habitats and landscapes at the offset sites for White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC | | |
| 1.1 Natural regeneration (undertaken in semi-cleared and remnant native woodland vegetation in good condition) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of regenerating White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC should be undertaken annually and across offset sites. It is recommended that the season for the monitoring sites is rotated every year to assess the community during different seasons. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> half of the monitoring sites surveyed in autumn (to maximise the detection of native perennials); and half of the monitoring sites surveyed in spring (to identify the extent of exotic annuals in the community). Monitoring should be undertaken in accordance with either the BioBanking Assessment Methodology (BBAM) (2014) or Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM), whichever is determined to be the most appropriate through consultation with OEH, to analyse trends against benchmark data by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undertaking plot and transect surveys, undertaking at least the minimum number of plots and transects per vegetation zone, and photographic monitoring at permanent monitoring points conducted using a consistent methodology across the offset sites. During monitoring surveys, specific notes should be taken on any dense or emerging stands of exotic plant species, such as Coolatai grass (<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>) and invasive native species such as white cypress pine (<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>) or black cypress pine (<i>Callitris endlicheri</i>), that may result in the suppression of native understorey species establishment. Monitoring should be undertaken within the offset sites at least annually for the first five years and then every two years until preliminary completion criteria (refer to Tables 5-6 and 5-8) are met. For the BTM Complex, monitoring results should be outlined in a consistent summary report template to allow for the comparison of results and a consistent understanding of the condition of naturally regenerating White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC broadly across the offset sites. | Sections 5.4, 5.17, 6.4 and 6.6 |
| 1.2 Collect and propagate seed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The completion of an Annual Summary Report should be undertaken following each collection event. This should include records of species, qualities, dates and locations as per the Florabank Guideline 4 (www.florabank.org.au/). | Section 5.3 |



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| Monitoring Component | Monitoring Actions | Section of this BMP |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1.3 Active revegetation (undertaken in semi-cleared woodland, derived native grasslands and cleared land) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of revegetated White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC should be undertaken annually and across the BTM Complex offset sites. It is recommended that the season for the monitoring sites is rotated every year to assess the community during different seasons. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> half of the monitoring sites surveyed in autumn (to maximise the detection of native perennials) half of the monitoring sites surveyed in spring (to identify the extent of exotic annuals in the establishing community). Monitoring should be undertaken in accordance with either the BioBanking Assessment Methodology (BBAM) (2014) or Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) (in prep.), whichever is determined to be the most appropriate through consultation with OEH, to analyse trends against benchmark data by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> undertaking plot and transect surveys undertaking the minimum number of plots and transects per vegetation zone photographic monitoring at permanent monitoring points conducted using a consistent methodology across the offset sites. During monitoring surveys, specific notes should be taken on any dense or emerging stands of exotic plant species, such as Coolatai grass (<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>) and invasive native species such as white cypress pine (<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>) or black cypress pine (<i>Callitris endlicheri</i>), that may result in the suppression of native understorey species establishment. Monitoring should be undertaken within the offset sites at least annually for the first five years and then every two years until the preliminary completion criteria (refer to Tables 5-6 and 5-8) are met. For the BTM Complex, monitoring results should be outlined in a consistent summary report template to allow for the comparison of results and a consistent understanding of the condition of naturally regenerating White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC broadly across the offset sites. | Sections 5.4 5.17, 6.4 and 6.6 |
| Strategic Focus Area 2 – Provide ongoing management and enhancement of existing habitats at the offset sites for threatened species and communities | | |
| 2.1 Salvage of habitat resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salvaged arboreal hollows located within areas surrounding the disturbance areas, rehabilitation areas and the offset sites should be monitored for their use and condition in conjunction with other annual fauna monitoring. Monitoring may include the use of remote camera surveys targeting areas where salvaged hollows and fallen timber is installed into habitat. Detailed monitoring techniques are to be outlined in the relevant management plans. | Sections 5.6 and 5.17 |



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| 2.2 Habitat augmentation and nest box installation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An assessment of the number of nest boxes required should be undertaken (the total number of hollows (existing hollows and nest boxes combined) at the offset sites should be at least the same as the number of hollows with signs of use (nesting material, feathers, fur, scratches, etc) and of suitable dimensions for species occupancy (suitable entrance size and a hollow chamber extending into the branch/trunk) removed from the impact site). Nest boxes installed within the offset sites should be monitored for their signs of use² and condition at consistent times of the year (preferably spring) across the offset sites targeting species type based on nest box design. Signs of use monitoring may be undertaken using a pole camera that allows viewing of the inhabitants of the boxes as well as a view of the condition of the top of the boxes from the ground with minimal disturbance to the fauna occupying the boxes. Detailed monitoring techniques are to be outlined in the relevant management plans. Monitoring results of nest box usage should be reported in the relevant Annual Summary Report. | Sections 5.6 5.17, 6.4 and 6.6 |
| 2.3 Access control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing monitoring and site inspections should note any damage or disrepair of fences and must be communicated to the Environmental Representative of the relevant site. If, during the course of monitoring, the use of barbed-wire fencing is found to be damaging to local wildlife (e.g. gliders/bats caught in fencing), this is to be communicated to the Environmental Representative of the relevant site and ecologically-friendly alternatives are to be investigated. | Sections 5.13 and 5.17 |
| Strategic Focus Area 3 - Promote a consistent and coordinated approach to weed management and pest animal control | | |
| 3.1 Weed and pest prevention and communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key messages on weed control and pest prevention should be available to employees via toolbox talks and inductions to raise awareness of biodiversity issues in the region (e.g. weed spread prevention through the washing of vehicles and equipment). | Sections 5.8 and 5.9 |

² Signs of use can be entrance chew marks, the presence of nesting material, signs of activity inside nest boxes, and the presence of animals.



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|---|---|-----------------------|
| 3.2 Weed control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed occurrences in the offset sites should be identified as part of the annual flora monitoring, but also opportunistically recorded during any other offset site inspections to examine the effectiveness of control measures. For major weed infestations or newly recorded species, the location, size, density and species should be recorded and communicated to the Environmental Representative of the relevant site. During monitoring surveys, specific notes should be taken on any dense or emerging stands of exotic plant species, such as Coolatai grass (<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>) and invasive native species such as white cypress pine (<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>) or black cypress pine (<i>Callitris endlicheri</i>), that may result in the suppression of native understorey species established in White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC. For the BTM Complex, monitoring results should be outlined in a consistent summary report template to allow for the comparison of results and a consistent understanding of the key weed issues in a broad regional context. | Sections 5.8 and 5.17 |
| 3.3 Pest animal control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observations of pest animals should be undertaken as part of the annual fauna monitoring, but also opportunistically recorded during any other offset site inspections. Monitoring of pest animals should be undertaken prior to and following the application of control measures to examine the effectiveness of these measures. Monitoring for pest animals should consider the recommendations in the Department of Primary Industries <i>Monitoring Techniques for Vertebrate Pests</i> (http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/vertebrate-pests/publications/monitoring-techniques). For significant pest animal occurrences or observed pest animal damage, the date, location, activity, density and pest animal species should be recorded and communicated to the Environmental Representative of the relevant site. For the BTM Complex, monitoring results should be outlined in a consistent summary report template to allow for the comparison of results and a consistent understanding of the key pest animal issues in a broad regional context. | Section 5.9 |
| Strategic Focus Area 4 - Promote a consistent and coordinated approach to fire management for biodiversity | | |
| 4.1 Managing fuel loads | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of fuel levels will take place as part of the overall annual inspection of the offset sites but also as identified on a risk basis or as recommended by the RFS. The accessibility and functionality of fire trails and access tracks should be regularly monitored within the offset sites. | Section 5.14 |




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|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| 4.2 Ecological control burns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If fuel reduction is undertaken in the form of controlled burning, additional flora monitoring points will be required to assess the impacts of control measures on native vegetation communities (particularly within White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC). In habitat restoration areas and regeneration/revegetation zones, monitoring will be required to record the response to a fire event and guide the need for potential active and adaptive management. | Sections 5.14 and 5.17 |
| Strategic Focus Area 5 – Enhance the connectivity of habitats through corridor and buffer area establishment and management | | |
| 5.1 Connected landscapes and broader regional corridors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring undertaken as part of other ecological monitoring at the offset sites should consider the connected landscapes and corridors in the locality and region by including survey techniques to demonstrate fauna movement across these areas such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remote camera surveys radio tracking and/or woodland bird banding. Detailed monitoring techniques are to be outlined in the relevant management plans | Section 5.17 and Figures 11a to 11h |
| Strategic Focus Area 6 – Consult and workshop biodiversity issues with local stakeholders and land managers | | |
| 6.1 Biodiversity management consultation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes, actions and key recommendations from biodiversity management consultation forums should be made available to attendees. Any research or monitoring data in relation to biodiversity should be made available across the BTM Complex to facilitate the sharing of knowledge for the broader conservation of the offset sites. This may include reports, guidelines and/or expert input into management of cypress pine regrowth, species translocation success, pest animal and weed outcomes and control and techniques. The Annual Summary Report will detail the overall biodiversity performance and outcomes of the offset sites using the information provided from the monitoring reports. | Section 6.4 and 6.6 |

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**Table B-3
Strategic Biodiversity Performance Measures and Preliminary Completion Criteria**

| Strategic Focus Areas / Management Component | Performance Measures and Preliminary Completion Criteria | Timeframe (following offset establishment)* | | Section of this BMP |
|---|--|---|----------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Ongoing Performance Measures | Completion Timeframe | |
| Strategic Focus Area 1 - Enhance the quality of habitats and landscapes at the offset sites for White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC | | | | |
| 1.1 Natural regeneration (in semi-cleared and remnant native woodland vegetation in good condition) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of the White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC monitoring sites across the relevant vegetation zones in each offset site show all locally-occurring canopy species recruiting³ (i.e. canopy tree species occurring in the moderate to good condition PCT at the offset site or surrounds are recruiting in the semi-cleared and remnant native woodland vegetation). Where monitoring is undertaken according to the BBAM sampling should occur across each entire vegetation zones. Where monitoring is undertaken according to the BAM sampling should be undertaken in the monitoring sites of each vegetation zone. | Annually | By year 10 | Sections 5.16, 5.17, 5.18 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naturally regenerated areas of White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC monitoring sites conform to the condition assessment outlined on page 5 of the EPBC Policy Statement 3.5 White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands across the relevant vegetation zones in each offset site. | Annually | By year 10 | Sections 5.16, 5.17, 5.18 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of the White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC across the relevant vegetation zones in each offset site show evidence of occupation or presence of at least 80% of the native fauna species comparative to approved benchmark or monitoring reference sites. | Annually | By year 10 | Sections 5.16, 5.17, 5.18 |

³ To meet the definition of “canopy species recruiting” there should be evidence of recruitment of at least 5 saplings per hectare.



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| Strategic Focus Areas / Management Component | Performance Measures and Preliminary Completion Criteria | Timeframe (following offset establishment)* | | Section of this BMP |
|--|--|---|--|---------------------------|
| | | Ongoing Performance Measures | Completion Timeframe | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of the White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC monitoring sites across the relevant vegetation zones in each offset site is within the benchmark ranges for the cover scores (i.e. overstorey, midstorey and groundcover) and at 80% or above for species richness benchmarks. | Annually | By year 10 | Sections 5.16, 5.17, 5.18 |
| 1.2 Collect and propagate seed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seed collection records, including location of plantings and success rates (where available), are reported on in the Annual Summary Report. | Annually | - | Section 5.3 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seed is collected over a range of sites across the locality to adequately capture local variations within the offset sites and disturbance areas. | Annually | - | Section 5.3 |
| 1.3 Active revegetation (in semi-cleared woodland, derived native grasslands and cleared land) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of the White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC monitoring sites across the relevant vegetation zones in each offset site show all locally-occurring canopy species recruiting³ (i.e. canopy tree species occurring in the moderate to good condition PCT at the offset site or surrounds are recruiting in the semi-cleared woodland, derived native grasslands and cleared land). Where monitoring is undertaken according to the BBAM sampling should occur across each entire vegetation zones. Where monitoring is undertaken according to the BAM sampling should be undertaken in the monitoring sites of each vegetation zone. | Annually following active revegetation | By year 15 following active revegetation | Sections 5.16, 5.17, 5.18 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active regeneration areas of White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC monitoring sites conform to the condition assessment outlined on page 5 of the EPBC Policy Statement 3.5 White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands areas across the relevant vegetation zones in each offset site. | Annually following active revegetation | By year 15 following active revegetation | Sections 5.16, 5.17, 5.18 |



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| Strategic Focus Areas / Management Component | Performance Measures and Preliminary Completion Criteria | Timeframe (following offset establishment)* | | Section of this BMP |
|--|--|---|--|---------------------------|
| | | Ongoing Performance Measures | Completion Timeframe | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of the White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC across the relevant vegetation zones in each offset site show evidence of occupation or presence of at least 80% of the native fauna species comparative to approved benchmark or monitoring reference sites. | Annually following active revegetation | By year 20 following active revegetation | Section 5.16.3 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of the White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Woodland EEC and CEEC monitoring sites across the relevant vegetation zones in each offset site is within the benchmark ranges for the cover scores (i.e. overstorey, midstorey and groundcover) and at 80% or above for species richness benchmarks. | Annually following active revegetation | By year 20 following active revegetation | Sections 5.16, 5.17, 5.18 |
| Strategic Focus Area 2 – Provide ongoing management and enhancement of existing habitats at the offset sites for threatened species and communities | | | | |
| 2.1 Salvage of habitat resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salvaged resources that are reused or relocated in rehabilitated areas or offset sites are in structurally good condition. | Annually following placement | By year 5 following placement. | Section 5.6 |
| 2.2 Habitat augmentation and nest box installation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of the nest boxes installed are being utilised or show signs of use by native species across the offset sites. Utilisation of nest boxes by pest species such as European honey bee (<i>Apis mellifera</i>), common myna (<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>), common starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>) and feral rodent species (<i>Rattus</i> and <i>Mus</i> spp.) should be recorded. | Each nest box should be monitored at least once every 5 years | Ongoing | Section 5.6 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each nest box installed within the offset sites should be in good structural condition and functioning in the landscape. | Annually following installation | Ongoing | Section 5.6 |
| 2.3 Access control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock are excluded from restoration areas following planting and high quality woodland vegetation at the offset sites (it is acknowledged that strategic grazing may be required in some areas). | Annually | Ongoing | Section 5.12 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife-friendly fencing is utilised, where appropriate, within the offset sites. | 1 year | By year 10 | Section 5.13 |



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| Strategic Focus Areas / Management Component | Performance Measures and Preliminary Completion Criteria | Timeframe (following offset establishment)* | | Section of this BMP |
|--|--|---|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | Ongoing Performance Measures | Completion Timeframe | |
| 3.1 Weed and pest prevention and communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed trends and control schedules are communicated across the BTM Complex in the relevant forums. | Annually | Ongoing | Section 5.8 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most recent offset monitoring summary reports containing information on weed and pest records, trends and issues are provided across the BTM Complex and reported on in the Annual Summary Report. | Annually | Ongoing | Section 5.8, 5.9 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key messages on weeds are effectively communicated, where appropriate, with relevant local land holders, managers and stakeholders. | Annually | Ongoing | Section 5.8 |
| 3.2 Weed control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offset site flora monitoring shows an overall reduction in exotic plant cover following control measures implemented across the offset sites. | Annually | Ongoing | Sections 5.16, 5.17, 5.18 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed species do not comprise more than 20% of any strata in the native vegetation communities within the offset sites. | Annually | Ongoing | Sections 5.8, 5.16, 5.17, 5.18 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed control is undertaken across the offset sites using methods outlined in the Noxious and Environmental Weeds Control Handbook (6th Edition) (DPI 2014), Narrabri Shire Council Weed Management Plans, and/or the NSW WeedWise website. | Annually | Ongoing | Section 5.8 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant weed infestations or newly identified weed species within the offset sites are reviewed and control measures implemented within 1 year of identification of the issue. | Annually | Ongoing | Section 5.8 |



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| Strategic Focus Areas / Management Component | Performance Measures and Preliminary Completion Criteria | Timeframe (following offset establishment)* | | Section of this BMP |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | Ongoing Performance Measures | Completion Timeframe | |
| 3.3 Pest animal control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offset site fauna monitoring shows an overall reduction in pest animal species and population sizes targeted by control measures implemented across the offset sites (in consideration of potential drought conditions and seasonal trends). | Annually | By year 5 | Section 5.9 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest animal control is undertaken across the offset sites using methods approved under the NSW Codes of Practices (COPs) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). | Annually | Ongoing | Section 5.9 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant pest animal occurrences or newly identified pest species within the offset sites are reviewed and control measures implemented (if required) within 1 year of identification of the issue. | Annually | Ongoing | Section 5.9 |
| Strategic Focus Area 4 - Promote a consistent and coordinated approach to fire management for biodiversity | | | | |
| 4.1 Managing fuel loads | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If determined to be suitable following recommendations from monitoring or the RFS, strategic grazing in appropriate management zones is undertaken to manage fuel loads. | Every 2 years | Ongoing | Sections 5.12 and 5.14 |
| 4.3 Ecological control burns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuel reduction is undertaken in the form of controlled burning (as per recommendations in Rawlings <i>et al.</i> 2010) as deemed required and in consultation with the RFS. | Every 5 years | Ongoing | Section 5.14 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impacts of control and mosaic burning on native and weed species diversity is reported on and information made available to all BTM Complex sites. | Within 1 year of completed monitoring reports. | Ongoing | Section 6.6 |
| Strategic Focus Area 5 – Enhance the connectivity of habitats through corridor and buffer area establishment and management | | | | |
| 5.1 Connected landscapes and broader regional corridors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corridors within the offset sites are in accordance with the performance indicators outlined in Strategic Focus Area 3 in relation to weeds and pests. | As per Strategic Focus Area 3. | As per Strategic Focus Area 3. | As per Strategic Focus Area 3. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted fauna monitoring indicates that the offset site corridors provide habitat for native fauna species in the locality through monitoring as outlined in Table 2.2. | Annually | By Year 10 | Section 5.17 |



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|--|--|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| | | Ongoing Performance Measures | Completion Timeframe | |
| Strategic Focus Area 6 – Consult and workshop biodiversity issues with local stakeholders and land managers | | | | |
| 6.1 Biodiversity management consultation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted consultation with key stakeholders, land managers and agencies regarding biodiversity issues is demonstrated through the development of resources and workshops involving stakeholders. | Annually | Ongoing | Section 6.6 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An annual summary report is to be prepared detailing the overall biodiversity performance and outcomes of the offset sites across the region. | Annually | Ongoing | Section 6.6 |

* Where a specific completion timeframe is specified (such as by Year 15), for the BTM mines this means:

- for offsets identified in the relevant project approval, the timeframe from commencement of the project;
- for offsets approved in subsequent project modifications, the timeframe from approval of the modification, and
- for offsets identified in any revised Biodiversity Offset Strategy required under the relevant project approval, the timeframe from approval of the revised offset strategy.


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Natural Resources Commission (NRC) (2014) *Actively Managing for Better Ecological Outcomes for the Brigalow and Nandewar State Conservation Areas*. Final Report September 2014.

Rawlings, K., Freudenberger, D. and Carr, D. (2010) *A Guide to Managing Box Gum Grassy Woodlands. Caring for our Country Environmental Stewardship*. Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Canberra.

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APPENDIX E

BASELINE SURVEY SITES AND PHOTO REFERENCE POINTS

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**Table E-1
Indicative Location of Fauna Monitoring Sites (AMBS, 2017)**

| Equipment | Site | Easting | Northing |
|-----------|-------|---------|----------|
| Anabat | FS01 | 231370 | 6616143 |
| Anabat | FS01 | 231326 | 6615866 |
| Anabat | FS02 | 229417 | 6617678 |
| Anabat | FS02 | 229425 | 6617749 |
| Anabat | FS03 | 223277 | 6618402 |
| Anabat | FS03 | 223248 | 6618409 |
| Anabat | FS04 | 220952 | 6612341 |
| Anabat | FS04 | 220912 | 6612392 |
| Anabat | FS05 | 219359 | 6610936 |
| Anabat | FS05 | 219379 | 6610991 |
| Anabat | FS06 | 213555 | 6607512 |
| Anabat | FS06 | 213540 | 6607485 |
| Anabat | FS07 | 244978 | 6599684 |
| Anabat | FS07 | 244932 | 6599793 |
| Anabat | FS08 | 245794 | 6598066 |
| Anabat | FS08 | 245865 | 6598051 |
| Anabat | FS09 | 240042 | 6638864 |
| Anabat | FS09 | 240040 | 6638964 |
| Anabat | FS10 | 238371 | 6642604 |
| Anabat | FS10 | 238234 | 6642576 |
| Anabat | FS11 | 236410 | 6640650 |
| Anabat | FS11 | 236461 | 6640676 |
| Anabat | FS12 | 237693 | 6638812 |
| Anabat | FS12 | 237585 | 6638800 |
| Anabat | FS13 | 236712 | 6636153 |
| Anabat | FS13 | 236614 | 6636291 |
| Anabat | FS14 | 237819 | 6635456 |
| Anabat | FS14 | 237796 | 6635436 |
| Anabat | FS15 | 237392 | 6632890 |
| Anabat | FS15 | 237455 | 6632943 |
| Anabat | FS16 | 238053 | 6631806 |
| Anabat | FS16 | 238069 | 6631749 |
| Anabat | NRV01 | 236808 | 6633583 |
| Anabat | NRV01 | 236862 | 6633672 |
| Anabat | RV01 | 229510 | 6619179 |
| Anabat | RV01 | 229518 | 6619060 |
| Anabat | RV02 | 222865 | 6615253 |
| Anabat | RV02 | 222858 | 6615180 |
| Anabat | RV03 | 216836 | 6610026 |
| Anabat | RV03 | 216728 | 6610027 |



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| Equipment | Site | Easting | Northing |
|-------------|-------|---------|----------|
| Camera | FS01 | 231395 | 6616065 |
| Camera | FS01 | 231377 | 6615966 |
| Camera | FS02 | 229441 | 6617677 |
| Camera | FS02 | 229362 | 6617805 |
| Camera | FS03 | 223288 | 6618357 |
| Camera | FS03 | 223257 | 6618430 |
| Camera | FS04 | 220977 | 6612361 |
| Camera | FS04 | 221084 | 6612346 |
| Camera | FS05 | 219366 | 6610988 |
| Camera | FS05 | 219323 | 6610944 |
| Camera | FS06 | 213509 | 6607472 |
| Camera | FS06 | 213415 | 6607440 |
| Camera | FS07 | 244913 | 6599801 |
| Camera | FS07 | 244990 | 6599669 |
| Camera | FS08 | 245832 | 6598049 |
| Camera | FS08 | 245790 | 6598073 |
| Camera | FS09 | 240047 | 6638925 |
| Camera | FS09 | 240055 | 6638864 |
| Camera | FS10 | 238322 | 6642586 |
| Camera | FS10 | 238393 | 6642593 |
| Camera | FS11 | 236478 | 6640665 |
| Camera | FS11 | 236452 | 6640707 |
| Camera | FS12 | 237623 | 6638807 |
| Camera | FS12 | 237657 | 6638801 |
| Camera | FS13 | 236629 | 6636186 |
| Camera | FS13 | 236617 | 6636254 |
| Camera | FS14 | 237763 | 6635449 |
| Camera | FS14 | 237723 | 6635409 |
| Camera | FS15 | 237458 | 6632959 |
| Camera | FS15 | 237417 | 6632915 |
| Camera | FS16 | 238097 | 6631760 |
| Camera | FS16 | 238089 | 6631733 |
| Camera | NRV01 | 236789 | 6633607 |
| Camera | NRV01 | 236853 | 6633665 |
| Camera | RV01 | 229506 | 6619215 |
| Camera | RV01 | 229492 | 6619144 |
| Camera | RV02 | 222879 | 6615261 |
| Camera | RV02 | 222812 | 6615146 |
| Camera | RV03 | 216834 | 6610022 |
| Camera | RV03 | 216733 | 6610022 |
| Frog survey | FS17 | 216580 | 6610821 |
| Frog survey | FS18 | 239981 | 6638812 |
| Frog survey | FS19 | 237897 | 6642362 |



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|---------------------|-------|---------|----------|
| Frog survey | FS20 | 236719 | 6636158 |
| Frog survey | FS21 | 237951 | 6635520 |
| Full survey methods | FS01 | 231347 | 6615831 |
| Full survey methods | FS02 | 229164 | 6617770 |
| Full survey methods | FS03 | 223143 | 6618451 |
| Full survey methods | FS04 | 223138 | 6618468 |
| Full survey methods | FS05 | 219238 | 6610794 |
| Full survey methods | FS06 | 213283 | 6607420 |
| Full survey methods | FS07 | 244995 | 6599667 |
| Full survey methods | FS08 | 245787 | 6598171 |
| Full survey methods | FS09 | 240034 | 6638738 |
| Full survey methods | FS10 | 238461 | 6642647 |
| Full survey methods | FS11 | 236531 | 6640785 |
| Full survey methods | FS12 | 237571 | 6638717 |
| Full survey methods | FS13 | 236602 | 6636342 |
| Full survey methods | FS14 | 237681 | 6635382 |
| Full survey methods | FS15 | 237388 | 6632763 |
| Full survey methods | FS16 | 238188 | 6631840 |
| Full survey methods | NRV01 | 236714 | 6633548 |
| Full survey methods | RV01 | 229511 | 6619007 |
| Full survey methods | RV02 | 222805 | 6615101 |
| Full survey methods | RV03 | 216844 | 6610009 |
| Harp | FS01 | 231359 | 6615900 |
| Harp | FS01 | 231415 | 6616048 |
| Harp | FS02 | 229443 | 6617695 |
| Harp | FS02 | 229322 | 6617768 |
| Harp | FS03 | 223279 | 6618408 |
| Harp | FS03 | 223256 | 6618400 |
| Harp | FS04 | 220946 | 6612337 |
| Harp | FS04 | 220945 | 6612445 |
| Harp | FS05 | 219334 | 6610993 |
| Harp | FS05 | 219385 | 6610899 |
| Harp | FS06 | 213515 | 6607437 |
| Harp | FS06 | 213561 | 6607512 |
| Harp | FS07 | 244892 | 6599827 |
| Harp | FS07 | 244975 | 6599698 |
| Harp | FS08 | 245814 | 6598034 |
| Harp | FS08 | 245763 | 6598058 |
| Harp | FS09 | 239979 | 6638868 |
| Harp | FS09 | 240059 | 6638921 |
| Harp | FS10 | 238374 | 6642602 |
| Harp | FS10 | 238239 | 6642601 |
| Harp | FS11 | 236428 | 6640700 |



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|----------------|----------------|----------|----------|
| Harp | FS11 | 236465 | 6640652 |
| Harp | FS12 | 237657 | 6638204 |
| Harp | FS12 | 237682 | 6638829 |
| Harp | FS13 | 236622 | 6636306 |
| Harp | FS13 | 236696 | 6636185 |
| Harp | FS14 | 237819 | 6635466 |
| Harp | FS14 | 237787 | 6635435 |
| Harp | FS15 | 237395 | 6632899 |
| Harp | FS15 | 237472 | 6632941 |
| Harp | FS16 | 238172 | 6631734 |
| Harp | FS16 | 238068 | 6631716 |
| Tadpole survey | FS22 | 239979 | 6638868 |
| Tadpole survey | FS23 | 237971 | 6642299 |
| Tadpole survey | FS24 | 236718 | 6636146 |
| Tadpole survey | FS25 | 237824 | 6635469 |
| Tadpole survey | FS26 | 237951 | 6635520 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-CN-001-20 | -30.3091 | 150.8481 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-CN-002-20 | -30.3190 | 150.8560 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-CN-003-20 | -30.3186 | 150.8562 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-CN-004-20 | -30.3148 | 150.8563 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-CN-005-20 | -30.3161 | 150.8592 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-CN-006-20 | -30.3380 | 150.8483 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-LG-001-20 | -30.0004 | 151.2160 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-NR-001-20 | -30.2868 | 150.8582 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-NR-002-20 | -30.2777 | 150.8358 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-NR-003-20 | -30.2807 | 150.8431 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-NR-004-20 | -30.2829 | 150.8573 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-NR-005-20 | -30.2807 | 150.8502 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-NR-006-20 | -30.2683 | 150.8430 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-NR-007-20 | -30.2792 | 150.8469 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-NR-008-20 | -30.2829 | 150.8402 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-NR-009-20 | -30.2787 | 150.8418 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-NR-010-20 | -30.2696 | 150.8440 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-NR-011-20 | -30.2823 | 150.8538 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-NR-012-20 | -30.2665 | 150.8427 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-NR-013-15 | -30.2817 | 150.8459 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-NR-014-15 | -30.2834 | 150.8460 |
| Bird surveys | WB22-TR-001-20 | -30.4204 | 150.4514 |
| Harp Trap | COO-HAR-02 | 293596 | 6642554 |
| Harp Trap | COO-HAR-01 | 292154 | 6643242 |
| Harp Trap | NER-HAR-02 | 294603 | 6646591 |
| Harp Trap | NER-HAR-01 | 292002 | 6648694 |
| Harp Trap | LON-HAR-01 | 326966 | 6679086 |



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WHC_PLN_MC_BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

| Equipment | Site | Easting | Northing |
|-------------|------------|---------|----------|
| Harp Trap | LON-HAR-04 | 327796 | 6679022 |
| Harp Trap | LON-HAR-04 | 328030 | 6677938 |
| Harp Trap | LON-HAR-02 | 327625 | 6677483 |
| Harp Trap | THO-HAR-01 | 231326 | 6617200 |
| Bird Survey | COO-BM-01 | 293682 | 6642540 |
| Bird Survey | COO-BM-02 | 293357 | 6642150 |
| Bird Survey | COO-BM-03 | 292708 | 6641927 |
| Bird Survey | COO-BM-04 | 292184 | 6641935 |
| Bird Survey | COO-BM-05 | 293862 | 6641469 |
| Bird Survey | COO-BM-06 | 293229 | 6641451 |
| Bird Survey | COO-BM-07 | 292540 | 6641557 |
| Bird Survey | COO-BM-08 | 292004 | 6641504 |
| Bird Survey | COO-BM-09 | 293429 | 6640986 |
| Bird Survey | COO-BM-10 | 292645 | 6640902 |
| Bird Survey | COO-BM-11 | 292016 | 6640918 |
| Bird Survey | COO-BM-12 | 292518 | 6640516 |
| Bird Survey | LON-BM-01 | 328058 | 6679732 |
| Bird Survey | LON-BM-02 | 328700 | 6679772 |
| Bird Survey | LON-BM-03 | 329351 | 6679748 |
| Bird Survey | LON-BM-04 | 329002 | 6679042 |
| Bird Survey | LON-BM-05 | 328597 | 6678562 |
| Bird Survey | LON-BM-06 | 328312 | 6678022 |
| Bird Survey | LON-BM-07 | 328474 | 6677438 |
| Bird Survey | LON-BM-08 | 327625 | 6677522 |
| Bird Survey | LON-BM-09 | 327895 | 6678379 |
| Bird Survey | LON-BM-10 | 327192 | 6678415 |
| Bird Survey | LON-BM-11 | 326577 | 6678482 |
| Bird Survey | LON-BM-12 | 327204 | 6678812 |
| Bird Survey | LON-BM-13 | 327224 | 6679379 |
| Bird Survey | LON-BM-14 | 326649 | 6679486 |
| Bird Survey | NER-BM-01 | 291308 | 6648647 |
| Bird Survey | NER-BM-02 | 291987 | 6648362 |
| Bird Survey | NER-BM-03 | 292722 | 6647805 |
| Bird Survey | NER-BM-04 | 293473 | 6648125 |
| Bird Survey | NER-BM-05 | 294042 | 6648123 |
| Bird Survey | NER-BM-07 | 293712 | 6649388 |
| Bird Survey | NER-BM-08 | 293166 | 6649447 |
| Bird Survey | NER-BM-09 | 292732 | 6649912 |
| Bird Survey | NER-BM-10 | 292213 | 6650071 |
| Bird Survey | NER-BM-11 | 291457 | 6650174 |
| Bird Survey | NER-BM-12 | 291440 | 6649515 |
| Bird Survey | NER-BM-13 | 290876 | 6649044 |
| Bird Survey | TRI-BM-01 | 257251 | 6633510 |



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| Equipment | Site | Easting | Northing |
|--------------|------------|---------|----------|
| Bird Survey | TRI-BM-02 | 257775 | 6633481 |
| Bird Survey | TRI-BM-03 | 258256 | 6633495 |
| Bird Survey | TRI-BM-04 | 258624 | 6633460 |
| Bird Survey | TRI-BM-06 | 257230 | 6632979 |
| Bird Survey | TRI-BM-07 | 257824 | 6633035 |
| Bird Survey | TRI-BM-09 | 257287 | 6632523 |
| Bird Survey | TRI-BM-10 | 257821 | 6632516 |
| Bird Survey | TRI-BM-11 | 258272 | 6632522 |
| Bird Survey | TRI-BM-12 | 258290 | 6632040 |
| Bird Survey | TRI-BM-13 | 258773 | 6632158 |
| Bird Survey | TRI-BM-14 | 258921 | 6633167 |
| Bird Survey | TRI-BM-15 | 258812 | 6632661 |
| Bird Survey | TRI-BM-16 | 258111 | 6631718 |
| Bird Survey | TRI-BM-17 | 258502 | 6631254 |
| Echolocation | COO-ANA-02 | 292175 | 6643167 |
| Echolocation | COO-ANA-03 | 293687 | 6642694 |
| Echolocation | COO-ANA-03 | 293824 | 6643945 |
| Echolocation | COO-ANA-04 | 291974 | 6641571 |
| Echolocation | COO-ANA-05 | 293485 | 6641084 |
| Echolocation | COO-ANA-06 | 291818 | 6640967 |
| Echolocation | COO-ANA-07 | 292963 | 6640675 |
| Echolocation | LON-ANA-01 | 329776 | 6679889 |
| Echolocation | LON-ANA-02 | 328406 | 6679468 |
| Echolocation | LON-ANA-03 | 329767 | 6679346 |
| Echolocation | LON-ANA-04 | 327088 | 6679043 |
| Echolocation | LON-ANA-05 | 327843 | 6679118 |
| Echolocation | LON-ANA-06 | 329110 | 6679113 |
| Echolocation | LON-ANA-07 | 326957 | 6678446 |
| Echolocation | LON-ANA-08 | 327986 | 6678296 |
| Echolocation | LON-ANA-09 | 328875 | 6678445 |
| Echolocation | LON-ANA-10 | 328034 | 6677296 |
| Echolocation | LON-ANA-11 | 328788 | 6677151 |
| Echolocation | NER-ANA-01 | 291472 | 6649947 |
| Echolocation | NER-ANA-02 | 292934 | 6649658 |
| Echolocation | NER-ANA-03 | 292070 | 6648414 |
| Echolocation | NER-ANA-04 | 293084 | 6648208 |
| Echolocation | NER-ANA-05 | 293967 | 6647610 |
| Echolocation | NER-ANA-06 | 294640 | 6646590 |
| Echolocation | TRI-ANA-01 | 260142 | 6633629 |
| Echolocation | TRI-ANA-02 | 259931 | 6633116 |
| Echolocation | TRI-ANA-03 | 259507 | 6632447 |
| Echolocation | TRI-ANA-04 | 259477 | 6631817 |
| Echolocation | TRI-ANA-05 | 259456 | 6631304 |



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|-------------------------|------------|---------|----------|
| Echolocation | TRI-ANA-06 | 258064 | 6631680 |
| Echolocation | TRI-ANA-07 | 258579 | 6632306 |
| Echolocation | TRI-ANA-08 | 258036 | 6633051 |
| Echolocation | TRI-ANA-09 | 258209 | 6633496 |
| Echolocation | TRI-ANA-10 | 257197 | 6633457 |
| Echolocation | TRI-ANA-11 | 256702 | 6632972 |
| Echolocation | TRI-ANA-12 | 257412 | 6632793 |
| Echolocation | TRI-ANA-13 | 256784 | 6632314 |
| Echolocation | TRI-ANA-14 | 256005 | 6633000 |
| Motion Detection Camera | CAM-LG-01 | 329529 | 6679480 |
| Motion Detection Camera | CAM-LG-02 | 327733 | 6677748 |
| Motion Detection Camera | CAM-NER-01 | 291459 | 6649920 |
| Motion Detection Camera | CAM-NER-02 | 292091 | 6648309 |
| Motion Detection Camera | CAM-NER-03 | 294215 | 6647556 |
| Motion Detection Camera | CAM-NER-04 | 294596 | 6646854 |
| Motion Detection Camera | CAM-COO-01 | 292084 | 6642777 |
| Motion Detection Camera | CAM-COO-02 | 293596 | 6641892 |
| Motion Detection Camera | CAM-COO-03 | 293934 | 6642948 |
| Motion Detection Camera | CAM-TRI-01 | 259570 | 6632480 |
| Motion Detection Camera | CAM-TRI-02 | 259344 | 6631298 |
| Motion Detection Camera | CAM-TRI-03 | 257903 | 6633314 |
| Motion Detection Camera | CAM-TRI-04 | 256136 | 6632415 |
| Motion Detection Camera | CAM-TRI-05 | 254975 | 6633299 |

Sources: AMBS (2017) *Maules Creek Coal Mine: Fauna Monitoring of the Offset Areas, Summer 2017*. Report Prepared for Whitehaven Coal Limited.

EcoPlanning (2023) *Winter Bird Survey Report 2022*. Report Prepared for Whitehaven Coal Limited.

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**Table E-2
Floristic Plot Locations**

| Site ID | Latitude | Longitude |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| EWFF0010 | -30.5375 | 150.2120 |
| EWFF0022 | -30.5527 | 150.2065 |
| EWFF0033 | -30.5470 | 150.2144 |
| EWFF0077 | -30.5333 | 150.2253 |
| EWFF0102 | -30.5558 | 150.2060 |
| EWFF0003 | -30.5441 | 150.1766 |
| EWFF0005 | -30.5445 | 150.1899 |
| EWFF0006 | -30.5468 | 150.1834 |
| EWFF0025 | -30.5232 | 150.1750 |
| EWFF0053 | -30.5363 | 150.1700 |
| EWFF0079 | -30.5380 | 150.1757 |
| EWFF0104 | -30.5414 | 150.1770 |
| EWFF3004 | -30.5369 | 150.1839 |
| NOFF0000 | -30.3626 | 150.2965 |
| NOFF0001 | -30.3533 | 150.2997 |
| NOFF0007 | -30.3332 | 150.2894 |
| NOFF0011 | -30.3041 | 150.2928 |
| NOFF0021 | -30.3273 | 150.2862 |
| NOFF0025 | -30.2908 | 150.2876 |
| NOFF0040 | -30.3348 | 150.2577 |
| NOFF0045 | -30.3417 | 150.2797 |
| NOFF0046 | -30.3597 | 150.2994 |
| NOFF0053 | -30.3527 | 150.2936 |
| NOFF0057 | -30.3092 | 150.2900 |
| NOFF0058 | -30.3277 | 150.2938 |
| NOFF0073 | -30.3353 | 150.2633 |
| NOFF0074 | -30.2862 | 150.2903 |
| NOFF0075 | -30.3235 | 150.2916 |
| NOFF0083 | -30.3635 | 150.3135 |
| NOFF0095 | -30.2954 | 150.2841 |
| NOFF0097 | -30.3715 | 150.3200 |
| NOFF1000 | -30.3089 | 150.2823 |
| NOFF1001 | -30.3589 | 150.2838 |
| NOFF0010 | -30.3877 | 150.2469 |
| NOFF0034 | -30.4134 | 150.2601 |
| NOFF0002 | -30.3721 | 150.2685 |
| NOFF0003 | -30.3415 | 150.2468 |
| NOFF0004 | -30.3404 | 150.2394 |
| NOFF0006 | -30.3553 | 150.2560 |
| NOFF0009 | -30.3514 | 150.2758 |



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| Site ID | Latitude | Longitude |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| NOFF0012 | -30.3523 | 150.2295 |
| NOFF0013 | -30.3518 | 150.2370 |
| NOFF0016 | -30.3860 | 150.2752 |
| NOFF0018 | -30.3545 | 150.2580 |
| NOFF0019 | -30.3581 | 150.2773 |
| NOFF0020 | -30.3609 | 150.2804 |
| NOFF0022 | -30.4017 | 150.2945 |
| NOFF0024 | -30.3828 | 150.2696 |
| NOFF0027 | -30.3586 | 150.2665 |
| NOFF0032 | -30.3984 | 150.2815 |
| NOFF0035 | -30.4167 | 150.2678 |
| NOFF0039 | -30.3415 | 150.2436 |
| NOFF0052 | -30.3814 | 150.2868 |
| NOFF0082 | -30.4247 | 150.2869 |
| NOFF0084 | -30.3540 | 150.2675 |
| NOFF0085 | -30.4090 | 150.2533 |
| NOFF0096 | -30.3535 | 150.2246 |
| NOFF0098 | -30.3667 | 150.2295 |
| NOFF0099 | -30.3813 | 150.2534 |
| NOFF1002 | -30.3633 | 150.2252 |
| NOFF1007 | -30.3928 | 150.2742 |
| BIMB3001 | -30.7172 | 150.3461 |
| BIMB3002 | -30.7187 | 150.3504 |
| BIMB3003 | -30.7264 | 150.3608 |
| BIMB3004 | -30.7040 | 150.3409 |
| BIMB3005 | -30.7009 | 150.3530 |
| BIMB3006 | -30.7053 | 150.3597 |
| BIMB3007 | -30.7043 | 150.3611 |
| BIMB3008 | -30.7159 | 150.3555 |
| BIMB3009 | -30.7146 | 150.3623 |
| BIMB3010 | -30.7257 | 150.3619 |
| BIMB3011 | -30.7079 | 150.3441 |
| BIMB3012 | -30.7088 | 150.3515 |
| BIMB3013 | -30.7065 | 150.3576 |
| SOFF0002 | -30.7069 | 150.3544 |
| SOFF0018 | -30.7062 | 150.3483 |
| SOFF0029 | -30.7093 | 150.3606 |
| SOFF0058 | -30.7120 | 150.3612 |
| SOFF0059 | -30.7169 | 150.3510 |
| SOFF0011 | -30.7066 | 150.3257 |
| SOFF0014 | -30.7192 | 150.3218 |
| SOFF0031 | -30.7218 | 150.3262 |
| SOFF0034 | -30.7250 | 150.3490 |



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| Site ID | Latitude | Longitude |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| SOFF0036 | -30.7246 | 150.3080 |
| SOFF0040 | -30.7072 | 150.3368 |
| SOFF0043 | -30.7092 | 150.3174 |
| SOFF0048 | -30.7320 | 150.3496 |
| SOFF0052 | -30.7069 | 150.3270 |
| SOFF0054 | -30.7028 | 150.3269 |
| SOFF0055 | -30.7285 | 150.3036 |
| SOFF0063 | -30.7111 | 150.3263 |
| SOFF0066 | -30.7076 | 150.3350 |
| SOFF0067 | -30.7152 | 150.3316 |
| SOFF0068 | -30.7175 | 150.3083 |
| SOFF0069 | -30.7062 | 150.3292 |
| SOFF0070 | -30.7353 | 150.3462 |
| SOFF1009 | -30.7279 | 150.3002 |
| SOFF1010 | -30.7303 | 150.3026 |
| SOFF1011 | -30.7240 | 150.3015 |
| EWFF0024 | -30.6115 | 150.0665 |
| EWFF0048 | -30.6030 | 150.0752 |
| EWFF0071 | -30.6018 | 150.0406 |
| EWFF0082 | -30.6097 | 150.0657 |
| EWFF0073 | -30.5897 | 150.0977 |
| EWFF0081 | -30.5780 | 150.0895 |
| EWFF0093 | -30.5823 | 150.1010 |
| EWFF0100 | -30.5596 | 150.1072 |
| EWFF3002 | -30.5735 | 150.1053 |
| EWFF3003 | -30.5680 | 150.1103 |
| EWFF0000 | -30.5895 | 150.0719 |
| EWFF0027 | -30.6096 | 150.0931 |
| EWFF3000 | -30.5958 | 150.0938 |
| WRPC0006 | -30.0088 | 151.2029 |
| WRPC0003 | -30.0061 | 151.2099 |
| WRPC0012 | -30.0059 | 151.2039 |
| WRPC0001 | -30.0236 | 151.2219 |
| WRPC0009 | -30.0023 | 151.2352 |
| WRPC0010 | -30.007 | 151.2315 |
| WRPC0007 | -30.0196 | 151.2173 |
| WRPC0002 | -30.0189 | 151.224 |
| WRPC0011 | -30.0166 | 151.2259 |
| WRPC0005 | -30.0021 | 151.2265 |
| WRPC0000 | -30.0116 | 151.2186 |
| WRPC0008 | -30.0111 | 151.2223 |
| WRPC0004 | -29.9958 | 151.229 |
| WRFF0003 | -30.0101 | 151.2085 |



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| Site ID | Latitude | Longitude |
|------------|----------|-----------|
| WRFF0019 | -30.0235 | 151.2191 |
| WRFF0009 | -30.024 | 151.2254 |
| WRFF0023 | -30.0111 | 151.2024 |
| WRFF0021 | -30.021 | 151.226 |
| WRFF0010 | -30.0004 | 151.2307 |
| WRFF0013 | -30.0138 | 151.2254 |
| WRFF0022 | -30.0169 | 151.2226 |
| WRFF0000 | -30.0046 | 151.2351 |
| WRFF0020 | -29.9987 | 151.2367 |
| WRFF0015 | -29.9988 | 151.2329 |
| WRFF0001 | -30.0106 | 151.2287 |
| WRFF0014 | -30.0072 | 151.2108 |
| EFFF1015 | -30.544 | 150.1998 |
| TRFF0009s | -30.4063 | 150.5014 |
| TRFF0008n | -30.4032 | 150.5018 |
| TRFF0005n | -30.4003 | 150.5004 |
| TRFF0006N | -30.3944 | 150.5019 |
| TRFF0001n | -30.4 | 150.4966 |
| TRFF0053w | -30.4037 | 150.4883 |
| TRFF00011N | -30.4126 | 150.5096 |
| TRFF0051W | -30.4118 | 150.5 |
| TRFF0014s | -30.4174 | 150.4972 |
| TRFF0012s | -30.4131 | 150.4956 |
| TRFF0002 | -30.4026 | 150.4893 |
| TRFF0007s | -30.4069 | 150.4945 |
| TRFF0010N | -30.4128 | 150.5039 |
| TRFF0056E | -30.4057 | 150.5059 |
| TRFF0065S | -30.4227 | 150.4846 |
| TRFF0023s | -30.4191 | 150.4839 |
| TRFF0015n | -30.4164 | 150.4891 |
| TRFF0052s | -30.4188 | 150.4912 |
| TRFF0038 | -30.4117 | 150.4843 |
| TRFF0035 | -30.4149 | 150.485 |
| TRFF0055 | -30.4159 | 150.4767 |
| TRFF0030 | -30.4054 | 150.4847 |
| TRFF0028 | -30.4003 | 150.4874 |
| TRFF0034 | -30.4089 | 150.4868 |
| TRFF0036 | -30.4147 | 150.4808 |
| TRFF0037 | -30.411 | 150.4775 |
| TRFF0033 | -30.4082 | 150.4726 |
| TRFF0029 | -30.4019 | 150.4803 |
| TRFF0031 | -30.4064 | 150.4789 |
| TRFF0022 | -30.4249 | 150.4913 |



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| Site ID | Latitude | Longitude |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| TRFF0061 | -30.4306 | 150.4909 |
| TRFF0021 | -30.4262 | 150.4971 |
| TRFF0020 | -30.4302 | 150.4952 |
| TRFF0024 | -30.422 | 150.4792 |
| TRFF1000 | -30.4113 | 150.4621 |
| TRFF0045 | -30.4185 | 150.4634 |
| TRFF0016 | -30.4217 | 150.499 |
| TRFF0017 | -30.4221 | 150.4935 |
| TRFF0018 | -30.4214 | 150.4881 |
| TRFF0013 | -30.4117 | 150.4911 |
| TRFF0000 | -30.413 | 150.4717 |
| TRFF0003 | -30.418 | 150.4741 |
| TRFF0032 | -30.4063 | 150.4692 |
| TRFF0025 | -30.4264 | 150.4759 |
| TRFF0027 | -30.4232 | 150.4729 |
| TRFF2000 | -30.4052 | 150.4506 |
| COFF4009 | -30.3356 | 150.8301 |
| COFF4011 | -30.3174 | 150.8624 |
| COFF4012 | -30.3231 | 150.8584 |
| COFF4008 | -30.3358 | 150.8378 |
| COFF4004 | -30.3138 | 150.8613 |
| COFF4001 | -30.3442 | 150.8324 |
| COFF4006 | -30.349 | 150.8358 |
| COFF4000 | -30.3511 | 150.848 |
| COFF4010 | -30.3444 | 150.8436 |
| COFF4014 | -30.3407 | 150.8314 |
| COFF4003 | -30.3211 | 150.8411 |
| COFF4002 | -30.3345 | 150.8403 |
| COFF3009 | -30.3493 | 150.8476 |
| COFF3005 | -30.35 | 150.8414 |
| COFF3004 | -30.3445 | 150.8398 |
| COFF3006 | -30.3392 | 150.8409 |
| COFF3013 | -30.3477 | 150.8368 |
| COFF3002 | -30.3482 | 150.8309 |
| COFF3014 | -30.3386 | 150.8331 |
| COFF3011 | -30.3269 | 150.8385 |
| COFF3012 | -30.3237 | 150.8352 |
| COFF0006 | -30.3257 | 150.8478 |
| COFF0020 | -30.3247 | 150.8561 |
| COFF0001 | -30.3118 | 150.8486 |
| COFF0000 | -30.3184 | 150.8589 |
| COFF0025 | -30.3083 | 150.8499 |
| COFF1000 | -30.3204 | 150.8645 |




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| Site ID | Latitude | Longitude |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| COFF0021 | -30.329 | 150.8509 |
| COFF0002 | -30.3112 | 150.8551 |
| COFF0029 | -30.3173 | 150.8536 |
| COFF0010 | -30.3305 | 150.8568 |
| COFF0008 | -30.3324 | 150.8469 |
| COFF0019 | -30.3175 | 150.8467 |
| NEFF1000 | -30.2793 | 150.8389 |
| NEFF0001 | -30.2613 | 150.8354 |
| NEFF0002 | -30.2626 | 150.8374 |
| NEFF0014 | -30.2794 | 150.8458 |
| NEFF0013 | -30.2765 | 150.8529 |
| NEFF0012 | -30.2689 | 150.848 |
| NEFF0010 | -30.2681 | 150.851 |
| NEFF0005 | -30.2671 | 150.8431 |
| NEFF0003 | -30.2652 | 150.8393 |
| NEFF0000 | -30.2605 | 150.8325 |
| NEFF0006 | -30.2647 | 150.8448 |
| NEFF2008 | -30.2882 | 150.821 |
| NEFF0008 | -30.2732 | 150.8439 |
| NEFF0025 | -30.2842 | 150.8271 |
| NEFF0027 | -30.2881 | 150.8347 |
| NEFF2000 | -30.275 | 150.8463 |
| NEFF0004 | -30.265 | 150.8422 |
| NEFF2002a | -30.2667 | 150.8368 |
| NEFF2002b | -30.2937 | 150.8469 |
| NEFF0023 | -30.2854 | 150.8401 |
| NEFF2009 | -30.2923 | 150.8433 |
| NEFF0020 | -30.307 | 150.8558 |
| NEFF0018 | -30.2987 | 150.864 |
| NEFF0016 | -30.2929 | 150.8627 |
| NEFF2004 | -30.2966 | 150.8647 |
| NEFF0017 | -30.2976 | 150.862 |
| NEFF5000 | -30.2992 | 150.8584 |
| NEFF0019 | -30.2947 | 150.861 |
| NEFF2007 | -30.2749 | 150.8383 |
| TRFF0040 | -30.4032 | 150.4556 |
| TRFF0041 | -30.404 | 150.4544 |
| TRFF0043 | -30.4078 | 150.452 |
| TRFF0044 | -30.4159 | 150.4507 |
| TRFF0047 | -30.4203 | 150.4556 |
| TRFF0049 | -30.4255 | 150.4528 |
| TRFF0050 | -30.42 | 150.4456 |
| TRFF0057 | -30.4222 | 150.4494 |

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| Site ID | Latitude | Longitude |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| TRFF0058 | -30.4164 | 150.4479 |

Sources: AMBS Ecology and Heritage (2021a) *Maules Creek Coal Mine Offset Area Vegetation Mapping*. Prepared for Whitehaven Coal Limited.
 AMBS Ecology and Heritage (2021b) *Maules Creek Coal Mine Additional Offset Areas Vegetation Mapping*. Prepared for Whitehaven Coal Limited.

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APPENDIX I

COMPLETION CRITERIA FOR KEY BIOMETRICS OF VEGETATION CLASSES AND CORRESPONDING BVTS/PCTS MAPPED WITHIN THE OFFSET AREA



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**Table H-1
Completion Criteria for Key Biometrics of Vegetation Classes and Corresponding BVTs/PCTs Mapped Within the Offset Area**

| Vegetation Class (Keith 2004) | BVT/PCT Number | Community Common Name | TEC | Completion criteria | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|------|---------------------|-------|------|-------|
| | | | | NPS | NOS | NMS | NGCG |
| Floodplain Transition Woodlands | NA185 (PCT 101) | Poplar Box - Yellow Box - Western Grey Box grassy woodland on cracking clay soils mainly in the Liverpool Plains, Brigalow Belt South Bioregion | Yes | 12-16 | 6-25 | 0-5 | 20-30 |
| New England Dry Sclerophyll Forests | NA351 (PCT 572) | Silvertop Stringybark - Bendemeer White Gum - Ribbon Gum open forest in the Kaputar area of the Nandewar Bioregion | No | 26-33 | 25-40 | 6-25 | 18-20 |
| | BR122 (PCT 736) | Broad-leaved Stringybark - Mountain Gum - Apple Box open forest of the New England Tableland Bioregion | No | | | | |
| New England Grassy Woodlands | NA258 (PCT 510) | Blakely's Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy woodland of the New England Tableland Bioregion | Yes* | 20-25 | 6-25 | 0-5 | 30-40 |
| | NA358 (PCT 492) | Silvertop Stringybark - Yellow Box - Apple Box - Rough-barked Apple shrub grass open forest mainly on southern slopes of the Liverpool Range, Brigalow Belt South Bioregion | Yes* | | | | |
| | NA332 (PCT 571) | Ribbon Gum - Rough-barked Apple - Yellow Box grassy woodland of the New England Tableland Bioregion and NSW North Coast Bioregion | Yes* | | | | |
| North-west Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Woodlands | NA348 (PCT 413) | Silver-leaved Ironbark - White Cypress Pine - box dry shrub grass woodland of the Pilliga Scrub - Warialda region, Brigalow Belt South Bioregion | No | 20-26 | 6-25 | 6-25 | 20-30 |
| | NA407 (PCT 429) | White Cypress Pine - Poplar Box - Silver-leaved Ironbark viney shrub woodland of the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion | No | | | | |
| | NA397 (PCT 435) | White Box - White Cypress Pine shrub grass hills woodland in the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and Nandewar Bioregion | Yes* | | | | |




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| Vegetation Class (Keith 2004) | BVT/PCT Number | Community Common Name | TEC | Completion criteria | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|-----|---------------------|-------|------|-------|
| | | | | NPS | NOS | NMS | NGCG |
| North-west Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Woodlands (cont.) | NA393 (PCT 563) | White Box - Silvertop Stringybark +/- White Cypress Pine grass shrub open forest of the southern Nandewar Bioregion and New England Tableland Bioregion | No | 24-30 | 25-40 | 6-25 | 20-30 |
| | NA398 (PCT 588) | White Box - White Cypress Pine shrubby hills open forest mainly in the Nandewar Bioregion | No | | | | |
| | NA206 (PCT1165) | Silvertop Stringybark - Orange Gum shrubby open forest of the central parts of the Nandewar Bioregion | No | | | | |
| | NA222 (PCT 1306) | White Box - Red Stringybark shrubby woodlands on basalt slopes of the Nandewar Bioregion and Brigalow Belt South Bioregion | No | | | | |
| Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests | NA373 (PCT 581) | Tumbledown Red Gum - Dwyers Red Gum - Wallaby Bush shrubby woodland of the Nandewar Bioregion | No | 24-30 | 25-40 | 6-25 | 20-30 |
| | NA316 (PCT 592) | Narrow-leaved Ironbark - cypress pine - White Box shrubby open forest in the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and Nandewar Bioregion | No | | | | |
| Western Slopes Grassy Woodland | NA258/BR272 (PCT 510) | Blakely's Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy woodland of the New England Tableland Bioregion | Yes | 18-23 | 6-25 | 0-5 | 30-40 |
| | NA395 (PCT 589) | White Box - White Cypress Pine - Silver-leaved Ironbark grassy woodland on mainly clay loam soils on hills mainly in the Nandewar Bioregion | Yes | | | | |
| | BR391 (PCT 590) | White Box grassy woodland on the Inverell basalts mainly in the Nandewar Bioregion | Yes | | | | |
| | NA257 (PCT 599) | Blakely's Red Gum - Yellow Box grassy tall woodland on flats and hills in the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and Nandewar Bioregion | Yes | | | | |

NPS – native plant species diversity
 NOS – Native overstorey cover
 NMS – Native midstorey cover
 NGCG - Native groundcover grasses

| | | | |
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APPENDIX J

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE CRITERIA FOR KEY BIOMETRICS OF VEGETATION CLASSES MAPPED WITHIN THE OFFSET AREA



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WHC_PLN_MC_BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Table I-1
Annual Performance Criteria Values for Management Zones of Floodplain Transition Woodlands (PCT 101)**

| Biometric | Threshold - BVT benchmark | Annual performance criteria (Year since offset established/revegetated) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| NPS | Lower-80% BVT | 0.6 | 1.3 | 1.9 | 2.6 | 3.2 | 3.8 | 4.5 | 5.1 | 5.8 | 6.4 | 7.0 | 7.7 | 8.3 | 9.0 | 9.6 | 10.2 | 10.9 | 11.5 | 12.2 | 12.8 |
| | Upper-100% BVT | 0.8 | 1.6 | 2.4 | 3.2 | 4.0 | 4.8 | 5.6 | 6.4 | 7.2 | 8.0 | 8.8 | 9.6 | 10.4 | 11.2 | 12.0 | 12.8 | 13.6 | 14.4 | 15.2 | 16 |
| NOS | Lower – Min. BVT | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 6.0 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 1.3 | 2.5 | 3.8 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 11.3 | 12.5 | 13.8 | 15.0 | 16.3 | 17.5 | 18.8 | 20.0 | 21.3 | 22.5 | 23.8 | 25 |
| NMS | Lower – Min. BVT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 5 |
| NGCG | Lower – Min. BVT | 1.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 9.0 | 10.0 | 11.0 | 12.0 | 13.0 | 14.0 | 15.0 | 16.0 | 17.0 | 18.0 | 19.0 | 20 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 1.5 | 3.0 | 4.5 | 6.0 | 7.5 | 9.0 | 10.5 | 12.0 | 13.5 | 15.0 | 16.5 | 18.0 | 19.5 | 21.0 | 22.5 | 24.0 | 25.5 | 27.0 | 28.5 | 30 |



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**Table I-2
Annual Performance Criteria Values for Management Zones of New England Dry Sclerophyll Forests (PCTs 572 and 736)**

| Biometric | Threshold - BVT benchmark | Annual performance criteria (Year since offset established/revegetated) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| NPS | Lower-80% BVT | 1.3 | 2.6 | 4.0 | 5.3 | 6.6 | 7.9 | 9.2 | 10.6 | 11.9 | 13.2 | 14.5 | 15.8 | 17.2 | 18.5 | 19.8 | 21.1 | 22.4 | 23.8 | 25.1 | 26.4 |
| | Upper-100% BVT | 1.7 | 3.3 | 5.0 | 6.6 | 8.3 | 9.9 | 11.6 | 13.2 | 14.9 | 16.5 | 18.2 | 19.8 | 21.5 | 23.1 | 24.8 | 26.4 | 28.1 | 29.7 | 31.4 | 33 |
| NOS | Lower – Min. BVT | 1.3 | 2.5 | 3.8 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 11.3 | 12.5 | 13.8 | 15.0 | 16.3 | 17.5 | 18.8 | 20.0 | 21.3 | 22.5 | 23.8 | 25 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 2.0 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 8.0 | 10.0 | 12.0 | 14.0 | 16.0 | 18.0 | 20.0 | 22.0 | 24.0 | 26.0 | 28.0 | 30.0 | 32.0 | 34.0 | 36.0 | 38.0 | 40 |
| NMS | Lower – Min. BVT | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 6 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 1.3 | 2.5 | 3.8 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 11.3 | 12.5 | 13.8 | 15.0 | 16.3 | 17.5 | 18.8 | 20.0 | 21.3 | 22.5 | 23.8 | 25 |
| NGCG | Lower – Min. BVT | 0.9 | 1.8 | 2.7 | 3.6 | 4.5 | 5.4 | 6.3 | 7.2 | 8.1 | 9.0 | 9.9 | 10.8 | 11.7 | 12.6 | 13.5 | 14.4 | 15.3 | 16.2 | 17.1 | 18 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 1.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 9.0 | 10.0 | 11.0 | 12.0 | 13.0 | 14.0 | 15.0 | 16.0 | 17.0 | 18.0 | 19.0 | 20 |



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**Table I-3
Annual Performance Criteria Values for Management Zones of New England Grassy Woodlands (PCTs 492, 510, 571)**

| Biometric | Threshold - BVT benchmark | Annual performance criteria (Year since offset established/revegetated) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| NPS | Lower-80% BVT | 1.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 9.0 | 10.0 | 11.0 | 12.0 | 13.0 | 14.0 | 15.0 | 16.0 | 17.0 | 18.0 | 19.0 | 20 |
| | Upper-100% BVT | 1.3 | 2.5 | 3.8 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 11.3 | 12.5 | 13.8 | 15.0 | 16.3 | 17.5 | 18.8 | 20.0 | 21.3 | 22.5 | 23.8 | 25 |
| NOS | Lower – Min. BVT | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 6 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 1.3 | 2.5 | 3.8 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 11.3 | 12.5 | 13.8 | 15.0 | 16.3 | 17.5 | 18.8 | 20.0 | 21.3 | 22.5 | 23.8 | 25 |
| NMS | Lower – Min. BVT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 5 |
| NGCG | Lower – Min. BVT | 1.5 | 3.0 | 4.5 | 6.0 | 7.5 | 9.0 | 10.5 | 12.0 | 13.5 | 15.0 | 16.5 | 18.0 | 19.5 | 21.0 | 22.5 | 24.0 | 25.5 | 27.0 | 28.5 | 30 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 2.0 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 8.0 | 10.0 | 12.0 | 14.0 | 16.0 | 18.0 | 20.0 | 22.0 | 24.0 | 26.0 | 28.0 | 30.0 | 32.0 | 34.0 | 36.0 | 38.0 | 40 |



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**Table I-4
Annual Performance Criteria Values for Management Zones of North-west Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Woodlands
(PCT 413, 429, 435, 563, 588, 1165, 1306)**

| Biometric | Threshold - BVT benchmark | Annual performance criteria (Year since offset established/revegetated) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| NPS | Lower-80% BVT | 1.0 | 2.1 | 3.1 | 4.2 | 5.2 | 6.2 | 7.3 | 8.3 | 9.4 | 10.4 | 11.4 | 12.5 | 13.5 | 14.6 | 15.6 | 16.6 | 17.7 | 18.7 | 19.8 | 20.8 |
| | Upper-100% BVT | 1.3 | 2.6 | 3.9 | 5.2 | 6.5 | 7.8 | 9.1 | 10.4 | 11.7 | 13.0 | 14.3 | 15.6 | 16.9 | 18.2 | 19.5 | 20.8 | 22.1 | 23.4 | 24.7 | 26 |
| NOS | Lower – Min. BVT | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 6 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 1.3 | 2.5 | 3.8 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 11.3 | 12.5 | 13.8 | 15.0 | 16.3 | 17.5 | 18.8 | 20.0 | 21.3 | 22.5 | 23.8 | 25 |
| NMS | Lower – Min. BVT | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 6 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 1.3 | 2.5 | 3.8 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 11.3 | 12.5 | 13.8 | 15.0 | 16.3 | 17.5 | 18.8 | 20.0 | 21.3 | 22.5 | 23.8 | 25 |
| NGCG | Lower – Min. BVT | 1.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 9.0 | 10.0 | 11.0 | 12.0 | 13.0 | 14.0 | 15.0 | 16.0 | 17.0 | 18.0 | 19.0 | 20 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 1.5 | 3.0 | 4.5 | 6.0 | 7.5 | 9.0 | 10.5 | 12.0 | 13.5 | 15.0 | 16.5 | 18.0 | 19.5 | 21.0 | 22.5 | 24.0 | 25.5 | 27.0 | 28.5 | 30 |



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**Table I-5
Annual Performance Criteria Values for Management Zones of Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests (PCTs 581, 592)**

| Biometric | Threshold - BVT benchmark | Annual performance criteria (Year since offset established/revegetated) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| NPS | Lower-80% BVT | 1.2 | 2.4 | 3.6 | 4.8 | 6.0 | 7.2 | 8.4 | 9.6 | 10.8 | 12.0 | 13.2 | 14.4 | 15.6 | 16.8 | 18.0 | 19.2 | 20.4 | 21.6 | 22.8 | 24 |
| | Upper-100% BVT | 1.5 | 3.0 | 4.5 | 6.0 | 7.5 | 9.0 | 10.5 | 12.0 | 13.5 | 15.0 | 16.5 | 18.0 | 19.5 | 21.0 | 22.5 | 24.0 | 25.5 | 27.0 | 28.5 | 30 |
| NOS | Lower – Min. BVT | 1.3 | 2.5 | 3.8 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 11.3 | 12.5 | 13.8 | 15.0 | 16.3 | 17.5 | 18.8 | 20.0 | 21.3 | 22.5 | 23.8 | 25 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 2.0 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 8.0 | 10.0 | 12.0 | 14.0 | 16.0 | 18.0 | 20.0 | 22.0 | 24.0 | 26.0 | 28.0 | 30.0 | 32.0 | 34.0 | 36.0 | 38.0 | 40 |
| NMS | Lower – Min. BVT | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 6 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 1.3 | 2.5 | 3.8 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 11.3 | 12.5 | 13.8 | 15.0 | 16.3 | 17.5 | 18.8 | 20.0 | 21.3 | 22.5 | 23.8 | 25 |
| NGCG | Lower – Min. BVT | 1.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 9.0 | 10.0 | 11.0 | 12.0 | 13.0 | 14.0 | 15.0 | 16.0 | 17.0 | 18.0 | 19.0 | 20 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 1.5 | 3.0 | 4.5 | 6.0 | 7.5 | 9.0 | 10.5 | 12.0 | 13.5 | 15.0 | 16.5 | 18.0 | 19.5 | 21.0 | 22.5 | 24.0 | 25.5 | 27.0 | 28.5 | 30 |



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**Table I-6
Annual Performance Criteria Values for Management Zones of Western Slopes Grassy Woodland (PCTs 510, 589, 590, 599)**

| Biometric | Threshold - BVT benchmark | Annual performance criteria (Year since offset established/revegetated) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| NPS | Lower-80% BVT | 0.9 | 1.8 | 2.8 | 3.7 | 4.6 | 5.5 | 6.4 | 7.4 | 8.3 | 9.2 | 10.1 | 11.0 | 12.0 | 12.9 | 13.8 | 14.7 | 15.6 | 16.6 | 17.5 | 18.4 |
| | Upper-100% BVT | 1.2 | 2.3 | 3.5 | 4.6 | 5.8 | 6.9 | 8.1 | 9.2 | 10.4 | 11.5 | 12.7 | 13.8 | 15.0 | 16.1 | 17.3 | 18.4 | 19.6 | 20.7 | 21.9 | 23 |
| NOS | Lower – Min. BVT | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 6 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 1.3 | 2.5 | 3.8 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 11.3 | 12.5 | 13.8 | 15.0 | 16.3 | 17.5 | 18.8 | 20.0 | 21.3 | 22.5 | 23.8 | 25 |
| NMS | Lower – Min. BVT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 5 |
| NGCG | Lower – Min. BVT | 1.5 | 3.0 | 4.5 | 6.0 | 7.5 | 9.0 | 10.5 | 12.0 | 13.5 | 15.0 | 16.5 | 18.0 | 19.5 | 21.0 | 22.5 | 24.0 | 25.5 | 27.0 | 28.5 | 30 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 2.0 | 4.0 | 6.0 | 8.0 | 10.0 | 12.0 | 14.0 | 16.0 | 18.0 | 20.0 | 22.0 | 24.0 | 26.0 | 28.0 | 30.0 | 32.0 | 34.0 | 36.0 | 38.0 | 40 |




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WHC_PLN_MC_BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

**Table I-7
Annual Performance Criteria Values for Management Zones of Northern Tableland Dry Sclerophyll Forests (PCT 538)**

| Biometric | Threshold - BVT benchmark | Annual performance criteria (Year since offset established/revegetated) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| NPS | Lower-80% BVT | 1.0 | 2.1 | 3.1 | 4.2 | 5.2 | 6.2 | 7.3 | 8.3 | 9.4 | 10.4 | 11.4 | 12.5 | 13.5 | 14.6 | 15.6 | 16.6 | 17.7 | 18.7 | 19.8 | 20.8 |
| | Upper-100% BVT | 1.3 | 2.6 | 3.9 | 5.2 | 6.5 | 7.8 | 9.1 | 10.4 | 11.7 | 13.0 | 14.3 | 15.6 | 16.9 | 18.2 | 19.5 | 20.8 | 22.1 | 23.4 | 24.7 | 26 |
| NOS | Lower – Min. BVT | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 6 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 1.3 | 2.5 | 3.8 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 11.3 | 12.5 | 13.8 | 15.0 | 16.3 | 17.5 | 18.8 | 20.0 | 21.3 | 22.5 | 23.8 | 25 |
| NMS | Lower – Min. BVT | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 6 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 1.3 | 2.5 | 3.8 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 11.3 | 12.5 | 13.8 | 15.0 | 16.3 | 17.5 | 18.8 | 20.0 | 21.3 | 22.5 | 23.8 | 25 |
| NGCG | Lower – Min. BVT | 1.0 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 9.0 | 10.0 | 11.0 | 12.0 | 13.0 | 14.0 | 15.0 | 16.0 | 17.0 | 18.0 | 19.0 | 20 |
| | Upper – Max. BVT | 1.5 | 3.0 | 4.5 | 6.0 | 7.5 | 9.0 | 10.5 | 12.0 | 13.5 | 15.0 | 16.5 | 18.0 | 19.5 | 21.0 | 22.5 | 24.0 | 25.5 | 27.0 | 28.5 | 30 |

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APPENDIX K
OFFSET AREA RISK ASSESSMENT



MAULES CREEK

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**Table J-1
Risk Assessment**

| Risk Factor (Hazard) | Impact (Risk) | Before Management | | | Action/Control/Risk Mitigation Measure | After Management | | |
|----------------------|---|-------------------|-------------|------|--|------------------|-------------|------------|
| | | Likelihood | Consequence | Risk | | Likelihood | Consequence | Risk Level |
| Substrate | Ground disturbance | C | 4 | L | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground preparation and soil disturbance for revegetation will only be undertaken where required in revegetation (Section 5.4); Vehicle access will be restricted to designated tracks, except in the case of biodiversity management actions and inspections (Section 5.13); and Establishment and maintenance of fire breaks around the perimeter of and within the offset areas only where practicable (Section 5.14); | D | 4 | L |
| Clearing | Incidental clearing and fragmentation | C | 4 | L | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low level management interventions in existing woodland and forest to minimise clearing (Sections 5.2 and 5.4); Active revegetation will be undertaken to increase the area and connectivity of native vegetation (Section 5.4); and Ecological thinning will be limited to areas of dense regrowth of <i>Callitris</i> spp. (Section 5.5). | D | 4 | L |
| Livestock | Grazing by cattle – ground disturbance, remove or destroy seeds, seedlings or plantings | C | 2 | H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture/grazing has been excluded from the offset area (Section 5.12); Inadvertent grazing from neighbouring stock will be removed as soon as practicable (Section 5.12). | D | 3 | L |



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| Risk Factor (Hazard) | Impact (Risk) | Before Management | | | Action/Control/Risk Mitigation Measure | After Management | | |
|---|--|-------------------|-------------|------|--|------------------|-------------|------------|
| | | Likelihood | Consequence | Risk | | Likelihood | Consequence | Risk Level |
| Introduced flora species (weeds) | Weed invasion – perennial and annual grasses, perennial herbs, annual and biennial herbs and woody weeds | C | 2 | H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whitehaven will instruct contractor vehicles and equipment entering the offset area to be clean and free from weeds and/or seeds reduce introduction and spread of weeds (Section 5.8); Seasonal weed assessment programs will be used to identify weeds and implement timely and prioritised weed control; Weed control will target priority weed species; The cover and extent of exotic species will be monitored (Sections 5.16 and 5.17); and An increase in perennial exotic plant cover will trigger management actions and a review of factors leading to increasing/high weed cover (Section 5.18). | D | 3 | L |
| Impacts from Animals (exotics and grazing native animals) | Grazing by feral pigs and goats | B | 3 | H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest animal abundance is monitored across the offset area (Section 5.9); Control measures are informed by monitoring results/presence of pest animals (Section 5.9). | B | 5 | L |
| | Rabbits and hares | B | 3 | H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest animal abundance is monitored across the offset area (Section 5.9); Control measures are informed by monitoring results/presence of pest animals (Section 5.9). | B | 5 | L |
| | Grazing native fauna species (e.g. kangaroos) | B | 4 | M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest animal abundance is monitored across the offset area (Section 5.9); Control measures are informed by monitoring results/presence of pest animals (Section 5.9). | B | 5 | L |
| | Feral foxes | B | 3 | H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest animal abundance is monitored across the offset area (Section 5.9); Control measures are informed by monitoring results/presence of pest animals (Section 5.9). | B | 5 | L |
| | Deer | C | 4 | L | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest animal abundance is monitored across the offset area (Section 5.9); Control measures are informed by monitoring results/presence of pest animals (Section 5.9). | B | 5 | L |
| | Feral Cat | B | 4 | M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest animal abundance is monitored across the offset area (Section 5.9); | B | 5 | L |



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WHC_PLN_MC_BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

| Risk Factor (Hazard) | Impact (Risk) | Before Management | | | Action/Control/Risk Mitigation Measure | After Management | | |
|----------------------|---|-------------------|-------------|------|--|------------------|-------------|------------|
| | | Likelihood | Consequence | Risk | | Likelihood | Consequence | Risk Level |
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control measures are informed by monitoring results/presence of pest animals (Section 5.9). | | | |
| Fire | Uncontrolled bushfire | B | 2 | H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing and maintaining fire breaks around the perimeter of and within the offset areas (Section 5.14); Fuel loads, bushfire risk and appropriate hazard reduction methods will be assessed annually; Whitehaven will undertake an annual ecological burn program according to the annual assessment; Controlled burns may be utilised as a contingency measure within the Trigger Action Response Plan according to annual flora performance criteria (Sections 5.16, 5.17 and 5.18). | D | 3 | L |
| Floristics | Poor understorey diversity | C | 3 | M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual revegetation assessments will determine key species to be planted in order to create a structurally diverse habitat (Section 5.4); Ecological monitoring (Section 5.17) will assess the diversity of understorey species in defined control/treatment plots to determine required contingency measures (Section 5.18); Supplementary planting of appropriate tubestock or seeding will be undertaken if the contingency measure is triggered (Section 5.18). | D | 3 | L |
| Native plant growth | Poor native plant growth/germination | C | 3 | M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual revegetation assessments will determine key species to be planted in areas requiring active revegetation (Section 5.4); Vegetation and habitat monitoring will be undertaken to track changes in vegetation and habitat in the offset areas in response to management measures (Section 5.17); Supplementary planting of appropriate tubestock or seeding will be undertaken if the contingency measure is triggered (Section 5.18). | C | 4 | L |
| | Dense overstorey and midstorey revegetation | C | 3 | M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological monitoring (Section 5.17) will assess the density of overstorey and midstorey vegetation in defined control/treatment plots to determine required contingency measures (Section 5.18); | C | 4 | L |



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| Risk Factor (Hazard) | Impact (Risk) | Before Management | | | Action/Control/Risk Mitigation Measure | After Management | | |
|----------------------|---|-------------------|-------------|------|---|------------------|-------------|------------|
| | | Likelihood | Consequence | Risk | | Likelihood | Consequence | Risk Level |
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological thinning will be conducted in areas of dense regrowth of <i>Callitris</i> spp. where it has adverse impacts on habitat condition or restoration (Section 5.5). | | | |
| | Dense grass cover | C | 3 | M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological monitoring (Section 5.17) will assess the density of grasses in defined control/treatment plots to determine required contingency measures (Section 5.18). | C | 4 | L |
| Fauna habitat | Lack of bush rocks | C | 4 | L | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat needs assessment will be undertaken to determine the requirements for habitat augmentation (Section 5.6); Habitat augmentation will use available salvaged resources such as rocky debris. | C | 4 | L |
| | Lack of fallen timber/hollow logs | C | 4 | L | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat needs assessment will be undertaken to determine the requirements for habitat augmentation (Section 5.6); Habitat augmentation will use available salvaged resources such as coarse woody debris and artificial hollows. | C | 4 | L |
| | Lack of structural diversity (including lack of tree hollows) | C | 4 | L | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat needs assessment will be undertaken to determine the requirements for habitat augmentation (Section 5.6); Nest box installation (where required) will use high quality, durable materials suited to hollow-dependent threatened species. | C | 4 | L |
| | Lack of suitable vegetation for foraging and/or roosting | C | 4 | L | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat needs assessment will be undertaken to determine the requirements for habitat augmentation (Section 5.6); Nest box installation (where required) will use high quality, durable materials suited to hollow-dependent threatened species. | C | 4 | L |

**Table J-2
Likelihood and Consequence**

| Qualitative measure of likelihood (how likely is it that this event/issue will occur after control strategies have been put in place) | |
|---|--|
| Highly likely | Is expected to occur in most circumstances |
| Likely | Will probably occur during the life of the project |
| Possible | Might occur during the life of the project |
| Unlikely | Could occur but considered unlikely or doubtful |
| Rare | May occur in exceptional circumstances |

| Qualitative measure of consequences (what will be the consequence/result if this issue does occur rating) | |
|---|--|
| Minor | Minor incident of environmental damage that can be reversed |
| Moderate | Isolated but substantial instances of environmental damage that could be reversed with intensive efforts |
| High | Substantial instances of environmental damage that could be reversed with intensive efforts |
| Major | Major loss of environmental amenity and real danger of continuing |
| Critical | Severe widespread loss of environmental amenity and irrecoverable environmental damage |

Source: Department of the Environment (2014)

**Table J-3
Risk Rating**

| | Consequence | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|----------|--------|--------|----------|
| | Minor | Moderate | High | Major | Critical |
| Highly Likely | Medium | High | High | Severe | Severe |
| Likely | Low | Medium | High | High | Severe |
| Possible | Low | Medium | Medium | High | Severe |
| Unlikely | Low | Low | Medium | High | High |
| Rare | Low | Low | Low | Medium | High |

Source: Department of the Environment (2014)