



## Appendix K - Part 2

Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment



13 May 2020

Ground floor, 20 Chandos Street  
St Leonards NSW 2065  
PO Box 21  
St Leonards NSW 1590  
  
T 02 9493 9500  
E [info@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:info@emmconsulting.com.au)  
[www.emmconsulting.com.au](http://www.emmconsulting.com.au)

Gundabooka Aboriginal Corporation Management Committee  
c/- NPWS Bourke Office, PO Box 18  
Bourke NSW 2835

**Re: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project, Cobar NSW - Notification of Project**

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Dear Sir/Madam,

EMM Consulting Pty Ltd (EMM Heritage) has been engaged by Peak Gold Mines Pty Ltd (the proponent) to undertake an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) as part of the proposed State Significant Development (SSD-10419) of the New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project, located 3km to the south-east of Cobar town centre and adjacent to Kidman Way (Figure 1). The majority of the proposed development is underground, with some limited surface infrastructure, comprising the construction of a 22kv powerline (part Lot 62 DP 755649 & part Lot 31 DP 1128958; Figure 2). The aim of the study is to determine the cultural heritage of the development footprint, and develop suitable management and mitigation measures to be integrated into subsequent approvals for the project.

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In accordance with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's (DPIE) *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*, I am writing to notify you of the project and seeking you and/or your organisations interest in being registered for subsequent consultation and involvement. We are interested in Aboriginal individuals and/or organisations who may hold relevant cultural knowledge for determining the Aboriginal cultural heritage of the area, and who wish to be involved in the project. If so, please provide a response by **27 May 2020** to:

- Georgia Burnett (Archaeologist), EMM Consulting Pty Ltd, 20 Chandos Street, St Leonards, NSW 2065; T: 02 9493 9500; E: [gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au)

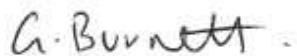
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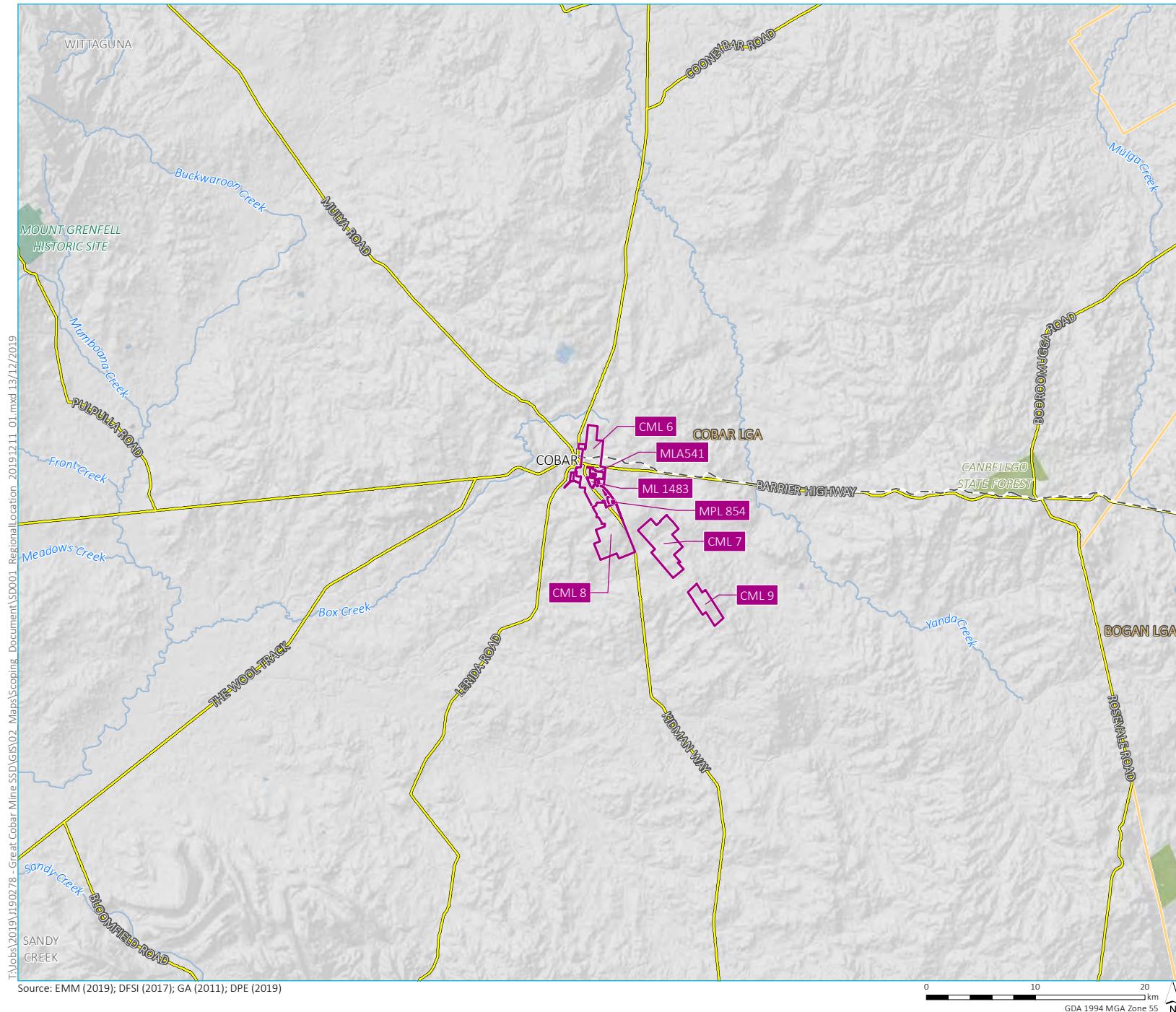
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If you have any questions or enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

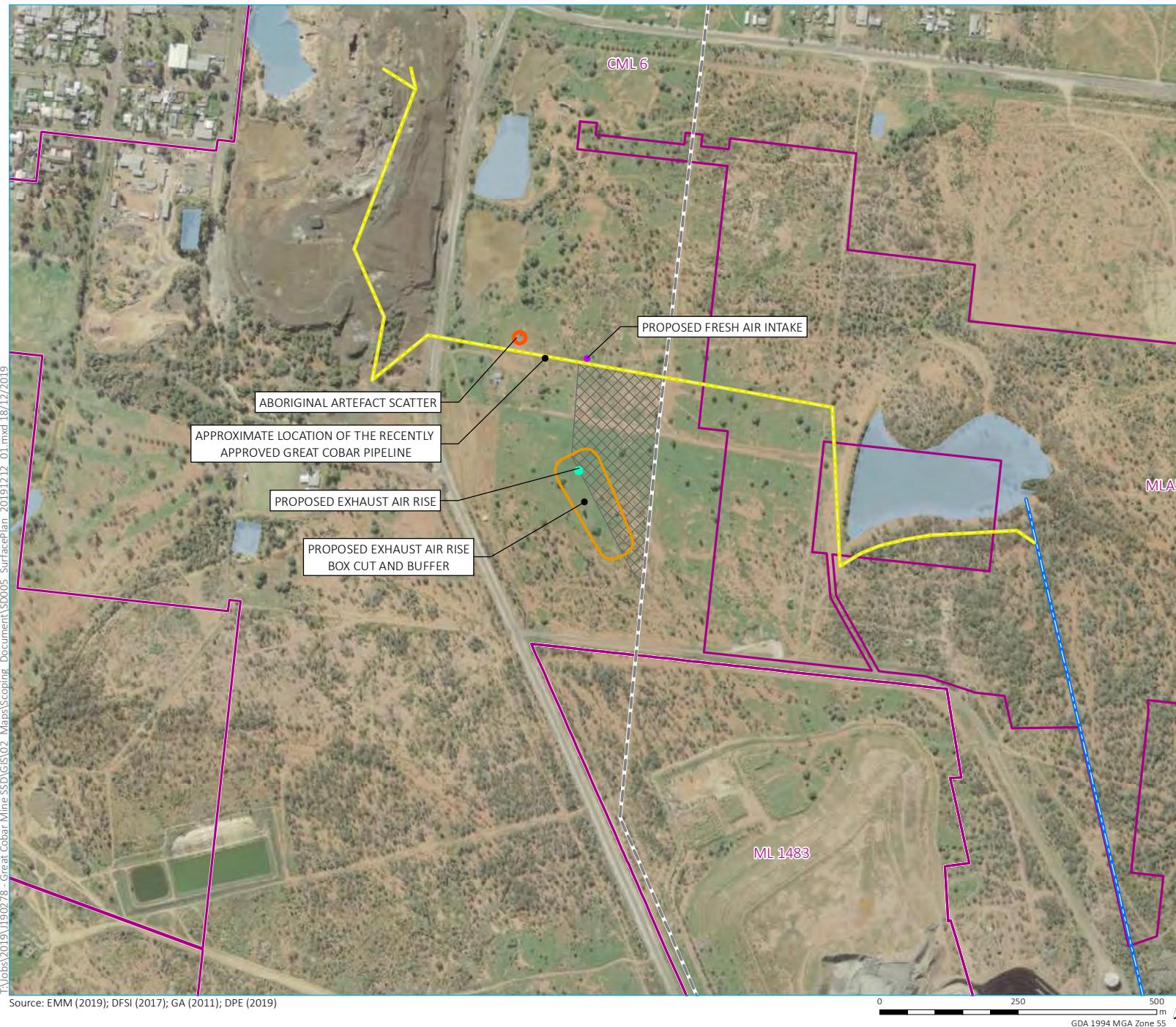


**Georgia Burnett**  
Archaeologist  
[gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au)



Regional location of the New Cobar Complex

New Cobar Complex  
Aboriginal community consultation  
Figure 1



## KEY

- Indicative pipeline
- Great Cobar pipeline
- 22kV powerline
- Proposed\* exhaust air rise buffer
- Proposed\* fresh air intake
- Proposed\* exhaust air rise
- Aboriginal artefact scatter
- General area of proposed powerline
- Waterbody
- Mining lease boundaries
- New Cobar Complex

\* Proposed, but approved under existing REF approvals

New Cobar Complex  
Surface Plan

New Cobar Complex  
Aboriginal community consultation  
Figure 2

13 May 2020

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PO Box 21  
St Leonards NSW 1590

John Shipp  
79 Thompson Street  
Dubbo NSW 2830

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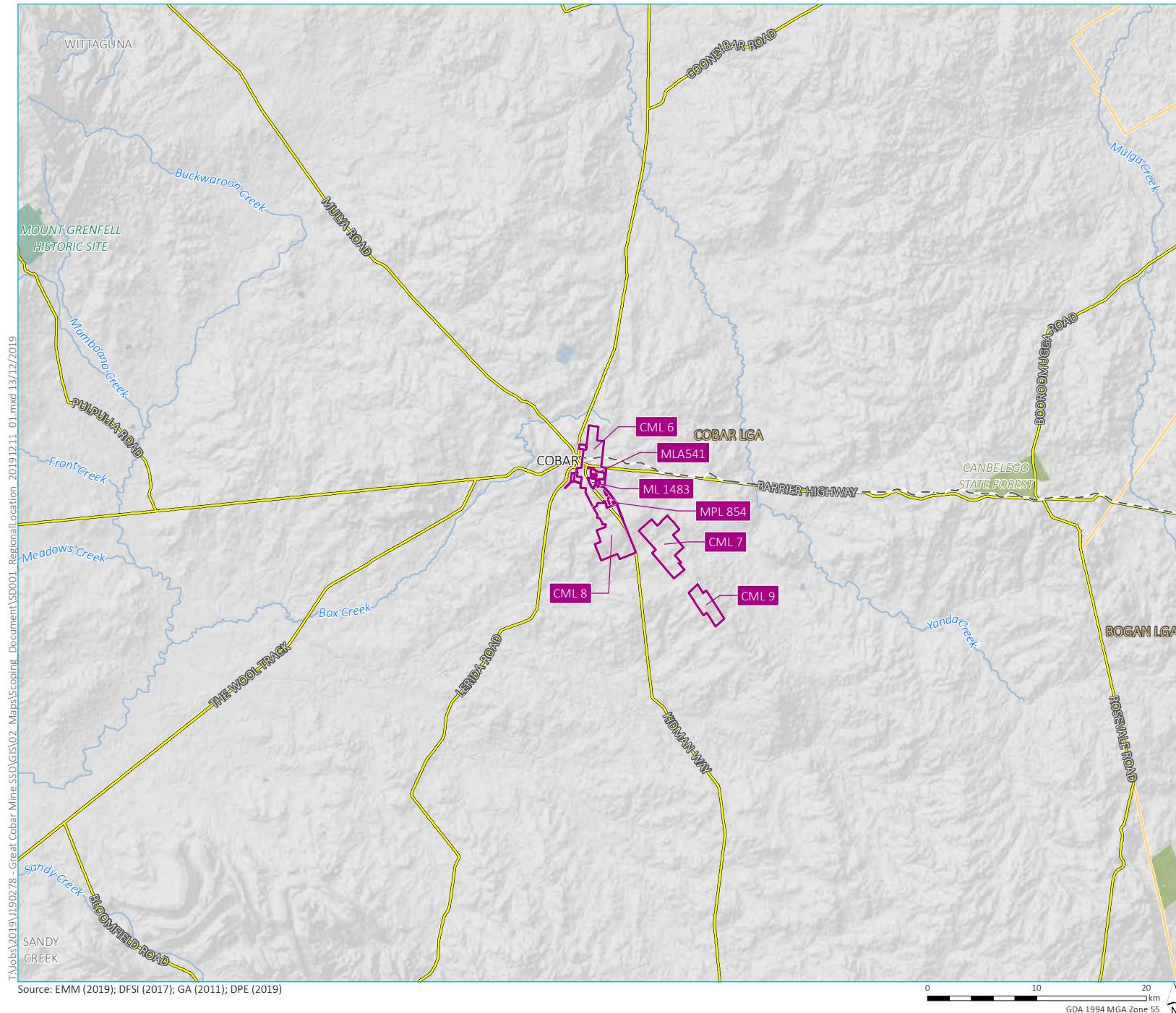
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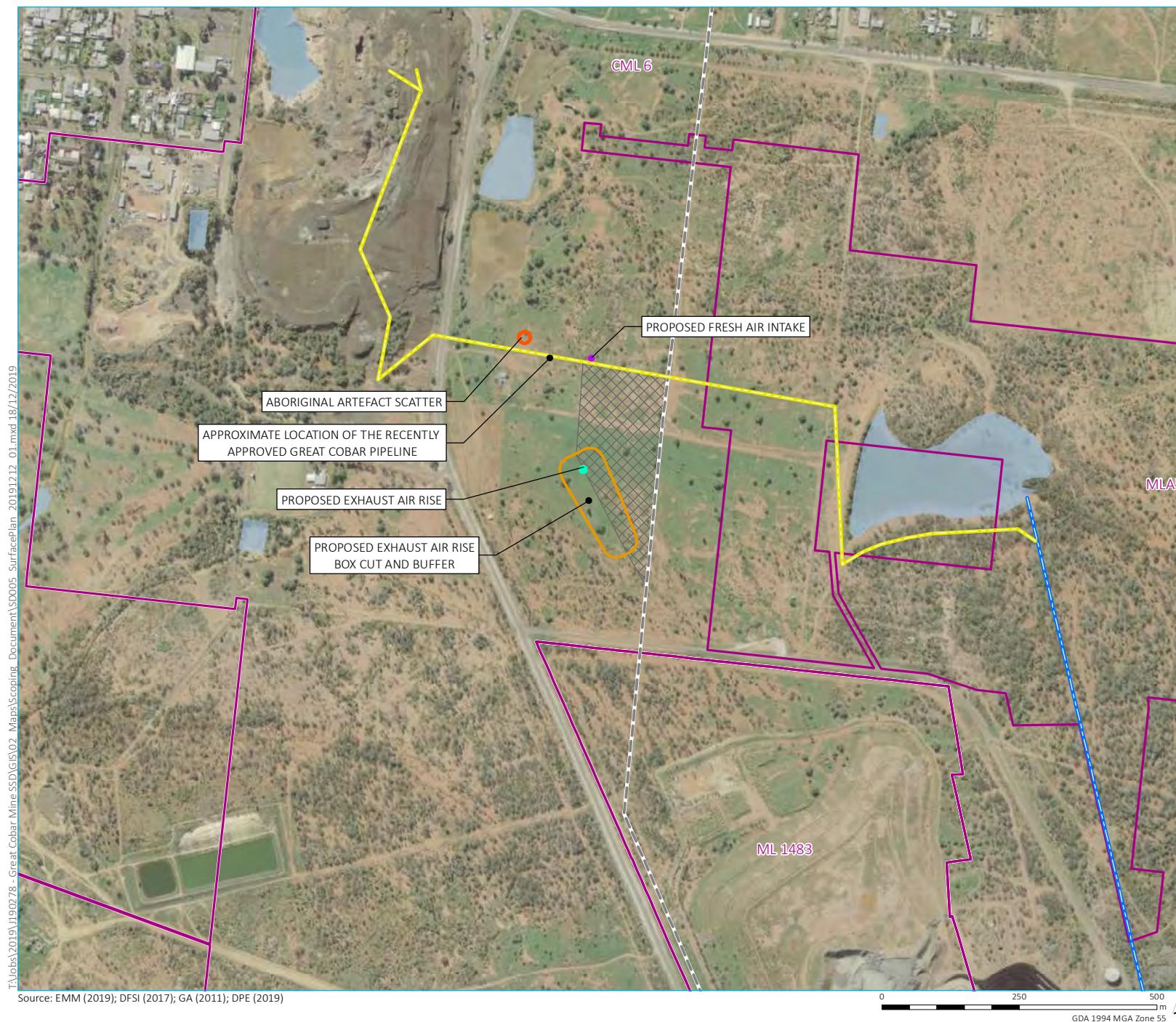


#### KEY

- Mining lease boundary
- Rail line
- Main road
- Named watercourse
- Waterbody
- Local government area
- NPWS reserve
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St Leonards NSW 1590

Paroo-Darling NP Co-management Committee  
c/- NPWS West Darling Area, PO Box 788  
Broken Hill NSW 2880

T 02 9493 9500  
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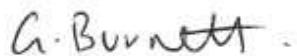
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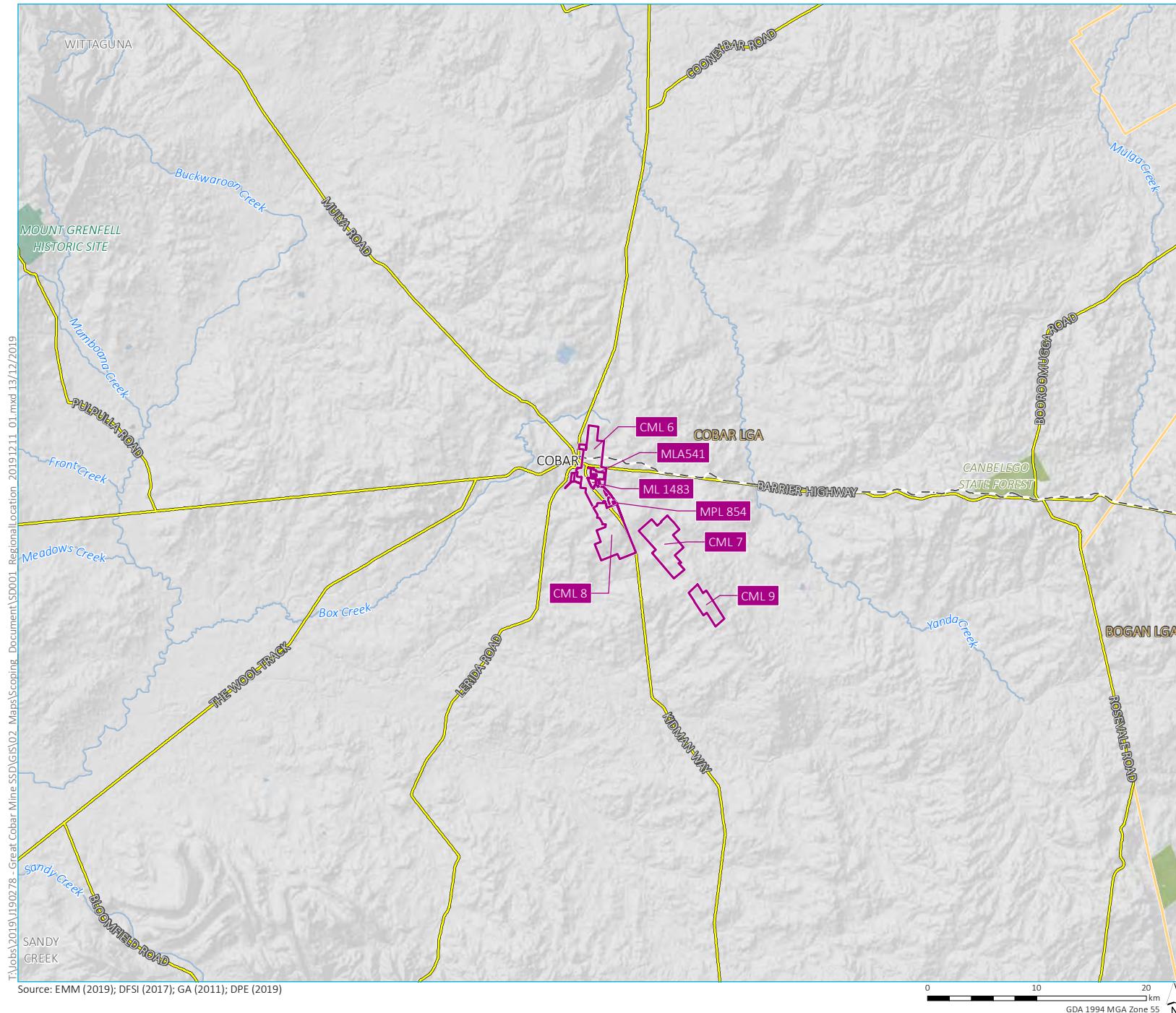
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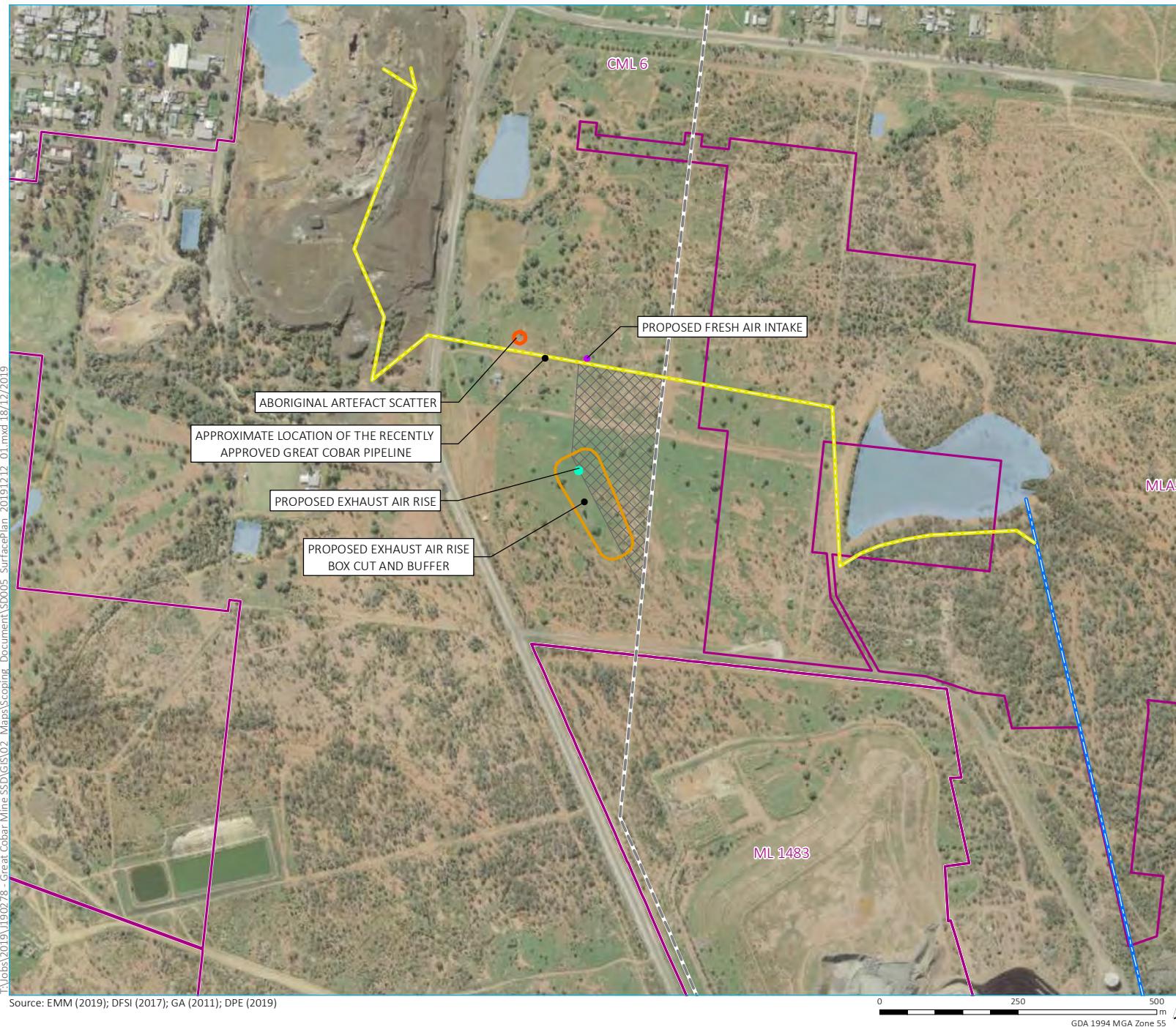


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[www.emmconsulting.com.au](http://www.emmconsulting.com.au)

Aboriginal Reference Group, Western Catchment Management Authority  
PO Box 307  
Cobar NSW 2835

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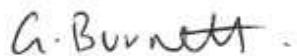
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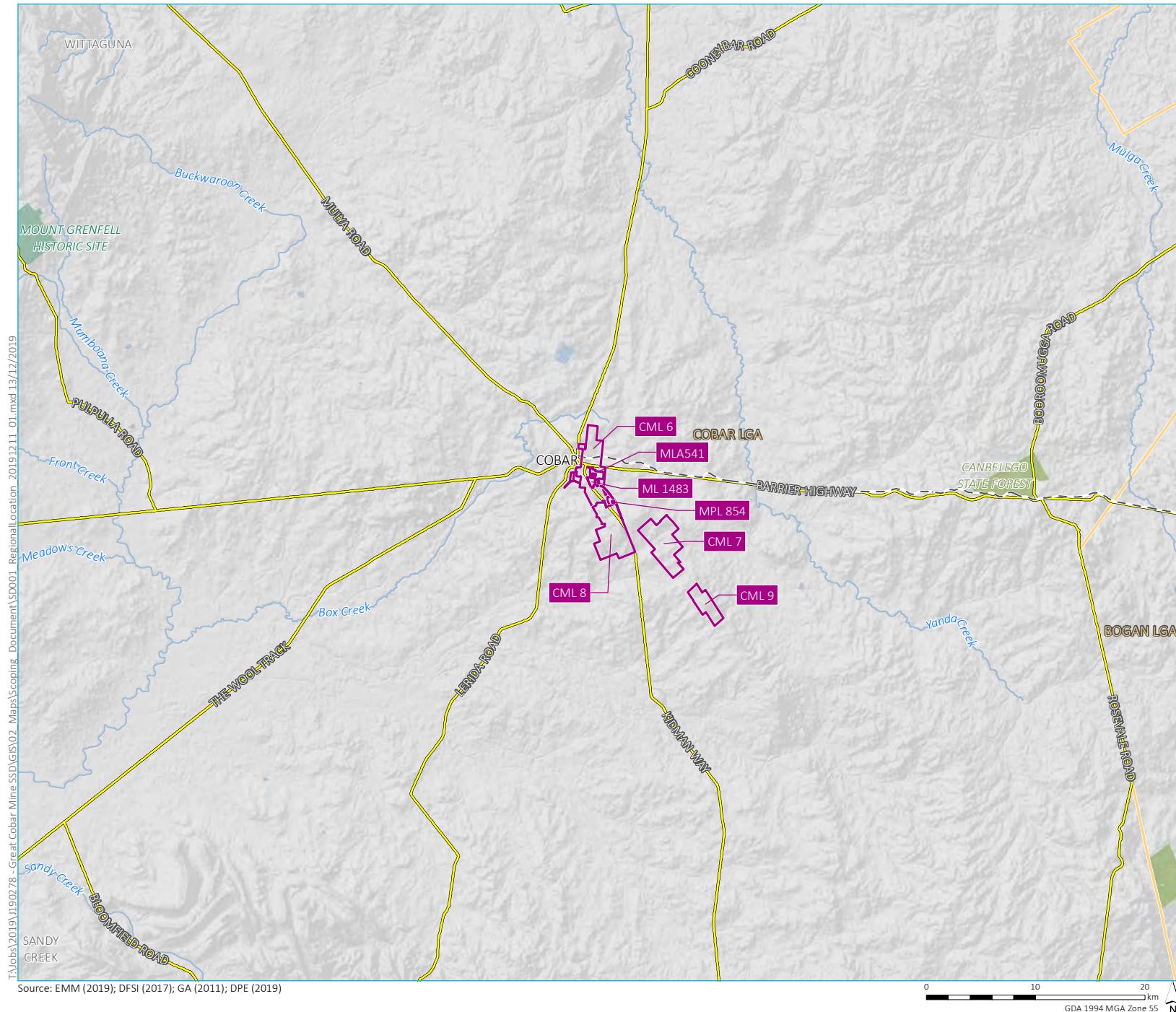
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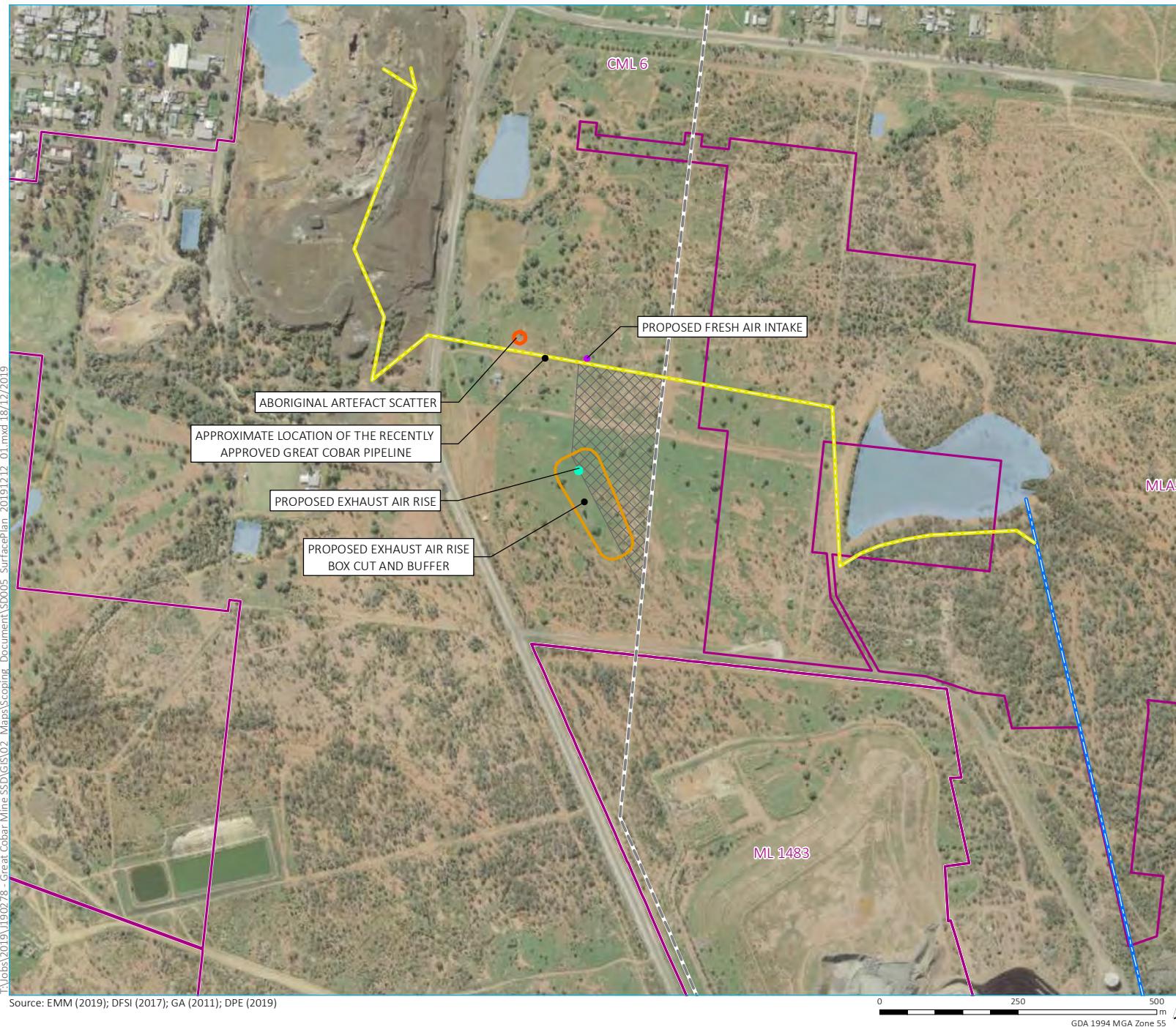
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Wiradjuri Interim Working Party  
14 Condon Place  
Dubbo NSW 2830

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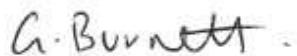
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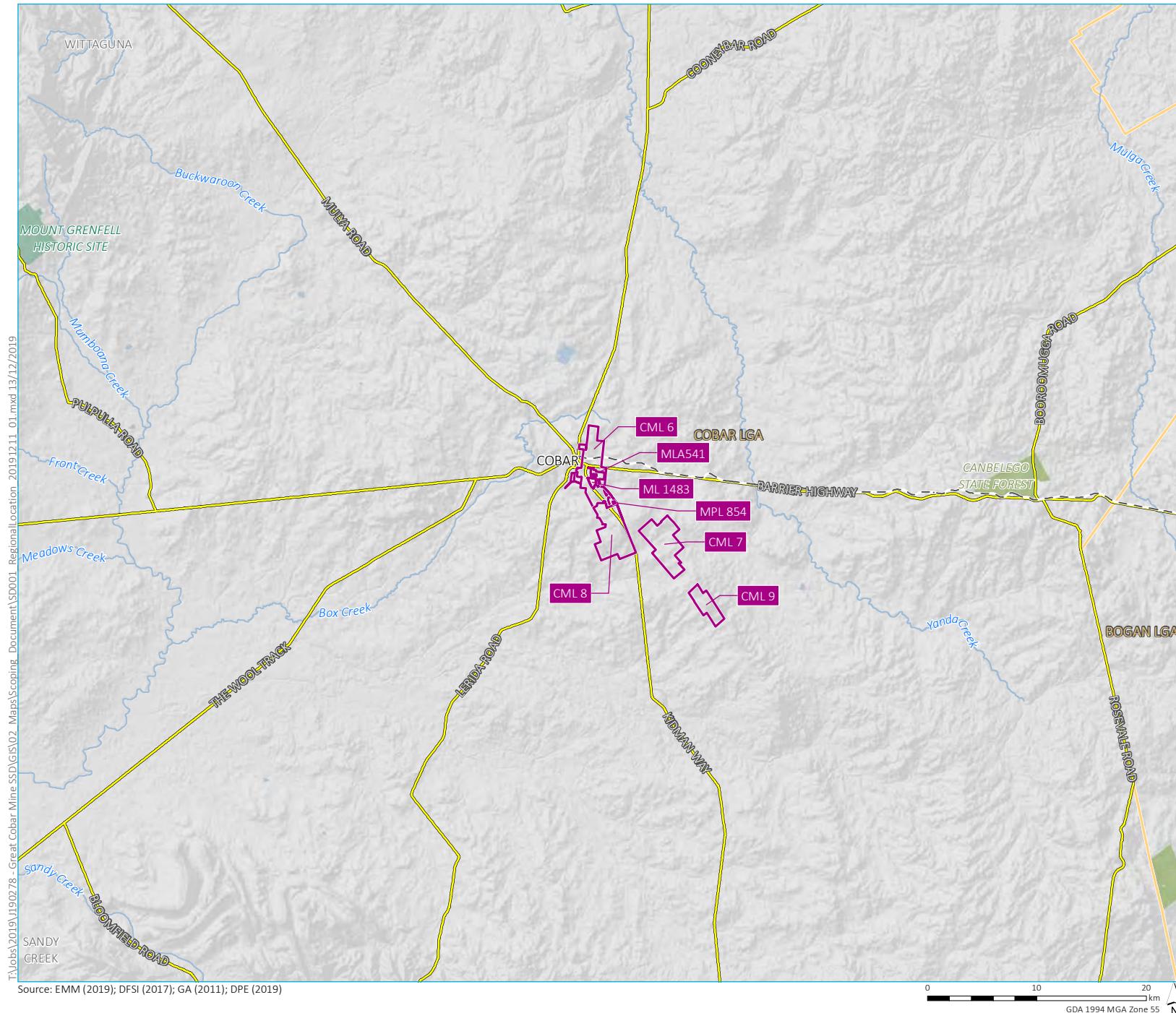
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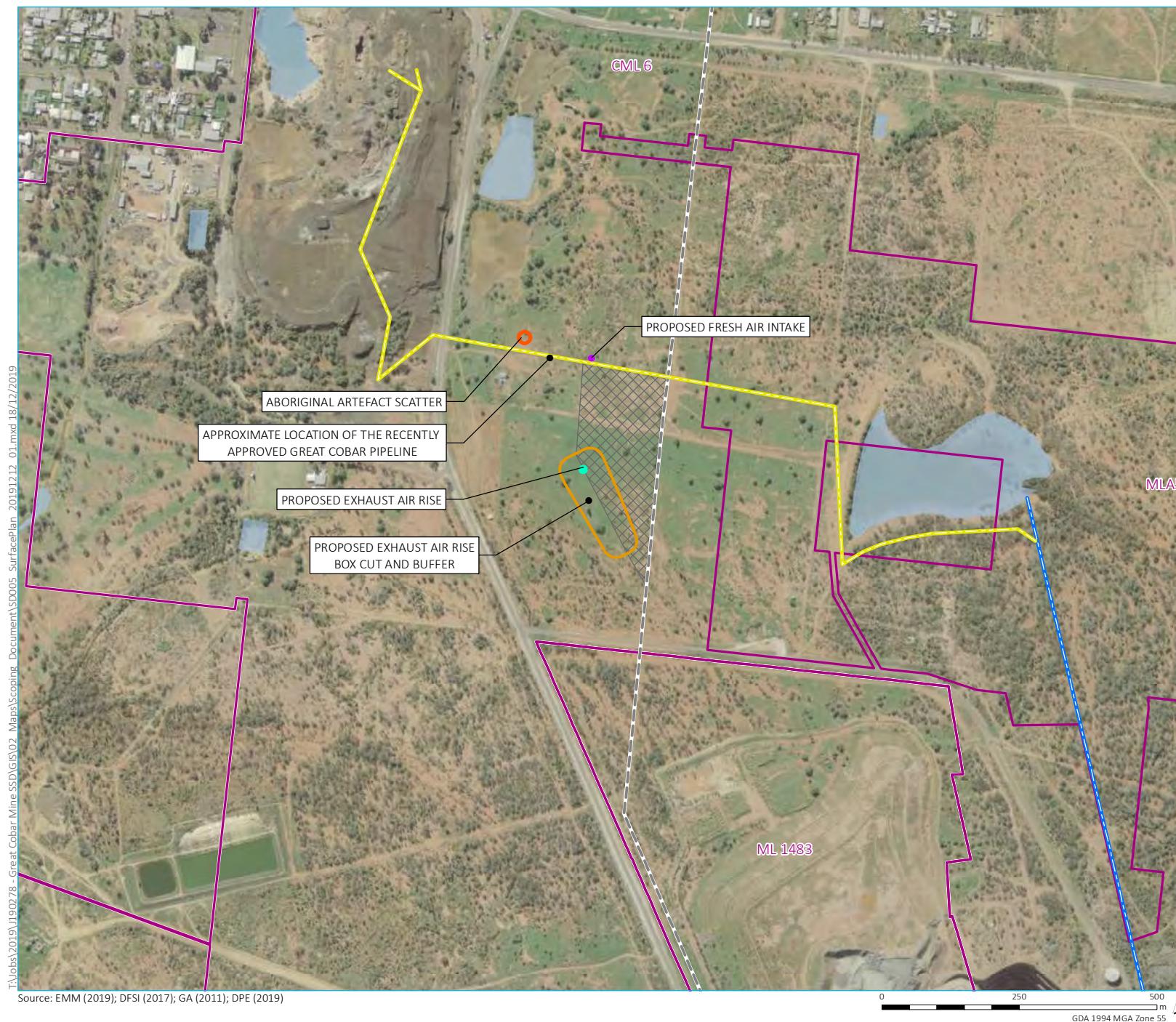


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All private party classified advertisements **MUST** be paid for by cash/cheque/credit card/direct deposit **BEFORE** publication

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## THANK YOU

### Thank You

for the many cards, letters and expressions of sympathy following the recent pass of Lois.

The amount of sympathy I have received has been incredible.

Thank you  
Jim Delbridge



Did you know The Cobar Weekly is a 'Not For Profit' incorporated association?

It means no one person owns the newspaper—all profits generated go directly back into the running of the paper. Those profits are spent right here in Cobar wherever possible, and they help provide employment for people right there in our community.

To be an incorporated association we need a register of members.

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Notice of Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and invitation for registrations of interest – New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project, Cobar NSW

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Registrations are invited from Aboriginal individuals and organisations who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects, sites and/or places in the area, and who wish to be involved in the consultation process. Information will be used in the development of the assessment, and may be used in the preparation of subsequent approvals, as well as to assist the consent authority in their determination.

Registrations of interest should be provided by **27 May 2020** to Georgia Burnett (Archaeologist), EMM Consulting, 20 Chandos Street, St Leonards NSW 2065; T: 02 9493 9500; E: [gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au)

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Western Plains  
Real Estate



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## Georgia Burnett

---

**From:** Helen Knight <Helen.Knight@environment.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 30 April 2020 9:12 AM  
**To:** Georgia Burnett  
**Subject:** Registered Aboriginal Parties list for the New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project - Cobar  
**Attachments:** BCD RAPs list New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project, Cobar NSW - EMM.PDF

Hi Georgia,  
Find attached BCD's response to your request for a list of RAPs for the New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project in Cobar LGA  
Regards, Helen

**Helen Knight**  
**Conservation Planning & GIS Data Officer, Planning North West**

Biodiversity and Conservation Division | Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
T 02 6883 5327 | E [helen.knight@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:helen.knight@environment.nsw.gov.au)  
Level 1, 48-52 Wingewarra Street, Dubbo NSW 2830  
PO Box 2111, Dubbo NSW 2830  
[www.dpie.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au)



*The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.*

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This email is intended for the addressee(s) named and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and then delete it immediately. Any views expressed in this email are those of the individual sender except where the sender expressly and with authority states them to be the views of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE PRINTING THIS EMAIL



Our ref: DOC20/3273077-2

Ms Georgia Burnett  
Archaeologist  
EMM Consulting  
Ground Floor, 20 Chandos Street  
St Leonards NSW 2065  
[gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au)

Dear Georgia,

**Written notification as required under the former Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) now Biodiversity and Conservation Division (BCD) of the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) Aboriginal cultural heritage requirements for proponents 2010 – New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project, Cobar LGA NSW proposal**

Thank you for your email dated 27 April 2020 to the Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD) regarding the above matter.

A list of known Aboriginal parties that BCD considers is likely to have an interest in this development is attached as **Attachment 1**. Please note this list is not necessarily an exhaustive list of all interested Aboriginal parties and receipt of this list does not remove the requirement of a proponent/consultant to advertise in local print media and contact other bodies seeking interested Aboriginal parties, in accordance with the requirements of clause 60 of the National Parks and Wildlife Regulation 2019.

If you have any questions about this advice, please do not hesitate to contact Helen Knight, Senior Conservation Planning Officer, via [helen.knight@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:helen.knight@environment.nsw.gov.au) or (02) 6883 5327.

Yours sincerely,

**Renee Shepherd**  
Acting Senior Team Leader Planning North West – ACH and Special Projects  
Biodiversity and Conservation Division

29 April 2020

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**Table 1: List of Aboriginal stakeholder groups within the Cobar Local Government Area - that may have an interest in the project; provided as per the “OEH Aboriginal cultural heritage requirement for proponents 2010”.**

Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge		PO Box 8005, Kooringal NSW 2650	<a href="mailto:marksad@live.com.au">marksad@live.com.au</a>	
Cobar LALC	Chairperson	PO Box 410, Cobar NSW 2835		
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation	Marilyn Carroll-Johnson, Director	PO Box 3340, ROUSE HILL NSW 2155	<a href="mailto:corroboreecorp@bigpond.com">corroboreecorp@bigpond.com</a>	04159 11159
Gundabooka Aboriginal Management Committee	Chairperson	c/- NPWS Bourke Office, PO Box 18, Bourke NSW 2835		
John Shipp		79 Thompson Street, Dubbo NSW 2830		
Paroo -Darling NP Co management Committee	The Chair	C/o NPWS West Darling Area, PO Box 788, Broken Hill NSW 2880		
Western Catchment Management Authority	Aboriginal Reference Group	PO Box 307, Cobar NSW 2835		
Wiradjuri Interim Working Party		14 Condon Place, Dubbo NSW 2830		

## Georgia Burnett

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**From:** Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation <corroboreecorp@bigpond.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 May 2020 7:09 PM  
**To:** Georgia Burnett  
**Cc:** Marilyn Carroll-Johnson  
**Subject:** Re: Registering in full capacity for New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project, Cobar, NSW.

EMM CONSULTING PTY LTD  
20 Chandos Street  
ST LEONARDS NSW 2065

Dear Georgia

**Re:** Registering in full capacity for New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project, Cobar, NSW.

Please register Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation. We are registering in a full capacity. We are aboriginal people who are culturally aware. We have the necessary ability, awareness, experience, skills, insight and the knowledge to identify artefacts on field work. And as Aboriginal People we connect thru the land, thru our ancestors and our heritage. Therefore we are able participate on all levels. We have worked with many archaeologists across a broad landscape. We have consulted with your company on previous projects. We have all the relevant insurances and safety gear. We are all fit and adapt to a vast landscape.

Contact is preferred via email: [corroboreecorp@bigpond.com.au](mailto:corroboreecorp@bigpond.com.au) The contact number, email and contact person is also listed in the signature.

**Please do not disclose any of our details to LALC nor publish our correspondence for LALC to peruse.** Please only note down only our corporation details i.e. our name and only for registration purposes. As noted our details are not to be passed on/disclosed to LALC. We understand your need for confirmation of our corporations name on your lists for registered stakeholders, in that we have responded for inclusion, to participate on all levels. However, please do not display our actual correspondence. Just our name as registered stakeholders for your records and proponents. Thanks

Kind regards  
Marilyn Carroll-Johnson  
Director  
Corroboree Aboriginal Corporation  
Mob: 0415911159  
Ph: 0288244324  
E: corroboreecorp@bigpond.com  
Address: PO Box 3340  
ROUSE HILL NSW 2155

## Georgia Burnett

---

**From:** Elaine Ohlsen <elaineohlsen49@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 23 June 2020 4:47 PM  
**To:** Georgia Burnett  
**Cc:** Alan Williams  
**Subject:** Re: New Cobar Underground Mine Complex - Site Inspection - 2 July 2020  
**Attachments:** image001.png

**CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Organisation.**

---

Received, thank you. I will get the relevant paperwork dealt with for you tomorrow and email back to you from the nominated person who will be carrying out the survey with you..thanks.

On Tue, 23 Jun. 2020, 3:35 pm Georgia Burnett, <[gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au)> wrote:

Hi Elaine,

Thank you for passing your information on to Jonothan, so we could get in touch. As you know, EMM have been undertaking an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for a proposed underground mine at Cobar over the last couple of months. I apologise that this does mean that some of the nominated timeframes outlined in the consultation process cannot be offered to you, however I include the methodology here for your review, and happy to discuss through it. In brief, EMM Consulting is undertaking an Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment for the proposed New Cobar Underground Mine Complex. The vast majority of this project is underground, but there is a handful of surface infrastructure that requires investigation as part of the project. I include the letter provided to you or your organisation a few weeks ago with further details on what's proposed, etc.

We are proposing the fieldwork to consist of a single day of investigation to be undertaken on **Thursday 2 July 2020**. Can you please let me know if you would be interested in attending the site inspection, and whether you or your sites officer is available on that day? At this stage, I am authorised to offer up to \$440 ex GST (half day) and \$880 ex GST (full day) for your representatives attendance for the day, but happy to discuss if you have other rates, etc. I attach EMM's subcontractor agreement for your review and (if happy) signature, to allow payment. This includes information regarding ownership of intellectual property (i.e. data use agreement) in clause 4. If you have any issues with the subcontractor agreement, please let me know and I'll seek to modify where possible.

Regarding the insurances needed to participate in the fieldwork (clause 10 of the contract), this is a matter being discussed internally and I will get back to you as soon as we have a path forward, as this is an issue for several local stakeholders.

Also, please find attached some induction material that is required for access to the mine. Can you please complete these as soon as you are able to organise access to the site. Any problems let me know. Also, we have been advised of regular alcohol and drug checks on entry to the mine site, so please let all your attending personnel know.

As a final clarification, your name has been brought up by both a member of the Native Title claim and in association with the Cobar LALC; so we just wanted to confirm what organisation you are representing, or if you are registering as an individual? This is primarily for our paperwork.

Happy to discuss, and feel free to get in touch with me on 0400 472 412 – I will pass on more information regarding the insurances ASAP, and further information will be sent out soon regarding the site visit itself.

Thanks,

Georgia

**Georgia Burnett**

Archaeologist



**T** 02 9493 9500

**M** 0400 472 412

**Connect with us**

**SYDNEY | Ground floor, 20 Chandos Street, St Leonards NSW 2065**



**Please consider the environment before printing my email.**

*This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and are only to be read or used by the intended recipient as it may contain confidential information. Confidentiality or privilege is not waived or lost by erroneous transmission. If you have received this email in error, or are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and delete this email from your computer. You must not disclose, distribute, copy or use the information herein if you are not the intended recipient.*

## Georgia Burnett

---

**From:** Cherie Carroll Turrise <gunjeewong@yahoo.com.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 17 May 2020 9:14 PM  
**To:** Georgia Burnett  
**Subject:** Expression of Interest New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project, Cobar, NSW - full process



Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Corporation  
Heritage Preservation  
1 Bellevue Place  
Portland NSW 2847  
Mob: 0438 428 805  
Email: [gunjeewong@yahoo.com.au](mailto:gunjeewong@yahoo.com.au)

17 May 2020

EMM CONSULTING PTY LTD  
20 Chandos Street  
ST LEONARDS NSW 2065  
15 May 2020

Dear Georgia

**Re: Expression of Interest New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project, Cobar, NSW - full process**

Please register our corporation for full process on this project. We are aboriginal people. We have our history & stories passed down by our Elders. We have assisted in other salvage & consulting in with archaeologists over a vast number of years. We are experienced in the field of identifying artefacts, Including our learned history and knowledge passed down by our Elders. We appreciate the opportunity to be part of protecting and preserving our heritage. We are very proud of our heritage passed to us by our Elders and our Ancestors. We are therefore pleased with being a part of this research and provide our experience in cultural heritage input.

The potential to contain evidence of Aboriginal of actual occupation on the specific project area and provide cultural links to our past ancestors is of great value and significance. Our organisation has a current public liability insurance policy and OHS compliant and all members hold white cards and all the required safety gear.

All our members are Aboriginal and very experienced in the identification of Aboriginal artefacts and we have consulted with numerous Archeologists in surveys including excavation/fieldwork. We are very passionate about land and conservation matters to which some of members are currently studying cultural heritage. We hold strong links to our our ancestors, our culture and our heritage.

**Please note we do not want our details forwarded to LALC**, please do not release our correspondence nor any details.

Please update Email:[gunjeewong@yahoo.com.au](mailto:gunjeewong@yahoo.com.au)

and phone number Mob: 0438 428 805. Please forward a copy of project to my postal address: 1 Bellevue Place, PORTLAND NSW 2847 and to this email. Please remove any other phone numbers and emails as per ORIC website details. I'm still waiting for OEH to update. My details have already been updated with Barry Gunther.

Sincerely

Cherie (Carroll) Turrise

**Aboriginal Heritage Custodian**

Mob: 0438 428 805

Email: [gunjeewong@yahoo.com.au](mailto:gunjeewong@yahoo.com.au)

1 Bellevue Place

PORTLAND NSW 2847

Mob: 0438 428 805

Email: gunjeewong@yahoo.com.au



### **B.3      Stages 2 and 3 – presentation of information and gathering cultural information**

This section contains the following documents:

- Project information and draft assessment methodology letter.

3 June 2020

Ground floor, 20 Chandos Street

St Leonards NSW 2065

PO Box 21

St Leonards NSW 1590

Cobar Local Aboriginal Land Council  
PO Box 410  
Cobar NSW 2835

T 02 9493 9500

E [info@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:info@emmconsulting.com.au)

[www.emmconsulting.com.au](http://www.emmconsulting.com.au)

**Re: New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project, Cobar NSW - Project information and assessment method**

---

Dear Sir/Madam,

## 1 Introduction

Thank you for registering your interest in the New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project, located 3km to the south-east of Cobar town centre and adjacent to Kidman Way (Figure 1). EMM Consulting Pty Ltd (EMM) has been engaged by Peak Gold Mines Pty Ltd (the proponent) to prepare the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) to investigate and understand the cultural heritage values of the project area and surrounds. The assessment will consider the potential impacts of the project and how mitigation and management of cultural heritage needs to be integrated into the delivery of the project.

This document is provided in accordance with sections 4.2 and 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010), which sets out the Aboriginal consultation requirements for the project. The aims of this letter are to:

- provide an overview of the project and how it will be assessed;
- provide background on the project and some of the initial investigations to date;
- establish the purpose and aims of the Aboriginal consultation process;
- seek information about any Aboriginal cultural heritage values associated with the project and how they may affect, inform or refine the project and/or assessment methods;
- identify any culturally appropriate protocols that registered parties wish to be adopted during the information gathering process (eg protocols during field survey, or handling of culturally sensitive information); and
- present a draft of the intended assessment methods for your review and comment.

We welcome your feedback at your earliest convenience, and will be consulting with the registered Aboriginal parties for the duration of the ACHA, currently proposed to extend several months. However, for the purposes of this initial stage and in accordance with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) guidelines, we request any written response on the information and process below by **1 July 2020**.

At this time, we propose to conduct all consultation via teleconferencing, e-mail or phone due to the social distancing rules from the COVID-19 outbreak. However, we would discuss with each RAP their preferred methods of consultation, and endeavour to adopt these where feasible. We would like to hear from your

organisation on this to ensure that you are able to contribute knowledge to the project and have the opportunity to be involved, whilst ensuring we comply with up-to-date social distancing requirements.

For reference, the Peak Gold Mines contact is: Jonathan Thompson (Group Manager – Environment); Peak Gold Mines, Hillston Road, Cobar NSW 2835, P: 0488 065 144; E: [jonathon.thompson@auraliameals.com.au](mailto:jonathon.thompson@auraliameals.com.au). EMM is working on the proponent's behalf, and all queries should be directed through EMM. Feedback can be provided to:

Georgia Burnett

Address: PO Box 21, St Leonards, NSW 1590

Phone: 02 9493 9500

Email: [gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au)

## 2 Project overview and proposed assessment

The New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project involves the development of new underground workings to mine the Great Cobar and Gladstone deposits. This will be an extension of the existing operation at New Cobar as the mining of the New Cobar and Chesney deposits (currently mined under an existing Cobar Shire Council (CSC) approval) will wind down as the mining of the Great Cobar and Gladstone deposits ramp up. The key development for this project is the expansion of underground mining operations to access and mine the Great Cobar and Gladstone deposits using underground stope mining methods. This will extend the life of the mine by 12 years from 2023 to 2035 (based on current market assumptions).

The majority of the proposed development is underground, with some limited surface infrastructure. This comprises construction of a single new powerline to supply power for the ventilation fan and winder at the Great Cobar deposit (Figure 2); and this forms a focus of the ACHA. The powerline easement will be 20 m wide and up to 400 m long and will extend westward from an existing 22 kV powerline to a transformer and switch room located within the previously cleared and fenced area surrounding the boxcut hosting the exhaust outlet.

The New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project has been identified as State Significant Development (SSD-10419) under the provisions of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). An SSD project requires approval from DPIE and is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS is being developed in response to Secretary Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued by DPIE, which outlines the investigative requirements for Aboriginal heritage. The assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage will be one of several investigations included in the EIS; and which requires an assessment that aligns with DPIE guidelines for investigating and assessing Aboriginal heritage and consulting with the Aboriginal community. However, SSD projects do not require separate approvals under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (eg Aboriginal heritage impact permits), rather any subsequent requirements for heritage are managed in accordance with the conditions of approval, provided by the Minister.

## 3 Aboriginal stakeholders

Following the notification process undertaken between 13 May – 27 May 2020, the following Aboriginal stakeholders have expressed an interest in being involved in the project:

- Cobar Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- The Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wangaaypuwan and Wayilwan People;
- [REDACTED]; and,

- [REDACTED].

## 4 Assessment methodology

An EIS will be prepared to assess proposed works as an SSD assessment under Division 4.1 of the EP&A Act. As such, it is required to follow and address Aboriginal heritage requirements as outlined by the SEARs. The assessment will be developed in broad accordance with the following guidelines:

- *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011);
- *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in NSW* (the Code of Practice) (DECCW 2010); and
- *Aboriginal Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010).

### 4.1 Methods

The purpose of the assessment is to identify and manage the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of all areas that will be affected by the study. In summary, this will involve.

- consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders to identify socio-cultural values of the project area and places of special significance that should be considered;
- a search of the AHIMS register for records of previously registered Aboriginal sites;
- a review of past Aboriginal heritage reports covering the study area;
- environmental landscape analysis to identify past Aboriginal resources and suitable occupation areas;
- synthesis of background research to develop a predictive model of Aboriginal site locations;
- field investigation to validate the findings of the desktop and identify any previously undocumented cultural material, if present. This would include surface inspection and may extend to test excavations of areas of archaeological interest;
- an assessment of significance for Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the project area (with input from the registered Aboriginal stakeholders);
- an impact assessment of how the project will affect Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the project area; and
- development of management recommendations based on the results of the assessment and input from registered Aboriginal stakeholders during the consultation process and particularly from the draft ACHA review period.

#### 4.1.1 Field investigation

Survey of the project area would be undertaken to identify any extant Aboriginal objects or sites. Surface investigation will consist of the survey team evenly spaced (5-10 m apart) walking transects across accessible parts of the study area, with a key focus on targeting areas of low disturbance. The focus of the team will be to both investigate soil exposures for extant Aboriginal objects and identify landforms that have potential for cultural material to be present (either surface or subsurface). All Aboriginal objects and/or landforms of interest would be mapped and documented using hand-held GPS, photographs, sketches and written description.

The survey will be undertaken in accordance with Requirements 5 to 10 of the Code of Practice. In summary, the Code of Practice requires the following general methodology:

- pedestrian survey;
- survey and recording according to survey unit and/or transect;
- recording of beginning and end points of transects or the boundaries of survey units, and the spacing between survey personnel;
- recording of landform, soil information, land surface, vegetation conditions, visibility and exposure, and survey coverage;
- recording of any identified Aboriginal sites identified according to Requirements 6-8, and recording of any identified Aboriginal objects in accordance with Requirements 18-24 of the Code of Practice;
- if any Aboriginal objects and/or sites are identified in the course of the survey, site cards will be completed and submitted to the AHIMS registrar; and
- in the event of Aboriginal heritage being identified within the project footprint, undertake discussions on site as to the potential further investigation and/or management of these finds.

No test excavations are proposed for the project at this stage. However, if test excavations are required to further characterise the archaeological resource of an area identified in the survey, they would be implemented shortly following the survey, in accordance with the Code of Practice. Specifically, they would include the following activities:

- all test excavation pits would be spatially located using a differential GPS device, which would also provide elevation data;
- manual excavation of 1m<sup>2</sup> test pits in a systematic grid across areas of archaeological interest within the impact footprint. The spatial resolution of the grid would be dependent on on-ground conditions, but would likely have test pits ~20m apart;
- All excavation would use hand tools. Excavation of the first unit would be in 5cm spits, with subsequent excavation allowed in 10cm spits or according to stratigraphy (whichever is smallest) depending on the results of the first unit. Manual excavation would continue to either: i) the base of the cultural deposits; ii) to the depth of the underlying geology; or iii) to the maximum depth possible via hand excavation.
- sieving of all manually excavated material through a 5mm sieve;
- reduced levels of the top and bottom of the test pit would be documented using a dumpy level against a known elevation. Other levels may be taken as required;
- soil profiles would be recorded in accordance with the Code of Practice, including scaled drawings, photographs, and written descriptions;
- soil samples may be collected for description, sedimentological and chronological analysis where such analysis is considered likely to contribute significant information; and
- excavation procedures and protocols may be modified at the discretion of the Excavation Director, in consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders and the proponent as the conditions in the field and nature of the excavations develop. This includes the movement of test pits to avoid existing built structures, buried services and disturbances not identified during the desktop phase.

## 4.2 Timeframes

The following indicative timeframes for the ACHA would apply:

- distribution of this document to the registered Aboriginal stakeholders: late May 2020;
- field investigation of the project area: late June/early July 2020 (1 day);
- distribution of the draft report: late July 2020;
- input into recommendations and review of draft report: August 2020;
- finalisation of report for inclusion in EIS: early September 2020; and
- environmental impact assessment development and submission: March 2021

## 5 What we need from you

Aboriginal heritage incorporates a wide range of values such as stories, traditions and cultural practices. EMM welcomes advice from the Aboriginal community about cultural values (which might include archaeological sites or other types of values) relevant to the project area and its surrounds. EMM is relying on the Aboriginal community for advice on non-archaeological and intangible Aboriginal values for the study area. We are happy to discuss any information which you are willing to share and will respect confidentiality where requested.

EMM would appreciate your feedback on the above methodology proposed for the investigation and assessment of the project area. In responding, please also consider the following questions:

- Are there any other knowledge-holders or traditional owner groups we should be contacting to obtain cultural information on this area?
- Are there any protocols in relation to community interaction and/or cultural heritage that you would like adopted during the project?
- Are you aware of any Aboriginal objects, places, sites or stories of cultural significance and/or importance that you are aware of within the project area? If so, please advise us how you wish them to be dealt with during the project.
- Is the information you are providing sensitive, gender specific, etc? If so, how would you like the information you provide to EMM to be managed? Noting that some documentation for the ACHA process will be required.
- Do you require any further information prior to EMM proceeding with the project?

In your response, can you please also clearly identify who you would like EMM to talk to within your organisation, and provide contact details for these individuals. Please also ensure your preferred method of communication (eg telephone call, e-mail, letter, etc) is highlighted for subsequent stages of the project.

## 6 Closing

We look forward to receiving any response your organisation wishes to make about the proposed method by **1 July 2020**. Your response will be documented and considered in the assessment. Most importantly, your cultural information is also welcome within this timeframe; but it can also be submitted up until the completion of the draft ACHA.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

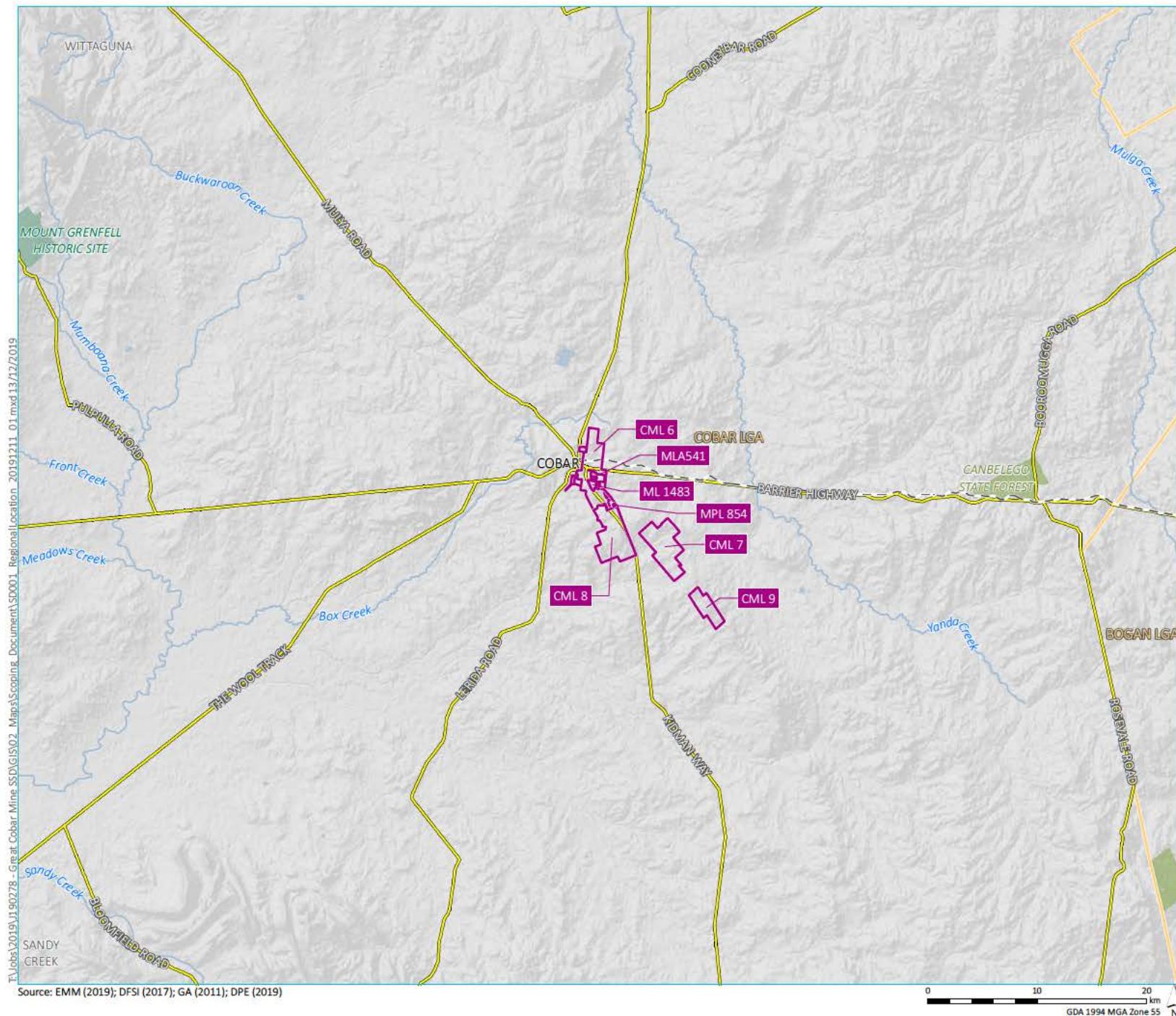
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Burnett".

**Georgia Burnett**

Archaeologist

[gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au)

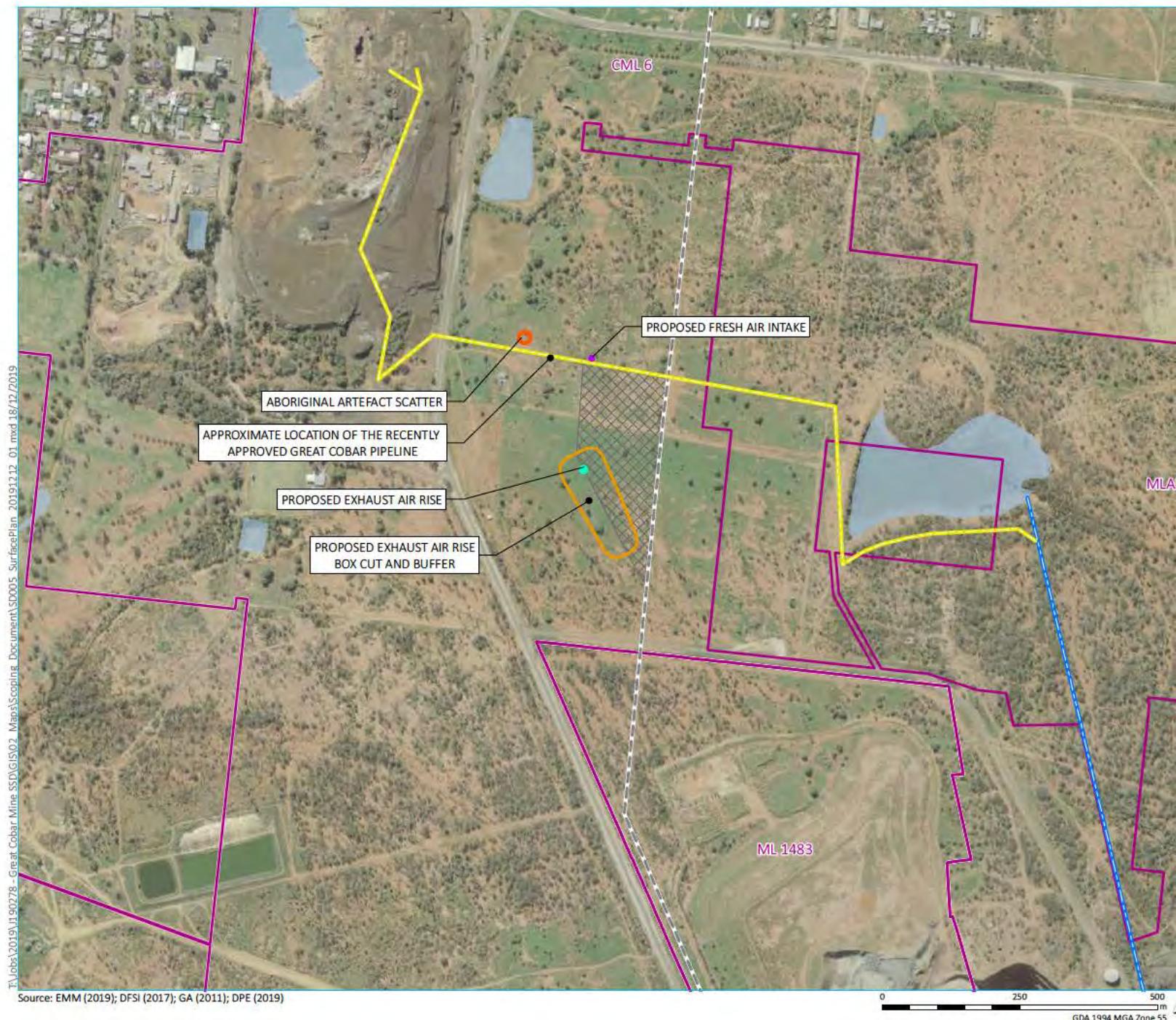


#### KEY

- Mining lease boundary
- Rail line
- Main road
- Named watercourse
- Waterbody
- Local government area
- NPWS reserve
- State forest

Regional location of the New Cobar Complex

New Cobar Complex  
 Aboriginal community consultation  
 Figure 1



**KEY**

- Indicative pipeline
- Great Cobar pipeline
- 22kV powerline
- Proposed\* exhaust air rise buffer
- Proposed\* fresh air intake
- Proposed\* exhaust air rise
- Aboriginal artefact scatter
- General area of proposed powerline
- Waterbody
- Mining lease boundaries
- New Cobar Complex

\* Proposed, but approved under existing REF approvals

New Cobar Complex  
Surface Plan

New Cobar Complex  
Aboriginal community consultation  
Figure 2

3 June 2020

Ground floor, 20 Chandos Street  
St Leonards NSW 2065  
PO Box 21  
St Leonards NSW 1590

James MacLeod  
The Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wangaaypuwan and Wayilwan People  
[jmacleod@ntscorp.com.au](mailto:jmacleod@ntscorp.com.au)

T 02 9493 9500  
E [info@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:info@emmconsulting.com.au)  
[www.emmconsulting.com.au](http://www.emmconsulting.com.au)

**Re: New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project, Cobar NSW - Project information and assessment method**

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Georgia Burnett

Address: PO Box 21, St Leonards, NSW 1590

Phone: 02 9493 9500

Email: [gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au)

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## 3 Aboriginal stakeholders

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## 4 Assessment methodology

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- consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders to identify socio-cultural values of the project area and places of special significance that should be considered;
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## 6 Closing

We look forward to receiving any response your organisation wishes to make about the proposed method by **1 July 2020**. Your response will be documented and considered in the assessment. Most importantly, your cultural information is also welcome within this timeframe; but it can also be submitted up until the completion of the draft ACHA.

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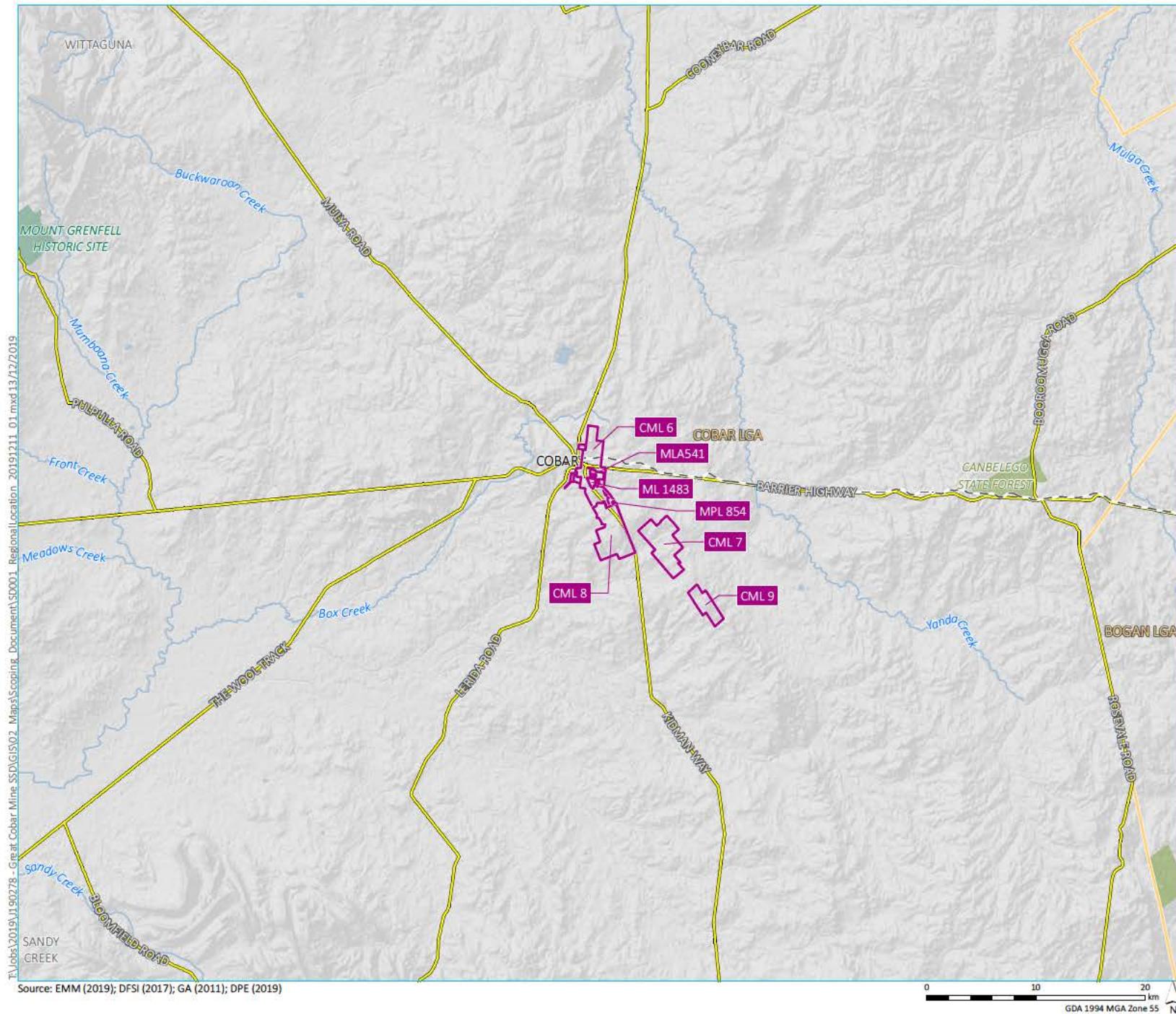
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**Georgia Burnett**

Archaeologist

[gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au)

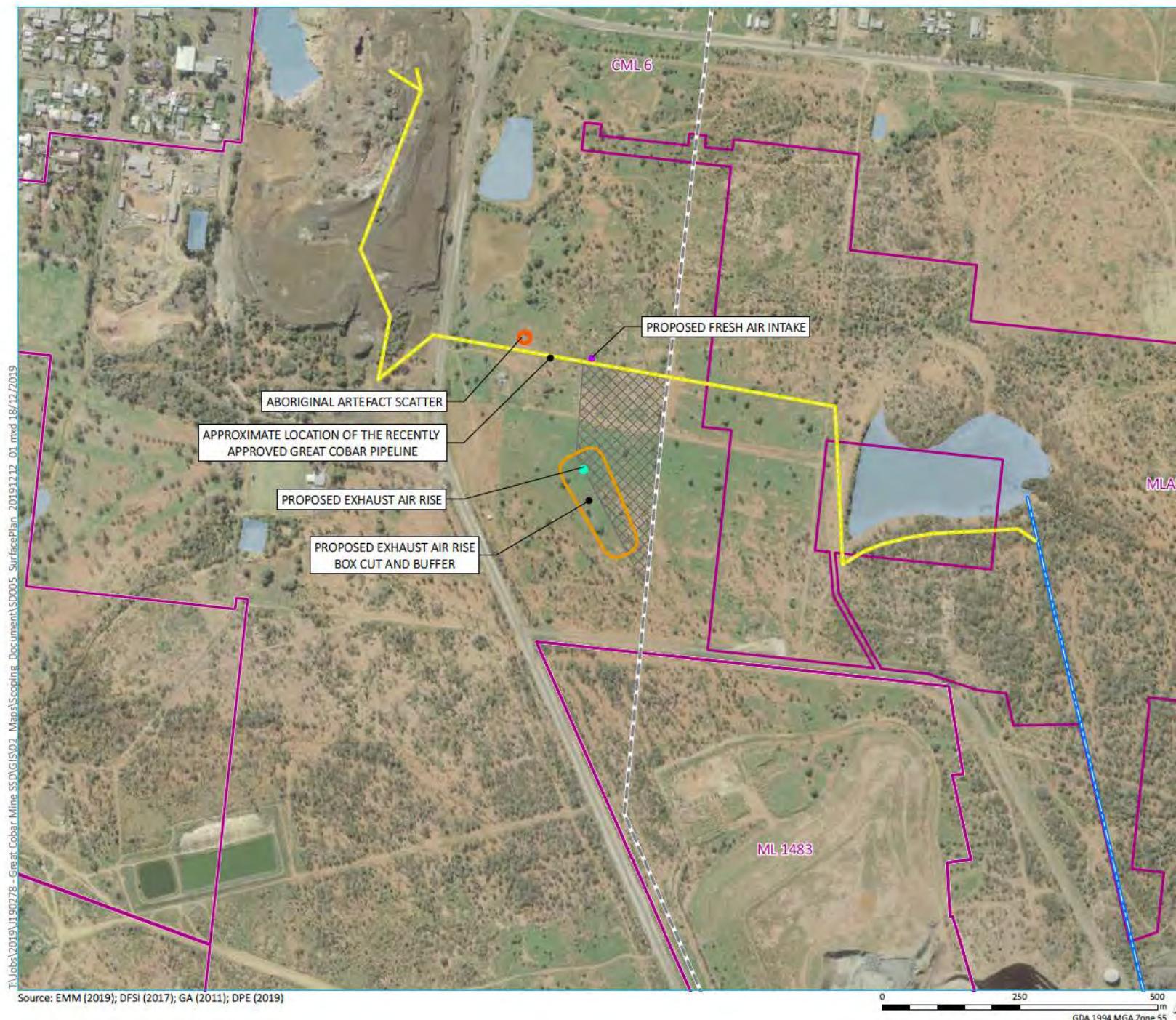


**KEY**

- Mining lease boundary
- Rail line
- Main road
- Named watercourse
- Waterbody
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Regional location of the New Cobar Complex

New Cobar Complex  
 Aboriginal community consultation  
 Figure 1



**KEY**

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New Cobar Complex  
Surface Plan

New Cobar Complex  
Aboriginal community consultation  
Figure 2

3 June 2020

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E [info@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:info@emmconsulting.com.au)  
[www.emmconsulting.com.au](http://www.emmconsulting.com.au)

**Re: New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project, Cobar NSW - Project information and assessment method**

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Dear Sir/Madam,

## 1 Introduction

Thank you for registering your interest in the New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project, located 3km to the south-east of Cobar town centre and adjacent to Kidman Way (Figure 1). EMM Consulting Pty Ltd (EMM) has been engaged by Peak Gold Mines Pty Ltd (the proponent) to prepare the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) to investigate and understand the cultural heritage values of the project area and surrounds. The assessment will consider the potential impacts of the project and how mitigation and management of cultural heritage needs to be integrated into the delivery of the project.

This document is provided in accordance with sections 4.2 and 4.3 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010), which sets out the Aboriginal consultation requirements for the project. The aims of this letter are to:

- provide an overview of the project and how it will be assessed;
- provide background on the project and some of the initial investigations to date;
- establish the purpose and aims of the Aboriginal consultation process;
- seek information about any Aboriginal cultural heritage values associated with the project and how they may affect, inform or refine the project and/or assessment methods;
- identify any culturally appropriate protocols that registered parties wish to be adopted during the information gathering process (eg protocols during field survey, or handling of culturally sensitive information); and
- present a draft of the intended assessment methods for your review and comment.

We welcome your feedback at your earliest convenience, and will be consulting with the registered Aboriginal parties for the duration of the ACHA, currently proposed to extend several months. However, for the purposes of this initial stage and in accordance with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) guidelines, we request any written response on the information and process below by **1 July 2020**.

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Address: PO Box 21, St Leonards, NSW 1590

Phone: 02 9493 9500

Email: [gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au)

## 2 Project overview and proposed assessment

The New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project involves the development of new underground workings to mine the Great Cobar and Gladstone deposits. This will be an extension of the existing operation at New Cobar as the mining of the New Cobar and Chesney deposits (currently mined under an existing Cobar Shire Council (CSC) approval) will wind down as the mining of the Great Cobar and Gladstone deposits ramp up. The key development for this project is the expansion of underground mining operations to access and mine the Great Cobar and Gladstone deposits using underground stope mining methods. This will extend the life of the mine by 12 years from 2023 to 2035 (based on current market assumptions).

The majority of the proposed development is underground, with some limited surface infrastructure. This comprises construction of a single new powerline to supply power for the ventilation fan and winder at the Great Cobar deposit (Figure 2); and this forms a focus of the ACHA. The powerline easement will be 20 m wide and up to 400 m long and will extend westward from an existing 22 kV powerline to a transformer and switch room located within the previously cleared and fenced area surrounding the boxcut hosting the exhaust outlet.

The New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project has been identified as State Significant Development (SSD-10419) under the provisions of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). An SSD project requires approval from DPIE and is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS is being developed in response to Secretary Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued by DPIE, which outlines the investigative requirements for Aboriginal heritage. The assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage will be one of several investigations included in the EIS; and which requires an assessment that aligns with DPIE guidelines for investigating and assessing Aboriginal heritage and consulting with the Aboriginal community. However, SSD projects do not require separate approvals under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (eg Aboriginal heritage impact permits), rather any subsequent requirements for heritage are managed in accordance with the conditions of approval, provided by the Minister.

## 3 Aboriginal stakeholders

Following the notification process undertaken between 13 May – 27 May 2020, the following Aboriginal stakeholders have expressed an interest in being involved in the project:

- Cobar Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- The Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wangaaypuwan and Wayilwan People;
- [REDACTED]; and,

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## 4 Assessment methodology

An EIS will be prepared to assess proposed works as an SSD assessment under Division 4.1 of the EP&A Act. As such, it is required to follow and address Aboriginal heritage requirements as outlined by the SEARs. The assessment will be developed in broad accordance with the following guidelines:

- *Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW* (OEH 2011);
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- *Aboriginal Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010).

### 4.1 Methods

The purpose of the assessment is to identify and manage the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of all areas that will be affected by the study. In summary, this will involve.

- consultation with the Aboriginal stakeholders to identify socio-cultural values of the project area and places of special significance that should be considered;
- a search of the AHIMS register for records of previously registered Aboriginal sites;
- a review of past Aboriginal heritage reports covering the study area;
- environmental landscape analysis to identify past Aboriginal resources and suitable occupation areas;
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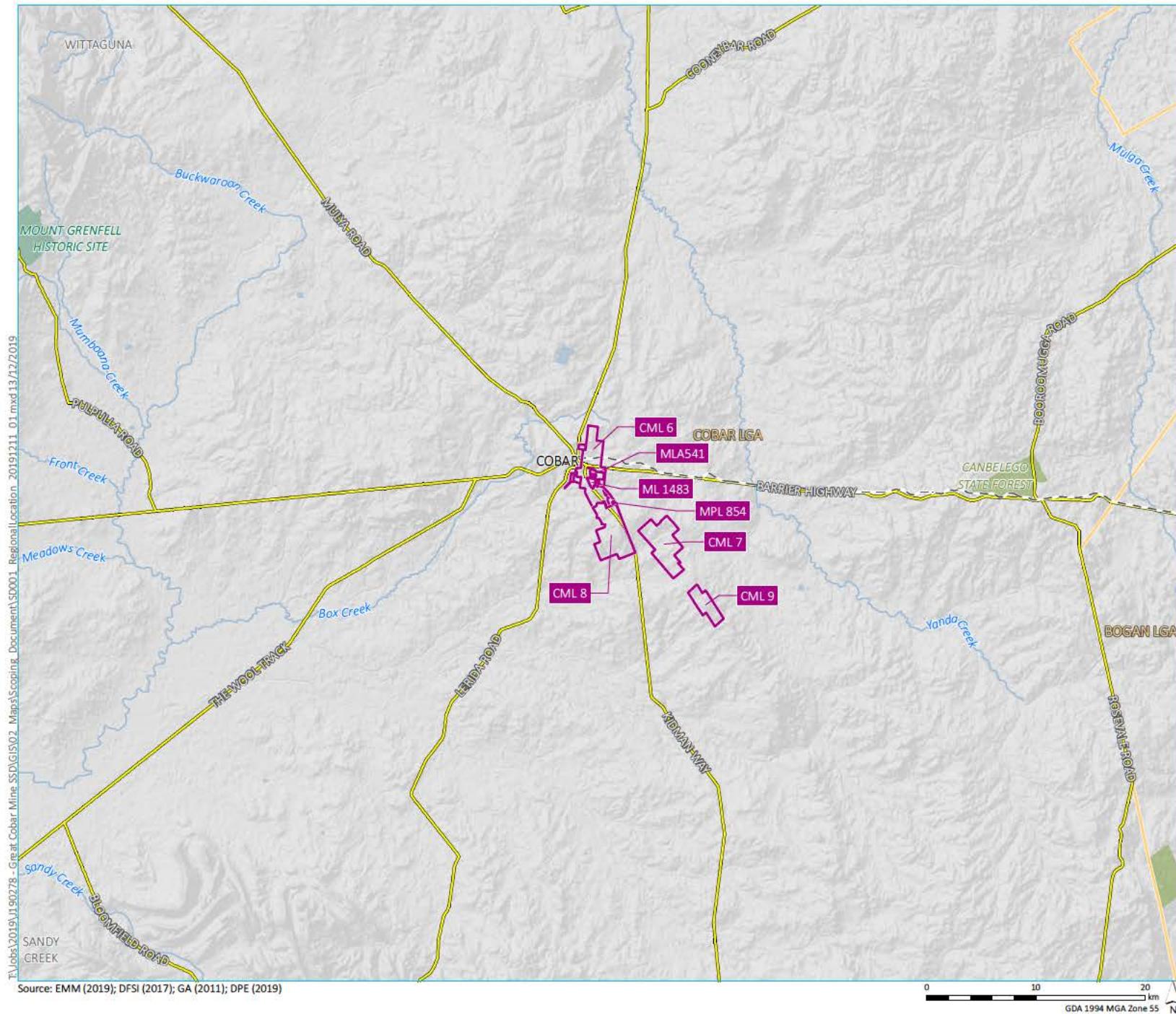
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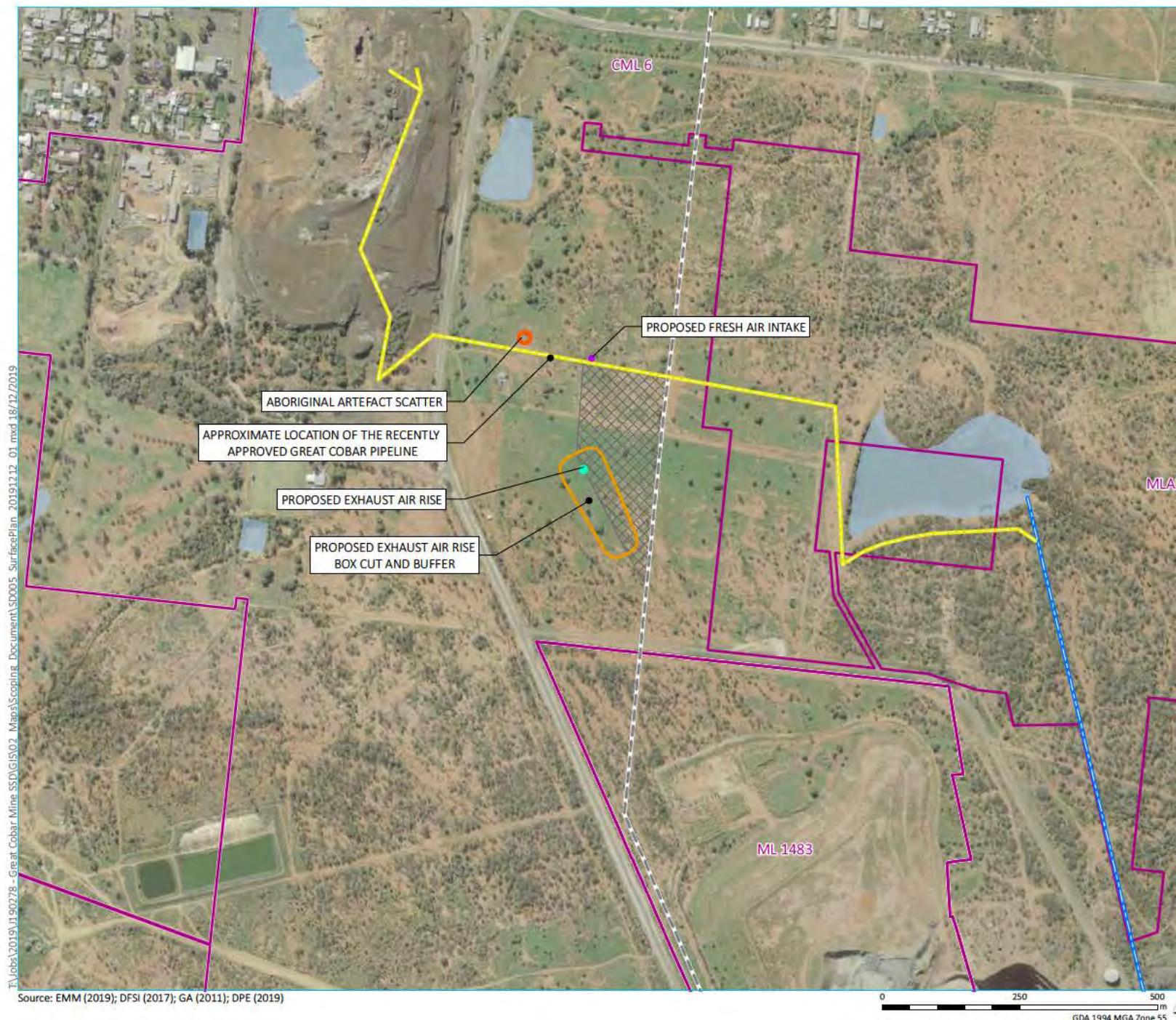


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Regional location of the New Cobar Complex

New Cobar Complex  
 Aboriginal community consultation  
 Figure 1



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3 June 2020

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Marilyn Carroll-Johnson  
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- distribution of this document to the registered Aboriginal stakeholders: late May 2020;
- field investigation of the project area: late June/early July 2020 (1 day);
- distribution of the draft report: late July 2020;
- input into recommendations and review of draft report: August 2020;
- finalisation of report for inclusion in EIS: early September 2020; and
- environmental impact assessment development and submission: March 2021

## 5 What we need from you

Aboriginal heritage incorporates a wide range of values such as stories, traditions and cultural practices. EMM welcomes advice from the Aboriginal community about cultural values (which might include archaeological sites or other types of values) relevant to the project area and its surrounds. EMM is relying on the Aboriginal community for advice on non-archaeological and intangible Aboriginal values for the study area. We are happy to discuss any information which you are willing to share and will respect confidentiality where requested.

EMM would appreciate your feedback on the above methodology proposed for the investigation and assessment of the project area. In responding, please also consider the following questions:

- Are there any other knowledge-holders or traditional owner groups we should be contacting to obtain cultural information on this area?
- Are there any protocols in relation to community interaction and/or cultural heritage that you would like adopted during the project?
- Are you aware of any Aboriginal objects, places, sites or stories of cultural significance and/or importance that you are aware of within the project area? If so, please advise us how you wish them to be dealt with during the project.
- Is the information you are providing sensitive, gender specific, etc? If so, how would you like the information you provide to EMM to be managed? Noting that some documentation for the ACHA process will be required.
- Do you require any further information prior to EMM proceeding with the project?

In your response, can you please also clearly identify who you would like EMM to talk to within your organisation, and provide contact details for these individuals. Please also ensure your preferred method of communication (eg telephone call, e-mail, letter, etc) is highlighted for subsequent stages of the project.

## 6 Closing

We look forward to receiving any response your organisation wishes to make about the proposed method by **1 July 2020**. Your response will be documented and considered in the assessment. Most importantly, your cultural information is also welcome within this timeframe; but it can also be submitted up until the completion of the draft ACHA.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

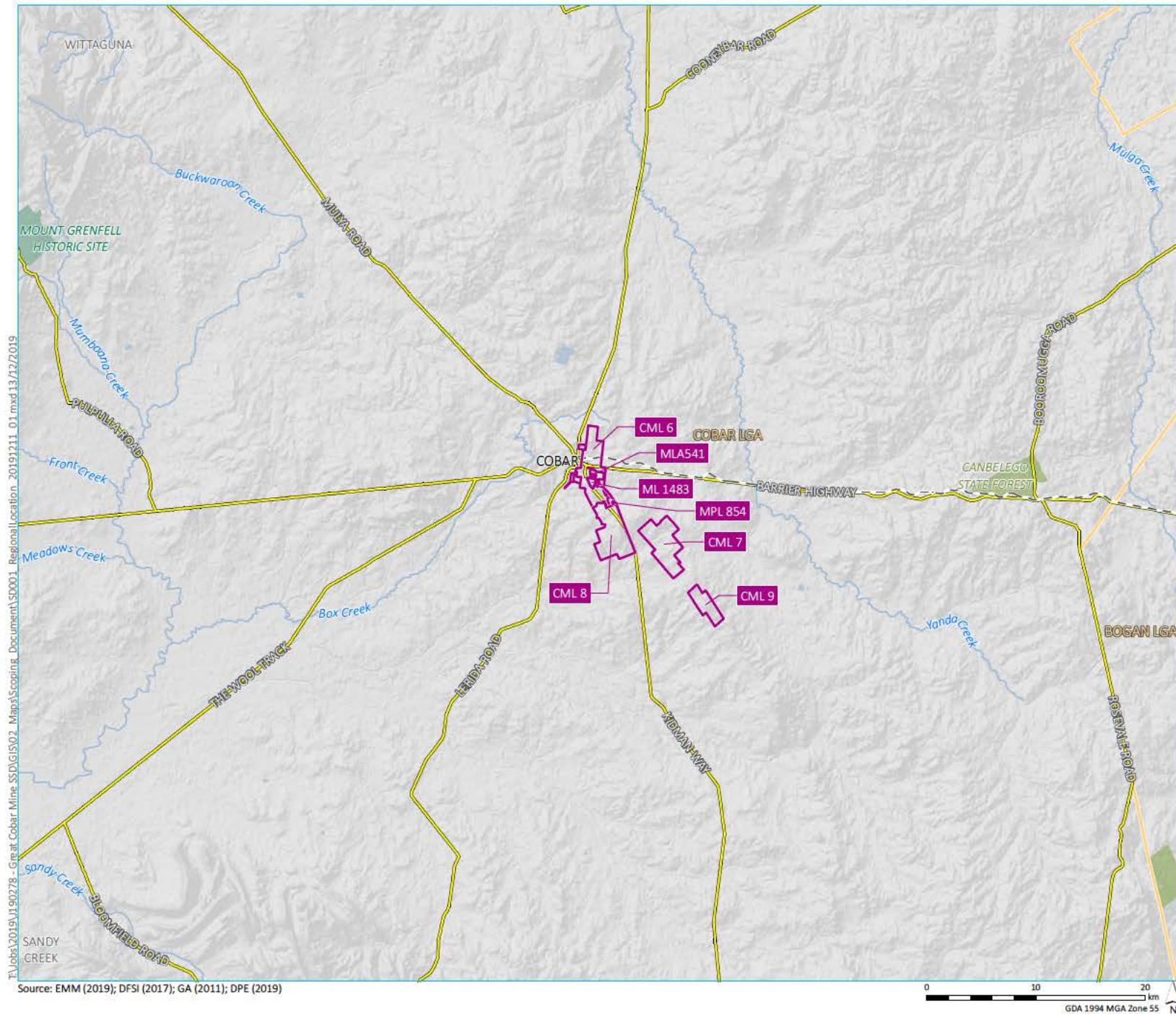
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Burnett".

**Georgia Burnett**

Archaeologist

[gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au)

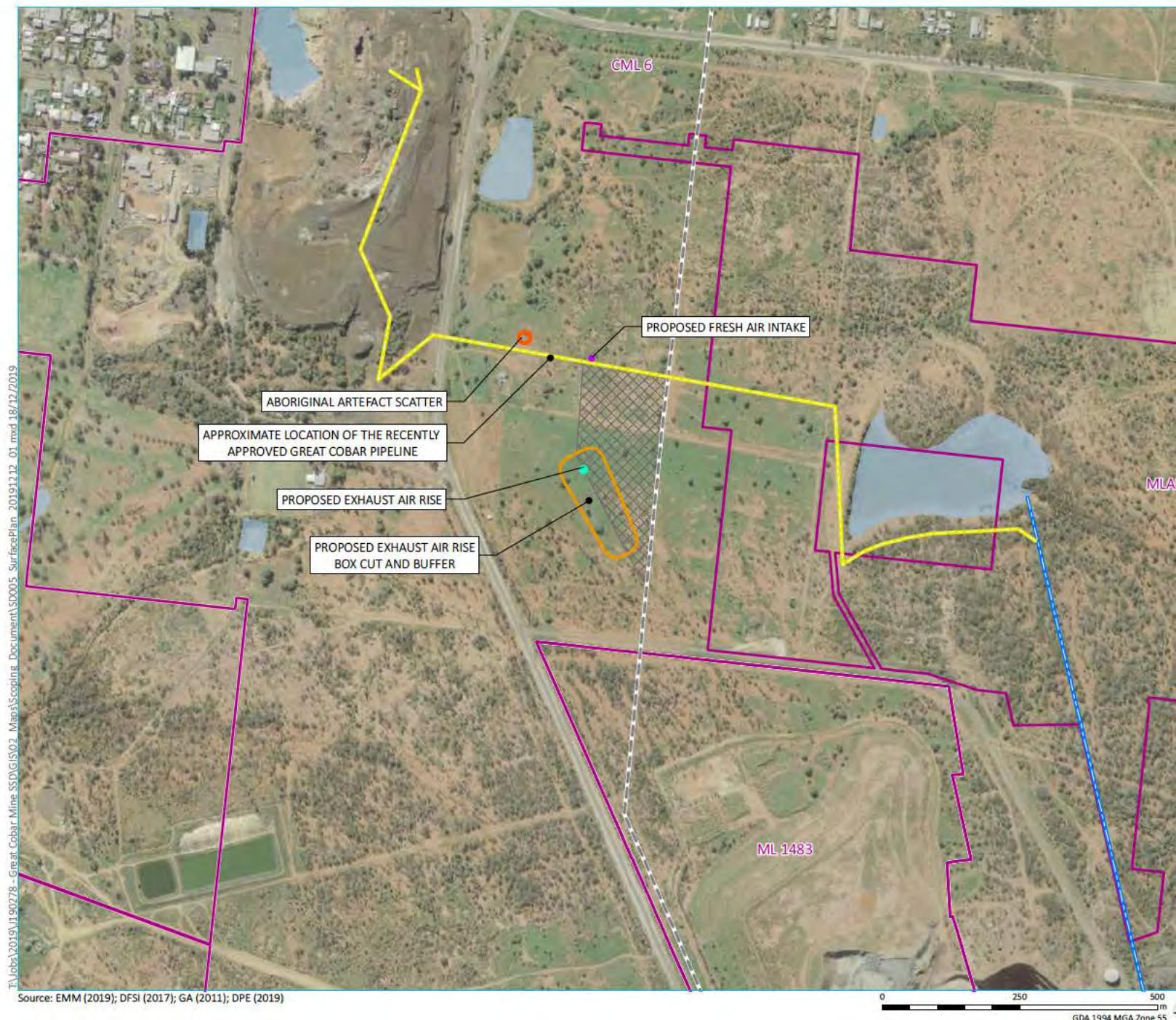


**KEY**

- Mining lease boundary
- Rail line
- Main road
- Named watercourse
- Waterbody
- Local government area
- NPWS reserve
- State forest

Regional location of the New Cobar Complex

New Cobar Complex  
 Aboriginal community consultation  
 Figure 1



**KEY**

- Indicative pipeline
- Great Cobar pipeline
- 22kV powerline
- Proposed\* exhaust air rise buffer
- Proposed\* fresh air intake
- Proposed\* exhaust air rise
- Aboriginal artefact scatter
- General area of proposed powerline
- Waterbody
- Mining lease boundaries
- New Cobar Complex

\* Proposed, but approved under existing REF approvals

New Cobar Complex  
Surface Plan

New Cobar Complex  
Aboriginal community consultation  
Figure 2

30 June 2020  
Our ref: NTS 125

Georgia Burnett  
PO Box 21  
St Leonards NSW

By email only: [gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au)

Dear Georgia,

**Re: New Cobar Complex Underground Expansion Project, Cobar NSW – Feedback on the project information and assessment method by the Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wangaaypuwan, Wayilwan Peoples Applicant**

1 As you are aware NTSCORP acts for the Applicant of the Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wangaaypuwan and Wayilwan People in relation to native title claim NSD38/2019. We refer to your letter of 3 June 2020.

#### **Review of methodology**

2 The Applicant are dissatisfied with the process undertaken by the Proponent in relation to engaging Traditional Owners to conduct fieldwork for the Environmental Impact Statement. In particular, the Applicant do not consider that it has been provided with the necessary information and paperwork in a timely manner.

3 As the registered Native Title Holders and Traditional Owners for the area subject of these works, the Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wangaaypuwan and Wayilwan People's Applicant is the primary contact for cultural knowledge and information.

4 The Applicant requests that in future, EMM and Peak Gold Mines engage with the Ngemba, Ngiyampaa, Wangaaypuwan and Wayilwan People's Applicant as the first point of contact for matters concerning cultural heritage.

#### **Aboriginal Objects**

5 If test pit excavations are required for the project, the Applicant requires that such works only proceed in the presence of a cultural heritage monitor appointed by the Applicant.

6 In the event that any Aboriginal objects, places, sites or scar trees are discovered in project area, operations which could impact those objects or sites must cease. The objects must not be removed or transported from the site and the Proponent must contact the Applicant or NTSCORP immediately to ensure the Applicant has an opportunity to consider and implement culturally appropriate process and response.

#### **Further Information**

7 The Applicant requests that EMM disclose the redacted Aboriginal Stakeholders listed on page 2 – 3.

8 The Applicant requests further information as to Peak Gold Mines intended regeneration and rehabilitation process for the land subject to the ML 1483 and MPL854.

Yours sincerely,

Tilly Vaughan  
**Paralegal**

James MacLeod  
**Senior Solicitor**



#### **B.4 Stage 4 – issue of draft ACHA and responses**

This section contains the following documents:

- letter detailing draft ACHA review process.
- RAP feedback from draft ACHA report; note this is limited to an acknowledgement of receipt from Elaine Ohlsen.

## Georgia Burnett

---

**From:** Alan Williams  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 October 2020 11:35 AM  
**To:** Alan Williams  
**Cc:** Georgia Burnett; Ellie Evans; Pamela Chauvel  
**Subject:** New Cobar Complex Mine - ACHA - Report for comment

Dear All,

Thank you for your participation in EMM's Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment (ACHA) of the proposed development activities at the New Cobar Complex mine. As you may recall, we undertook the field investigations with many of you or your organisations in early July 2020, and since that time have been developing the ACHA report. The report identified a number of tangible and intangible Aboriginal heritage values associated with the project area, including a background of stone artefacts and the remains of a former mining town (Cornish Town) in which a number of Aboriginal people had lived at the latter in the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> Century. We provide a range of recommendations to address the potential impacts to these heritage sites/values, including a heritage management plan to provide a framework for these subsequent activities.

I include below a link to the report for download. I am also happy to send it to you as a hard copy, but I note we don't have a lot of people's addresses. If you wish to receive a hard copy, please respond to this e-mail (or give me a call) and let me know the best address to send to you.

 [Cobar](#)

Finally, we are proposing to finalise this document in 28 days (as per Heritage NSW guidelines), so if you wish to provide any comment, please do so by 13 November 2020. I am happy to take however you wish to provide them, such as via phone, e-mail, or letter – all my contact details are below.

Happy to discuss

Thanks

AI

### **Dr Alan Williams FSA MAACAI**

Associate Director

National Technical Leader, Aboriginal Heritage

Bushfire, Ecology, Heritage and Spatial Solutions



**T** 02 9493 9500

**M** 0438 104 740

**D** 02 9493 9584

 Connect with us

SYDNEY | Ground floor, 20 Chandos Street, St Leonards NSW 2065



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## Georgia Burnett

---

**From:** Alan Williams  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 November 2020 10:55 AM  
**To:** Alan Williams  
**Cc:** Georgia Burnett; Ellie Evans; Pamela Chauvel  
**Subject:** FW: New Cobar Complex Mine - ACHA - Report for comment

Dear All,

This is just a quick note to let you know that we hope to finalise our ACHA report for the New Cobar Complex Mine next week. If you wish to provide comment or input, please can you do so before the 13 November 2020. Further details are in the below e-mail.

If you want a hard copy, please let me know and I'll get in the post.

Happy to discuss further

Thanks  
AI

### **Dr Alan Williams FSA MAACAI**

Associate Director | National Technical Leader, Aboriginal Heritage

**T** 02 9493 9584  
**M** 0438 104 740

[www.emmconsulting.com.au](http://www.emmconsulting.com.au)

---

**From:** Alan Williams <[awilliams@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:awilliams@emmconsulting.com.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 October 2020 11:35 AM  
**To:** Alan Williams <[awilliams@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:awilliams@emmconsulting.com.au)>  
**Cc:** Georgia Burnett <[gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:gburnett@emmconsulting.com.au)>; Ellie Evans <[eevans@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:eevans@emmconsulting.com.au)>; Pamela Chauvel <[pchauvel@emmconsulting.com.au](mailto:pchauvel@emmconsulting.com.au)>  
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