





Impact assessment area

Impact area

-- Underbore

PCT - Condition

Urban Native/Exotic

PCT 724 - Broad-leaved Ironbark - Grey Box -Melaleuca decora grassy open forest on clay/ gravel soils of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion - Thinned

PCT 849 - Grey Box - Forest Red Gum grassy woodland on flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion - Thinned

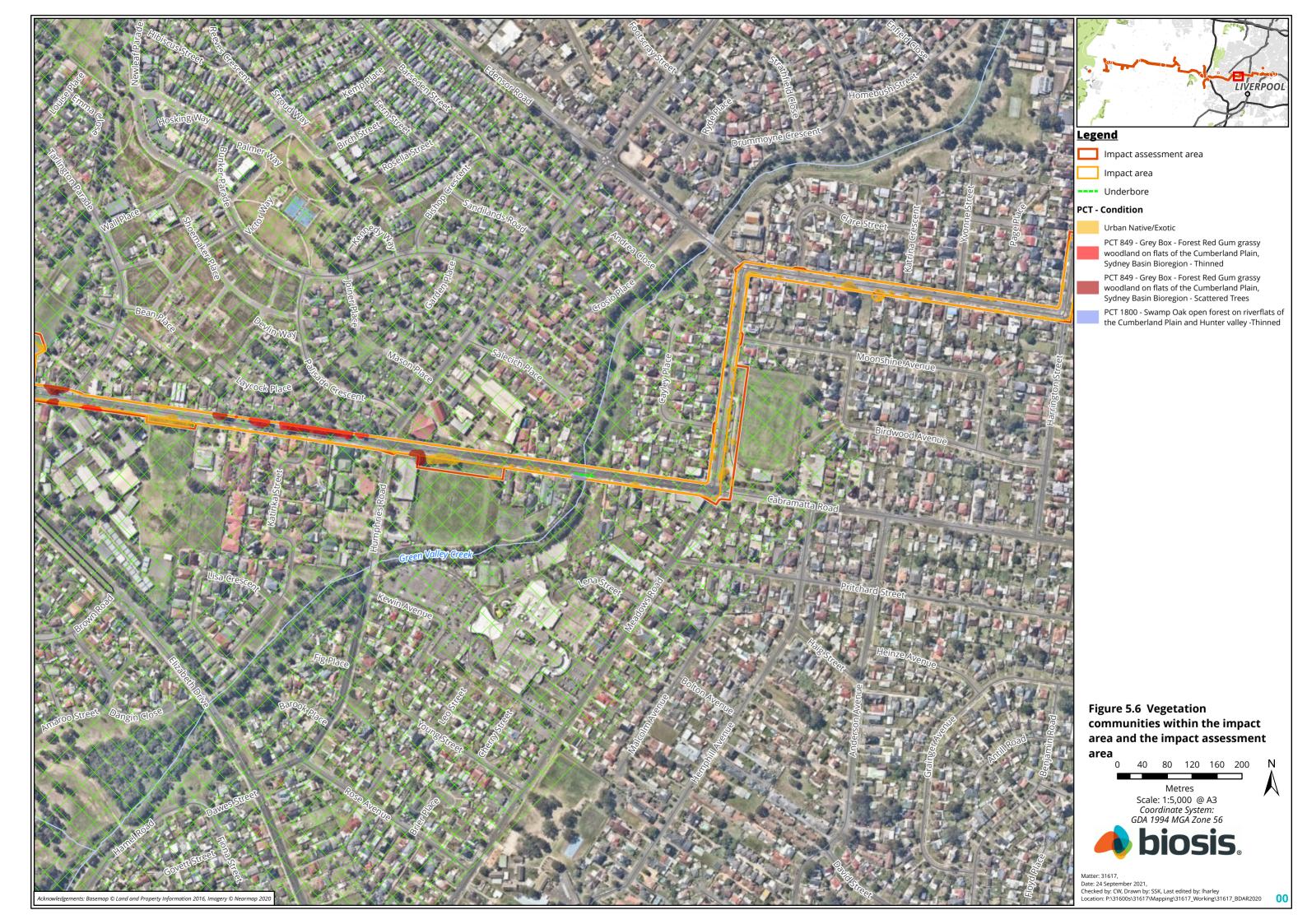
Figure 5.4 Vegetation communities within the impact area and the impact assessment

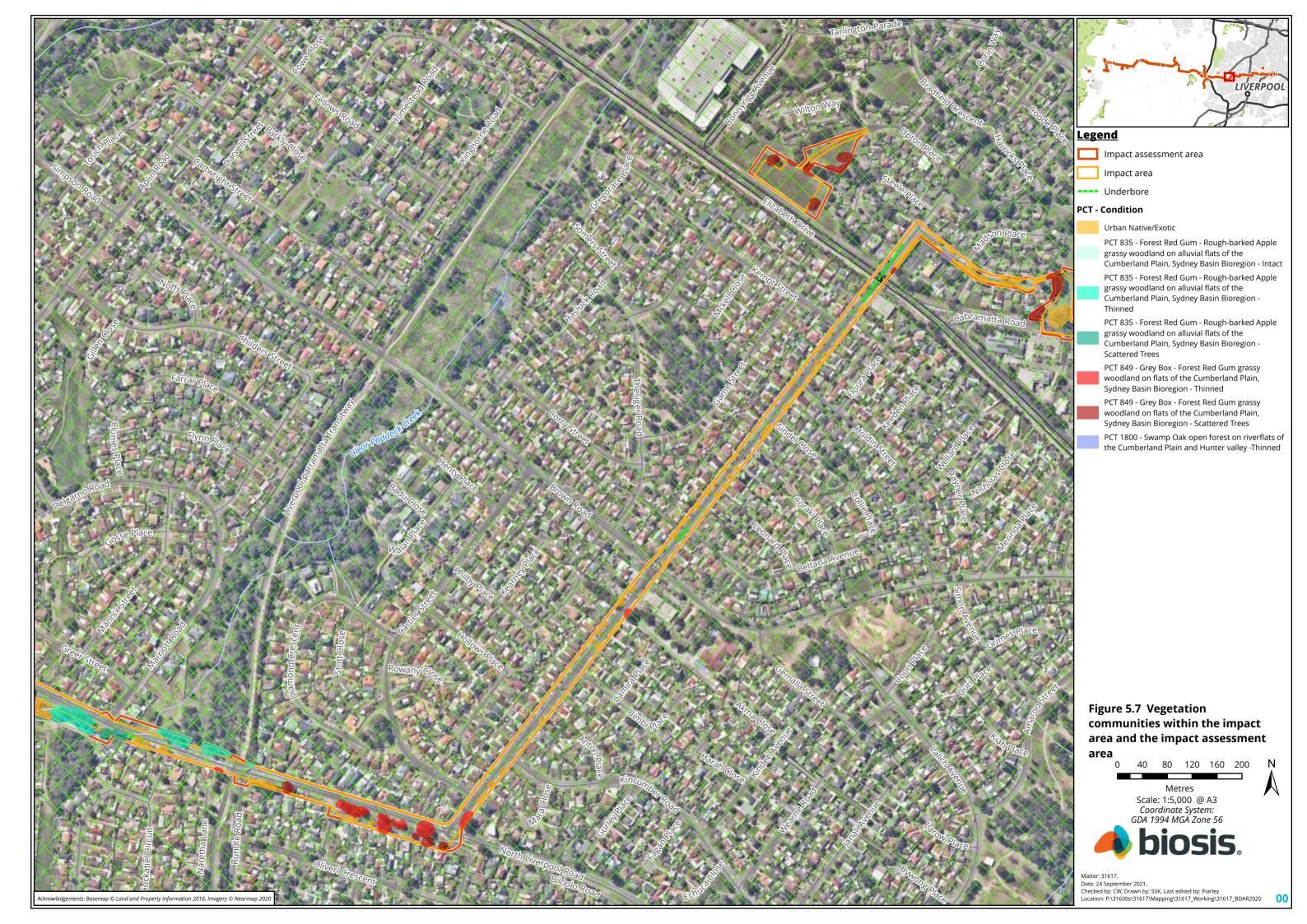
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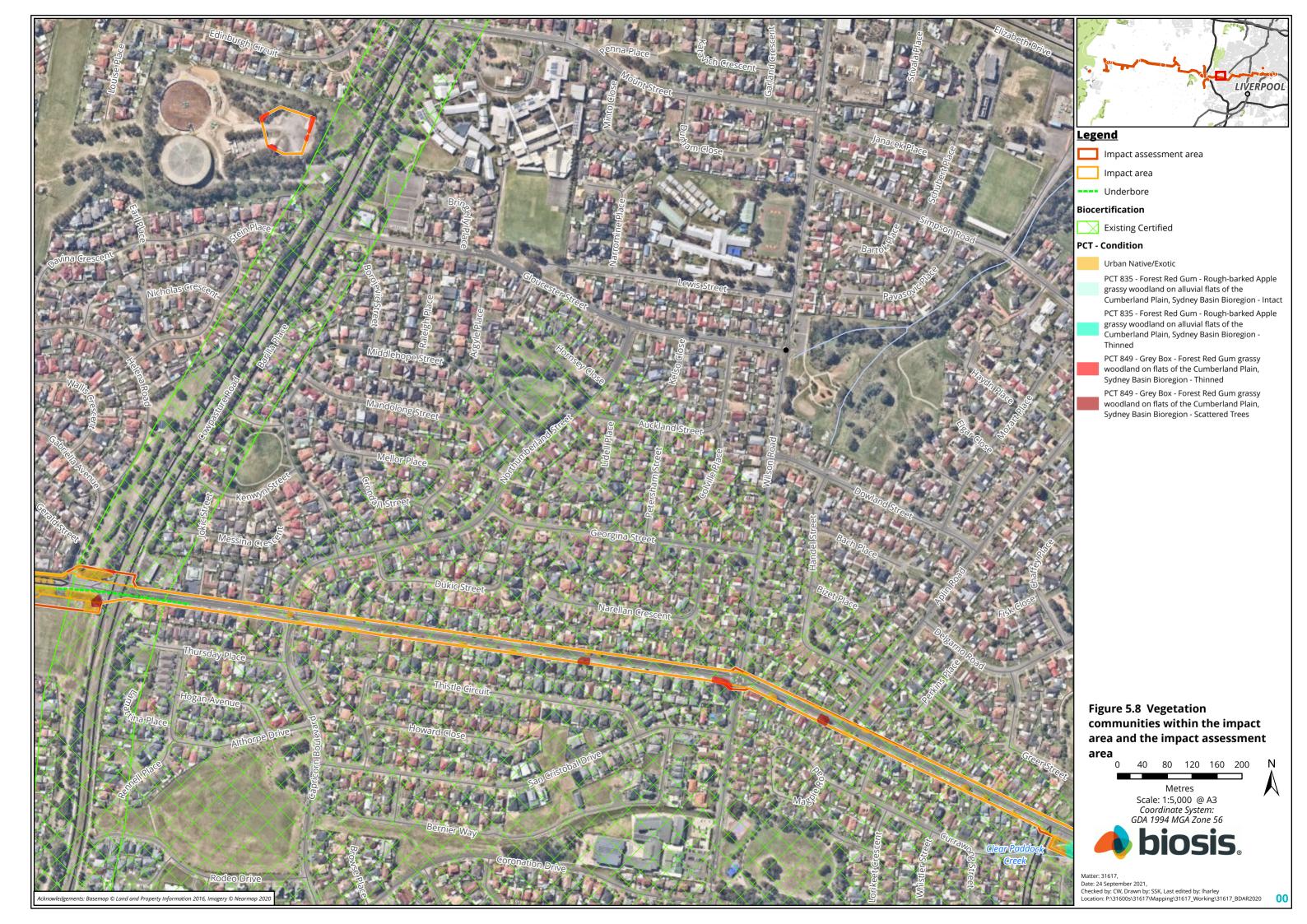
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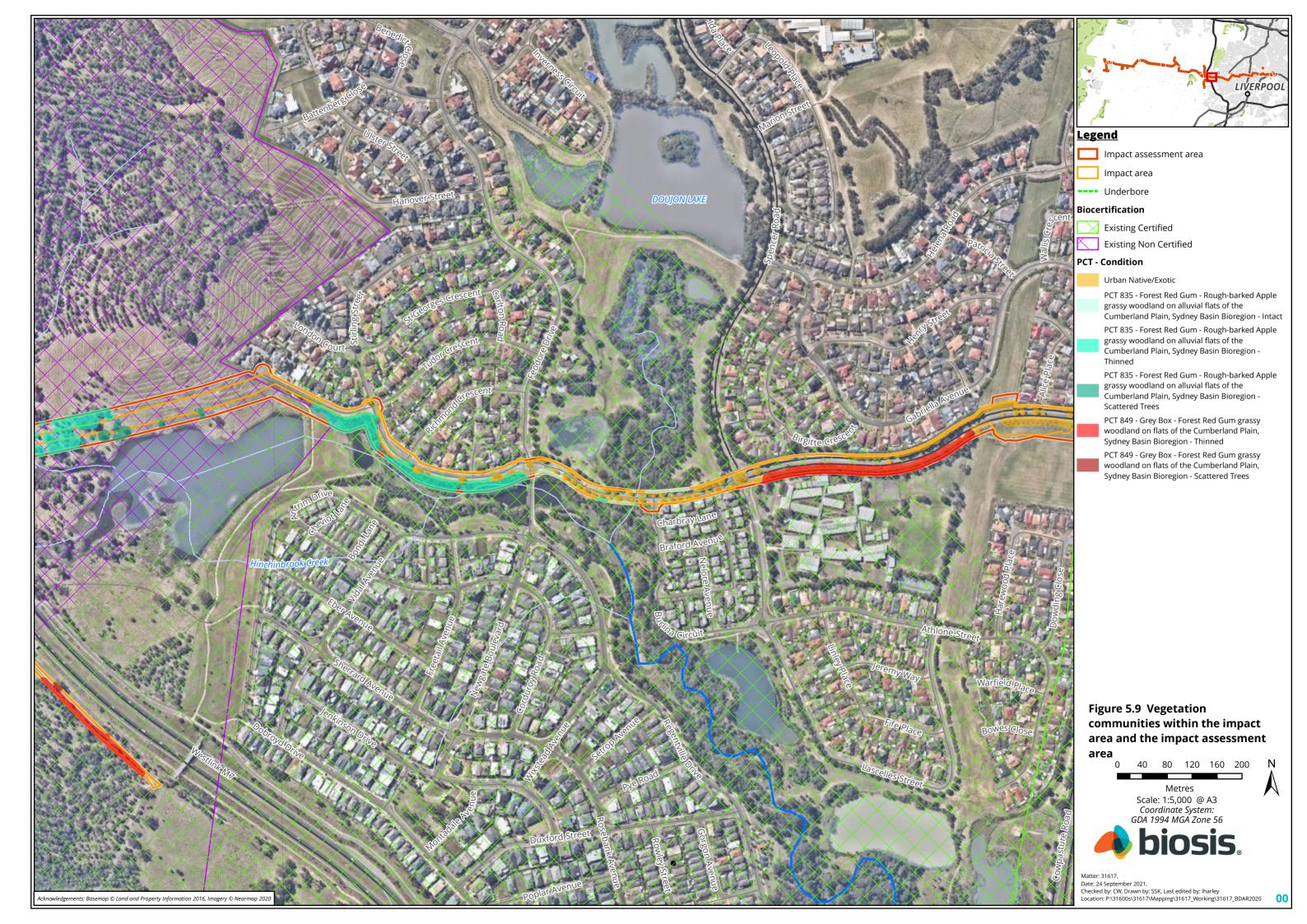


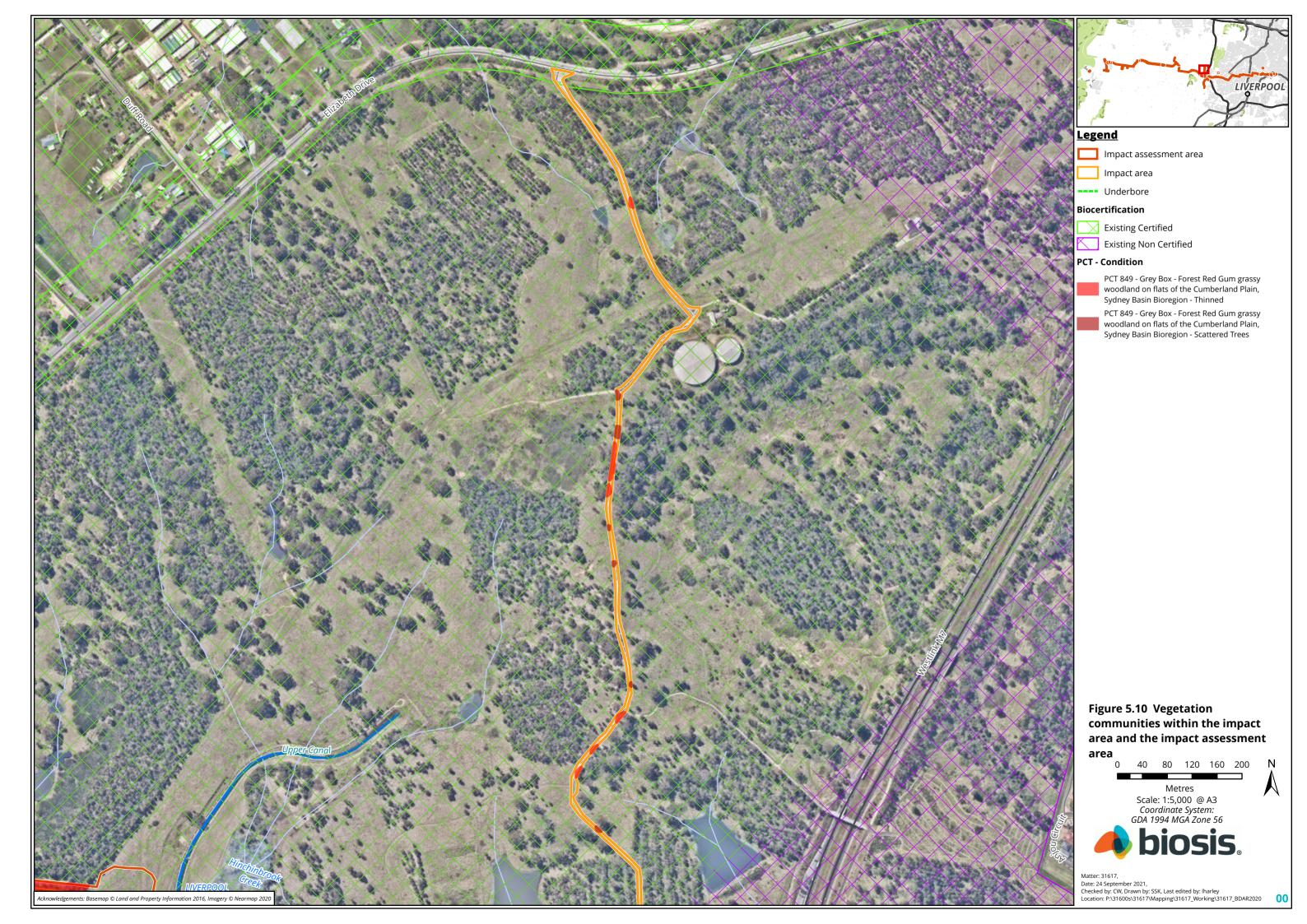


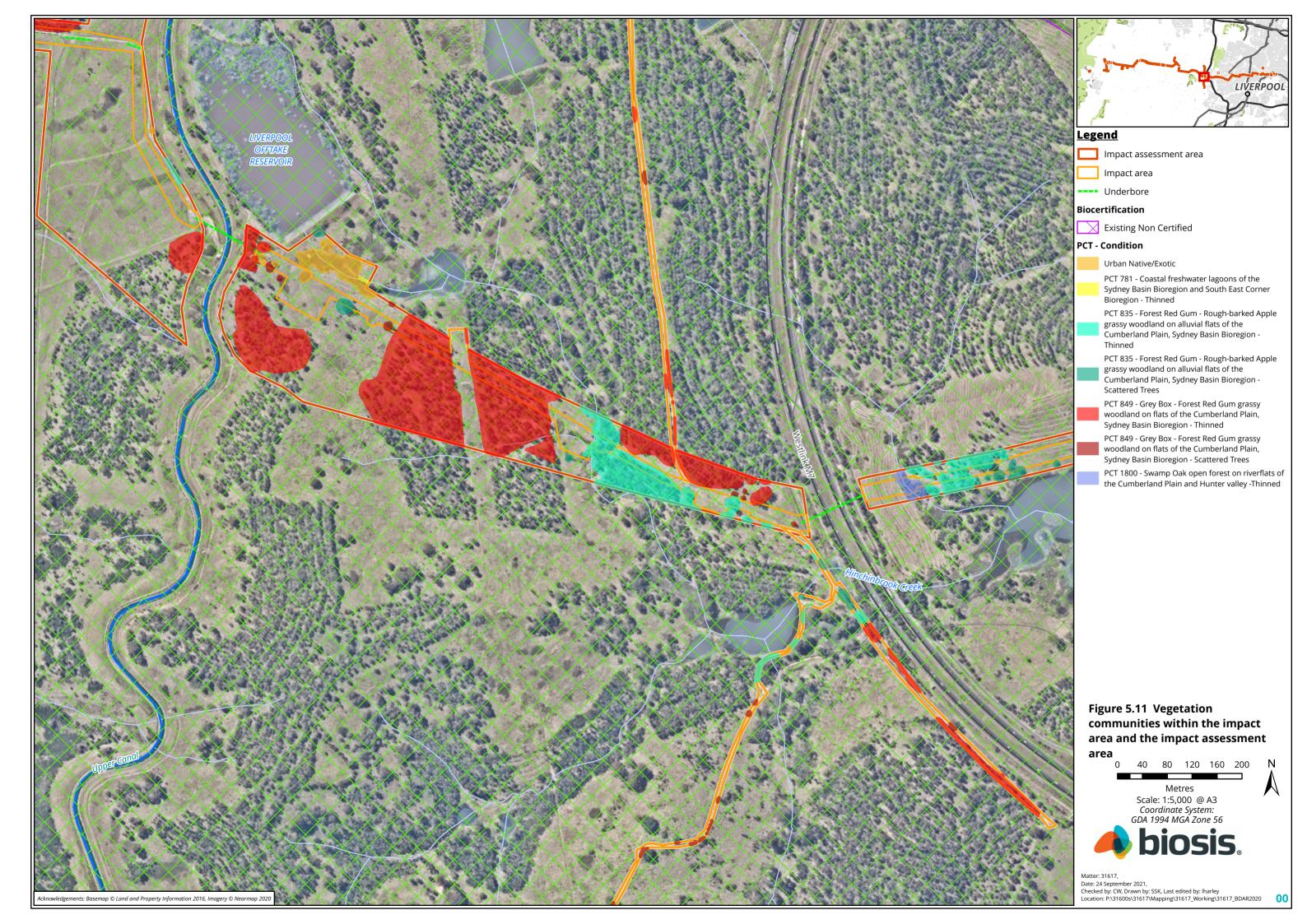


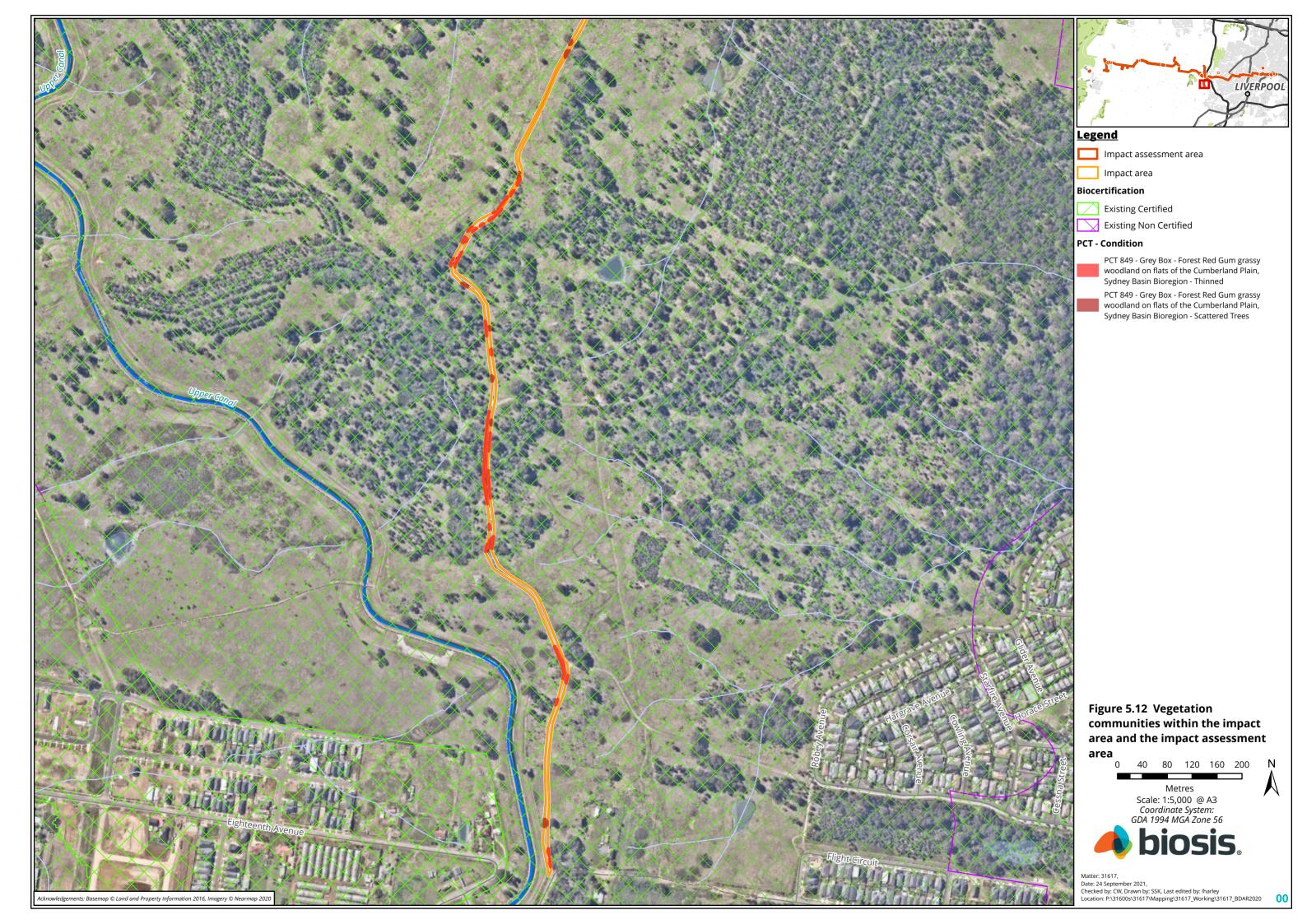


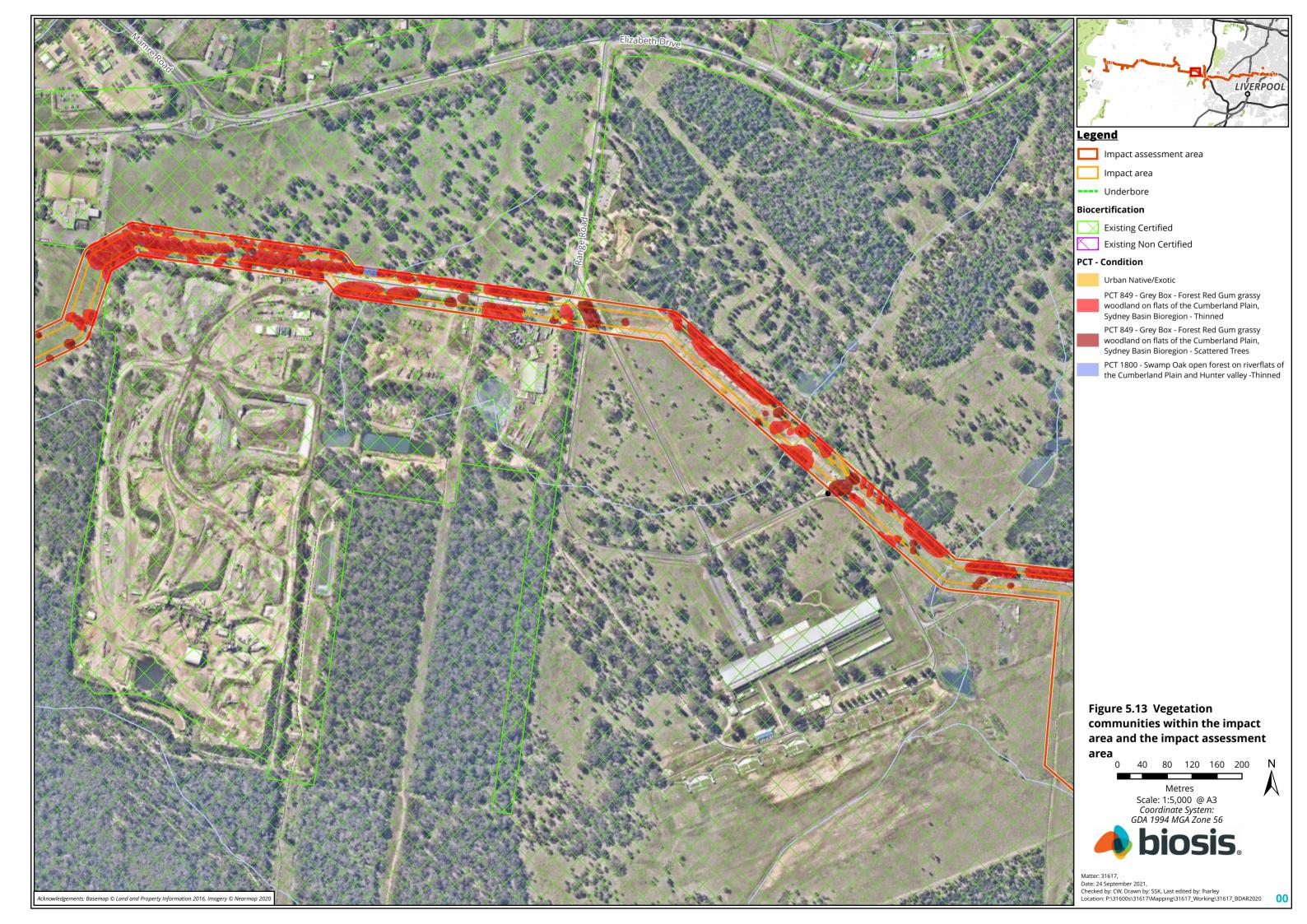


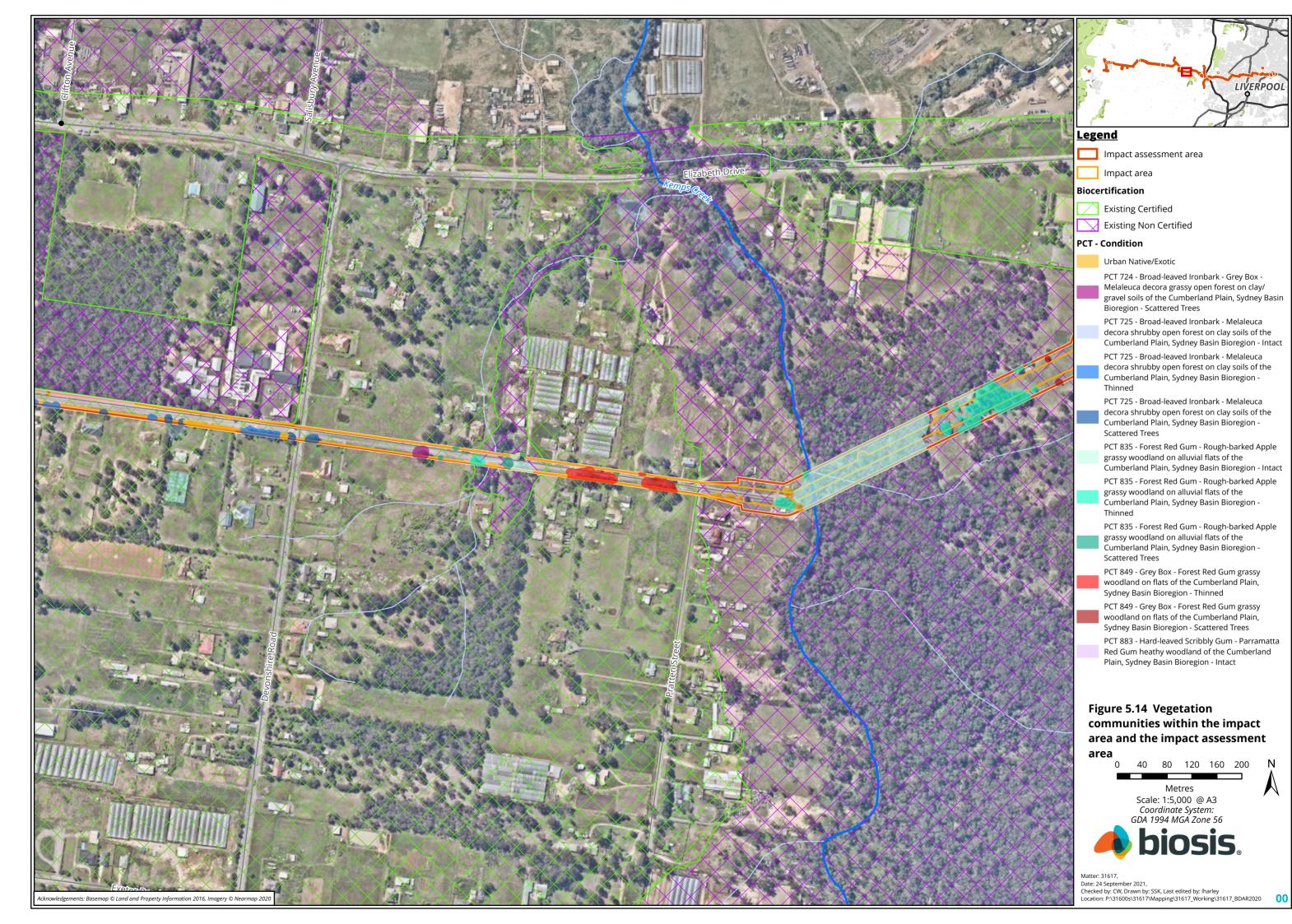














Impact assessment area

Impact area

-- Underbore

Biocertification

Existing Certified

Existing Non Certified

PCT - Condition

Urban Native/Exotic

PCT 724 - Broad-leaved Ironbark - Grey Box -Melaleuca decora grassy open forest on clay/ gravel soils of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion - Intact

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PCT 724 - Broad-leaved Ironbark - Grey Box -Melaleuca decora grassy open forest on clay/ gravel soils of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion - Thinned

PCT 724 - Broad-leaved Ironbark - Grey Box -Melaleuca decora grassy open forest on clay/ gravel soils of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion - Scattered Trees

PCT 725 - Broad-leaved Ironbark - Melaleuca decora shrubby open forest on clay soils of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion - Intact

PCT 725 - Broad-leaved Ironbark - Melaleuca decora shrubby open forest on clay soils of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion -

PCT 725 - Broad-leaved Ironbark - Melaleuca decora shrubby open forest on clay soils of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion -

PCT 883 - Hard-leaved Scribbly Gum - Parramatta Red Gum heathy woodland of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion - Intact

PCT 883 - Hard-leaved Scribbly Gum - Parramatta Red Gum heathy woodland of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion - Thinned

PCT 883 - Hard-leaved Scribbly Gum - Parramatta Red Gum heathy woodland of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion - Scattered Trees

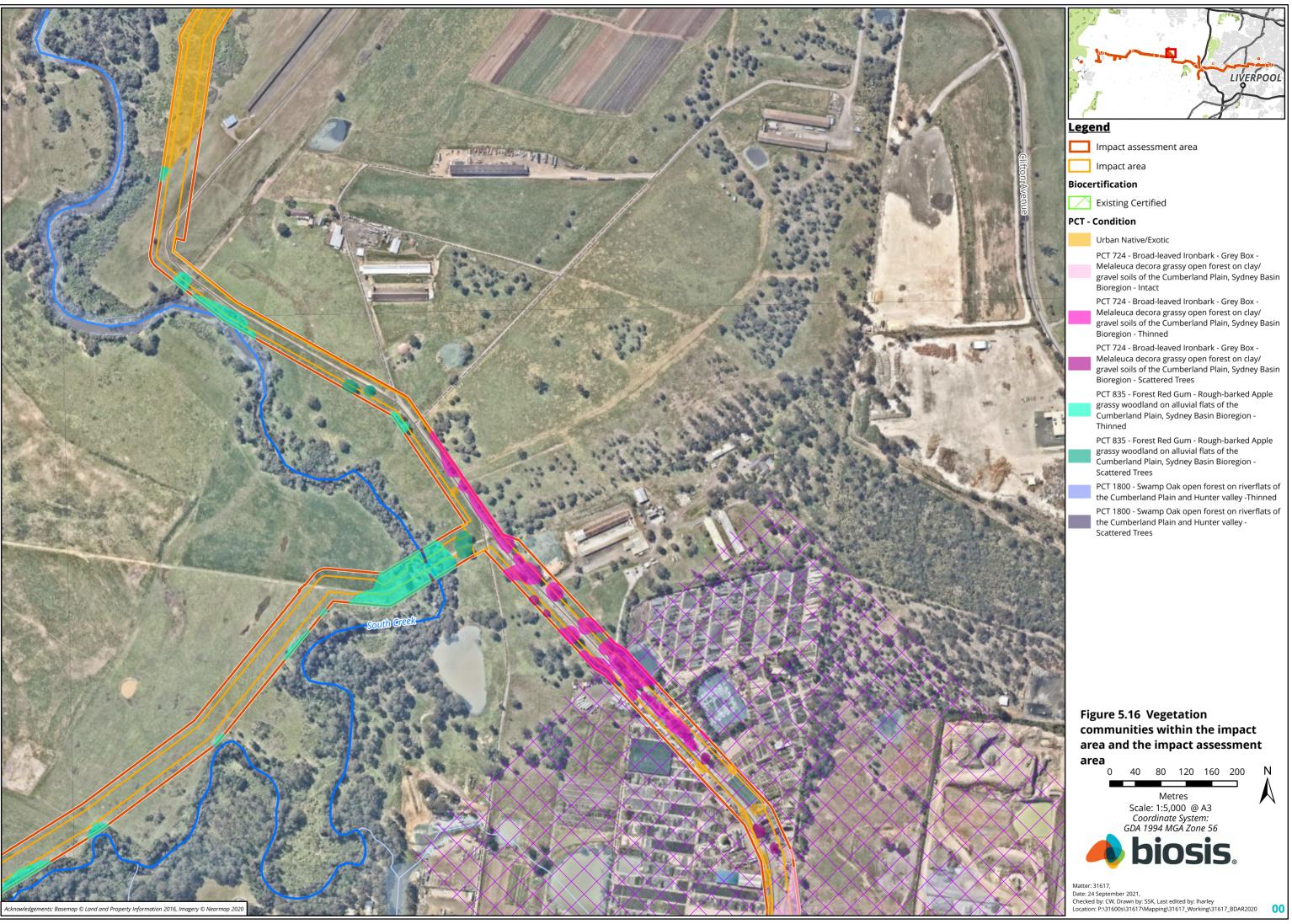
Figure 5.15 Vegetation communities within the impact area and the impact assessment

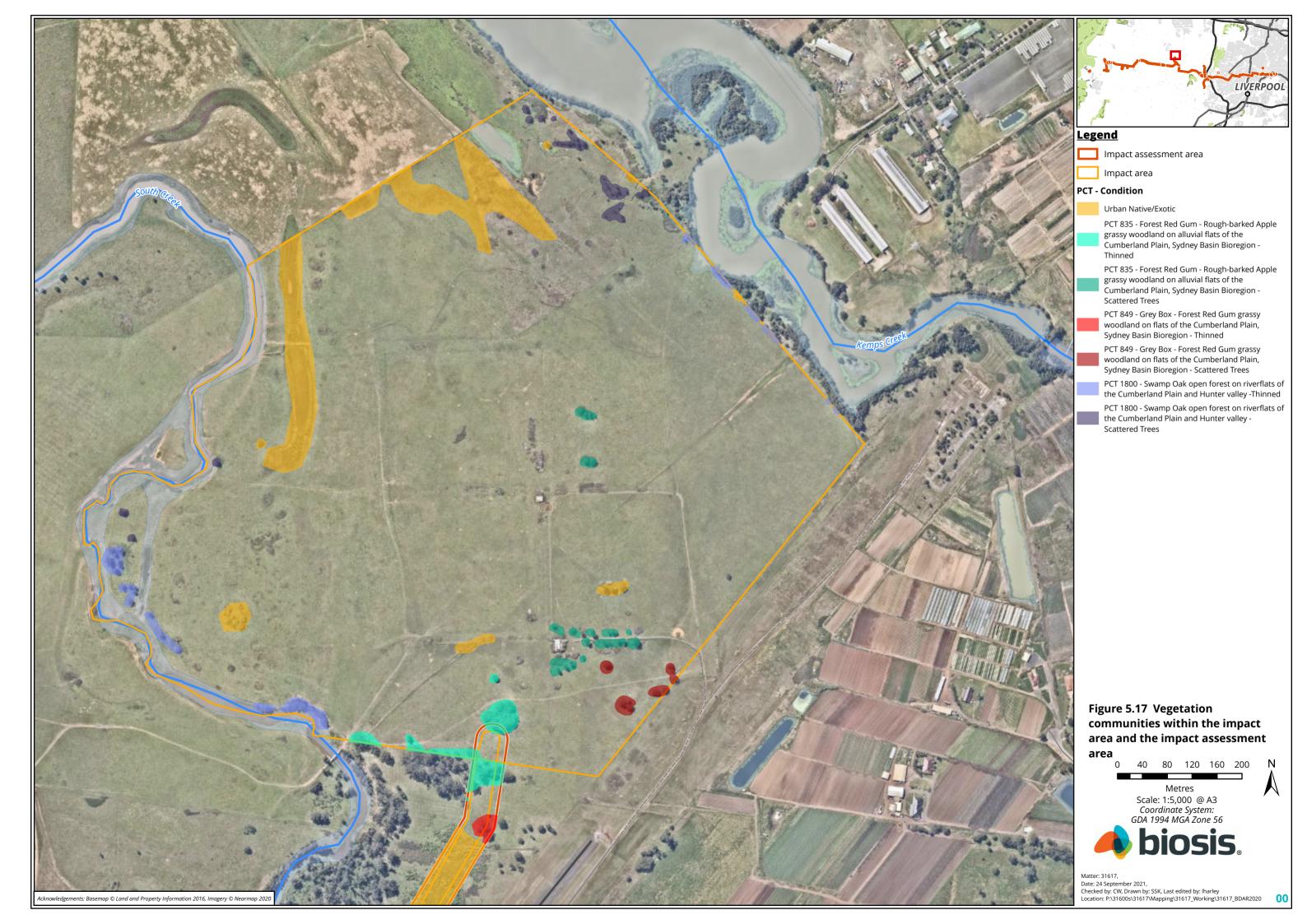
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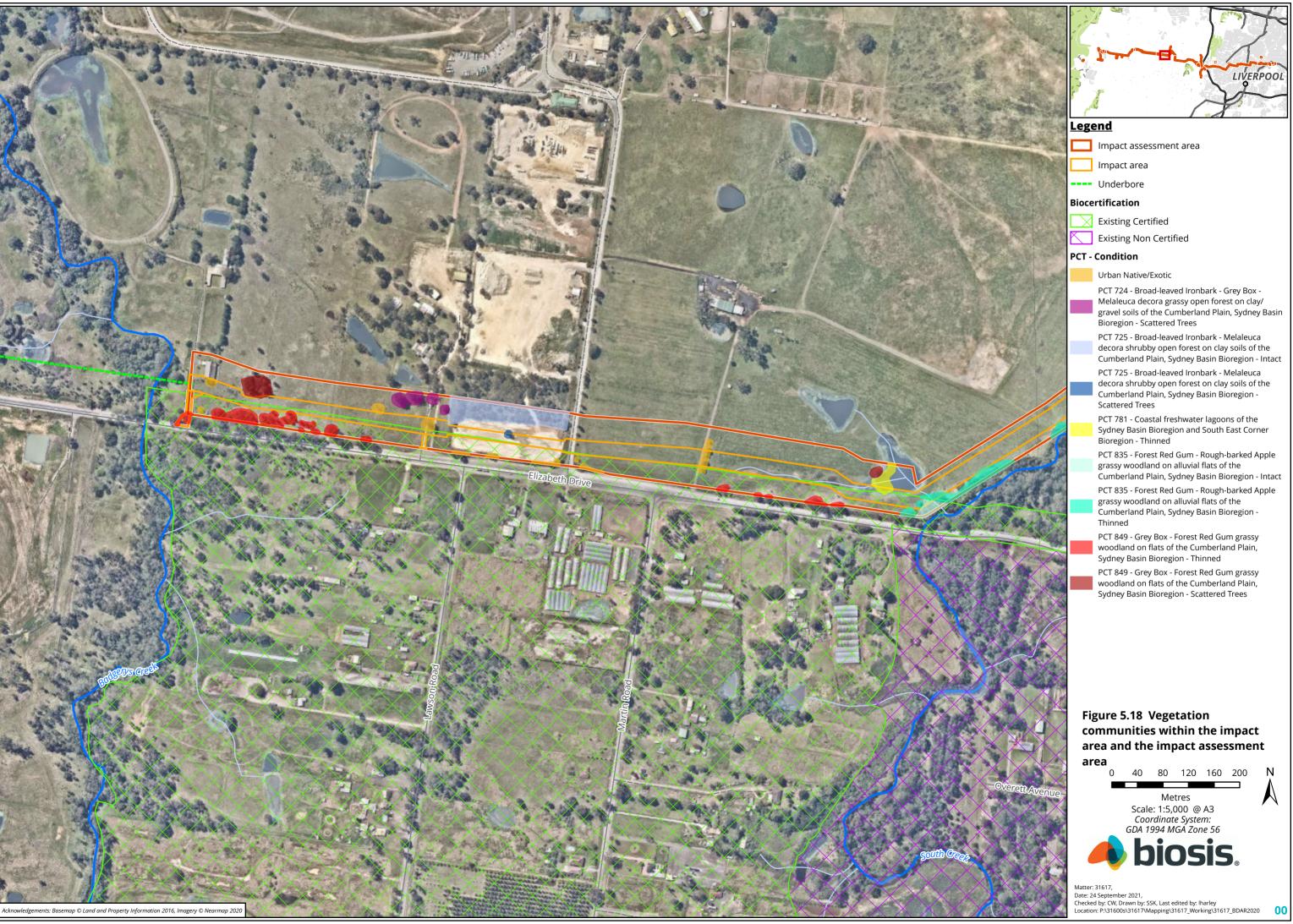
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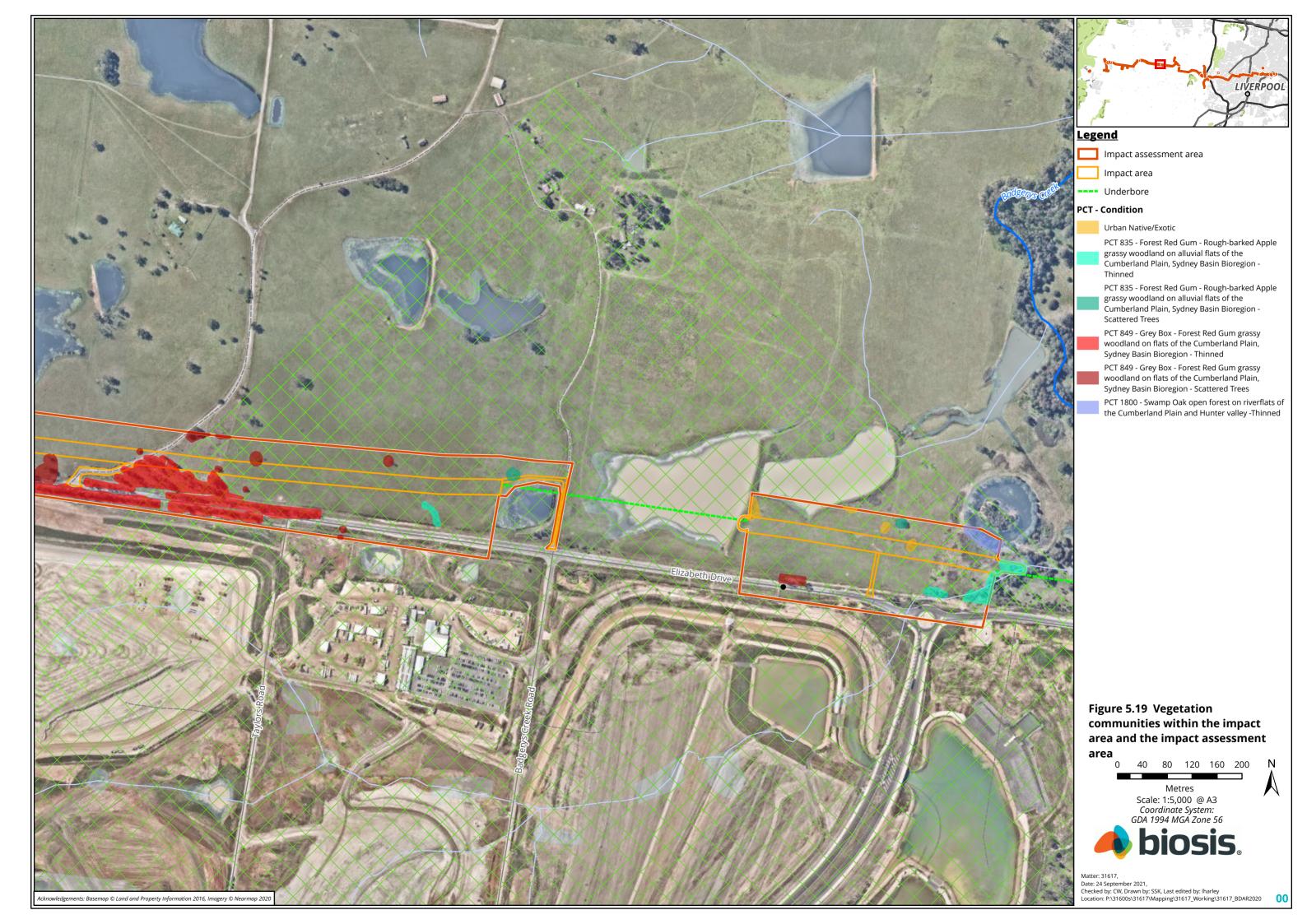


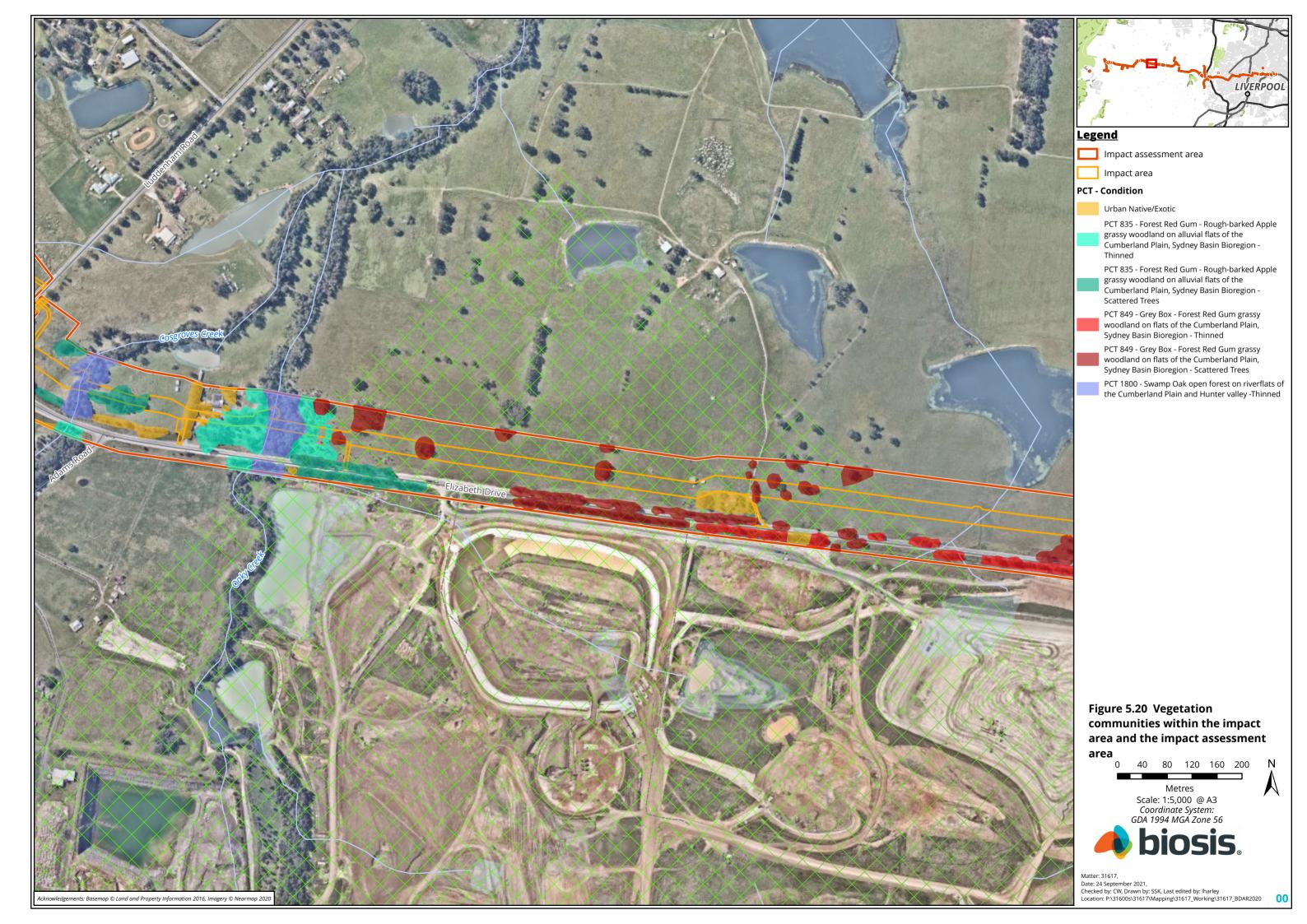
Date: 24 September 2021, Checked by: CW, Drawn by: SSK, Last edited by: Iharley Location: P:\31600s\31617\Mapping\31617_Working\31617_BDAR2020

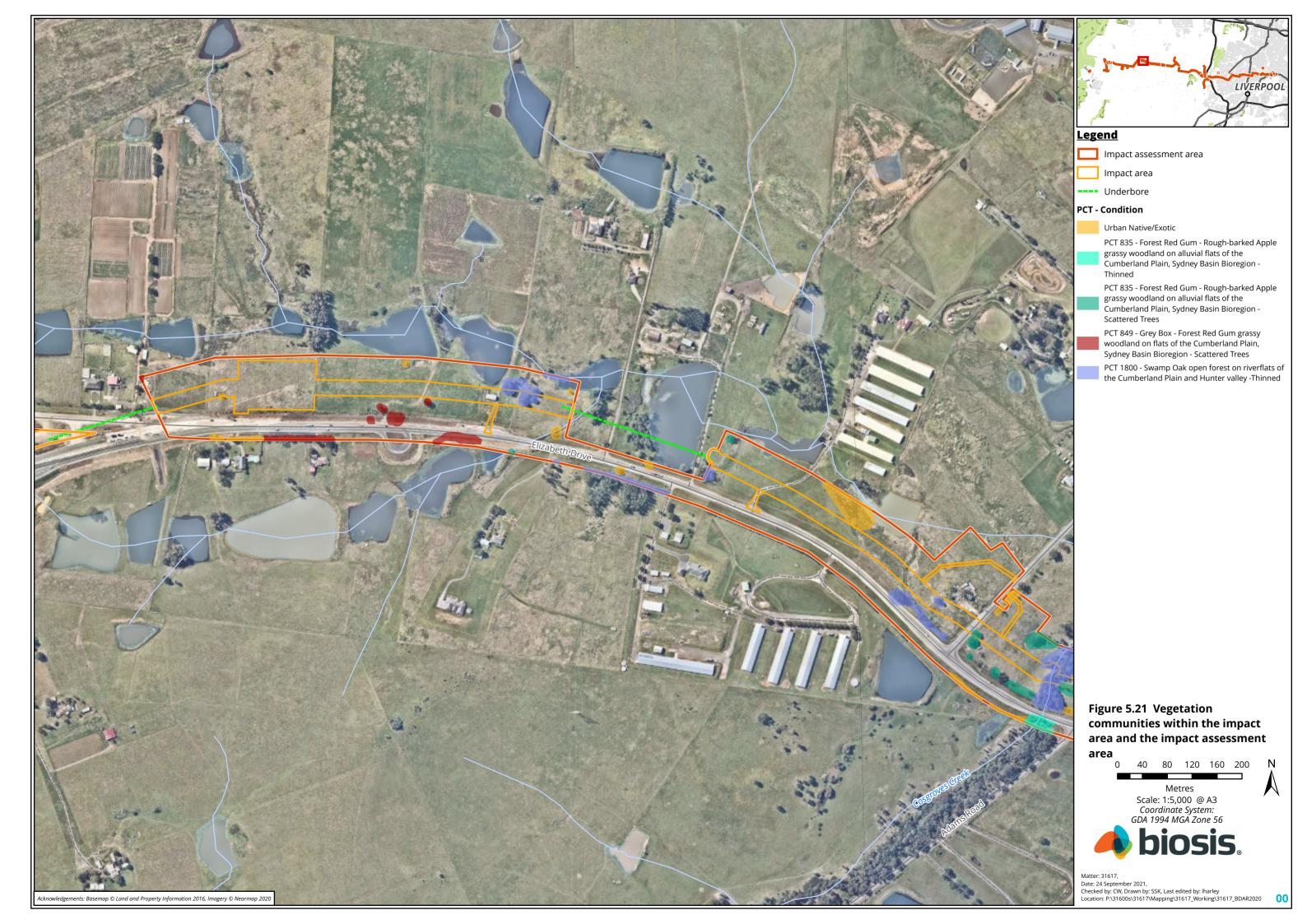


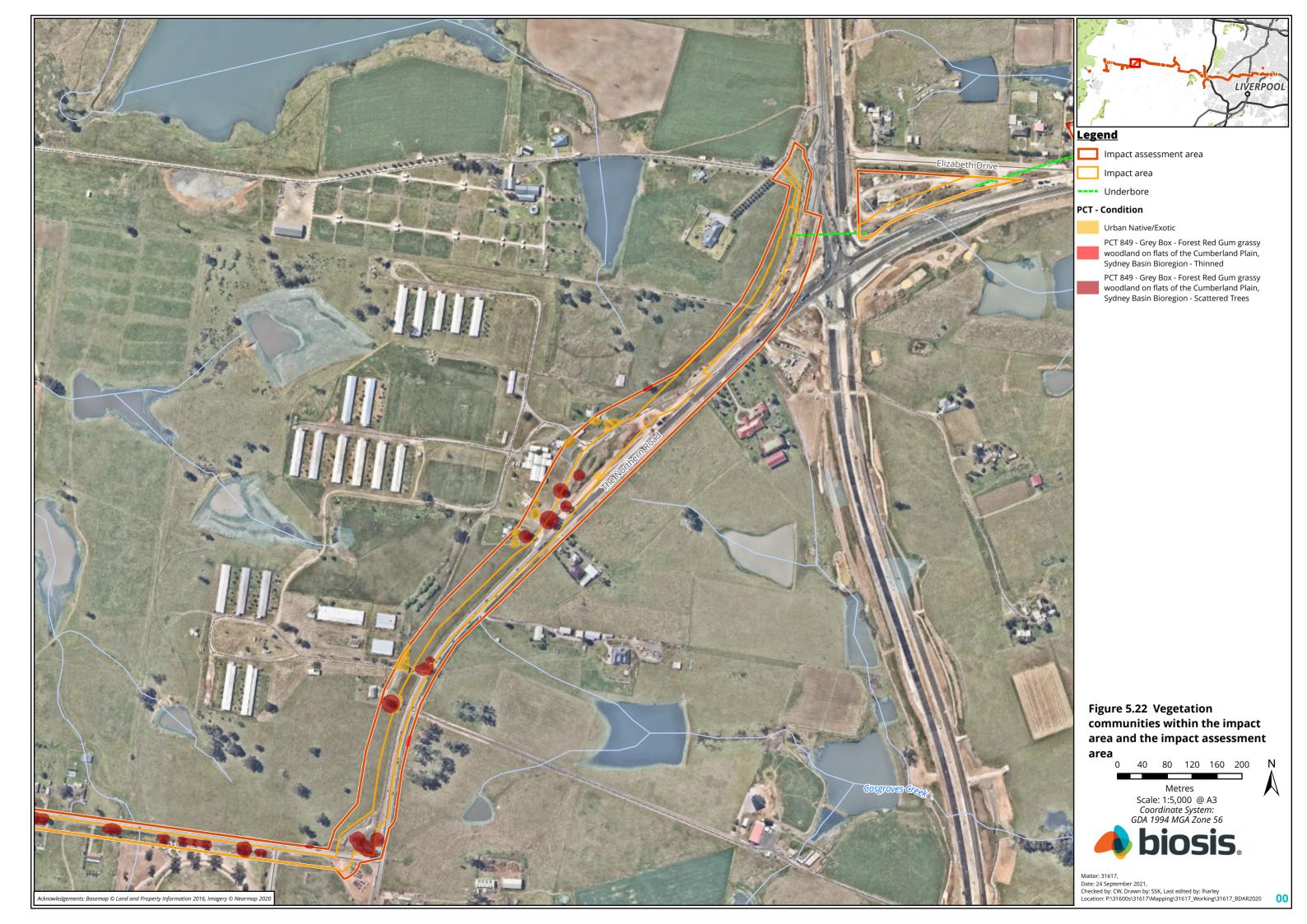


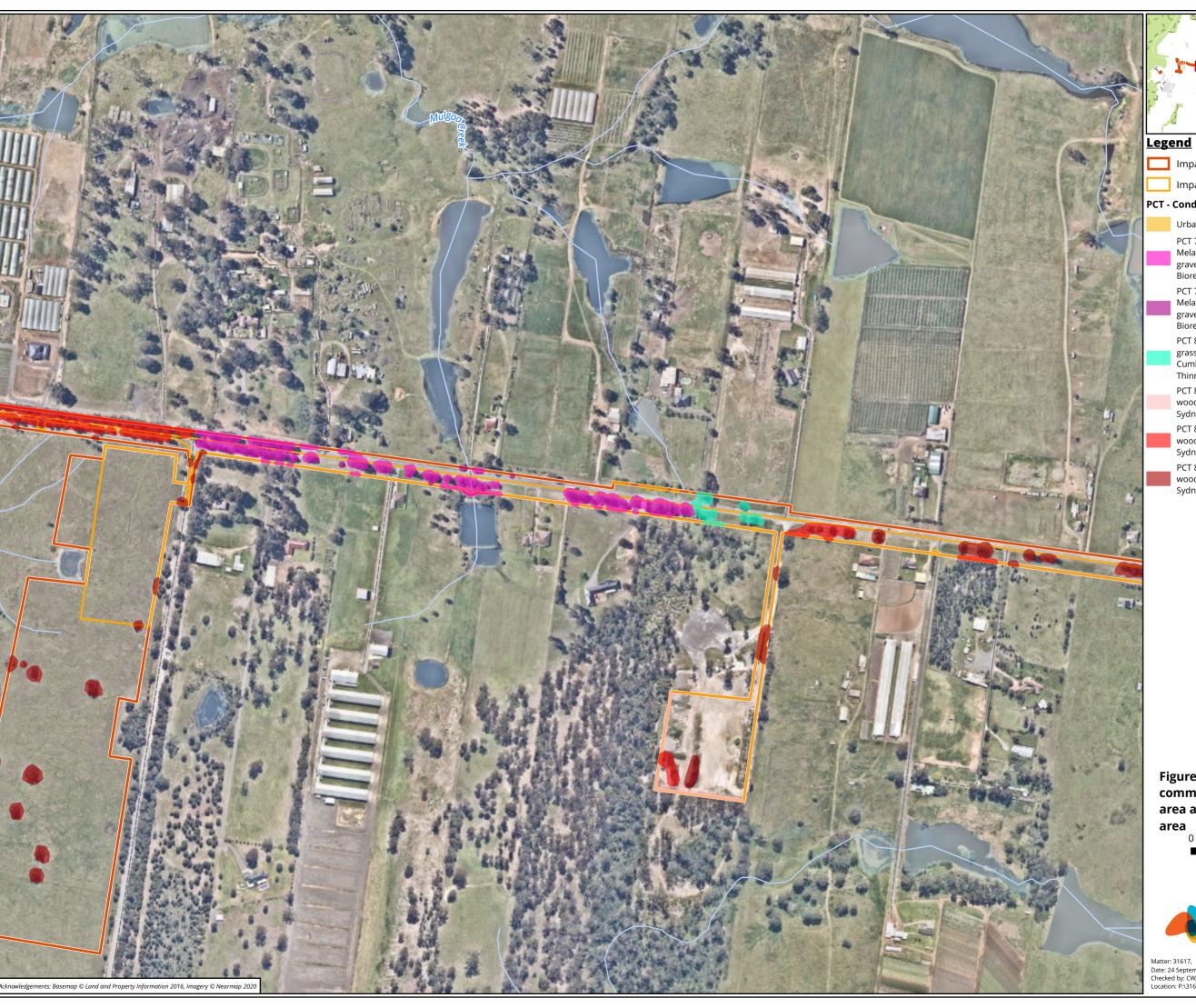












Impact assessment area

Impact area

PCT - Condition

Urban Native/Exotic

PCT 724 - Broad-leaved Ironbark - Grey Box -Melaleuca decora grassy open forest on clay/ gravel soils of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion - Thinned

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PCT 724 - Broad-leaved Ironbark - Grey Box -Melaleuca decora grassy open forest on clay/ gravel soils of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion - Scattered Trees

PCT 835 - Forest Red Gum - Rough-barked Apple grassy woodland on alluvial flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion -

PCT 849 - Grey Box - Forest Red Gum grassy woodland on flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion - Intact

PCT 849 - Grey Box - Forest Red Gum grassy woodland on flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion - Thinned

PCT 849 - Grey Box - Forest Red Gum grassy woodland on flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion - Scattered Trees

Figure 5.23 Vegetation communities within the impact area and the impact assessment

Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3 Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 56



Matter: 31617. Date: 24 September 2021,
Checked by: CW, Drawn by: SSK, Last edited by: Iharley
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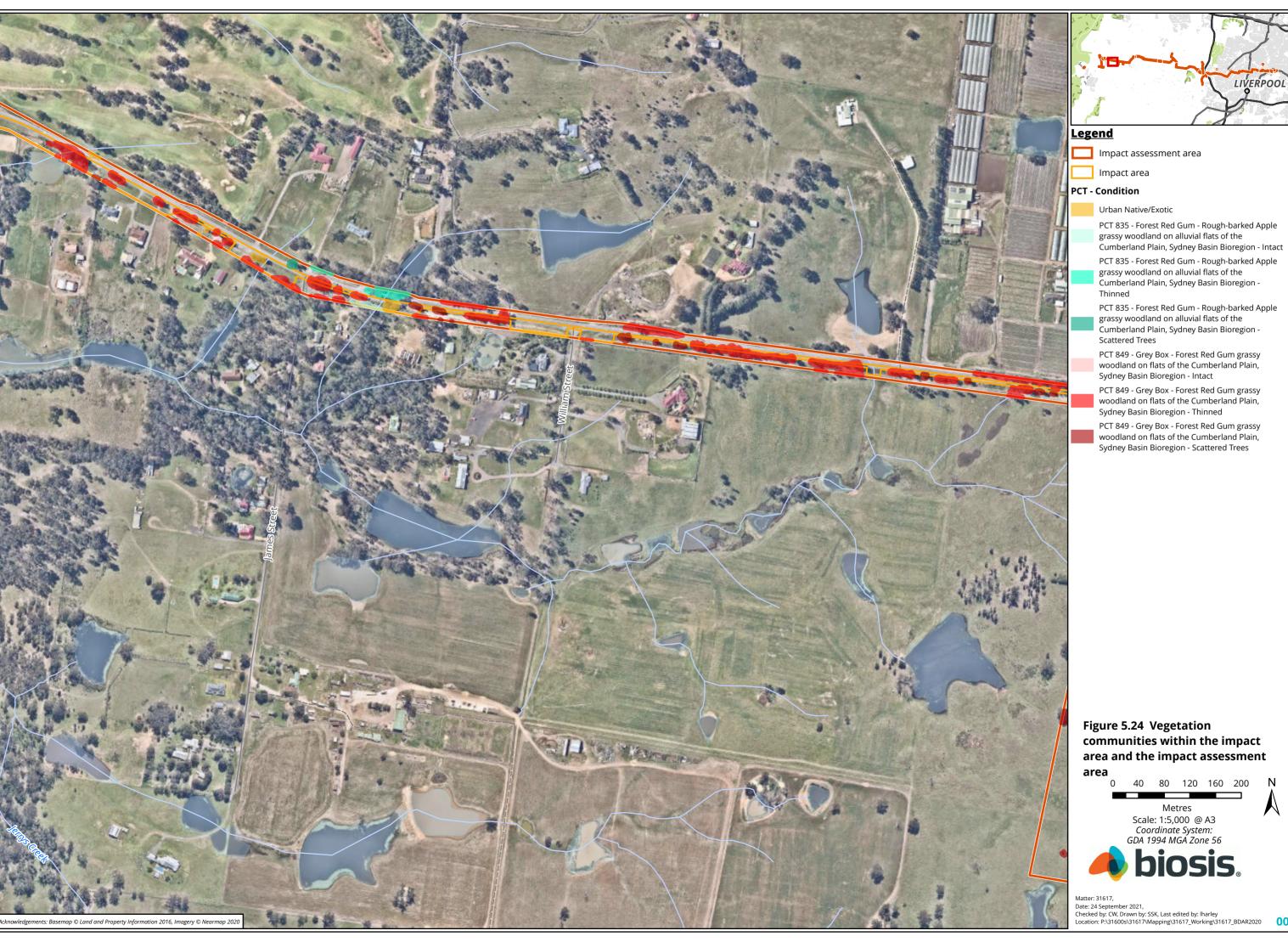


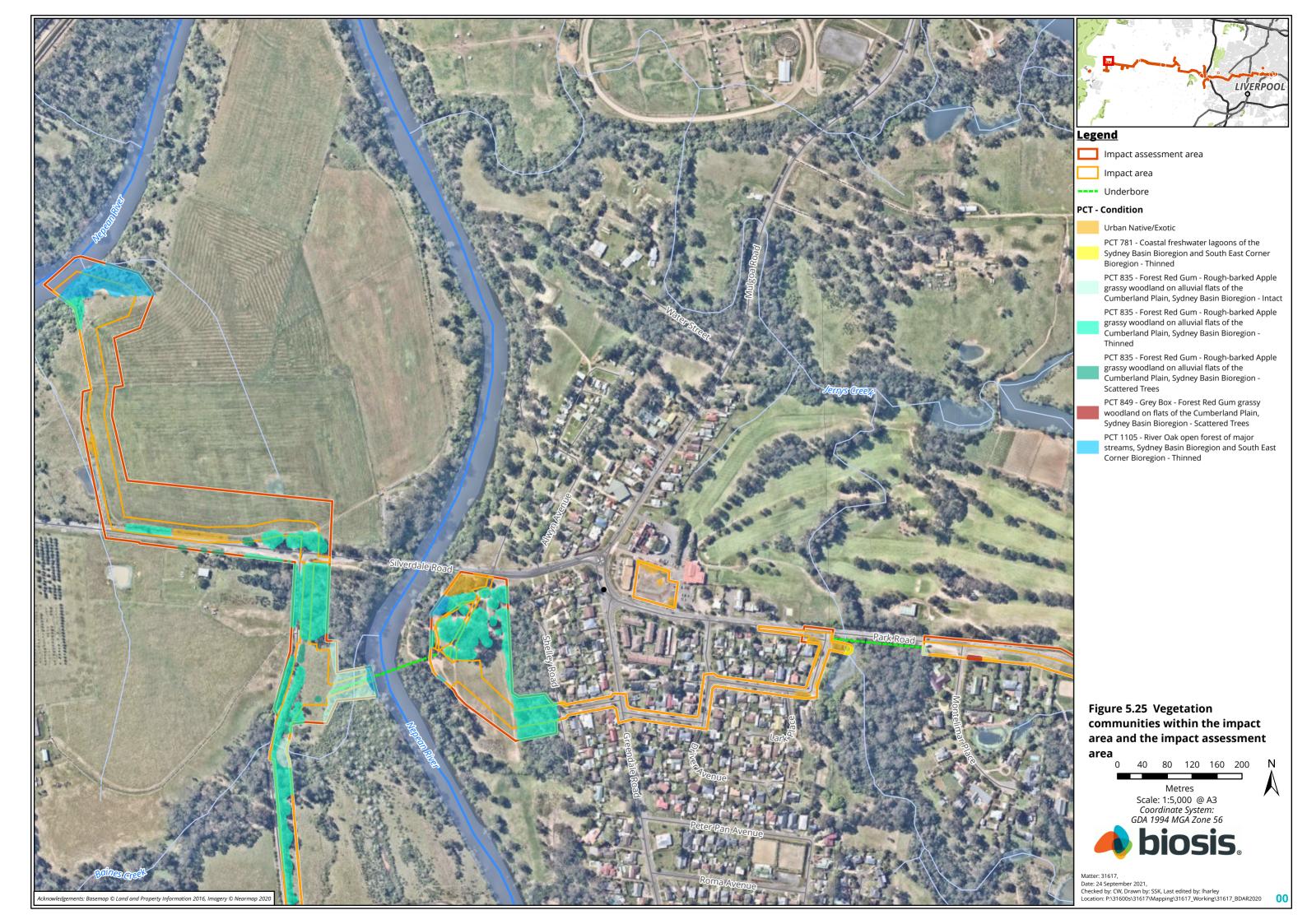
Figure 5.24 Vegetation communities within the impact area and the impact assessment

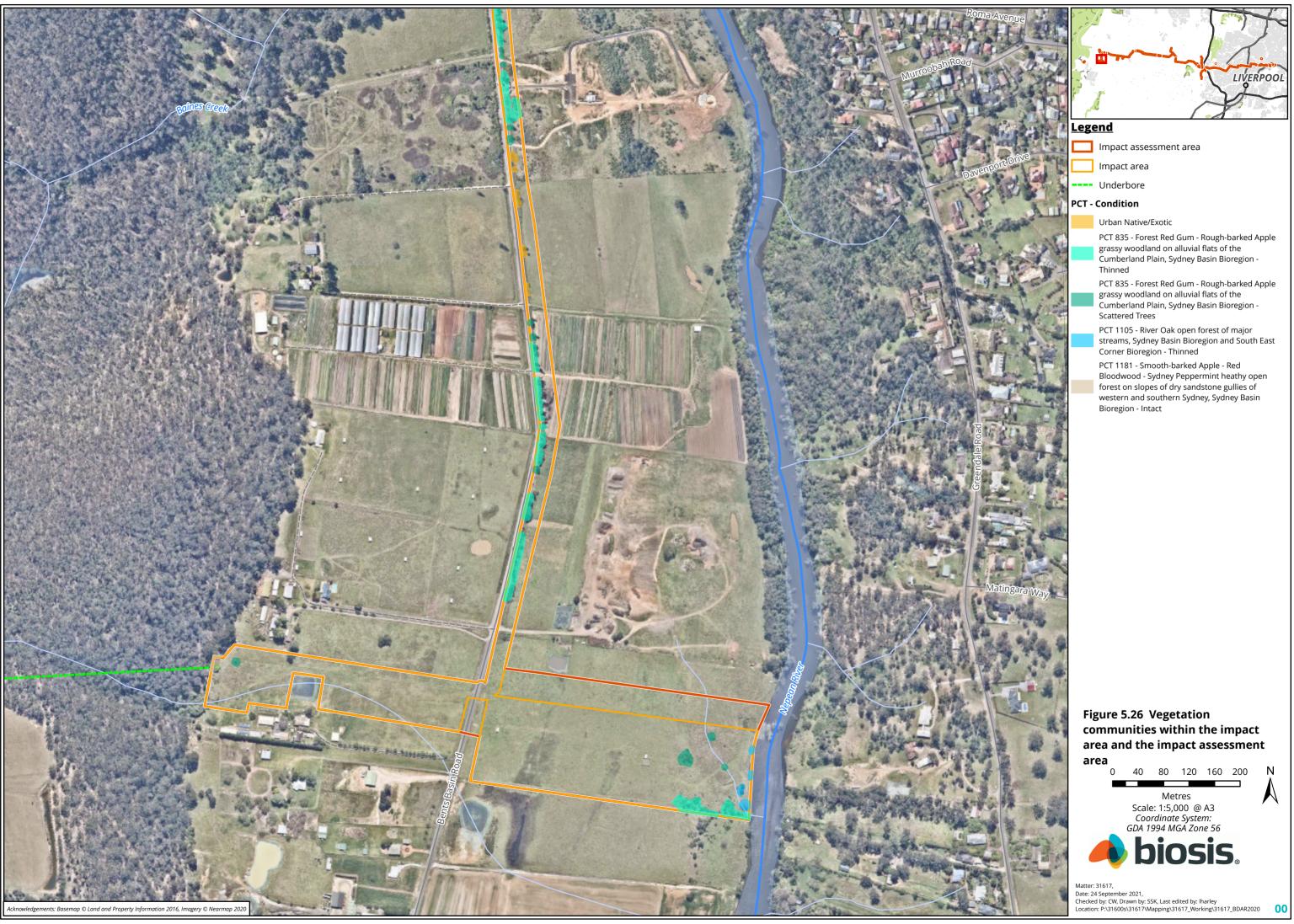
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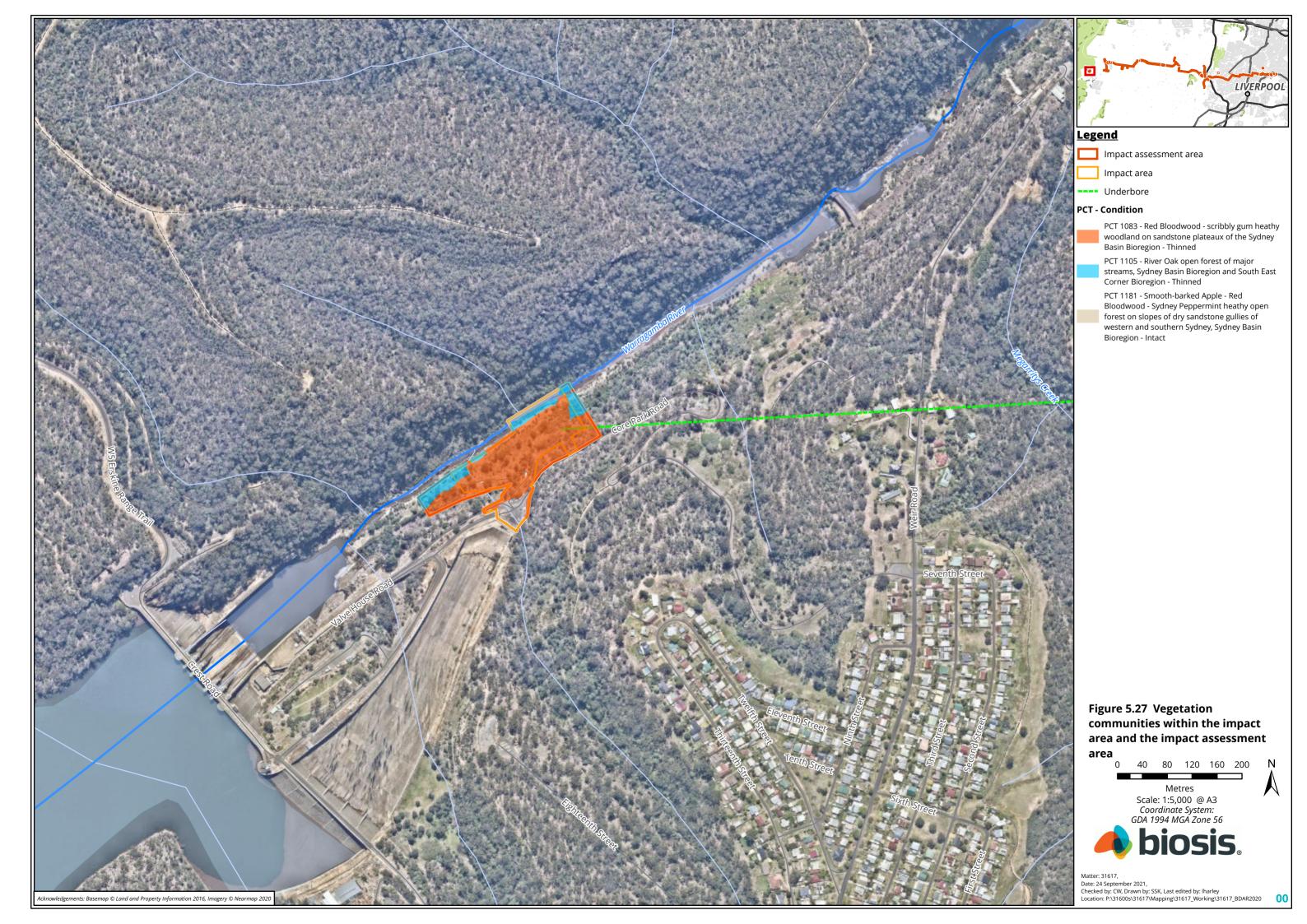


Date: 24 September 2021,
Checked by: CW, Drawn by: SSK, Last edited by: Iharley
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7.1.4 Threatened ecological communities

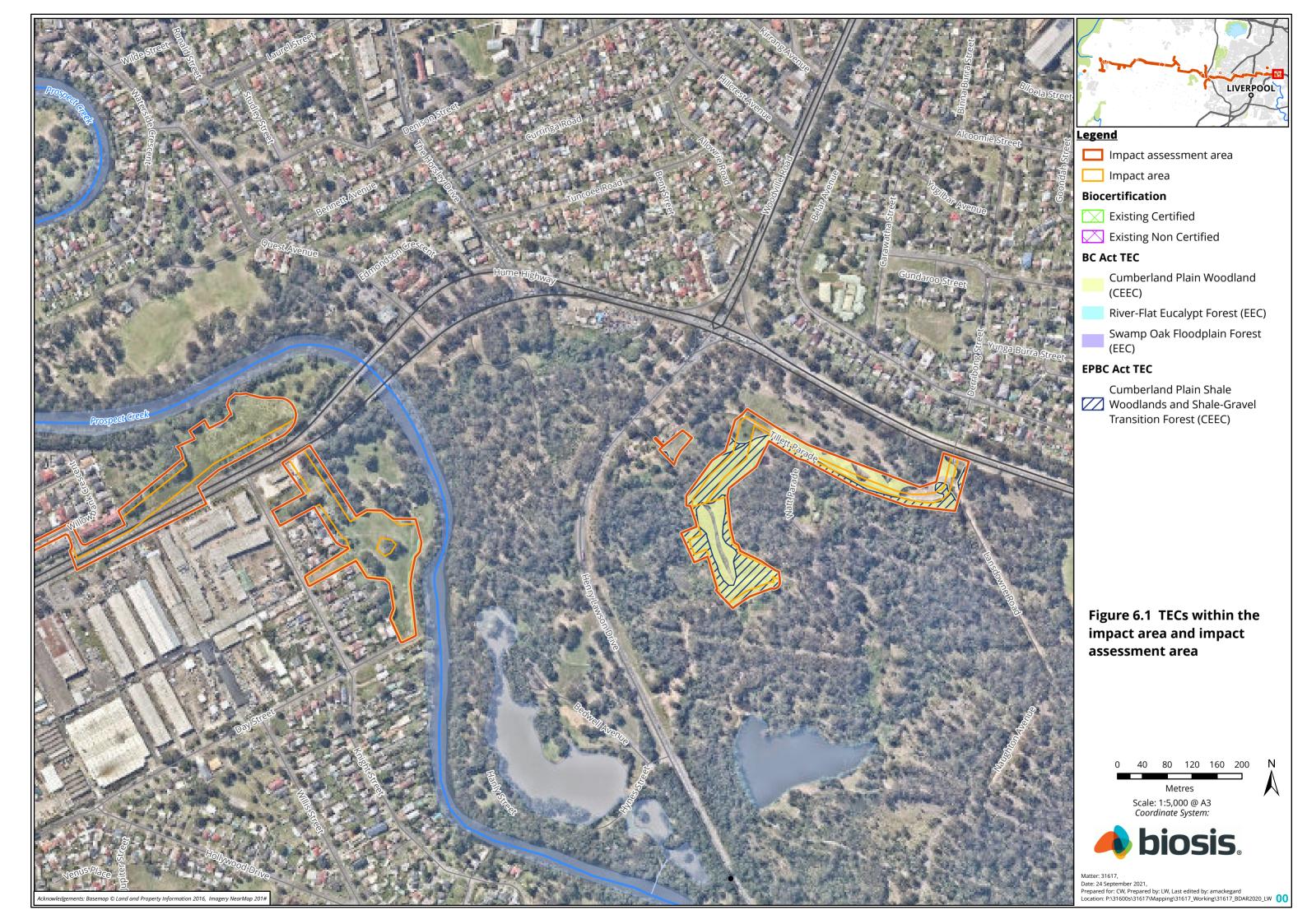
Vegetation within the impact area and impact assessment area, outside Existing Certified land, was found to represent six TECs listed under the NSW BC Act, and two TECs listed under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. TECs present within the impact area and impact assessment area are outlined in Table 19 and Table 20 below, and illustrated on Figure 6.

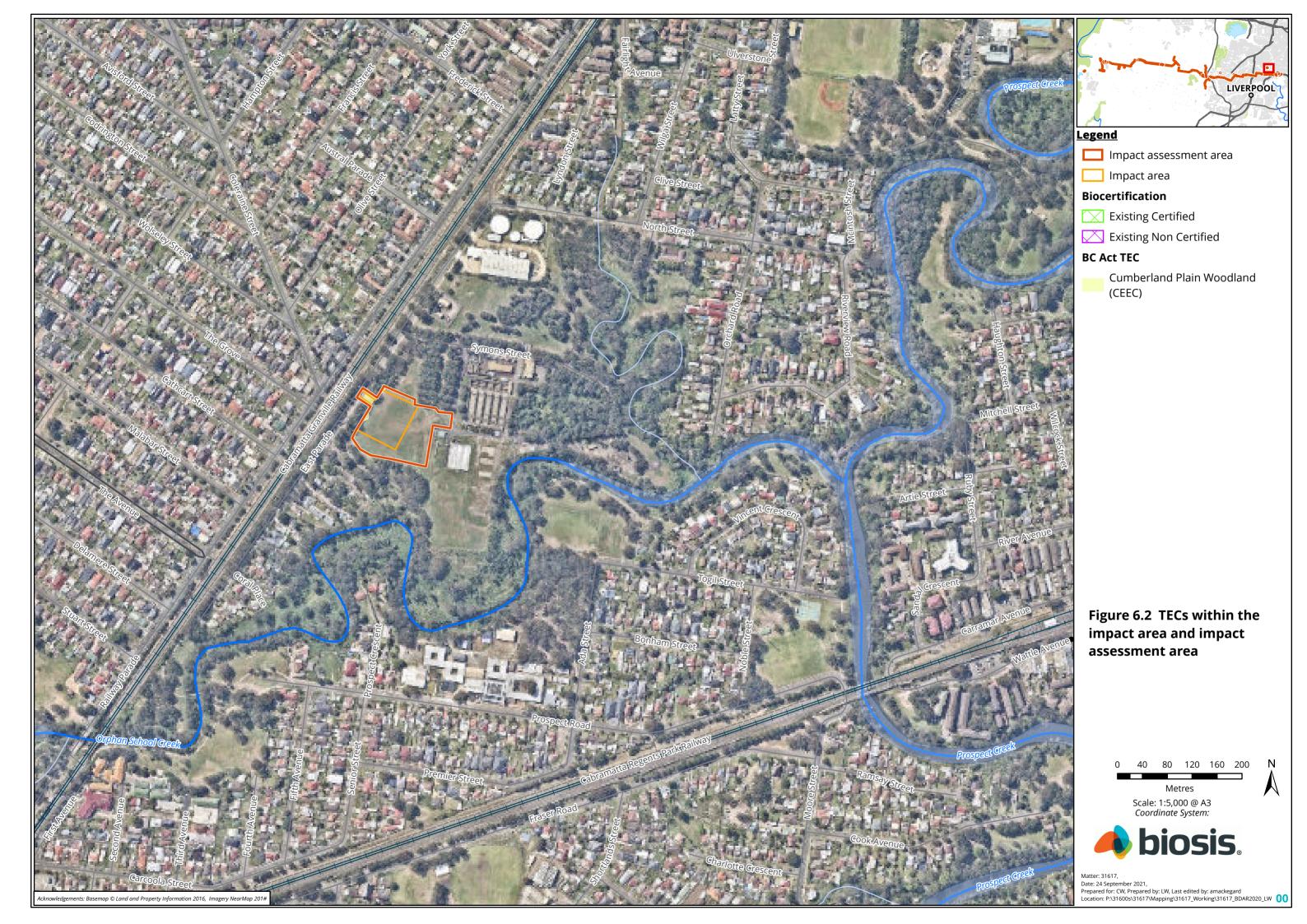
Table 19 Summary of BC Act TECs within the impact area and impact assessment area

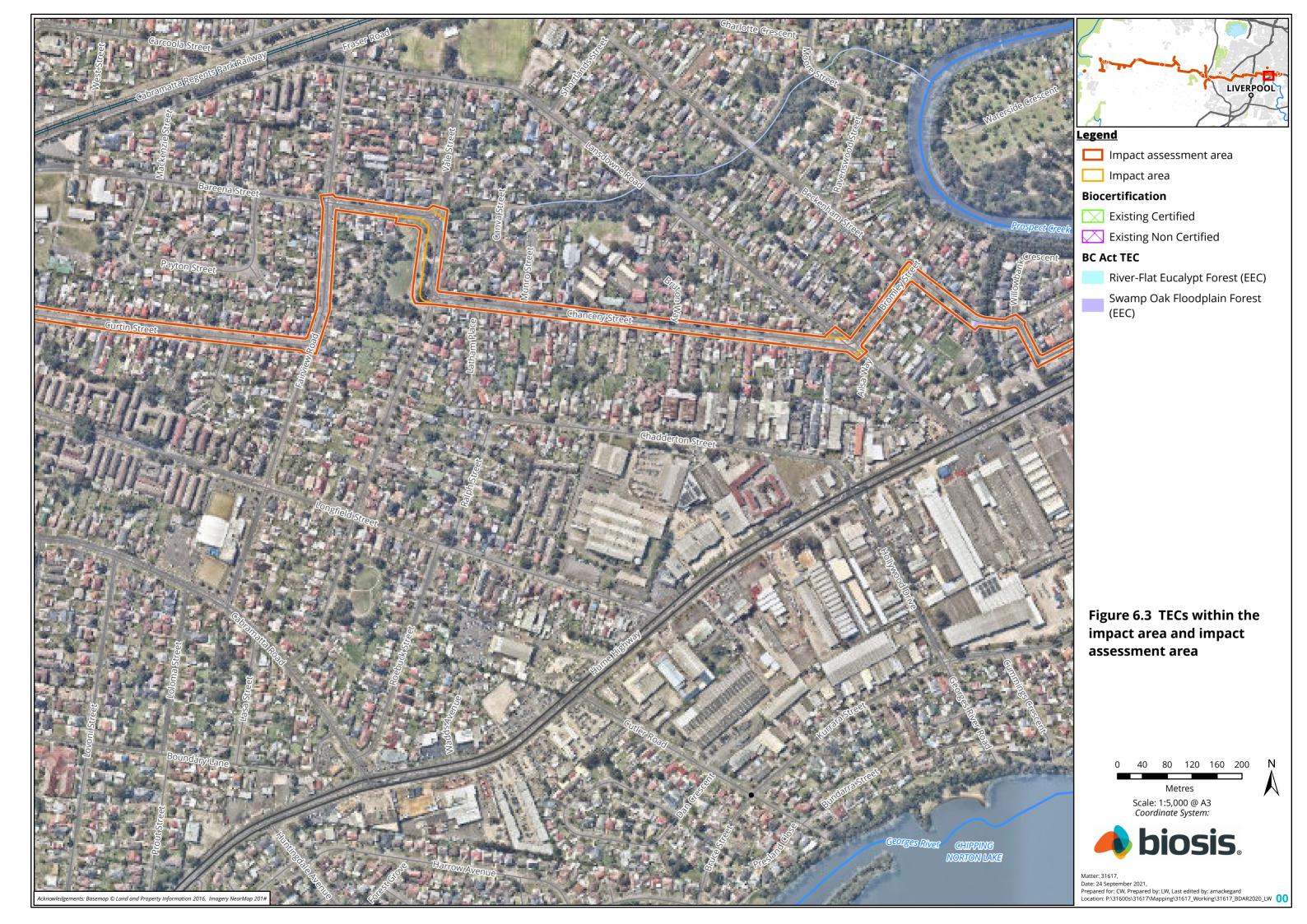
BC Act TEC	Listing status	Impact area	Impact assessment area
Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Endangered	0.00 ha	0.52 ha
Cumberland Plain Woodland in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Critically Endangered	4.37 ha	12.07 ha
River-flat Eucalypt Forest on Coastal Floodplains of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	Endangered	4.39 ha	7.09 ha
Shale Gravel Transition Forest in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Endangered	1.54 ha	0.90 ha
Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest of the New South Wales North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions	Endangered	0.88 ha	1.19 ha
Sydney Freshwater Wetlands in the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Endangered	0.02 ha	0.08 ha

Table 20 Summary of EPBC Act TECs within the impact area and impact assessment area

EPBC Act TEC	Listing status	Impact area	Impact assessment area
Coastal Swamp Oak (Casuarina glauca) Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland ecological community	Endangered	0.22 ha	0.72 ha
Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest of the Sydney Basin Bioregion	Critically Endangered	0.00 ha	0.52 ha
Cumberland Plain Shale Woodlands and Shale-Gravel Transition Forest	Critically Endangered	1.88 ha	5.53 ha

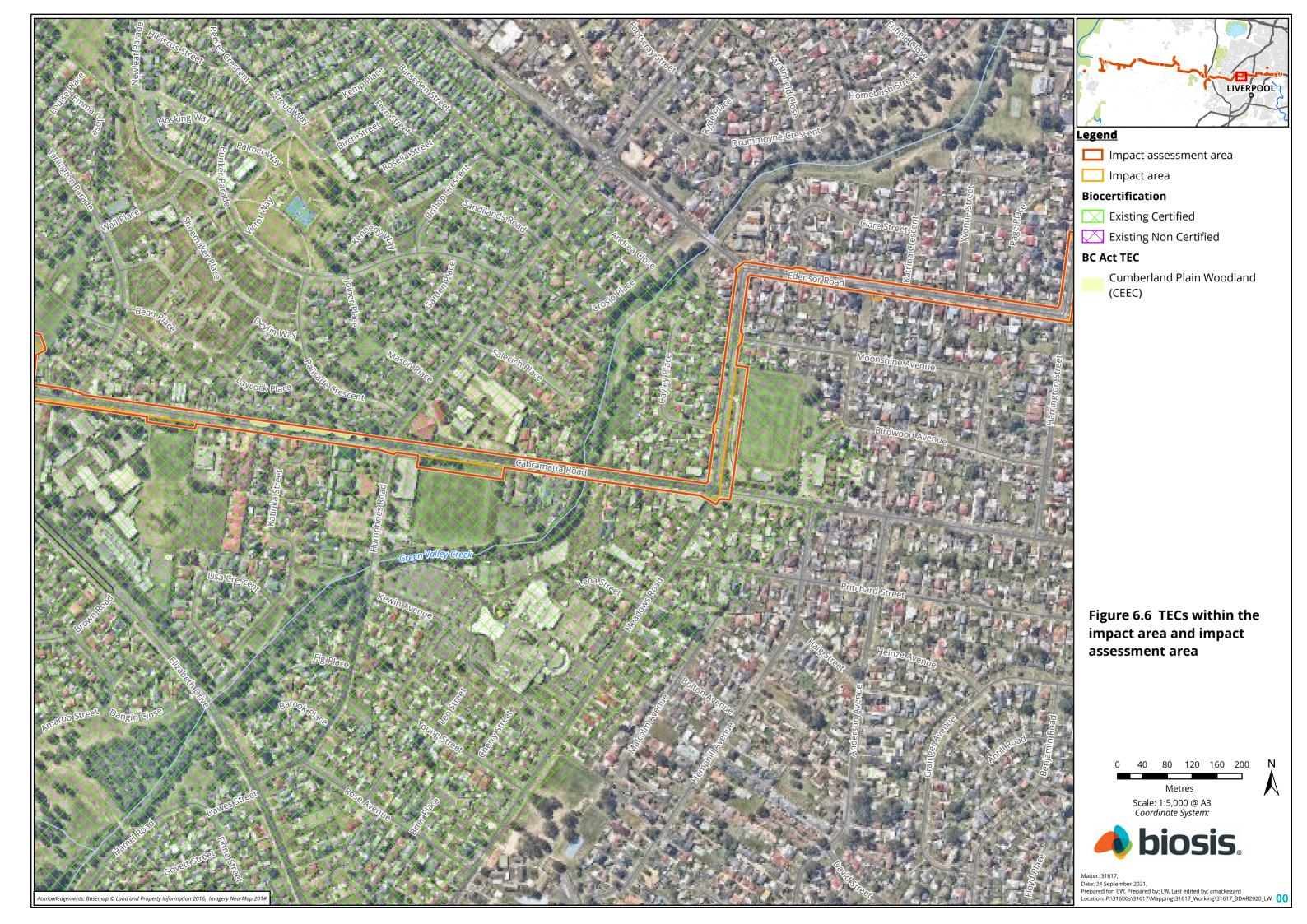


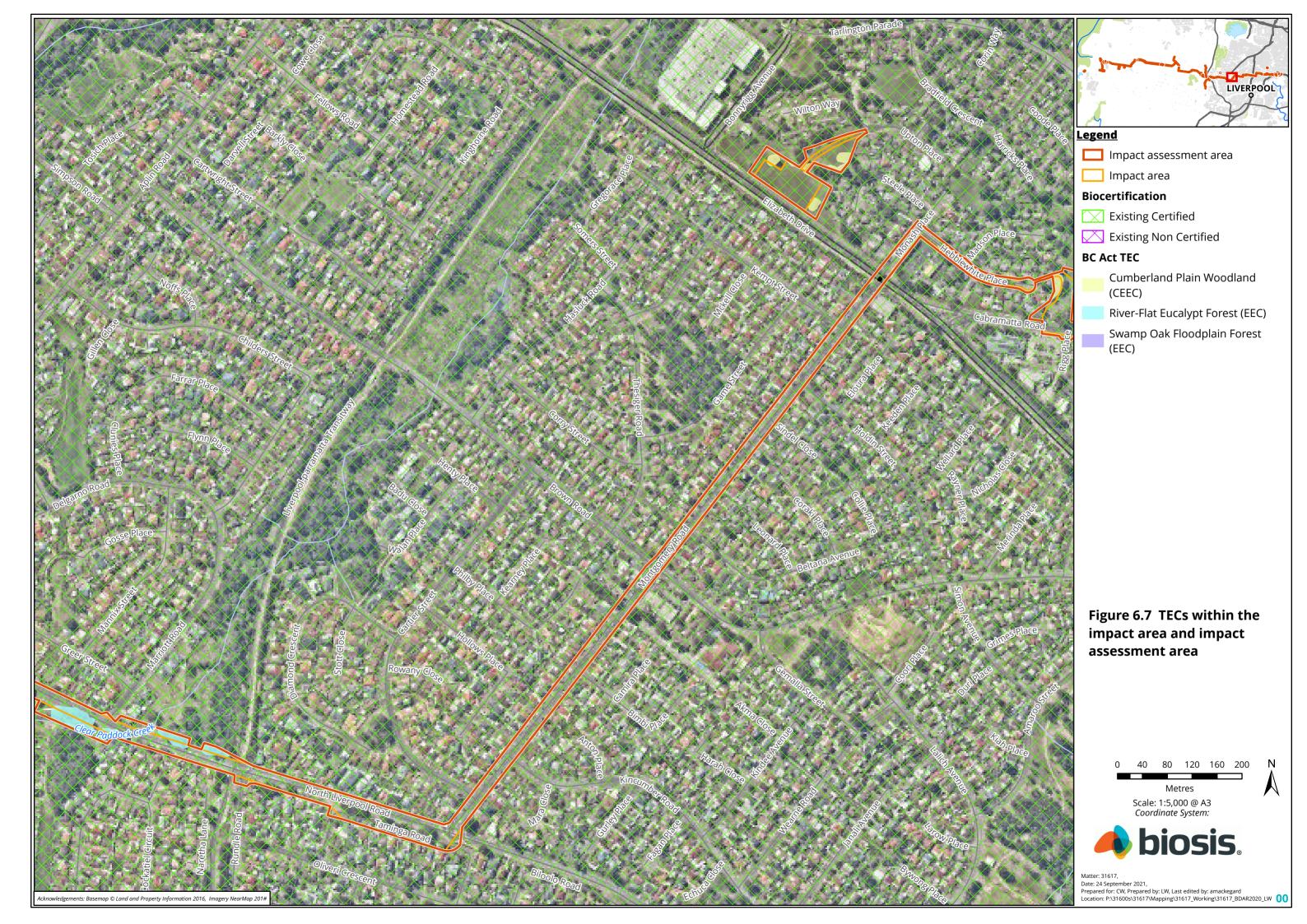


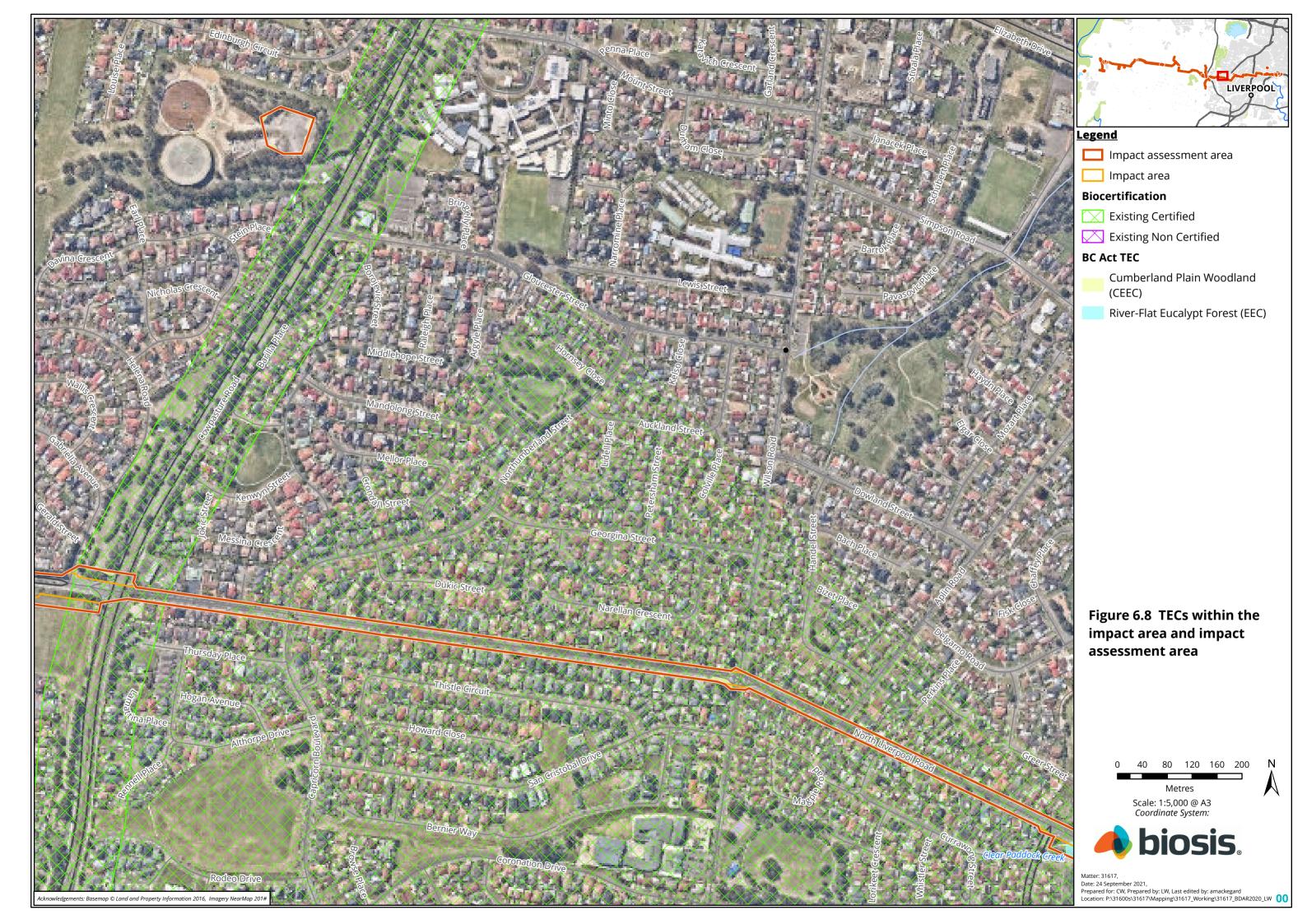


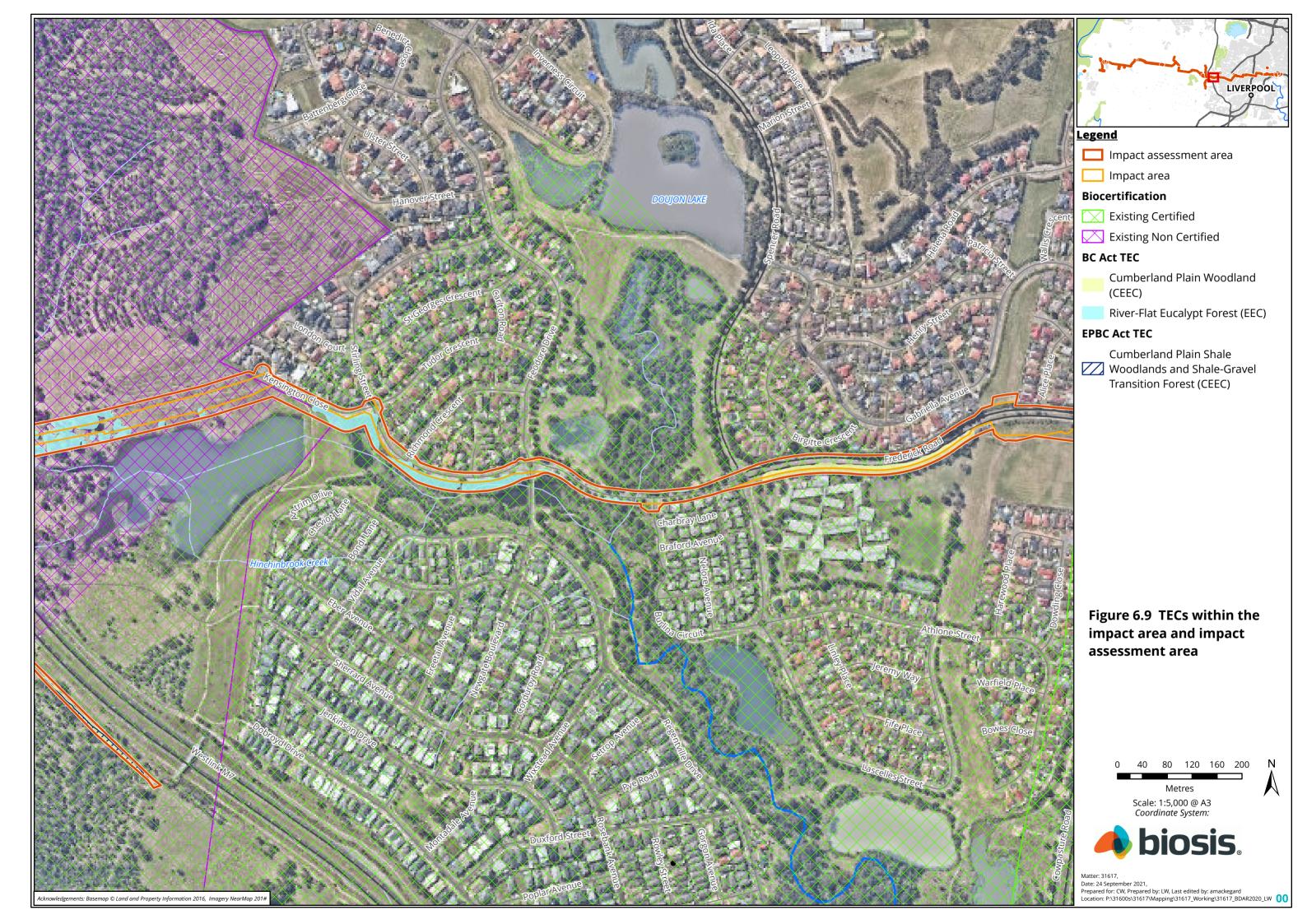


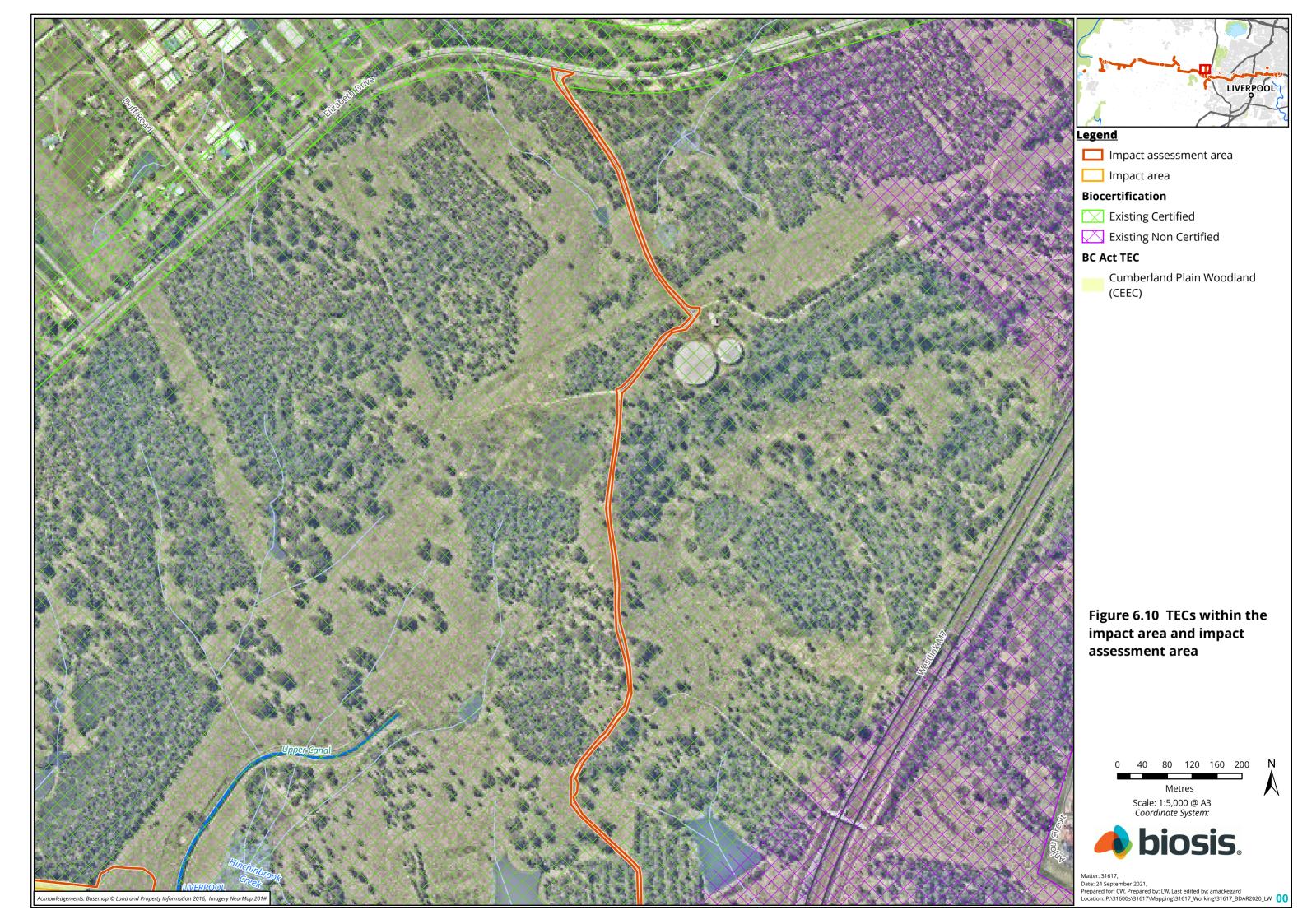


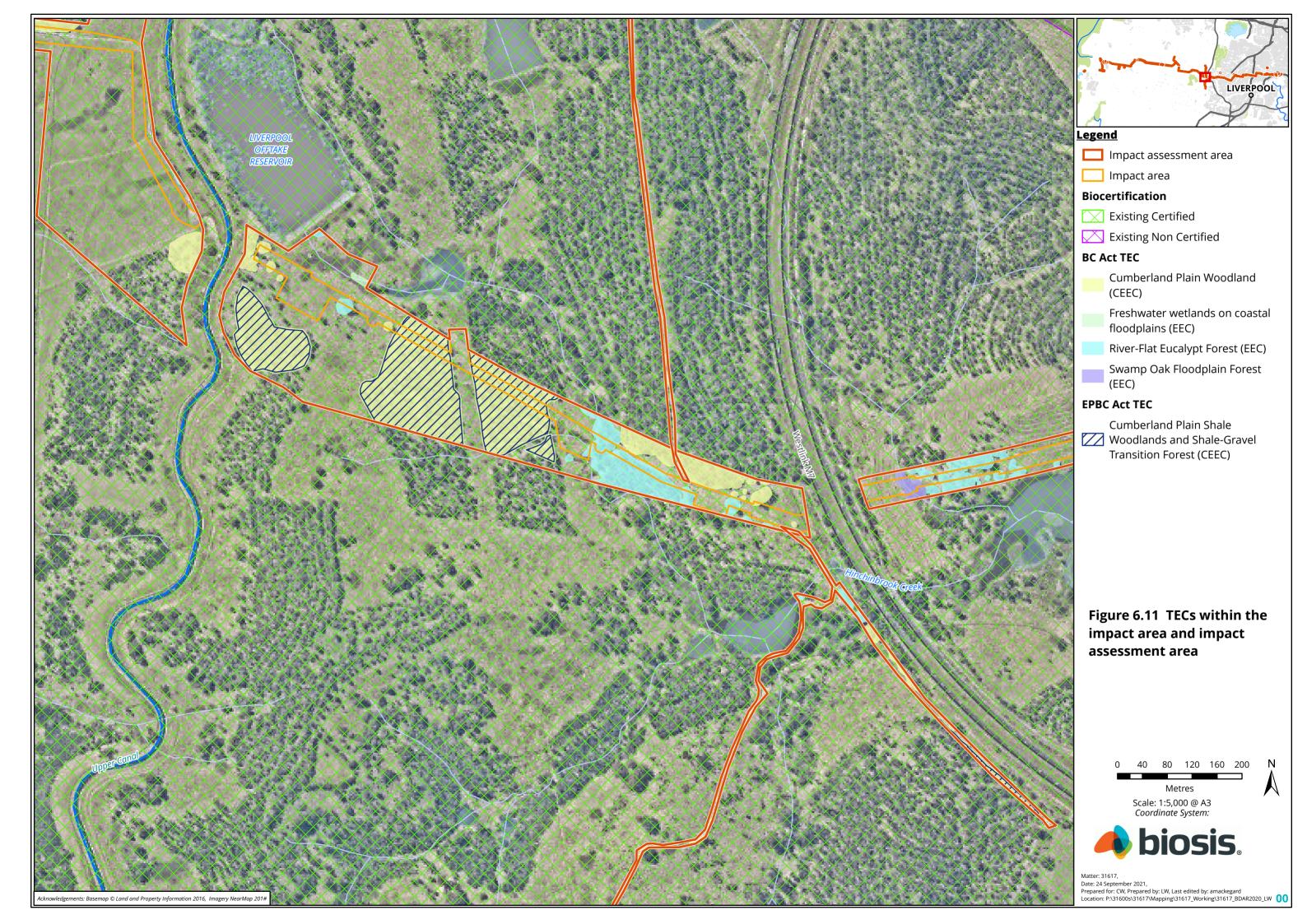


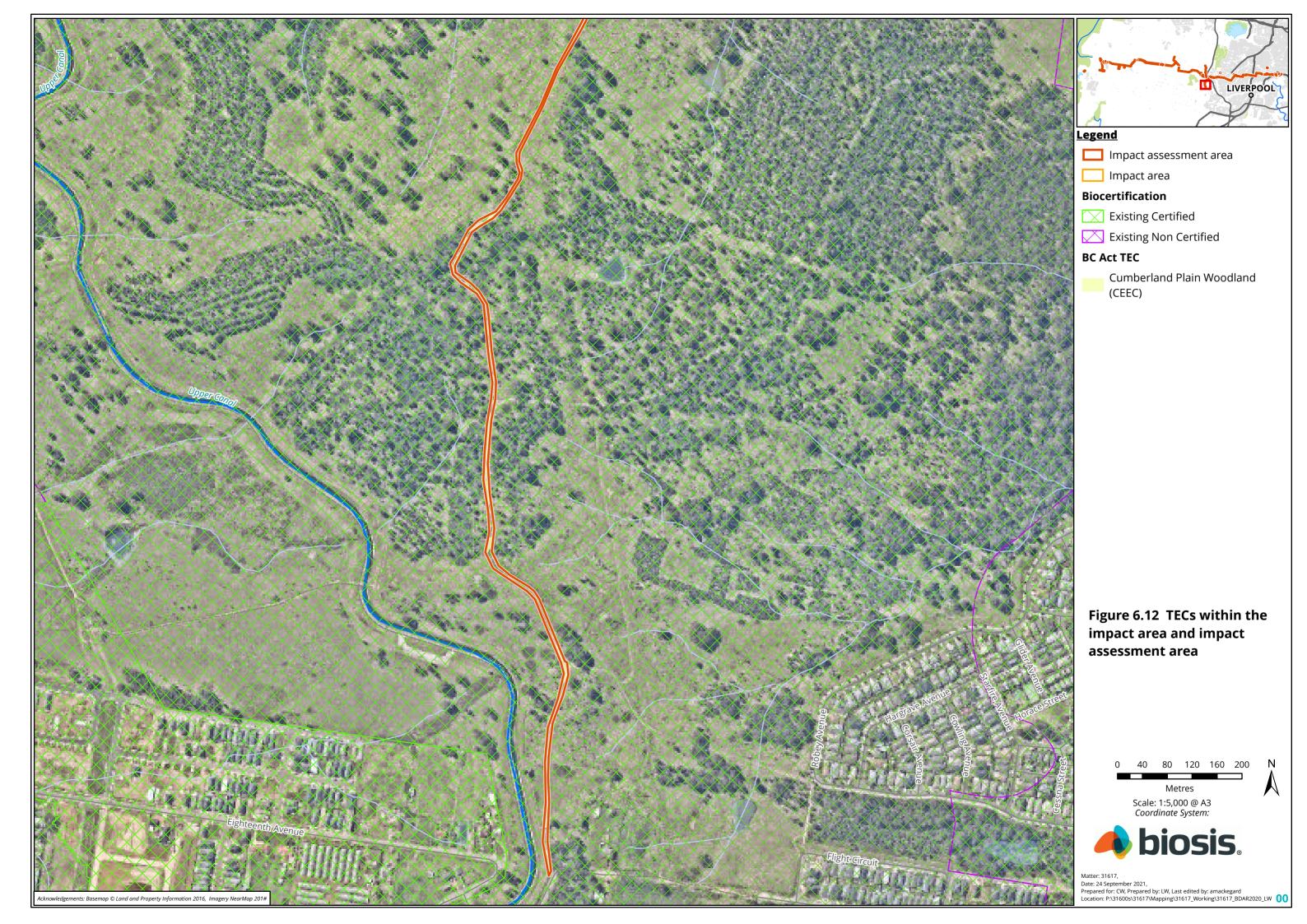




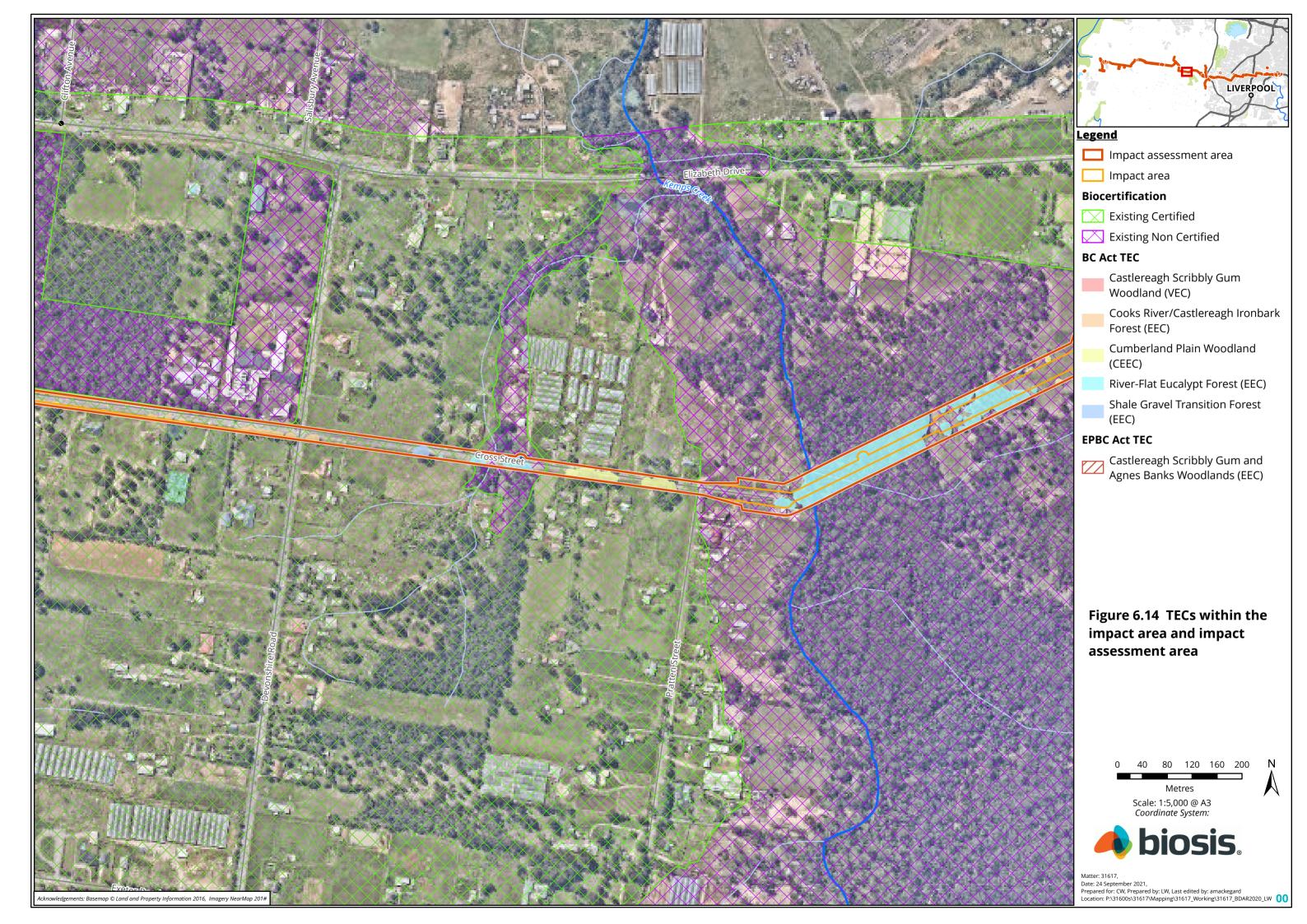




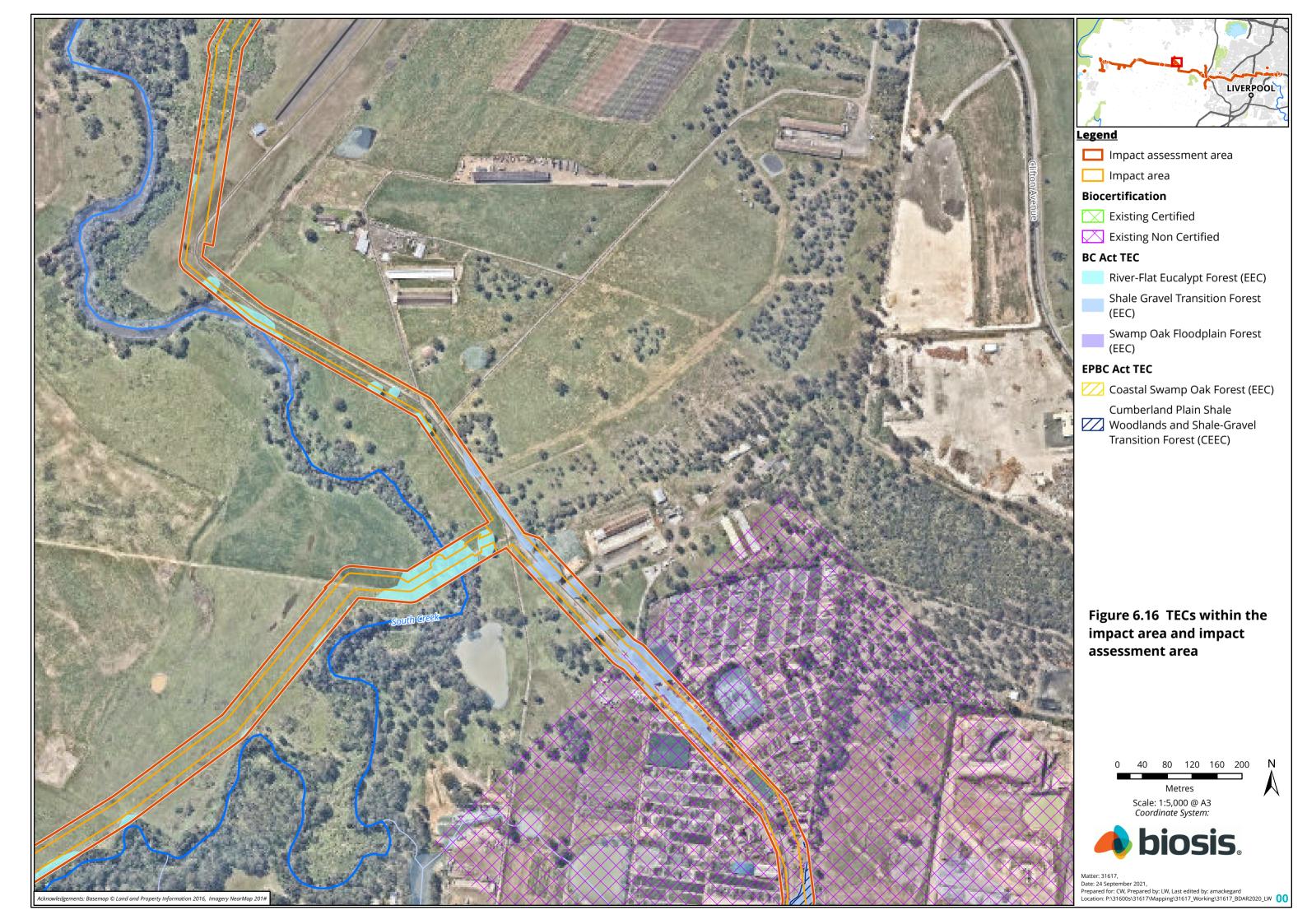


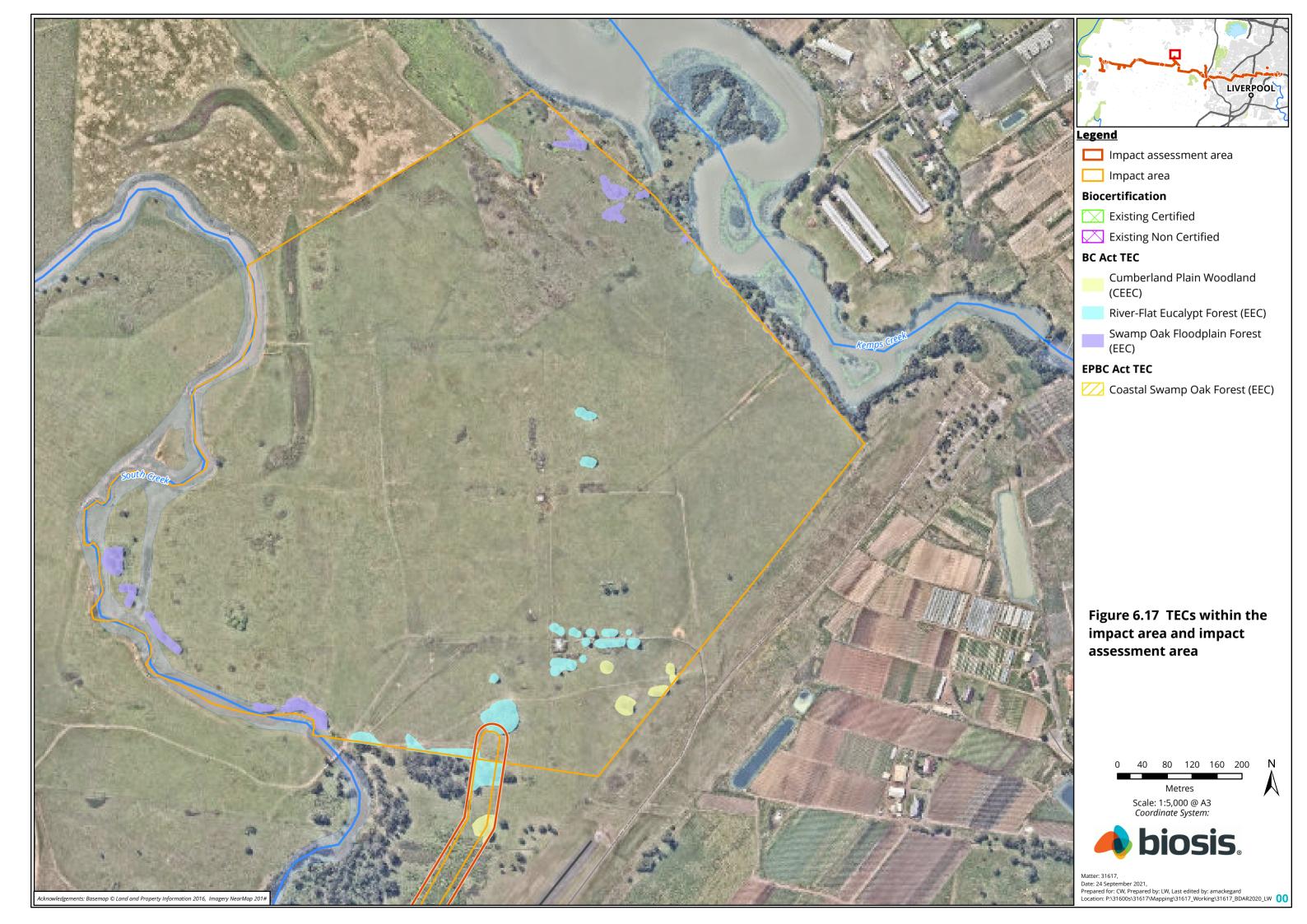






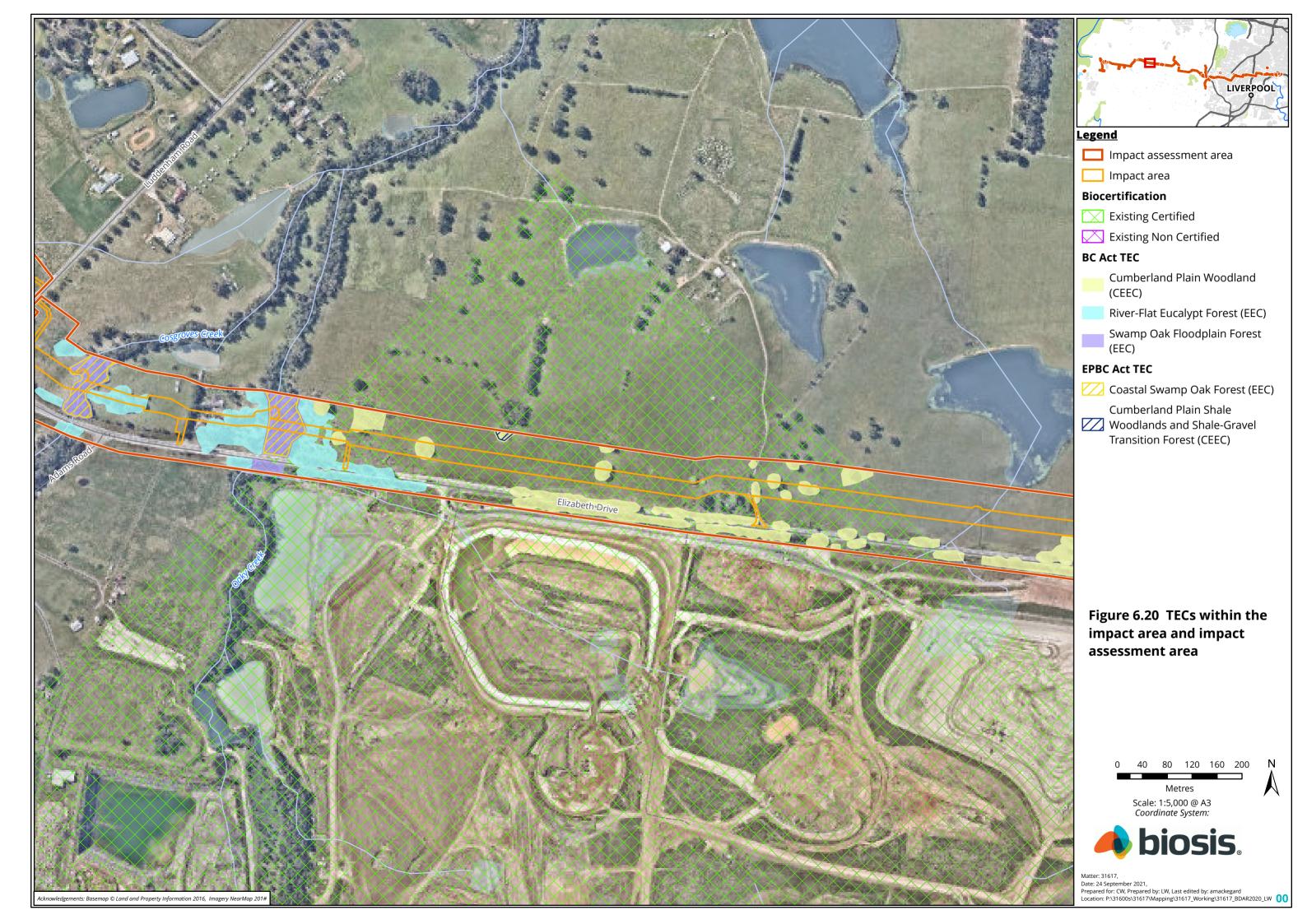


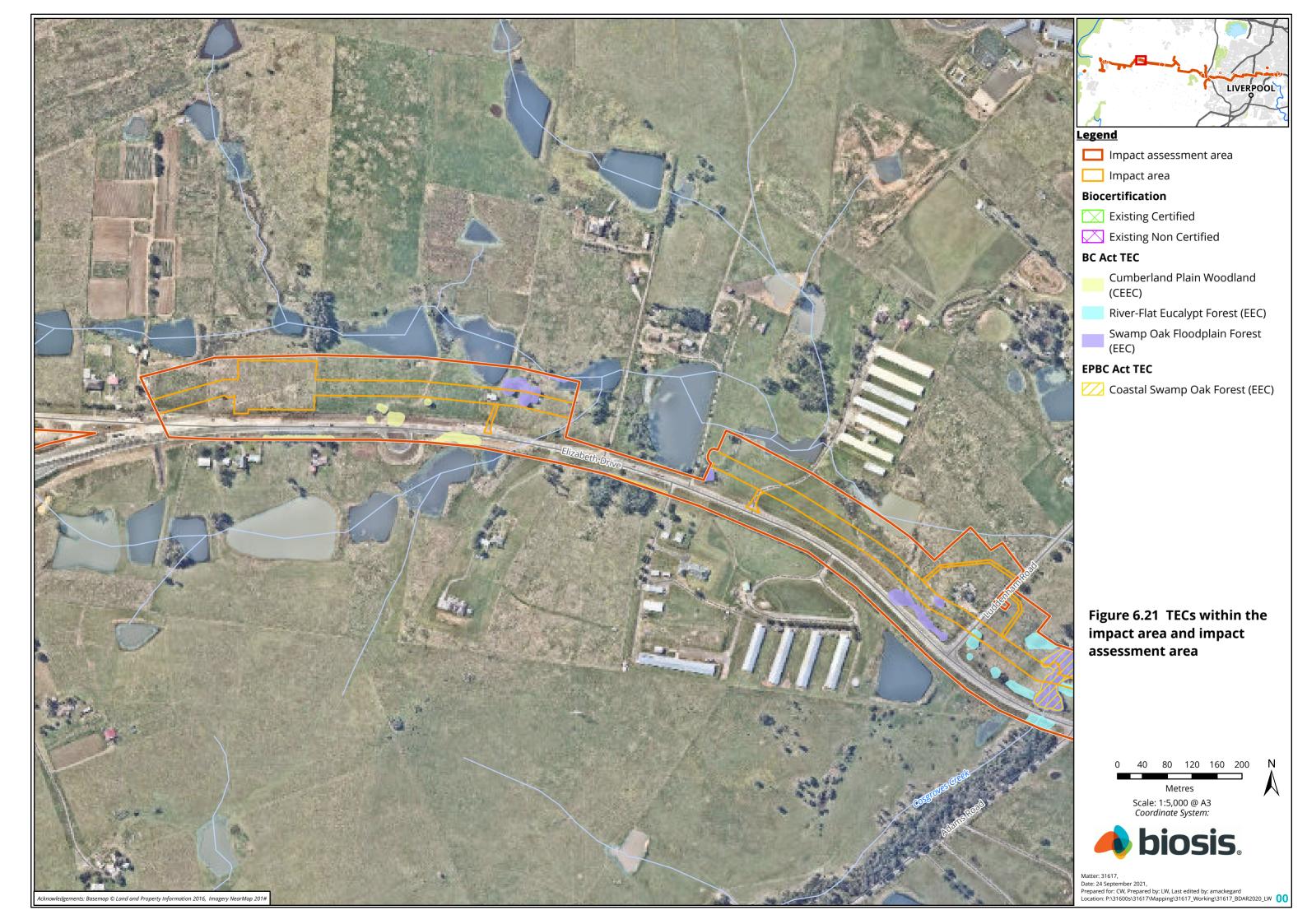




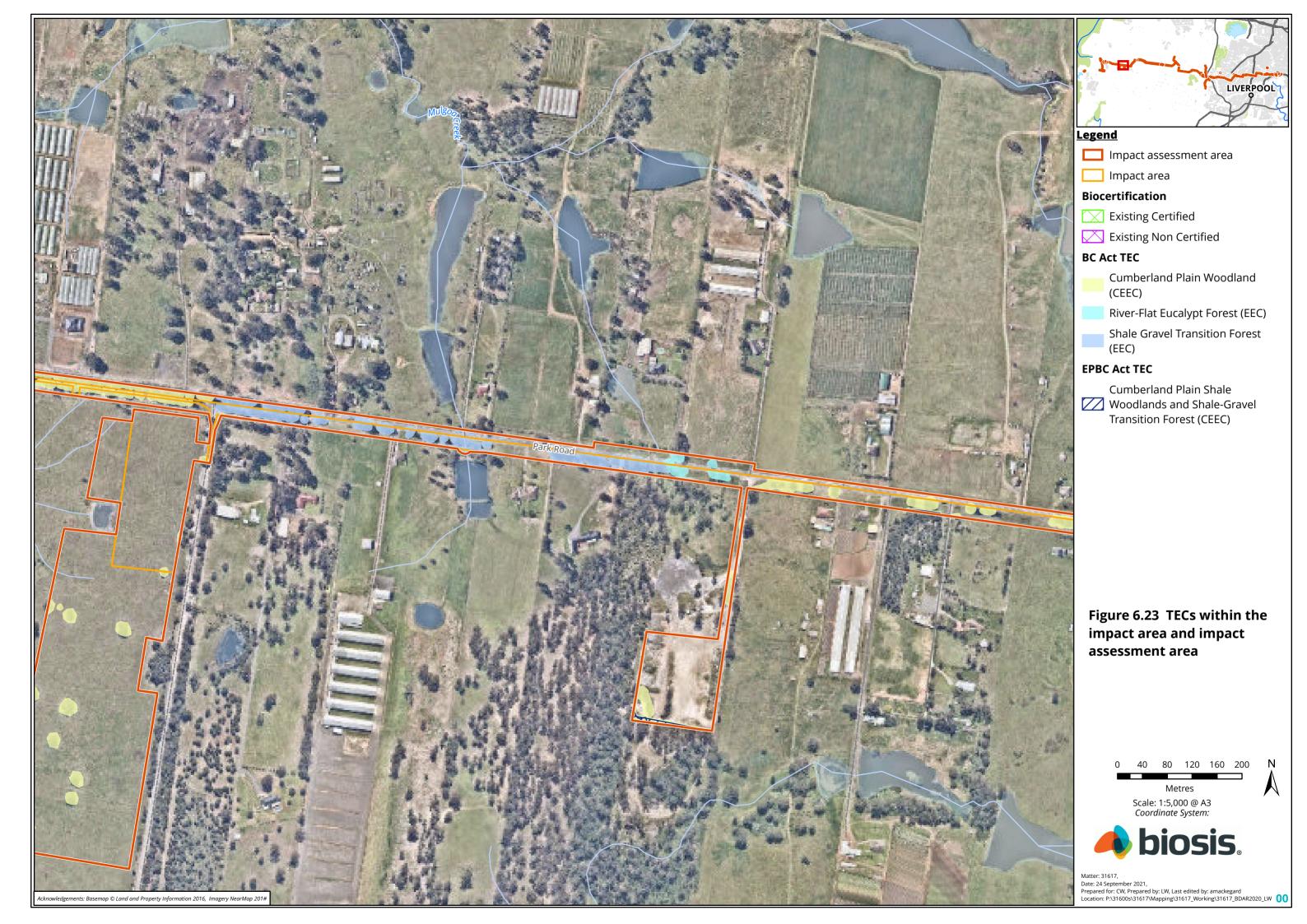


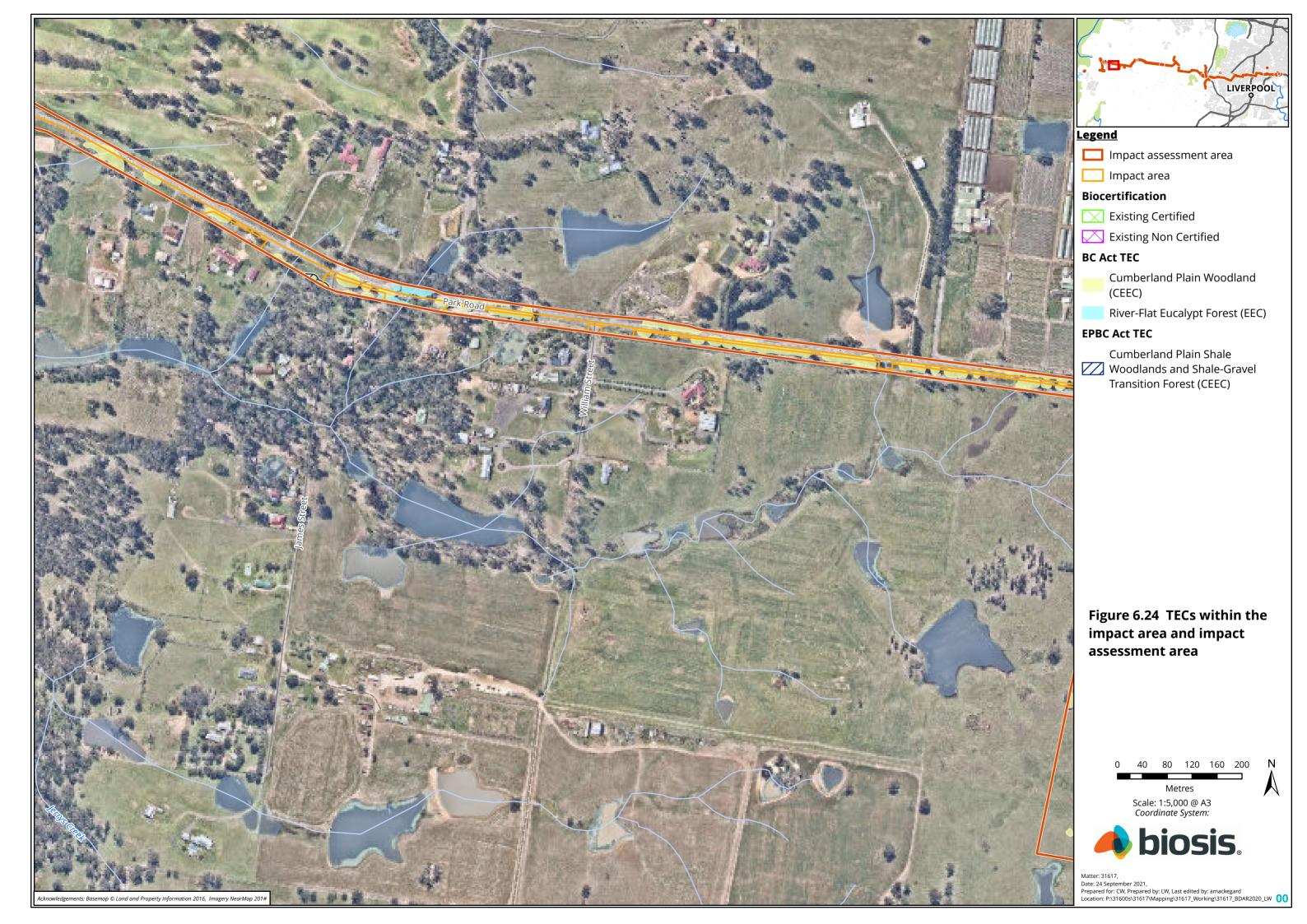




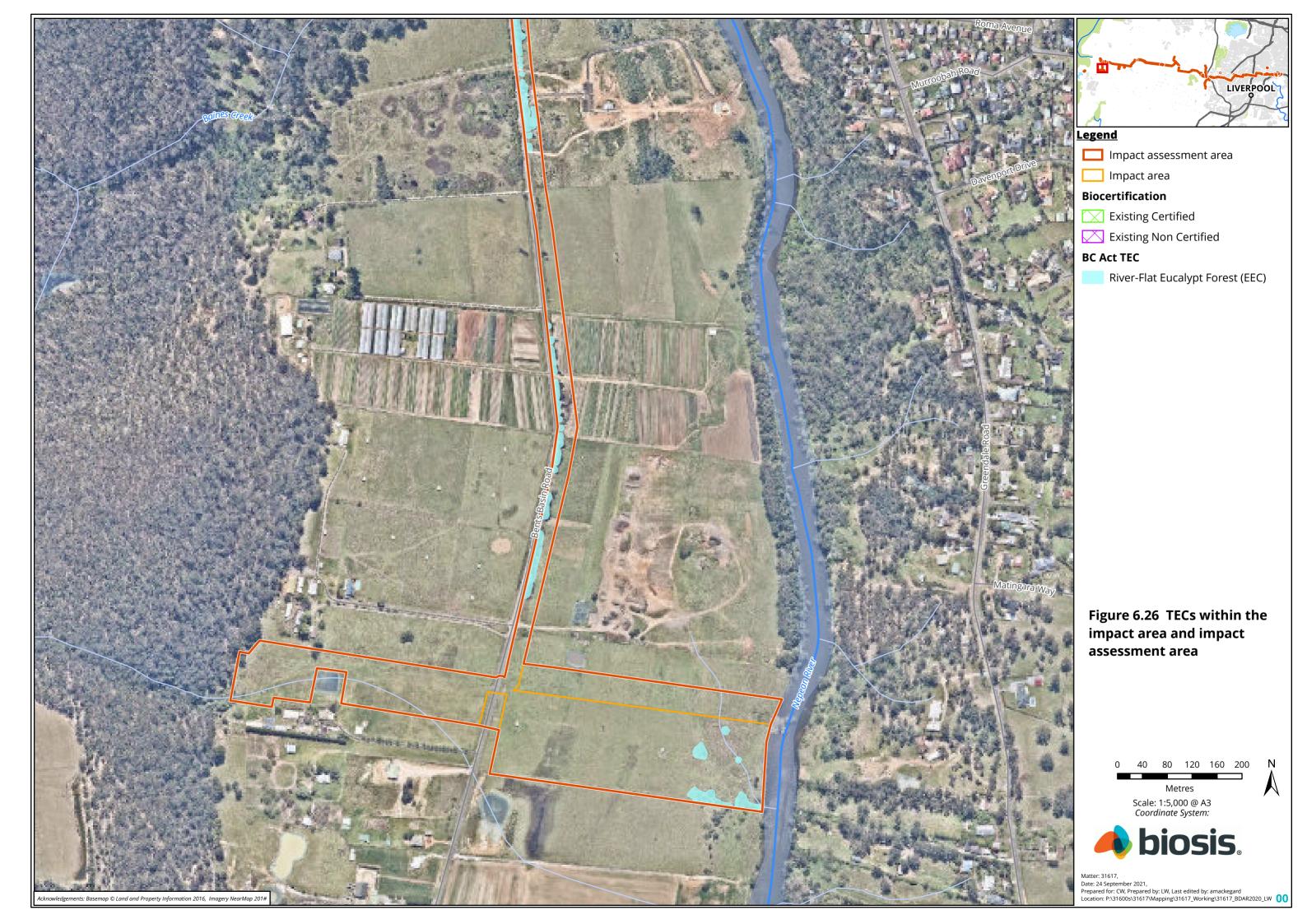


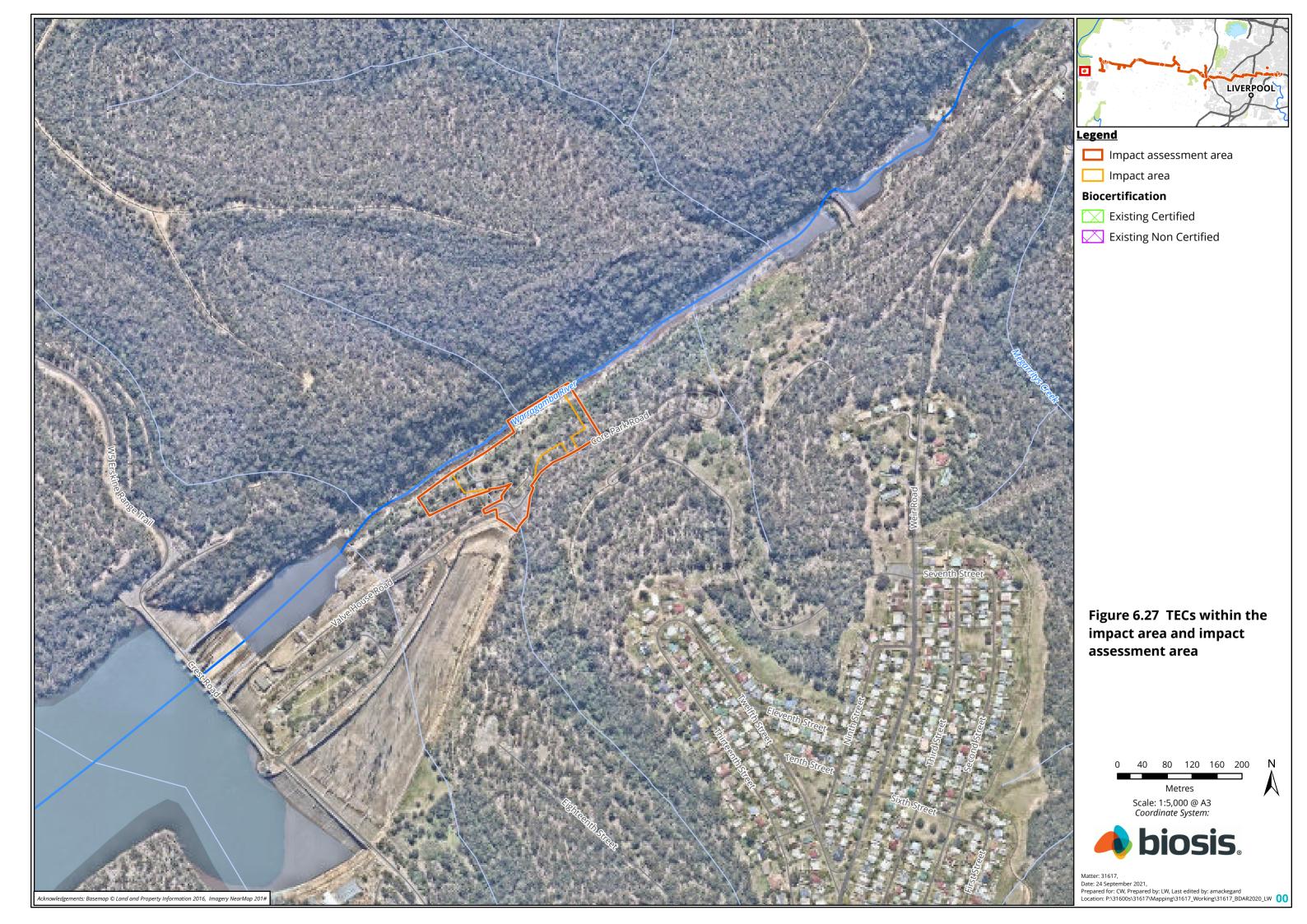














7.2 Vegetation integrity assessment

7.2.1 Vegetation zones and patch size

PCTs within the impact area and impact assessment area were assessed and stratified, based on broad condition state, into vegetation zones. This resulted in 16 vegetation zones identified within the impact area and/or the impact assessment area, where they occur outside areas of Existing Certified land only. Table 21 describes each of the vegetation zones that occur within both the impact area and impact assessment area, and Table 22 describes each vegetation zone that occurs within the impact assessment area only. The tables include the maximum patch size calculated for each vegetation zone. Patch size locations are shown on Figure 8.

As there will be no direct impacts to vegetation zones that occur only within the impact assessment area, these vegetation zones are only assessed for indirect impacts in subsequent sections of this report.

PCTs that occur within the impact area, but entirely on Existing Certified land, are not required to be assessed and therefore have not been assigned a vegetation zone.

Table 21 Vegetation zones within the impact area

Vegetation zone	Plant Community Type	Condition	Impact area (ha)	Impact assessment area (ha)	Max. patch size (impact area)
724_Intact	724: Broad-leaved Ironbark - Grey Box - Melaleuca decora grassy open forest on clay/gravel soils of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion.	Intact	0.40 ha	0.29 ha	>100 ha
724_Thinned	724: Broad-leaved Ironbark - Grey Box - Melaleuca decora grassy open forest on clay/gravel soils of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion.	Thinned	1.14 ha	0.63 ha	>100 ha
724_Scattered trees	724: Broad-leaved Ironbark - Grey Box - Melaleuca decora grassy open forest on clay/gravel soils of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion.	Scattered trees	0.04 ha	0.11 ha	>100 ha
725_Scattered trees	725: Broad-leaved Ironbark - Melaleuca decora shrubby open forest on clay soils of the Cumberland Plain	Scattered trees	0.01 ha	0.00 ha	>100 ha
781_Thinned	781: Coastal freshwater lagoons of the Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion.	Thinned	0.02 ha	0.08 ha	>100 ha
835_Intact	835: Forest Red Gum - Rough-barked Apple grassy woodland on alluvial flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion.	Intact	0.58 ha	1.05 ha	>100 ha



Vegetation zone	Plant Community Type	Condition	Impact area (ha)	Impact assessment	Max. patch size (impact
			(-ια)	area (ha)	area)
835_Thinned	835: Forest Red Gum - Rough-barked Apple grassy woodland on alluvial flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion.	Thinned	3.23 ha	5.22 ha	>100 ha
835_Scattered trees	835: Forest Red Gum - Rough-barked Apple grassy woodland on alluvial flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion.	Scattered trees	0.75 ha	0.95 ha	>100 ha
849_Intact	849: Grey Box - Forest Red Gum grassy woodland on flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion.	Intact	0.93 ha	0.95 ha	>100 ha
849_Thinned	849: Grey Box - Forest Red Gum grassy woodland on flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion.	Thinned	2.68 ha	9.04 ha	>100 ha
849_Scattered trees	849: Grey Box - Forest Red Gum grassy woodland on flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion.	Scattered trees	1.22 ha	2.30 ha	>100 ha
1083_Thinned	1083: Red Bloodwood - scribbly gum heathy woodland on sandstone plateaux of the Sydney Basin Bioregion.	Thinned	1.38 ha	0.43 ha	>100 ha
1105_Thinned	1105: River Oak open forest of major streams, Sydney Basin Bioregion and South East Corner Bioregion.	Thinned	0.40 ha	0.46 ha	>100 ha
1181_Intact	1181: Smooth-barked Apple - Red Bloodwood - Sydney Peppermint heathy open forest on slopes of dry sandstone gullies of western and southern Sydney, Sydney Basin Bioregion.	Intact	0.07 ha	0.00 ha	>100 ha
1800_Thinned	1800: Swamp Oak open forest on riverflats of the Cumberland Plain and Hunter valley.	Thinned	0.70 ha	1.16 ha	>100 ha
1800_Scattered trees	1800: Swamp Oak open forest on riverflats of the Cumberland Plain and Hunter valley.	Scattered trees	0.22 ha	0.03 ha	>100 ha



Table 22 Vegetation zones within the impact assessment area only

Vegetation zone	Plant Community Type	Condition	Impact area (ha)	Impact assessment area (ha)	Max. patch size (impact area)
VZ1	725: Broad-leaved Ironbark - Melaleuca decora shrubby open forest on clay soils of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion.	Intact	0.00 ha	0.52 ha	>100 ha

The following PCTs and condition states were found to occur entirely on Existing Certified land and are therefore not considered further in this assessment:

- PCT 725 Thinned
- PCT 735 Scattered trees
- PCT 883 Intact
- PCT 883 Thinned
- PCT 883 Scattered trees.

7.2.2 Vegetation integrity

Vegetation integrity was assessed using data obtained from undertaking BAM plots, as per the methodology outlined in Section 4.3.4 of the BAM (DPIE 2020a). Plot data was collected via:

- A 20 metre x 50 metre quadrat and 50 metre transect for assessment of site attributes and function.
- A 20 metre x 20 metre quadrat, nested within the larger quadrat for full floristic survey to determine composition and structure of the PCT.

The minimum number of BAM plots per vegetation zone was determined using Table 3 of the BAM (DPIE 2020a). A total of 21 BAM plots have been completed within the vegetation zones present impact area and impact assessment area, with details are provided in Table 23, and shown on Figure 7. A number of these 21 BAM pots included in the assessment are no longer located within the final impact area as a result of design refinements over the course of the project. These plots have been retained for use in the assessment they are still considered to be representative of the vegetation present within the impact area. Furthermore, an additional 9 BAM plots were completed over the course of the field investigation, that are no longer considered relevant to the BAM assessment due to their occurrence either well outside the impact area and/or impact assessment area (following design refinements), or due to their occurrence within the PCT and condition states listed above as entirely on Existing Certified land.

Table 23 BAM plots completed within the impact area and/or impact assessment area

BAM plot reference	Vegetation zone	BAM plot reference	Vegetation zone
USCWF_01	1083_Thinned	USCWF_22	849_Scattered trees
USCWF_03	849_Scattered trees	USCWF_23	724_Thinned
USCWF_04	835_Thinned	USCWF_27	724_Thinned
USCWF_05	835_Intact	USCWF_29	781_Thinned



BAM plot reference	Vegetation zone	BAM plot reference	Vegetation zone
USCWF_11	1105_Thinned	USCWF_31	835_Thinned
USCWF_13	849_Intact	USCWF_32	849_Thinned
USCWF_14	849_Thinned	USCWF_36	1181_Thinned
USCWF_17	724_Intact	USCWF_38	1800_Scattered trees
USCWF_18	835_Thinned	USCWF_42	724_Scattered trees
USCWF_19	1800_Thinned	USCWF_43	725_Scattered trees
USCWF_20	835_Scattered trees	-	-

An assessment of vegetation integrity was undertaken using standard benchmark data as outlined in Subsection 4.3.3 of the BAM. A list of flora species was compiled for each BAM plot and is included in Appendix 2. Records of all flora species will be submitted to EES for incorporation into the Atlas of NSW Wildlife.

7.2.3 Vegetation integrity score

Plot data were entered into the BAM calculator to determine vegetation integrity score. Plot data are presented in Appendix 2. Vegetation integrity scores for the vegetation zones are provided in Table 24.

Table 24 Vegetation zone integrity scores

Vegetation zone	Composition score	Structure score	Function score	Vegetation integrity (VI) score*	IBRA subregion
724_Intact	79.3	71.9	59.7	68.2	Cumberland
724_Thinned	37.9	62.2	36.2	44.0	Cumberland
724_Scattered trees	55.0	18.5	37.8	33.7	Cumberland
725_Scattered trees	20.3	34.1	8.9	18.3	Cumberland
781_Thinned	14.3	2.8	-	6.3	Cumberland
835_Intact	86.8	41.7	85.0	67.5	Cumberland
835_Thinned	74.5	68.5	82.8	75.0	Cumberland
835_Scattered trees	57.3	79.7	38.5	56.0	Cumberland
849_Intact	70.4	68.7	45.8	60.5	Cumberland
849_Thinned	38.8	48.1	29.1	37.9	Cumberland
849_Scattered trees	32.5	11.0	42.9	24.9	Cumberland
1083_Thinned	42.1	26.8	45.4	37.1	Wollemi
1105_Thinned	21.3	13.0	43.9	23.0	Cumberland / Wollemi
1181_Intact	62.8	17.6	34.3	33.6	Cumberland / Wollemi



Vegetation zone	Composition score	Structure score	Function score	Vegetation integrity (VI) score*	IBRA subregion
1800_Thinned	56.5	32.9	25.3	36.1	Cumberland
1800_Scattered trees	9.8	76.4	14.9	22.3	Cumberland

^{*}Benchmark (pristine) condition vegetation would receive a VI score of 100.

It should be noted that the two vegetation zones that occur in both the Cumberland IBRA subregion and Wollemi IBRA subregion (1105_Thinned and 1181_Intact), have been entered into the two separate BAM Calculators with identical data. This means that the resultant VI scores will also be identical as the PCT benchmarks are the same for both subregions.

As outlined in Section 9.2.1 of the BAM, an offset is required for impacts on native vegetation where the vegetation integrity score is:

- ≥15 where the PCT is representative of an endangered or critically endangered ecological community.
- ≥17 where the PCT is associated with threatened species habitat (as represented by ecosystem credits), or is representative of a vulnerable ecological community.
- ≥20 where the PCT is not representative of a TEC or associated with threatened species habitat.

As such, ecosystem credit offsets are not required for vegetation zone 781_Thinned due to its VI score of 6.3.