

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Alkane Resources Ltd (“the Proponent”) proposes to construct and operate the Tomingley Gold Project (“the Project”) located approximately 53km to the southwest of Dubbo and approximately 14km to the north of Peak Hill (**Figure 1**). The Project would comprise three open cut mines, a processing plant, three waste rock emplacements and a residue storage facility, as well as ancillary activities and associated infrastructure.

The Project is classified as a “Major Project” in accordance with Paragraph 5 of Schedule 1 of *State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005* (“Major Projects SEPP”).

The Project relates to three areas as follows:

1. The Mine Site which would incorporate all areas mining-related activities.
2. The Power Transmission Line Route which would incorporate all areas of the proposed electrical easement for from Peak Hill to the Mine Site.
3. The Water Pipeline Route which would incorporate all areas of proposed disturbance for the proposed water pipeline from two proposed bores located to the east of Narromine to the Mine Site.

The Project would include the following components.

- Extraction of waste rock and ore material from three open cut areas, namely:
 - the Caloma Open Cut;
 - the Wyoming Three Open Cut; and
 - the Wyoming One Open Cut.
- Construction of three waste rock emplacements.
- Construction and use of various haul roads, including an underpass under the Newell Highway capable of allowing haul trucks to pass under the highway, and a run-of-mine pad.
- Construction and use of a processing plant and office area, incorporating a crushing and grinding circuit, a standard carbon-in-leach processing plant, site offices, workshops, ablutions facilities, stores, car parking, and associated infrastructure.
- Construction and use of a residue storage facility.
- Construction and rehabilitation of amenity bunds adjacent to the Newell Highway and to the north of the proposed areas of disturbance.
- Construction and use of an approximately 45.7km water pipeline from a licensed bore located approximately 7km to the east of Narromine, to the Mine Site.



- Construction and use of an approximately 19.2km of 66kV power transmission line from Peak Hill to the Mine Site, including construction and use of a transformer and electrical distribution network within the Mine Site (**Figure 3**).
- Relocation of existing items of infrastructure, including a 22kV distribution line which currently passes over the area of the Caloma Open Cut.
- Re-routing (node to node) of a 4.2km section of a Nextgen Network fibre optic cable and a Telstra copper telecommunication line adjacent to the Newell Highway.
- Construction and use of ancillary infrastructure, including the Main Site Access Road and intersection with the Tomingley West Road, soil stockpiles and surface water management structures.
- Construction and rehabilitation of a final landform that would be geotechnically stable and suitable for a final land use of nature conservation, agriculture, tourism or light industry.

It is noted that extraction of the identified resources beneath the base of the proposed open cuts by underground mining methods does not form part of this application. However, a subsequent application for approval to extract these resources may be prepared once sufficient information is available to adequately identify the proposed activities.

The Proponent anticipates that the following approvals and licences will be required for the Project.

Based upon the preliminary Project design presented in Section 5 and the preliminary understanding of environmental issues, the Project would require the following approvals, licences and leases to proceed.

1. Project approval under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
2. An Environment Protection Licence issued by the Department of Environment and Climate Change.
3. A Mining Lease issued by the Department of Primary Industries.
4. A licence issued under Part 5 of the *Water Act 1912* by the Department of Water and Energy (DWE) to account for the in-flow of groundwater into each of the proposed open cuts.
5. Section 138 Permits, issued by the Narromine Shire Council and the RTA under the *Roads Act 1993* for works within the road reserved of the Tomingley West Road, Newell Highway and Mitchell Highway respectively.
6. An approval from the NSW Dams Safety Committee for the proposed residue storage facility.
7. A Licence issued by Workcover Authority of New South Wales for the storage and use of explosives, cyanide and other reagents within the Mine Site.



8. A high voltage Connection Agreement for the proposed 66kV power transmission line and an approval to relocate a 22kV distribution line from County Energy.

A range of specialist consultants have been engaged to undertake detailed assessment of the anticipated environmental impacts of the Project and recommend measure to minimise and manage those impacts.



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 SCOPE

Alkane Resources Ltd (“the Proponent”) proposes to construct and operate the Tomingley Gold Project (“the Project”) located approximately 53km to the southwest of Dubbo and approximately 14km to the north of Peak Hill (**Figure 1**). The Project would comprise three open cut mines, a processing plant, three waste rock emplacements and a residue storage facility, as well as ancillary activities and associated infrastructure.

The Project is classified as a “Major Project” in accordance with Paragraph 5 of Schedule 1 of *State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005* (“Major Projects SEPP”). This *Preliminary Environmental Assessment* has been prepared by R.W. Corkery & Co. Pty. Limited in support of the Proponent’s application for project approval for the Project.

This document introduces the Project and provides information on the key environmental issues to be addressed in the design and assessment of the Project. The information provided will ultimately be incorporated into a comprehensive *Environmental Assessment*, to be prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 75H of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

This document has been prepared for circulation to the Department of Planning, other relevant State government agencies, Narromine Shire Council and the local community.

1.2 THE PROPONENT

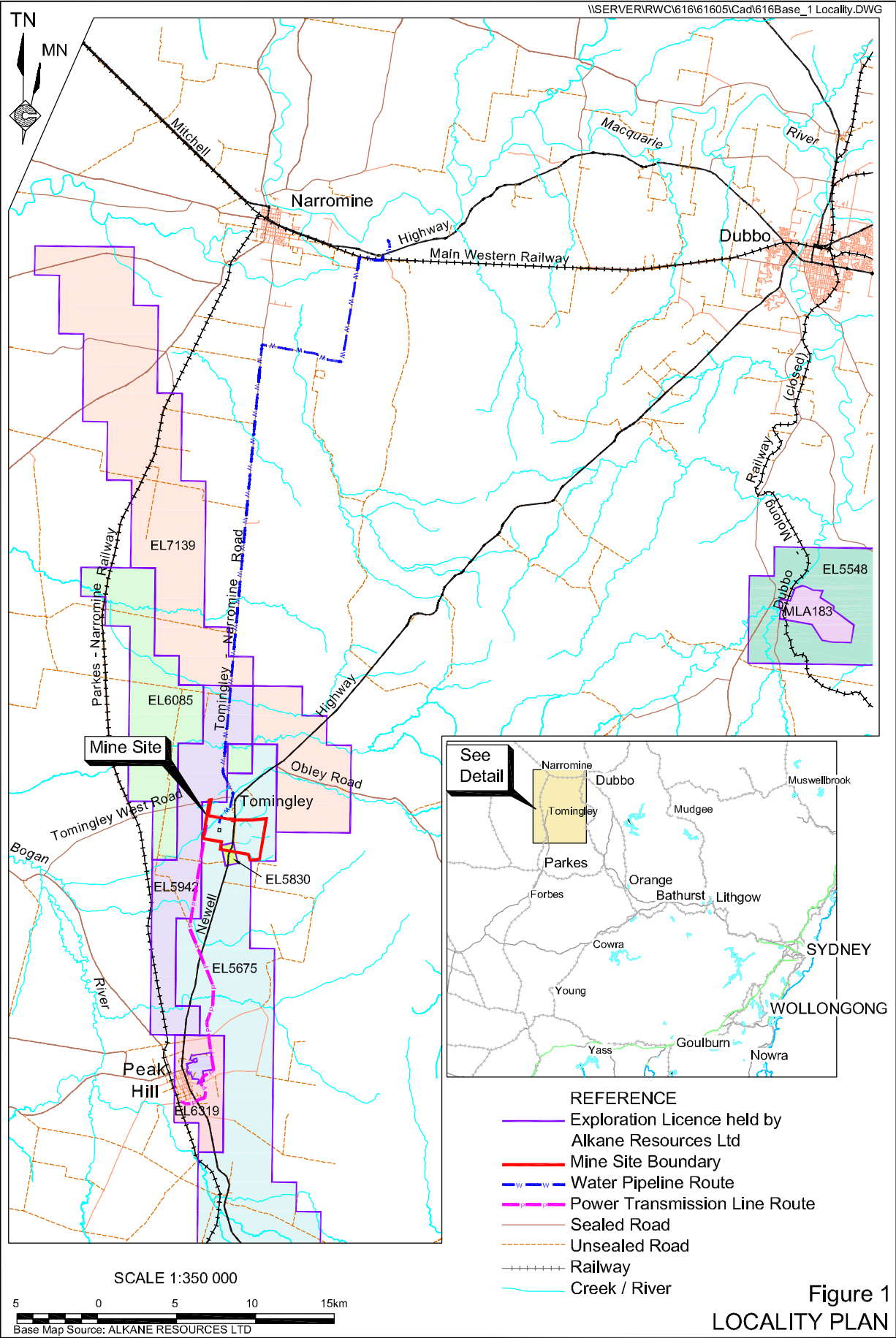
Alkane Resources Ltd is an Australian publicly listed mining and exploration company which has been in existence since 1969 and has approximately 2 800 shareholders. Abbotsleigh Pty Ltd (Gandel Metals) has a 29.1% stake in the Company. The Company has a long term involvement and ongoing commitment to the Central West of New South Wales and has substantial investment in people and resources in the region. Alkane Resources Ltd developed and operated the Peak Hill Gold Mine from 1996 to 2005 and has now largely rehabilitated that mine site.

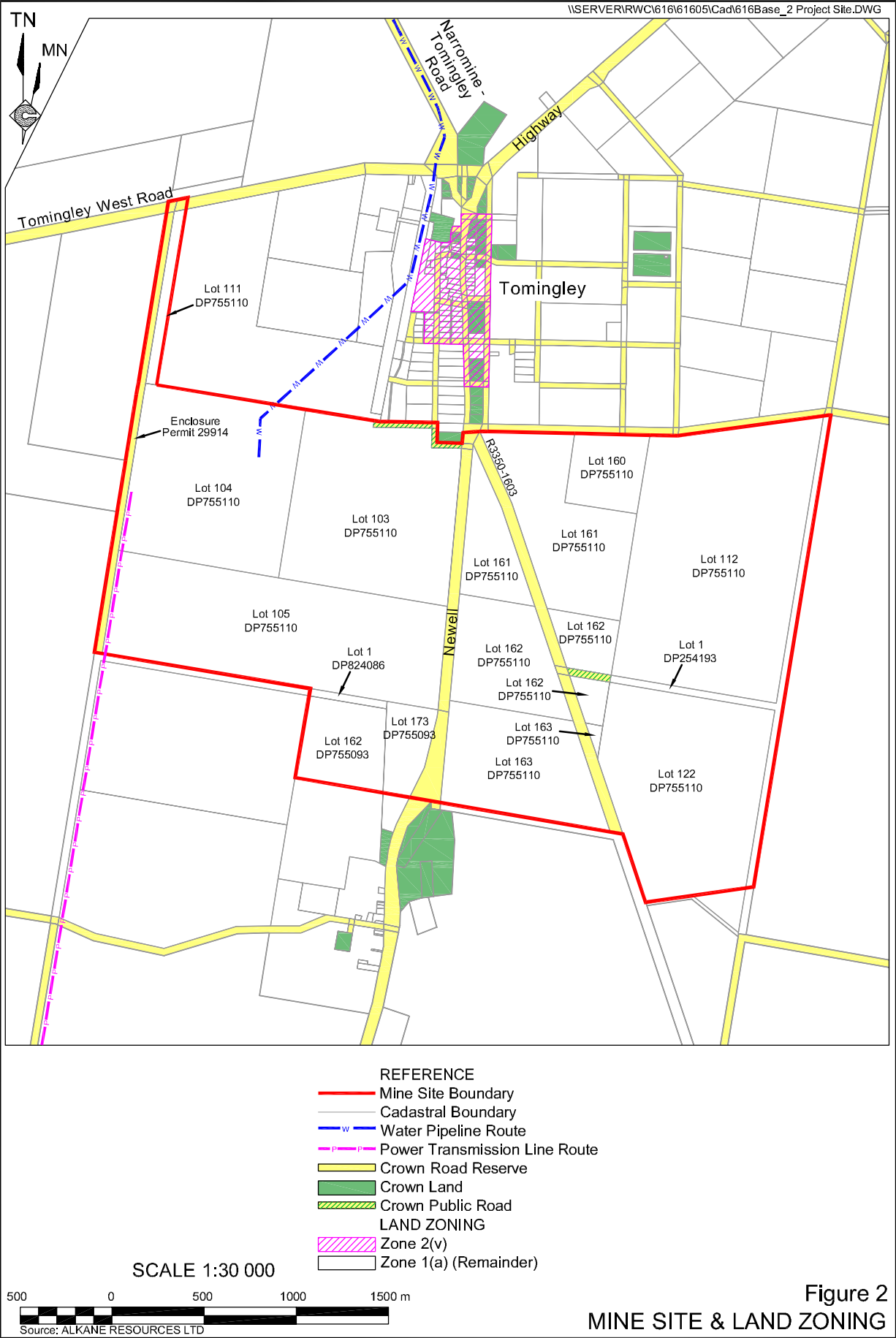
1.3 PROJECT SITE

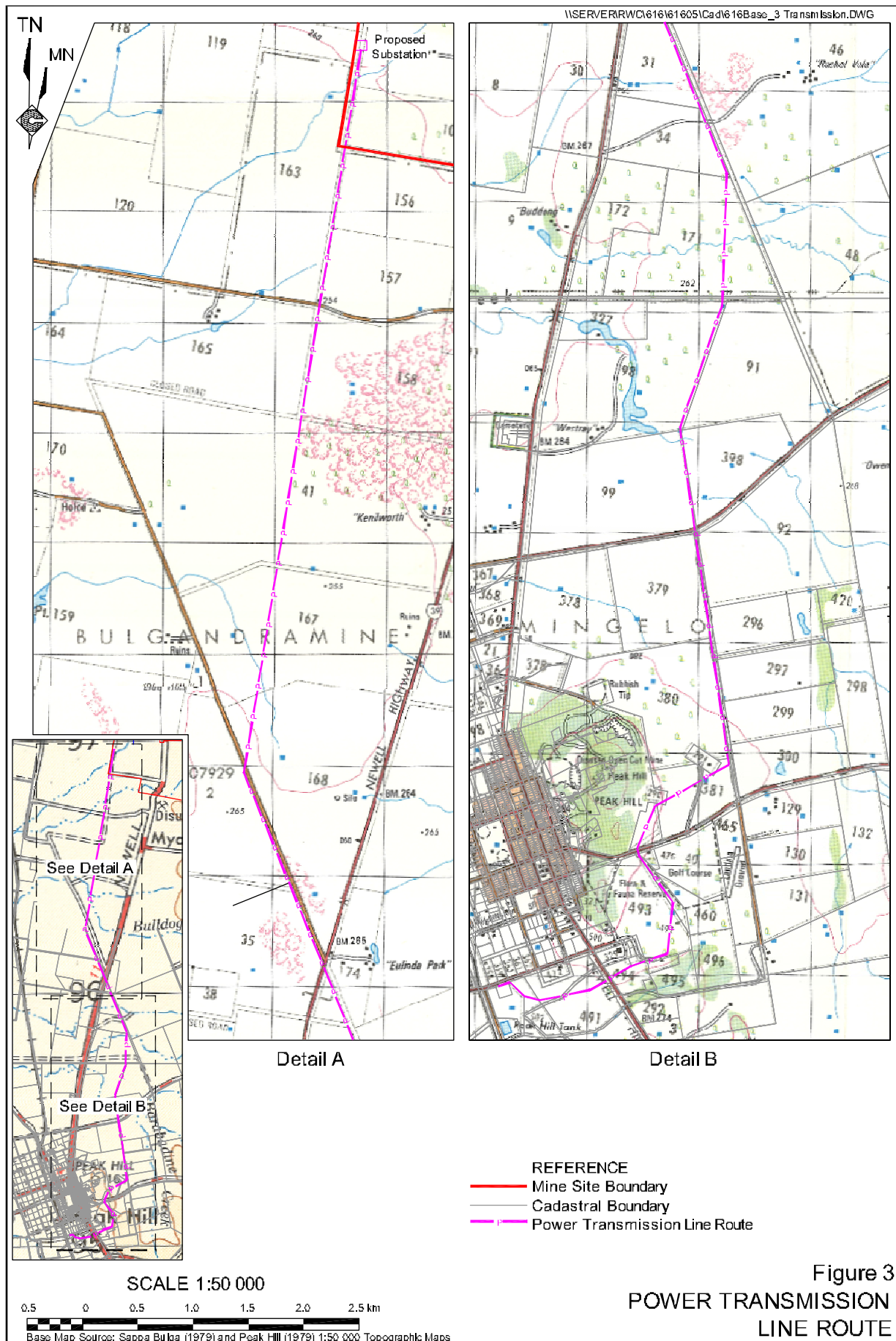
The Project Site comprises three areas.

1. Mine Site - comprising an area of 750ha that would incorporate all areas of proposed Project-related disturbance associated with the open cut mining operations and related activities (**Figure 2**)
2. Power Transmission Line Route - comprising an area approximately 19.2km long and 30m wide that would incorporate all areas of the proposed electrical easement for the proposed power transmission line from Peak Hill to the Mine Site (**Figure 3**).
3. Water Pipeline Route - comprising an area 5m wide and approximately 45.7km long within road reserves associated with:
 - the Mitchell Highway;









- Webbs Siding Road;
- Sunnyside Lane;
- Bootles Road;
- Pinedene Road;
- Narromine-Tomingley Road; and
- Tomingley West Road.

In addition, the following pipeline easements and licences would be required.

- An easement on the private property "Woodlands" which would run from the proposed bores to the Mitchell Highway road reserve.
- A licence agreement with Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd (ARTC) to cross the Main Western Railway.

The Water Pipeline Route would incorporate all areas of the proposed water pipeline easement for the proposed pipeline, together with all areas of road reserves in which the pipeline would be placed (**Figure 4**).

Table 1 identifies the land parcels within each of the identified areas.

The Proponent has negotiated options to purchase the majority of land within the Mine Site and would have suitable arrangements in place for the remaining sections of the Mine Site prior to making the *Environmental Assessment* publicly available.

1.4 MANAGEMENT OF INVESTIGATIONS

The preparation of this document has involved a study team managed by Mr Mitchell Bland (B.Sc (Hons), MEcon Geol), Principal Environmental Consultant with R.W. Corkery & Co Pty. Limited, assisted by Ms Tabitha Kuypers (BEnvMan)), Environmental Consultant with the same Company. Mr Bland, assisted by Ms Kuypers, will also manage the preparation of the *Environmental Assessment* for the Project. Peer review of the *Environmental Assessment* will be undertaken by Mr Rob Corkery (B.Sc.(Hons), M.Appl.(Sc)), Principal with the same Company.

Several professional staff within Alkane Resources Ltd assisted with the preparation of this document including, but not limited to:

- Mr Ian Chalmers (MSc) - Managing Director;
- Terry Ransted (BAppSc) - Chief Geologist; and
- Mr Mike Sutherland (BSc) - General Manager NSW.



Table 1
Project Site

Lot	DP	Lot	DP	Lot	DP
Mine Site					
1	254193*	105	755110	161	755110
162	755093*	111	755110*	162	755110
173	755093*	112	755110	163	755110
103	755110	122	755110	1	824086*
104	755110	160	755110		
Road Reserve associated with Newell Highway Public Road R3350, Crown roads (unnamed)					
Power Transmission Line Route					
1	722171	492	755113	157	755093
98	755113	502	755113	158	755093
99	755113	3	1005447	167	755093
379	755113	1	435250	168	755093
380	755113	2	507929	171	755093
381	755113	31	755093	104	755110
460	755113	34	755093	105	755110
470	755113	35	755093	1	824086
491	755113	41	755093		
493	755113	156	755093		
Road Reserves associated with the Newell Highway, Whitton Park Road, Golf Club Road, O'Leary's Lane, Back Tomingley West Road and McNivens Lane					
Water Pipeline Route					
18	43458	70	755110	104	755110
185	43458	74	755110	111	755110
A	380855	81	755110		
Road Reserves associated with the Mitchell Highway, Webb's Siding Road, Sunnyside Lane, Bootles Road, Pinedene Road, Narromine-Tomingley Road and Tomingley West Road and the easement for the Main Western Railway,					

Fiona Morgan (BE (Hons)) Lead Mechanical Engineer with Mintrex (the consulting division of Holtfreters Pty Ltd) has been the Project Manager for the *Tomingley Gold Project Feasibility Study*.

Strong emphasis has been, and would continue to be, placed upon a multi-disciplinary team approach to the design of the Project, the description of the existing environment, identification of key issues, development of appropriate safeguards and assessment of impacts. The following specialist consultancies have been commissioned to undertake an initial assessment of the existing environment and identify potential constraints posed by the Project. A summary of the results of those initial assessments are presented in Section 6 of this document.

- Ecology and heritage – OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management Pty Ltd.
 - Dr Jodie Benton (PhD, BA (Hons)) and Mr Phil Cameron (BSc, AssDipp.AppSci.).
- Noise and blasting – Heggies Pty Ltd.
 - Mr Dick Godson (MSc(Eng), MIEAust, CEng.).

