

20 December 2013

Stephen O'Donoghue
 Senior Planner
 NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure
 via email

Re: Cobbora Coal Project (MP 10_0001)- offset package amendment

Dear Steve,

This letter is to inform the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I) of a proposed amendment to the Cobbora Coal Project offset package described in the *Biodiversity Offset Package, Cobbora Coal Project* (12 August 2013).

The amendment removes Lot 1-802679 from the offset package and adds Lot 9-721223 (see Figure 1).

Lot 1-802679 contains the Cobbora Coal Project site office and associated work areas. The site office was proposed to be moved further north prior to project construction. However, after the NSW government announced in July 2013 that the project will be sold or leased, it was decided that the operational area should remain in its current location. As such, this property is no longer suitable as an offset site.

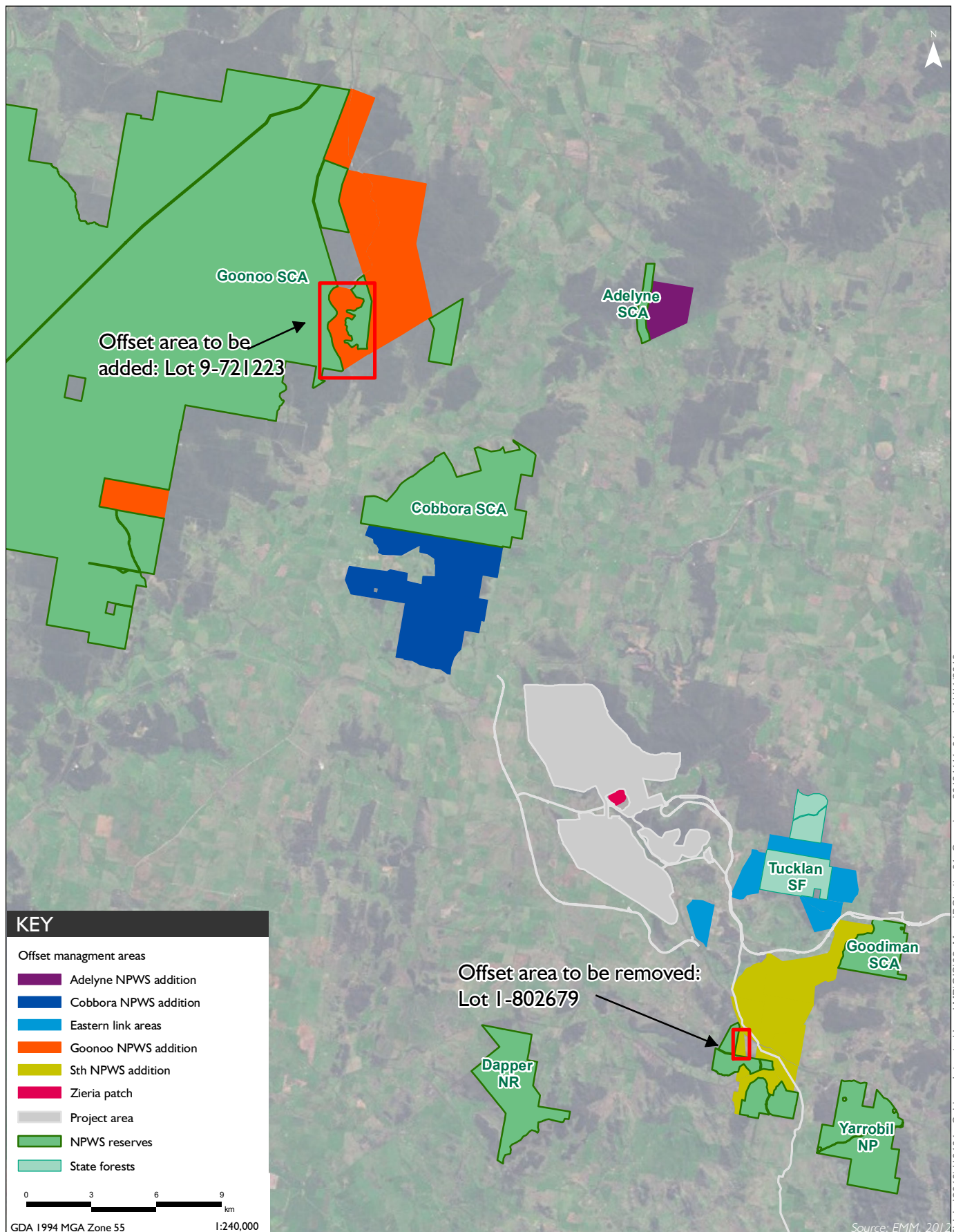
Lot 9-721223 was the subject of an earlier draft of the proposed Biodiversity Offset Package discussed with the Department, OEH and SEWPaC. However, it was not included in the final offset package as the negotiations to purchase the property had not been finalised.

Lot 9-721223 has now been purchased by Cobbora Holding Company Pty Limited. The transfer of the title to CHC is currently awaiting registration by the Land and Property Information NSW. The site is to the north of the Project Application Area and is within the area proposed for addition to the Goonoo State Conservation Area.

The proposed offset amendment increases the area of vegetated land in the offset package by 279 ha. Approximately 71 ha of Lot 9-721223 contains threatened ecological communities (TECs) and a sub-population of *Tylophora linearis* has also been identified. A comparison of the ecological values of the two properties is included in Table 1.

Table 1 **Comparison of ecological values of the removed and added offset sites**

Ecological value	Lot 1-802679 (to be removed)	Lot 9-721223 (to be added)
Native vegetation	27 ha	306 ha
TECs	None identified	Box Gum Woodland: 63 ha Fuzzy Box Woodland: 8 ha
Threatened flora	None identified	<i>Tylophora linearis</i> sub-population (9 individuals identified)
Linkages to conservation areas	Adjacent to Yarrobil NP	Surrounded by Goonoo SCA
Cleared land	14 ha	None



The new offset property list has been included in Table 2 along with the amended areas for native vegetation.

Table 2 **Amended offset areas**

Property/offset area	Area (ha)	Native vegetation in offset (ha)
Southern NPWS additions Lot 2 and 3-839623, Lot 3-1112933, Lot 2-1112933, Lot 3-802679, Lot 88-750780, Lot 1-1072945, Lots 78 and 79-750751, Lots 46, 48 and 49-754329, Lot 2-1072945, Lot 45-754329, part Lot 115-721236, and part Lots 16, 17, 25, 26-754329.	1,974.0	Woodland 1,267 ha Box Gum Woodland DNG 82 ha Native pasture 293 ha
Eastern link areas Lots 20, 21 and 23-754329, Lot 9-130575, Part Lot 31-754329, Lot 102-754334, Part Lot 30-754329, part Lot 2 and part 3-586911, and part Lot 141-721256.	931.0	Woodland 799 ha Native pasture 78 ha
Zieria patch Part Lot 36-754289 and part Lot 44-754289.	43.2	Woodland 2,102 ha Box Gum Woodland DNG 28 ha Native pasture 219 ha
Cobbora SCA additions Lot 45-720311, Lot 42-257240 and Lot 18-754312.	2,446.5	Woodland 2,102 ha Box Gum Woodland DNG 28 ha Native pasture 219 ha
Adelyne additions Lot 35-754326.	413.4	Woodland 387 ha Native pasture 24 ha
Goonoo additions Lot 3-754325, Lot 39-754330, Lot 36-754330, Lot 17-754293 and Lot 9-721223	3,361.9	Woodland 3,277 ha Native pasture 79 ha
Total offset areas	9,170.0	

The proposed amendment to the Cobbora Coal Project offset package will result in a beneficial conservation outcome for the Project. Lot 9-721223 is a key asset identified by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for addition to the NPWS estate. It contains significant ecological values that add to the offset package.

We seek the Department's confirmation that this is an acceptable amendment.

Yours sincerely,



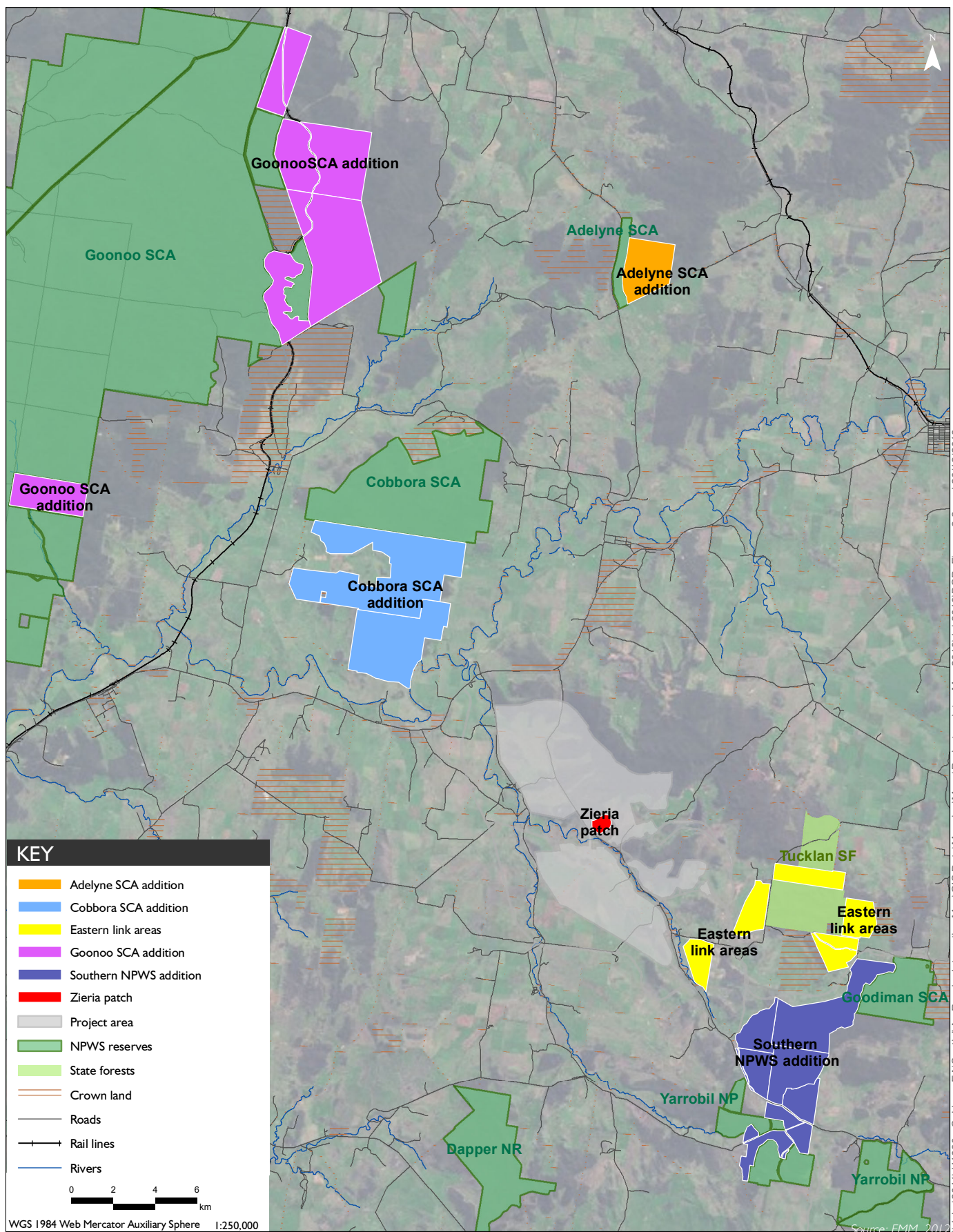
Cassandra Thompson
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cc.

Peter Christie, NSW Office for Environment and Heritage

Carl Zimmermann, Commonwealth Department of the Environment

Appendix A: Biodiversity offset strategy



T:\jobs\2011\U11030 - Cobbora EA\Spatial\ArcReader Interactive Map\GIS Data\Mapping\Maps\Project updates May 2013\U11030 - Figure_2.2.mxd 20/12/2013

Table 3 **Amended offset areas**

Property/offset area	Size (ha)
Southern NPWS additions Lot 2 and 3-839623, Lot 3-1112933, Lot 2-1112933, Lot 3-802679, Lot 88-750780, Lot 1-1072945, Lots 78 and 79-750751, Lots 46, 48 and 49-754329, Lot 2-1072945, Lot 45-754329, part Lot 115-721236, and part Lots 16, 17, 25, 26-754329.	1,974.0
Eastern link areas Lots 20, 21 and 23-754329, Lot 9-130575, Part Lot 31-754329, Lot 102-754334, Part Lot 30-754329, part Lot 2 and part 3-586911, and part Lot 141-721256.	931.0
Zieria patch Part Lot 36-754289 and part Lot 44-754289.	43.2
Cobbora SCA additions Lot 45-720311, Lot 42-257240 and Lot 18-754312.	2,446.5
Adelyne additions Lot 35-754326.	413.4
Goonoo additions Lot 3-754325, Lot 39-754330, Lot 36-754330, Lot 17-754293 and Lot 9-721223	3,361.9
Total offset areas	9,170.0