Prepared for **Goldwind Australia**

Goldwind Australia

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Acronyms and abbreviations

BBAMP	Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan
BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW)
BCS	Biodiversity Conservation and Science Division (NSW)
BGW	Box- Gum Woodland
BMP	Biodiversity Management Plan
CC	Consolidated Consent
CEEC	Critically endangered Ecological Community (Cwth)
CEMP	Construction environmental management plan
CPHR	Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation (former BCS)
Cwth	Commonwealth
CWF	Coppabella Wind Farm
CWFPL	Coppabella Wind Farm Pty Ltd
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DPE	Department of Planning and Environment (NSW)
DPHI	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
EAH	Environment Agency Head
EEC	Endangered ecological community – as defined under relevant law applying to the Project
EMS	Environmental Management System
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwth)
EP&A Act	*Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW)
EPL	Environment Protection Licence
ERP	Emergency Response Plan

ESCP	Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
EWMS	Environmental Work Method Statements
GPS	Geographical positioning system
ha	hectares
HBT	Hollow Bearing Tree
km	kilometres
kV	kilovolts
m	metres
MERI	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement
MNES	Matters of national environmental significance
MW	Megawatt
NPW Act	*National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW)
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NSW	New South Wales
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OEH	(Former) Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW) (now EES)
PCT	Plant Community Type
POEO Act	*Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
RVMLP	Roadside Vegetation Management and Landscaping Plan
SEO	Site Environmental Officer
Sp/spp	Species/multiple species
SSD	State Significant Development
SWMP	Soil and Water Management Plan
TSC	*Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*

Declaration of Accuracy

In making this declaration, I:

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

Signature

Full name (please print)

Medard Boutry

Organisation (please print)

Goldwind Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of Coppabella Wind Farm Pty Ltd

Date: 26/6/25

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Coppabella Wind Farm Pty Ltd (CWFPL) aim to develop Coppabella Wind Farm (CWF; the Project) which is located in the Southern Tablelands of New South Wales (NSW). The Project site comprises farmland north of the Hume Highway, approximately 35 kilometres (km) west of Yass. The CWF will extend approximately 12 km west to east and approximately 10 km north to south along the Coppabella Hills near the towns of Bookham and Binalong (refer Appendix A.1 and A.2 for location and construction layout).

The landscape is characterised by undulating to hilly terrain with broken ridgelines, mostly on volcanic (granite) geology.

The site consists of one main north-west to south-east oriented ridgeline and surrounding hills. Areas within the development corridor contain a combination of native grasses and exotic pasture and remnant and regrowth woodland. The ridgelines within the development corridor have been grazed for many decades and generally carry only scattered remnant trees or small isolated woodland patches. The Project site also forms part of the Jugiong Creek upper catchment, which drains to the Murrumbidgee River and the Murray River. There are no major watercourses present within the development corridor, however several small or intermittent watercourses exist, which drain northwards to the Jugiong Creek system and south to Lake Burrinjuck (refer Appendix A.1 and A.2 for location and construction layout).

The Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) was initiated in 2019 in response to Project Approval Conditions necessitating the preparation and approval of the BMP from NSW and Commonwealth regulatory agencies, prior to works commencement.

1.2. Approvals history

The CWF was originally part of the larger proposed Yass Valley Wind Farm, however only the Coppabella precinct was approved as State Significant Development (SSD-6698). The larger Yass Valley endeavour was renamed Coppabella Wind Farm, to signify the reduction from the original project scope and to reflect its geographic location. The CWF was approved for construction, operation and eventual decommissioning of up to 79 wind turbines and related civil and electrical infrastructure in March 2016 (SSD-6698).

Following this, Modification 1 for the Coppabella Wind Farm (SSD-6698-MOD-1) was submitted, seeking to increase in vegetation clearing limit and increased wind turbine height, and to make minor changes to ancillary infrastructure. The former Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) issued consolidated conditions of consent (CC) that incorporated the requirements of Modification 1, on 10 December 2018.

The Project was also referred and assessed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The Coppabella Wind Farm was approved on 12 November 2018 subject to conditions (EPBC 2017/8129) provided by Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

State Significant Development consolidated consent (SSD-6698 and MOD-1) and EPBC Act referral conditions (EPBC 2017/8129) are collectively referred to as Project Approval Conditions hereafter.

1.3. Assessment of reasonable equivalence

A statement of assessment of reasonable equivalence of biodiversity offsets was issued to CWF in January 2025. The credit obligation via reasonable equivalence request is required as a direct consequence of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) being replaced by *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act).

The TSC Act had previously provided the framework for creation of biodiversity credits (BioBanking credits) and biodiversity credit obligations (offset obligations). To ensure that credits and credit obligations created under the TSC Act could still be used or met within the newer credit market, the *Biodiversity Conservation (Savings and Transitional) Regulation 2017* preserved these credits and credit obligations.

The Savings and Transitions Regulation also provided the power for the Environment Agency Head (EAH) to determine reasonable equivalence of these credits or credit obligations, to determine reasonable equivalence for BioBanking credits or obligations to the new Biodiversity Offsets Scheme credit numbers and classes (DPHI, 2023).

In accordance with Schedule 3 Condition 20, CWF has 2 years from the commencement of construction to retire the required biodiversity offsets credits.

1.4. Environmental Management System

This BMP is part of the Project's overall Environmental Management System (EMS). Mitigation and management measures identified in this BMP will be incorporated into site and/ or activity-specific Environmental Work Method Statements (EWMS).

In the event that the BMP is required to be reviewed and updated (as per the Revision requirements set out in the overarching EMS), the updates will occur in a timely manner and will be distributed to CWFPL and necessary regulatory agencies for information. Refer to the overarching EMS for more details on documentation reviews and update requirements.

The overarching EMS, BMP and subplans (as below), Project procedures and Project EWMS, together form management guides that clearly identify the necessary environmental management actions for reference by the proponent's personnel and contractors.

Essential subplans of the Project EMS include:

- Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).
- Roadside Vegetation Management and Landscaping Plan, for works required on Whitefields and Coppabella Road (RVMLP).
- Soil and Water Management Plan (SWMP) to manage erosion and minimise the transfer of sediment.
- Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan (BBAMP), to provide base line data and monitor operational impacts on birds and bats.
- Offset Report, to address residual clearing impacts of the Project.
- Separate works packages.

Project procedures include (refer Section 7 for more detail):

- Vegetation Clearing Procedure.
- Hollow Bearing Tree Procedure.

- Fauna Rescue and Release procedure.
- Unexpected Threatened Species Finds Procedure.

1.5. Consultation

This BMP has been developed in consultation with the former Biodiversity Conservation Service (BCS, now Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation (CPHR)) and DPHI. Consultation details are outlined in Appendix B.

2. Purpose and objectives

2.1. Purpose

The BMP has been prepared in order to minimise the impacts on biodiversity during all stages of the Project. The BMP will be reviewed and updated as required as detailed in Section 10.1.

This BMP is an implementation plan for the protection, management and rehabilitation of the site biodiversity values for the Project. It constitutes a key part of the Project EMS and is intended to address Commonwealth and State legislative requirements. The BMP identifies mitigation measures necessary to reduce or removal impacts to biodiversity as a result of the Project, and measures that comply with Project Approval Conditions.

2.2. Objectives

The primary objectives of the BMP are to:

- Minimise and mitigate impacts to flora and fauna throughout all stages of the Project.
- Ensure compliance with all relevant Project Approval Conditions and legislative requirements.

2.3. Targets

Targets for biodiversity management associated with the Project are provided below:

- Through the detailed design process, reduce the amount of fauna habitat and hollow-bearing trees removed within approved clearing areas.
- No exceedances of optimised design clearing areas that total a combined area of Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC) of 168.47 hectares (ha) (reduction to that approved).
  The original approved area of 178.9 ha, was comprised of:
    - 31.4 ha of Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box Gum Woodland (MR528) (TBC – final areas are subject to further discussions with DPHI and DCCEEW)
    - 148.1 ha of Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box Gum Woodland – Derived Grassland (MR528); and (TBC – final areas are subject to further discussions with DPHI and DCCEEW and a reduction is proposed)
    - 0.3 ha Yellow Box – River Red Gum and Riparian Woodland (MR616) (TBC – final areas are subject to further discussions with DPHI and DCCEEW with a reduction proposed)
- Clearing of no more than the four (4) hollow-bearing trees along Whitefield's Road.
- No injury or death of threatened fauna.
- No introduction of new weed species, and a reduction in incidences of priority weed species from within the development corridor.
- No increase in of any pest species and reduction of existing pest species within the development corridor.
- Successful progressive stabilisation of disturbed areas following construction, in accordance with the requirements of the CEMP, RVMLP and SWMP.

3. The Project

3.1. Construction

The Project includes the construction of following key infrastructure components within the development corridor:

- 69 wind turbines (75 approved for construction however six have since been deleted) with an approximate capacity of 270 megawatts (MW).
- One 33 kilovolts (kV)/132 kV substation.
- Underground cabling and overhead electrical cabling.
- Connection to the Transgrid transmission network would be from the northern section of the Project Area where the existing Yass-Wagga Wagga 132 kV transmission line passes through the site.
- An Operations and Maintenance facility.
- Private access tracks.

Construction of the Project will be undertaken on behalf of CWFPL by contractors. At the time this BMP was prepared, an earthworks contractor had not been appointed.

The construction works are programmed to take approximately two years to complete, commencing in early 2025. The key phases of construction and their expected timing is shown in the indicative works schedule below.

- Award of construction contracts: Q4 2025.
- Detailed Design (progressive): Q4 2025 – Q2 2026.
- Overall Wind Farm Construction: Q2 2026 – Q4 2027.
- Construction of Access tracks and hardstands: Q2 2026 – Q1 2027.
- Delivery of Turbine Components (road transport): Q1 2027 – Q1 2029.

3.2. Operation and decommissioning

The following activities are expected to be associated with the operation and maintenance of the Project:

- Generation of electricity via the operation of 69 wind turbines.
- Maintenance of mechanical, electrical and structural components of wind turbines (including nacelles, blades and towers), kiosk transformers and cooling systems.
- Scheduled or unscheduled outage maintenance for individual wind turbines or the wind farm as a whole.
- Maintenance of the on-site substation, 132 kV transmission line from the substation to the TransGrid 132 kV transmission line to the north of the site, including maintenance of safe clearances and of other electrical infrastructure (e.g. 33 kV cables and infrastructure).
- Use of the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) facilities including, office, amenities, storage facilities and workshop.
- Maintenance of access roads, drainage and other civil infrastructure.
- Waste management.
- Land management, maintenance of rehabilitation and weed control.

The wind turbines will be available to operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week all year round and generate electricity whenever sufficient wind is available for operation. The Project is expected to operate for at least 25 years from the completion of construction. At the end of the wind farm's operational life of the Project, infrastructure will be either upgraded or decommissioned.

The approved Project layout is presented in Appendix A.

4. Planning

4.1. Relevant legislation and guidelines

4.1.1. Legislation

Legislation relevant to the development and implementation of the BMP includes:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act)
- *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2000
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act)
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act)
- *Rural Fires Act 1997*
- *Yass Valley Local Environment Plan 2013*
- *Hilltops Local Environmental Plan 2022*

4.1.2. Guidelines and standards

Guidelines and standards relevant to the development and implementation of the BMP include:

- Australian Standard 4970 – 2009 Protection of Trees.
- Bush Fire Risk Management Plan. Southern Tablelands. NSW RFS, 2023 (this plan is currently being reviewed after public consultation).
- Environmental Management Plan Guidelines (Commonwealth of Australia, 2014).
- National standards for the practice of ecological restoration in Australia (2018).
- NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service. 2001. Policy for the Translocation of Threatened Fauna in NSW: Policy and Procedure Statement No. 9 Threatened Species Unit, Hurstville NSW.
- NSW Biosecurity and Food Security Strategy 2022 – 2030.
- NSW Invasive Species Plan 2023 – 2028.
- Murray Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022.
- New South Wales Weeds Action Guidelines 2020 – 2025.
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework for pest animal management in NSW (May 2020).

4.2. Other permits, licences and approvals

An Environment Protection Licence (EPL) will be obtained from the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for scheduled development works associated with the Project, including construction (land-based extractive industry); concrete works; crushing, grinding or separating; and electricity generation. CWFPL and its contractors will be required to comply with the EPL conditions, which will also be reflected in the Project environmental management documentation (as per Section 1.4 above).

4.3. Project Approval Conditions and mitigation measures

The Project Approval Conditions (SSD-6698 and EPBC 2017/8129) relevant to biodiversity are set out in Table 4-1 and Table 4-2 and Appendix D respectively.

The EMS and associated subplans contain a suite of mitigation measures that must also be complied with for the duration of the project, refer to the EMS and subplans for more detail on the mitigation measures required. Section 5 below details the mitigation measures of the BMP.

Table 4-1 Consent conditions SSD 6698

Condition #	Requirement relevant to biodiversity	Addressed:
Condition 9	**Micro-siting Restrictions** The Applicant may micro-site the wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure without further approval provided: … (d) the revised location of a wind turbine is at least 50 metres from existing hollow-bearing trees; or where the proposed wind turbine location is already within 50 metres of one or more existing hollow-bearing trees, the cumulative distance between these hollow-bearing trees and the turbine is either maintained or increased.	**Appendix E**
Condition 19	**Restrictions on clearing and habitat** The Applicant must: (a) ensure that no more than 179.8 hectares (ha) of EEC is cleared for the development, including: • 31.4 ha of Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box Gum Woodland (MR528) • 148.1 ha of Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box Gum Woodland – Derived Grassland (MR528); and • 0.3 ha Yellow Box – River Red Gum and Riparian Woodland (MR616) Unless the Secretary agrees otherwise;	**Section 2.1.4** **Section 7.1** **& Appendix A**
	(b) remove no more than 4 hollow-bearing trees along Whitefield's Road, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise	**Section 7.1**
	(c) implement all reasonable and feasible measures to: • minimise the limb lopping on hollow-bearing trees and mature trees along Whitefield's Road;	**Section 7.1**
	• avoid impacts to the Yass Daisy (*Ammobium craspedioides*), Dwarf Bush-pea (*Pultenaea humilis*) and Small Purple-pea (*Swainsona recta*);	**Section 7.1** **& Appendix A**
	• minimise impacts on threatened bird and bat populations; and	**Section 7.1& BBAMP**
	• minimise the approved clearing of hollow-bearing trees, native vegetation and key habitat within the approved disturbance footprint.	**Section 7.1**
Condition 19A	**Biodiversity Offset** Prior to the commencement of construction, the Applicant must:	**Section 4.4 and Appendix A**

Condition #	Requirement relevant to biodiversity	Addressed:
	(a) update the baseline mapping of the vegetation and key habitat within the final disturbance area, and	
	(b) calculate the biodiversity offset credit liabilities for the development in accordance with the Framework for Biodiversity Assessment under the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects, in consultation with OEH, and to the satisfaction of the Secretary.	**Refer Section 1.3.**
Condition 20	Within 2 years of the commencement of construction, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary, the Applicant must retire the required biodiversity offset credits, to the satisfaction of OEH. The retirement of these credits must be carried out in accordance with the NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects, and can be achieved by: (a) acquiring or retiring 'biodiversity credits' within the meaning of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016; (b) making payments into an offset fund that has been established by the NSW Government; or (c) providing suitable supplementary measures.	**Submitted as separate package of work. Triggered at commencement of construction**
Condition 21	**Biodiversity Management Plan** Prior to the commencement of construction, the Applicant shall prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must:	**This BMP**
	(a) be prepared in consultation with OEH	**Appendix B**
	(b) include a description of the measures that would be implemented for:	*See sections below*
	• minimising the amount of clearing within the approved development footprint as far as practicable;	**Section 7.1, 8 & Appendix G**
	• managing the potential indirect impacts on threatened plant species including the Yass Daisy (*Ammobium craspedioides*), Dwarf Bush-pea (*Pultenaea humilis*) and Small Purple-pea (*Swainsona recta*)	**Section 7.1, 7.7, 8 & Appendix G**
	• rehabilitating and revegetating temporary disturbance areas.	**Section 7.7 & 8**
	• protecting vegetation and fauna habitat outside the approved disturbance area.	**Section 7.1, Section 8 & Appendix G**
	• maximising the salvage of resources with the approved disturbance area - including vegetative and soil resources - for beneficial reuse (including fauna habitat enhancement) onsite and/or in the	**Section 7.1, Section 7.7 & Appendix G**

Condition #	Requirement relevant to biodiversity	Addressed:
	biodiversity offset area.	
	• Collecting and propagating seed (where relevant).	**Section 7.1 & Section 7.7**
	• minimising impacts on tree hollows as far as practicable.	**Section 7.1 & Appendix G**
	• minimising the impacts on fauna on site including undertaking pre-clearance surveys.	**Section 7.2 & Appendix G**
	• controlling weeds and feral pests.	**Section 7.5, 7.6, 8 & Appendix H**
	• controlling erosion.	**Section 7.3, 7.7 & SWMP**
	• controlling access.	**Section 7.3**
	• bushfire management.	**Section 7.7, EMS & Emergency Response Plan (ERP)**
	(c) Include a detailed program to monitor and report on the performance of these measures over time. Following approval, the Applicant must implement the measures described in the Biodiversity Management Plan.	**Section 8 & EMS (Section 3.10)**
Condition 22	**Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan**	**BBAMP**
Condition 27	**White fields Road Upgrade** Prior to the construction of the proposed upgrade to Whitefield's Road, the Applicant shall prepare detailed plans for the upgrade in consultation with the relevant Council, and to the satisfaction of the Secretary. In preparing these plans, the Applicant must seek to avoid and/or minimise the clearing of mature vegetation adjacent to the road. Further, the detailed plans must include a landscaping plan for replacing the removal of any existing vegetation and/or augmenting the existing vegetation adjacent to the upgraded road, with species that are endemic to the locality.	**RVMLP**

Table 4-2 EPBC conditions

Condition #	Requirement relevant to biodiversity	Addressed:
Condition 5	The **approval holder** must submit a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) to the **Minister** for approval. **Commencement** of the action must not occur unless the **Minister** has approved the BMP. The approved BMP must be implemented. The BMP must include: (a) Baseline mapping included in the Preliminary Documentation which demonstrates the extent of the impact on **protected matters** and **hollow bearing trees** within the final disturbance footprint. (b) Spatial maps, description and quantification of the final disturbance footprint in relation to proposed impacts to **protected matters**, including the number, type of **hollow bearing trees** and size of hollows to be removed and evidence that clearing **hollow bearing trees** has been minimised. (c) Management measures to ensure the protection and maintenance of habitat for **protected matters** during the construction and operational phases of the approved action.	**This BMP including: Sections 4.4, 5, 7.1, 7.3, 7.3 Section 8 & Appendix A.8**

4.4. Clearing limits amendments

In order to optimise design for the Project, it has been determined that some amendments to the approved clearing area is required. The optimised design requires that an additional 6.06 ha of Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box Gum Woodland (MR528) – Plant Community Type (PCT) 266 woodland is required. Based on the proposed optimised design changes, 17.09 ha of Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box Gum Woodland – Derived Grassland (MR528) has been avoided and represents a reduction in total EEC required to be cleared. The optimised design would also see a further reduction in clearing required for the Yellow Box – River Red Gum and Riparian Woodland (MR616) PCT 79, by 0.3 ha.

Overall, the optimised design would reduce the amount of clearing required, by 11.33 ha of native vegetation categorised as EEC. The clearing calculations to allow for optimised design, compared to those endorsed under SSD 6698 for the Project are shown below in Table 4-3 .

While exceedances to clearing are identified below, consultation is underway with DPHI and DCCEEW with regard to how to address minor exceedances, with these likely to be resolved in the detailed design phase, following contract award. It is important to note that while SSD 6698 Condition 19(a) stipulates clearing limits and habitat removal, the final area disturbed is at the discretion of the Planning Secretary.

Re-mapping (August 2022) was required and undertaken in accordance with Condition 19(a) of the NSW Development Consent. The composition and abundance of native grasses on the Coppabella hills is quite variable depending on the amount of rainfall per season and the success of the surrounding exotic pasture grasses. Variability in the composition and definition of the derived grassland communities over the years as was observed during the vegetation remapping that was undertaken at the end of 2018 during a drought year. The updated baseline mapping which was provided to CPHR as part of the reasonable equivalence submission (16 August 2021) is the same updated vegetation mapping which was included within the BMP which was sent to CPHR 16 July 2019 with comments received from CPHR 12 August 2019. The comments raised by CPHR have been addressed within and are also provided in the updated vegetation mapping which occurred in August 2022. Discussion on remapping is attached at Appendix B Commonwealth clearing restrictions are tabled at Table 4-4 .

The request to amend the clearing limits as detailed in Table 4-3 was approved by DPHI on the 7th May 2025 by the Secretary. Specifically this allows for the increase in clearing limits for Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box Gum Woodland from 31.4 ha as listed in condition 19, Schedule 3 to 37.46 ha.

Furthermore, a variation to EPBC 2017/8129 approval was issued on the 6th May 2025 to permit the additional clearance of CEEC Box Gum Woodland as detailed in Table 4-4 and the reduction in the removal of HBTs.

Table 4-3 Approved clearing limits (SSD 6698) and optimised design requirements

Endangered Ecological Community	Approved clearing limit (ha), NSW CC (total 178.9ha)	Approved clearing limit (ha) vegetation condition	Optimised design clearing (ha)	Optimised design (ha): vegetation condition	Additional clearing area (ha) for optimised design (total 168.47 ha)
Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box Gum Woodland (MR528) - PCT 266 woodland	31.4	Low = 0.33 Moderate-good (high diversity) = 0.32 Moderate-good (low diversity) = 30.79	37.46	Low = 0.0 Moderate-good (high diversity) = 0.4 Moderate-good (low diversity) = 37.06	6.06
Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box Gum Woodland – Derived Grassland (MR528)	148.1	Low = 77.15 (not counted as EEC) Moderate-good (high diversity) = 2.12 Moderate-good (low diversity) = 146.01	131.01	Low = 20.12 (not counted as EEC) Moderate-good (high diversity)= 6.92 Moderate-good (low diversity) = 124.09	-17.09 (reduction)
Yellow Box – River Red Gum and Riparian Woodland (MR616) PCT 79	0.3	Moderate-good (low diversity) = 0.27	0.2	Moderate-good (low diversity) = 0.13 (not counted as EEC)	-0.07 (reduction)

Table 4-4 Commonwealth clearing limits

Critically Endangered Ecological Community	Approved clearing limit (ha)	Optimised design clearing (ha)	Additional clearing area (ha) for optimised design including Whitefields Road
Box Gum Woodland	3.23 ha	29.51	31.5
Current: 76 hollow bearing trees (as indicated on the map at Annexure C). Proposed Variation: 44 hollow bearing trees			

5. Existing environment

The following sections summarise the existing ecological features within and adjacent to the Project site, including species, communities, and habitats. The ecological constraints, features, Commonwealth protected matters and hollow bearing trees along with the overall Project layout of the site are presented in Appendix A map series.

5.1. Habitat types

The site consists of one main north-west to south-east oriented ridgeline and surrounding hills. Areas within the nominated development corridor contain a combination of native and exotic pasture and remnant and regrowth woodland. The ridgelines within the Project site have been grazed for many decades and generally carry only scattered remnant trees or small isolated woodland patches. Primary habitat types within and adjacent to the Project boundary include woodland remnants, secondary grasslands, exotic pasture, farm dams and riparian areas.

The Coppabella precinct is considered one of the most heavily cleared areas in the district. Forest and woodland remnants contain depauperate native or exotic understorey, with remnant vegetation affected by sheep camps and grazing. There are some highly restricted and fragmented examples of woodland derived native grassland understorey (without tree cover) in paddocks and saddles within the Project site. There are also fragmented patches of remnant and regrowth woodland with tree cover and relatively intact understorey.

The main woodland areas within and immediately adjacent to the development corridor occur across the east and north-eastern portion and extend across the main ridgeline that forms the northern boundary, as well as some mixed woodland across the north-western portion of the Project site. In general, only sparse, disturbed/modified woodland remnants occur on the ridges where turbines have been approved.

More intact woodland areas are present in the road corridors in the lower landscape. Whitefields Road, running roughly east-west on the southern edge of the Project site (and approximately 1 km from the nearest turbine) also carries intermittent woodland tree cover which could provide a dispersal path for woodland species. Intermittent woodland occurs along Jugiong Creek (1 km to the north of the site) and its smaller tributaries which create a linear corridor to the Murrumbidgee River, and eventually to Lake Burrinjuck (approximately 25 km from the site) and forest woodland reserves to the south.

Two permanent creeks are located to the north of the Project site: Illalong Creek and Jugiong Creek (approximately 3 km and 1 km from the nearest part of the development envelope respectively). Farmland surrounding the Project site is dotted with small farm dams, which provide ephemeral habitat for native fauna.

Remapping of the vegetation within the development corridor conducted in late 2018 found an increase in native understorey, mostly due to Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*) which is relatively abundant, presumably due to a combination of seasonal conditions and selective grazing. This became an important statistic, as the presence of more than 50% native understorey is a criterion for defining Box – Gum Grassy Woodlands and Derived Grasslands, a Commonwealth listed critically endangered flora community.

5.2. Plant community types and biota of conservation significance

The majority of the site is derived Box-Gum Woodland (BGW). It occurs onsite in the following formations:

- Box gum woodland with a predominantly native understorey and selected overstorey species present (White Box, Yellow Box or Blakely's Red Gum).
- Box gum woodland with a non-native dominated understorey and selected overstorey species present (White Box, Yellow Box or Blakely's Red Gum).
- Box gum woodland derived grassland where trees have been removed but the understorey is predominantly native existing without an overstorey.

White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland is listed as Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC) in NSW, and White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodland and derived native grasslands is listed as a CEEC under Commonwealth legislation. Under Commonwealth legislation there are criteria applied which define the EPBC listed CEEC as White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodland and derived native grasslands. These criteria include minimum patch size, predominance of native vegetation in the understorey, 12 or more native understorey species (excluding grasses) and at least one important species within the patch. CEEC clearing limits are identified in Section 6.2.1. Potential habitat for a range of threatened species is present, many of which are known from the site. Table 5-1 identifies vegetation and species of significance.

The site also supports populations and habitats for threatened biota, see Table 5-1 below. Refer to Appendix A for mapping.

Table 5-1 Plant community types and biota of significance

Name and conservation status	Habitat preference	Known from site
Box-Gum Woodland and derived grasslands CEEC (NSW)	Most of the site is derived from this community. There are examples with low, moderate and high diversity.	Known
Box-Gum Woodland and derived grasslands CEEC (Commonwealth)	This is a small high diversity component of BGW, that meets Commonwealth criteria listing	Known
Yass Daisy *Ammobium craspedioides*	This species is found on the Southern Tablelands and South West Slopes near Wagga Wagga and Yass, most often in dry sclerophyll forest, Box-Gum Woodland and grasslands derived from clearing of these communities. See Appendix E for correspondence.	Known. Optimised design avoids locations of Yass Daisy
Dwarf Bush-pea *Pultenaea humilis*	*P.humilis* is found in isolated remnants of native woodland and forest communities that occur in extensively cleared agricultural landscapes.	Predicted, but not found in targeted surveys
Small Purple-pea *Swainsona recta*	Historically it occurred in the grassy understorey of woodlands and open-forests dominated by Blakely's Red Gum *Eucalyptus blakelyi*, Yellow Box *E. melliodora*, Candlebark Gum *E. rubida* and Long-leaf Box *E. goniocalyx*. It grows in association with understorey dominants that include Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra*, poa tussocks *Poa spp*. and	Predicted, but not found in targeted surveys

Name and conservation status	Habitat preference	Known from site
	Spear-grasses *Austrostipa spp*.	
Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii*	Lower landscape flight paths, hollow bearing trees as refuge and breeding habitat	Known
Dusky Woodswallow *Artamus cyanopterus cyanopterus*	Lower landscape woodland areas, breeding in low trees or shrubs in horizontal or upright forks in branches, spouts, hollow stumps or logs. Partial to habitat with fallen woody debris.	Known
Diamond Firetail *Stagonopleura guttata*	Lower landscape and riparian areas as flight paths	Predicted, but not found in targeted surveys
Regent Honeyeater *Anthochaera phrygia*	Connected woodland in moderate to good condition provides foraging habitat for this species.	Predicted, but not found in targeted surveys. Deemed unlikely by experts.
Koala *Phascolarctos cinereus*	In habits woodlands and forests feeding on selected eucalypt species	Predicted, but not found in targeted surveys. Deemed unlikely.
Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor*	This species breeds in Tasmania, migrating to south and eastern NSW in autumn/winter where it inhabits eucalypt forests and woodlands. It feeds on nectar flowers of eucalypts and lerp-insects, also soft fruits and berries sometimes foraging in grass (Pizzey and Knight 2003).	Predicted, but not found in targeted surveys.

5.3. Threats to biodiversity

Key biodiversity threats to these that could be exacerbated by the construction process include:

- Over clearing and impacts of compaction and stockpiling.
- Injury to fauna by vehicles, plant, excavation or during clearing.
- Habitat removal and/or disturbance.
- Impacts from noise and dust.
- Weed introduction or spread.
- Pests and feral animal increase.
- Erosion and sediment loss.
- Bushfire ignition.

Operational risks to birds and bats are addressed in the BBAMP and are not considered further in this plan.

5.4. Disturbance and priority weeds

Most of the site has been extensively grazed. Non-native plants within the development corridor range from pasture grasses, common paddock weeds to priority weeds as defined in NSW by Department of Primary Industries.

The following Table 5-2 identifies priority weeds found at the site and the action required for the Yass and Hilltops locality (NSW DPI 2019):

Table 5-2 Priority weeds

Name	Biosecurity Duty	Action Required
Broomrape (*Orobanche species)*	Prohibited Matter	Notification of presence to Department of Primary Industry (DPI).
Serrated Tussock (*Nasella trichotoma)*	Prohibition on dealings and Regional Recommended Measure	Land managers should mitigate spread from their land. The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released.
Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus species)*	Prohibition on dealings	Must not be imported into the State or sold.
African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula)*	Regional Recommended Measure	Land managers reduce impacts from the plant on priority assets.

Appendix A.9 shows the presence of priority weed outbreaks observed onsite in November and December 2018.

Other weeds not classified as priority weeds observed onsite are identified in Table 5-3 . Some of these are grasses and forbs suitable as pasture for livestock and/or pasture improvement species that are exotic to Australia.

General Biosecurity Duty:

> *All plants are regulated with a **general biosecurity duty** to prevent, eliminate or minimise any biosecurity risk they may pose. Any person who deals with any plant, who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk, has a duty to ensure the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.*

Table 5-3 Other weeds observed onsite. Note this includes pasture grass species

Name	
Barley Grass *Hordeum leporinum*	Proliferous Pink *Petrorhagia nanteuilii*
Bathurst Burr *Xanthium spinosum*	Quaking Grass *Briza maxima*
Black-berry Nightshade *Solanum nigrum*	Rat's Tail Fescue *Vulpia myuros*

Name	
Brazilian Whitlow *Paronychia brasiliana*	Red Brome *Bromus rubens*
Capeweed *Arctotheca calendula*	Rough Dog's Tail *Cynosurus echinatus*
Catsear *Hypochaeris radicata*	Saffron Thistle *Carthamus lanatus*
Clustered Clover *Trifolium glomeratum*	Sandspurry *Spergularia rubra*
Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*	Scarlet Pimpernel *Lysimachia arvensis*
Common Peppercress *Lepidium africanum*	Sharp Rush Juncus acutus
Common Sowthistle *Sonchus oleraceus*	Shivery Grass *Briza minor*
Cranesbill *Geranium molle subsp. molle*	Skeleton Weed *Chondrilla juncea*
Cudweed *Gamochaeta calviceps*	Slender centaury *Centaurium tenuiflorum*
Curled Dock *Rumex crispus*	Slender Thistle *Carduus pycnocephalus*
Delicate Hairgrass *Aira elegantissima*	Small-flowered *Mallow Malva parviflora*
Dwarf Mallow *Malva neglecta*	Smooth Catsear *Hypochaeris glabra*
False Hairgrass *Pentaschistis airoides*	Soft Brome *Bromus hordeaceus*
Four-leaved Allseed *Polycarpon tetraphyllum*	Soft Brome *Bromus molliformis*
French Catchfly *Silene gallica*	Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare*
French Flax *Linum trigynum*	Squirrel Tail Fesque *Vulpia bromoides*
Great Brome *Bromus diandrus*	St. Johns Wort *Hypericum perforatum* It can poison livestock. This plant is not to be sold in all or parts of NSW
Haresfoot Clover *Trifolium arvense*	Stinkwort *Dittrichia graveolens* - Can cause health problems in humans and animals
Hop Clover *Trifolium campestre*	Subterranean Clover *Trifolium subterraneum*
Illyrian Thistle O*nopordum illyricum subsp. illyricum Onopordum spp.*	Sweet Briar *Rosa rubiginosa* - This plant is not to be sold in all or parts of NSW

Name	
Juncus capitatus	Sweet Vernal Grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*
Knotted Clover *Trifolium striatum*	Toad Rush *Juncus bufonius*
Long Storksbill *Erodium botrys*	Vervain *Salvia verbenaca*
Mouse-ear Chickweed *Cerastium glomeratum*	Viper's Bugloss *Echium vulgare*
Narrow-leaved Clover *Trifolium angustifolium*	White Horehound *Marrubium vulgare*
Onion Grass *Romulea rosea var. australis*	Wild Oats *Avena fatua*
Paspalum dilatatum	Wimmera Ryegrass *Lolium rigidum*
Patterson's Curse *Echium plantagineum*	Yellow Hawkweed *Tolpis barbata*
Perennial Ryegrass *Lolium perenne*	Yellow Suckling Clover *Trifolium dubium*
Prickly Sowthistle *Sonchus asper*	Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*

5.5. Pest fauna

The following feral and pest fauna have potential to occur onsite:

- European Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)
- Feral Cat (*Felis catus*)
- Feral Goat (*Capra hircus*)
- Feral Pig (*Sus scrofa*)
- Wild Deer (*Cervidae*)
- Wild Dog (*Canis familiaris*)
- Wild Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*).

6. Environmental impacts

6.1. Risk assessment

A risk assessment has been undertaken to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with managing biodiversity of the Project during construction and operation, in line with the Project Approval Conditions. The risk assessment is shown in Appendix C.

6.2. Construction activities

Construction activities with the potential to generate impacts to biodiversity include:

- Vegetation clearing and grubbing
- Earthworks to establish access tracks and turbine hardstands
- Grading, levelling and gravel-sealing of access tracks
- Trenching for underground electricity cables
- Light vehicle traffic and construction traffic
- Excavation works at each turbine hardstand for wind turbine foundations
- Rock breaking, crushing and limited rock blasting for excavations, access tracks and cable trenches
- Concrete batching, transport and pouring of concrete for turbine foundations and other requirements
- Delivery and installation of turbine components
- Storage and use of fuels and chemicals.

6.2.1. EPBC direct and indirect impacts

For a full description of the direct and indirect impacts of the Project see EPBC submission #3012 in Appendix F. The following table (Table 6-1) identifies the CEEC impacts.

Table 6-1 CEEC impact table

Species	Impact
BGW CEEC	Loss of 29.51 ha of CEEC by direct impacts and an additional 1.99 ha of indirect impacts (using a 5 m buffer to determine indirect impacts).

6.3. Operational activities

Operational activities with the potential to generate impacts to biodiversity include:

- Operation of turbines and onsite infrastructure
- Maintenance activities and use of light vehicle traffic
- Storage and use of fuels and chemicals.

7. Biodiversity management protocols and mitigation measures

The following Biodiversity Management Protocols detail mitigation measures to manage potential biodiversity and impacts arising from the Project.

7.1. Vegetation Clearing Protocol

The following protocols (Table 7-1) include reasonable and appropriate measures to manage potential biodiversity and biosecurity impacts arising from the construction and operation of the Project. It provides mitigation measures to be implemented to minimise impacts on EEC, native vegetation, hollow bearing trees and threatened biota habitat. Each protocol will address those relevant CC by identifying the Condition applicable to each protocol, along with the inclusion of possible:

Table 7-1 Vegetation clearing and protection protocols

Phase	Activity	Mitigation measures	Responsibility
Detailed Design	**Detailed-design review**	The detailed design will consider the location of native vegetation, EECs, hollow bearing trees (HBT) and threatened biota habitat to as far as reasonably practicable avoid these areas and reduce clearing impacts. During the design process, impacts on these aspects will be calculated and compared to the approved clearing limits to ensure compliance (refer to Appendix A). The approved clearing limits include: • 31.4 ha of Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box Gum Woodland (MR528) • 148.1 ha of Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box Gum Woodland – Derived Grassland (MR528) • 0.3 ha Yellow Box – River Red Gum and Riparian Woodland (MR616) • 4 HBTs along Whitefields Road Secretary approval is required if these clearing limits are to be exceeded. Micrositing of turbines is permissible under Condition 9 a) – d) of the consent. Provided in Appendix E are details of those turbines which have been microsited as part of the design process and how compliance with the consent conditions has been achieved, specifically with distances to HBTs. Refinement of the wind farm layout through the detailed design process will adopt the criteria of permanent infrastructure be located 50 m from known or potential Superb Parrot nest trees wherever possible. (refer to Appendix A.6).	Design Manager
Pre-construction	**EWMS**	EWMS will be prepared prior to any vegetation disturbance (refer to the CEMP for details on EWMS).	Site Environmental Officer (SEO) Construction Manager
	Site preparation	Prior to commencement of vegetation removal, the extent of vegetation clearing works shall be clearly delineated in the field: • Allow enough lead time to establish vegetation clearing demarcation before the date of planned vegetation removal. Clearing limits must be delineated prior to proposed commencement of clearing.	SEO Construction Manager

Phase	Activity	Mitigation measures	Responsibility
		• Select the appropriate fence type (which could be flagging). • Establish and mark out exclusion zones by a qualified surveyor (i.e. retained native vegetation, EEC, HBTs, threatened biota habitat and threatened plant species). • Erect signs to inform personnel of the purpose of fencing. Signs should be clearly visible from a distance of at least 20 m and should be general in nature, for example 'Exclusion Zone'. • Where retained trees occur near construction activities, measure out Tree Protection Zones in accordance with Australian Standard *AS 4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites.* Place exclusion zone fencing outside the tree protection zone. • Communicate the importance of exclusion zones in the Project Induction.	

	Pre-clearing survey	The purpose of pre-clearing surveys from a fauna management perspective is to identify habitat containing fauna which might otherwise be killed or injured during the approved tree-felling or clearing. Environmental controls for the pre-clearing surveys are listed below:
		• Pre-clearing surveys will undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist or fauna spotter catcher with experience in fauna handling as per pre-clearance checklist (example provided in Appendix G).
		• No more than 7 days before planned vegetation removal, the following will occur:
		  ○ Delineated/ fenced boundaries for construction, clearing and exclusion zones will be confirmed in the field.
		  ○ The Project Ecologist will mark any habitat or biota of conservation significance within the works area, as either for protection or removal. Habitat features of significance may be hollow-bearing trees, large fallen logs, hollow limbs suitable for salvage, surface rock, or presence of unexpected nests.
		  ○ If threatened flora (Yass Daisy, Small Purple Pea and/or Dwarf bush Pea) occur within 20 m of optimised design footprint, these areas will be clearly demarcated as 'no-go' zones (refer Appendix A.5). Threatened plant species within the development corridor will already be marked as exclusion zones by the surveyor as part of the site
			Project Ecologist
			SEO
			Site Supervisor

Phase	Activity	Mitigation measures	Responsibility
		preparation detailed above. ○ Install buffer zones for known/ potential Superb Parrot nest trees (no blasting from within 50 m and no clearing from within 30 m) during breeding season (September to January). ○ The Project Ecologist will identify and mark on a map suitable adjacent areas of Box Gum grassland/ woodlands where habitat features (hollow- bearing trees, large fallen logs, hollow limbs suitable for salvage, surface rock) can be placed for habitat enhancement. ○ Contact will be made with the local vet and wildlife rescue organisation (e.g. WIRES) prior to the commencement of clearing works to ensure they are available in case injured fauna or dependent young are found. ○ Any necessary fauna relocation will be conducted by the ecologist or fauna spotter catcher. • At completion, a post-clearing report (checklist) will be compiled of all the activities completed during the survey including records of fauna detected and the outcome for each individual (refer Appendix G for example post-clearing checklist).	
	Seed collection	Prior to clearing, an ecologist will collect seed from native vegetation to be cleared onsite to be prograde and reused for rehabilitation. Native vegetation to have seed collected from will depend on the species, as not all species are suitable for seed collection and season. The ecologist will determine the best time to collect seed to ensure the successful growth of the seed. In accordance with FloraBank Guidelines the following will be implemented: • Don't collect more than 10% of the seed from any one plant. If plants have only a few seeds each, don't collect from more than 1% of the population. • If possible, return plant material such as twigs and discarded capsules to the collection site. • Complete Seed Collection Field Data Sheet (Appendix G). • Implement biosecurity controls and ensure not to harm other vegetation during the	Project Ecologist

Phase	Activity	Mitigation measures	Responsibility
		process. • When collecting seed, good genetic quality can be had by: ○ Choosing from large, healthy natural populations (of at least 200 plants). ○ Collecting from widely spaced, healthy parents (at least 10 – 20 plants, preferably more). ○ Avoiding neighbouring plants (they are related). ○ Avoiding isolated plants (they can't cross-pollinate so are likely to have inbred, unhealthy seed). ○ Choosing a site where there is a healthy, large population of the species for collection. Post seed collection, the seeds will be cleaned, extracted and dried. All pests will be removed, and seeds are to be stored in containers and kept in a cool place until reused onsite.	
	Site induction	All relevant site personnel including contractors shall complete a project induction that incorporates project biodiversity requirements.	Site Construction Manager
Construction	**Vegetation clearing**	Prior to clearing, machine operators are to be informed of the extent of vegetation removal (i.e. the physical demarcation of clearing areas). They are also to be informed of marked individual trees to be retained and exclusion zone boundaries. HBTs are to be felled in accordance with Appendix G. A qualified ecologist or fauna spotter catcher with experience in fauna handling must be present on site during the removal or clearing of any habitat features identified during the pre-clearance surveys to supervise the works. This also includes if any nesting/roosting fauna is observed during the pre-clearing surveys. During clearing, habitat features (hollow-bearing trees, large fallen logs, hollow limbs suitable for salvage, surface rock) will be retained for later placement within the identified adjacent areas of Box Gum grassland/ woodlands for habitat enhancement. Pruning of mature trees (i.e. along access tracks) is to be in accordance with Part 5 of the *Australian Standard 4373-2007 Pruning of amenity trees.*	Project Ecologist Site Supervisor SEO Machine operators Arborist

Phase	Activity	Mitigation measures	Responsibility
		Along Whitefields Road, an ecologist will review all hollow bearing and mature trees directly adjacent to the road and establish which ones require limbs to be lopped only. For trees that only require lopping, a registered consulting arborist will direct limb lopping so as to: • Minimise the amount of lopping required, based on safety and clearance requirements. • Ensure the limbs are removed in a manner that minimises impact on tree health. HBTs that require limbs to be lopped will have the limb to be removed clearly marked. No hollow limbs are proposed to be removed, thus any hollow bearing limb to be retained will be given appropriate clearance during limb removal activities. Limb trimming and tree removal will be directed by a registered consulting arborist and supervised by an ecologist to ensure compliance with design, to minimise impacts to resident fauna and ensure safety of retained trees. Further instructions for fauna rescue and release during clearing and unexpected threatened species finds are detailed in Appendix G. During clearing and all construction works, weekly inspections will be undertaken to ensure measures are being implemented and are being effective to avoid any environmental incidents and indirect impacts on exclusion zones and adjacent threatened species. Inspections will be undertaken to ensure fencing, and signage is intact. Refer to Section 8 for further details on monitoring and inspections.	
	Post-vegetation clearing	Following completion of vegetation clearing activities, the project ecologist will survey the cleared area as per the Post Clearing Survey (checklist) attached in Appendix G. Non-hollow bearing felled timber and salvaged felled hollows resources that have been set aside during the clearing process, will be respread throughout the identified Box Gum grassland/ woodlands for habitat enhancement (as directed by the Project Ecologist).	Project Ecologist Site Supervisor SEO

7.2. Fauna protection protocol

Fauna protection is largely accommodated or by the above Vegetation Clearing Protocol. Additional considerations to ensure fauna are not harmed during delivery of the Project are listed below.

Table 7-2 Fauna protection protocols

Phase	Activity	Management Protocols	Responsibility
Construction	**Trenching**	Trenches would not be left open overnight where feasible and will be backfilled immediately when practical. If trenches are left open overnight: • Ramps or ladders will be installed to allow trapped fauna to escape. • They are to be checked for native fauna each morning and evening. Any trapped fauna will be removed and relocated to adjacent suitable habitat outside works area. • All animal relocations will be recorded. • Injury or death of threatened species will be reported to CPHR. Injured fauna will be taken to a vet (or wildlife rescue organisation) for appropriate treatment as per Appendix G.	Site Supervisor

7.3. Access management

Access to the Project site will be controlled through a gated entry and sign in procedure. Workers onsite will require to undergo a site induction prior to access that outlines the environmental requirements for the Project detailed in the Project management plans to ensure the protection of biodiversity onsite (refer to Section 9.2). In regard to access, vehicles will be required to use only designated tracks, hygiene protocols, exclusion zones and speed limits. Visitors to site will be required to be escorted.

7.4. Soil and water management

An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) will be prepared for the Project and form part of the Project's SWMP (Appendix E of the EMS). The ESCP will be prepared by an appropriately qualified person in accordance with both the 'Blue Book' (Landcom, 2004) and the 'White Book' (IECA, 2008). The ESCP will outline site-specific erosion and sedimentation controls, staging advice and stabilisation measures as well as technical notes to guide the installation, function and maintenance of ESC devices.

The ESCP will include:

- Drainage controls for the management of both clean stormwater runoff and dirty stormwater runoff through the Project including clean water up slope diversions, collection of dirty stormwater runoff and diversion to appropriate sediment controls measures.
- Erosion control will be the primary approach for the prevention of adverse impacts associated with sedimentation. Construction activities are to be undertaken to reduce the duration of soil exposure to erosive forces (wind and water), either by holding the soil in place or by shielding it. Erosion control measures to be adopted include construction practices, structural controls and vegetative measures aimed at managing runoff at a non-erosive velocity, and the protection of disturbed soil surfaces. Erosion measures will also be implemented to minimise dust.
- Sediment control measures will be installed in combination with drainage and erosion control measures to provide effective pollution management. The Project will adopt a 'treatment train' approach, where various control measures are utilised in sequence. Sediment control measures include systems, procedures and materials to filter, trap and/or settle sediment from sediment-laden waters.

The rehabilitation of the site, as detailed in Section 7.7, will ensure the long term prevention and management of erosion onsite post-construction and operation.

7.5. Weed and pathogen management

To achieve the target as detailed in Section 2.3 which is for no introduction of new weed species and reduction in the incidence of priority weed species, the following weed and pathogen management measures and controls will be implemented during all phases of the Project.

Table 7-3 Weed and pathogen management

Control/protocol	Management Protocols	Responsibility	Phase
Baseline weed mapping	Prior to the commencement of clearing, a weed survey will be conducted to determine the location of all weed species and extent of infestation, as well as the relevant controls for each species. This information will inform ongoing weed management and monitoring. The weeds identified onsite during previous surveys are detailed in Section 5.4 and Appendix A.9.	SEO Ecologist	Prior to clearing
Hygiene	Prior to site entry, all relevant site personnel including contractors shall be appropriately trained and made aware of the requirements of this BMP including onsite hygiene protocols and access requirements.	Site Construction Manager Operations Manager	All phases
	Hygiene stations will be installed between landholder boundaries (evaluated on a risk based approach and in consultation with landowners).	SEO Site Supervisor	Pre-construction
	All vehicles and machinery are to be cleaned at designated wash bays when moving between properties (or as agreed with landowners).	SEO Site Supervisor	All phases
	All plant and machinery entering the site is inspected and free of weeds by applying standard weed hygiene protocols. Records of all vehicles and plant screening checks will be recorded on mobile plant or vehicle inspection checklists and monitored by the SEO.	SEO Site Supervisor	All phases
	Imported fill (if required) or other materials (e.g. thermal sand) is to be weed free, with appropriate certification/validation.	SEO Site Supervisor	All phases
Physical weed control	Where priority weeds occur within the disturbance footprint treat or remove weeds prior to construction commencing.	SEO	Pre-construction

Control/protocol	Management Protocols	Responsibility	Phase
	Where an area is identified as a weed infested area (Restricted Area), signage will be installed to identify the extent of the area. Prevention controls and signage will be placed on the entry and exit into that area while it is being cleared. Controls will be monitored as part of weekly inspections by the SEO.	SEO	Construction
	During clearing of the Project site, topsoil from areas identified as dominated by weeds will be stockpiled separately from 'clean' topsoil from non-weedy areas. Weed topsoil stockpiles will be stored in either the area which it came from or within an area which has the same assemblage of weed species. Weed topsoil stockpiles with differing weed species assemblages must not be stored in the same area.	SEO Site Supervisor	Construction
	Topsoil, mulch and spoil stockpiles will be inspected for evidence of weeds on a regular basis as a part of routine weekly environmental site inspections. Chemical weed control will be undertaken to eradicate weeds on identified weedy stockpiles to limit seed and propagule proliferation.	SEO Site Supervisor	Construction
	Minimal impact techniques are to be used, ensuring no native species within the Project corridor are damaged during weed control activities	SEO Site Supervisor	Construction
	Soil disturbance is to be kept at a minimum and stabilisation of any soil damage is to be undertaken immediately	SEO Site Supervisor	Construction
	Hand removal and other manual techniques are to be used where possible and economically feasible and use of herbicides avoided/minimised.	SEO	All phases

Control/protocol	Management Protocols	Responsibility	Phase
Chemical weed control	A weed control contractor will be employed to implement chemical weed control across the Project site as the primary means of eradicating / reducing the spread of weeds. The weed control contractor will be suitably qualified and experienced in the management and control of weeds.	SEO	All phases
	At a minimum, a twice a year weed control program will be conducted during the construction and operational phases of the Project. This will generally involve a Spring and Autumn round of weed spraying, the timing of which will be adapted to maximise efficacy by targeting the most appropriate life stage of the target species. The precise timing and locations for weed spraying will be determined by the weed control contractor.	SEO	All phases
	Prior to spring, the weed contractor will prepare a customised weed spraying program, which will consider the following: • Specific weeds present on site, including areas for priority control. • Seasonal and climatic factors for that year. • Weed monitoring results. • Areas soon to be disturbed for clearing and construction (weeds in these areas should be controlled as a priority to avoid dispersal of weed plant material within the site). • Location of existing or emerging weed infestations within and adjacent to the disturbance area. • Recent bushfire activity. • Necessity for follow-up spraying. • Time and resources available to carry out the proposed program.	Weed contractor	All phases
	In areas subject to traffic and disturbance (such as access roads), areas that support sediment control structures (weed topsoil stockpiling	SEO	All phases

Control/protocol	Management Protocols	Responsibility	Phase
	sites, drainage lines) and other areas where the weed contractor recommends, weeds within a 50 metre (m) buffer of the disturbance area will be sprayed to reduce the likelihood of weeds spreading (legal Project boundaries will be limiting factors for spraying activities beyond the disturbance area).		
	Coloured dye will be used in weed spraying units to allow for the proper identification of areas that have been sprayed.	Weed contractor	All phases
	For all weed species there is a range of herbicide and treatment options available. Broad spectrum non-specific weed treatments are potentially problematic in areas where weed species occur in conjunction with native plants. Where available, herbicide treatments should be selective or at least partially selective. The NSW Weed Wise database will be consulted when determining chemical control options for the treatment of select weed species.	Weed contractor	All phases
Disposal	Weeds and weedy topsoils that cannot be used within the appropriate areas (e.g., areas with the same assemblage of weed species) will be destroyed in a manner that reduces the likelihood of weed spread, in accordance with: • *Biosecurity Act 2015* • *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.*	SEO	All phases
	All weeds physically removed (particularly those bearing seeds) are to be disposed of appropriately at a licensed landfill which is able to receive green waste. Securely cover loads of weed-contaminated material to prevent weed plant material falling or blowing off vehicles. They are not to be mulched for re-use. Remove weeds immediately onto suitable trucks/containers and dispose of without	SEO	All phases

Control/protocol	Management Protocols	Responsibility	Phase
	stockpiling.		
Monitoring and inspections	Follow-up surveys will be undertaken quarterly during construction and annually during operation with mapping produced identifying treatment locations, weed locations and spatial distribution to allow comparison between monitoring periods. Monitoring is detailed in Section 8.	SEO	All phases
Pathogen control	Primary control methods for Phytophthora and other pathogens (if applicable) is prevention and adaptive management. Controls will be based on site-specific risk exposure and may include, but not be limited to, the following: • SEO or Project Ecologist demarcates and signposts the restricted area to reduce disturbance and control access • Notifications will be made to the appropriate agencies • Establishment of washdown and disinfection stations at the access and exit points of the restricted area • Utilisation of mobile disinfectant pump packs to address pathogen risk where required • Toolbox on the restricted area to communicate the risks and new controls in place • CWFPL and contractors will review site activities in the area to determine if activities can be modified to prevent further disturbance to the restricted area. Modification of activities will include re-route access around the restricted area within the Project site • If works are required in the restricted area, works are to be undertaken during periods of dry soil conditions.	SEO	All phases

7.6. Pest Management

7.6.1. Managing non-native pest species

Prior to the commencement of clearing, a pest survey will be conducted to identify pest species occurring within (and within the immediate vicinity) of the Project site, as well as the relevant controls for each species.

7.6.2. Managing native pest species

Native species are protected by law in NSW. Issues associated with managing the impacts of native species (such as kangaroos, emus, wombats and possums) should be addressed separately in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and having regard to the regulatory requirements of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.*

Non-lethal methods of controlling native pest species may include:

- Exclusion netting / fencing
- Gates
- Olfactory devices.

Where it is necessary to use lethal methods, such as shooting to destroy native animals because they are a threat to human safety, damaging property and / or causing economic hardship, the NPWS can issue a biodiversity conservation licence to harm protected native animals under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.*

7.6.3. Disposal

Pest species euthanised during control programs will be disposed of at a licenced waste management facility in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.*

7.6.4. Monitoring

Monitoring techniques will primarily utilise remote camera monitoring due to the cryptic nature of many pest species, with monitoring for secondary indicators such as scats, disturbance, nests and scavenging to be undertaken in the event of pest species sightings.

To determine if there has been an increase in pest activity onsite, pest animal density levels will be defined by relative abundance categories (refer to) as defined in the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework for pest animal management in NSW (DPI, 2020).

Table 7-4 Relative abundance categories (DPI, 2020)

Relative Abundance Rating	Definition
High (abundant)	Many animals seen at any time and much sign of activity. Animals always observed and reliable sightings or signs. Significant sign of animals on more than 80% of occasions.

Relative Abundance Rating	Definition
Medium (common)	Some animals seen at almost any time / many active signs / frequent but unreliable sightings of animals. Significant signs of animals on 50-80% of occasions.
Low (occasional)	Few or no sightings, little active signs. Very little sign of animals on 1-50% of occasions.
Absent	No animals - No sign of animals, or animals have been removed from this location.
Unknown	Unsure, no information to base your judgement.
Present, but abundance unknown	Species is present, but abundance is unknown.

Pest monitoring will be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist(s). The proposed methodology for recording pest and predator monitoring is provided in Table 7-5.

Table 7-5 Pest presence / absence monitoring

Objective
To determine presence / absence of pests within the Project site, to document any changes arising from increased activity associated with the Project, and to inform the location and extent of controls required.
Sampling units
Remote camera monitoring within the Project site, particularly around construction compounds and other high-use areas.
Method
Remote camera monitoring: • Cameras will be placed at each construction compound area and within other high-use areas (a minimum of five (5) monitoring locations will be chosen) • Cameras to be attached to a tree or stake and positioned approximately 1 m above ground • The cameras are to be unbaited, as this is more suitable for long term monitoring • Cameras are placed out for one month (30 days) per monitoring period • Coordinates will be recorded for each camera location in order to repeat the method during each subsequent monitoring event • Field staff will also note secondary pest indicators such as scats, disturbance, nests and scavenging to be undertaken in the event of pest species sightings.
Location

• Adjacent to construction compounds and other high-use areas (minimum of five (5) monitoring locations)
Timing, effort and frequency
• A monitoring event is defined as one month (30 days) deployment of all camera traps as per the layout explained in methods • Ecologist will be required to set up and collect the camera traps • Frequency will comprise two monitoring events per year (or every six months), during construction and annually during operation.
Data analysis
• Data to be kept in a spreadsheet to determine presence/absence at monitoring locations between monitoring periods • Data trends are to be analysed by a suitably qualified ecologist in order to determine occupancy.
Triggers for adaptive management
A recorded increase in relative abundance category for a given species (refer to Table 7-4). Adaptive management measures will be determined in consultation with CWFPL.

7.7. Bushfire management

The CWF will have the ability to manage activities within the project area, however bushfire risk often originates outside the Project boundary. The Emergency Response Plan prepared for the Project will include:

- Monitoring of prevailing conditions
- Reporting and emergency alert procedures
- Consultation requirements with the local Rural Fire Service (RFS) and LEMC
- Roles and responsibilities
- Contact details for emergency services.

The following activities have the potential to start fires if not appropriately managed:

Construction Activities

- Sparks from earthworks
- Hot works including welding, grinding etc
- Worker behaviour (e.g smoking).

Commissioning of turbines and substation

- Electrical faults from testing and commissioning

Operations

- Routine maintenance works involving hot works, earthworks (for road maintenance), fencing, use of generators and other machinery, etc
- Non-routine maintenance and retrofit works may involve repairs to underground cables including hot works for cable joins; repair or replacement of turbine components which could involve use of cranes
- Electrical faults.

Decommissioning temporary facilities

- Sparks from earthworks
- Hot works including welding, grinding etc.

All Phases

- Worker behaviour (e.g smoking)
- Vandalism.

Bushfire risk management is detailed in Section 4.11 of the EMP. In summary the following will be implemented for the Project to minimise the risk of bushfire to infrastructure and people:

- Implementation of the Emergency Response Plan which will provide details of contact personnel, personnel contacts and monitoring
- Daily check of the “fires near me” app to monitor for the presence of any nearby fires
- Conduct regular emergency preparation/response drills. The RFS and LEMC will be invited to be involved in site emergency drills during construction and during operations
- Toolbox talks and daily start-up meetings where site rules around preventing fires (e.g smoking) will be undertaken
- Appropriate fire-fighting equipment would be held on site for initial response to any fires that may occur at the site during project construction and during operation
- All access and egress tracks on the site would be maintained to enable rapid response for firefighting crews and to avoid entrapment of staff in the case of bush fire emergencies
- Surrounding Static Water Supplies (e.g. farm dams) are identified in the Project ERP for use as potential water sources by emergency in the event of a bushfire
- Detailed procedures which are to be followed when hot works are required on site
- No petrol vehicles in the construction area and then only to be used on formed roads
- Appropriate firefighting equipment would be on standby if blasting is required during construction
- Shut down of turbines would occur automatically if components overheat. Relevant turbines would be shutdown where directed by emergency services in the event of a fire emergency on site
- Asset protection buffers would be maintained during operations around key project infrastructure (e.g. around operations compound/s, turbines, substation, overhead transmission line).

7.8. Rehabilitation Protocol

Disturbed land should be progressively and promptly rehabilitated by providing adequate and appropriate ground cover. Landcom (2004) requires rehabilitation to be done in certain time frames so that disturbed land is not exposed for excessive periods. See Appendix A for maps displaying vegetation types in relation to the optimised design footprint. The maximum acceptable ground cover factors (C-Factors) and the required timeframes to achieve them are given in below in Table 7-6 .

Table 7-6 Landcom (2004) Groundcover requirements during and post construction works

Lands	Maximum C Factor	Remarks
Waterways and other areas subject to concentrated flow (post construction)	**0.05**	Applies after 10 days from completion of formation and before they are allowed to carry flow C = 0.05 is approximately 70% groundcover
Stockpiles and batters (during construction)	**0.1**	Applies after 10 days from completion of formation C = 0.1 is approximately 60% groundcover
All lands during construction	**0.15**	Applies after 20 days of inactivity C = 0.15 is approximately 50% groundcover
All lands post construction	**0.05**	Applies after 60 days from completion of formation C = 0.05 is approximately 70% groundcover

Rehabilitation is applicable for areas that are not required to be maintained in the altered form for the operation of the wind farm. This includes:

- Access road and hardstand batters
- Construction compounds, batching plant, laydown and stockpile sites
- Constructed drainage areas
- Underground cable routes.

Several disturbed areas within the Project site will not require rehabilitation, including:

- Areas which are geologically stable and resistant to erosion. Rocky outcrops (where seeding would be ineffective)
- Large cuts where weathered rock is present and where plants are not able to establish will not be rehabilitated with vegetation. Rock stability will be assessed by a geotechnical engineer
- Cut batters are to be assessed for erosion hazard and where soil exposure to erosion exists, stabilisation is to occur. One such method is revegetation via hydromulch, but other products and stabilisation measures may be required.

In lieu of seeding in these areas, catch drains or raised berms will be established to minimise the erosion of rock faces and to re-direct water flows away from exposed and stable earth surfaces.

Ongoing monitoring and maintenance will be required within the rehabilitation areas, at quarterly intervals for the first 18 months, and then twice yearly until the success criteria has been reached. Table 7-7 provides the rehabilitation success criteria that rehabilitation areas would be measured against, whilst Section 8 provides monitoring and reporting requirements. Table 7-8 identifies the rehabilitation success criteria for the revegetation of native groundcover, species richness, priority weeds and plant health through time.

A list of indicative native species for rehabilitation is outlined in Table 7-9 . The final species mix may be adjusted based on availability and advice from an appropriately qualified and experienced professional. One option may be to undertake an ecogeographic approach where seed is collected (or available) from a number of large healthy populations at collection sites matched for climatic, edaphic and other environmental variables common to the restoration site and propagated or collected for use at the rehabilitation site.

Table 7-7 Rehabilitation protocols during and post construction

Phase	Activity	Management Protocols	Responsibility
Pre-construction	**Site Preparation**	Collect/ procure relevant native provenance seeds from the local area for use during rehabilitation works.	SEO
During Construction	**Stockpile Management**	Stockpile topsoil within areas of disturbance for re-use as part of site rehabilitation. Weedy soils would not be used without treatment to kill weed seeds. Stockpiles must be no higher than 2m and be stabilised during construction (e.g. cover crop hydro seed or soil stabiliser) – refer to Soil and Water Management Plan	Construction Manager
	Site stabilisation	Site stabilisation will be achieved using vegetation, rock armouring, paving, concrete or any other cover that protects the ground surface against erosion. Temporary covers should be used as appropriate to meet the Landcom requirements in lieu of the establishment of the long-term stabilisation (e.g. application of biodegradable soil stabilisers, hydromulch, cover crop, etc). The preferred site stabilisation method will be identified on a site-by-site basis and included within the Progressive ESCPs. Advice from a soil conservationist and local agronomist is recommended during this process. Batters that predominantly comprise rock must be stable and may require additional treatment (or part treatment) to ensure stability (e.g. application of bitumen emulsion, shotcrete, or equivalent product). SD 4-2 and SD 7-1 from Landcom (2004) provides details regarding soil and seedbed preparation for rehabilitation. The Project SWMP are provided in EMS, Appendix E.	Construction Manager
	Vegetation Clearing	Salvageable habitat features such as hollow logs and limbs, and rock are to be relocated to adjacent areas of vegetation (refer Section 5.1 above for more detail).	SEO
		Felled vegetation is to be reused on site for habitat enhancement. During clearing, habitat features (hollow-bearing trees, large fallen logs, hollow limbs suitable for salvage, surface rock) will be retained for later placement within the adjacent areas of Box Gum	Project Ecologist SEO

Phase	Activity	Management Protocols	Responsibility
		grassland/ woodlands for habitat enhancement (as directed by the Project Ecologist).	
	Access	Access is to occur along designated access tracks only.	All Site Personnel
		All no-go zones are to remain in place throughout the construction phase.	All Site Personnel
	Rehabilitation	Treat priority weeds present prior to rehabilitation.	Construction Manager SEO
		Stabilise and rehabilitate disturbance areas progressively during construction activities. Install temporary erosion and sediment controls in accordance with Landcom (2004).	Construction Manager
		Where soil has been compacted, ripping is required prior to re-spread of topsoil.	Construction Manager
		Where ongoing disturbance is not required, utilise dominant native species representative of relevant EEC for reseeding within areas of native vegetation, refer to Table 7-9 for an indicative list of species. The time of year and seasonal conditions would also be considered to determine when sowing is appropriate. Follow up watering, reseeding/ replanting may be undertaken as required to assist with the establishment of vegetation. Within grazed areas that are flatter, re-seed with preferred pasture/native grass species. Avoid re-establishing tall trees in areas that may impede future transport of wind turbine components or result in other impedances. Cover crop should not be added to the seed mix to promote rapid stabilisation as it often attracts livestock or other animals to the site.	Construction Manager SEO
		Alternative stabilisation measures to be implemented in areas unsuitable for seeding. All stabilisation measures will be implemented in accordance with Landcom, 2004.	Construction Manager
		Where appropriate, install stock exclusion fencing until stabilisation is achieved. Some steep batters may require ongoing exclusion fencing to prevent erosion from stock trampling.	Construction Manager

Phase	Activity	Management Protocols	Responsibility
		Temporary erosion and sediment controls should only be removed once permanent drainage structures have been established and areas successfully rehabilitated.	Site Environmental Officer
		Ongoing treatment of weed infestations is required throughout construction and as part of rehabilitation inspection, monitoring and audit activities (Section 7.5 and 8).	Construction Manager Site Environmental Officer
		Batters with steep >50% (2:1) slope may use Couch (Bermudagrass) Grass (*Cynodon dactylon)* for stabilisation and is considered acceptable under BAM2020.	Site Environmental Officer
	Monitoring	Monitoring of ground disturbance, vegetation clearing and rehabilitation through weekly inspection regime and project audits (refer to Section 8).	Site Construction Manager
Post-construction	**Rehabilitation**	In order to minimise indirect impacts to threatened flora such as Dwarf Bush Pea (*Pultenaea humilis*), Small Purple-Pea (Swainsona recta) and the Yass Daisy (*Ammobium craspedioides*), maintaining and establishing connectivity between isolated patches will be undertaken to facilitate the movement of pollinators.	Site Environmental Officer
	Rehabilitation Monitoring	Monitoring of rehabilitation against rehabilitation success criteria (Table 7-8). Quarterly intervals for the first 18 months, and then twice yearly until the success criteria has been reached (70% groundcover).	Site Environmental Officer
	Rehabilitation Maintenance	Weed control measures such as spraying, physical removal, or planting native species to suppress weed growth. Timing on an as needs basis to suppress relevant Priority weeds (expected to be greater during Spring and Summer).	Site Construction Manager

Table 7-8 Rehabilitation success criteria for revegetated areas

Indicator	3 months	6 months	9 months	12 months	18 months	24 months
Planted and Seeded Areas						
Groundcover	≥70% cover	>70% cover				
Native Species Richness	≥20% of pre-disturbance native species richness	≥40% of pre-disturbance native species richness		≥60% of pre-disturbance native species richness	≥70% of pre-disturbance native species richness	
Priority Weeds	≤15% priority weed cover	≤10% priority weed cover or consistent with surrounding land		≤5% priority weed cover or consistent with surrounding land		
Plant health	-	Self-sustaining				

Table 7-9 List of indicative native species for inclusion in rehabilitation

Tree/Shrub/Grass/ Groundcover*	*Scientific Name*	Common Name
Grass	***Microlaena stipoides***	**Weeping Grass**
Grass	***Austrostipa scabra***	**Corkscrew Spear Grass**
Grass	*Rytidosperma casepitosa*	Common Wallaby Grass
Grass	*Rytidosperma racemosa*	Slender Wallaby Grass
Grass	***Bothriochloa macra***	**Redgrass**
Grass	***Chloris truncata***	**Windmill Grass**
Grass	***Imperata cylindrica***	**Blady Grass**
Grass	*Panicum effusum*	Hairy Panic
Grass	***Themeda triandra***	**Kangaroo Grass**
Grass	*Poa sieberiana*	Snow Grass
Grass	***Poa labillardierei***	**Tussock Grass**
Grass	*Poa meionectes*	Fine-leaved Tussock Grass
Other groundcovers	*Carex inversa*	Knob Sedge
Other groundcovers	***Dianella longifolia***	**Smooth Flax Lily**
Other groundcovers	*Dianella revoluta*	Black-anther Flax Lily
Other groundcovers	***Dichondra repens***	**Kidney Weed**

Tree/Shrub/Grass/ Groundcover*	*Scientific Name*	Common Name
Other groundcovers	***Lomandra spp***	**Matt Rush**
Other groundcovers	*Lepidosperma laterale*	Sword Sedge
Shrubs	***Acacia spp***	**Wattles**
Shrubs	*Calytrix spp*	Myrtles

*The species mix may be adjusted based on advice from an appropriately qualified and experienced professional. Those species in bold were identified as available at the time of writing.

8. Monitoring and inspections

Requirements and responsibilities in relation to monitoring and inspections are documented in Section 9 of the EMS. SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) indicators will be adopted during the monitoring and inspections process. Monitoring requirements specific to the BMP are detailed in Table 8-1.

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Table 8-1 General biodiversity monitoring requirements

Management protocol or procedure	Performance criteria	Trigger for additional actions	Action proposed	Monitoring and/reporting requirements	Timing	Responsibility
Clearing protocol and surveys **As required**	• Clearing within approved clearing limits (Section 4.4) • Pre-clearance surveys conducted • No impact on exclusion zones • No impact on vegetation and fauna outside the site.	• Clearing outside of approved clearing areas • Pre-clearance surveys not completed • Clearing of trees not identified for removal or in the wrong stage • Clearing above approved clearing limits • Injured native fauna/ hollow dependent fauna during clearing • Lack of environmental incident notification where required.	• Review pre-clearance survey process and update/ amend the protocol to include an additional signatory/ signoff to confirm completion • Check demarcation of approved clearing areas and ensure these have been set out by a surveyor and are clearly marketed in the field • Undertake incident investigation • Undertake environmental awareness training regarding locations of approved clearing areas, native vegetation clearing process and retained native vegetation fencing/ flagging • Complete toolbox talks to vegetation clearing crews on native vegetation removal and HBT removal.	• A post-clearing report (refer Appendix G) will be compiled by Project Ecologist or fauna spotter catcher and provided to the SEO • Weekly inspections of high disturbance areas, exclusion zones and boundary fencing during construction • Monthly monitoring and reporting on the cumulative amount of vegetation cleared through the construction phase • Periodically formalised measuring of clearing areas via site drone/aerial survey and analysis (6 monthly).	Pre-construction Construction	SEO
Fauna Rescue and Release Protocol (Appendix G.2) **As required**	• Fauna encountered on site is rescued by an experienced ecologist/fauna spotter catcher • Fauna is relocated injury free • Fauna interaction is recorded in the Project Fauna Sighting and Mortality Register (Appendix G.2).	• Fauna is not relocated by an experienced ecologist/fauna spotter catcher or licenced wildlife handler/carer • Fauna is injured • Fauna interaction is not recorded in the Project Fauna Sighting and Mortality Register.	• Review onboarding protocol as required to ensure only personnel with required qualifications and experience are permitted on site to perform specialist roles (i.e. experienced and qualified fauna spotter catchers) • Undertake a review of Fauna Rescue and Release Procedure and update as required to capture any process failings • Undertake incident investigation • Complete additional environmental awareness training regarding Fauna Rescue and Release Procedure.	• All fauna interactions, including observed and unobserved fatalities, will be recorded in the Fauna Sighting and Mortality Register.	Construction Operation	SEO CWPL PM
Unexpected threatened species finds (Appendix G.3) **As required**	• Threatened Species Finds Procedure followed if threatened species found (Appendix G.3) • No harm occurs to threatened species.	• Threatened species found to be present (living or dead) that were not previously identified.	• Undertake incident investigation • Prepare species profile posters for all know threatened species from the area to increase awareness of threatened species that may be encountered • Undertake refresher awareness training with regard to the Threatened Species Finds Procedure.	As it occurs.	Construction Operation	SEO CWPL PM
Ongoing vegetation protection and management **Weekly visual**	• No impacts to retained vegetation onsite • No increase in pests / weeds observed • No evidence of	• Clearing outside of approved clearing areas • Additional pests / weeds observed onsite • Vegetation dieback observed.	• Review pre-clearance survey process and update/ amend the protocol to include an additional signatory/ signoff to confirm completion • Check demarcation of approved clearing areas and ensure these have been set out by a surveyor and are clearly marketed in the	• Pre and post-clearing surveys will be compiled by Project Ecologist or fauna spotter catcher and provided to the SEA • Weekly inspections of high disturbance areas, exclusion zones and fencing during construction	Pre-construction Construction	SEO SEO

Management protocol or procedure	Performance criteria	Trigger for additional actions	Action proposed	Monitoring and/reporting requirements	Timing	Responsibility
inspection	vegetation dieback observed.		field • If vegetation dieback is observed, soil testing will be conducted to determine if *Phytophthora* is present within the site. If present, a *Phytophthora* Management Plan will be implemented.	• Vegetation dieback is appropriately recorded (including photographs).	Operation	CWPL PM
Soil and Water Management **Weekly** **Pre and post rainfall**	• Erosion and sediment control plan is being implemented • Measure within the SWMP are implemented.	• Controls identified in the SWMP/ Erosion and Sediment Control Plans not installed/ not functional • Signs of visible erosion • Evidence of notable erosion or sedimentation, particularly beyond the project boundary or into sensitive areas.	• Review the SWMP, updated as required • Undertake incident investigation and implemented corrective actions from the investigation.	• Weekly inspections • Pre and post rainfall inspections.	Construction	SEO
Hygiene Protocols **Weekly**	• Plant and equipment mobilised to site, clean and free of weeds • Vehicle and machinery weed hygiene controls in place and utilised on site.	• Hygiene Protocols unimplemented (e.g. equipment not cleaned sufficiently or weed infested fill delivered to site).	• Undertake incident investigation • Ensure the hygiene protocols are included in site inductions and toolbox talks • Perform weekly spot checks to confirm that staff responsible are implementing the protocols.	• Weekly inspections.	Construction Operation	SEA CWPL PM
Weed and Pathogen Management **Quarterly/ Annually**	• No introduction of new weed infestations or species are identified onsite • Reduction in incidences of priority weed species from within the development corridor • New invasive weeds detected in Project area are controlled during operation.	• Weed infestations have increased during quarterly or annual monitoring as referenced from the baseline weed surveys. • New weed species on site detected during quarterly or annual monitoring as referenced from the baseline weed surveys.	• Eliminate priority weed species as soon as practicable in accordance with recommended control methods and timing • Investigate the source of the weed species spread and improvements to be made to weed management measure onsite. • Increase targeted weed control measures (Section 7.5) • Seek additional advice from Local Land Services and adhere to recommendations • Mulching or planting to suppress weeds • Provide refresher training for staff on weed hygiene.	• Photo points will be established as reference points for monitoring and incorporated into weed maps • Reported quarterly during construction; and annually during operation.	Construction Operation	SEA CWPL PM
Pest Animal Management **Bi-annual/ Annually**	• To reduce and maintain a low number of each pest animal species within the Project site.	• Moderate to high pest animal abundance levels are recorded in Project site (Section 7.6.4 and Table 7-4) as identified in the baseline pest survey.	Will be confirmed following the baseline pest survey, but are expected to include: • Investigate the source of each of the pest species (e.g. location of rabbit burrows) and implement approach management measures, in consultation with an appropriately qualified person	• Refer to Section 7.6.4 for pest presence/absence monitoring, remote camera monitoring • Reported every six months during construction and annually during	Construction Operation	SEO CWPL PM

Management protocol or procedure	Performance criteria	Trigger for additional actions	Action proposed	Monitoring and/reporting requirements	Timing	Responsibility
		• New pest species identified onsite.	• Installation of baits by trained personnel • Ground shooting (if required), to be conducted by an appropriately qualified person • If required, explore alternative treatment and management options in consultation with the Project Ecologist.	operation.		
Bushfire Management **As required**	• No bush fires occur onsite or impact the Project site	• Bushfire occurs onsite	• Investigate source of the fire • Review bush fire measures being implemented • Further training on bush fire prevention. • Review of bushfire alert protocols	• Seasonal site hazard assessment or drone/aerial survey and analysis (annual/ or as per fire danger rating)	Construction Operation	SEO CWPL PM
Rehabilitation and material salvage **As required**	• Rehabilitation success criteria within the required timeframes detailed in Table 7-8 are met • Resources including vegetative and soils are salvaged during construction • Salvaged resources are beneficially reused onsite or in biodiversity offset area.	• Resources are stockpiled and not relocated • Resources are taken to landfill. • Rehabilitation success criteria outlined in Table 7-8 is not met	• Stockpiled resources are to be relocated immediately under the guidance of an Ecologist to ensure minimal damage to vegetation and habitat • Conduct a meeting to refresh all personnel working on site about rehabilitation and material salvage • Ensure the rehabilitation and material salvage procedure is included in site inductions, toolbox talks etc and that staff responsible are implementing the procedure. Short term adaptive management actions for rehabilitation: • Project ecologist engaged to undertake monitoring as soon as practicable • Undertake weed management • Investigate whether any invasive pests are present (e.g rabbits) • Undertake targeted seeding or replanting if required to achieve rehabilitation performance outcomes Medium to long term adaptive management actions for rehabilitation: • Project ecologist engaged to provide advice to improve vegetation condition • Weed and pest management implemented.	• Relocation of materials recorded as it occurs. Confirmed informally during weekly inspections • Quarterly intervals for the first 18 months, and then twice yearly until the success criteria has been reached.	Construction Operation	SEO CWPL PM

9. Compliance and management

9.1. Roles and responsibilities

The management structure of the Project is shown in the following Figure 9-1 with roles and responsibilities outlined in Figure 9-1 and Table 9-1 .

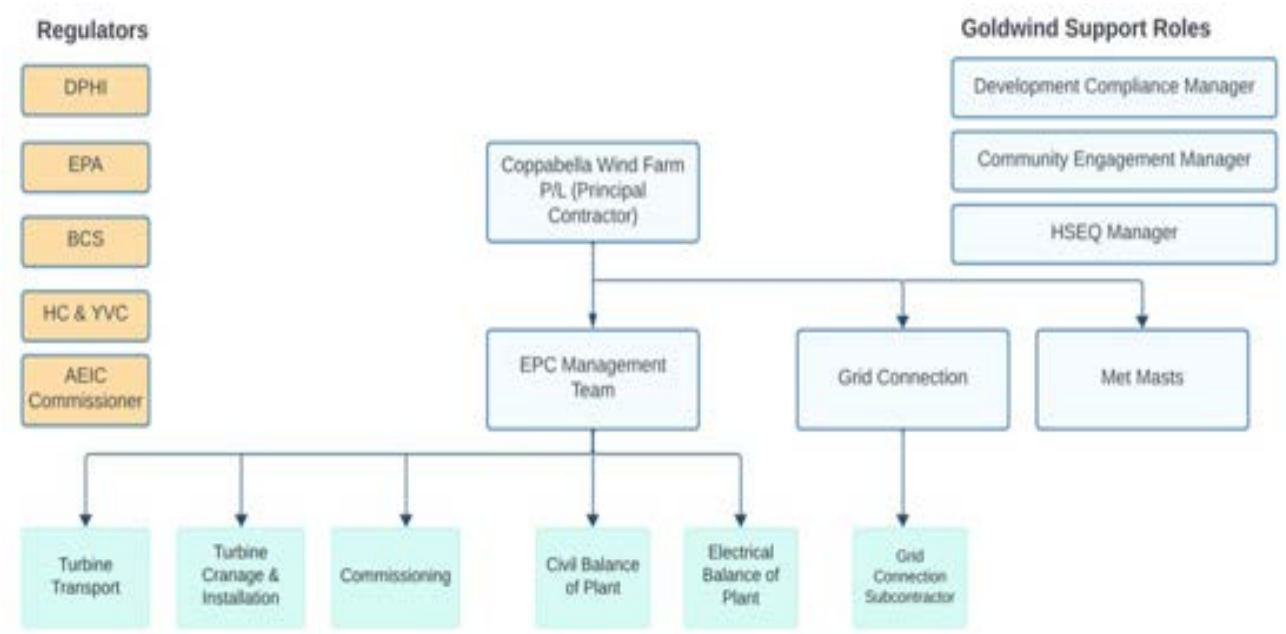


Figure 9-1 CWFPL management structure

Table 9-1 Roles and responsibilities

Organisation	Role	Responsibility
Proponent (CWFPL)	Owners Representative	Overall responsibility for implementation of BMP and EMS. Provides project leadership and ensures project adequately resourced. Engages Owners Engineer for Quality inspections/reviews Contract review to ensure environmental responsibilities are adequately allocated in contracts.
Principal Contractor	Construction Manager	Compliance with BMP and EMS. Coordinates various contractors and their activities. Ensures Contractors are aware of their environmental responsibilities and that these are implemented. Provide adequate resources and support to SEO.
Principal Contractor	SEO	Engage with Contractor and other contractors regarding

Organisation	Role	Responsibility
		environmental matters. Review and approval of EWMS. Environmental inspections and monitor/review corrective actions. Keep auditable records.
Contractor	Project Ecologist	Complete pre-clearance surveys and support hollow-bearing tree removal.
All site personnel	Contractors and their staff	Responsible for complying with the requirements of the Project approval, other laws and project management plans (inc. this BMP). Inducted to project and relevant EWMS prior to commencing project activity. Attend daily pre-starts and toolbox talks.

9.2. Training

All employees, contractors and utility staff working on site will undergo site induction and environmental awareness training "toolbox" talks along with exposure to annotated site plans located in lunchrooms and site offices relating to biodiversity management issues. The induction training will address elements related to biodiversity management, including:

- Existence and requirements of this sub-plan.
- Relevant legislation.
- Specific species likely to be affected by the construction works and how these species can be recognised.
- Vegetation communities and trees to be retained.
- Site speed limits and their enforcement in minimising fauna strike.
- Vehicle hygiene and biosecurity risks and procedures.
- Fauna rescue requirements.
- Weed control measures.
- General flora and fauna management measures.
- Specific responsibilities for the protection of flora and fauna.

9.3. Reporting

9.3.1. Incident reporting

In accordance with Condition 6 Schedule 4 of the CC, the Department must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website immediately of CWFPL becoming aware of an incident.

Written notification of an incident must:

- Identify the development including development name and application number

- Provide details of the incident (date, time, location, a brief description of what occurred and nature of the incident).

9.3.2. Non-compliance reporting

CWFPL will notify the Department within seven (7) days of becoming aware of a non-compliance. The notification will be in writing and submitted via the NSW planning portal (Major Projects). In accordance with Condition 7 Schedule 4 of the CC, the notification will:

- Identify the development (including the development application number and name
- Set out the condition of this consent that the development is non-compliant with
- Provide justification for why the development is non-compliant
- Provide the reasons for the non-compliance (if known)
- Describe what actions have been undertaken, or will be undertaken, and when, to address the non-compliance.

9.4. Access to information

As per Schedule 4 Condition 10 of the CC, CWFPL must make the following information publicly available on its website as relevant to the stage of the development and update to date:

- The Environmental Assessment
- The final layout plans for the development
- Current statutory approvals for the development
- Approved strategies, plans or programs required under the conditions of consent
- The proposed staging plans for the development if the construction, operation or decommissioning of the development is to be staged
- A comprehensive summary of the monitoring results of the development, which have been reported in accordance with the various plans and programs approved under the conditions of the consent
- A complaints register, which is to be updated on a monthly basis
- Minutes of CCC meetings
- Any independent environmental audit, and CWFPL's response to the recommendations in any audit
- Any other matter required by the Planning Secretary.

10. Review and improvement

10.1. BMP updates

A document review process ensures that environmental documentation including this BMP is updated as appropriate for the specific works that are occurring on-site. Reviews of the BMP are expected to be triggered as relevant, by:

- Independent Environmental Audit
- Internal audits
- Additional environmental aspects and risks
- Environmental near misses and incidents
- Project phase change between construction, operation, and decommissioning.

In accordance with Condition 4 of Schedule 4 of the CC, this BMP will be reviewed and revised (if necessary) within 3 months (unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Secretary) of:

- The submission of an incident report under Condition 6 of Schedule 4
- The submission of an audit under Condition 8 of Schedule 4
- Any modification to the conditions of this consent.

The SEO or delegate must review, and if necessary, revise the strategies, plans, and programs required under the CC to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.

Where this review leads to revisions in any such document, then within four weeks of the review, the revised document will be submitted to the Planning Secretary for review and approval, unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Secretary.

Only the SEO, or delegate, has the authority to change any of the environmental management documentation.

10.2. Continuous improvement

Continuous improvement of this Plan will be achieved by the ongoing evaluation of environmental management performance. The continuous improvement process will:

- Identify areas of opportunity for improvement of environmental management and performance
- Determine the cause or causes of non-conformances and deficiencies
- Develop and implement a plan of corrective and preventative action to address any non-conformances and deficiencies
- Verify the effectiveness of the corrective and preventative actions
- Document any changes in procedures resulting from process improvement
- Make comparisons with objectives and targets.

Where an improvement has been identified, it shall be updated in this Plan as needed. Updates to the plan will be undertaken in consultation with CPHR, where required and CPHR will be allowed sufficient time to review the proposed changes. A copy of the updated plan and changes will be distributed to relevant regulatory authorities including CPHR and DCCEEW.

11. References

Commonwealth of Australia, 2014. *Environmental Management Plan Guidelines* (DCCEEW, 2023).

'Standards Reference Group SERA (2017) National Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration in Australia. Second Edition. Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia. Available from URL: www.seraustralasia.com

Prober, S.M., Gosper, C.R., Gilfedder, L., Harwood, T., Thiele, K., Williams, K., Yates, C., 2017. Temperate Eucalypt Woodlands. Chapter 17 *Australian Vegetation*, Edited by Kieth, D. In press.

Appendix A Map sets

A.1 Project Layout - map boxes

LEGEND

- Map Set Figure Boxes
- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint

A

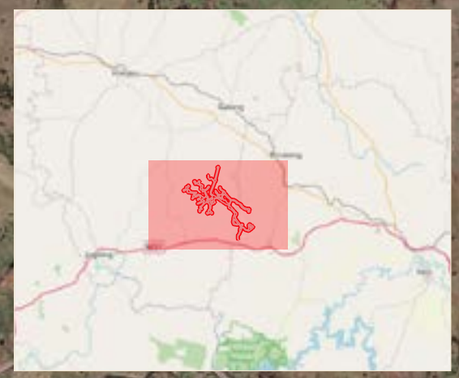
B

C

D

E

F



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

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0 1 2 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

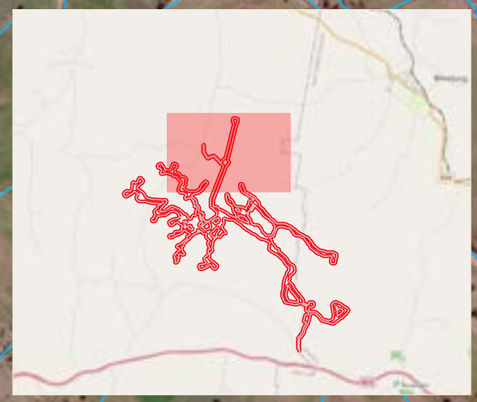
Map Set Figure Boxes

A.2 Construction layout

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Transmission Line
- Roads
- Watercourses

Bobbara Creek
Jugiong Creek
Cumbamurra Road
Coppabella Road
Stony Creek
129
128
68
65
64
66
1
5



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

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Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Construction Layout Map A

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Transmission Line
- Roads
- Watercourses

Coppabella Road

Stony Creek

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Construction Layout Map B

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Transmission Line
- Roads
- Watercourses

Stony Creek

Bushrangers Creek

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Construction Layout Map C

54
46
45
44
35
34
32
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42
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43
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48
41
51
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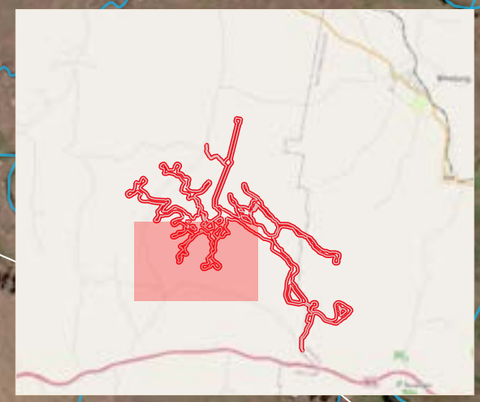
Stony Creek
Coppabella Road
Coppabella Creek
Five Mile Creek
Whitefields Road

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Transmission Line
- Roads
- Watercourses



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Construction Layout Map D

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Transmission Line
- Roads
- Watercourses

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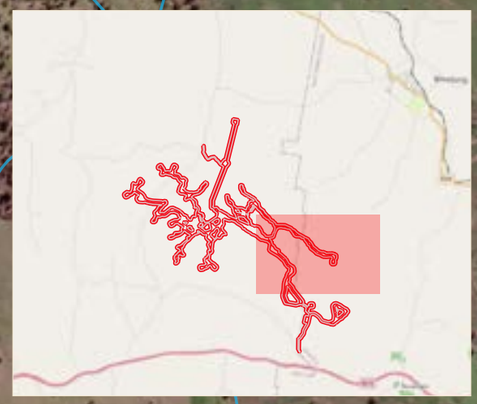
82
81

Jugiong Creek

Bushrangers Creek



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Construction Layout Map E

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Transmission Line
- Roads
- Watercourses

80
78
79
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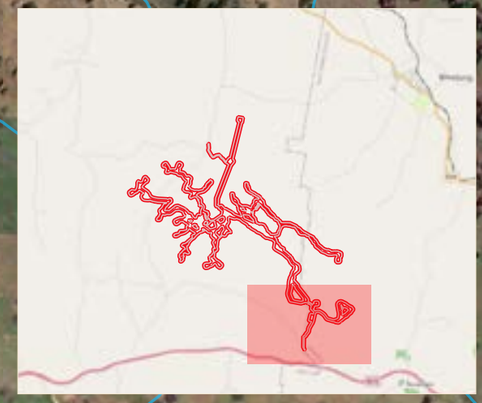
Coppabella Creek
Whitefields Road
Sawpit Creek
Hume Highway
Hume Highway
Bodkins Road
Back Creek



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Construction Layout Map F

A.3 Updated vegetation mapping

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Transmission Line
- Roads
- Watercourses

Vegetation Mapping

- Box Gum DGL
- Exotic
- Long Leaf Box DGL
- Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
- Riparian
- CEEC

Bobbara Creek
Cumbamurra Road
Coppabella Road
Stony Creek
Jugiong Creek
129
128
68
65
64
66
1
5

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Vegetation Map A

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Transmission Line
- Roads
- Watercourses

Vegetation Mapping

- Box Gum DGL
- Exotic
- Long Leaf Box DGL
- Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
- Riparian
- CEEC

Coppabella Road

Stony Creek

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Vegetation Map B

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Transmission Line
- Roads
- Watercourses

Vegetation Mapping

- Box Gum DGL
- Exotic
- Long Leaf Box DGL
- Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
- Riparian
- CEEC

Stony Creek

Bushrangers Creek

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Vegetation Map C

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Transmission Line
- Roads
- Watercourses

Vegetation Mapping

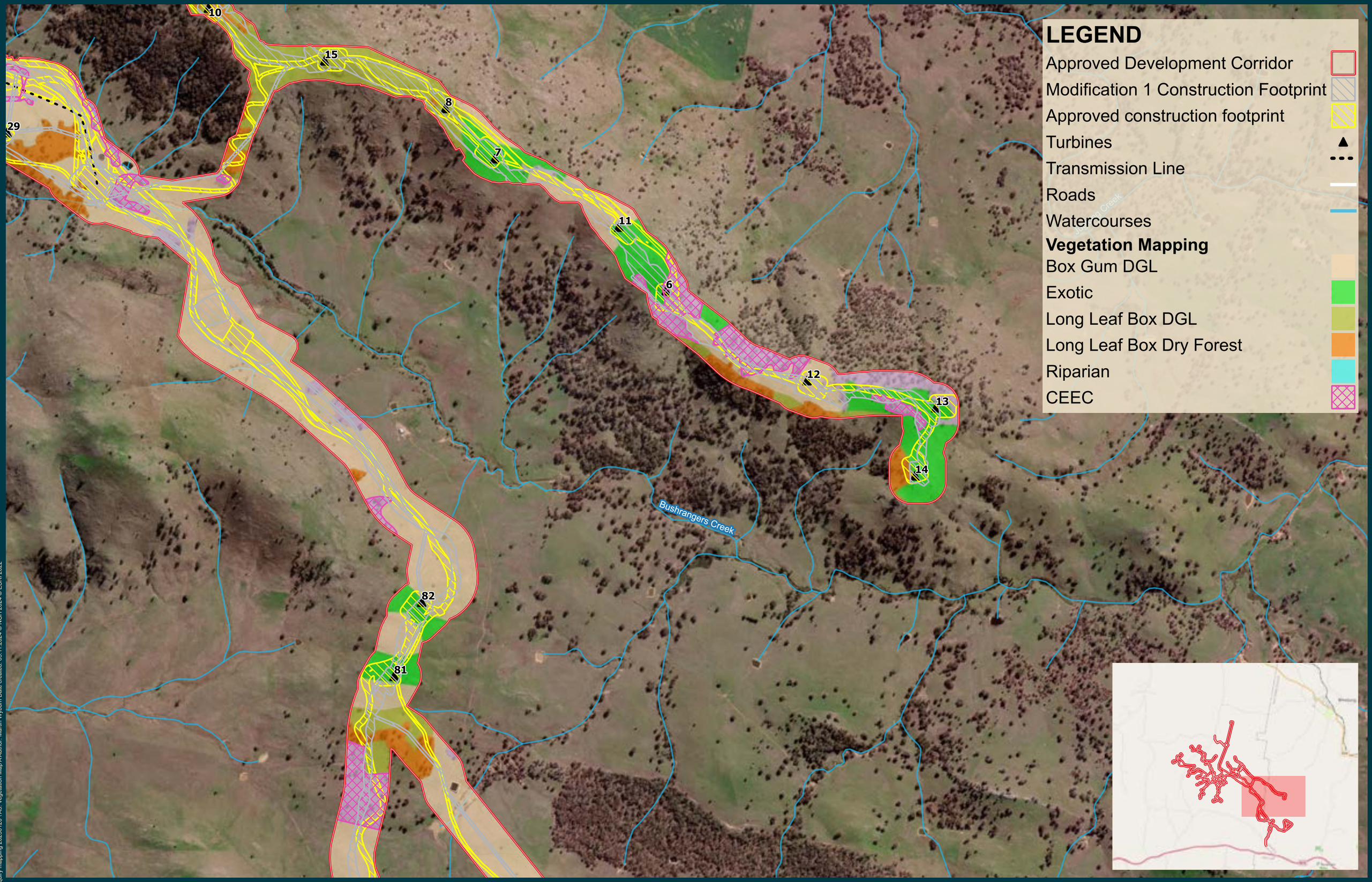
- Box Gum DGL
- Exotic
- Long Leaf Box DGL
- Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
- Riparian
- CEEC

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Vegetation Map D



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Vegetation Map E

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Transmission Line
- Roads
- Watercourses

Vegetation Mapping

- Box Gum DGL
- Exotic
- Long Leaf Box DGL
- Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
- Riparian
- CEEC

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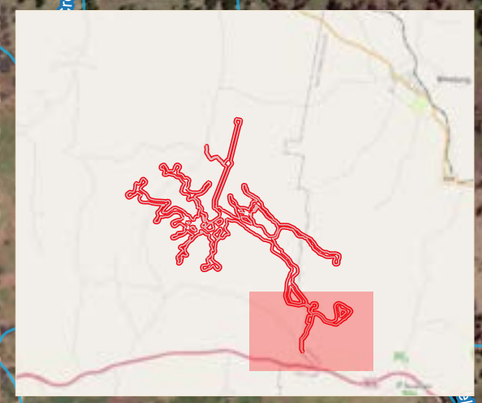
74

Coppabella Creek
Whitefields Road
Sawpit Creek
Bodkins Road
Hume Highway
Back Creek
Hume Highway



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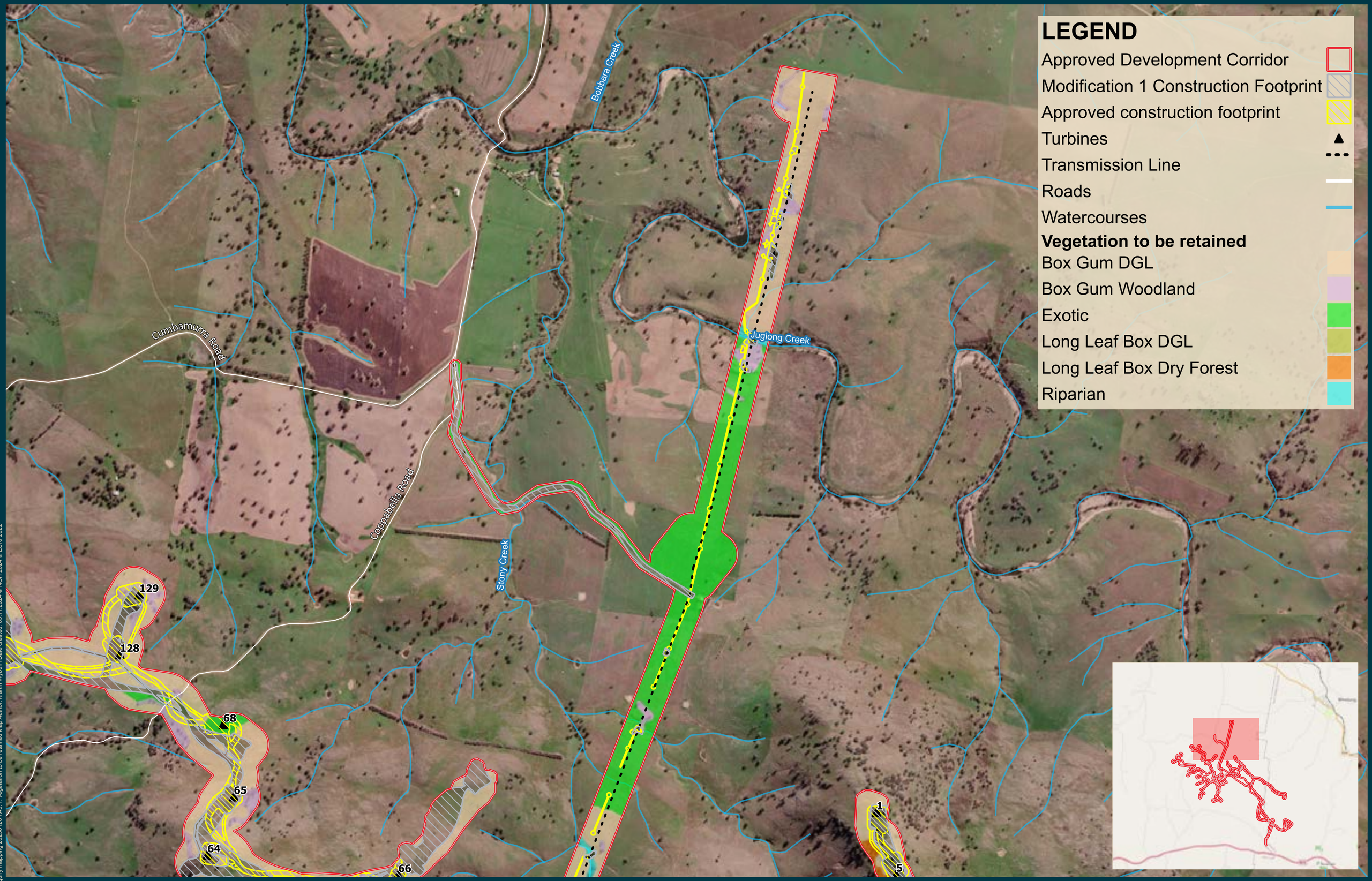
0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Vegetation Map F



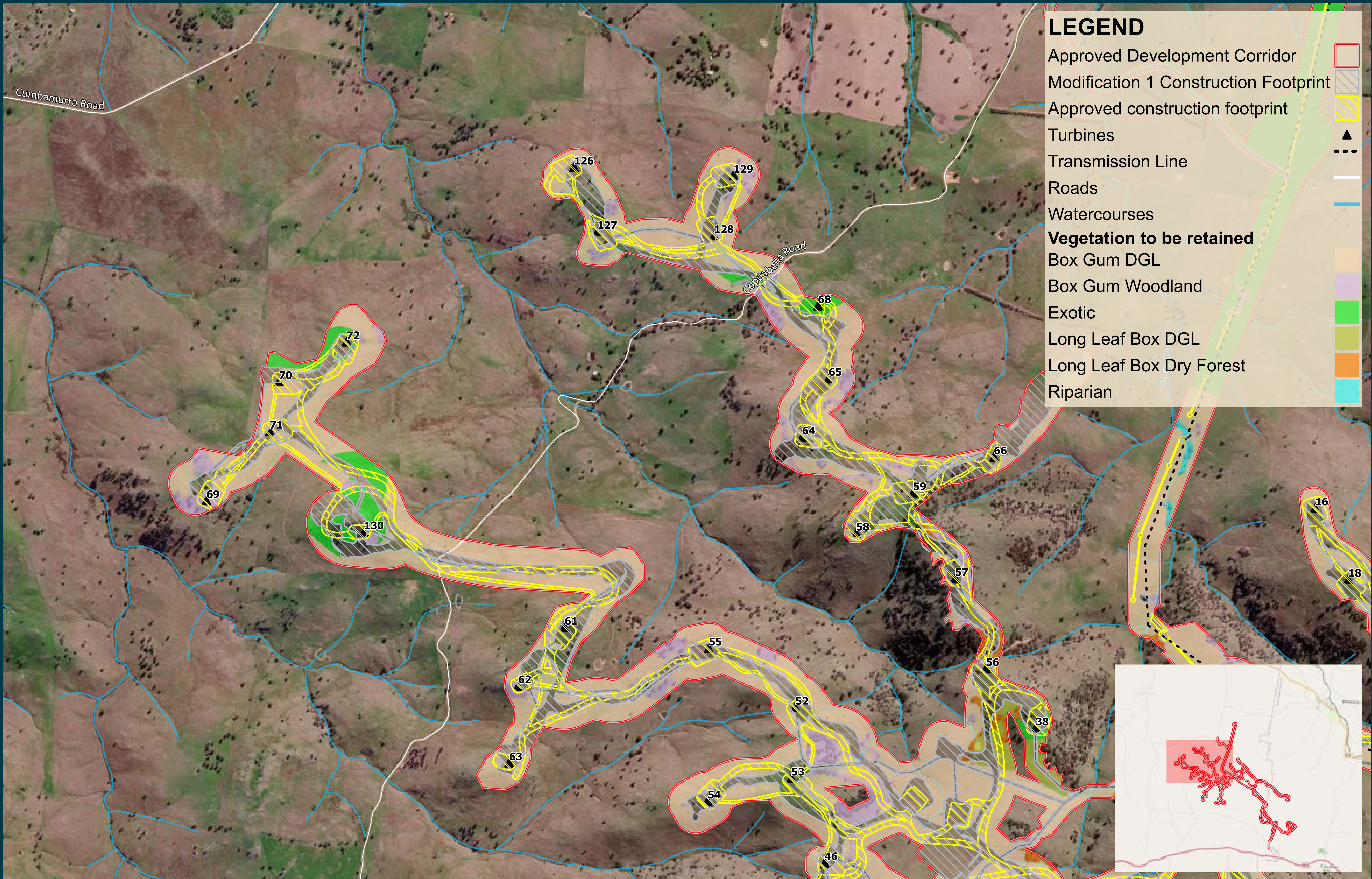
Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Vegetation to be retained - Map A



LEGEND
Approved Development Corridor
Modification 1 Construction Footprint
Approved construction footprint
Turbines
Transmission Line
Roads
Watercourses
Vegetation to be retained
Box Gum DGL
Box Gum Woodland
Exotic
Long Leaf Box DGL
Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
Riparian
Cumbamurra Road
Coppabella Road
126
129
127
128
68
72
70
65
71
64
66
69
59
130
58
16
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18
61
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56
62
52
38
63
53
54
46

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Vegetation to be retained - Map B

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Transmission Line
- Roads
- Watercourses

Vegetation to be retained

- Box Gum DGL
- Box Gum Woodland
- Exotic
- Long Leaf Box DGL
- Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
- Riparian

Stony Creek

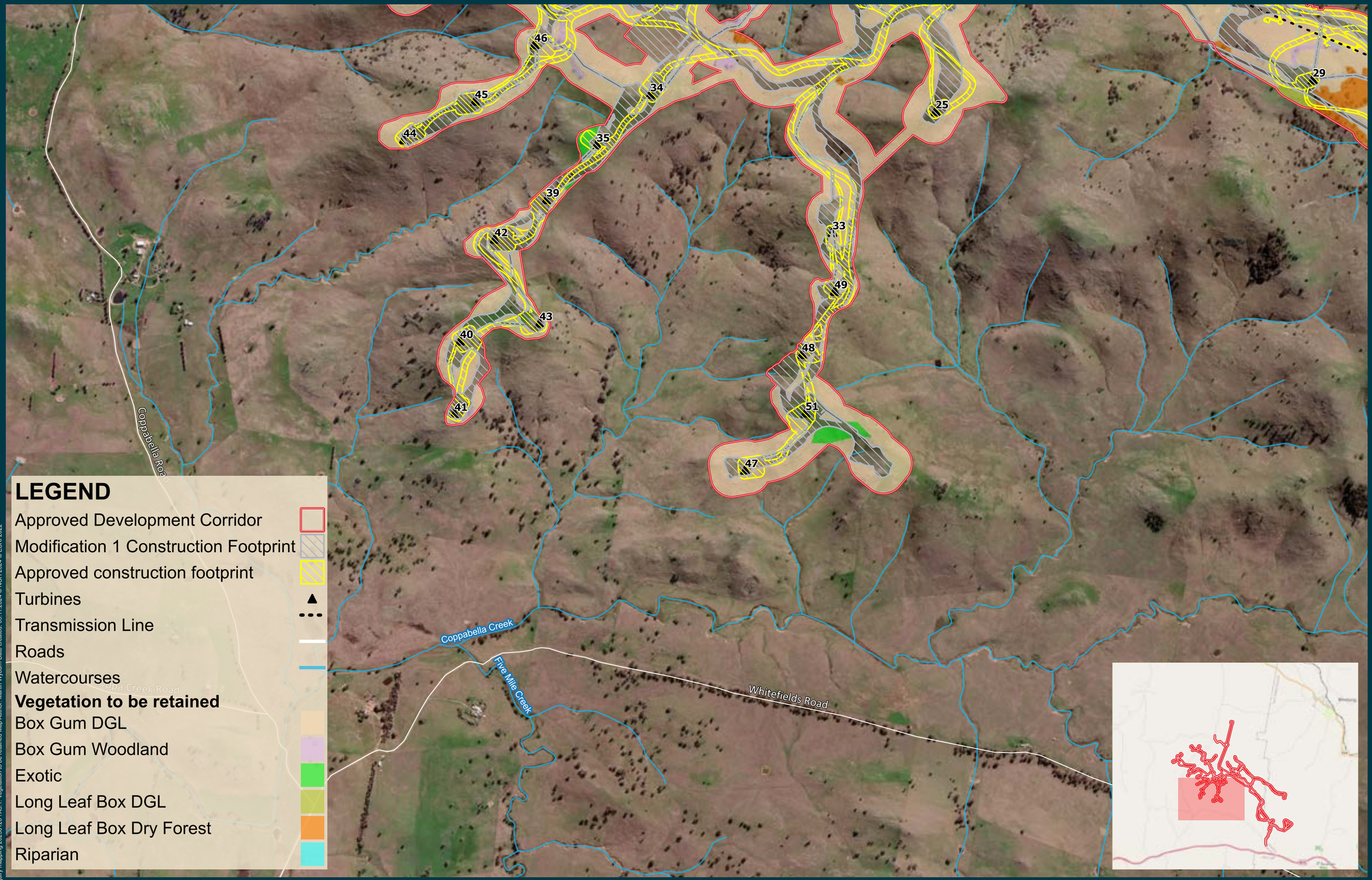
Bushrangers Creek

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Vegetation to be retained - Map C



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

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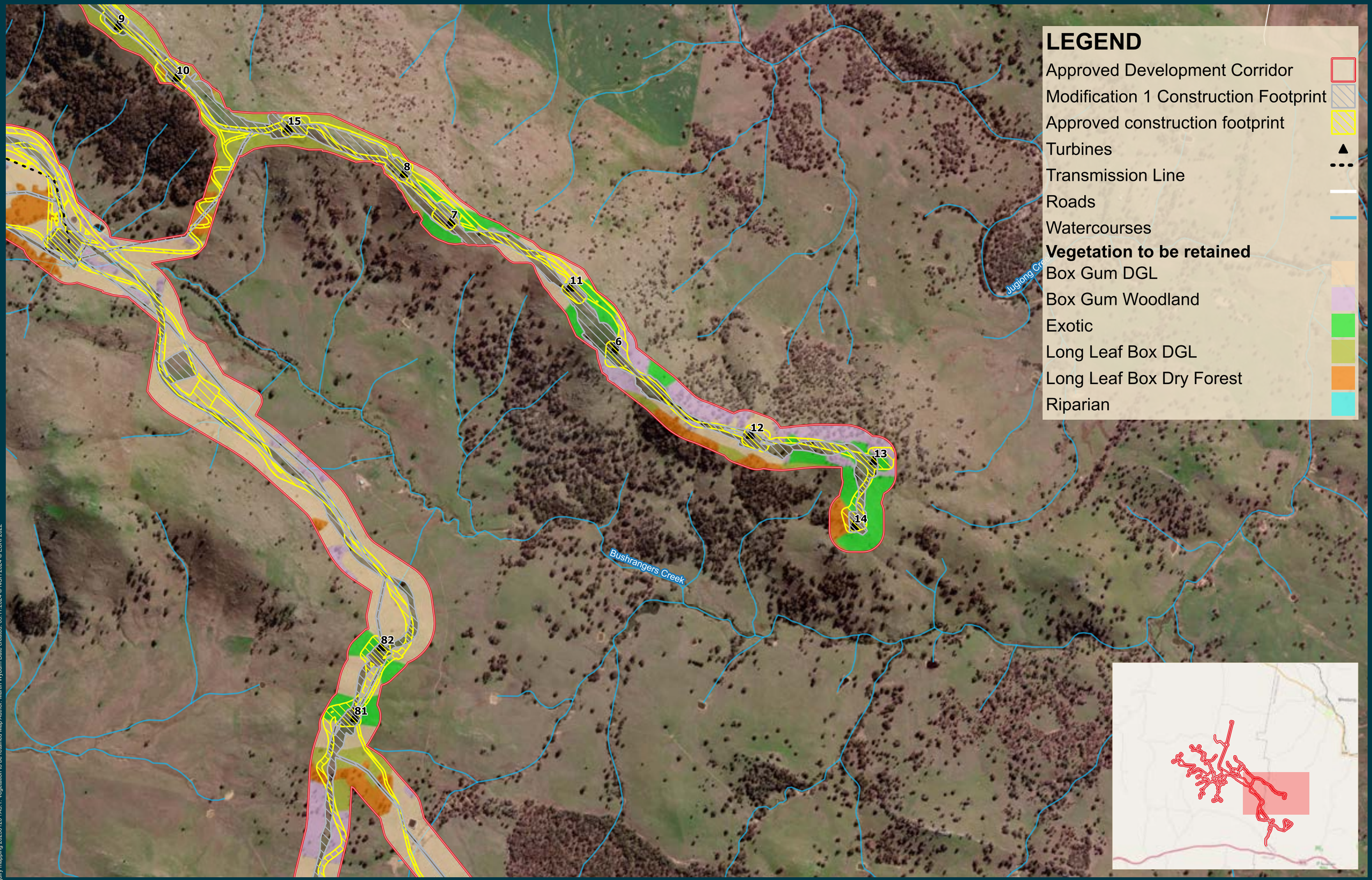
Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Vegetation to be retained - Map D



LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Transmission Line
- Roads
- Watercourses

Vegetation to be retained

- Box Gum DGL
- Box Gum Woodland
- Exotic
- Long Leaf Box DGL
- Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
- Riparian

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Vegetation to be retained - Map E

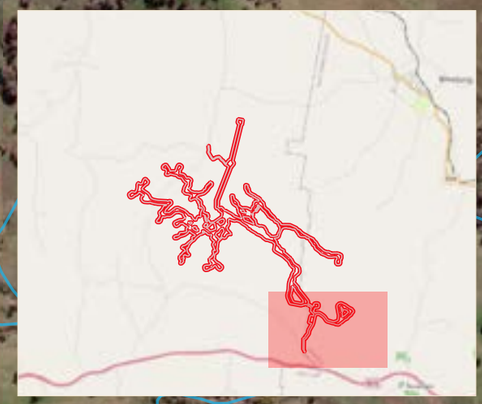
80
78
79
73
74
Whitefields Road
Coppabella Creek
Sawpit Creek
Bald Hill Creek
Back Creek
Hume Highway
Hume Highway

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Transmission Line
- Roads
- Watercourses

Vegetation to be retained

- Box Gum DGL
- Box Gum Woodland
- Exotic
- Long Leaf Box DGL
- Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
- Riparian



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

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0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Vegetation to be retained - Map F

A.4 Modification 1 changes

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved Construction Footprint
- Roads
- Watercourses

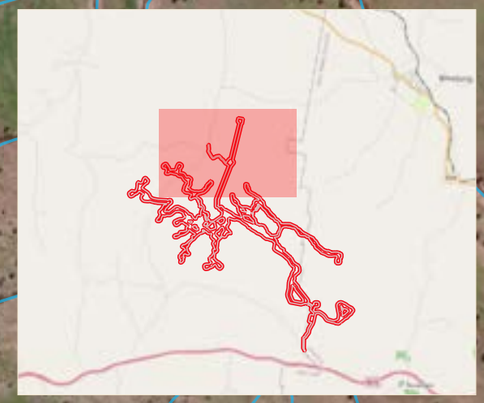
Bobbara Creek

Jugiong Creek

Cumbamurra Road

Coppabella Road

Stony Creek



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

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Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

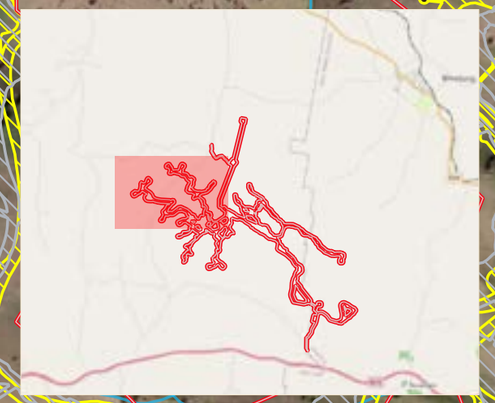
Modifcation 1 Construction Footprint Map A

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved Construction Footprint
- Roads
- Watercourses

Coppabella Road

Stony Creek



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGHA

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Modifcation 1 Construction Footprint Map B

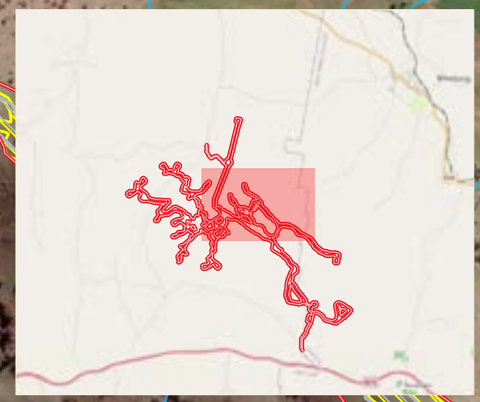
LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved Construction Footprint
- Roads
- Watercourses

Jugiong Creek

Stony Creek

Bushrangers Creek



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

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Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Modifcation 1 Construction Footprint Map C

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved Construction Footprint
- Roads
- Watercourses

Coppabella Road

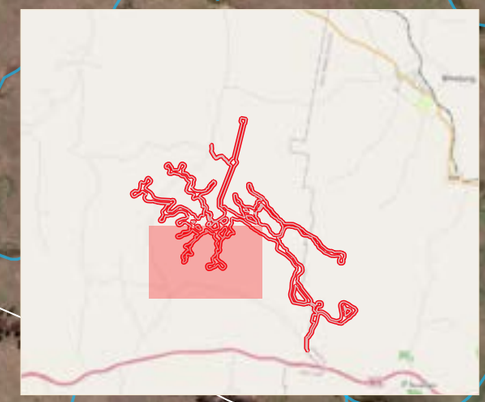
Coppabella Creek

Coppa Creek Road

Five Mile Creek

Whitefields Road

Coppabella Creek



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

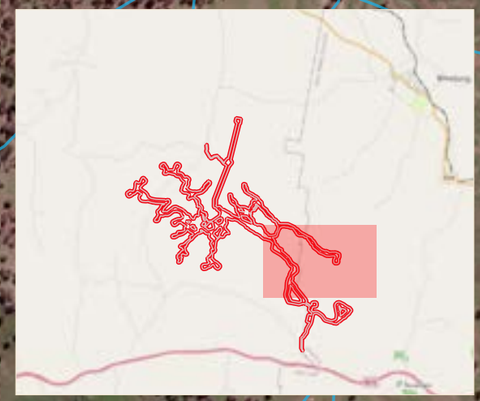
Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Modifcation 1 Construction Footprint Map D

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved Construction Footprint
- Roads
- Watercourses

Bushrangers Creek



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Modifcation 1 Construction Footprint Map E

LEGEND

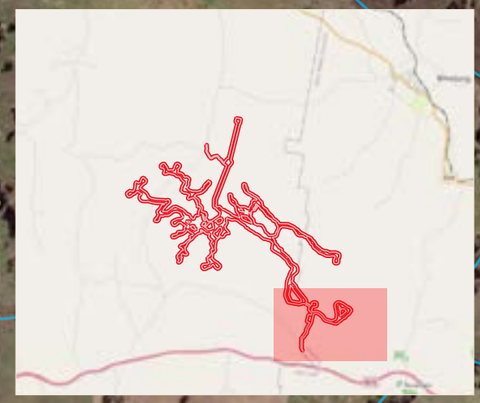
- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved Construction Footprint
- Roads
- Watercourses

Whitefields Road

Coppabella Creek

Sawpit Creek

Bald Hill Creek



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

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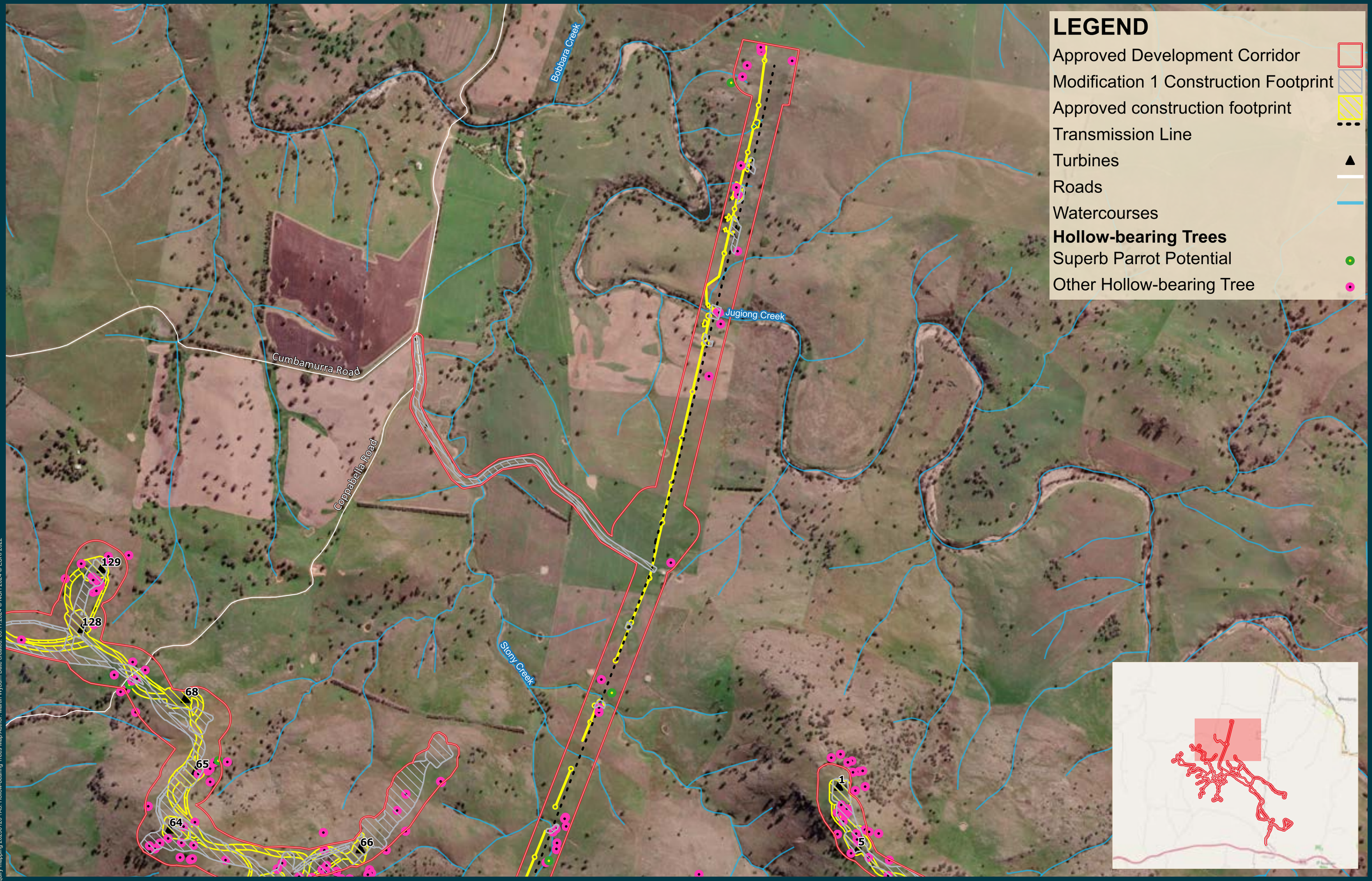
Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Modifcation 1 Construction Footprint Map F

A.5 Hollow bearing trees



LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Transmission Line
- Turbines
- Roads
- Watercourses

Hollow-bearing Trees

- Superb Parrot Potential
- Other Hollow-bearing Tree

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Hollow-bearing Trees Map A

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Transmission Line
- Turbines
- Roads
- Watercourses

Hollow-bearing Trees

- Superb Parrot Potential
- Other Hollow-bearing Tree

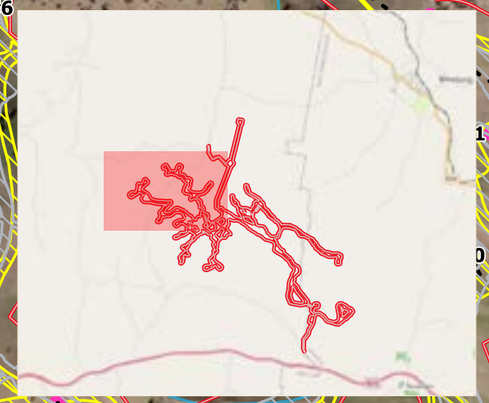
Cumbamurra Road

Coppabella Road

Stony Creek

126 127 128 129 130

46 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 61 62 63 64 65 66 68 69 70 71 72



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Hollow-bearing Trees Map B

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Transmission Line
- Turbines
- Roads
- Watercourses

Hollow-bearing Trees

- Superb Parrot Potential
- Other Hollow-bearing Tree

Stony Creek

Bushrangers Creek

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Hollow-bearing Trees Map C

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Transmission Line
- Turbines
- Roads
- Watercourses

Hollow-bearing Trees

- Superb Parrot Potential
- Other Hollow-bearing Tree

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Hollow-bearing Trees Map D

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Transmission Line
- Turbines
- Roads
- Watercourses

Hollow-bearing Trees

- Superb Parrot Potential
- Other Hollow-bearing Tree

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29
82
81
Bushrangers Creek

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Hollow-bearing Trees Map E

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Transmission Line
- Turbines
- Roads
- Watercourses

Hollow-bearing Trees

- Superb Parrot Potential
- Other Hollow-bearing Tree

80
78
79
73
74

Coppabella Creek
Whitefields Road
Sawpit Creek
Bald Hill Creek
Back Creek
Hume Highway
Bodkins Road
Hume Highway

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Hollow-bearing Trees Map F

A.6 Superb Parrot trees

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines

Superb Parrot

- Superb Parrot HBT's to be retained
- Superb Parrot HBTs to be removed
- Superb Parrot 50m Buffer

129
128
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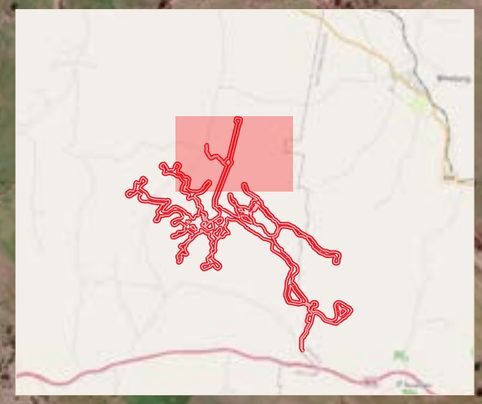

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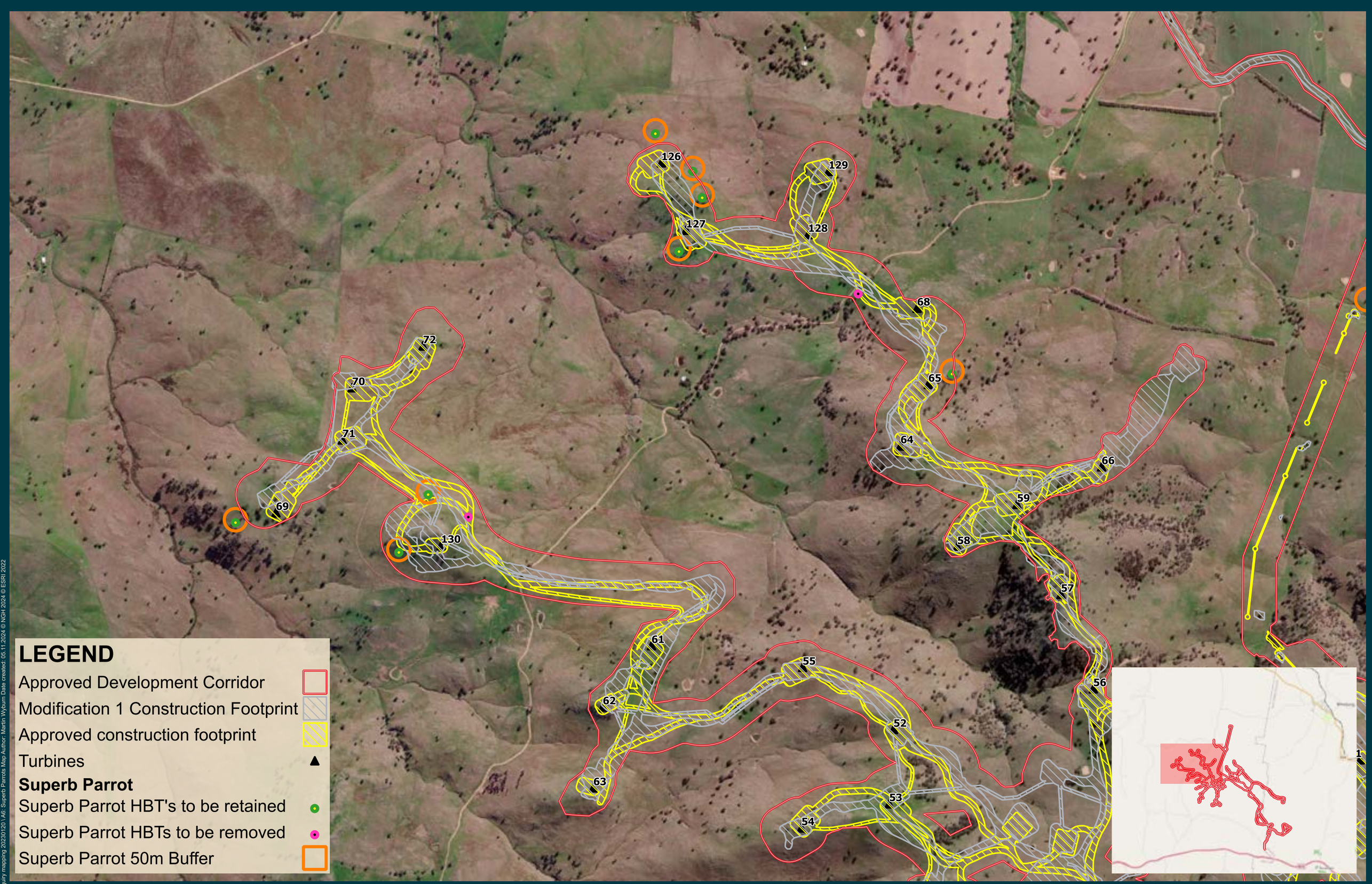
Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Superb Parrot Map A



LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines

Superb Parrot

- Superb Parrot HBT's to be retained
- Superb Parrot HBTs to be removed
- Superb Parrot 50m Buffer

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

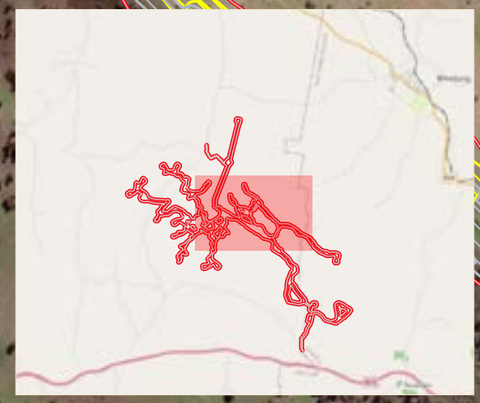
Superb Parrot Map B

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines

Superb Parrot

- Superb Parrot HBT's to be retained
- Superb Parrot HBTs to be removed
- Superb Parrot 50m Buffer

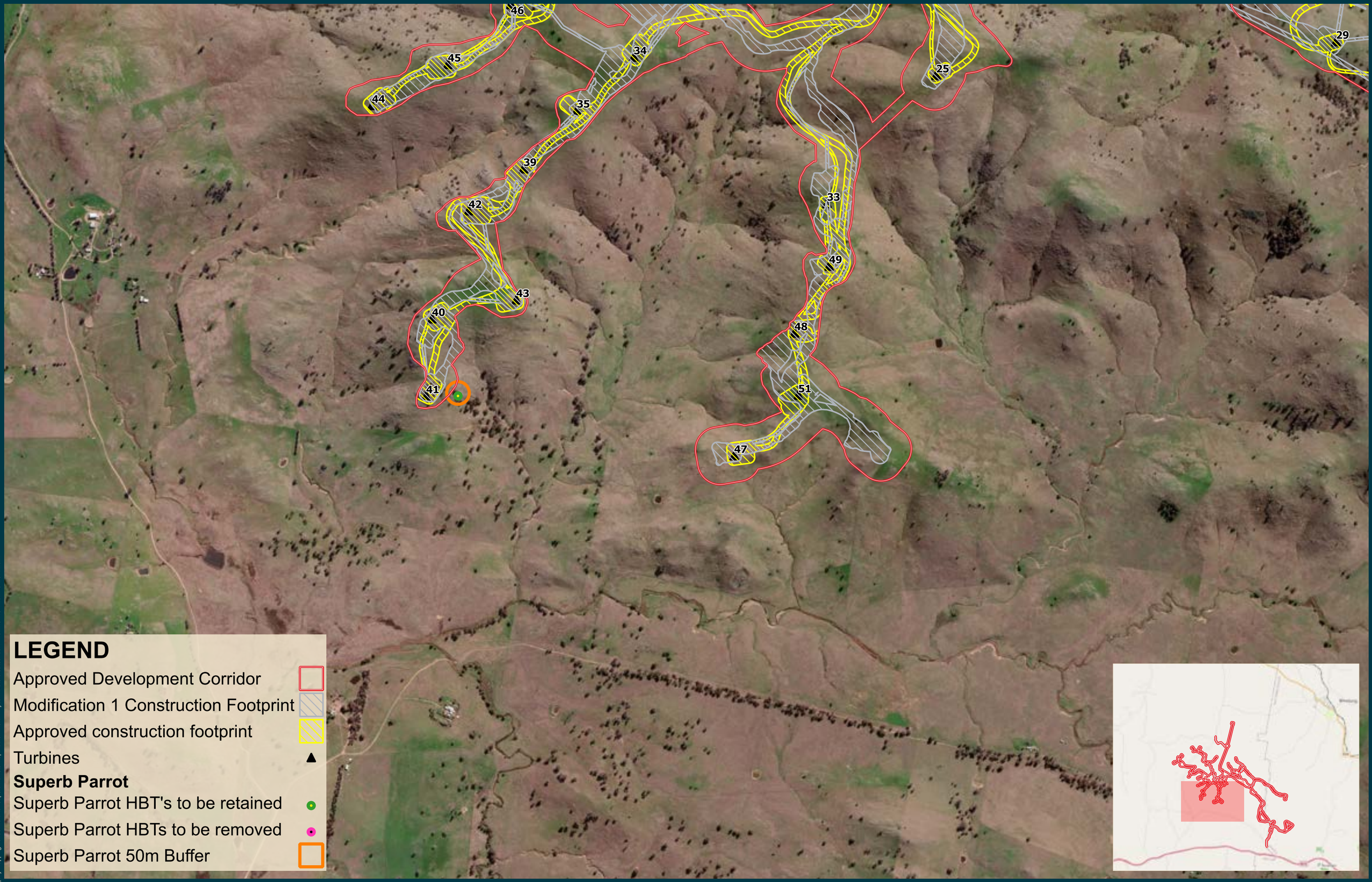


Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Superb Parrot Map C



LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines

Superb Parrot

- Superb Parrot HBT's to be retained
- Superb Parrot HBTs to be removed
- Superb Parrot 50m Buffer

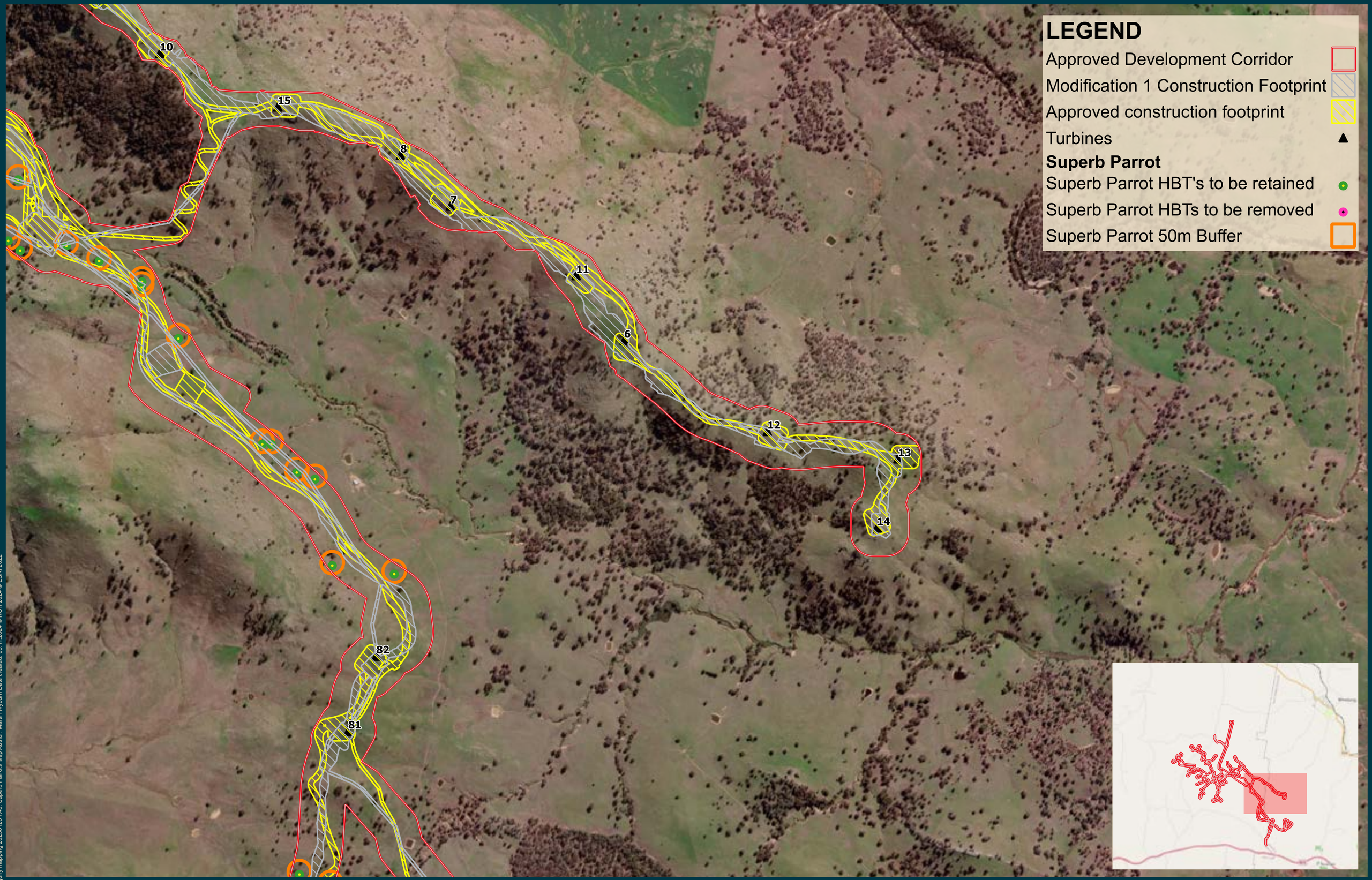
Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGHA

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Superb Parrot Map D



LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines

Superb Parrot

- Superb Parrot HBT's to be retained
- Superb Parrot HBTs to be removed
- Superb Parrot 50m Buffer

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Superb Parrot Map E

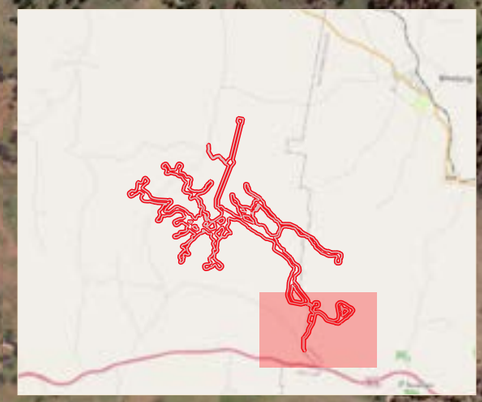
80
78
79
73
74

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines

Superb Parrot

- Superb Parrot HBT's to be retained
- Superb Parrot HBTs to be removed
- Superb Parrot 50m Buffer



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Superb Parrot Map F

A.7 Location of threatened flora

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Roads
- Transmission Line
- Watercourse

Vegetation Mapping

- Box Gum DGL
- Box Gum Woodland
- Exotic
- Long Leaf Box DGL
- Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
- Riparian
- CEEC
- Yass Daisy, 1-100s plants (pre 2018)
- Yass Daisy, 7 plants (Nov 2018)
- Yass Daisy, 200 plants (Nov 2018)

Bobbara Creek
Jugiong Creek
Coppabella Road
Stony Creek
Cumbamurra Road

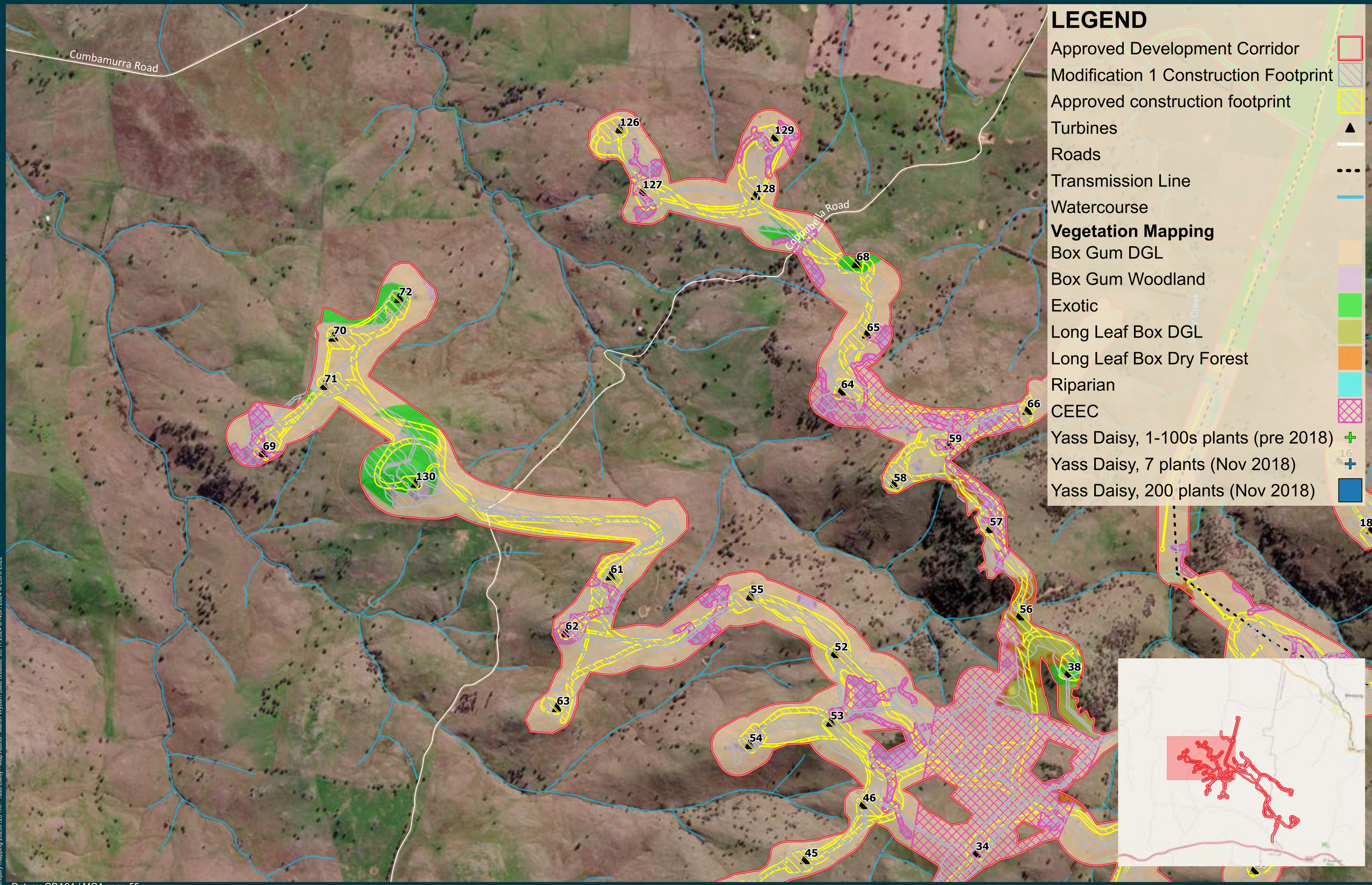
129
128
68
65
64
66
1
5

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Yass Daisy - Map A



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Yass Daisy - Map B

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Roads
- Transmission Line
- Watercourse

Vegetation Mapping

- Box Gum DGL
- Box Gum Woodland
- Exotic
- Long Leaf Box DGL
- Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
- Riparian
- CEEC
- Yass Daisy, 1-100s plants (pre 2018)
- Yass Daisy, 7 plants (Nov 2018)
- Yass Daisy, 200 plants (Nov 2018)

Jugiong Creek

Balgalal Creek

Stony Creek

Bushrangers Creek

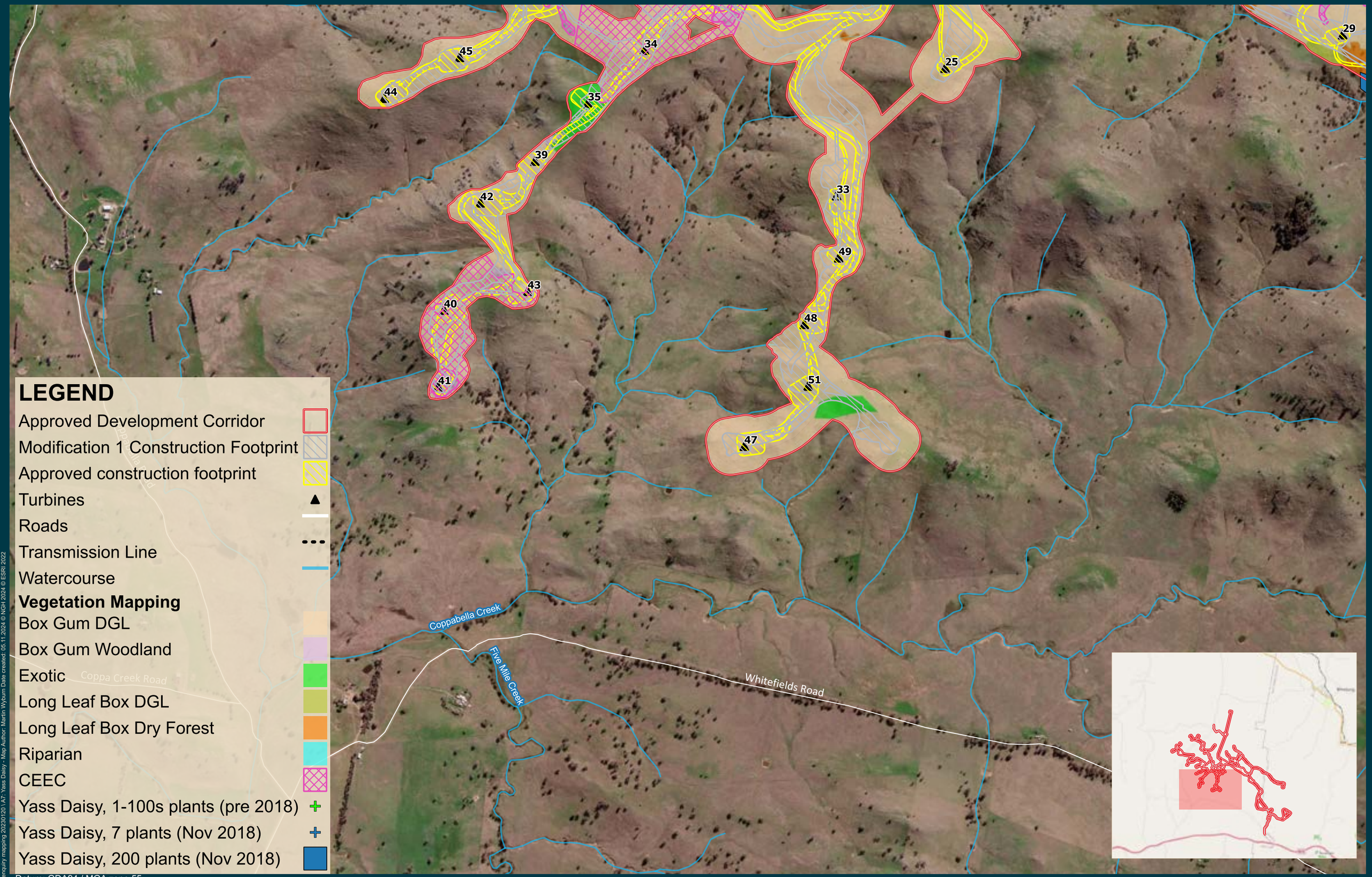
Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Yass Daisy - Map C



LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Roads
- Transmission Line
- Watercourse

Vegetation Mapping

- Box Gum DGL
- Box Gum Woodland
- Exotic
- Long Leaf Box DGL
- Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
- Riparian
- CEEC
- Yass Daisy, 1-100s plants (pre 2018)
- Yass Daisy, 7 plants (Nov 2018)
- Yass Daisy, 200 plants (Nov 2018)

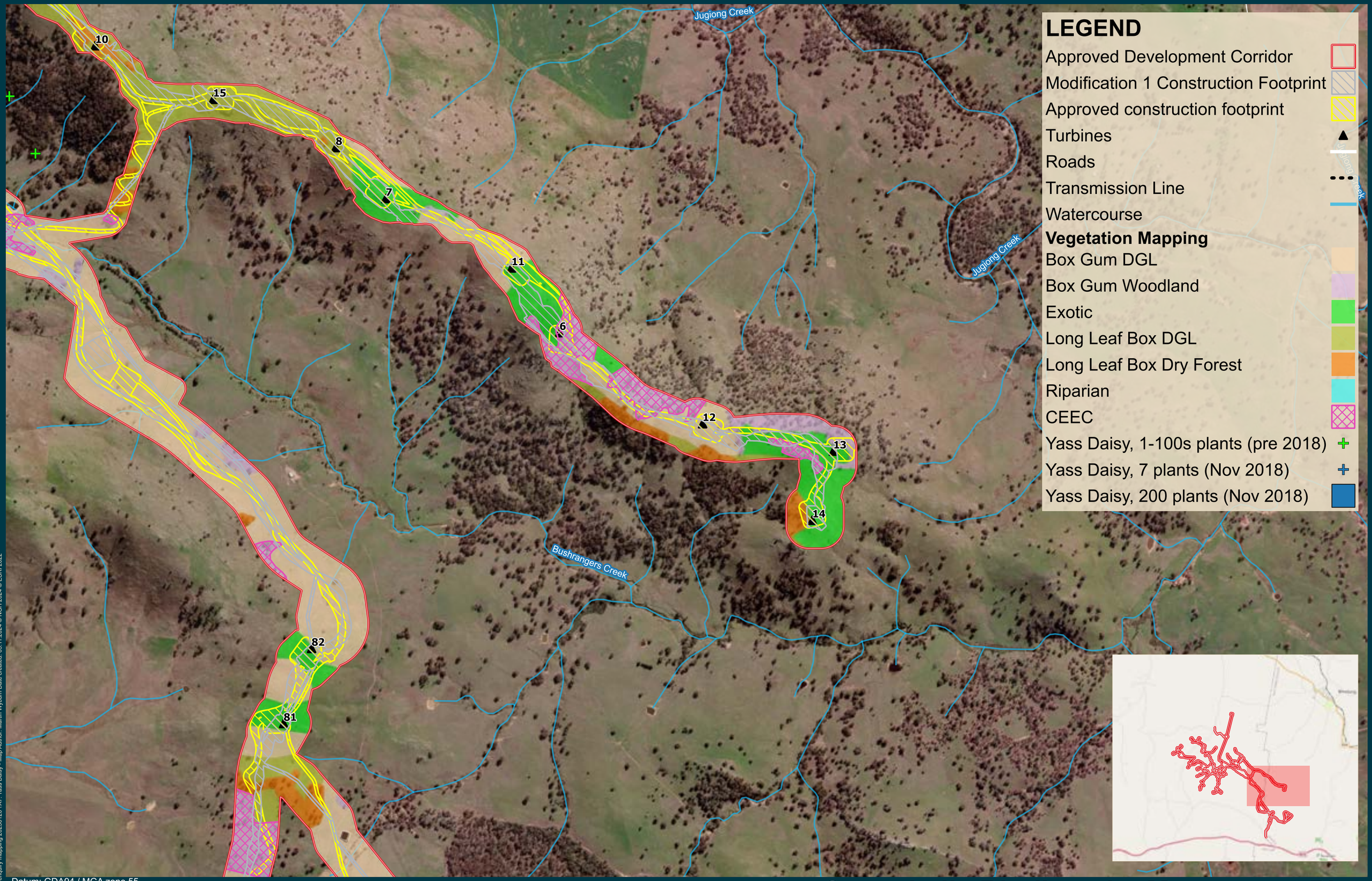
Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Yass Daisy - Map D



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Yass Daisy - Map E

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Roads
- Transmission Line
- Watercourse

Vegetation Mapping

- Box Gum DGL
- Box Gum Woodland
- Exotic
- Long Leaf Box DGL
- Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
- Riparian
- CEEC
- Yass Daisy, 1-100s plants (pre 2018)
- Yass Daisy, 7 plants (Nov 2018)
- Yass Daisy, 200 plants (Nov 2018)

80
78
79
73
74
Coppabella Creek
Whitefields Road
Sawpit Creek
Back Creek
Bodkins Road
Hume Highway
Hume Highway

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Yass Daisy - Map F

A.8 Commonwealth protected matters

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Roads
- Transmission Line
- Watercourse

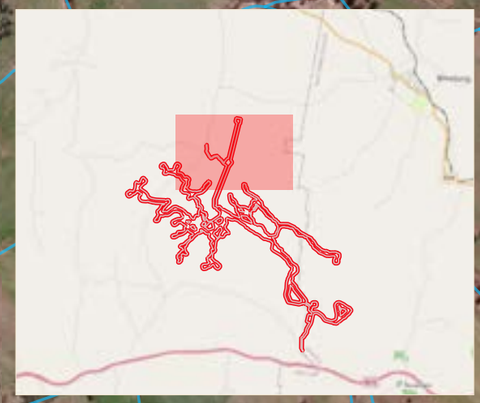
Commonwealth Protected Matters

- Potential Regent Honeyeater Habitat
- Potential Superb Parrot Habitat
- Koala Record (2006)
- Box Gum Woodland CEEC

Hollow-bearing Trees

- Superb Parrot Potential

Bobbara Creek
Jugiong Creek
Cumbamurra Road
Coppabella Road
Stony Creek
129
128
68
65
64
1



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Commonwealth Protected Matters Map A

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Roads
- Transmission Line
- Watercourse

Commonwealth Protected Matters

- Potential Regent Honeyeater Habitat
- Potential Superb Parrot Habitat
- Koala Record (2006)
- Box Gum Woodland CEEC

Hollow-bearing Trees

- Superb Parrot Potential

Cumbamurra Road
Coppabella Road
Stony Creek

126 129 127 128 68 72 70 65 71 64 66 69 130 59 58 57 61 55 62 52 63 53 54

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Commonwealth Protected Matters Map B

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Roads
- Transmission Line
- Watercourse

Commonwealth Protected Matters

- Potential Regent Honeyeater Habitat
- Potential Superb Parrot Habitat
- Koala Record (2006)
- Box Gum Woodland CEEC

Hollow-bearing Trees

- Superb Parrot Potential

Jugiong Creek

Stony Creek

Bushrangers Creek

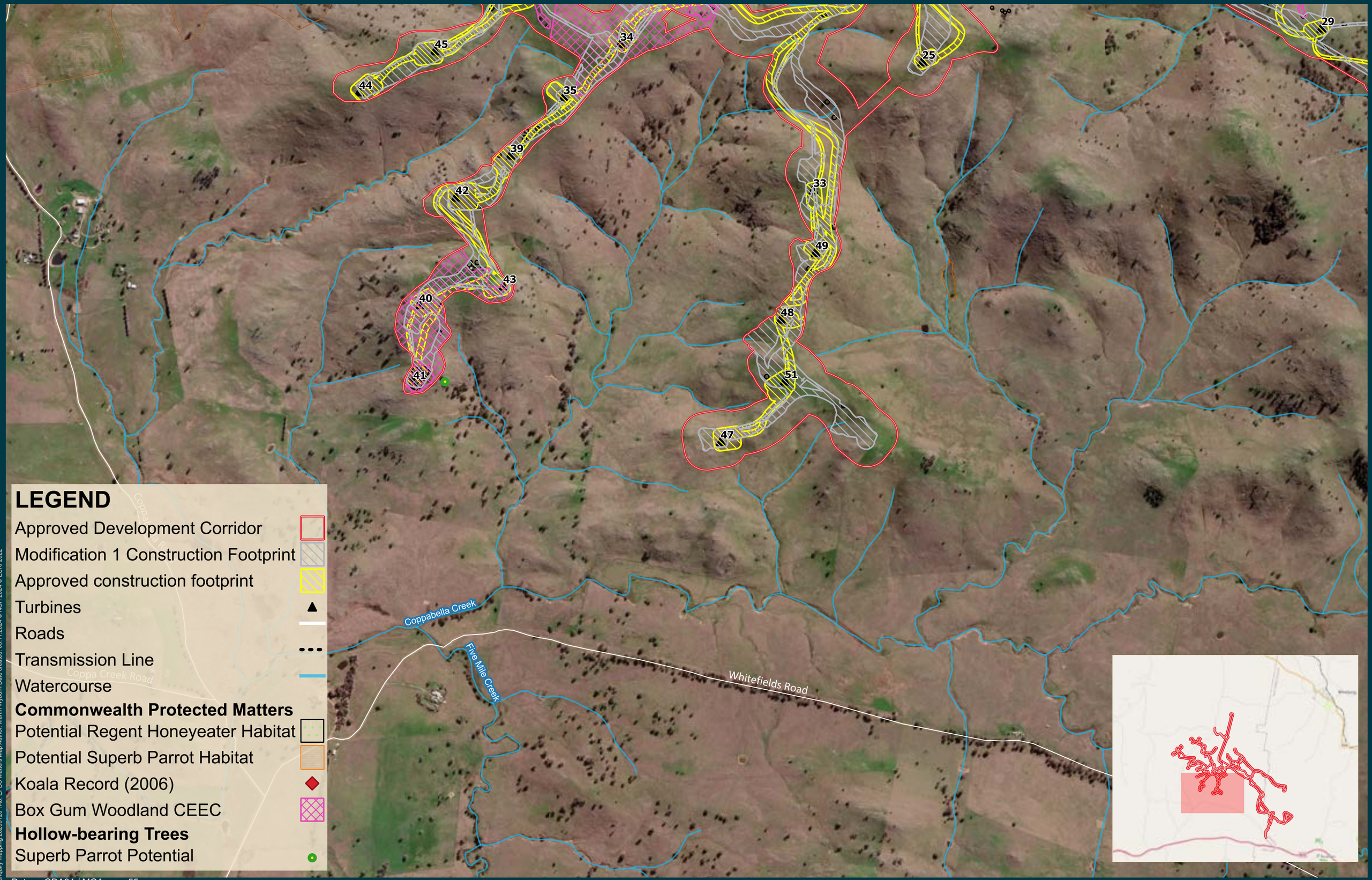
Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Commonwealth Protected Matters Map C

Ref: 21-280 Coppabella BCS enquiry mapping 20230120 | Ab: EPBC Matters Map Author: Martin Wyburn Date created: 05.11.2024 © NGH 2024 © ESRI 2022



LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Roads
- Transmission Line
- Watercourse

Commonwealth Protected Matters

- Potential Regent Honeyeater Habitat
- Potential Superb Parrot Habitat
- Koala Record (2006)
- Box Gum Woodland CEEC

Hollow-bearing Trees

- Superb Parrot Potential

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

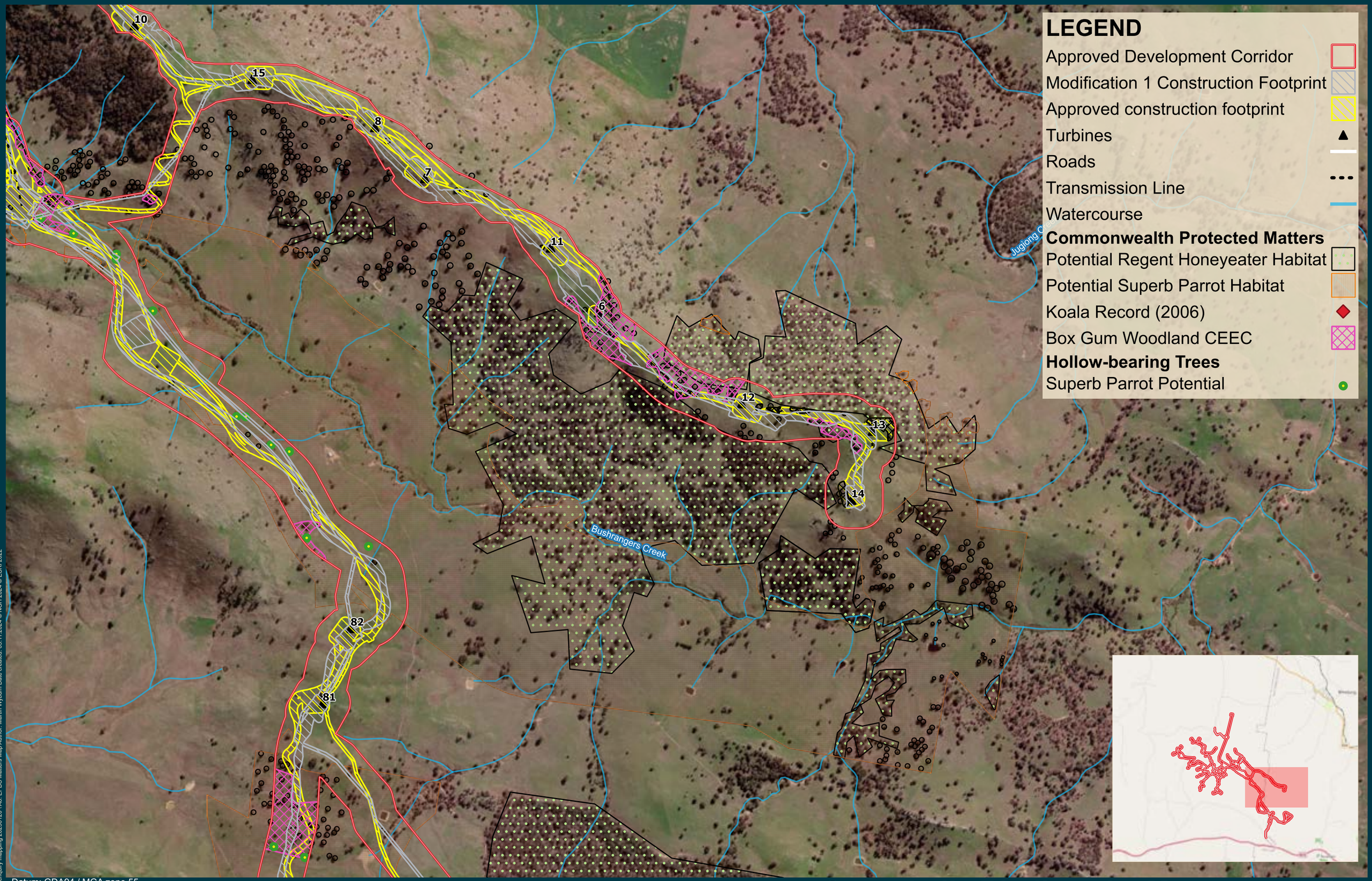
NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Commonwealth Protected Matters Map D

Ref: 21-280 Coppabella BCS enquiry mapping 20230120 \ A8: EPBC Matters Map Author: Martin Wyburn Date created: 05.11.2024 © NGH 2024 © ESRI 2022



LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Roads
- Transmission Line
- Watercourse

Commonwealth Protected Matters

- Potential Regent Honeyeater Habitat
- Potential Superb Parrot Habitat
- Koala Record (2006)
- Box Gum Woodland CEEC

Hollow-bearing Trees

- Superb Parrot Potential

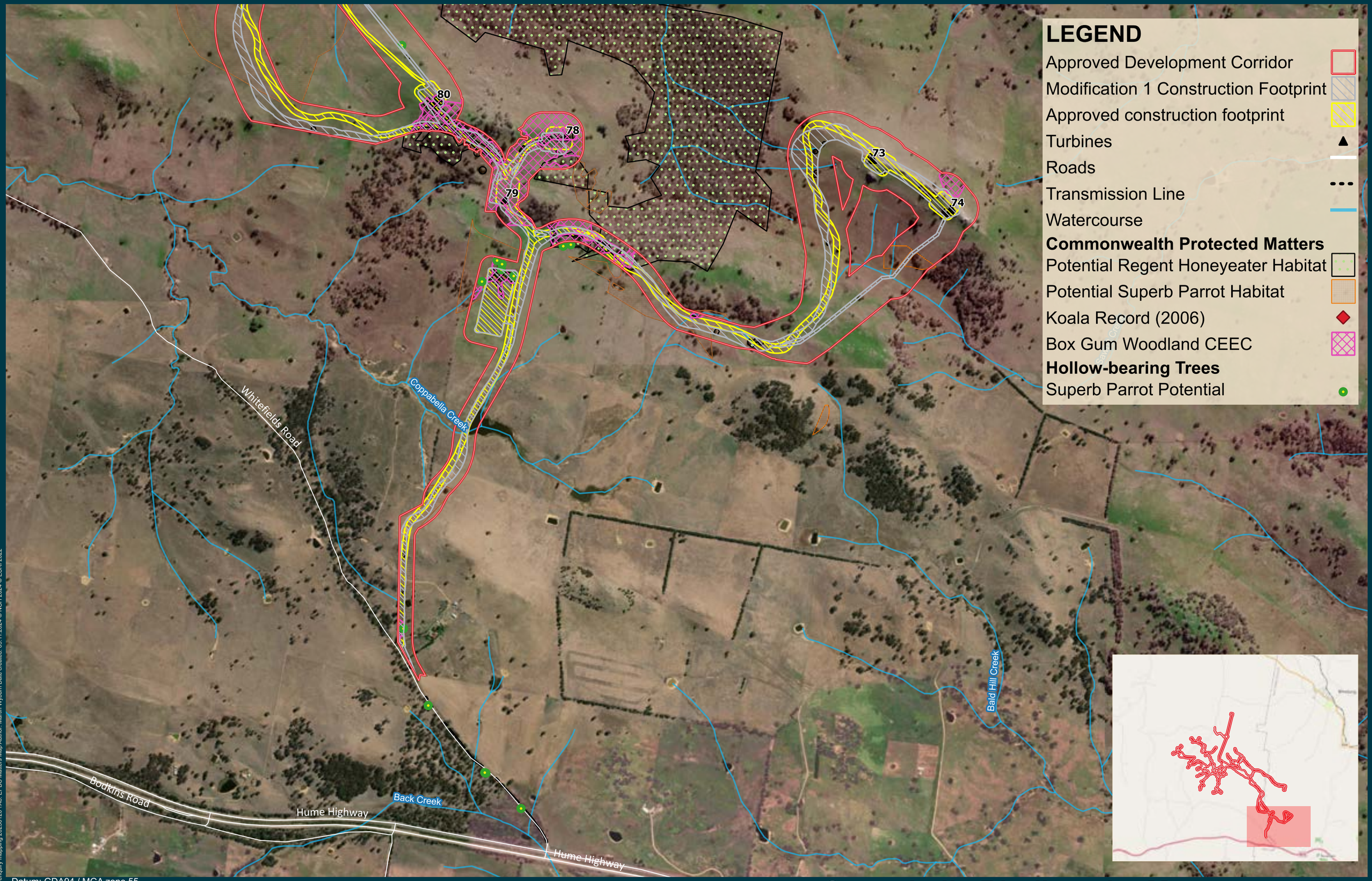
Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGHA

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Commonwealth Protected Matters Map E



LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Roads
- Transmission Line
- Watercourse

Commonwealth Protected Matters

- Potential Regent Honeyeater Habitat
- Potential Superb Parrot Habitat
- Koala Record (2006)
- Box Gum Woodland CEEC

Hollow-bearing Trees

- Superb Parrot Potential

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGHA

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Commonwealth Protected Matters Map F

Ref: 21-280 Coppabella BCS enquiry mapping 20230120 \ A8: EPBC Matters Map Author: Martin Wyburn Date created: 05.11.2024 © NGH 2024 © ESRI 2022

A.9 Weed mapping

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Roads
- Transmission Line
- Watercourse

Priority Weeds

- African Lovegrass
- Blackberry
- Serrated Tussock
- Serrated tussock and Blackberry

Vegetation Mapping

- Box Gum DGL
- Box Gum Woodland
- Exotic
- Long Leaf Box DGL
- Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
- Riparian
- CEEC

Bobbara Creek
Cumbamurra Road
Coppabella Road
Jugiong Creek
Stony Creek
129
128
68
65
64
66
1
5

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Priority Weeds Map A

Cumbamurra Road

Coppabella Road

Stony Creek

126
129
127
128
68
72
70
65
71
64
69
130
58
57
61
55
62
52
63
53
54

LEGEND

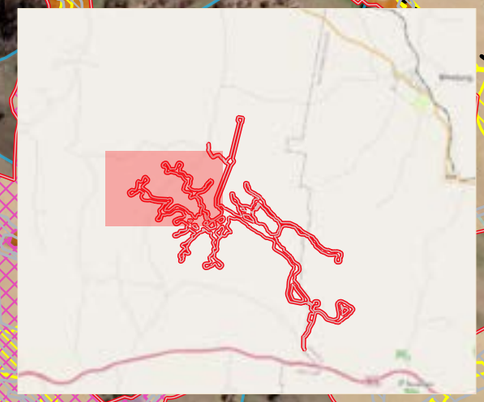
Approved Development Corridor
Modification 1 Construction Footprint
Approved construction footprint
Turbines
Roads
Transmission Line
Watercourse

Priority Weeds

African Lovegrass
Blackberry
Serrated Tussock
Serrated tussock and Blackberry

Vegetation Mapping

Box Gum DGL
Box Gum Woodland
Exotic
Long Leaf Box DGL
Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
Riparian
CEEC



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Priority Weeds Map B

LEGEND

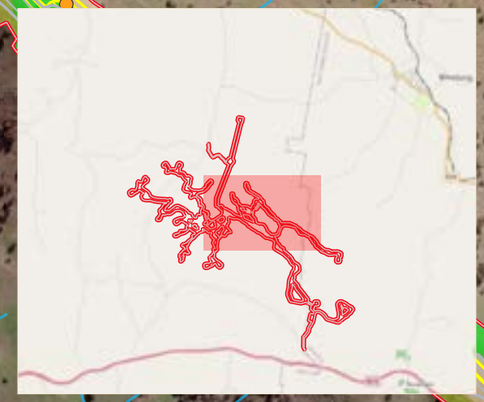
- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Roads
- Transmission Line
- Watercourse

Priority Weeds

- African Lovegrass
- Blackberry
- Serrated Tussock
- Serrated tussock and Blackberry

Vegetation Mapping

- Box Gum DGL
- Box Gum Woodland
- Exotic
- Long Leaf Box DGL
- Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
- Riparian
- CEEC

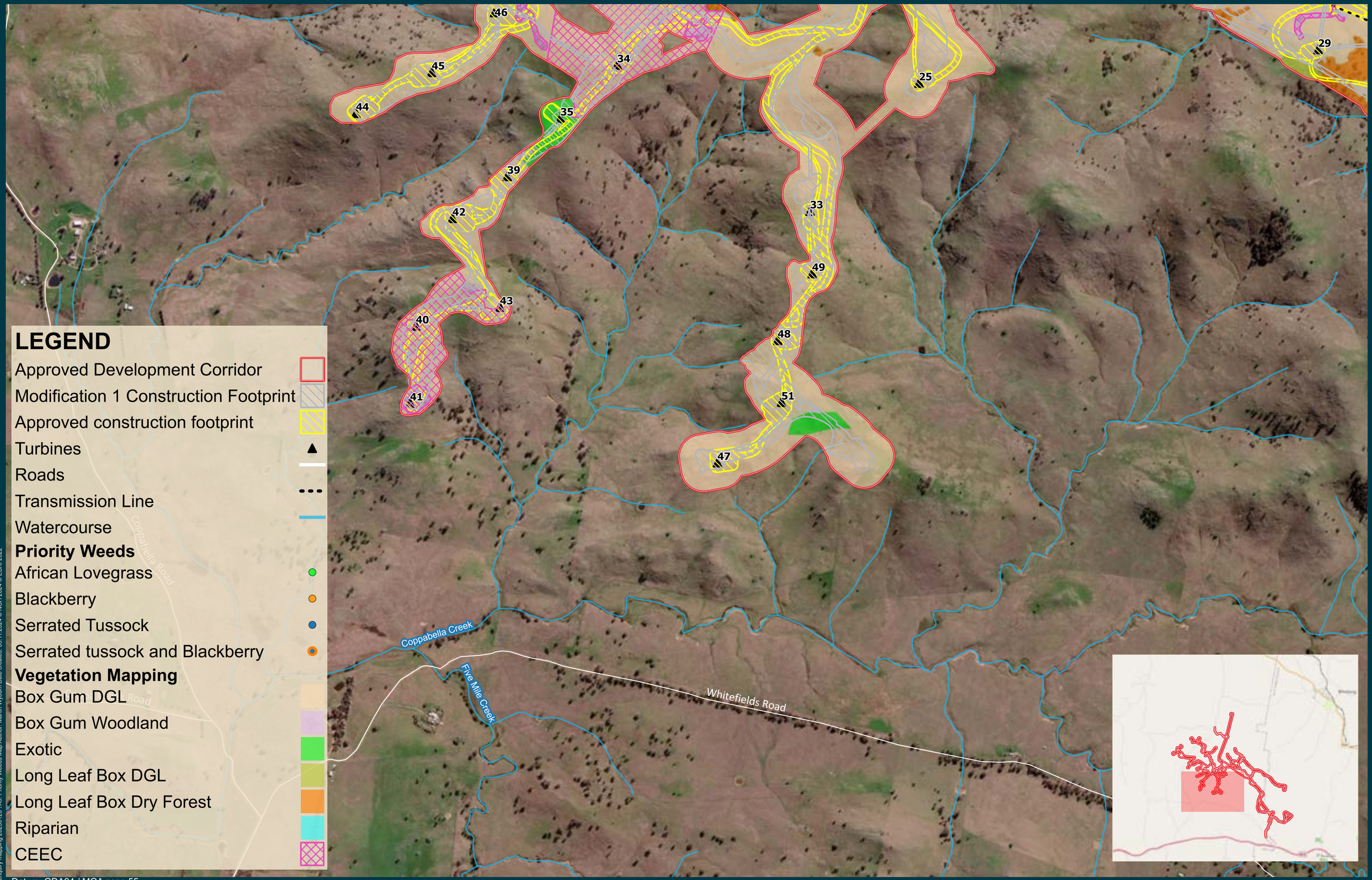


Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Priority Weeds Map C



LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Roads
- Transmission Line
- Watercourse

Priority Weeds

- African Lovegrass
- Blackberry
- Serrated Tussock
- Serrated tussock and Blackberry

Vegetation Mapping

- Box Gum DGL
- Box Gum Woodland
- Exotic
- Long Leaf Box DGL
- Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
- Riparian
- CEEC

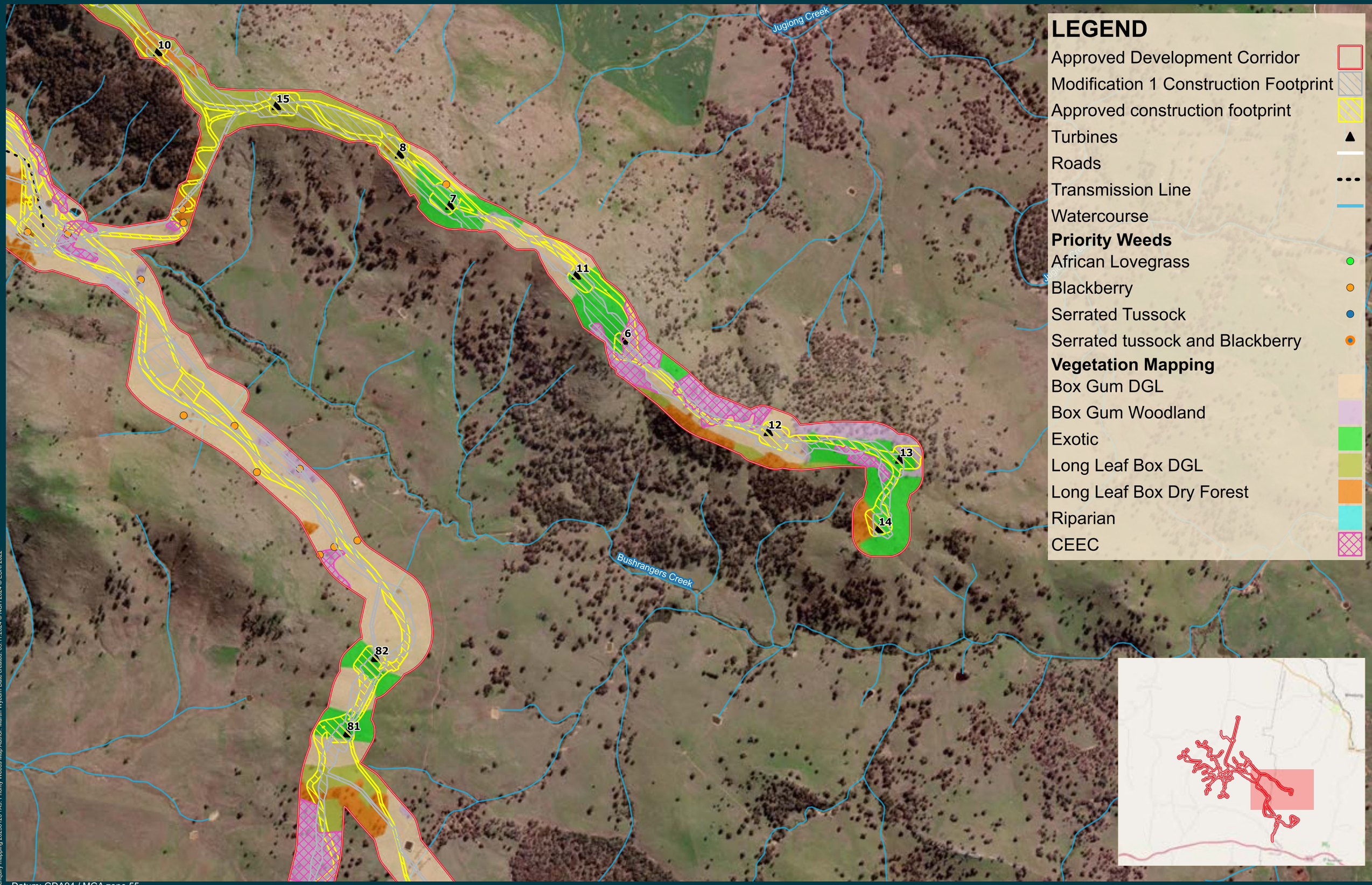
Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Priority Weeds Map D



LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Roads
- Transmission Line
- Watercourse

Priority Weeds

- African Lovegrass
- Blackberry
- Serrated Tussock
- Serrated tussock and Blackberry

Vegetation Mapping

- Box Gum DGL
- Box Gum Woodland
- Exotic
- Long Leaf Box DGL
- Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
- Riparian
- CEEC

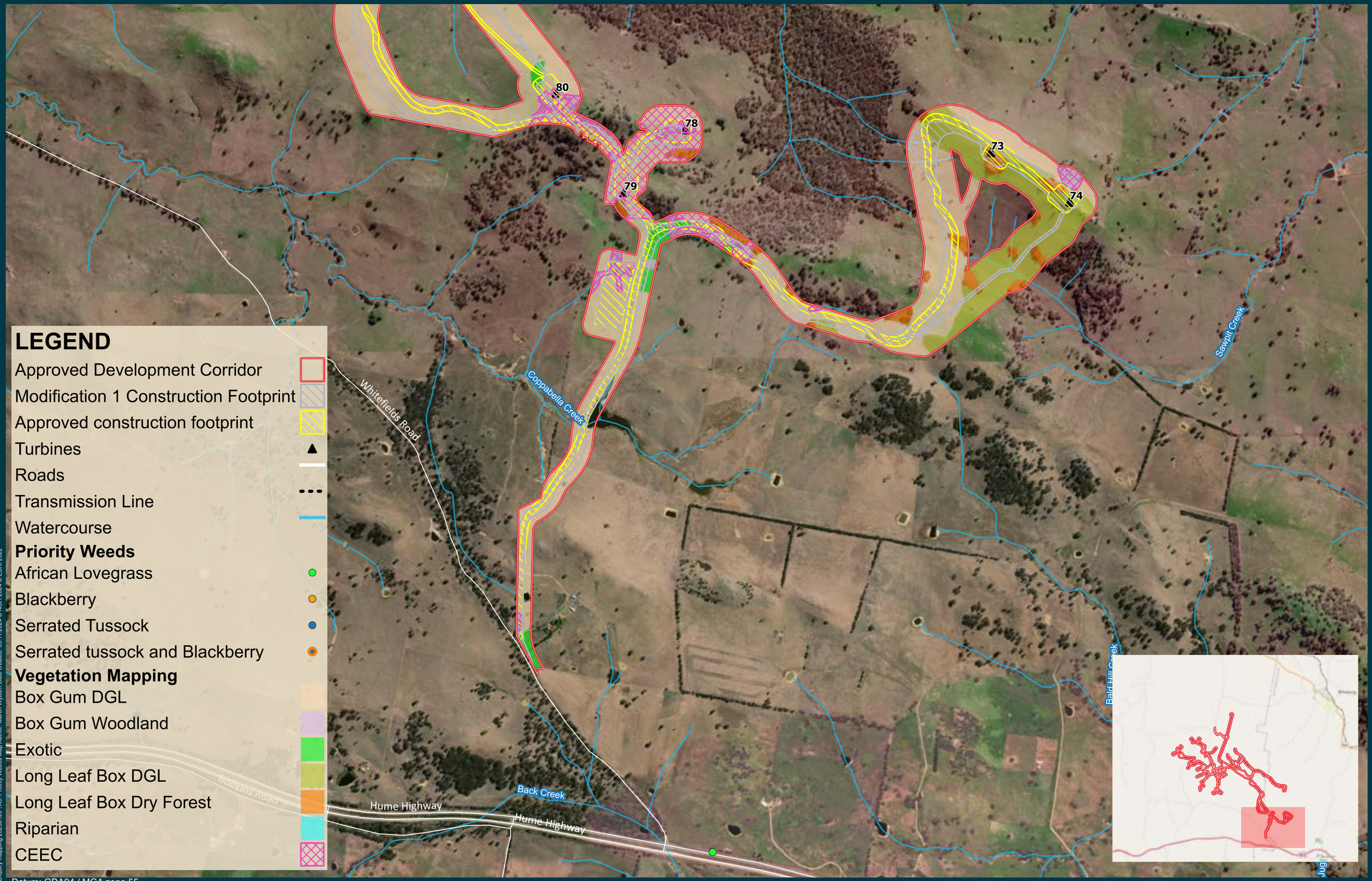
Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Priority Weeds Map E



LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved construction footprint
- Turbines
- Roads
- Transmission Line
- Watercourse

Priority Weeds

- African Lovegrass
- Blackberry
- Serrated Tussock
- Serrated tussock and Blackberry

Vegetation Mapping

- Box Gum DGL
- Box Gum Woodland
- Exotic
- Long Leaf Box DGL
- Long Leaf Box Dry Forest
- Riparian
- CEEC

Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Priority Weeds Map F

A.10 Box Gum Woodland Diversity

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved Construction Footprint
- Roads

BG DGL Diversity Condition

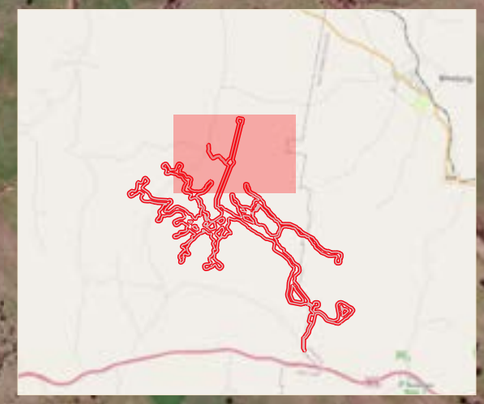
- Low
- Moderate-good (high Div)
- Moderate-good (low Div)

BGW Diversity Condition

- Low
- Moderate-good (low Div)
- Moderate-good (high Div)
- Box Gum Woodland CEEC

Cumbamurra Road

Coppabella Road



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Box Gum Diversity Condition Map A

Coppabella Road

LEGEND

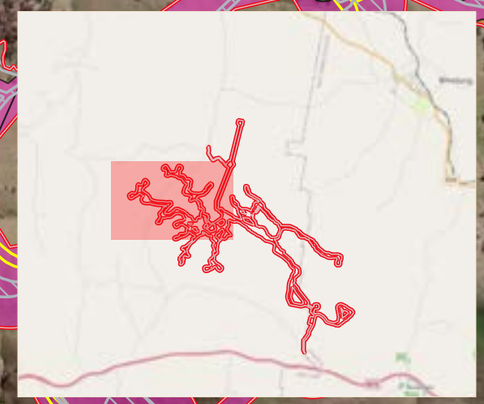
- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved Construction Footprint
- Roads

BG DGL Diversity Condition

- Low
- Moderate-good (high Div)
- Moderate-good (low Div)

BGW Diversity Condition

- Low
- Moderate-good (low Div)
- Moderate-good (high Div)
- Box Gum Woodland CEEC



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Box Gum Diversity Condition Map B

LEGEND

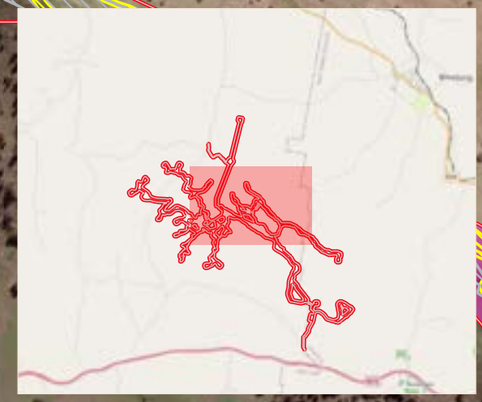
- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved Construction Footprint
- Roads

BG DGL Diversity Condition

- Low
- Moderate-good (high Div)
- Moderate-good (low Div)

BGW Diversity Condition

- Low
- Moderate-good (low Div)
- Moderate-good (high Div)
- Box Gum Woodland CEEC



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Box Gum Diversity Condition Map C

Coppabella Road

Coppa Creek Road

Whitefields Road

LEGEND

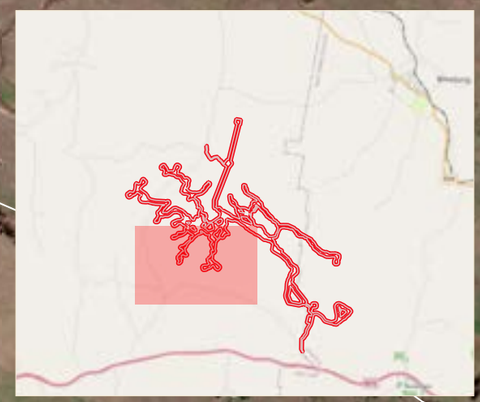
- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved Construction Footprint
- Roads

BG DGL Diversity Condition

- Low
- Moderate-good (high Div)
- Moderate-good (low Div)

BGW Diversity Condition

- Low
- Moderate-good (low Div)
- Moderate-good (high Div)
- Box Gum Woodland CEEC



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGHA

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Box Gum Diversity Condition Map D

LEGEND

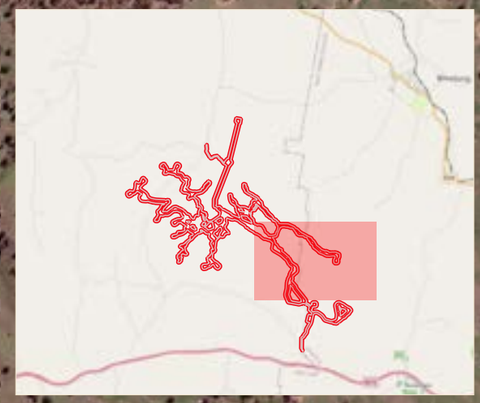
- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved Construction Footprint
- Roads

BG DGL Diversity Condition

- Low
- Moderate-good (high Div)
- Moderate-good (low Div)

BGW Diversity Condition

- Low
- Moderate-good (low Div)
- Moderate-good (high Div)
- Box Gum Woodland CEEC



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Box Gum Diversity Condition Map E

LEGEND

- Approved Development Corridor
- Modification 1 Construction Footprint
- Approved Construction Footprint
- Roads

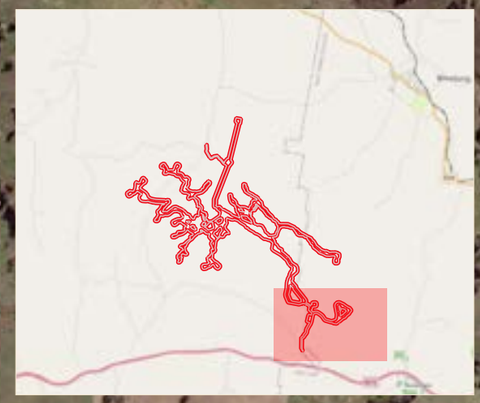
BG DGL Diversity Condition

- Low
- Moderate-good (high Div)
- Moderate-good (low Div)

BGW Diversity Condition

- Low
- Moderate-good (low Div)
- Moderate-good (high Div)
- Box Gum Woodland CEEC

Whitefields Road



Datum: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

NGH

0 0.5 1 km

Coppabella Biodiversity Managment Plan

Box Gum Diversity Condition Map F

Appendix B Consultation

To ensure that this BMP satisfactorily meets the conditions of consent, consultation has been undertaken as outlined in Table B 1:

Table B 1 Status of consultation with regulators

Agency	Key matters for consultation	Sent - Received	Status
CPHR (former BCS)	Coppabella Wind Farm vegetation mapping	21/4/2021 – 17/12/2021	Addressed and closed out 17 December 2021. BCS ref: DOC21/1030031. See Appendix E for correspondence.
CPHR (former NSW Office of Environment and Heritage)	The BMP must be prepared in consultation with OEH	16/7/2019 – 5/08/2019	Draft V3.1 provided July 2019 for comment. Comments addressed below in Table B 2
DCCEEW (former Department of Environment and Energy)	The BMP must be submitted to the Minister for approval	16/7/2019 – 5/08/2019	Draft V3.1 provided July 2019 for comment. Comments addressed below in Table B 4
CPHR (former BCS)	Review response and incorporation of July 2019 comments above into this September 2023 BMP (Version draft V5).	September 2023-September 2024	Draft V5 provided September 2023 for comment. Comments addressed below in Table B 3
DPHI	The BMP must be prepared to the satisfaction of the Secretary	November 2024 April 2025	Final v1 provided November 2024 for comment. Comments addressed in separate response table.

Table B 2 Responses to CPHR comments/ recommendations received on the BMP

CPHR Recommendation	Recommendation wording	Proponent's response	Section
1	Restructure the BMP so that it mirrors the layout of the relevant conditions in the Consolidated Development Consent (entire BMP)	**Updated** - Reorganised with a breakout box identifying the Consolidated Consent Conditions.	**6.2.1**
1.1	Include a table at the front of the BMP which outlines where each commitment in the Consolidated Development Consent has been addressed within the document.	**Updated**	**4.3**
2	Where external plans are relied upon to satisfy conditions within the Consolidated Development Consent, include the relevant text in full within the entire BMP.	**Noted**	**Entire BMP**
2.1	Where management items are controlled by external plans but are an explicit requirement of the BMP conditions (e.g. controlling erosion or minimising the impact on fauna), it is important that the relevant text from those external documents is included in its entirety within the BMP as this needs to be a fully self-contained document that can be easily operationalised by ECP Contractors. This will also assist the Biodiversity Conservation Science Division in assessing if the suitable measures will be undertaken to minimise residual impacts.	**Updated** to include further detail from external plans	**Entire BMP**
2.2	It is important that all BMP conditions are addressed within the BMP. Therefore, it is not appropriate that Condition 9 (d), 19 (a)-(c), 19A(b), 20, 21(b) and 27 are addressed by external documents.	**Noted**. The BMP conditions are stipulated at Sch.3, C.21, however these items will be addressed as relevant and to the extent possible within the BMP.	**4.3**
2.3	Regarding section 21(b) which addresses bushfire management, it is not sufficient for the risk to be considered only as a safety matter and therefore address it in the EMS and Emergency and Response Plan. Natural fire regimes for remnant vegetation in the region should be considered and how this might impact ongoing management of biodiversity values within the	**Noted**. Further detail provided in the BMP however CWFPL does not own any land and cannot control activities beyond the development footprint so ecological fire management will be predominantly limited to the biodiversity offset area/s (addressed by Sch.3, C. 20). Further, CWFPL have discussed bushfire management planning matters with local stakeholders	**1.1.1** **7.7**

CPHR Recommendation	Recommendation wording	Proponent's response	Section
	disturbance footprint of CWFPL.	including local landholders and RFS representatives and local brigades.	
2.4	All survey work required for the satisfaction of BMP conditions in the Consolidated Development Consent needs to be undertaken prior to resubmitting an amended BMP. For example, it is not possible to demonstrate how the proponent will deliver on the commitment to 'maximising the salvage of resources within the approved disturbance area – including vegetative and soil resources', pursuant to Condition 21, if the assessment on what resources are available and where they will be received has not yet been undertaken.	**Noted.** Pre-clearance surveys by ecologist will identify key habitat features to be salvaged prior to clearing crews being mobilised to each area. The timing of this will not be feasible to be completed prior to resubmitting BMP, however pre-clearance and post-clearance reports will be produced as part of the process and kept on file to demonstrate compliance. This is typical approach for construction projects.	**7.3 & Appendix G**
2.5	Appendix E.1 should be moved to the front of the document once all additional surveys have been completed prior to the resubmission of this BMP. A column in Appendix E.1 showing where the BMP has relied upon information from each of the surveys in the table should be included. Remove information about Commonwealth consent conditions from Appendix E.1 as they are not relevant to the satisfaction of BMP conditions in the Consolidated Development Consent. Similarly, remove Appendix C.	**Noted.** The BMP is a document that addresses both the State and Commonwealth requirements. Commonwealth requirements will be retained but pulled out into Appendix D. It is important to streamline the number of similar management plans the contractor has to work with to keep it as simple as possible for contractors.	**Appendix D**
3	Avoid ambiguous language by removing qualifying terms (entire BMP).	**Noted**	**Entire BMP**
3.1	The use of qualifying terms such as 'as soon as feasible' in the construction schedule or 'unless unavoidable' in Protocol 1 are both examples of language that limits the ability of the proponent to meet conditions stipulated in the Consolidated Development Consent and thereby minimise residual environmental impacts. These terms should be replaced	**Updated**	**Entire BMP**

CPHR Recommendation	Recommendation wording	Proponent's response	Section
	with more definitive terms and performance measures that can be audited.		
3.2	If necessary, provide a list of specific examples of project constraints which would be considered to qualify the ability of the proponent to satisfy the relevant condition. E.g., state what scenarios in the procurement, construction or post-construction phase might limit 'feasibility' or render impacts 'unavoidable'.	**Updated** Refined terminology to the use of 'appropriate' rather than refined. Example: the site includes extensive existing surface rocks. Not all rocks will be relocated outside disturbance footprint and only those deemed as important habitat features deemed as appropriate will be relocated.	**7.1, 7.2 & 7.7**
4	Remove Section 4 and re-structure Section 6 to reflect the Consolidated Development Consent (page 16).	**Updated**. Risk assessment has been moved to Appendix C, and Section 5 (previously section 6) has been updated to include breakout boxes with the conditions relevant to those environmental aspects.	**Appendix C**
4.1	The risk assessment in Section 4 does not provide useful information and may be interpreted as implying that there is a hierarchy underlying the Consent Conditions. This is misleading. Remove Section 4 from the BMP.	**Updated**. Risk assessment requirement for commonwealth conditions has been relocated to Appendix C, updated and is deemed to reflect Section 4 Risk Evaluation from Environmental Management Plan Guidelines (Commonwealth of Australia, 2014).	**Appendix C**
4.2	Re-draft section 6 to reflect the structure of the conditions as they appear in the Development Consent rather than the categories outlined in the BMP i.e. 'Flora', 'Fauna', 'Weed and Pest Management' and 'Rehabilitation'.	**Updated**. Categories are more useful for the contractor for ease of use. The relevant CC have been added to the beginning of each section. A reference has also been added to Table 4-1 where each CC has been addressed to add ease to inspection, monitoring and auditing activities.	**8, &** Table 4-1
5	Flora protection protocols: Include specific targets for the avoidance of vegetation clearing within the development footprint including mapped locations of the final disturbance footprint and the locations of where native vegetation will be retained	**Updated.** Specific targets have been added.	**7.1**
5.1	To maintain consistency with the biodiversity conditions in the Consolidated Consent Conditions, include 'minimising the amount of clearing within the approved	**Updated.** Specific targets have been added.	**7.1, 7.2 & 7.7**

CPHR Recommendation	Recommendation wording	Proponent's response	Section
	development footprint' as a specific performance target.		
5.2	Additionally, a final impact number in hectares should be included within the BMP. This number should represent a percentage of the consent restriction outlined in Section 19(a) of the Consolidated Development Consent. This impact number will be established through consideration of the mitigation and avoidance measures in consultation with the BoP contractor. CPHR cannot be satisfied that avoidance measures have been implemented if there is no indication of how much habitat clearance will be avoided.	Consultation is underway with DPE and DCCEEW with regard to how to address minor exceedances, with these likely to be resolved in the detailed design phase, following contract award. It is important to note that while SSD 6698 Condition 19(a) stipulates clearing limits and habitat removal, the final area disturbed is at the discretion of the Planning Secretary. See section 4.4 for more details.	**4.4**
5.3	It is important that avoidance measures from the detailed review (referred to in Table 6-1) are contained within the BMP and are subject to CPHR review. The same applies to the Environmental Work Method Statement.	**Noted:** As much detail will be provided within the updated BMP, however EWMS are prepared by the respective Contractors and are progressively developed in advance of the construction front. As per the typical approach with regards to these documents (which are not conditioned), it is not proposed or appropriate for these documents to be submitted to the regulator for review.	
5.4	Similarly, Table 6 – 1 should make direct reference to the final impact number as this would assist CPHR to assess whether all potential actions have been taken to avoid, minimise or mitigate potential impacts. As offset requirements are calculated based on residual impacts after avoidance and minimisation principles have been applied, a failure to adequately outline the measures taken may result in an underestimation of the total impacts to threatened species and their habitat. In avoiding and minimising vegetation clearance within the disturbance footprint, consideration should be given to maintaining connectivity corridors between patches of remnant vegetation.	Noted, refer to response above.	**7.1**

CPHR Recommendation	Recommendation wording	Proponent's response	Section
5.5	Similarly, include the final disturbance footprint of White fields Road upgrade and demonstrate how the proponent will seek to 'avoid and minimise clearing of mature vegetation', pursuant to Condition 27. The detailed plans and associated maps should include the locations of where removed vegetation will be replaced or where existing vegetation will be augmented.	**Noted:** The Whitefields Rd work relates to work outside the Project area and has been addressed separately as a pre-construction requirement through the Roadside Vegetation and Landscaping Management Plan (RVMLP). The RVMLP has already been approved and is available on the Project website. No updates proposed to BMP.	
5.6	In order to minimise indirect impacts to threatened flora such as Dwarf Bush Pea (*Pultenaea humilis*), Small Purple-Pea (*Swainsona recta*) and the Yass Daisy (*Ammobium craspedioides*), an effort should be made to maintain or establish connectivity between isolated patches to facilitate the movement of pollinators.	**Updated**.	
5.7	Salvaged woody material from tree clearing is not to be relocated in areas containing Derived Grassland.	**Noted**: If area is constrained in some locations, vegetation can be pushed to the edge of disturbance footprint and then placed back onto final form/reinstatement to support rehabilitation	
6	Fauna protection protocols to include detailed mapping of what habitat will be protected (page 21).	Noted: Already mapped.	**Appendix A**
6.1	A table and spatial maps showing the total area (ha) of each PCT within the disturbance footprint, the total amount of each PCT to be cleared and the percentage of habitat within the disturbance footprint that the cleared habitat represents needs to be provided.	**Updated:**	**4.4 & Appendix A**
6.2	Maps should also show the buffers around high value ecological areas, such as Superb Parrot nests and HBTs. This mapping should clearly delineate the clearance boundaries for each of the woodland types and should be provided to the BoP Contractor.	**Noted**. Seasonal buffer to be included around Superb Parrot HBTs, noting no nests have been observed within Development Corridor. All the Project contractors for detailed mapping to be included in EWMSs.	**Appendix A**

CPHR Recommendation	Recommendation wording	Proponent's response	Section
6.3	An ecologist should supervise the clearance of all vegetation, not just of impacts to HBTs and other high value ecological areas. The ecologist should ensure that clearing activities remain within the boundaries outlined in the spatial mapping.	**Updated**.	**7.1, 7.2 & 7.7**
6.4	No known or potential Superb Parrot nest trees should be removed.	This is not consistent with the Project consent. The optimised design minimises impacts to HBT potentially suitable for Superb Parrot nesting from four (4) trees to three (3) trees. Three are confirmed Superb Parrot Nest Trees within the approved Development Corridor. Those HBT that have hollows of suitable size to potentially be used by Superb Parrot have been identified to satisfy the requirements of the conditions of the EPBC Approval and have restrictions around their removal or impacts within seasonal buffers. The removal of such trees has been minimised.	**7.1**
6.5	There should be no infrastructure within 100 m from known and potential Superb Parrot nest trees.	**Not accepted**. This is not consistent with the Project consent and would make the Project construction unfeasible.	
7	Revise weed and pest management protocols to ensure that access to all areas containing priority weeds is limited, including outside the final disturbance footprint (page 24).	**Updated**	**7.1**
7.1	All areas containing priority weeds should be identified and where those areas are not subject to disturbance, they should be demarked and subject to limited vehicle access in addition to treatments mentioned in Table 6-3.	**Noted:** Areas outside the optimised disturbance footprint will not be subject to ground disturbance. Demarcation of disturbance footprint will be implemented for construction. Weeds within the disturbance area will be managed	**7.1**
7.2	A specific monitoring regime for areas identified to contain priority weeds needs to be established to determine if treatment is effective. Monitoring of these areas should occur on an annual or biannual basis.	**Already addressed**	8
7.3	Pest management protocols for	**Noted:** To be developed further as	7.6, 8

CPHR Recommendation	Recommendation wording	Proponent's response	Section
	relevant feral fauna identified in ecological surveys need to be developed and implemented.	part of the PAP and MERI	
8	Revise rehabilitation protocols to clarify where rehabilitation will occur and with what communities (page 25).	**Noted:** See respective section	**7.7**
8.1	It is unclear where rehabilitation will take place. Spatial maps with the locations of rehabilitation areas need to be provided. These should identify the vegetation communities to be established.	Noted: Vegetative rehabilitation will involve hydroseeding the chosen seed mix to all areas of disturbed soil no longer required during operations (e.g. batters on edges of roads, underground cable corridors, and temporary construction areas that have been decommissioned. The priority for rehabilitation is to provide sufficient groundcover to minimise the risk of erosion and also to facilitate ongoing farm management and sheep grazing. A drought tolerant pasture seed mix is currently being developed which includes species identified in Table 7-9 .	**7.7**
8.2	Where TECs will be impacted or where rehabilitation will be close to TECs or threatened species habitat, revegetation should be consistent with species that occur in the mapped vegetation community and that have been recorded on site.	**Noted**: These may not be suitable to satisfy the groundcover requirements for erosion and sediment control – a mixture will be used.	
8.3	Revegetation should occur with plants propagated using a local provenance seed source. The BMP needs to include detailed measures to collect seed for propagation prior to disturbance. This should include the identification of suitable areas of remnant vegetation that will be used for seed collection of specific species.	**Noted**: A list of indicative native species for rehabilitation is outlined in Table 7-9 . The final species mix may be adjusted based on availability and advice from an appropriately qualified and experienced professional. One option may be to undertake an ecogeographic approach where seed is collected (or available) from a number of large healthy populations at collection sites matched for climatic, edaphic and other environmental variables common to the restoration site and propagated or collected for use at the rehabilitation site.	**7.7**
8.4	To maximise longevity of soil seed bank and reduce the seed bank of weedy annuals, ensure that topsoil	**Noted**: Topsoil stockpiles will be stabilized (e.g. hydroseed with sterile cover crop or tacifier) however it is	

CPHR Recommendation	Recommendation wording	Proponent's response	Section
	stockpiles are covered with water resistant material, such as tarpaulin, which prevents water infiltration and seed germination, therefore reducing the seed bank of weedy annuals. Ensure that stockpiles are in locations that have a low risk of erosion.	not feasible to apply tarpaulin to the top soil stockpiles throughout project area for multiple reasons, including waste avoidance/reduction. Weed management will apply throughout construction.	
8.5	Table 6-6 does not contain measurable rehabilitation criteria for plant health. Include indicators of plant health such as fruiting material, vegetative re-sprouting, sexual re-sprouting and resilience to disturbance such fire or extended periods of water stress. All rehabilitation criteria need to adhere to SMART principles and be ecologically based.	**Not proposed** to include these additional criteria. Updated to included use of additional guidelines identified in 4.1.2.	
8.6	Table 6-7 does not list any canopy species. Include relevant canopy species that are known to occur in EECs present within the disturbance footprint. Re-establish canopy species in impacted areas where it would not interfere with future operations. Include separate species lists and planting densities for different ecological communities.	**Not proposed**: It is not appropriate to establish canopy species in rehabilitation areas along access roads or other wind farm infrastructure due to: need to maintain groundcover to prevent obstruction from vegetation in relation to future turbine maintenance or replacement activities (i.e. blade overhang); avoid damage to infrastructure from tree roots (e.g. underground cables/ overhead electricity cables); avoid long term changes to wind turbulence and air flows in vicinity of wind turbines.	
9	Monitoring and reporting: include reporting requirements within BMP (page 31)	**Already Addressed**	
9.1	Include the inspection schedule as well as reporting requirements within the BMP. Clarify which inspections are internal and which are independent.	**Updated:** Incorporated into section 6	**8**
9.2	The following reporting requirements need to be included: • The Site Environmental Officer is responsible for notifying the Site Environmental Compliance Officer of any potential or actual contraventions of the conditions of	**Updated**	**8**

CPHR Recommendation	Recommendation wording	Proponent's response	Section
	NSW approval. • Reporting includes notification of CPHR of all threatened species records.		
10	Adaptive management: include an independent review (page 32).	**Updated**	**9.4**
10.1	A biennial review of the of the BMP by an independent ecologist to determine if management measures are achieving performance targets needs to be included. The contractor will determine what, if any, adaptive management measures are necessary.	**Updated**, but limit biennial to construction period and first two years of operations. Thereafter reviewed internally as part of annual project review with input from independent ecologist on as needs basis.	**10.1**
Comments received in 5 August 2019 Letter (DOC 19/66380-4) from Michael Saxon to Beth Noel (NGH)			

Table B 3 Responses to CPHR comments/ recommendations received on BMP September 2024

CPHR Reference/comment	CPHR Recommendation	Proponent's response
Section 1.1.1.1 Assessment of Reasonable Equivalence This request, whilst being handled separately, will inform the BMP, particularly the finalisation of the box gum woodland area to be cleared. The mapping used for the credit equivalency process should be consistent with the mapping provided in this BMP.	The mapping has been confirmed as consistent between the BMP and credit equivalence process.	No action required
Section 1.2 - Purpose and Objectives The BMP has not considered the operational stage of the project. The operational stage BMP should include a detailed program to monitor and report on the performance of the measures required in the conditions of consent 21, over time. For example, • the control of weeds and feral pests, • controlling erosion, and • minimising the impact on fauna, among others.	The BMP should be updated to address the operational stage of the project prior to operation commencing. CPHR should be provided the opportunity to review the BMP prior to it being finalised.	Section 10.1 included to commit the BMP to be updated prior to operations commencing onsite and in consultation with CPHR.
Section 1.5 Risk Assessment and Appendix C - Risk assessment Condition 21 requires that the BMP address	The BMP should be updated to ensure that it meets condition 21 where erosion is addressed.	Section 7.3 included to address soil and water mitigation measures and

CPHR Reference/comment	CPHR Recommendation	Proponent's response
erosion, however the risk assessment at Appendix C has not included this information. Whilst we understand that erosion control measures are set out in the Soil and Water Management Plan, the BMP needs to reflect the conditions of consent.		condition 21 regarding erosion.
Section 1.6 Consultation **Appendix B Consultation** The BMP only applied to the construction stage of the project and will need to be updated to reflect the operational stage of the project prior to operations commencing. Appendix B references need updating	The BMP is to be updated to include the operational stage of the project in consultation with CPHR prior to operations commencing. Appendix B references should be updated.	Section 10.1 addresses commitment to update BMP prior to operations. Consultation details in Section 1.5 and Appendix B updated.
Section 2.1.3 Project approval conditions and mitigation measures The BMP states that the Biodiversity Offset Package will be submitted as a separate package of work prior to construction (once detailed design complete) Table 2 – consent conditions 19(a) and (c) - Additional clearing is proposed. Condition 21(b) requires the maximising of the salvage of resources with the approved disturbance area - including vegetative and soil resources - for beneficial reuse (including fauna habitat enhancement) onsite and/or in the biodiversity offset area.	The package is being assessed separately by CPHR. Additional clearing proposed is discussed in section below.	No action required
Section 2.1.4 Clearing limits amendments CPHR were not aware of changes to clearing limits until we were provided with the draft BMP. CPHR note that there is an increase in clearing of box-gum woodland, and a decrease in the clearing of box gum derived grassland, and that this change has been reflected in the most recent offset calculations. The mapping provided does not currently show where this additional clearing will occur, or where the reduction in clearing will occur. The MOD 1 Indicative Construction Footprint should be included in the mapping to clearly show this. In addition, it should be noted that the BC Act listed Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box Gum Woodland is now listed as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community. The BMP and mapping will need to be updated	The BMP mapping should include MOD 1 Indicative Construction Footprint overlayed with optimised construction footprint, to show where there are changes to clearing. Mapping should be updated to reflect the CEEC listing of the BC Act listed box gum woodland.	All maps updated with the MOD 1 Indicative Construction Footprint. Map A.3 Vegetation mapping updated to reflect BC Act listed Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box Gum Woodland is now listed as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community. New map (A.4) to show Mod 1 changes and vegetation mapping.

CPHR Reference/comment	CPHR Recommendation	Proponent's response
to reflect this change.		
Section 3.1.2 Plant community types and biota of conservation significance This ecological community is now listed as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community under the B*iodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act). The maps provided in Appendix A only show some box gum woodland as CEEC, however it is now listed as CEEC in both EPBC and BC Acts.	Update this section to reflect the change of listing under the BC Act. Mapping should be updated to reflect this change to CEEC for BC Act listed Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box Gum Woodland. Mapping should show the BC Act listed CEEC as high, medium and low diversity to reflect the classification used to describe it. Update references throughout the BMP.	Section 5.2 updated to reflect the community is now CEEC under the BC Act. Map A.3 Vegetation mapping updated to reflect BC Act listed Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box Gum Woodland is now listed as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community.
Section 3.1.3 Threats to biodiversity This section has not addressed threats to biodiversity from the operation of the project, including turbine strike for birds and bats. Whilst we acknowledge that there will be a separate BBAMP that address operational impacts, CPHR consider that it should still be listed.	Operational threats to biodiversity should be identified and addressed in the next version of the BMP, prior to operations commencing	Section 10.1 addresses commitment to update BMP prior to operations.
Section 4.1.2 EPBC direct and indirect impacts Table 9 shows that there will be a loss of 3.23 ha by direct impacts and 3.62 ha by indirect impacts. However, Table 5 shows clearing has increased to 26.28ha	Table 9 should be updated to reflect the final clearing impact, as shown in Table 5.	Table 6-1 updated to 29.51 ha (26.28 ha was the additional area to be cleared not total area to be cleared).
Section 5.1.1 clearing and protection **Table 10 – vegetation clearing and protection protocols** **Appendix G** The definition of EWMS should be added to the Acronyms and Abbreviations table at the beginning of the BMP. **Detailed design** – this section lists mitigation measures, including to; • Reduce the amount of native vegetation, hollow bearing trees (HBT), expanses of EECs and threatened biota habitat, as far as reasonably practicable (prioritise avoiding EECs and threatened biota habitat). This can be achieved during the detailed design phase of the Project. Firstly, it appears that the text for this mitigation measure has left out the words 'clearing of" as it currently reads that they	The Detailed design has not adequately addressed how vegetation and superb parrot habitat will be protected. Table 10 should include how this will occur. Table 10 Mitigation Measure in the detailed design review section needs the words 'clearing of' added. Provide mapping that clearly shows where the superb parrot trees have been protected. Clarify that EWMS refers to Environmental Work Method Statement and include it in the BMP. Update references to the correct Appendices. List relevant agencies to be	**Detailed design** wording updated and reference to Superb Parrot mapping included in Appendix A. **Pre-construction** – EWMS spelt out. Already within acronyms table. EWMS are undertaken prior to works commencing at a specific location. They have not been prepared yet and cannot be included in the BMP. **Construction – Vegetation clearing** Appendix referencing fixed throughout the

CPHR Reference/comment	CPHR Recommendation	Proponent's response
will reduce the amount of native vegetation. This should be updated. Secondly, as the optimised construction footprint will result in the additional clearing of critically endangered ecological community, it is difficult to see how this mitigation measure will be met. In addition, another mitigation measure in this section is to; • Restrict permanent infrastructure from within 50 m from known or potential Superb Parrot nest trees. Does the optimised construction footprint reflect this? Its not clear in the mapping provided if this has been met. **Pre-construction – EWMS** Is this Environmental Work Method Statement? What is this referring to? And why isn't it included in the BMP if it relates to vegetation clearing and protection protocols? **Construction – Vegetation clearing** The reference to Appendix F needs to be updated to Appendix G. There is no Appendix F in the BMP. This section states that "during clearing, habitat features (hollow- bearing trees, large fallen logs, hollow limbs suitable for salvage, surface rock) will be retained for later placement within the adjacent areas of Box Gum grassland/ woodlands for habitat enhancement (as directed by the Project Ecologist)." These areas likely to be used for this should be identified at the pre-construction stage and mapped. **Appendix G** **G.1 Pre-clearing checklist** is missing item # 6. What is meant to be there? **G.3 Unexpected threatened species finds procedure** This section states that the relevant agencies are to be advised if a threatened species is encountered but does not provide details. This section should clearly state who the relevant agencies are and their contact details.	contacted in the case of an unexpected threatened species find. Identify areas where fallen trees will be used as coarse woody debris in the areas that will not be impacted by the clearing to enhance surrounding ecological communities. These areas should be identified on a map and included in the BMP. CPHR do not agree that fallen trees should be mulched or chipped in the first instance. This is not in accordance with Condition 21(b) which requires the maximising of the salvage of resources within the approved disturbance area - including vegetative and soil resources - for beneficial reuse (including fauna habitat enhancement) onsite and/or in the biodiversity offset area. This section should be reworded to better reflect the condition. Clarify what a Sensitive Area Plan is and how it relates to the BMP. There are no details on how ongoing management will protect threatened ecological communities. This will need to be addressed in the Operational BMP.	document. Table 7-1 and G.1 Pre-clearing checklist updated New measure added to the pre-clearance surveys requirements and pre-clearing checklist to address identifying placement areas for salvaged resources pre-construction. Wording under construction and post construction to address placement of salvaged resources. **G.3 Unexpected threatened species finds procedure** Updated with agency contacts **G.4 Hollow bearing tree procedure** Wording updated in procedure to address placement of salvaged resources. Removed references to mulching. With the new steps included within the pre-clearance, mapped areas of where to place coarse woody debris is not required. **G.5 Post Clearing Checklist** Checklist updated to address comments. Section 10.1 addresses commitment to update BMP prior to operations.

CPHR Reference/comment	CPHR Recommendation	Proponent's response
G.4 Hollow bearing tree procedure It also says that "the remaining fallen trees would be utilised as coarse woody debris (non-hollow habitat) or mulched/ chipped for use in revegetation/ rehabilitation areas. CPHR do not agree that this debris should be mulched if it can provide habitat for reptiles and small ground fauna. Mulching of on site material should not be relied upon for rehabilitation and erosion control. The fallen trees should be used for habitat enhancement to the surrounding ecological communities. Condition 21(b) requires the maximising of the salvage of resources with the approved disturbance area - including vegetative and soil resources - for beneficial reuse (including fauna habitat enhancement) onsite and/or in the biodiversity offset area. **G.5 Post Clearing Checklist** This mentions collection of bush rocks to be salvaged for habitat. Where are the areas identified to provide this habitat. This should be mapped and included in the BMP. This should also include fallen trees (including hollow bearing trees). In addition, this section makes reference to a Sensitive Area Plan but does not provide details. What is a sensitive area plan? **Construction – post-vegetation clearing** As stated above, CPHR do not agree that non-hollow bearing felled timber should be mulched as it provides valuable habitat for threatened species. It should be placed throughout the box-gum woodland for habitat enhancement. The BMP lacks detail of ongoing management and protection of threatened ecological communities.		
Section 5.3 Weed and Pest Management Protocol Table 12 This section has not addressed ongoing weed and pest management control during the operational stage of the project. The BMP should address construction and operation.	Include a commitment to include weed and pest management in the operational stage BMP This should include a monitoring program and adaptive management strategies.	Section 10.1 addresses commitment to update BMP prior to operations. Wording updated in Section 7.3 to outline commitment to update prior to operations.
Section 5.4 Rehabilitation Protocol Vegetation clearing.	Avoid reliance of on-site resources to mulch trees for	Section 7.5 updated to remove reference to

CPHR Reference/comment	CPHR Recommendation	Proponent's response
As stated above, fallen trees and vegetation should be avoided for mulching and be prioritised to provide habitat in box-gum woodland on the site.	rehabilitation. This should be used to rehabilitate areas of box gum woodland on the site.	mulching of trees and include the reuse of salvaged resources onsite.
Section 6.3 – Monitoring and inspections **Table 18 – Coppabella Wind Farm biodiversity monitoring requirements** In the Clearing Limit Verification, Parameters section of the table it says that it applies to EEC and the HBTs along the Whitefields Road, which indicates that no other area of the wind farm will be monitored. This section should clarify that it applies to all parts of the wind farm. Table 18 should also address what triggers for corrective action will be, and what corrective actions will apply. As CPHR consider that the BMP should address all stages of the project, we recommend that this section address the need for ongoing pest management for the life of the project to ensure that pest animals such as rabbits, rodents, pigs, cats, foxes, deer etc are not able to inhabit the area. Pest animals will attract raptors who will either hunt the prey animals or eat the carcasses of dead animals. This will lead to bird strikes.	Clarify wording in Table 18 so that it's clear that all areas to be cleared will be monitored. Include additional columns in table 18 to address triggers for corrective actions and list corrective actions. Update the BMP to reflect the Operational stage of the project as discussed above.	Section 8 updated to address recommendations. Section 10.1 addresses commitment to update BMP prior to operations.
7. Reporting and Review 7.1 Continuous improvement This section states that "Where an improvement has been identified, it shall be updated in this Plan as needed. A copy of the updated plan and changes will be distributed to relevant regulatory authorities for information, as required." CPHR should be consulted regarding any updates to the BMP and given sufficient time to review the proposed changes.	Include a commitment to consult with CPHR regarding changes to the BMP and allow sufficient time for CPHR to review the proposed changes.	Wording updated to address recommendation.
Appendix A – Map sets A.1 Project Layout Is the A.1 map set supposed to have separate figures for each section labelled as A to F? There are no A.2 maps – is there meant to be something else here? A.3 Updated vegetation mapping This mapping has not included the MOD 1 Indicative Construction Footprint.	A.1 - Advise if there are additional maps that were meant to be included for the A.1 map set (A-F). Clarify if there is supposed to be mapping in section A.2. A.3 – Update maps to reflect BC Act CEEC listing of box gum woodland. Update maps to include MOD 1 Indicative Construction Footprint.	A.1 No additional maps it is a map to show the insets used for the BMP mapping. A.2 Updated to include Mod 1 footprint and all maps included. A.3 Vegetation mapping updated to reflect BC Act listed Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box Gum

CPHR Reference/comment	CPHR Recommendation	Proponent's response
The maps need to be updated to correctly identify all the CEEC as BC Act listed box gum woodland is also listed as CEEC A.4 Hollow bearing trees These maps include superb parrot potential hollows. But they don't show how far the superb parrot trees are from infrastructure. The mapping provided should clearly show this. This will demonstrate that the detailed design mitigation measure listed in Table 10 has been addressed. It states: *Restrict permanent infrastructure from within 50 m from known or potential Superb Parrot nest trees.*	Show the distance in metres of superb parrot trees from permanent infrastructure in mapping.	Woodland is now listed as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community All maps updated with the MOD 1 Indicative Construction Footprint New map A.6 Superb Parrots trees with 50m buffer and infrastructure
Appendix B – Consultation **Table B2 - CPHR** Comments/Recommendations received to BMP comments There are outstanding issues with our previous recommendations. These are as follows: Recommendation 2.4 Table B2 says that this issue is addressed in section 5.3 and Appendix F, however there is no Appendix F, and section 5.3 is related to weed and pest management protocol. This recommendation specifically asks for information on pre- clearing salvage surveys. The correct reference should be used and the table updated to reflect its place in the BMP. Recommendation 5 Flora protection protocols: Include specific targets for the avoidance of vegetation clearing within the development footprint including mapped locations of the final disturbance footprint and the locations of where native vegetation will be retained This recommendation has been partially met, however there is no mapping showing where native vegetation will be retained.	Update references for recommendation 2.4. Provide maps showing where native vegetation will be retained to inform the onsite marking out process.	Appendix references updated. New map included in A.3 Vegetation mapping that shows vegetation to be retained.
Appendix E – Micro-siting There are a number of references to Appendix E throughout the BMP related to different issues, but Appendix E only relates to micro-siting. The figures in Appendix E are difficult to interpret as there is no explanation of the	Include a key for the micro-siting figures that shows the different map properties. Otherwise, it is difficult to see how they demonstrate compliance with condition 9 (d)	Appendix E updated with a legend.

CPHR Reference/comment	CPHR Recommendation	Proponent's response
various coloured dots and lines. Some figures have distances marked, while others don't. A better explanation of the figures should be provided so that they are much easier to interpret. There are various coloured dots used in the figures that should also be explained. For example, what do the green dots represent? Are they the hollow bearing trees? Do the yellow dots indicate the new location of the WTG and the grey is the original location? What do the blue dots represent? Why are some distances marked on some figures while there are no distances marked on other figures? E.g. 44 has no distance and 45 has 2 distances marked.		
Appendix F	There is no appendix F	Appendix F included.
Appendix G	See Section 5.1.1 clearing and protection above	Appendix G updated to address comments from Section 5.1.1

Table B 4 DCCEEW Preliminary Feedback

DCCEEW	Recommendation wording	Proponent's response	Section
1	I. Ensure the BMP includes the baseline MNES mapping included in the PD, and include in the BMP a map/s superimposing the MNES baseline mapping, the approved development corridor, the PD-proposed disturbance footprint and the final/remapped disturbance footprint; and *With regard to the above,* II. Address Condition 5b, include detailed maps showing where impacts on MNES have been reduced through remapping and, where there are residual impacts, explain why those impacts are project-critical and therefore unavoidable. That impacts have been reduced and that there are project-critical reasons for residual impacts, can be taken as evidence of minimising impacts on protected matters/HBTs. To this end you might construct an explanatory	**Noted - Updated:**	**Appendix A, 6.2.1 & Appendix E**

DCCEEW	Recommendation wording	Proponent's response	Section
	table referenced to relevant segments of the footprint.		

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Our ref: SSD-6698-PA-11

Renae Gifford
Senior Environmental Planner
Goldwind Australia Pty Ltd
Level 25, International Tower One
100 Barangaroo Avenue
Barangaroo NSW 2000

20/06/2025

Subject: Coppabella Wind Farm – Biodiversity Management Plan

Dear Ms Gifford,

I refer to your request for review and approval of the Biodiversity Management Plan submitted in accordance with Condition 21, Schedule 3 of the consent for the Coppabella Wind Farm (SSD-6698). I also acknowledge your response to the Department's review comments and request for additional information.

The Department has carefully reviewed the document and is satisfied that it meets the requirements of the relevant conditions of consent (SSD-6698).

Accordingly, as nominee of the Planning Secretary, I approve the Biodiversity Management Plan (Final v2 dated 5 May 2025).

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

If you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact Katie Weekes on 4927 3223.

Yours sincerely

Nicole Brewer
Director
Energy Assessments

As nominee of the Planning Secretary

Appendix C Risk assessment

The environmental activities referred to in this plan are those activities associated with the Project that have the potential to cause adverse environmental impacts on biodiversity. The risks that these activities create for biodiversity can be determined by considering the likelihood of potential impacts and their consequences as shown below (Table C 1).

Table C 1 Risk assessment matrix

		Consequence		
Likelihood		Major	Moderate	Minor
	Certain	High	High	Moderate
	Possible	High	Moderate	Moderate
	Remote	Moderate	Moderate	Low

Consequence

- *Places of importance to a species life cycle processes (breeding, feeding, nursery or habitat); or*
- *species migration routes, corridors or drought refuges; or*
- *places of extraordinary ecological diversity (in terms of abundance and species variety); or*
- *places where uncommon, rare or endangered flora, fauna or communities, or ecological phenomena; or*
- *places containing type examples of species, populations, ecological communities or other ecological features; or*
- *places used as a research, teaching, reference or benchmark site due to biological characteristics;*

would be affected by:

Minor	Negligible or minor ecological impacts, as defined by relevant guidelines.
Moderate	Possible ecological impacts (or moderate level, as defined by relevant guidelines) resulting in legal action and/or community/stakeholder concern. Small scale but generally reversible damage to ecological aspects.
Major	Major ecological impact, as defined by relevant guidelines. May be reversed with significant effort and/or financial outlay, or feature permanent or long-term damage or destruction of species, populations, communities or ecological features or processes, that could not be practicably reversed (definition of long term in accordance with relevant guidelines). Potential for significant fines or legal action.

Likelihood

Remote	Not expected to occur under usual circumstances <33% chance of occurring
Possible	Could occur under usual circumstances 33-66% chance of occurring

Almost certain or inevitable	High likelihood of occurring or expected to occur >66% chance of occurring

Construction activities that may have an adverse impact on flora and fauna and their associated risk ratings are summarised in Table C 2 below. Highest risk activities include those that may remove habitat (flora and fauna), injure fauna, and cause a bushfire. Protocols have been developed in Section 6.2.1 to address these risks. Note; items addressed in the Soil and Water Plan are shown in grey and are not duplicated in this plan.

Table C 2 Risk assessment of construction and operation of the CWFPL.

Activity	Potential impact	Likelihood	Consequence	Un-mitigated Risk
Clearing, grubbing, earthworks and trenching along disturbance footprint	Habitat removal (native vegetation and hollow-bearing trees)	Certain	Major	High
	Weed introduction and spread	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
	Habitat modification	Certain	Low	Moderate
	Degradation of adjacent areas of habitat	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
	Erosion of disturbed areas and stockpiles	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
	Injury or death to fauna	Possible	Major	High
	Pollution (sedimentation or spill risk) to local waterways	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
	Trap hazard to fauna	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
	Bushfire ignition	Possible	Major	High
Installation and use of crossings over drainage lines	Sedimentation of waterways	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
	Collisions with wildlife	Possible	Major	High
	Bushfire ignition	Possible	Major	High
	Habitat alienation	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
	Weed introduction and spread	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
Blasting	Degradation of adjacent areas of habitat	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
	Erosion of disturbed areas and stockpiles	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
	Habitat removal (native vegetation and hollow-bearing trees)	Certain	Major	High
	Habitat modification	Certain	Low	Moderate
	Injury or death to fauna	Possible	Major	High
Concrete batching	Degradation of adjacent areas of habitat	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
	Pollution (sedimentation or spill risk) to local waterways	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
	Erosion of disturbed areas and stockpiles	Possible	Moderate	Moderate

Activity	Potential impact	Likelihood	Consequence	Un-mitigated Risk
Operation	Collision or alienation of bird and bat populations	Possible	Moderate	Moderate
Note: grey items are addressed in other plans: Soil and Water Management Plan, Bird and Bat Management Plan				

Appendix D Commonwealth Conditions of Consent

Development Consent

Section 89E of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*

As delegate of the Minister for Planning, the Planning Assessment Commission approves the development application referred to in schedule 1, subject to the conditions in schedules 2 to 4.

These conditions are required to:
- prevent, minimise, and/or offset adverse environmental impacts;
- set standards and performance measures for acceptable environmental performance;
- require regular monitoring and reporting; and
- provide for the ongoing environmental management of the development.

Member of the Commission **Member of the Commission** **Member of the Commission**

Sydney 2015

SCHEDULE 1

Application Number:	SSD-6698
Applicant:	Epuron Projects Pty Ltd
Consent Authority:	Minister for Planning
Land:	See Appendix 1
Development:	Yass Valley Wind Farm

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DEFINITIONS

Aboriginal stakeholders	Aboriginal stakeholders registered for cultural heritage consultation for the development
Ancillary infrastructure	All wind farm infrastructure with the exception of wind turbines, including but not limited to collector substations, switching stations, permanent offices and site compounds, electricity transmission lines and internal roads
Applicant	Epuron Projects Pty Ltd, or any person who seeks to carry out the development approved under this consent
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
CCC	Community Consultative Committee
Conditions of this consent	Conditions contained in schedules 1 to 4 inclusive
Construction	The construction of the development, including but not limited to the construction of wind turbines, ancillary infrastructure and road upgrades (excludes geotechnical drilling and surveying)
Councils	Yass Valley Council and Harden Shire Council
CPI	Consumer Price Index
Curtilage	The land immediately surrounding a residence, including any closely associated buildings or structures where domestic and/or recreational activities take place
Day	The period from 7am to 6pm on Monday to Saturday, and 8am to 6pm on Sundays and public holidays
Decommissioning	The removal of wind turbines and any associated above ground infrastructure
Department	Department of Planning and Environment
Development	The development as described in the EA
Development corridor	The corridor shown in the figure in Appendix 3
DPI	Department of Primary Industries
EA	The environmental assessment for the *Yass Valley Wind Farm*, prepared by Epuron Projects Pty Ltd and dated November 2009, as modified by: • *Yass Valley Wind Farm Preferred Project & Submissions Report,* prepared by Epuron Projects Pty Ltd and dated September 2014; • *Initial Response*, prepared by Epuron Projects Pty Ltd and dated 13 February 2015; • *Detailed Submission in Response to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Report*, prepared by Epuron Projects Pty Ltd and dated 27 February 2015; • *Further Response,* prepared by Epuron Projects Pty Ltd and dated 26 March 2015; • *Additional Information*, prepared by Epuron Projects Pty Ltd and dated 24 June 2015; and • *Revised Final Statement of Commitments,* dated 7 December 2015.
EEC	Endangered ecological community, as defined under the TSC Act and/or EPBC Act
EP&A Act	*Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
EP&A Regulation	*Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
EPL	Environment Protection Licence issued under the POEO Act
Evening	The period from 6pm to 10pm
Feasible	Feasible relates to engineering considerations and what is practical to build or implement
Heritage Act	*Heritage Act 1977*
Heritage item	An item as defined under the Heritage Act and/or an Aboriginal Object or Aboriginal Place as defined under the NP&W Act
Incident	A set of circumstances that: • causes or threatens to cause material harm to the environment; and/or • breaches or exceeds the limits or performance measures/criteria in this consent
Material harm to the environment	Actual or potential harm to the health or safety of human beings or to ecosystems that is not trivial
Minister	Minister for Planning, or delegate
Mitigation	Activities associated with reducing the impacts of the development
MW	Megawatt

Night	The period from 10pm to 7am on Monday to Saturday, and 10pm to 8am on Sundays and NSW Public Holidays
Non-associated residence	Any residence on privately-owned land where the landowner has not reached a financial or in kind agreement with the Applicant in relation to the development. In some cases, this agreement will be restricted. First, it may only cover certain aspects of the development (such as the noise or visual impacts). In such cases, the residence is only associated for those aspects covered by the agreement, and remains a non-associated residence for all those aspects that are not covered by the agreement. Second, while the agreement may cover a certain aspect of the development (such as noise impacts), it may limit the extent of any such impact (by setting absolute noise levels at a residence, for instance).In these cases, the residence is only associated to the extent that the impact is covered by the agreement, and is considered to be non-associated for any impacts that exceed the limits specified in the agreement
NP&W Act	*National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage
OLS	Obstacle Limitation Surface
Operation	The operation of the development, but does not include commissioning trials of equipment or use of temporary facilities
Over-dimensional	Over-mass and/or over-size/length vehicles
POEO Act	*Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
Pre-construction minor works	Includes the following activities: • building/road dilapidation surveys; • investigative drilling, excavation or salvage; • minor clearing or translocation of native vegetation; • establishing temporary site office (in locations meeting the criteria identified in the conditions of this approval) • installation of environmental impact mitigation measures, fencing, enabling works; and • minor access roads and minor adjustments to services/utilities, etc.
Project site	The project site as shown in Appendix 2
Privately-owned land	Land that is not owned by a public agency or publicly-owned commercial entity (or its subsidiary)
PSR	Primary Surveillance Radar
Public infrastructure	Linear and related infrastructure that provides services to the general public, such as roads, railways, water supply, drainage, sewerage, gas supply, electricity, telephone, telecommunications, etc.
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force – Aeronautical Information Services
Reasonable	Reasonable relates to the application of judgement in arriving at a decision, taking into account: mitigation benefits, cost of mitigation versus benefits provided, community views and the nature and extent of potential improvements
Rehabilitation	The restoration of land disturbed by the development to a good condition, to ensure it is safe, stable and non-polluting
Residence	Any dwelling in existence at the date of this consent, or a dwelling that is the subject of a development application that was lodged but not yet determined at the date of this consent
RFS	Rural Fire Service
RMS	Roads and Maritime Services
Secretary	Secretary of the Department, or nominee
Sector management	Sector management refers to the implementation of techniques that reduce the noise generated by individual wind turbines, or clusters. Such techniques may include operating the turbines in 'low noise' mode, shutting down turbines, or using firmware controls
Site	The land defined in Appendix 1
SSR	Secondary Surveillance Radar
Temporary facilities	Temporary facilities used for the construction and/or decommissioning of the development, including but not limited to temporary site offices and compounds, concrete batching plants, materials storage compounds, maintenance workshops, testing laboratories or material stockpiles
TSC Act	*Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*
VPA	Voluntary Planning Agreement
Wind turbine	Turbines used for the generation of electricity by wind, including the tower, blades and associated components

SCHEDULE 2
ADMINISTRATIVE CONDITIONS

OBLIGATION TO MINIMISE HARM TO THE ENVIRONMENT

1. In addition to meeting the specific environmental performance criteria established under this consent, the Applicant shall implement all reasonable and feasible measures to prevent and/or minimise any material harm to the environment that may result from the construction, operation, or decommissioning of the development.

TERMS OF CONSENT

2. The Applicant shall carry out the development:
   (a) generally in accordance with the EA; and
   (b) in accordance with the conditions of this consent.

   Note: The general layout of the development is shown in the figures in Appendix 2.

3. If there is any inconsistency between the above documents, the most recent document shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency. However, the conditions of this consent shall prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.

4. The Applicant shall comply with any reasonable requirement/s of the Secretary arising from the Department's assessment of:
   (a) any strategies, plans, programs, reviews, audits, reports or correspondence that are submitted in accordance with this consent;
   (b) any reports, reviews or audits commissioned by the Department regarding compliance with this consent; and
   (c) the implementation of any actions or measures contained in these documents.

LIMITS ON CONSENT

Approved Precincts

5. Consent is granted only for the development in the Coppabella precinct and the access track traversing the 330 kV Connection precinct.

   Note: To avoid any doubt, this consent does not allow the development of any wind turbines or ancillary infrastructure in the Marilba precinct, Conroy's Gap Extension precinct and 330 kV Connection precinct, (except for the access track connecting wind turbine number 82 to wind turbine number 13). The approved wind turbines in the Coppabella precinct are those numbered 1 to 19, 25, 29 to 82, and 126 to 130.

Wind Turbines

6. The Applicant may construct, operate and replace or upgrade as necessary up to 79 wind turbines.

   Note: To avoid any doubt, the Applicant does not require additional approval to replace or upgrade wind turbines over time, as long as the replacement or upgrade is carried out in accordance with the conditions of this consent.

7. The Applicant shall not use the Vestas V90 3MW wind turbine model, unless the Applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that it would be able to comply with the operational noise criteria in this consent without relying upon sector management.

   Note: Use of the Vestas V90 3MW model is predicted to result in exceedances of the operational noise criteria in this consent.

Wind Turbine Height

8. No wind turbines may be greater than 150 metres in height (measured from above ground level to the blade tip).

Micro-siting Restrictions

9. The Applicant may micro-site the wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure without further approval provided:
   (a) they remain within the development corridor shown in the figure in Appendix 3;
   (b) no wind turbine is moved more than 100 metres from the location shown in the figures in Appendix 2; and
   (c) the revised location of the wind turbine and/or ancillary infrastructure would not result in any non-compliance with the conditions of this consent.

Final Layout Plans

10. Prior to the commencement of construction, the Applicant shall submit detailed plans of the final layout of the development to the Secretary, including:
   (a) details on the micro-siting of any wind turbines and/or ancillary infrastructure; and
   (b) the GIS coordinates of the wind turbines.

   Note: If the construction of the development is to be staged, then the provision of these plans may be staged.

NOTIFICATION OF DEPARTMENT

11. Prior to the commencement of the construction, operation and/or decommissioning of the development, the Applicant shall notify the Department in writing of the date of commencement.

   If the construction, operation and/or decommissioning of the development is to be staged, then the Applicant must notify the Department in writing prior to the commencement of the relevant stage, and clearly identify the development that would be carried out during the relevant stage.

STRUCTURAL ADEQUACY

12. The Applicant shall ensure that the wind turbines are constructed in accordance with the relevant standards, including the structural design requirements of *IEC 61400-1 Wind turbines – Part 1: Design Requirements* (or equivalent).

13. The Applicant shall ensure that all new buildings and structures, and any alterations or additions to existing buildings and structures, are constructed in accordance with the relevant requirements of the BCA.

   Notes:
   - *Under Part 4A of the EP&A Act, the Applicant is required to obtain construction and occupation certificates for the proposed building works.*
   - *Part 8 of the EP&A Regulation sets out the requirements for the certification of the development.*

DEMOLITION

14. The Applicant shall ensure that all demolition work on site is carried out in accordance with *AS 2601-2001: The Demolition of Structures,* or its latest version.

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

15. Unless the Applicant and the applicable authority agree otherwise, the Applicant shall:
   (a) repair, or pay the full costs associated with repairing, any public infrastructure that is damaged by the development; and
   (b) relocate, or pay the full costs associated with relocating, any public infrastructure that needs to be relocated as a result of the development.

   This condition does not apply to the upgrade and maintenance of the road network, which is expressly provided for in the conditions of this consent.

OPERATION OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

16. The Applicant shall ensure that all plant and equipment used on site, or in connection with the development, is:
   (a) maintained in a proper and efficient condition; and
   (b) operated in a proper and efficient manner.

UPDATING & STAGING OF STRATEGIES, PLANS OR PROGRAMS

17. With the approval of the Secretary, the Applicant may submit any strategy, plan or program required by this consent on a progressive basis.

To ensure the strategies, plans or programs under the conditions of this consent are updated on a regular basis, the Applicant may at any time submit revised strategies, plans or programs to the Secretary for approval.

With the agreement of the Secretary, the Applicant may prepare any revised strategy, plan or program without undertaking consultation with all the parties referred to under the relevant condition of this consent.

Notes:

- *While any strategy, plan or program may be submitted on a progressive basis, the Applicant must ensure that all development being carried out on site is covered by suitable strategies, plans or programs at all times.*
- *If the submission of any strategy, plan or program is to be staged, then the relevant strategy, plan or program must clearly describe the specific stage to which the strategy, plan or program applies, the relationship of this stage to any future stages, and the trigger for updating the strategy, plan or program.*

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

18. Prior to the commencement of construction, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise, the Applicant shall enter into VPAs with the Councils in accordance with:
    (a) Division 6 of Part 4 of the EP&A Act; and
    (b) the terms of the applicable offer in Appendix 4.

SCHEDULE 3
ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS - GENERAL

VISUAL

Visual Impact Mitigation

1. Prior to the commencement of construction, the Applicant shall notify in writing the owner of:
   (a) any non-associated residence listed in Table 1; or
   (b) any other non-associated residence within 5 kilometres of any wind turbine,
   that they have the right to request implementation of visual impact mitigation measures at their residence (including its curtilage).

   Table 1: Visual impact mitigation upon request

Residence	***Characterisation of Impact***
C06, C53, C67, C74	Moderate
C04, C13, C39, C41, C75	Low/Moderate
C01, C07, C08, C09, C37, C38, C60, C73, C76, C76a, G32, H40, H42	Low

   Note: If the construction of the development is being staged, the Applicant is only required to notify those owners referred to in condition 1(b) that would be within 5 kilometres of any wind turbine that forms part of the relevant stage.

2. If following the commencement of construction, the Applicant receives a written request from the owner of any residence referred to in condition 1 above for the implementation of visual impact mitigation measures, then the Applicant shall implement measures such as landscaping treatments or vegetation screens at the residence (including its curtilage) in consultation with the landowner.

   These mitigation measures must be reasonable and feasible, directed towards reducing the visual impacts of the wind turbines on the residence (including its curtilage), and commensurate with the level of visual impact.

   The mitigation measures must be implemented within 12 months of receiving the written request, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise.

   If the Applicant and the owner cannot agree on the measures to be implemented, or there is a dispute about the implementation of these measures, then either party may refer the matter to the Secretary for resolution.

   Notes:
   - *To identify the residences referred to in Table 1, see the figures in Appendix 2.*
   - *To avoid any doubt, the visual impact mitigation measures must be aimed at reducing the visibility of the wind turbines from the residence and its curtilage. Mitigation measures are not required to be implemented to reduce the visibility of wind turbines from other locations on the property.*
   - *In some cases, mitigation measures may not be warranted as the wind turbines would not be visible from the residence and its curtilage.*
   - *The identification of appropriate visual impact mitigation measures will be easier following the construction of the wind turbines. While landowners may ask for the implementation of visual impact mitigation measures shortly after the commencement of construction, they should consider the merits of delaying this request until the wind turbines are visible from their residence.*

Visual Appearance

3. The Applicant shall:
   (a) implement all reasonable and feasible measures to minimise the off-site visual impacts of the development;
   (b) ensure the wind turbines are:
      - painted off white/grey; and
      - finished with a surface treatment that minimises the potential for glare and reflection;
   (c) ensure the visual appearance of all ancillary infrastructure (including paint colours, specifications and screening) blends in as far as possible with the surrounding landscape; and
   (d) not mount any advertising signs or logos on wind turbines or ancillary infrastructure, except where this is required for safety purposes.

Lighting

4. The Applicant shall:
   (a) implement all reasonable and feasible measures to minimise the off-site lighting impacts of the development;
   (b) ensure that any aviation hazard lighting complies with CASA's requirements;
   (c) ensure that all external lighting associated with the development (apart from any aviation hazard lighting):
   - is installed as low intensity lighting (except where required for safety or emergency purposes);
   - does not shine above the horizontal;
   - uses best management practice for bat deterrence; and
   - complies with *Australian Standard AS4282 (INT) 1997 – Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting,* or its latest version.

Shadow Flicker

5. The Applicant shall ensure that shadow flicker associated with wind turbines does not exceed 30 hours per annum at any non-associated residence.

NOISE & VIBRATION

Construction & Decommissioning

6. The Applicant shall implement all reasonable and feasible measures to minimise the construction or decommissioning noise of the development, including any associated traffic noise.

7. The Applicant shall ensure that the noise generated by any construction or decommissioning activities is managed in accordance with the best practice requirements outlined in the *Interim Construction Noise Guideline* (DECC, 2009), or its latest version.

8. Unless the Secretary agrees otherwise, the Applicant shall only undertake construction or decommissioning activities between:
   (a) 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday;
   (b) 8 am to 1 pm Saturdays; and
   (c) at no time on Sundays and NSW public holidays.

   The following construction activities may be undertaken outside these hours without the approval of the Secretary:
   - activities that are inaudible at non-associated residences;
   - the delivery of materials as requested by the NSW Police Force or other authorities for safety reasons; or
   - emergency work to avoid the loss of life, property and/or material harm to the environment.

9. The Applicant shall only carry out blasting on site between 9 am and 5 pm Monday to Saturday inclusive. No blasting is allowed on Sundays or public holidays.

10. The Applicant shall ensure that any blasting carried out during the construction of the development does not exceed the criteria in Table 2.

Table 2: Blasting criteria

Location	***Airblast overpressure (dB(Lin Peak))***	***Ground vibration (mm/s)***	***Allowable exceedance***
Any non- associated residence	120	10	0%
	115	5	5% of the total number of blasts or events over a period of 12 months

Operational Noise Criteria – Wind Turbines

11. The Applicant shall ensure that the noise generated by the operation of wind turbines does not exceed the relevant criteria in Table 3 at any non-associated residence.

Table 3: Noise criteria dB(A)

Residence	***Criteria (dB(A)) with Reference to Hub Height Wind Speed (m/s)***											
	3	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**
C04	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	36	37	38	38
C74	35	35	35	35	35	35	36	38	39	41	43	44
All other non-associated residences	The higher of 35 dB(A) or the existing background noise level ($L_{A90\ (10\text{-}minute)}$) plus 5 dB(A)											

Note: To identify the residences referred to in Table 3, see the applicable figures in Appendix 2.

Noise generated by the operation of the wind turbines is to be measured in accordance with the relevant requirements of the South Australian Environment Protection Authority's *Wind Farms – Environmental Noise Guidelines 2009* (or its latest version), as modified by the provisions in Appendix 5. If this guideline is replaced by an equivalent NSW guideline, then the noise generated is to be measured in accordance with the requirements in the NSW guideline.

Operational Noise Criteria – Ancillary Infrastructure

12. The Applicant shall ensure that the noise generated by the operation of ancillary infrastructure does not exceed 35 dB(A) $L_{Aeq(15\ minute)}$ at any non-associated residence.

Noise generated by the development is to be measured in accordance with the relevant requirements of the *NSW Industrial Noise Policy* (or its equivalent) as modified by the provisions in Appendix 5.

Noise Monitoring

13. Within 3 months of the commencement of operations, the Applicant shall:
    (a) undertake noise monitoring to determine whether the development is complying with the relevant conditions of this consent; and
    (b) submit a copy of the monitoring results to the Department and the EPA.

14. The Applicant shall undertake further noise monitoring of the development if required by the Secretary.

AIR

15. The Applicant shall:
    (a) implement best management practice to minimise the off-site dust, fume and blast emissions of the development; and
    (b) minimise the surface disturbance of the site.

WATER

Water Supply

16. The Applicant shall ensure that it has sufficient water for the development, and if necessary, adjust the scale of the development to match its available water supply.

Note: Under the Water Act 1912 and/or the Water Management Act 2000, the Applicant is required to obtain the necessary water licences for the development.

Water Pollution

17. Unless an EPL authorises otherwise, the Applicant shall ensure that the construction, operation and decommissioning of the development does not cause any water pollution.

Note: Section 120 of the POEO Act makes it an offence to pollute any waters.

Operating Conditions

18. The Applicant shall:
    (a) ensure that all construction, operation and decommissioning activities are undertaken in accordance with:
        - OEH's *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction* (Landcom, 2004) manual;
        - DPI's guidelines for waterway crossings and fish passage, including:
            - *Policy and Guidelines for Fish Friendly Waterway Crossings (2004)*;
            - *Why Do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings (2004)*; and
            - *Water Guidelines for Controlled Activities on Waterfront Land (2012)*; and
    (b) ensure that the storage and handling of all dangerous goods and hazardous materials is undertaken in accordance with *AS1940-2004: The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids,* or its latest version.

BIODIVERSITY

Restrictions on Clearing and Habitat

19. The Applicant shall:
    (a) ensure that no more than 68.3 hectares (ha) of Box Gum Woodland EEC, including Box Gum Woodland derived grassland, is cleared for the development, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise;
    (b) implement all reasonable and feasible measures to:
        - minimise the impact on hollow-bearing trees and mature trees along Whitefields Road;
        - minimise impacts on the Yass Daisy (*Ammobium craspedioides*);
        - minimise impacts on threatened bird and bat populations;
        - minimise the approved clearing of native woodland vegetation and fauna habitat; and
    (c) if micro-siting wind turbines, ensure that the revised location of the turbine is at least 50 metres from existing hollow-bearing trees, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise.

Retirement of Credits

20. Within 2 years of the commencement of construction, unless otherwise agreed by the Secretary, the Applicant shall retire biodiversity credits of a number and class specified in Tables 4 and 5 below to the satisfaction of OEH.

    The retirement of these credits must be carried out in accordance with the *NSW Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects,* and can be achieved by:
    (a) acquiring or retiring credits under the biobanking scheme in the TSC Act;
    (b) making payments into an offset fund that has been established by the NSW Government; or
    (c) providing suitable supplementary measures.

Table 4: Ecosystem credit requirements

Vegetation Community	***Code (BVT)***	***Biometric Vegetation Type***	***Biometric Condition***	***Impact Area (ha)***	***Credits Required***
Box Gum Woodland	MR528	Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box grassy tall woodland of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion	Low (other)	18.1	507
Box Gum Woodland	MR528	Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box grassy tall woodland of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion	Moderate-good (high diversity)	0.6	23
Box Gum Woodland	MR528	Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box grassy tall woodland of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion	Moderate-good (low diversity)	10.1	202
Box Gum Woodland Derived Grassland	MR528	Blakely's Red Gum – Yellow Box grassy tall woodland of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion	Moderate-good (low diversity)	54	0
Long-leaved Box Dry Grass Forest	MR598	Red Stringybark – Red Box – Long-leaved Box – Inland Scribbly Gum tussock grass – shrub low open forest on hills in the southern part of the NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion	Moderate-good (high and low diversity)	0.9	34

River Red Gum and Riparian	MR616	Yellow Box – River Red Gum tall grassy riverine woodland of NSW South Western Slopes Bioregion and Riverina Bioregion	Moderate-good (low diversity)	0.1	3.3

Table 5: Species credit requirements

Species	***Credits Required***
Golden Sun Moth	1,028
Regent Honeyeater	801

Biodiversity Management Plan

21. Prior to the commencement of construction, the Applicant shall prepare a Biodiversity Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must:
    (a) be prepared in consultation with OEH; and
    (b) include a:
        - description of the measures that would be implemented for:
            - minimising the amount of clearing within the approved development footprint as far as practicable;
            - managing potential indirect impacts on threatened plant species, including the Yass Daisy (*Ammobium craspedioides*);
            - rehabilitating and revegetating temporary disturbance areas;
            - protecting vegetation and fauna habitat outside the approved disturbance area;
            - maximising the salvage of resources within the approved disturbance area – including vegetative and soil resources – for beneficial reuse (including fauna habitat enhancement) on site and/or in the biodiversity offset area;
            - collecting and propagating seed (where relevant);
            - minimising impacts on tree hollows as far as practicable;
            - minimising the impacts on fauna on site, including undertaking pre-clearance surveys;
            - controlling weeds and feral pests;
            - controlling erosion;
            - controlling access; and
            - bushfire management;
        - Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan, that includes:
            - baseline data on bird and bat populations in the locality that could potentially be affected by the development, particularly 'at risk' species and threatened species;
            - a detailed description of the measures that would be implemented on site for minimising bird and bat strike during operation of the development, including:
                - minimising the availability of raptor perches;
                - prompt carcass removal;
                - controlling pests;
                - using best practice methods for bat deterrence, including managing potential lighting impacts;
                - adaptive management of turbines to reduce mortality; and
    (c) include a detailed program to monitor and report on the performance of these measures over time.

22. Following approval, the Applicant must implement the measures described in the Biodiversity Management Plan.

HERITAGE

Protection of Aboriginal Heritage Sites

23. The Applicant shall ensure that the development does not cause any direct or indirect impact on Aboriginal heritage items:
    (a) identified in the table and figure in Appendix 6; or
    (b) located outside the approved disturbance area.

Protection of Historic Heritage Items

24. The Applicant shall ensure that the development does not cause any direct or indirect impact on any historic heritage items located outside the approved disturbance area.

Heritage Management Plan

25. Prior to the commencement of construction, the Applicant shall prepare a Heritage Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must:
    (c) be prepared in consultation with OEH and Aboriginal stakeholders; and
    (d) include a description of the measures that would be implemented for:
        - minimising ground disturbance within the project area during construction and decommissioning works;
        - managing impacts to Aboriginal heritage items within the project disturbance area;
        - managing the discovery of human remains or previously unidentified heritage items on site; and
        - ensuring workers on site receive suitable heritage inductions prior to carrying out any development on site, and that suitable records are kept of these inductions.

26. Following approval, the Applicant must implement the measures described in the Heritage Management Plan.

TRANSPORT

Whitefields Road Upgrade

27. Prior to the construction of the proposed upgrade to Whitefields Road, the Applicant shall prepare detailed plans for the upgrade in consultation with Yass Valley Council, and to the satisfaction of the Secretary. In preparing these plans, the Applicant must seek to avoid and/or minimise the clearing of mature vegetation adjacent to the road. Further, the detailed plans must include a landscaping plan for replacing the removal of any existing vegetation and/or augmenting the existing vegetation adjacent to the upgraded road.

Road Upgrades

28. Prior to the commencement of construction (other than pre-construction minor works), the Applicant shall:
    (a) upgrade the existing intersection at the Hume Highway and Whitefields Road; and
    (b) upgrade the section of Whitefields Road to be used as a primary access route (and shown in the figure in Appendix 7) from single lane to two lane;
    to the satisfaction of the relevant roads authority.

Road Maintenance

29. The Applicant shall:
    (a) prepare a pre-dilapidation survey of the transport route prior to the commencement of any construction or decommissioning works other than pre-construction minor works;
    (b) prepare a post-dilapidation survey of the transport route within 1 month of the completion of construction or decommissioning works other than pre-construction minor works, or other timing as may be agreed by the applicable roads authority; and
    (c) rehabilitate and/or make good any project-related damage identified in the post-dilapidation survey within 2 months of the completion of survey, or other timing as may be agreed by the applicable roads authority,
    to the satisfaction of the relevant roads authority.

    If there is a dispute about the scope of any remedial works or the implementation of the works, then either party may refer the matter to the Secretary for resolution.

Unformed Crown Roads

30. The Applicant shall ensure any unformed Crown road reserves affected by the development are maintained for future use.

Restriction on Transport Routes

24. The Applicant shall ensure that all over-dimension vehicle access is via the primary access routes identified in the EA (and shown in the figure in Appendix 7) unless the applicable roads authority approves otherwise.

Note: The Applicant is required to obtain relevant permits under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (NSW) for the use of over-dimension vehicles on the road network.

Traffic Management

31. Prior to the commencement of construction, the Applicant shall prepare a Traffic Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must be prepared in consultation with RMS and the Councils, and include:
    (a) details of all transport routes and traffic types to be used for development-related traffic;
    (b) a protocol for undertaking dilapidation surveys to assess the:
        - existing condition of the transport route/s prior to construction or decommissioning works; and
        - condition of the transport route/s following construction or decommissioning works;
    (c) a protocol for the repair of any roads identified in the dilapidation surveys to have been damaged during construction or decommissioning works;
    (d) details of the measures that would be implemented to minimise traffic safety issues and disruption to local road users during construction or decommissioning works, including:
        - temporary traffic controls, including detours and signage;
        - notifying the local community about project-related traffic impacts;
        - minimising potential for conflict with school buses and rail services;
        - responding to any emergency repair requirements or maintenance during construction and/or decommissioning; and
        - a traffic management system for managing over-dimensional vehicles; and
    (e) a drivers code of conduct that addresses:
        - travelling speeds;
        - procedures to ensure that drivers adhere to the designated transport routes; and
        - procedures to ensure that drivers implement safe driving practices.

32. Following approval, the Applicant must implement the measures described in the Traffic Management Plan.

AVIATION

Mitigation of Aviation-Related Impacts

33. Prior to the construction of any wind turbines, the Applicant shall:
    (a) prepare a detailed report to the satisfaction of Airservices Australia on all the potential aviation-related impacts of the development, including any potential impacts on the operation of the Mt Majura PSR/SSR Air Traffic Control radar, Mt Bobbara SSR Air Traffic Control radar, and any other Airservices Australia infrastructure or facilities. This report must:
        - be prepared by a suitably independent, qualified and experienced person acceptable to Airservices Australia;
        - be prepared in accordance with EUROCONTROL *Guidelines on how to assess the potential impact of Wind Turbines on Surveillance Sensors*, September 2014, or its latest version;
        - include a review of the findings of previous assessments in respect of the development; and
        - include recommendations for reasonable and feasible measures to mitigate or manage the potential impacts, that are acceptable to Airservices Australia;
    (b) prepare, an Aviation Impact Management Plan to the satisfaction of Airservices Australia. This plan must:
        - describe the measures that would be implemented to mitigate and/or manage the aviation-related impacts of the development, having regard to the recommendations in the detailed report required in (a) above; and
        - include a program for the implementation of these measures, having regard to any regulatory approvals that may need to be obtained, Airservices Australia's statutory and operational priorities and the proposed construction program for the development; and
    (c) enter into a legally binding agreement with Airservices Australia articulating further details to give effect to the implementation of the Aviation Impact Management Plan, including the provision of adequate security for implementation of the measures in the plan and any associated costs (see condition 36 below).

34. Following approval, the Applicant shall implement the Aviation Impact Management Plan.

35. If following approval of the Aviation Impact Management Plan changes are proposed to the location and/or dimensions of any wind turbines, then the Applicant shall assess the aviation-related impacts of the proposed changes and update the Aviation Impact Management Plan to the satisfaction of Airservices Australia prior to constructing the wind turbines in the revised location.

Liability for Costs

36. The Applicant shall be liable for all costs associated with the implementation of the Aviation Impact Management Plan, including the reimbursement of all of Airservices Australia's costs, including (but not limited to):
    (a) Airservices Australia's internal time and materials costs;
    (b) the costs of Airservices Australia's project management and subcontracting arrangements (including any procurement costs);
    (c) project and equipment costs;
    (d) public and stakeholder engagement and consultation costs;
    (e) alternative site licensing or leasing costs;
    (f) the costs associated with obtaining regulatory approvals or complying with any regulatory requirements (including any environmental impact studies and community consultation costs); and
    (g) any other associated costs identified by Airservices Australia.

Notification of Aviation Authorities

37. Prior to the commencement of construction of the development, the Applicant must provide the following information to CASA, Airservices Australia, and the RAAF (together the authorities):
    (a) coordinates in latitude and longitude of each wind turbine and wind monitoring mast;
    (b) final height of each wind turbine and wind monitoring mast in Australian Height Datum;
    (c) ground level at the base of each wind turbine and wind monitoring mast in Australian Height Datum;
    (d) confirmation of compliance with any OLS; and
    (e) details of aviation hazard lighting.

38. Within 30 days of the practical completion of any turbine or mast, the Applicant shall:
    (a) provide confirmation to the authorities and local aviation users that the information that was previously provided remains accurate; or
    (b) update the information previously provided.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

39. If the development results in the disruption to radio or telecommunications services in the area, then the Applicant shall make good any disruption to these services as soon as practicable following the disruption.

    If there is a dispute about the mitigation measures to be implemented or the implementation of these mitigation measures, then either party may refer the matter to the Secretary for resolution.

BUSHFIRE

40. The Applicant shall:
    (a) ensure that the development:
        - provides for asset protection in accordance with the RFS's *Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006* (or equivalent);
        - is suitably equipped to respond to any fires on site; and
    (b) assist the RFS and emergency services as much as practicable if there is a fire in the vicinity of the site.

SAFETY

41. The Applicant shall:
    (a) prepare a Safety Management System for the development in accordance with the Department's *Hazardous Industry Planning Advisory Paper No. 9, 'Safety Management*' prior to commissioning any wind turbines on site; and
    (b) implement, and if necessary update, the system over the remaining life of the development.

WASTE

42. The Applicant shall:
    (a) implement all reasonable and feasible measures to minimise the waste generated by the development;
    (b) classify all waste in accordance with the EPA's Waste Classification Guidelines and at appropriately licensed waste facilities; and
    (c) manage the waste in accordance with any requirements under the POEO Act and its associated regulations.

REHABILITATION & DECOMMISSIONING

Progressive Rehabilitation

43. The Applicant shall rehabilitate all areas of the site not proposed for future disturbance progressively, that is, as soon as reasonably practicable following construction or decommissioning. All reasonable and feasible measures must be taken to minimise the total area exposed at any time. Interim rehabilitation strategies shall be employed when areas prone to dust generation, soil erosion and weed incursion cannot yet be permanently rehabilitated.

Rehabilitation Objectives – Decommissioning

44. The Applicant shall rehabilitate the site to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This rehabilitation must comply with the objectives in Table 6.

Table 6: Rehabilitation Objectives

Feature	***Objective***
Development site (as a whole)	• Safe, stable and non-polluting • Minimise the visual impact of any above ground ancillary infrastructure agreed to be retained for an alternative use as far as is reasonable and feasible
Revegetation	• Restore native vegetation generally as identified in the EA
Above ground wind turbine infrastructure (excluding wind turbine pads)	• To be decommissioned and removed, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise
Above ground ancillary infrastructure	• To be decommissioned and removed, unless an agreed alternative use is identified to the satisfaction of the Secretary
Internal access roads	• To be decommissioned and removed, unless an agreed alternative use is identified to the satisfaction of the Secretary
Land use	• Restore or maintain land capability as described in the EA
Community	• Ensure public safety

Decommissioning of Wind Turbines

45. All wind turbines must be decommissioned within 18 months of cessation of operations, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise.

46. Any individual wind turbines which cease operating for more than 12 consecutive months must be dismantled within 18 months after that 12 month period, unless the Secretary agrees otherwise.

SCHEDULE 4
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, REPORTING AND AUDITING

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Environmental Management Strategy

1. Prior to the commencement of construction, the Applicant shall prepare an Environmental Management Strategy for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This strategy must:
   (a) provide the strategic framework for environmental management of the development;
   (b) identify the statutory approvals that apply to the development;
   (c) describe the role, responsibility, authority and accountability of all key personnel involved in the environmental management of the development;
   (d) describe the procedures that would be implemented to:
      - keep the local community and relevant agencies informed about the operation and environmental performance of the development;
      - receive, handle, respond to, and record complaints;
      - resolve any disputes that may arise;
      - respond to any non-compliance;
      - respond to emergencies; and
   (e) include:
      - copies of any strategies, plans and programs approved under the conditions of this consent; and
      - a clear plan depicting all the monitoring to be carried out in relation to the development.

2. Following approval, the Applicant shall implement the Environmental Management Strategy.

Adaptive Management

3. The Applicant shall assess and manage development-related risks to ensure that there are no exceedances of the criteria and/or performance measures in schedule 3. Any exceedance of these criteria and/or performance measures constitutes a breach of this consent and may be subject to penalty or offence provisions under the EP&A Act or EP&A Regulation.

   Where any exceedance of these criteria and/or performance measures has occurred, the Applicant must, at the earliest opportunity:
   (a) take all reasonable and feasible steps to ensure that the exceedance ceases and does not recur;
   (b) consider all reasonable and feasible options for remediation (where relevant) and submit a report to the Department describing those options and any preferred remediation measures or other course of action; and
   (c) implement remediation measures as directed by the Secretary.

Revision of Strategies, Plans and Programs

4. Within 3 months of the submission of:
   (a) the submission of an incident report under condition 5 below;
   (b) the submission of an audit under condition 8 below; or
   (c) any modification to the conditions of this consent (unless the conditions require otherwise),

   the Applicant shall review and, if necessary, revise the strategies, plans, and programs required under this consent to the satisfaction of the Secretary. Where this review leads to revisions in any such document, then within 4 weeks of the review the revised document must be submitted to the Secretary for approval.

   Note: This is to ensure the strategies, plans and programs are updated on a regular basis, and incorporate any recommended measures to improve the environmental performance of the development.

Community Consultative Committee

5. The Applicant shall establish and operate a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) for the development to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This CCC must be established and operated in accordance with any applicable CCC guideline.

   Notes:
   - *The CCC is an advisory committee. The Department and other relevant agencies are responsible for ensuring that the Applicant complies with this consent.*
   - *The CCC should be comprised of an independent chair and appropriate representation from the Applicant, Councils and the local community.*

REPORTING

Incident Reporting

6. The Applicant shall immediately notify the Secretary and any other relevant agencies of any incident that has caused, or threatens to cause, material harm to the environment. For any other incident associated with the development, the Applicant shall notify the Secretary and any other relevant agencies as soon as practicable after the Applicant becomes aware of the incident. Within 7 days of the date of the incident, the Applicant shall provide the Secretary and any relevant agencies with a detailed report on the incident, and such further reports as may be requested.

Regular Reporting

7. The Applicant shall provide regular reporting on the environmental performance of the development on its website, in accordance with the reporting arrangements in any plans or programs approved under the conditions of this consent.

AUDITING

8. Within 1 year of the commencement of construction, and every 3 years thereafter, unless the Secretary directs otherwise, the Applicant shall commission and pay the full cost of an Independent Environmental Audit of the development. This audit must:
   (a) be conducted by a suitably qualified, experienced and independent team of experts whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary;
   (b) include consultation with the relevant agencies;
   (c) assess the environmental performance of the development and assess whether it is complying with the requirements in this consent and any relevant EPL/s;
   (d) review the adequacy of any approved strategy, plan or program required under the abovementioned approvals; and
   (e) recommend measures or actions to improve the environmental performance of the development, and/or any strategy, plan or program required under these approvals.

   Note: This audit team must be led by a suitably qualified auditor and/or experts in any other fields specified by the Secretary.

9. Within 3 months of commissioning this audit, or as otherwise agreed by the Secretary, the Applicant shall submit a copy of the audit report to the Secretary, together with its response to any recommendations contained in the audit report.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

10. The Applicant shall:
    (a) make the following information publicly available on its website as relevant to the stage of the development:
        - the EA;
        - the final layout plans for the development;
        - current statutory approvals for the development;
        - approved strategies, plans or programs required under the conditions of this consent;
        - a comprehensive summary of the monitoring results of the development, which have been reported in accordance with the various plans and programs approved under the conditions of this consent;
        - a complaints register, which is to be updated on a monthly basis;
        - minutes of CCC meetings;
        - any independent environmental audit, and the Applicant's response to the recommendations in any audit; and
        - any other matter required by the Secretary; and

    (b) keep this information up to date,

    to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

APPENDIX 1
SCHEDULE OF LAND

Landowner	*Lot/DP*
1	101/881434
2	293/721898
3	284/753602
4	1/659797
	1/717646
	Y/382611
5	2/717646
6	285/753602
7	260/753602
	268/753602
10	1/593527
	135/753602
	137/753602
	138/753602
	194/753626
	197/753602
	2/593527
	200/753602
	201/753626
	211/753602
	212/753602
	213/753602
	230/753602
	234/753602
	235/753602
	31/753602
	41/753602
	42/753602
	43/753602
	61/753595
	86/753602
	87/753602
	88/753602
	89/753602
	90/753602
	91/753602
	92/753602
11	344/753595
12	307/753595
	314/753595

Landowner	*Lot/DP*
13	1/116565
13	1/201889
	1/455031
	101/753626
	106/753626
	107/753626
	110/753626
	115/753595
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	186/753626
	197/753626
	198/753626
	2/1102090
	2/116565
	2/201889
	2/455031

Landowner	*Lot/DP*
13	202/753626
	208/753595
	211/753595
	212/753595
	222/753626
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	91/753626
14	326/753595
15	3/1108872
	4/1108872
17	108/753595
	109/753595
	203/753626

Landowner	Lot/DP
	209/753626
	325/753595
	341/753595
18	105/753633
	110/753595
	111/753595
	111/753626
	112/665719
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	238/753595
	31/1048395
	32/1048395
	33/1048395
	34/1048395

Landowner	Lot/DP
	99/753595
19	177/753626
	178/753626
	2/849324
	B/415303
20	210/878465
	212/878465
	291/753596
	292/753596
21	177/753596
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	42/753595
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24	167/753595
	168/753595
	169/753595
25	100/876302

Landowner	Lot/DP
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	162/753595
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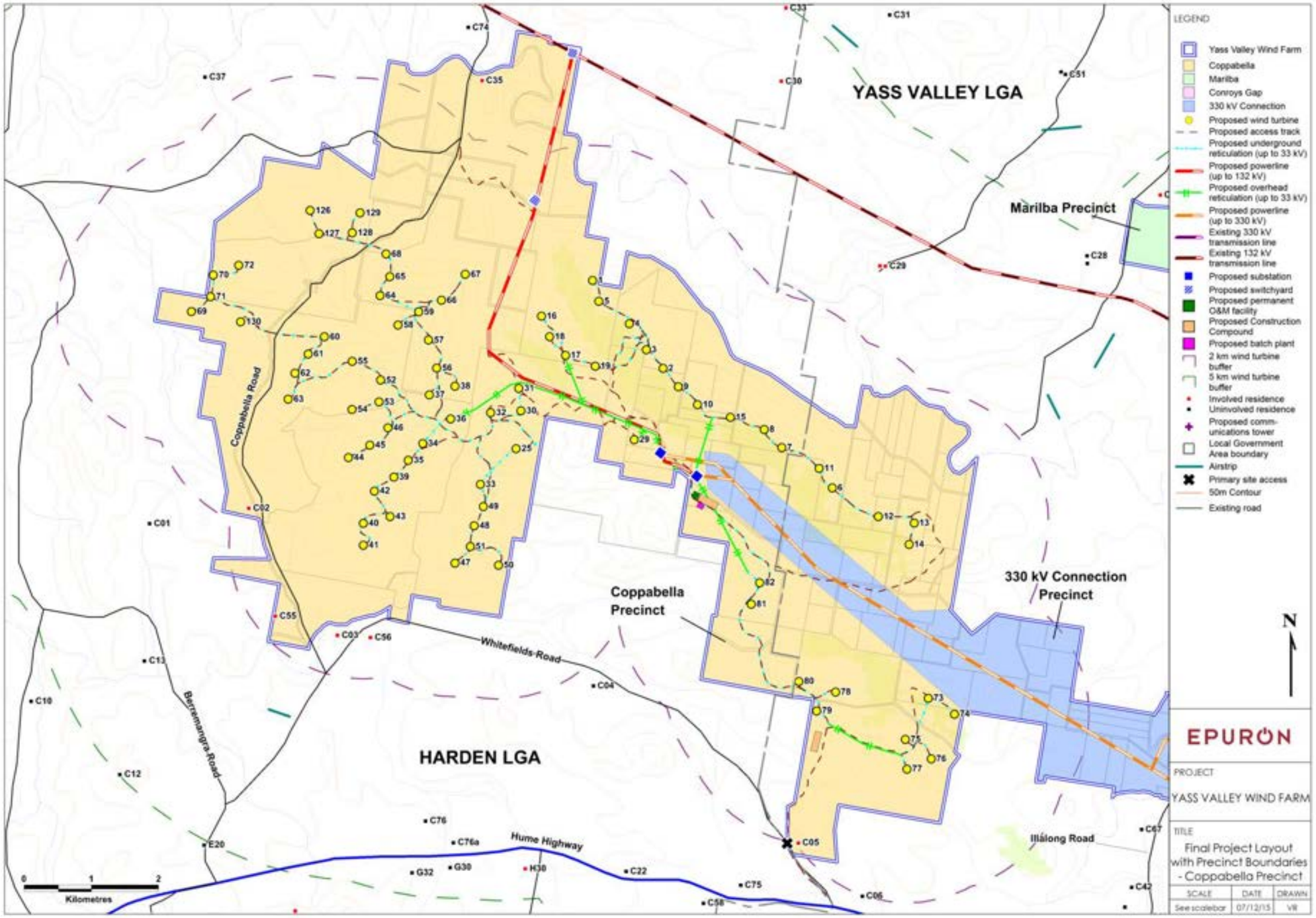
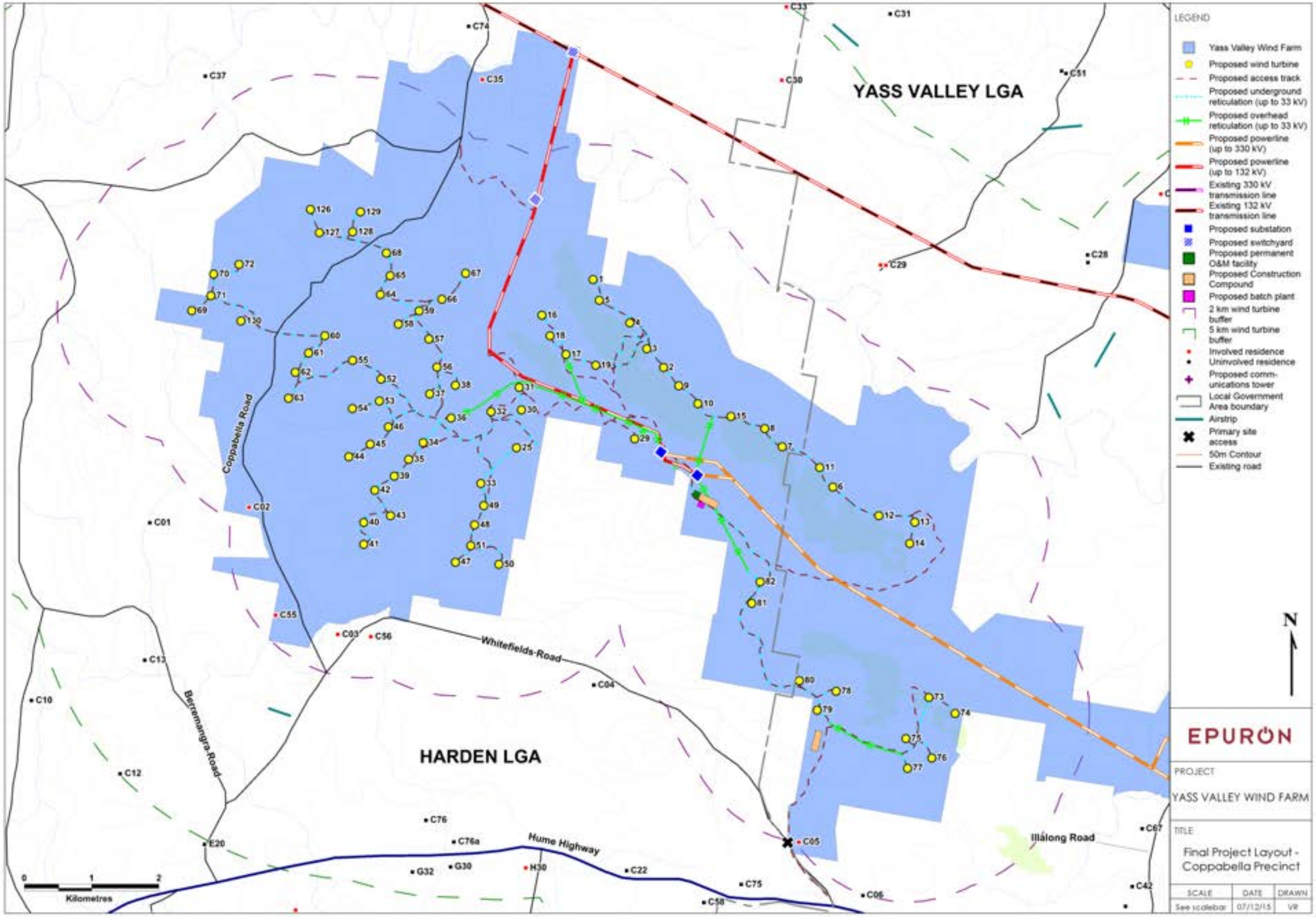
APPENDIX 2
GENERAL LAYOUT OF DEVELOPMENT

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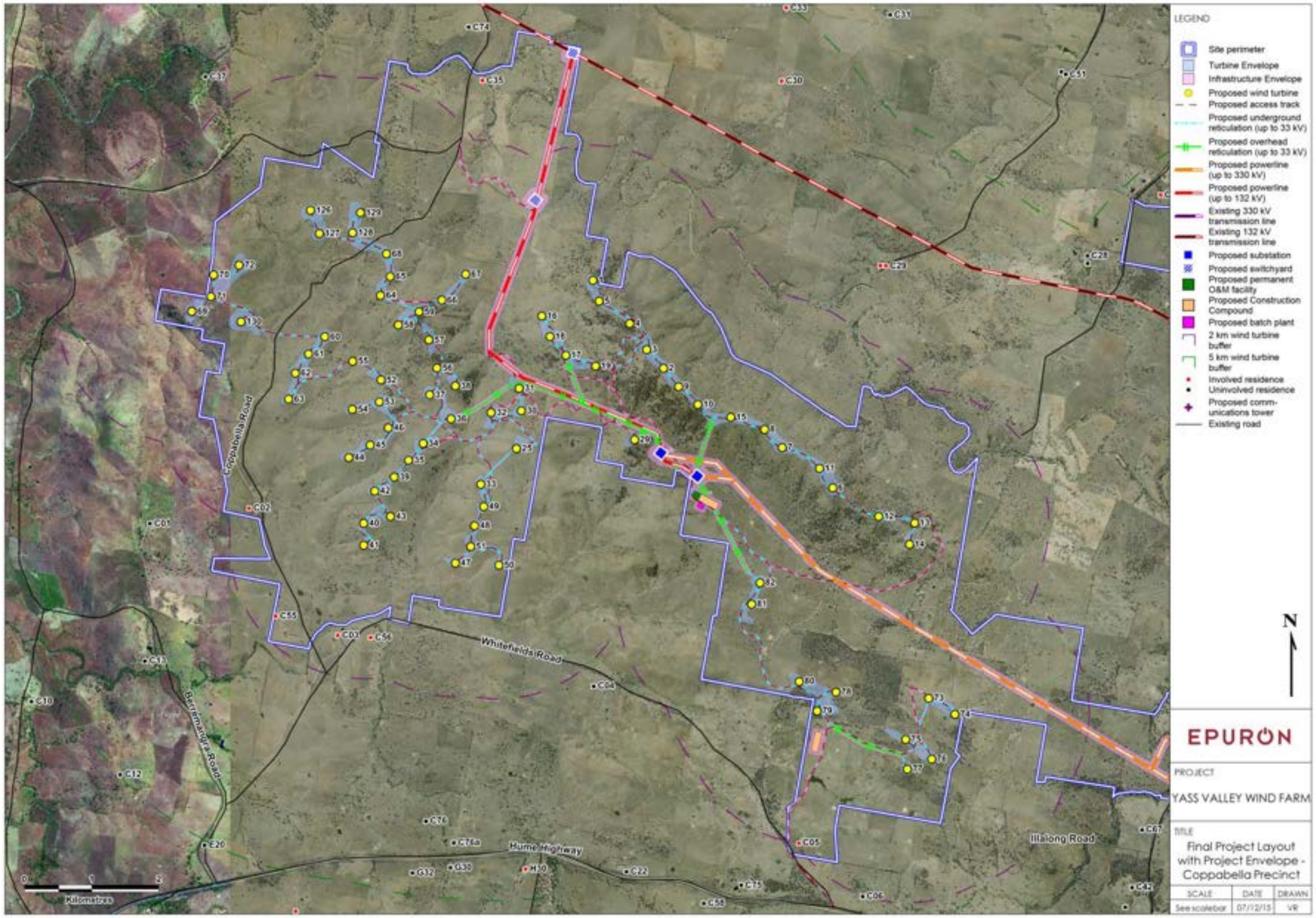
HARDEN LGA
Coppabella Road
Whitefields Road
Berremangra Road
Hume Highway
Illalong Road
C01
C02
C03
C04
C05
C06
C10
C12
C13
C22
C28
C29
C30
C31
C33
C35
C37
C42
C51
C55
C56
C58
C67
C74
C75
C76
C76a
E20
G30
G32
H30
LEGEND
Yass Valley Wind Farm
Proposed wind turbine
Proposed access track
Proposed underground reticulation (up to 33 kV)
Proposed overhead reticulation (up to 33 kV)
Proposed powerline (up to 330 kV)
Proposed powerline (up to 132 kV)
Existing 330 kV transmission line
Existing 132 kV transmission line
Proposed substation
Proposed switchyard
Proposed permanent O&M facility
Proposed Construction Compound
Proposed batch plant
2 km wind turbine buffer
5 km wind turbine buffer
Involved residence
Uninvolved residence
Proposed comm-unications tower
Local Government Area boundary
Airstrip
Primary site access
50m Contour
Existing road
N
0
1
2
Kilometres
EPURON
PROJECT
YASS VALLEY WIND FARM
TITLE
Final Project Layout - Coppabella Precinct
SCALE
See scalebar
DATE
07/12/15
DRAWN
VR

APPENDIX 3
DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR



APPENDIX 4
GENERAL TERMS OF APPLICANT'S VPA OFFER

The VPAs shall include provisions for the payment, collection, management and distribution of the contributions under the agreement, with a focus on funding community projects in the area surrounding the project site.

Council	***Payment Details***
Harden Shire Council	$2,500 per wind turbine per annum as installed at the development within the Harden Shire Council local government area over the operational life of the development, commencing on the date on which the development begins 'operation' and ceasing when the development is 'decommissioned' in accordance with the definitions within this consent, and CPI adjusted from 1 July commencing on the first anniversary of the operational date.
Yass Valley Council	$2,500 per wind turbine per annum as installed at the development within the Yass Valley Council local government area over the operational life of the development, commencing on the date on which the development begins 'operation' and ceasing when the development is 'decommissioned' in accordance with the definitions within this consent, and CPI adjusted from 1 July commencing on the first anniversary of the operational date.

APPENDIX 5
NOISE COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT

PART A: SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WIND FARMS: ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE GUIDELINES 2009 (MODIFIED)

South Australian *Wind Farms: Environmental Noise Guidelines 2009* (Modified) refers to the South Australian EPA document modified for use in NSW.

The modifications are as follows:

Tonality
The presence of excessive tonality (a special noise characteristic) is consistent with that described in *ISO 1996.2: 2007 Acoustics — Description, measurement and assessment of environmental noise – Determination of environmental noise levels* and is defined as when the level of one-third octave band measured in the equivalent noise level $L_{eq(10minute)}$ exceeds the level of the adjacent bands on both sides by:

- 5dB or more if the centre frequency of the band containing the tone is in the range 500Hz to 10,000Hz;
- 8dB or more if the centre frequency of the band containing the tone is in the range 160 to 400Hz; and/or
- 15dB or more if the centre frequency of the band containing the tone is in the range 25Hz to 125Hz.

If tonality is found to be a repeated characteristic of the wind turbine noise, 5 dB(A) should be added to measured noise levels from the wind farm. If tonality is only identified for certain wind directions and speeds, the penalty is only applicable under these conditions. The tonal characteristic penalty applies only if the tone from the wind turbine is audible at the relevant receiver. Absence of tone in noise emissions measured at an intermediate location is sufficient proof that the tone at the receiver is not associated with the wind farm's operation. The assessment for tonality should only be made for frequencies of concern from 25 Hz to 10 KHz and for sound pressure levels above the threshold of hearing (as defined in *ISO 389.7: 2005 Acoustics - Reference zero for the calibration of audiometric equipment - Part 7: Reference threshold of hearing under free-field and diffuse-field listening conditions*).

Low Frequency Noise
The presence of excessive low frequency noise (a special noise characteristic) [i.e. noise from the wind farm that is repeatedly greater than 65 dB(C) during the day time or 60 dB(C)) during the night time at any relevant receiver] will incur a 5 dB(A) penalty, to be added to the measured noise level for the wind farm, unless a detailed internal low frequency noise assessment demonstrates compliance with the proposed criteria for the assessment of low frequency noise disturbance (UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA, 2005)) for a steady state noise source.

Notes:

- *For the purposes of these conditions, a special noise characteristic is defined as a repeated characteristic if it occurs for more than 10% of an assessment period. This equates to being identified for more than 144 minutes during any 24 hour period. This definition refers to verified wind farm noise only.*
- *The maximum penalty to be added to the measured noise level from the wind farm for any special noise characteristic individually or cumulatively is 5 dB(A).*

PART B: NOISE COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT

Applicable Meteorological Conditions – Wind Turbines

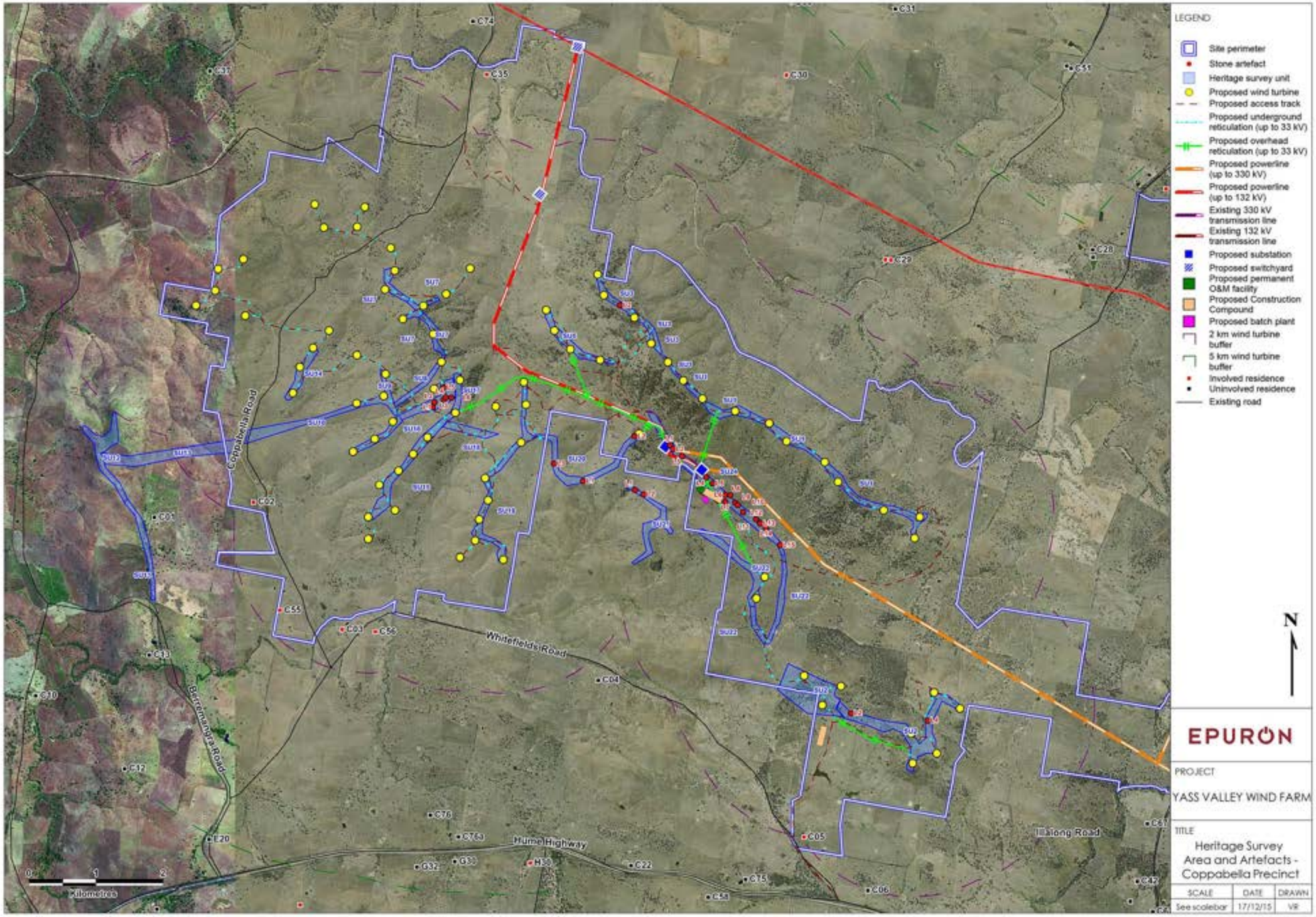
1. The noise criteria in Table 4 of the conditions are to apply under all meteorological conditions.

Applicable Meteorological Conditions – Other Facilities

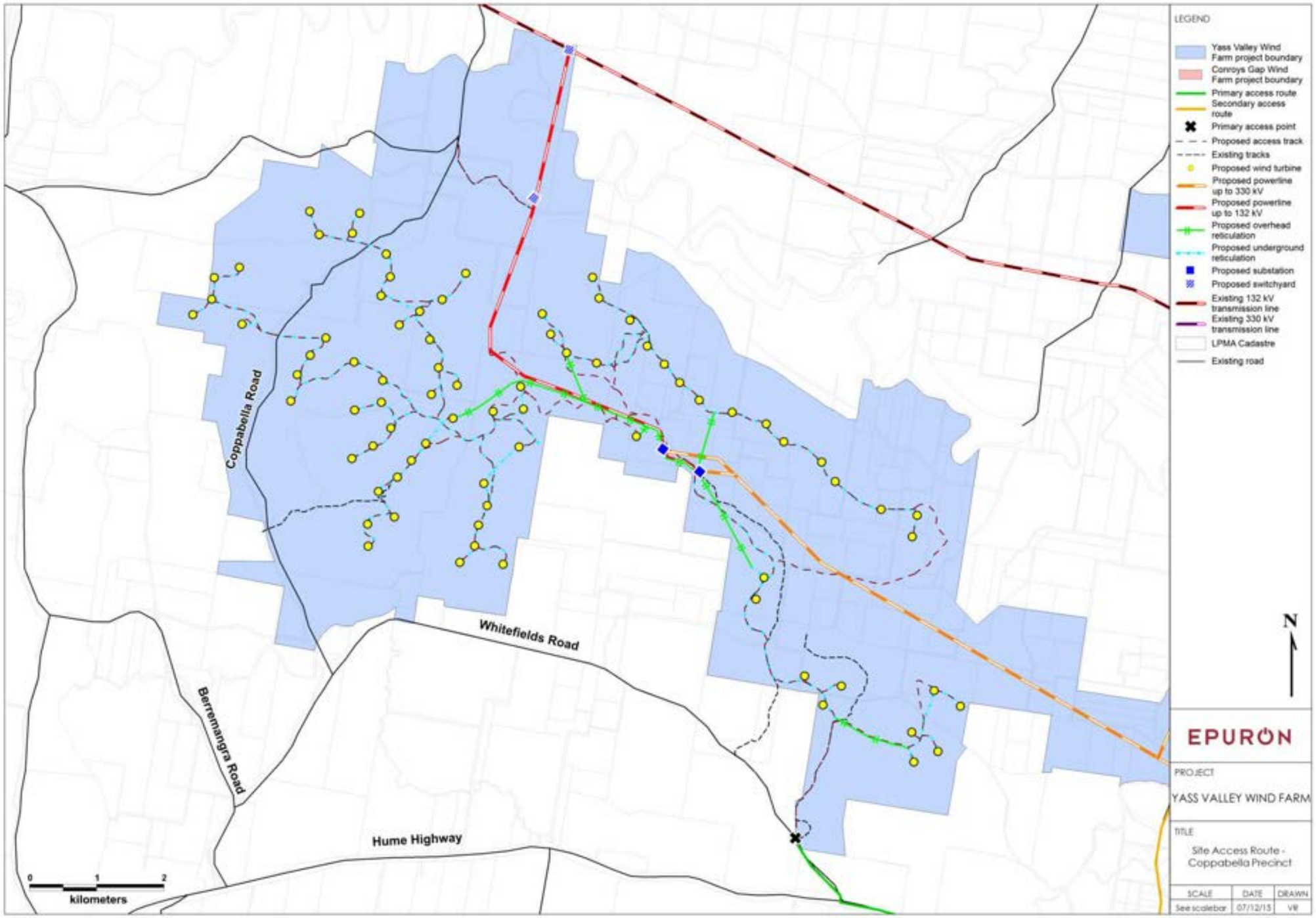
2. The noise criteria in Condition 15 are to apply under all meteorological conditions except the following:
   a) wind speeds greater than 3 m/s at 10 m above ground level; or
   b) temperature inversion conditions between 1.5 ºC and 3ºC/100m and wind speeds greater than 2 m/s at 10 m above ground level; or
   c) temperature inversion conditions greater than 3ºC/100m.

APPENDIX 6
ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SITES

Survey Unit	*Site*
SU2	SU2/L2, SU2/L4
SU3	SU3/L2
SU17	SU17/L1, SU17/L2, SU17/L3, SU17/L4, SU17/L5, SU17/L6
SU20	SU20/L1, SU20/L2, SU20/L3
SU21	SU21/L1, SU21/L2
SU24	SU24/L1, SU24/L2, SU24/L3, SU24/L4, SU24/L5, SU24/L6, SU24/L7, SU24/L8, SU24/L9, SU24/L10, SU24/L11, SU24/L12, SU24/L13, SU24/L14, SU24/L15


LEGEND
Site perimeter
Stone artefact
Heritage survey unit
Proposed wind turbine
Proposed access track
Proposed underground reticulation (up to 33 kV)
Proposed overhead reticulation (up to 33 kV)
Proposed powerline (up to 330 kV)
Proposed powerline (up to 132 kV)
Existing 330 kV transmission line
Existing 132 kV transmission line
Proposed substation
Proposed switchyard
Proposed permanent O&M facility
Proposed Construction Compound
Proposed batch plant
2 km wind turbine buffer
5 km wind turbine buffer
Involved residence
Uninvolved residence
Existing road
N
EPURON
PROJECT
YASS VALLEY WIND FARM
TITLE
Heritage Survey Area and Artefacts - Coppabella Precinct
SCALE
DATE
DRAWN
See scalebar
17/12/15
VR
Coppabella Road
Whitefields Road
Barrowman's Road
Hume Highway
Illalong Road
0
1
2
Kilometres

APPENDIX 7
OVER-DIMENSION AND OVER-MASS VEHICLE ACCESS ROUTE RESTRICTIONS



Australian Government
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Variation of conditions attached to approval

Coppabella Wind Farm, Yass, NSW (EPBC ref 2017/8129)

This decision to vary conditions of approval is made under section 143 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Approved action

approval holder	Coppabella Wind Farm Pty Ltd ACN: 141 003 161
approved action	The construction, operation and eventual decommissioning of the Coppabella Wind Farm, located approximately 28-43 kilometres (km) west of Yass, NSW (refer Annexure A). See EPBC Act referral 2017/8129.
period for which the approval has effect	This approval has effect until 30 November 2050.

Variation

variation of conditions attached to approval	The variation is: Delete conditions 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16, 22, and 23 attached to the approval and substitute with the conditions specified in the table below. Delete definitions of **Box Gum Woodland**, **Commence/Commenced/Commencement** / **Commencement of the Action**, **Commissioning**, **Hollow bearing trees, Koala, National Superb Parrot Recovery Team, NSW development consent, Pre-construction minor works, Protected matters, Regent Honeyeater,** and **Superb Parrot** attached to the approval and substitute with the definitions specified in the table below. Add definitions of **Business Day**, **Clear/cleared/clearing/clearance**, **Construction, CPI, Disturbance footprint, Environmental Management Plan Guidelines, Harm, Legally protected and secured, Minor clearing, New or increased impact, Operation, Project area,** and **Superb Parrot habitat** to the table below. Delete Annexures A, B, C, and D attached to the approval and substitute with the Annexures specified in the table below.
date of effect	This variation has effect on the date this instrument is signed.

Person authorised to make decision

name and position	Rachel Short Branch Head Environment Assessments (Vic, Tas) and Post Approvals Branch
signature	
date of decision	6 May 2025

date of decision	Conditions attached to approval
Original dated 12/11/18	1. The approval holder must: a. Implement conditions 8, 9 and 10 of Schedule 2 and conditions 18(a),(b),(c), 19, 19A, 20(a) and (c), 21, 22, and 27 of Schedule 3 of the NSW development consent as it relates to impacts to protected matters. b. Notify the **Department** in writing of any proposed change to the conditions of the **NSW development consent** for which EPBC condition 1 a applies no later than 1 week after proposing a change or becoming aware of the NSW Government proposing a change. c. Notify the **Department** in writing of any change to the **NSW development consent** for which sub-condition 1a applies within 1 week of a change being finalised.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	2. The **approval holder** must not **clear** more than: a. 31.5 ha of **Box Gum Woodland**. b. 44 **hollow bearing trees**. within the project area. In taking the Action, the **approval holder** must not **clear** outside the **project area**.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	3. The **approval holder** must avoid and mitigate **harm** to the **Superb Parrot** by: a. ensuring any required **blasting** that is within 50 m of **hollow bearing trees** and any required **clearing** of trees that is within 30 m of any **hollow bearing tree** is only conducted in a period commencing on 1 February and ending on 31 August of the same year. b. minimising locating **onsite infrastructure** within 50 m from known and potential nest trees.
Original dated 12/11/18	4. The approval holder must submit detailed plans for final layout required by condition 10 of Schedule 2 of the **NSW development consent** to the **Minister** prior to **commencement of the action.** The action must not commence unless the **Minister** has approved the final layout in writing.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	5. The **approval holder** must submit a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) to the **Minister** for approval. **Commencement of the action** must not occur unless the **Minister** has approved the BMP. The approved BMP must be implemented. The BMP must include:

	a. Baseline mapping included in the Preliminary Documentation which demonstrates the extent of the impact on **protected matters** and **hollow bearing trees** within the final **disturbance footprint**. b. Spatial maps, description and quantification of the final **disturbance footprint** in relation to proposed impacts to **protected matters**, including the number, type of **hollow bearing trees** and size of hollows to be removed and evidence that clearing **hollow bearing trees** has been minimised. c. Management measures to ensure the protection and maintenance of habitat for **protected matters** during the construction and operational phases of the approved action.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	6. The **approval holder** must submit a Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan (BBAMP) to the **Minister** for approval.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	6A. The **approval holder** must not **commission** any turbine unless the **Minister** has approved the BBAMP in writing.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	6B. The **approval holder** must commence implementing the approved BBAMP from the date that the plan is approved by the **Minister**, and no later than the **commissioning** of the first turbine. The approval holder must continue to implement the approved BBAMP throughout **operation**.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	6C. The **approval holder** must ensure, including by implementing the BBAMP, that it detects, quantifies, reports and responds to **harm** to **EPBC Act listed bird and bat species** so as to effectively limit and reduce such **harm**.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	6D. To avoid and mitigate **harm** to **EPBC Act listed bird and bat species** during **commissioning** and **operation** of the wind farm, the BBAMP must be consistent with the **department's Environmental Management Plan Guidelines**. The BBAMP must include, but should not be limited to: a. clear environmental outcomes and performance indicators for all management measures, mitigation measures and practices prescribed by the BBAMP. b. a table of commitments made to achieve the outcomes, and a reference to where the commitments are detailed in the BBAMP. c. an assessment of risks to achieving the environmental outcomes and strategies that will be applied to manage risks

d. an ongoing monitoring program to detect or reliably estimate all collisions with **EPBC Act listed bird and bat species**. The monitoring program must specify:
   i. measurable performance indicators.
   ii. triggers, and proposed corrective actions to be implemented if triggers are reached, including but not limited to, ceasing **operation** of specific wind turbines.
   iii. timing and frequency of monitoring to detect triggers and changes in the performance indicators.
   iv. mortality monitoring, including carcass searches, carcass persistence trials and scavenger trial methodologies.
e. results of research conducted as part of EPBC condition 15 on **Superb Parrot habitat** use and breeding ecology.
f. measures, and their timing, to avoid and mitigate impacts including, but not limited to:
   i. measures to prevent the **harm** associated with lighting that may attract **EPBC Act listed bird and bat species** to locations with high risk of collision with turbines.
   ii. measures to avoid and mitigate the risks to **EPBC Act listed bird and bat species** that require relocation or are injured within the **project area.**
   iii. procedures for dealing with any **EPBC Act listed bird and bat species** that require relocation or are injured within the **project area**.
g. how the effectiveness of mitigation measures will be monitored and analysed, and decisions made regarding adaptive measures to achieve the environmental outcomes of the BBAMP.
h. reporting and review mechanisms, and documentation standards to demonstrate compliance with the BBAMP. This must include how monitoring data and analysis of monitoring results will be reported and published, and a procedure for reporting the death or injury of any **EPBC Act listed bird and bat species** to the **department**.

6E. The results of the monitoring program for each year must be submitted as part of the compliance report required under EPBC condition 19.

The **approval holder** must provide evidence that the proposed methods, frequency and timing of monitoring provide statistically reliable detection or reliable estimates of all collisions with turbines and other **harm** such as barotrauma, habitat loss to **EPBC Act listed bird and bat species**.

As varied on the date this instrument was signed

7. If the **Minister** considers, based on monitoring taken under EPBC conditions 6-6D and compliance reporting required by EPBC condition 19, that the operation of the action is having an unacceptable impact on **protected matters,** then the **Minister** may notify the **approval holder** in writing that specified wind turbines must not be operated for a specified period of time. If the **Minister** makes a written notice under this condition, the **approval holder** must implement that written notice.

As varied on the date this instrument was signed	8. In order to protect foraging and potential breeding habitat for the **Superb Parrot,** prior to the **clearing** and trimming of roadside vegetation for the transport of the turbine components and associated infrastructure, the **approval holder** must submit a Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP) to the **Minister** for approval. The **approval holder** must not undertake any **clearing** or trimming of roadside vegetation unless the **Minister** has approved the RVMP. The **approval holder** must implement the approved RVMP. The RVMP must include: a. A map and details specifying where vegetation is to be **cleared** or trimmed. b. Calculations and explanations showing that total **clearing** will be within the limits specified in condition 2. c. Identification of who will manage the **clearing.** d. Evidence that planning for **clearing** and trimming has been undertaken to minimise **harm** to **hollow bearing trees**.
Original dated 12/11/18	9. Prior to the **commencement of the action**, the **approval holder** must submit to the **Minister,** the calculation of biodiversity impacts consistent with condition 19A of Schedule 3 of the **NSW development consent** as it relates to **protected matters.**
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	10. Within two years of **commencement of the action**, the **approval holder** must acquire or **retire biodiversity credits** to the satisfaction of the **Minister**. This must be carried out in accordance with the NSW *Biodiversity Offsets Policy for Major Projects (FBA).* To ensure this condition meets the **Ministers** satisfaction, the **approval holder** must submit full details of the numbers and types of **biodiversity credits** to be **retired** for approval by the **Minister** before the **biodiversity credits** are **retired** or acquired.
Original dated 12/11/18	11. Within two years of **commencement of the action,** the **approval holder** must submit evidence of **credit retirement** consistent with condition 20 (a) or (c) of Schedule 3 of the **NSW development consent** to the **Minister**.
Original dated 12/11/18	12. In the case that the **approval holder** is establishing **BioBank sites(s)**, they must ensure that the **BioBanking Agreement(s)** for the **BioBanking site(s)** include measures for the long term management of **protected matters** including but not limited to: a. Specific reference to protected matters and hollow-bearing trees. b. A textual description of the offset sites, including offset attributes, shapefiles, and a map clearly defining the location and boundaries of the proposed offset sites. c. Site survey and baseline data and documentation of key biodiversity threats and opportunities at each site. d. A detailed description of management actions and responsibilities designed to protect and improve the ecological quality of Box Gum Woodland and habitat of Superb Parrot, Regent Honeyeater and Koala on the offset sites. e. Key milestones, performance indicators and timeframes for each management action. f. A monitoring program to determine the effectiveness of the management actions.

	g. Corrective actions and contingency measures to be implemented where monitoring of the offset site shows that management actions are not effectively achieving key milestones or prescribed performance indicators are not being met or are unlikely to be met.
Original dated 12/11/18	13. In the case that the **approval holder** is establishing **BioBanking site(s),** they must submit a copy of the **BioBanking Agreement(s)** to the **Minister** within two years of **commencement of the action**.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	14. For each **hollow bearing tree** (as indicated on the map at Annexure C) removed or **cleared** within 50 m of each turbine (as confirmed through quantification of **hollow bearing tree** impacts through EPBC condition 5), the **approval holder** must legally protect and secure 10 **hollow bearing trees** from the same vegetation class. Within two years of **commencement of the action,** the **approval holder** must submit evidence to the **Minister's** satisfaction of the final number of **hollow bearing trees** to be **legally protected and secured**. If the required number of **hollow bearing trees** cannot be protected within the **BioBanking site(s)** established under EPBC condition 12, then additional **hollow bearing trees** must be legally protected and secured to meet the 10: 1 offset ratio for **hollow bearing trees**.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	15. To compensate for potential cumulative impacts on **Superb Parrot,** the **approval holder** must submit to the **department** for the **Minister's** approval, a Superb Parrot Conservation Research Plan (SPCRP). The **approval holder** must not **commence the Action** unless the **Minister** has approved the SPCRP in writing. The **approval holder** must commence implementing the approved SPCRP at least by the **commencement of the action** and must continue to implement the SPCRP for at least five years. By implementing the SPCRP the approval holder must contribute to scientific understanding of **Superb Parrot habitat** use and **Superb Parrot** breeding ecology, with a focus on identification of key breeding sites, and on better understanding local movement patterns during the breeding season and landscape scale movements between the key breeding areas and the winter foraging grounds. The SPCRP must contain, but is not limited to, the following: a. Research activities consistent with the *National Recovery Plan for the Superb Parrot Polytelis swainsonii* (2011) and input and advice from the **National Superb Parrot Recovery Team.** b. Specific project objectives, indicative timetable for activities, nomination of persons or organisations responsible for carrying out the activities, and commitments to the provision and timing of funding.

As varied on the date this instrument was signed	16. The approval holder must make payments to the cost of the conservation research activities specified in the SPCRP in accordance equivalent to, or greater than, in total, the value of $A500,000, by annual adjustment in accordance with each **CPI** from the date of the SPCRP approval decision (24 August 2020), until the date on which each payment is made. The first contribution must be made within 20 **business days** from the **commencement of the Action,** and contributions must be yearly until the activities are complete.
Original dated 12/11/18	17. Within 14 days after the **commencement of the action**, the **approval holder** must advise the **Department** in writing of the actual date of **commencement**.
Original dated 12/11/18	18. The **approval holder** must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to these conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the management plans, and make them available upon request to the **Department**. Such records may be subject to audit by the **Department** or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the **EPBC Act**, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be published on the **Department's** website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.
Original dated 12/11/18	19. Within three months of every 12 month anniversary of the **commencement of the action**, the **approval holder** must publish a report on its website addressing compliance with each of the conditions of this approval including implementation of the management plans. Documentary evidence providing proof of the date of publication must be provided to the **Department** at the same time as the compliance report is published. The report must remain published on the **website** for the duration of the approval. Reports must continue to be published until such time as advised by the **Minister** in writing.
Original dated 12/11/18	20. Potential or actual contraventions of the conditions of the approval must be reported to the **Department** in writing within two business days of the **approval holder** becoming aware of the actual or potential contravention.
Original dated 12/11/18	21. Upon the direction of the **Minister**, the **approval holder** must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the **Minister**. The independent auditor must be approved by the **Minister** prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the **Minister** and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the **Minister**.

As varied on the date this instrument was signed	22. The **approval holder** must not **commence the Action** later than eight years after the date of the decision to approve the Action.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	23. The **approval holder** may choose to submit a revised version of a management plan, program or strategy (revised plan) approved by the **Minister** under conditions 5, 6, and 8 without submitting it for approval under section 143A of the **EPBC Act,** if the taking of the action in accordance with the revised plan would not be likely to have a **new or increased impact**. If the **approval holder** makes this choice, it must: a. Notify the **department** electronically that the approved action management plan has been revised and provide the **department** with: i. An electronic copy of the revised plan. ii. ii. An electronic copy of the RAMP marked up with track changes to show the differences between the approved action management plan and the revised plan. iii. An explanation of the differences between the approved action management plan and the revised plan. iv. The reasons the **approval holder** considers that taking the Action in accordance with the revised plan would not be likely to have a new or increased impact. v. Written notice of the date on which the **approval holder** will implement the revised plan (revised plan implementation date), being at least 20 business days after the date of providing notice of the revision of the action management plan, or a date agreed to in writing with the department. b. Subject to condition 23B, implement the revised plan from the revised plan implementation date.
Original dated 12/11/18	23A. The **approval holder** may revoke their choice under EPBC condition 23 at any time by notice to the **Department**. If the approval holder revokes the choice to implement a revised plan without approval under section 143A of the Act, the plan approved by the **Minister** must be implemented.
Original dated 12/11/18	23B. If the **Minister** gives a notice to the **approval holder** that the **Minister** is satisfied that the taking of the action in accordance with the revised plan would be likely to have a new or increased impact, then: a. EPBC condition 23 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the revised plan. b. The **approval holder** must implement the plan approved by the **Minister.** c. To avoid any doubt, this condition does not affect any operation of EPBC conditions 23 and 23A in the period before the day the notice is given. d. At the time of giving the notice the **Minister** may also notify that for a specified period of time that EPBC condition 23 does not apply for one or more specified plans required under the approval.

Original dated 12/11/18	23C. EPBC conditions 23, 23A and 23B are not intended to limit the operation of section 143A of the **EPBC Act** which allows the person taking the action to submit a revised plan to the **Minister** for approval.
Original dated 12/11/18	24. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the **Minister,** the **approval holder** must publish all management and research plans referred to in these conditions of approval on its website. Each plan must be published on the website within one month of being approved and remain published on the website for the duration of the approval.
Original dated 12/11/18	25. The **approval holder** must notify the **department** in writing of any: incident; non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in plans. The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than 2 **business days** after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance. The notification must specify: a. any condition which is or may be in breach. b. a short description of the incident and/or non-compliance. c. the location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the incident and/or non-compliance. In the event the exact information cannot be provided, provide the best information available.
Original dated 12/11/18	26. The **approval holder** must provide to the **department** the details of any **incident** or non- compliance with the conditions or commitments made in plans as soon as practicable and no later than 10 **business days** after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance, specifying: a. any corrective action or investigation which the **approval holder** has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future. b. the potential impacts of the **incident** or non-compliance. c. the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the **approval holder**.
Original dated 12/11/18	27. The **approval holder** must ensure that **independent audits** of compliance with the conditions are conducted as requested in writing by the **Minister**.
Original dated 12/11/18	28. For each **independent audit**, the **approval holder** must: a. provide the name and qualifications of the independent auditor and the draft audit criteria to the **department.** b. only commence the **independent audit** once the audit criteria have been approved in writing by the **department.** c. submit an audit report to the **department** within the timeframe specified in the approved audit criteria.
Original dated 12/11/18	29. The **approval holder** must publish the audit report on the **website** within 10 **business days** of receiving the **department's** approval of the audit report and keep the audit report published on the **website** until the end date of this approval.
Original dated 12/11/18	30. Within 30 days after the **completion of the action**, the **approval holder** must notify the **department** in writing and provide **completion data**.

date of decision	definitions attached to approval
Original dated 12/11/18	**Approval holder** means the person to whom the approval is granted, or to whom the approval is transferred under s145B of the **EPBC Act**.
Original dated 12/11/18	**BioBanking** means the New South Wales Government's biodiversity **credit** and offset scheme of that name created under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (NSW), as amended and repealed or an equivalent scheme under a **successor mechanism** under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW).
Original dated 12/11/18	**BioBanking Agreement** has the meaning given under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (NSW), as amended and repealed, or an equivalent under a **successor mechanism** under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW).
Original dated 12/11/18	**BioBanking site(s)** has the meaning given under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (NSW), as amended and repealed or an equivalent under a **successor mechanism** under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW).
Original dated 12/11/18	**Biodiversity Credits** has the meaning given under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (NSW), as amended and repealed or an equivalent under a **successor mechanism** under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW).
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Box Gum Woodland** means the **EPBC Act** listed threatened ecological community the *White Box-Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland* ecological community listed as critically endangered under the **EPBC Act**. The location of **Box Gum Woodland** in the **project area** is represented in Annexure B by the zones shaded bright green and designated 'Updated Box Gum Woodland'.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Business day** means a day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday in New South Wales.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Clear/cleared/clearing/clearance** means the cutting down, felling, thinning, logging, removing, killing, destroying, blasting, poisoning, ringbarking, uprooting or burning of vegetation within the project site. This does not include **minor clearing** required for **pre-construction minor works.**
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Commence/Commenced/Commencement /Commence the Action/Commencement of the Action** means the first instance of physical activity to implement the Action including any preparatory works, earthworks, **clearing** or **construction**. **Commencement** does not include **pre-construction minor works**.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Commission or Commissioning** means all activities, including the turning of turbines, which occur after the components of one wind turbine have been installed. Activities such as preliminary testing prior to commissioning may proceed only if there are no risks to protected matters.

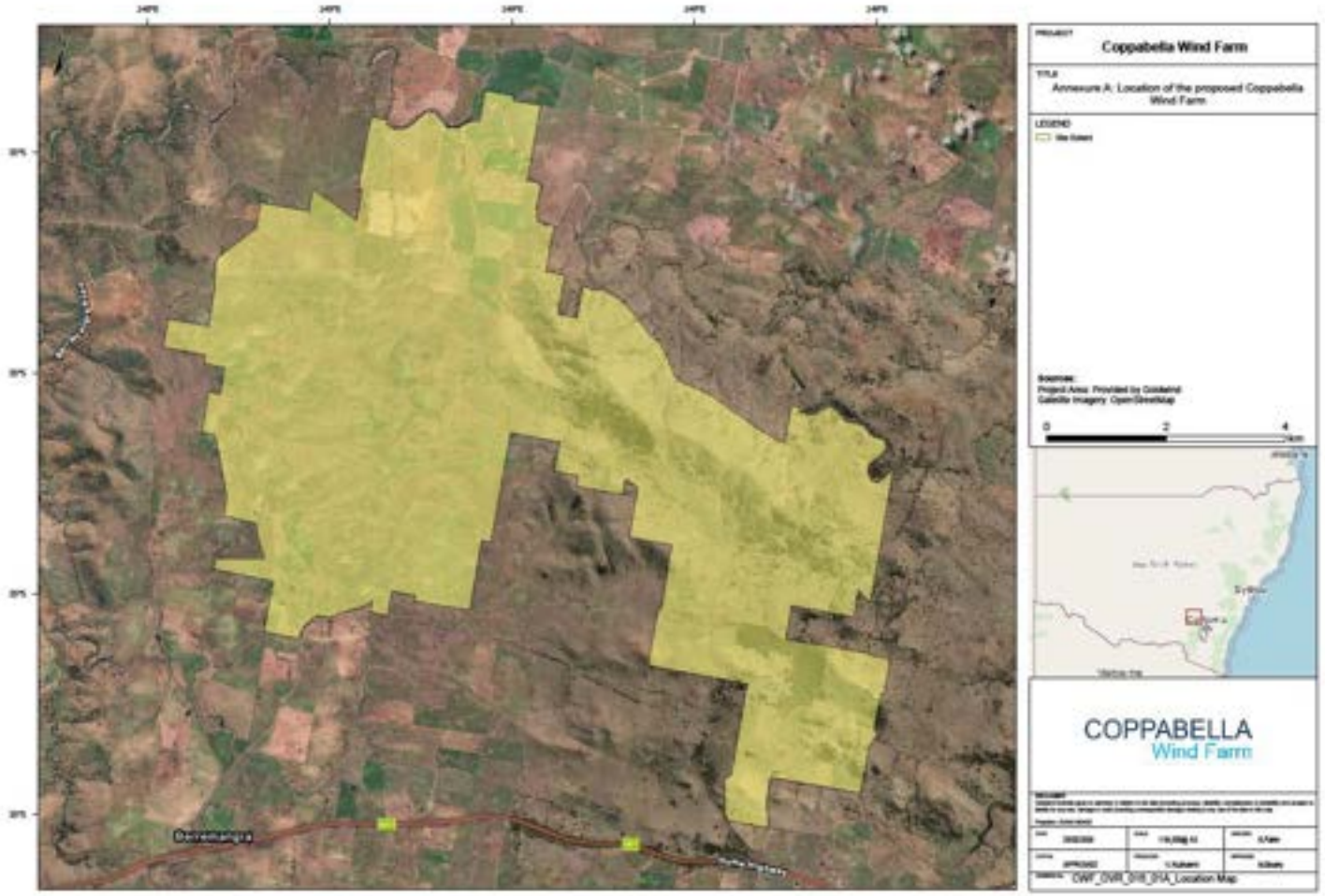
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Construction** means the erection of a building or structure that is, or is to be, fixed to the ground and wholly or partially fabricated on-site; the alteration, maintenance, repair or demolition of any building or structure; any work which involves breaking of the ground (including pile driving) or bulk earthworks; the laying of pipes and other prefabricated materials in the ground, and any associated excavation work; but excluding the installation of temporary fences and signage or other minor physical disturbance per the definition of **Commence/Commenced /Commencement/Commence the Action /Commencement of the Action**. **Construction** does not include **pre-construction minor works**.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**CPI** means the Sydney Consumer Price Index, sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics website, based on the change for All Groups CPI over the June to June period, generally released at the end of July each year.
Original dated 12/11/18	**Department** - the Australian Government Department administering the **EPBC Act**.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Disturbance footprint** means the area designated in Annexure B and Annexure C by the yellow shading and includes works to clear vegetation for infrastructure and power lines.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Environmental Management Plan Guidelines** means the *Environmental Management Plan Guidelines*, Commonwealth of Australia 2024.
Original dated 12/11/18	**EPBC Act** - the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Harm** means to cause any measurable direct or indirect disturbance or deleterious change as a result of any activity associated with the Action.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Hollow bearing tree** means a dominant or co-dominant living tree, where the trunk or limbs contain hollows, holes or cavities suitable for **Superb Parrot**. Such hollows may not always be visible from the ground but may be apparent from the presence of deformities such as protuberances of broken limbs, or where it is apparent the head of the tree has broken off. The location of **hollow bearing trees** in the **project area** is represented in Annexure C by the brown dots designated 'Potential Superb Parrot **hollow bearing trees**'.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Koala** means the **EPBC Act** listed threatened species *Phascolarctos cinereus (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT).*

As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Legally protected and secured** means the execution of legally binding and enduring protection on the land title for **hollow-bearing trees**, ensuring this area cannot be developed, or removed or damaged, while also providing for the conservation and management of this area. For example, this may be achieved through a Conservation Agreement between the landholder and the Minister pursuant to section 305 of the EPBC Act or the title of land under a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW), or another enduring protection mechanism agreed to in writing by the **Department**, to provide protection for the site against development incompatible with conservation.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Minor clearing** means the disturbance required to undertake **pre-construction minor works** and must not exceed 0.5 hectares of Box Gum Woodland in total.
Original dated 12/11/18	**Minister** - The Australian Government minister responsible for administering the **EPBC Act** or any nominated delegate.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**National Superb Parrot Recovery Team** means the panel of people currently appointed by the **Minister** to provide advice and to direct the implementation of the recovery actions outlined in the *National Recovery Plan for the Superb Parrot (Polytelis swainsonii).*
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**New or increased impact** means any direct or indirect increase in the impacts of an Action, an increase to the likelihood of an impact occurring, a reduction to the monitoring or mitigation measures for a **protected matter**, and/or a change to the nature or management of an environmental offset as outlined in the *Guidance on 'new or increased impact' relating to changes to approved management plans under EPBC Act environmental approvals*, Commonwealth of Australia 2017.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**NSW development consent** means the recommendation from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to the Independent Planning Commission in October 2018 for Yass Valley Wind Farm SSD-6698.
Original dated 12/11/18	**Offset attributes** mean an '.xls' file capturing relevant attributes of the offset site, including the **EPBC Act** reference ID number, the physical address of the offset site, coordinates of the boundary points in decimal degrees, the **EPBC Act protected matters** that the offset compensates for, any additional **EPBC Act protected matters** that are benefiting from the offset, and the size of the offset in hectares.
Original dated 12/11/18	**Onsite infrastructure** means - • Up to 76 wind turbines with a maximum height of 171 metres (m) and associated infrastructure including an adjacent pad mounted wind turbine transformer, crane hardstand area, and related turbine lay down area • A wind farm connection substation

	• 8 km of 132 kilovolt (kV) transmission line • A possible switchyard • Underground and overhead 33 kV cabling to connect wind turbines to the onsite collection substations • An operation and maintenance facility including a control room and equipment storage facilities • Temporary concrete batching plants and construction facilities • Onsite access tracks for each wind turbine and related facilities • Permanent monitoring masts for wind speed verification, weather and general monitoring purposes.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Operation** means all activities following the first export of electricity to the power network.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Pre-construction minor works** means: • building/road dilapidation surveys • minor investigative drilling, excavation or salvage • **minor clearing** or translocation of up to 0.5 ha of native vegetation in total • establishing temporary site office where it will have no impact on **protected matters** • installation of environmental impact mitigation measures, fencing, enabling works, wind monitoring masts • upgrades to Whitefields Road and the Hume Highway and Whitefields Road intersection • minor (light vehicle) access roads and minor adjustments to services/utilities, etc.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Project area** means the area designated in Annexure A by the yellow shading.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Protected matters** - any matter protected under the provision of the **EPBC Act** for which this approval has effect.
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Regent Honeyeater** means the **EPBC Act** listed threatened species *Anthochaera Phrygia.*
Original dated 12/11/18	**Retire/ retirement** - A change in the status of a credit such that the credit has been used to offset the development impact or achieve a conservation outcome, and can no longer be bought or sold.

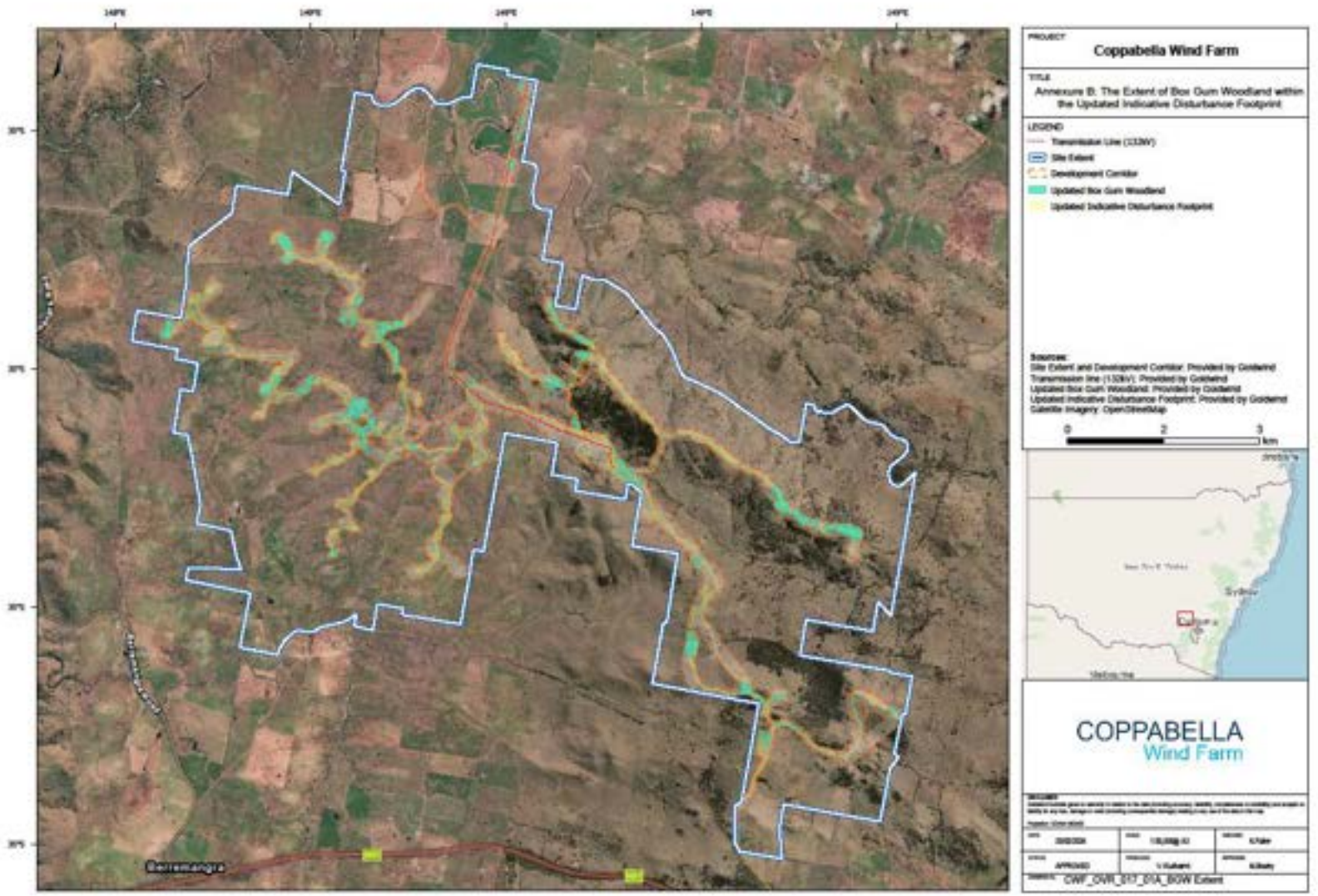
Original dated 12/11/18	**Shapefiles** means an ESRI Shapefile containing '.shp', '.shx' and '.dbf' files and other files capturing attributes of the offset site, including the shape, **EPBC Act** reference ID number and **protected matters** present at the relevant site. Attributes should also be captured in '.xis' format.
Original dated 12/11/18	**Successor mechanism** - any biodiversity offsetting mechanism legislated and implemented by the New South Wales Government to replace, or as a successor to, **BioBanking.** Such a mechanism is only acceptable for the purposes of this approval if it: • is included in a bilateral agreement under the **EPBC Act** (either referenced directly in the agreement, or as part of a wider process that is adopted in a bilateral agreement) OR • has been agreed by the **Department** in writing to the **approval holder** or the title holder as being an appropriate **successor mechanism.**
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Superb Parrot** means the **EPBC Act** listed threatened species *Polytelis swainsonii.*
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	**Superb Parrot habitat** means habitat that is preferred by the **Superb Parrot** where the species may occur, and any known habitat that is necessary for the foraging, breeding, roosting, or dispersal of **Superb Parrot.** A list of key species habitat characteristics is given in the Conservation Advice *Polytelis swainsonii* Superb Parrot and the *National Recovery Plan* for the **Superb Parrot** *Polytelis swainsonii*, which are available on the department's website (equivalent NSW PCT's include: PCT 350).

date of decision	**Annexures**
As varied on the date this instrument was signed	Annexure A



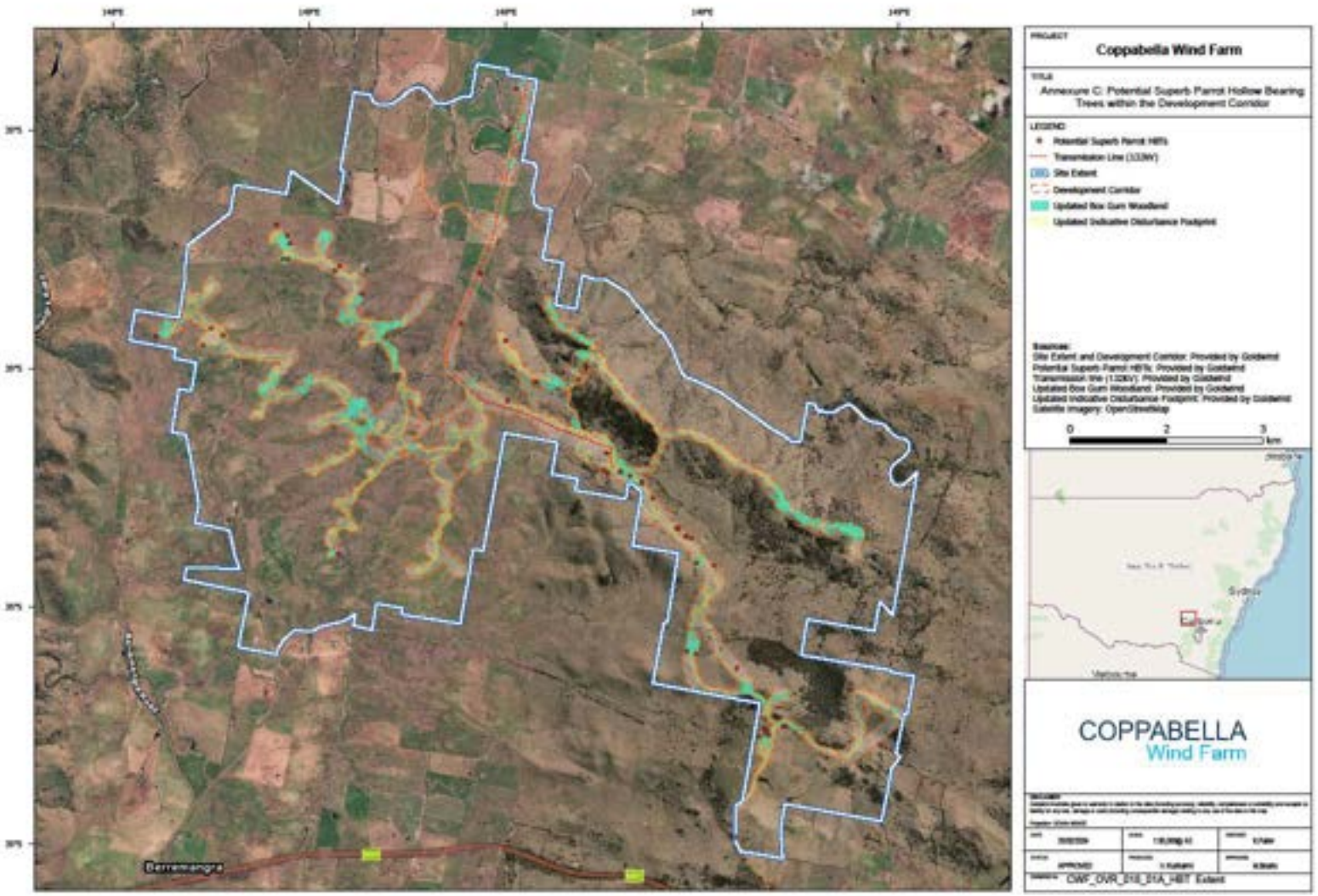
As varied on the date this instrument was signed

Annexure B



As varied on the date this instrument was signed

Annexure C



Appendix E Micro-siting restrictions

COPPABELLA WIND FARM PTY LTD
ACN 141 003 161
Level 25, Tower 1, International Towers Sydney
100 Barangaroo Ave, Barangaroo NSW 2000

5 October 2022

Allison Treweek
Senior Team Leader, Conservation Planning
Biodiversity and Conservation, South East
Department of Planning and Environment

Email: allison.treweek@environment.nsw.gov.au

Subject: Coppabella Wind Farm Credit Equivalence statement

Dear Allison,

Thank you for providing a detailed response and additional queries regarding the Coppabella Wind Farm vegetation mapping on 17 December 2021 (BCD ref: DOC21/1030031). Please find below and attached responses to these queries which have been developed with the assistance of NGH Environmental, who were the consultancy that undertook both the original vegetation mapping and the remapping in late 2018.

There are several queries and confirmation requests within which we appreciate a response from the Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD) to close out the matters. Please advise if a meeting would be beneficial to work through and close out any residual matters.

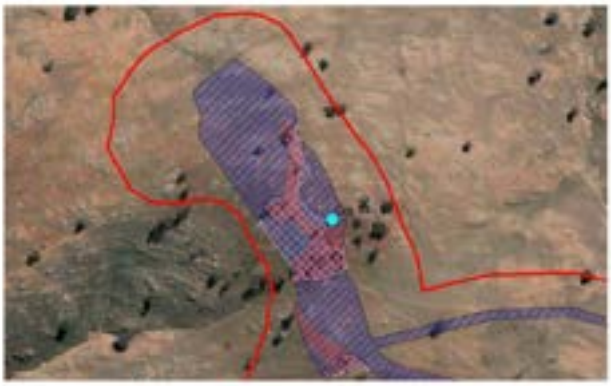
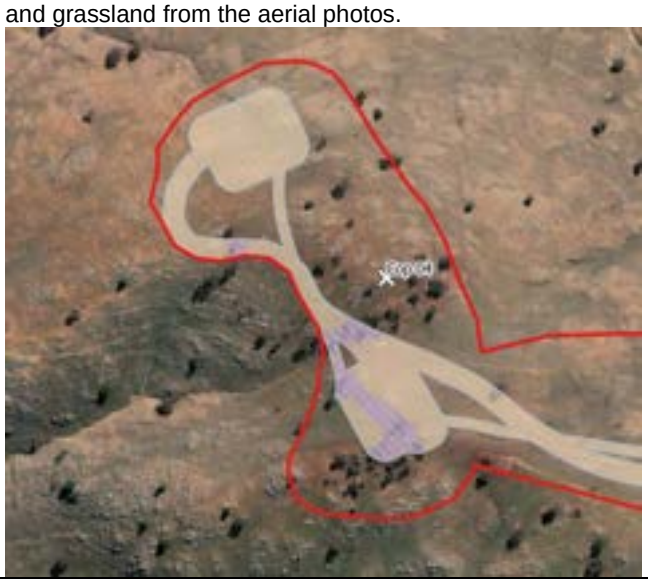
Thank you for your ongoing support with this project.

Sincerely,

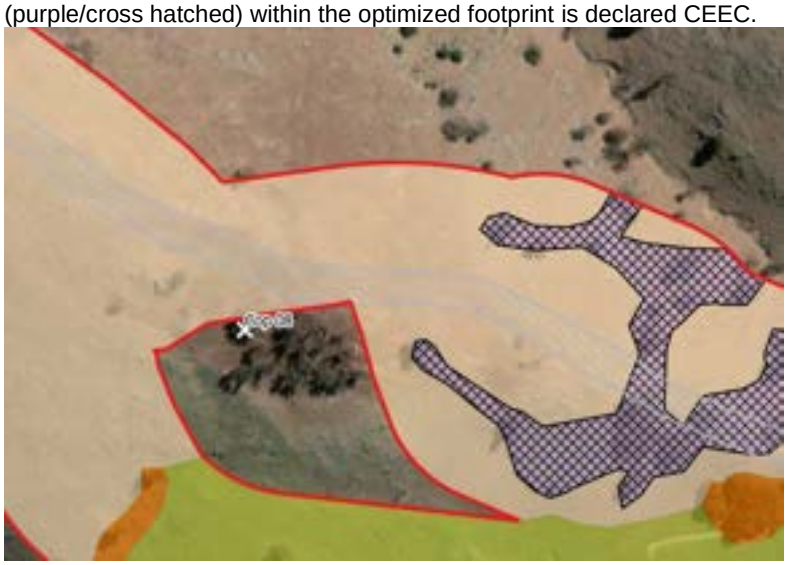
Medard Boutry
Development Manager / Environmental Advisor
Coppabella Wind Farm Pty Ltd

M: 0422 627 345

E: medardboutry@goldwindaustralia.com

BCD Comment	CWF Response
This is the first time BCD has seen the updated mapping and we are unable to support it because of issues in relation to BGW extent, Yass Daisy detections and HBTs. These issues are described in greater detail below with accompanying recommendations to resolve them. These issues need to be resolved before a statement of credit equivalence can be issued.	The updated baseline mapping which was provided to BCD's Vanessa Owen as part of the reasonable equivalence submission (16 August '21) is the same updated vegetation mapping which was included within the Biodiversity Management Plan which was sent to BCD 16 July 2019 with comments received from BCD 12 August 2019. The comments raised by BCD have been addressed within and are also provided in the updated vegetation mapping .shp file.
The rationale for reducing the extent of BGW in the revised vegetation mapping is not apparent from satellite imagery **(See Attachment 1).** Many areas revised to a derived grassland clearly support canopy vegetation.	**Attachment 1 –Vegetation mapping errors** Figure 1 - Plots classified as BGW DNG contain *Eucalyptus albens* on plot sheets (COP 4 & COP 8). It is not clear why extent of BGW has been reduced from the pre-consent vegetation mapping. White cross-hatch = pre-consent BGW; black single-hatch = pre-consent DNG; maroon polygon = post-consent BGW ; blue polygon = post consent DNG; blue point = vegetation plot  NGH mapping snip is provided below overlain with optimised footprint (grey hatching), purple is BGW and beige is BGW derived native grassland, red line is the development corridor. Within the optimized footprint the woodland looks adequately mapped in relation to tree canopy and grassland from the aerial photos. 

Satellite imagery shows that COP 4, COP8, COP10, COP21 all have at least 5 canopy trees in a 100 m radius, meaning they would likely satisfy the above criteria and should be	The following shows NGH CEEC mapping for each of the plots COP 4, COP 8, COP10, COP 21.

reclassified as BGW rather than a derived grassland **(see Attachment 1, Table 1)**	COP4, purple with black cross hatching shows BGW CEEC. COP 4 was collected on the edge of the woodland, the aerials and GPS error makes it look like it's in the grassland  COP 8 was collected in woodland (outside of the current optimized footprint), see below. COP 8 could be considered CEEC based on tree canopy and may connect with trees north west of COP 8 which are not within the optimized footprint. The adjacent CEEC east of COP 8 (purple/cross hatched) within the optimized footprint is declared CEEC.  COP 10 plot had no trees within it. The area north west of COP 10 could be CEEC, however it is outside of the optimized footprint.

	 COP 21 does appear to have several canopy trees within 100m, this has been remapped to BGW CEEC.  NGH has reviewed all of the remapped vegetation to identify and rectify any similar issues. The mapping has been updated accordingly with revised numbers provided in the table in the subsequent responses. We are seeking BCD's support to use the updated mapping going forward to progress the reasonable equivalency conversion and to finalise the update of the Biodiversity Management Plan. Please advise suitability.
Under the Framework for Biodiversity Assessment (FBA) the criteria for low condition BGW is '<25% of the lower value of the over-storey per cent foliage (FPC) cover benchmark for that vegetation type and < 50% of vegetation in the ground layer is indigenous'. Given that the lower value of the overstory is 8%, the criteria for BGW is 2% FPC. Two plots classified as BGW DGL contain Eucalyptus albens at >2% FPC (COP 4 & COP 8), therefore these vegetation communities, and any other areas consistent with them, need to be reclassified as BGW (see Attachment 1, Figure 1)	Agreed that COP 4 and COP 8 represent CEEC. COP 8 is not within the optimized footprint and COP 4 and it's connected woodland is mapped as CEEC. NGH has reviewed the mapping to ensure consistency. The increase in hectare area of woodland that was remapped as grassland totals 1.58 ha. The areas, like that shown above adjacent Cop 21, have been rectified and mapped as woodland. New vegetation mapping clipped to the optimised footprint have been provided.

Vegetation mapping: The comparison of impacts has used a different development footprint to the one used for the	The document titled 'Coppabella credits 210816' sent to Vanessa Owen of BCD on 16 August '21 as part of the request for reasonable equivalency uses the same development footprint applied to the Mod 1 Application in relation to

Modification Application in March 2018. A proper comparison would compare the impact of the –

- development footprint used for the Modification Application in March 2018,
- and the current development footprint,
- to a vegetation mapping shapefile which has incorporated consultation with OEH.

offset calculations. The .shp files for both of these were provided 17 Sept '21. An additional 'Remapped Aug 22' column has been included below and the updated .shp file provided to show the updated counts based on the slight adjustments made to the remapped vegetation following BCD's feedback. Does this clarify the query or does a discrepancy remain from BCD's perspective? If a discrepancy remains, would BCD kindly provide a copy of the data layer you have on file for us to review?

See below for a comparison of hectare areas impacted including CEEC:

Footprint comparison	Mod 1 Development Footprint 2018	Optimised Development Footprint 2021	Optimised Development Footprint - Re mapped Aug '22
Vegetation type	Area (ha)	Area (ha)	Area (ha)
Box Gum DGL	232.59	162.01	160.29
Box Gum Woodland	27.59	22.85	24.43
Exotic	27.88	19.06	190.05
Long Leaf Box DGL	30.72	17.81	17.81
Long Leaf Box Dry Forest	10.95	9.00	9.10
Riparian	0.31	0.12	0.12
TOTAL	330.03	230.84	230.81
Footprint comparison	2018	Optimised 2021	Re mapped Aug 22
CEEC	Area (ha)	Area (ha)	Area (ha)
Yes	22.70	20.77	19.49

Vegetation mapping: Due to these errors, we recommend the use of the original vegetation mapping. Alternatively, BCD can undertake a site visit to verify the accuracy of the updated mapping.

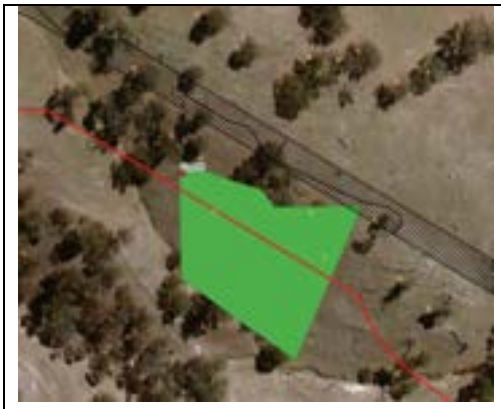
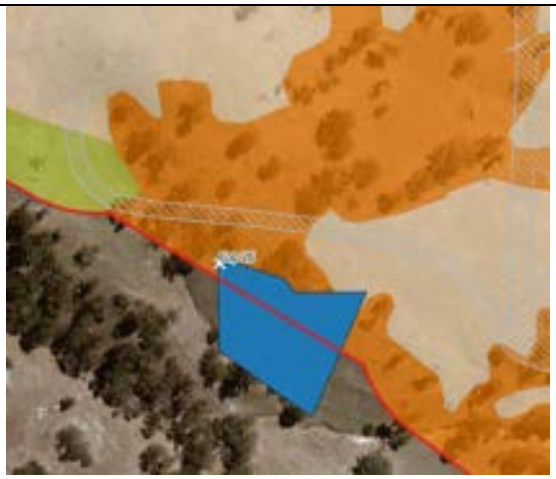
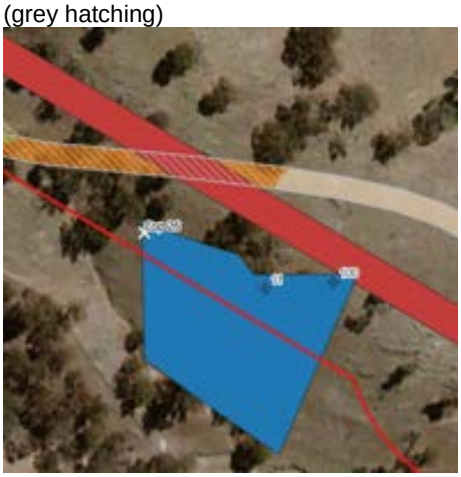
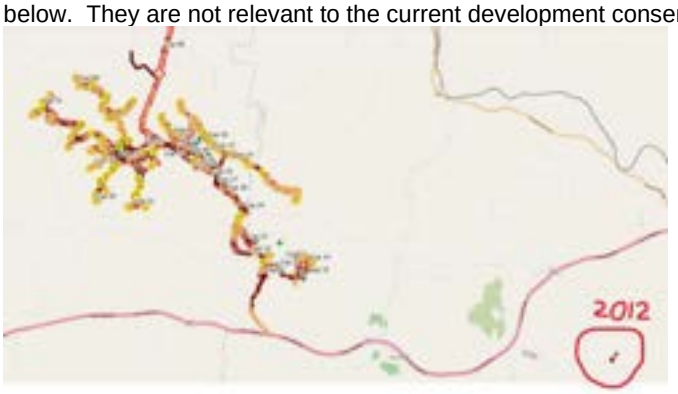
CWF must demonstrate compliance with Condition 19A (a) regarding updating the baseline mapping of the vegetation and key habitats within the final disturbance footprint. Should the original mapping be used can BCD confirm that CWF will have still satisfied the requirements of Condition 19A(a)?

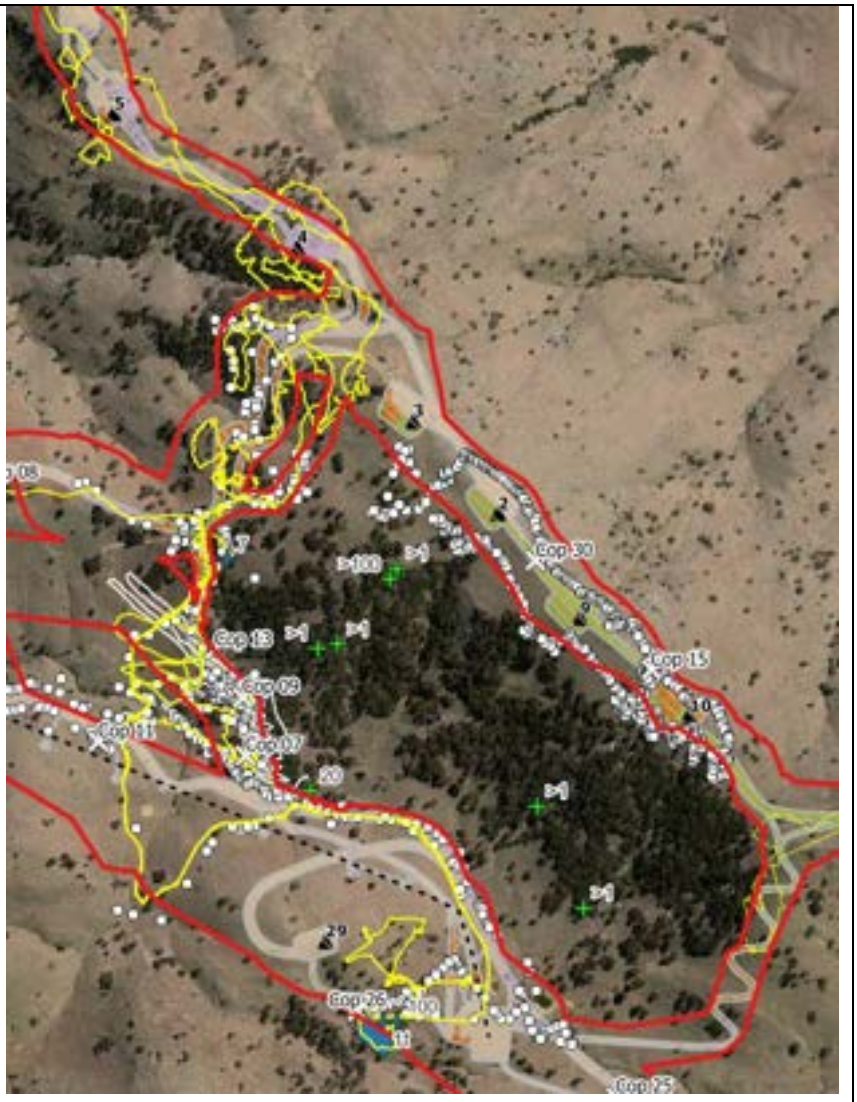
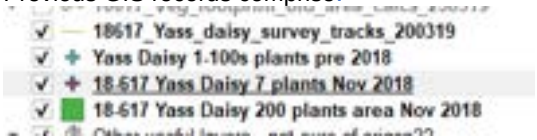
Alternatively, CWF proposes to utilise the updated remapped vegetation as discussed earlier (i.e. Remapped Aug '22) which has been reviewed and updated to address the BCD feedback.

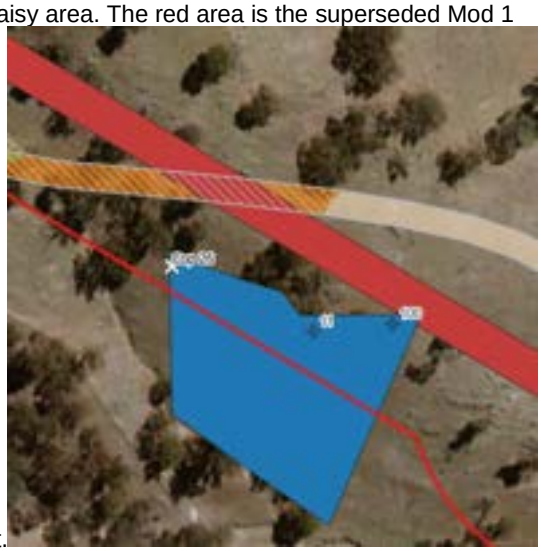
Please confirm the path forward to progress the reasonable equivalency conversion and to update the Biodiversity Management Plan.

Note: The composition and abundance of native grasses on the Coppabella hills is quite variable depending on the amount of rainfall per season and the success of the surrounding exotic pasture grasses. As such, we have noticed variability in the composition and definition of the derived grassland communities over the years as was observed during the vegetation remapping

	that was undertaken at the end of 2018 during a drought year. The mapping was accurate at the time it was completed.
Yass Daisy: It is not clear how many Yass Daisy are in the development footprint. The NGH letter to Goldwind (September 2021) quotes between 20 and 50 individuals in the development footprint and between 150 and 200 individuals in the development corridor. The exact count is highly relevant given that Yass Daisy is a count species for the purposes of offsetting.	No Yass Daisy individuals are proposed to be impacted by the optimised development footprint. All areas identified to contain Yass Daisy plus a 20m buffer will be designated as "no go zones" • the Mod 1 Construction Footprint – file '16440_MCF_5m_buffer_with_whitefields_road_140318' The Mod 1 Construction footprint 16440_MCF_5m_buffer as show below in solid red had a small tip of the polygon (0.002 ha) of Yass Daisy area (Blue polygon) within it. This has been avoided by the optimized footprint (see next image further below).  • the optimised construction footprint (i.e. file '210204_Merged_Buffers_Dis_DC_Clip) shows that there are no Yass Daisy located within any part of the optimized footprint. 
Yass Daisy: November 2018 records of Yass Daisy in the development footprint are provided in point and polygon shapefiles at separate locations.	This area was outlined using a polygon as it had 200 individuals within it and CWF proposed to avoid all Yass Daisy. Thus not all individuals were mapped individually. See map below showing that the optimized development footprint avoids this area by at least 26m.

	 The following map shows two Yass Daisy population locations within the polygon with numbers shown against the crosses. A total of 111 Yass Daisy are within the approved development corridor (red line which dissects the blue Yass Daisy polygon) but no Yass Daisy are within the optimised footprint (grey hatching) 
Yass Daisy. It is not clear if previous records of Yass Daisy have been included, such as the 325 records of Yass Daisy within the underground cable route have been included (Supplementary Ecology Report, NGH, November 2012)	There are 316 records of Yass daisy (as per importing the Northings-Eastings of table 2-3 of the NGH report dated 2012 into QGIS). These records are located 14km east of the Hume Highway/Whitefelds rd intersection (Red dots south of Hume Highway with 2012 drawn around them). See print screen below. They are not relevant to the current development consent. 
Yass Daisy: Suitable habitat has been defined as 'Box-Gum Woodland and secondary grasslands derived from clearing of these communities. Areas that were targeted for survey of the Yass	Areas within the development footprint were surveyed depending on condition. Areas of woodland and high-quality areas of grassland were surveyed where a variety of forbs were observed. The map below shows, as yellow lines and white dots, the areas of the footprint surveyed for Yass Daisy. The green and blue crosses and blue polygon can be seen on this map and show that all suitable areas (within the footprint) were surveyed. This has been addressed during the approval process.

Daisy included sites containing high groundcover diversity with little weed disturbance.' It is not clear why all areas of suitable habitat near Yass Daisy records were not surveyed (See Attachment 1, Figure 2).	
We recommend the following: • Include all previous records of Yass Daisy from prior surveys and ensure that all suitable habitat in the development corridor has been surveyed.	Previous GIS records comprise:  Refer to above response regarding survey effort.
• Provide the exact number of impacted Yass Daisy individuals in the development footprint and development corridor.	There are no Yass Daisy individuals within the Optimised Development Footprint. The only occurrence of Yass Daisy within the Development Corridor is a 0.3ha overlap with the blue polygon near COP26 (shown above). The exact number of Yass Daisy individuals within the Development Corridor is 111as shown on the map below with two points, one showing 11 Yass Daisy and the other showing 100 Yass Daisy. This blue polygon area is avoided entirely with the Optimised Development Footprint (grey hatching) with a minimum buffer of

	26m from the Yass Daisy area. The red area is the superseded Mod 1 development footprint.  A 20m buffer has been placed around all existing records of Yass Daisy in accordance with protocol 1 of the BMP (details protection measures for Yass Daisy).
• Adjusting the development footprint to avoid impacts to Yass Daisy as the conditions do not allow direct impacts. This is because: ○ **Condition 19(b) in Schedule** 3 requires the Applicant to '*avoid impacts to Yass Daisy'* while **Condition 21(b)** requires management of '*potential indirect impacts'.* ○ The previous Supplementary Ecological Report stated that the project would *'avoid direct impacts to the Yass Daisy population. The Yass Daisy population would be identified and protected during the construction and operation*	All direct impacts to Yass Daisy have been avoided through the Optimised Development Footprint. There is a minimum separation distance of 26m between the Optimised Development Footprint and the nearest Yass Daisy individual.

<table>
<tr>
<td>HBT/Superb Parrot Habitat:
The development footprint will impact on 377 HBTS, of which 6 are potential Superb Parrot habitat. However, this is not clearly stated in the NGH letter to Goldwind (September 2021). We note that the conditions of consent do not allow for direct impacts to Superb Parrot.</td>
<td>The HBT layer has been clipped to the Mod 1 Development Footprint and the Optimised Development Footprint with results below:

<table>
<tr><th>Disturbance Footprint</th><th>HBT</th><th>HBT potentially suitable for Suberb Parrot</th></tr>
<tr><td>Mod 1 Development Footprint 2018</td><td>375</td><td>4</td></tr>
<tr><td>Optimised Development Footprint</td><td>238</td><td>3</td></tr>
</table>

The project consent does not prohibit HBT potentially suitable for HBT to be removed. The optimised design minimises impacts to HBT potentially suitable for Superb Parrot nesting with a reduction from four trees to three trees. There are no confirmed Superb Parrot Nest Trees within the approved Development Corridor. No direct impacts to Superb Parrot are proposed. Those HBT that have hollows of suitable size to potentially be used by Superb Parrot have been identified to satisfy the requirements of the conditions of the EPBC Approval (2017/8129) and have restrictions around their removal or impacts within seasonal timeframes. The removal of such trees has been minimized but cannot be avoided entirely.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We recommend the following –
• Demonstrate that ‘the revised location of a wind turbine is at least 50 metres from existing hollow-bearing trees; or where the proposed wind turbine location is already within 50 metres of one or more existing hollow-bearing trees’(Condition 9, in Schedule 2) by providing a shapefile of the revised turbine locations.</td>
<td>Please refer to Appendix A of this document which provides an analysis to demonstrate compliance with regards to Condition 9, Schedule 2. The .shp file of the microsited turbine locations is also provided and should be viewed in conjunction with the Optimised Development Footprint. As per above response, the number of HBTs requiring removal has been substantially reduced from 375 HBT to 238 HBT with the Optimised Development Footprint which represents a 37% reduction in the number of HBTs to be removed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Applicant demonstrate that they have ‘minimise[d] ‘the approved clearing of hollow-bearing trees’(Condition 19(c), in Shedule 2) by comparing the -
o turbine arrangement and development footprint used for the Modification Application in March 2018, and
o the revised turbine arrangement and development footprint to the revised HBT mapping</td>
<td>As per above response, the number of HBTs requiring removal has been substantially reduced from 375 HBT to 238 HBT with the Optimised Development Footprint which represents a 37% reduction in the number of HBTs to be removed. Refer to Appendix B of this document which provides further visual examples demonstrating how the clearing of HBTs has been minimised.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Provide the criteria used for determining if a HBT is potential Superb Parrot habitat.</td>
<td>Suitable HBTs for superb parrot have been defined as (Ref: TSDB) follows;

Living or dead E. blakelyi (Blakely’s red gum), E. melliodora (Yellow box), E. albens (White box), E. camaldulensis (River red gum), E. macrocarpa (Grey box), E. polyanthemos (Red Box), E. mannifera (Brittle Gum), E. intertexta (NA) with hollows greater than 5cm diameter; greater than 4m above ground or trees with a DBH of greater than 30cm.</td>
</tr>
</table>

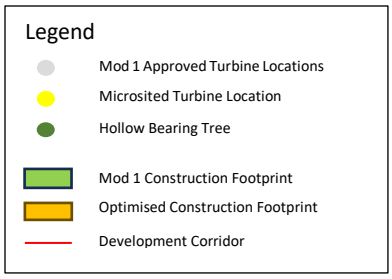
Appendix A – Schedule 2, Condition 9 (d) Analysis

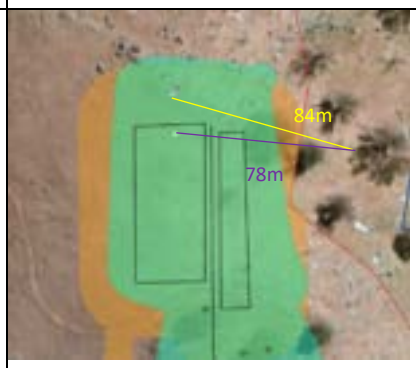
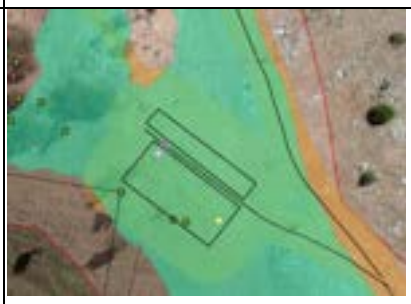
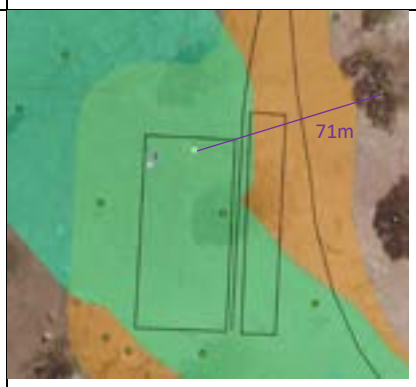
Schedule 2, Condition 9 (d) of the consent requires that:

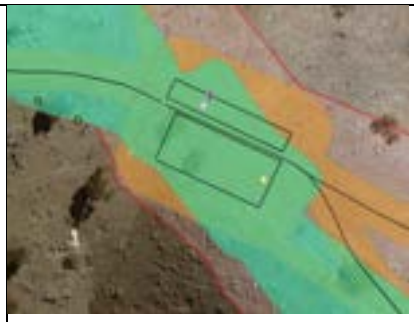
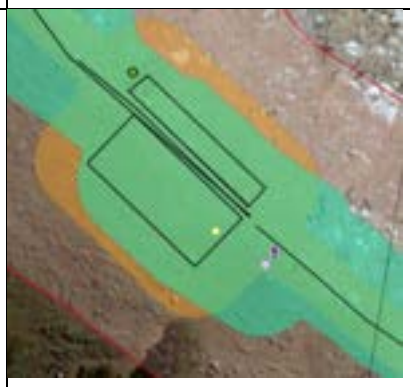
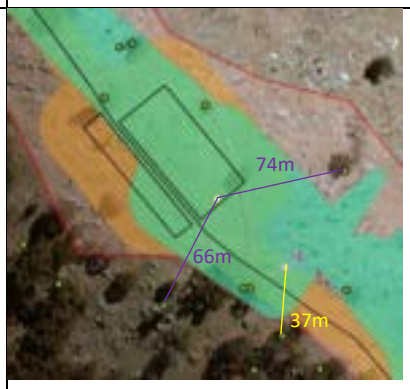
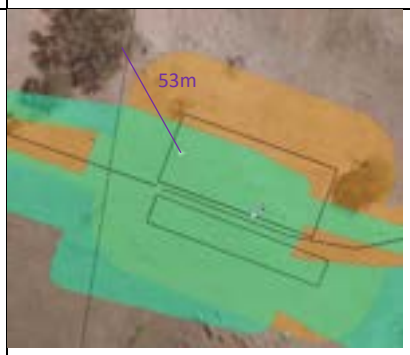
The revised location of a wind turbine is at least 50 metres from existing hollow-bearing trees; or where the proposed wind turbine location is already within 50 metres of one or more existing hollow-bearing trees, the cumulative distance between these hollow-bearing trees and the turbine is either maintained or increased.

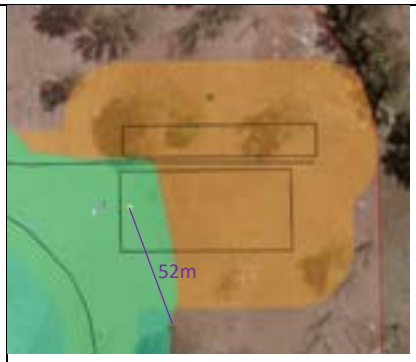
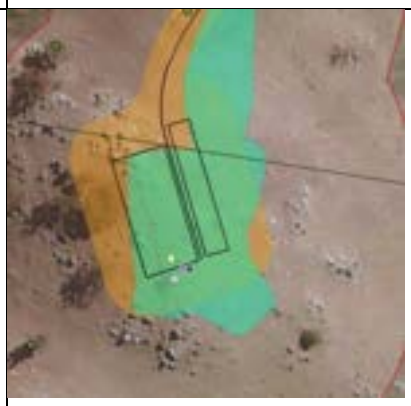
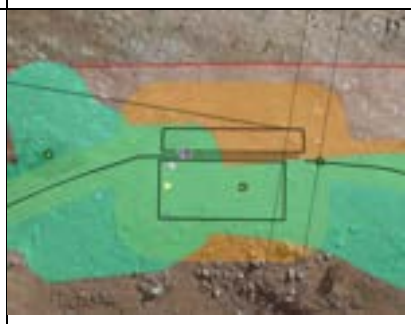
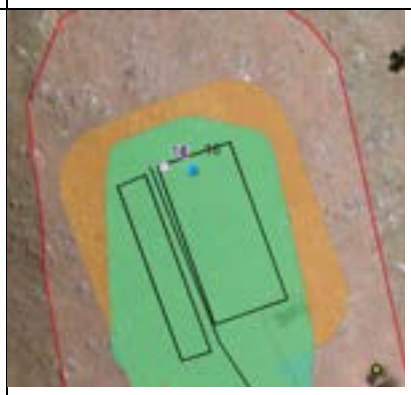
The below analysis demonstrates compliance with this condition. The following data layers have been used:

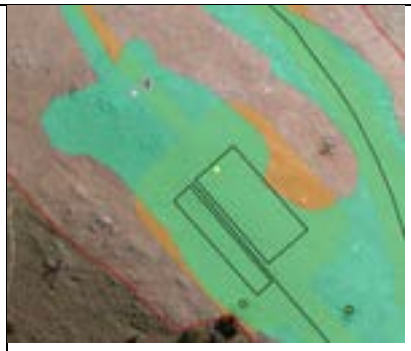
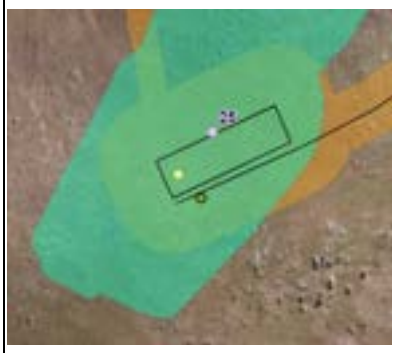
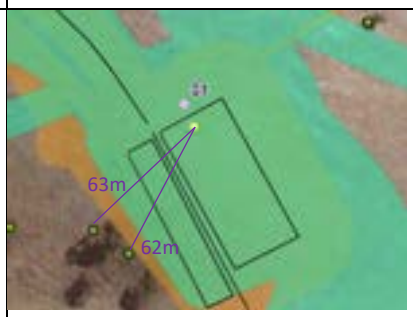
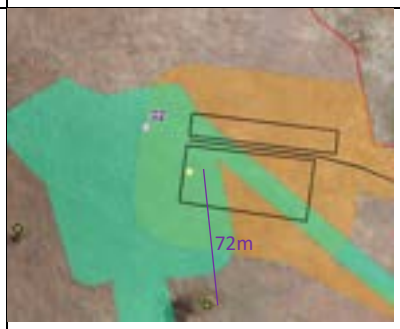
File Name	Description / Relevance
CWF 75 Approved WTGs_20220225	.kmz attached to this response Approved turbine locations as per Mod 1 consent
Coppabella_Turbines_20201029	.shp file attached to this response. Microsited turbine locations. Note: several turbines are no longer being proposed to be built (i.e. WTG17, 19, 37, 50, 60 & 67)
16440_MCF_5m_buffer_with_whitefields_ road_140318	.shp file provided to BCD 17/9/21 to V. Owen The Indicative Construction Footprint as per Mod 1 consent. This is the disturbance footprint on which the Mod 1 clearing limits (Schedule 3, Condition 19(a)) were based on.
Optimised_construction_footprint_for_offset_calcs_220225	.Shp file attached to this response The Optimised Construction Footprint.
18617_CoppabellaWF_HBTs_masterlist_060319	.shp file provided to BCD 17/9/21 to V. Owen This shapefile contains all validated HBT records including Whitefields Road

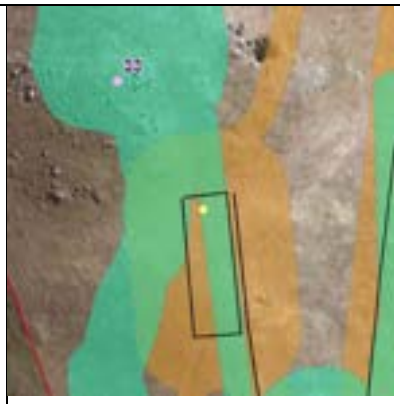
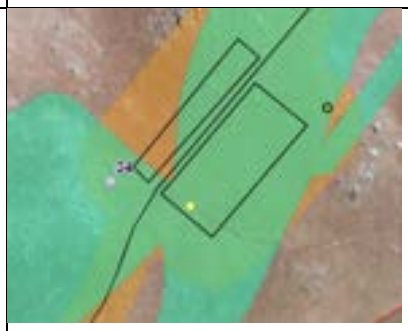
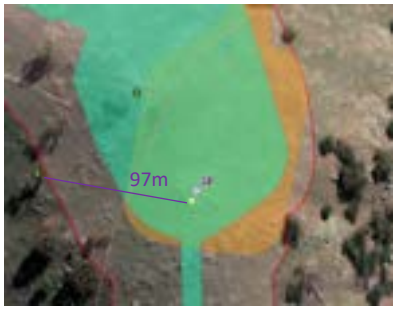
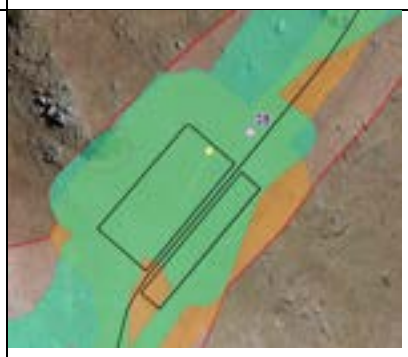


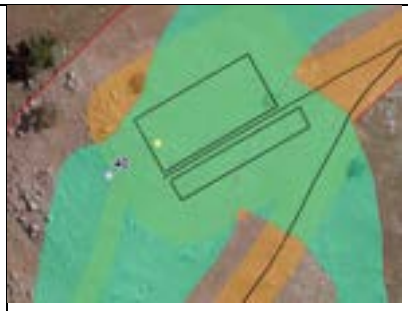
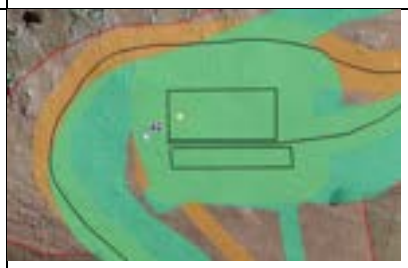
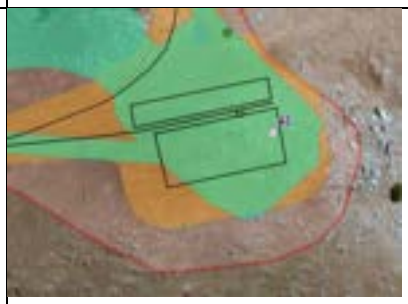
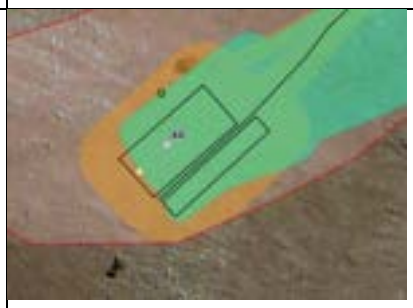
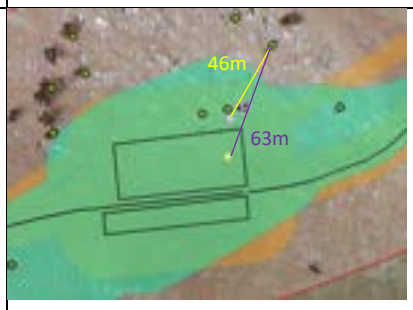
WTG No.	Approved Coordinates		Proposed Coordinates		Distance micro-sited (m)	HBT Distance Comparison	Approved cumul. HBT Distance (m)	Proposed cumul. HBT Distance (m)	Complies with C.9, Sch. 2?
	Easting	Northing	Easting	Northing					
1	641135	6156615	641136	6156598	17		>50m	>50m	Yes
2	642183	6155309	642183	6155309	0		No change		Yes
3	641934	6155584	641972	6155541	57			>50m	Yes
4	641683	6155973	641683	6155973	0		No change		Yes
5	641228	6156306	641228	6156306	0		No change		Yes
6	644704	6153528	644720	6153533	17			>50m	Yes
7	643949	6154128	643949	6154128	0		No change		Yes

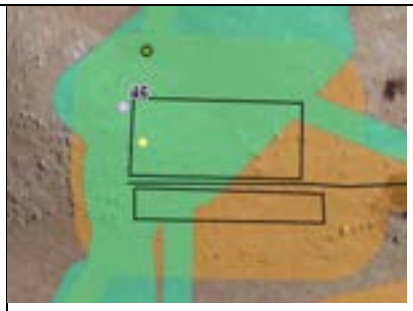
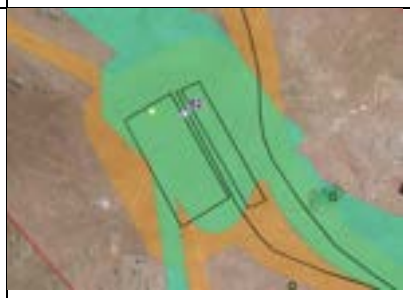
8	643690	6154400	643727	6154354	59			>50m	Yes
9	642410	6155033	642387	6155049	28			>50m	Yes
10	642697	6154767	642660	6154806	54		37m	>50m	Yes
11	644507	6153820	644507	6153820	0		No change		Yes
12	645386	6153102	645355	6153129	41			>50m	Yes

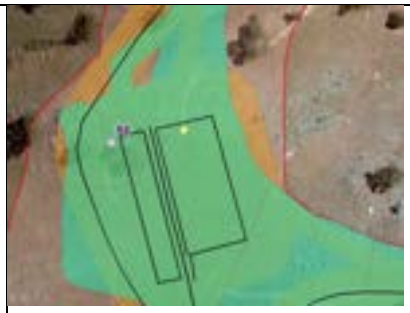
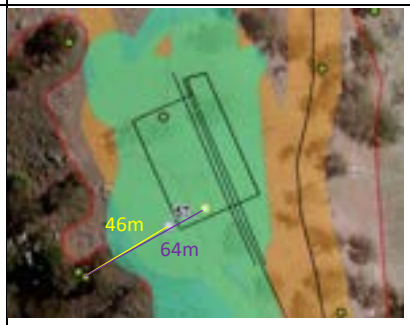
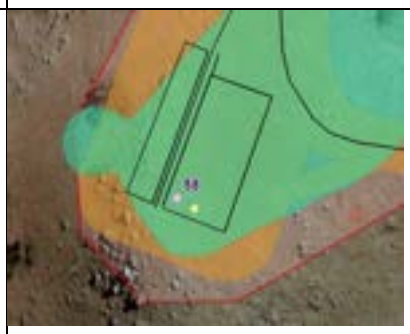
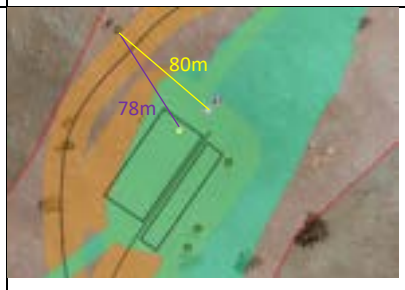
13	645920	6153005	645935	6153007	15			>50m	Yes
14	645844	6152689	645842	6152701	12			>50m	Yes
15	643186	6154579	643183	6154568	11			>50m	Yes
16	640374	6156085	640386	6156084	12			>50m	Yes
17	640731	6155502	Removed	Removed	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A

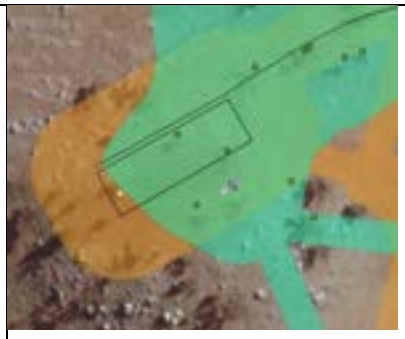
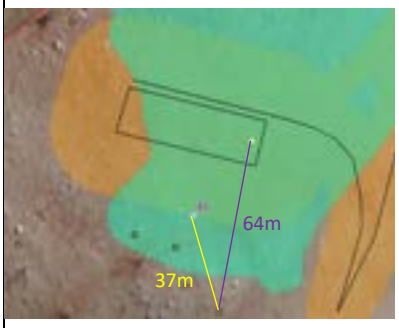
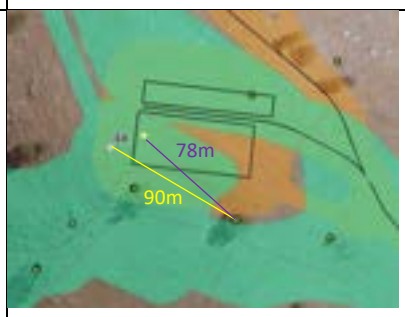
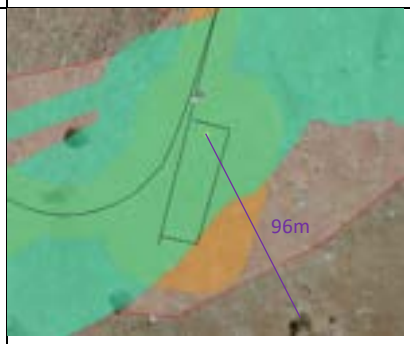
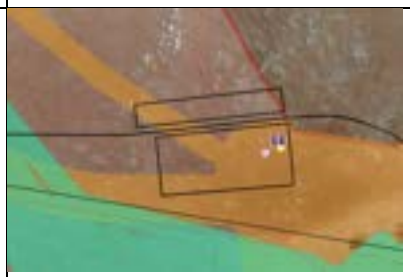
18	640494	6155780	640545	6155732	70			>50m	Yes
19	641174	6155340	Removed	Removed	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A
25	639997	6154114	639982	6154096	23			>50m	Yes
29	641753	6154245	641753	6154245	0		No change		Yes
30	640070	6154676	640071	6154694	18				
31	640038	6155010	640042	6155000	11			>50m	Yes
32	639618	6154648	639641	6154624	33			>50m	Yes

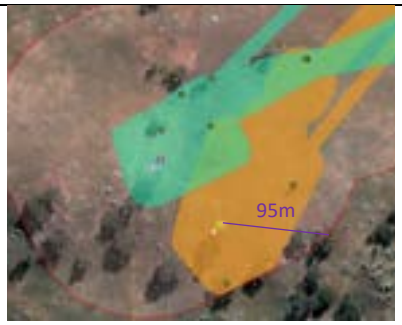
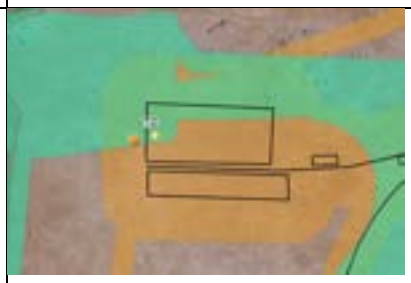
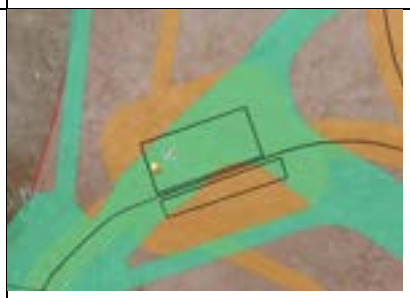
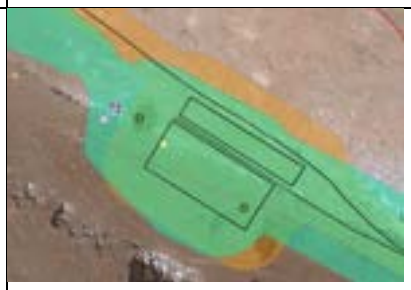
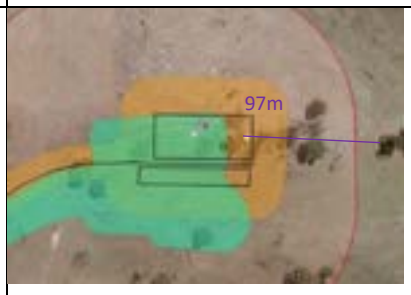
33	639464	6153582	639499	6153528	64			>50m	Yes
34	638607	6154188	638643	6154176	38			>50m	Yes
35	638391	6153940	638391	6153940	0		No change		Yes
37	638704	6154914	Removed	Removed	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A
38	639088	6155044	639085	6155038	7		>50m	>50m	Yes
39	638176	6153691	638155	6153682	23			>50m	Yes

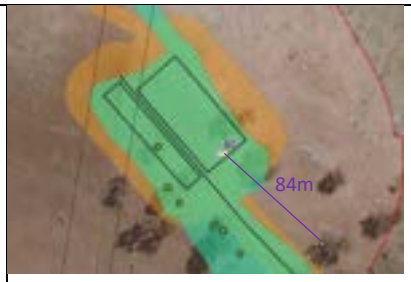
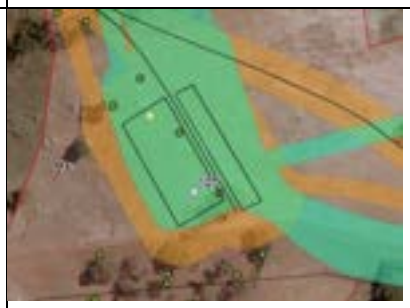
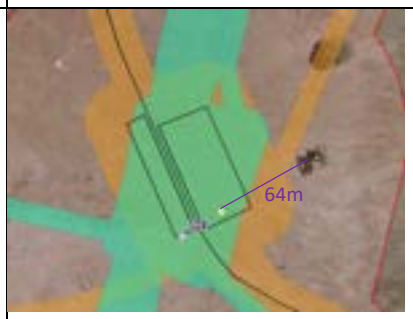
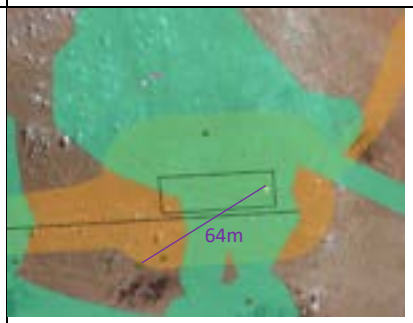
40	637724	6153002	637750	6153018	31			>50m	Yes
41	637724	6152676	637724	6152676	0		No change		Yes
42	637890	6153483	637912	6153496	26			>50m	Yes
43	638123	6153103	638123	6153102	1			>50m	Yes
44	637501	6153978	637484	6153962	23			>50m	Yes
45	637821	6154164	637820	6154144	20			>50m	Yes

46	638091	6154423	638099	6154409	16			>50m	Yes
47	639088	6152412	639088	6152412	0		No change		Yes
48	639374	6152965	639355	6152955	21			>50m	Yes
49	639508	6153251	639508	6153251	0		No change	No change	Yes
50	639733	6152377	Removed	Removed	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A
51	639315	6152655	639372	6152680	62			>50m	Yes
52	637982	6155133	637963	6155135	19			>50m	Yes
53	637955	6154807	637944	6154804	11			>50m	Yes
54	637553	6154697	637553	6154697	0		No change	No change	Yes
55	637558	6155411	637558	6155411	0		No change	No change	Yes

56	638814	6155310	638853	6155316	39			>50m	Yes
57	638692	6155728	638709	6155736	19			>50m	Yes
58	638239	6155953	638247	6155948	9			>50m	Yes
59	638546	6156147	638513	6156137	34			>50m	Yes
60	637143	6155777	Removed	Removed	N/A		N/A	N/A	N/A
61	636904	6155521	636885	6155508	23			>50m	Yes

62	636707	6155235	636668	6155235	39			>50m	Yes
63	636604	6154848	636626	6154875	35			>50m	Yes
64	637973	6156390	637994	6156397	22			>50m	Yes
65	638118	6156671	638118	6156671	0		No change		Yes
66	638884	6156320	638890	6156304	17			>50m	Yes
67	639241	6156706	Removed	Removed	N/A				
68	638060	6157008	638068	6157010	8			>50m	Yes

69	635163	6156152	635212	6156100	71		>50	>50	Yes
70	635540	6156654	635551	6156656	11			>50m	Yes
71	635509	6156422	635508	6156423	1			>50m	Yes
72	635867	6156842	635867	6156842	0		No change		Yes
73	646131	6150401	646166	6150386	38			>50m	Yes
74	646521	6150162	646521	6150162	0		No change		Yes
78	644751	6150491	644788	6150488	37			>50m	Yes
79	644514	6150205	644514	6150205	0		No change		Yes

80	644204	6150650	644207	6150650	3			>50m	Yes
81	643496	6151799	643496	6151799	0		No change		Yes
82	643622	6152119	643620	6152132	13			>50m	Yes
126	636929	6157657	636929	6157657	0		No change		Yes
127	637065	6157311	637039	6157357	53			>50m	Yes
128	637560	6157324	637583	6157338	27			>50m	Yes
129	637674	6157619	637674	6157619	0		No change		Yes
130	635896	6156000	635948	6155954	69			>50m	Yes

Appendix B – Schedule 3, Condition 19(c)Analysis

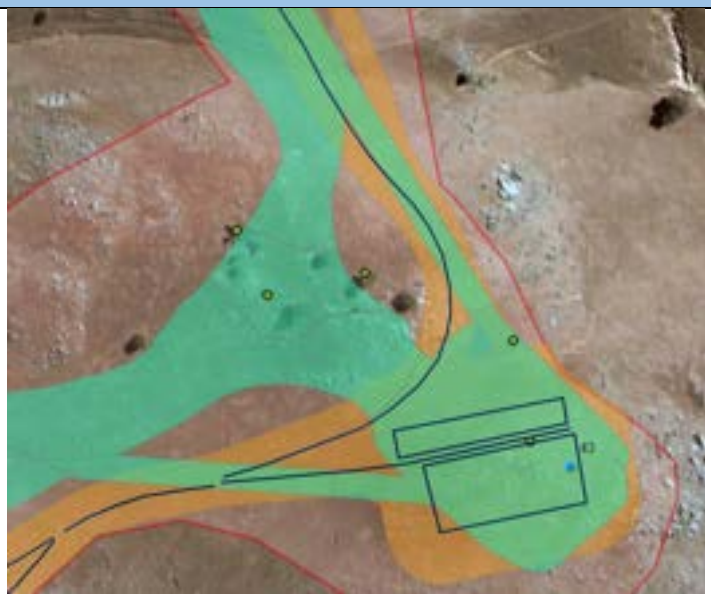
Schedule 3, Condition 19 (c) of the consent requires that all reasonable and feasible measures be implemented to minimise the approved clearing of hollow-bearing trees, native vegetation and key habitat within the approved disturbance footprint.

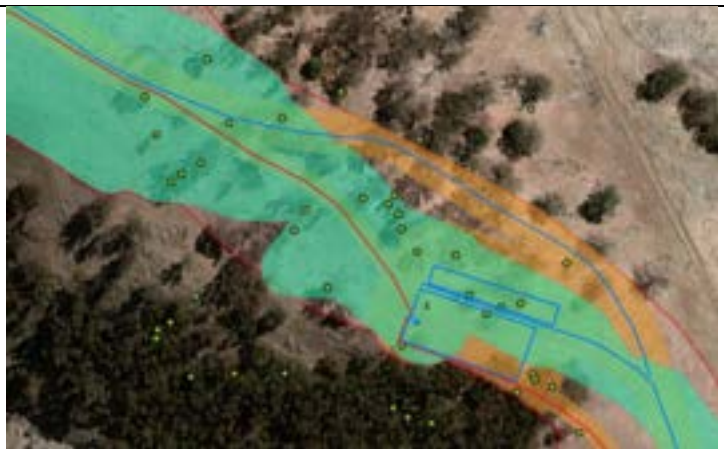
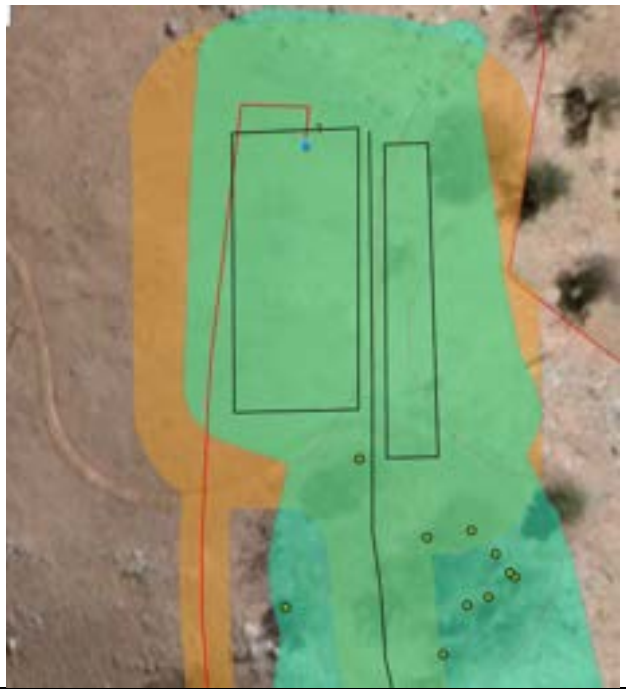
The number of HBTs requiring removal has been substantially reduced from 375 HBT to 238 HBT with the Optimised Development Footprint which represents a 37% reduction in the number of HBTs to be removed. The analysis below provides further visual examples demonstrating how the clearing of HBTs and habitat has been minimised through the Optimised Design.

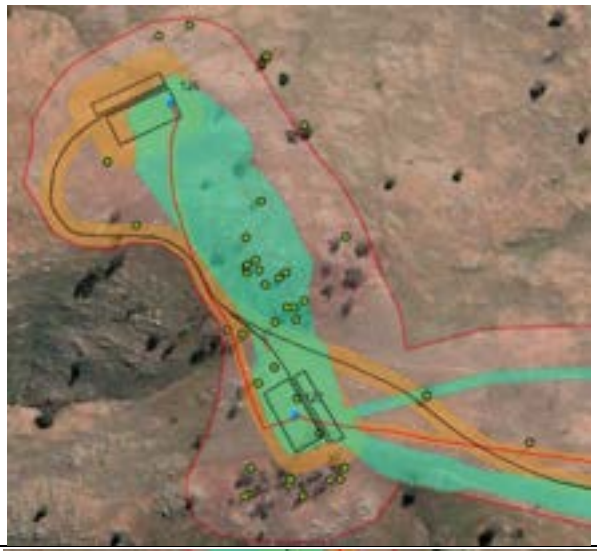
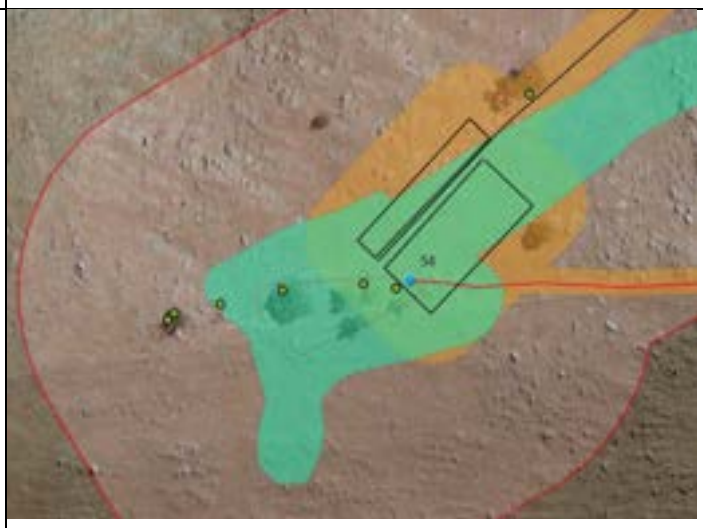
Data layer	Number of HBTs within footprint
Mod 1 Disturbance Footprint (data layer: 16440_MCF_5m_buffer_with_whitefields_ road_140318)	378
Optimised Disturbance Footprint (data layer: Optimised_construction_footprint_for_offset_calcs_220225)	238

Various visual examples of the reduced proposed impact to HBTs are provided below utilising the following legend:

- Aqua coloured polygon is the Mod 1 Disturbance Footprint
- Orange coloured polygon is the Optimised Disturbance Footprint
- Green dots are HBTs
- Blue dots are the microsited turbine locations
- Red coloured outline is the approved Development Corridor. The other red line shows the underground cable centreline (i.e. where these overlap the Optimised Disturbance Footprint (orange polygon)).

Project Location	Visual Depiction	Net Reduction in No. of HBT cleared
Turbine 43		3

Turbine 4		7
Turbine 1		6
Turbine 16		4

Turbine 127		9
Turbine 43		3
Turbine 54		3

Appendix F 2017-8129 referral submission #3012

Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy

Title of Proposal - Coppabella Wind Farm

Section 1 - Summary of your proposed action

Provide a summary of your proposed action, including any consultations undertaken.

1.1 Project Industry Type

Energy Generation and Supply (renewable)

1.2 Provide a detailed description of the proposed action, including all proposed activities.

Project Infrastructure:
This referral is to seek approval for a wind farm of up to 76 wind turbines with associated access tracks based on realistic design and including passing lanes, 33kV internal electrical reticulation system, grid connection components at 132kV (substation, 8km of 132kV transmission line and possible switchyard), permanent meteorological (met) masts, operations and maintenance building and temporary construction infrastructure. The temporary infrastructure includes construction compounds, laydown areas, batch plants and stockpile and crushing areas.

Upper limit number of wind turbines:
Subject to gaining consent for the NSW Modification Application as lodged, the revised project would involve up to 79 turbines with increased dimensions and, an increased footprint that is based on recent detailed civil works design. However, since the modification application was lodged, CWFPL has considered the removal of three turbines (75, 76 & 77) and their associated hardstands and tracks. The modified consent with removal of these three turbines and their associated hardstands and tracks results in a 76 turbine layout.

As a result of the reduction of turbines to 76 for the NSW Modification Application, this referral also seeks approval for the 76 turbine layout but notes that some of the supporting information for this referral has been prepared in respect of the 79 turbine layout. The following provides an explanatory note on the layout used for the respective parts of the assessments provided with this referral.

A 76 turbine layout, (which excludes Turbines 75, 76 & 77) has been used for assessing the impacts specific to MNES, detailed further in Section 5.1.1 of the attached Technical Report (5 EPBC TR). Associated mapping and impact areas for relevant MNES (Critically Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC), Superb Parrot, Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater, Koala) similarly assume the removal of these Turbines 75, 76 & 77.

Elsewhere in this Technical Report, the 79 turbine layout is shown and discussed. Specifically:
The broader project breakdown, presented in Table 1-1, is for all 79 turbines.
The assessment of bird and bat collision risks in Section 5.2 is for all 79 turbines.
The NSW endorsed offset calculations presented in Section 7.3 are for all 79 turbines.

In this manner, the information presented in this report provides the most accurate estimate of MNES impacts while being as consistent as possible with the existing material being considered for the NSW Modification Application.

Wind turbine dimensions:
The wind turbine model is subject to confirmation but the GW140 has been used a reference model for all impact assessment and yield modelling. This model's parameters include:
Rotor diameter up to approximately 142m
Hub height up to approximately 100m
Maximum height of rotor swept area approximately 171m
Minimum height of rotor swept area approximately 29m

Construction impacts – clearing:
The construction footprint is estimated as 362.29 ha which includes a 5m buffer to account for potential disturbance during construction, such as installation of sediment erosion controls. This figure is derived from a detailed civil engineering design, taking into account realistic cut and fill batters for the terrain and larger turbines turning arcs. This is considered a 'worst case' given not all of the 79 turbines will be developed and that not all of the buffer area will involve disturbance.

The location of the site and the proposed infrastructure layout is shown in the attached Technical Report (5 EPBC TR). As the clearing is derived from a civil works footprint, it is not possible to separate out all infrastructure components. Refer to Table 1-1 of the Technical Report for a breakdown of civil works (tracks, turbine footings and hardstands), cabling and overhead power lines. No additional clearing is required (such as for asset protection zones).

The project site is within the western part of the area of a prior referral EPBC 2013/7002 that combined the Coppabella, Marilba and 330kV precincts. The Marilba and 330kV precincts were excluded from the NSW planning approval (Development Consent SSD 6698). All infrastructure would now be within the Coppabella precinct project boundaries approximately 6,445 ha. Additional impacts to short sections of Whitefields Road would also be required. There would be up to eleven host landowners (refer to 8 EPBC TR A3).

Construction impacts – road upgrades:
The main access to the project area will be from the eastern end of Whitefields Road (Figure 3-3 of Technical Report) and involve approximately 1.3 km of Whitefields Road from the Hume Highway to a property entrance where on-site access tracks will be used. Whitefields Road would be upgraded as part of the project but as per Schedule 3, Condition 27 of the Consent, CWFPL is required to minimise impact and the detailed design for upgrade must include a landscaping plan. The clearing required for Whitefields Road is included in the civil works footprint above (Table 1-1 of Technical Report).

Access to the 132 kV line route, to the northwest of the project will be from Coppabella Road with access via Binalong, Garry Owen Road and the northern section of Coppabella Road. Items transported by this route would include pole sections, conductors, insulators, fittings and various installation equipment to enable the construction of the northern section of the 132 kV transmission line. Only minor upgrades of Coppabella Road are anticipated and these would be

subject to Council approval.

Minor upgrades are also proposed for a short section (approximately 2 km) of Coppabella Road to enable better internal access within the wind farm. The section of Coppabella Road is between two wind farm access tracks that cross Coppabella Road, between Turbine 60 and 130 at the southern end and the access track between Turbine 68 and 128 at the northern end of the short section of Coppabella Road. Pre-construction planning and design studies have indicated that access in this location will reduce access time across the site. No trees are required to be removed for this upgrade.

Reuse of excavated material, staging, subdivision, decommissioning and the similarity of this referral with the existing Yass Valley Wind Farm Controlled Action (EPBC 2013/7002) are detailed in Section 1.4 and 1.5 of the attached Technical Report (5 EPBC TR).

1.3 What is the extent and location of your proposed action? Use the polygon tool on the map below to mark the location of your proposed action.

Area	Point	Latitude	Longitude
Project Boundary	1	-34.745756679298	148.54238331578
Project Boundary	2	-34.745051414833	148.53345692417
Project Boundary	3	-34.759578647145	148.53225529454
Project Boundary	4	-34.759437618339	148.53019535801
Project Boundary	5	-34.769027028314	148.52916538975
Project Boundary	6	-34.767616890831	148.51663410923
Project Boundary	7	-34.766347746497	148.5161191251
Project Boundary	8	-34.765642657879	148.50873768589
Project Boundary	9	-34.767757905663	148.50805104039
Project Boundary	10	-34.767757905663	148.50358784458
Project Boundary	11	-34.766347746497	148.50427449009
Project Boundary	12	-34.770155120954	148.49757969639
Project Boundary	13	-34.775090344949	148.49569142124
Project Boundary	14	-34.77382131554	148.48693669102
Project Boundary	15	-34.767475875757	148.48796665928
Project Boundary	16	-34.765924694049	148.46942723057
Project Boundary	17	-34.763245311527	148.46959889195
Project Boundary	18	-34.762258148675	148.48230183384
Project Boundary	19	-34.757040091791	148.48127186558
Project Boundary	20	-34.755911819915	148.47234547398
Project Boundary	21	-34.745474574235	148.47183048985
Project Boundary	22	-34.745615626887	148.46925556919
Project Boundary	23	-34.738139504437	148.4699422147
Project Boundary	24	-34.738421634548	148.4721738126
Project Boundary	25	-34.734189581734	148.47286045811

Area	Point	Latitude	Longitude
Project Boundary	26	-34.734048509574	148.46393406651
Project Boundary	27	-34.728828670366	148.46496403477
Project Boundary	28	-34.729392993201	148.47337544224
Project Boundary	29	-34.721915402968	148.47234547398
Project Boundary	30	-34.713731604626	148.48247349522
Project Boundary	31	-34.707875458739	148.48676502964
Project Boundary	32	-34.708157692147	148.49397480748
Project Boundary	33	-34.704065213492	148.496034744
Project Boundary	34	-34.708863271453	148.50599110386
Project Boundary	35	-34.704770827704	148.50753605625
Project Boundary	36	-34.695597373554	148.50873768589
Project Boundary	37	-34.696303059979	148.51268589756
Project Boundary	38	-34.693339136556	148.518350723
Project Boundary	39	-34.695315097299	148.52332890293
Project Boundary	40	-34.694327122825	148.52899372837
Project Boundary	41	-34.689951665529	148.52985203526
Project Boundary	42	-34.69122198341	148.5399800565
Project Boundary	43	-34.701666080157	148.53929341099
Project Boundary	44	-34.701807207573	148.54118168614
Project Boundary	45	-34.708157692147	148.54118168614
Project Boundary	46	-34.708157692147	148.54358494541
Project Boundary	47	-34.715495422736	148.54341328404
Project Boundary	48	-34.716342042067	148.54564488194
Project Boundary	49	-34.712673295703	148.54650318882
Project Boundary	50	-34.728899210931	148.56349766514
Project Boundary	51	-34.741172352646	148.58117878697
Project Boundary	52	-34.743147170702	148.58461201451
Project Boundary	53	-34.737081507941	148.58667195103
Project Boundary	54	-34.738774295832	148.58959019444
Project Boundary	55	-34.736799373254	148.5928517606
Project Boundary	56	-34.738633231499	148.59628498814
Project Boundary	57	-34.741031292408	148.60212147496
Project Boundary	58	-34.742582941788	148.60315144322
Project Boundary	59	-34.746391412168	148.59971821568
Project Boundary	60	-34.748225057507	148.60040486119
Project Boundary	61	-34.747378764716	148.60538304112
Project Boundary	62	-34.763033777624	148.60229313633
Project Boundary	63	-34.761341486886	148.59885990879
Project Boundary	64	-34.764585013659	148.59903157017
Project Boundary	65	-34.762328660699	148.58512699864
Project Boundary	66	-34.76980259366	148.58461201451
Project Boundary	67	-34.773186793517	148.60606968663
Project Boundary	68	-34.794193928685	148.60160649082
Project Boundary	69	-34.792361304418	148.58186543248
Project Boundary	70	-34.800537313551	148.58255207798
Project Boundary	71	-34.798000018172	148.56813252232

Area	Point	Latitude	Longitude
Project Boundary	72	-34.78192866745	148.56916249058
Project Boundary	73	-34.780659743218	148.55663121006
Project Boundary	74	-34.762046612243	148.55851948521
Project Boundary	75	-34.760918408781	148.55182469151
Project Boundary	76	-34.749212388136	148.55302632115
Project Boundary	77	-34.748930294875	148.55062306187
Project Boundary	78	-34.753020552863	148.55062306187
Project Boundary	79	-34.75259743212	148.54633152745
Project Boundary	80	-34.75062283999	148.54701817295
Project Boundary	81	-34.75062283999	148.54478657505
Project Boundary	82	-34.749071341626	148.54530155918
Project Boundary	83	-34.748930294875	148.54169667027
Project Boundary	84	-34.745545100591	148.54238331578
Project Boundary	85	-34.745545100591	148.5422116544
Project Boundary	86	-34.745756679298	148.54238331578

1.5 Provide a brief physical description of the property on which the proposed action will take place and the location of the proposed action (e.g. proximity to major towns, or for off-shore actions, shortest distance to mainland).

The site is located on farmland north of the Hume Highway, approximately 35 kilometres west of Yass, New South Wales. The area is characterised by undulating to hilly terrain with broken ridgelines, mostly on geology comprising meta-volcanics.

The site consists of elevated ridgelines and hills in the Bookham, Binalong, Berremangra locality spanning parts of Yass Valley and Hilltops Local Government Areas. The construction footprint contains a combination of native and exotic pasture and remnant and regrowth woodland. The ridgelines within the subject site are mostly cleared and have been grazed for many decades and generally carry only scattered remnant trees or small isolated woodland patches.

The site is situated in the upper catchment of Jugiong Creek within the broader Murrumbidgee Catchment. There are no major watercourses present at the subject site and there is little remnant tree cover. Several small or intermittent watercourses drain the site to the Jugiong Creek system that joins the Murrumbidgee near Jugiong below Burrinjuck Dam. Average annual rainfall for the site is approximately 600 – 659 mm (BOM 2017).

1.6 What is the size of the proposed action area development footprint (or work area) including disturbance footprint and avoidance footprint (if relevant)?

362.29ha

1.7 Is the proposed action a street address or lot?

Street Address

Whitefields Road
Bookham NSW 2582
Australia

1.8 Primary Jurisdiction.

New South Wales

1.9 Has the person proposing to take the action received any Australian Government grant funding to undertake this project?

No

1.10 Is the proposed action subject to local government planning approval?

No

1.11 Provide an estimated start and estimated end date for the proposed action.

Start date 05/2018

End date 03/2020

1.12 Provide details of the context, planning framework and State and/or Local government requirements.

NSW:

Assessment of the NSW project application took place over several years from December 2008 through to determination of the application on 30 March 2016. That process involved various iterations of the project, with the initial proposal containing over 200 wind turbines, while the approved project comprises up to 79 turbines. The project area was substantially reduced for the approved project area which comprises only the Coppabella precinct (Development Consent SSD 6698).

The current status of the NSW approval is that a Modification Application (MOD 1) has been lodged under Section 96(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). The project is substantially the same as the approved project. The proponent is currently considering submissions following the public exhibition and referral to government agencies and is now proposing a 76 turbine layout.

Commonwealth:

Separately, a referral under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) was made for the Yass Valley Wind Farm (EPBC 2013/7002). The project was determined to be a controlled action and Commonwealth approval for a project involving 126 wind turbines was granted on 5 November 2014.

This new referral is now being made to reflect changes currently being considered by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, for the now named the Coppabella Wind Farm (MOD 1). The new referral is for 76 turbine locations, larger turbine dimensions, and reflects the outcomes of further biodiversity assessments and current listing of MNES.

Refer to attached EPBC Technical Report, Appendix A1 (attached as 6 EPBC TR A1), for the approved and modified Coppabella Wind Farm infrastructure layout (79 turbines).

1.13 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken, including with Indigenous stakeholders.

An important context to the detailed planning of the construction-ready project is community consultation. Consultation was initiated for the original planning application that covered the Coppabella, Marilba and 330kV Precincts. The exhibition of the original planning application received a low number of submissions. The Preferred Project Report was exhibited from 14 December 2012 to 1 March 2013 and received 17 submissions, of which 8 were from individuals and 9 from Government agencies. Consultation for the larger project was undertaken through to gaining of consent and included a Community Consultative Committee that was established from March 2013.

Regarding the modified project now proposed, prior to the NSW public exhibition period, a notification was issued via the post to all neighbours up to 10km of the project. During the public exhibition period, associated documentation was available in hard copy at the Local Council Offices (Yass Valley Council and Hilltops Council) as well as at the local Binalong Post Office. Documentation was also available online at the project website. A dedicated 1800 telephone line, email address and postal address will be available for any enquiries related to the application.

Community consultation in 2017:

Following acquisition of the project in February 2017, community consultation has focussed on engaging with near neighbours to the project area (landowners that own residences up to 5km from an approved turbine location). Engagement with near neighbours has focussed on the following discussion areas:

Listening to feedback and observations on the project to date:

Details around pre-construction planning, including information on internal road design and optimal turbine model, including the potential for an increased tip height, and

Discussion regarding the most effective way to engage those members of the community most

affected by the wind farm moving forward.

This engagement has included over 50 face-to-face meetings between representatives of the proponent and near neighbours. Where face-to-face meetings were not possible, consultation has been undertaken over the phone, via emails and letters.

In addition to direct consultation with representatives of the proponent, a specialist community engagement consultancy was appointed to undertake a community context review of the local area and provide suggestions for future engagement based on the local context, interviews with local community members, previous engagement undertaken for the project and best practice case studies.

Based on the feedback received from the initial engagement with near neighbours, qualitative data from the community context review and previous experience as a proponent of other wind energy projects in NSW, a stakeholder and community engagement plan (the Plan) including a neighbour benefit sharing strategy and a community benefit sharing strategy has been developed for CWF to guide all engagement activities.

Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan:

A Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan has been developed and is being implemented for the project. It identifies project stakeholders, identifies the local community context and describes in detail engagement tools to be used throughout all phases of the project.

A key feature of the Plan includes a neighbour benefit sharing strategy (which is currently being developed). This includes offering neighbour agreements to up to 60 residences that have been identified as eligible within the neighbour benefit sharing strategy. The neighbour agreements recognise the impacts that the wind farm may have on near neighbours to the project and outlines a process for raising any concerns for the entire life cycle of the project. As of August 2017, 35 neighbour agreements have been offered as part of the strategy. An annual payment is attached to the neighbour agreements based on distance proximity of a residence from an approved turbine location.

In parallel with the neighbour benefit sharing strategy, a community benefit sharing strategy is currently being developed. Discussions have been undertaken with 16 local community groups and schools regarding opportunities for the project to be an active member of the local community and provide financial assistance and support. As of August 2017, the project has provided financial support through a sponsorship fund to 10 community initiatives and events in the local area.

Once the project becomes operational, a community fund will be established with payments per installed turbine each year, for the entire life cycle of the project. Coppabella Wind Farm will work with the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) to develop the framework and structure for the fund. The Yass Valley Council and the Hilltops Council will administer the community fund based on the installed turbines within each specific Local Government Area.

Community Consultative Committee (CCC):

Schedule 4 of the NSW Development Consent requires the proponent to establish a CCC for the life of the project. The CCC was established in March 2013. The most recent CCC meeting was held in October 2017.

Landowner consultation:

At this stage, it is anticipated that approximately eleven landowners will host project infrastructure such as wind turbines or ancillary infrastructure such as access tracks. Following acquisition of the project on 8 February 2017, targeted consultation has been undertaken with host landowners. A briefing providing a high-level overview of the pre-construction planning process and timeline, including information on internal road design and optimal turbine model with a potential for an increased tip height was provided to all involved landowners in February/March 2017. All landowners were directly consulted regarding the internal road design that was specific to their property within the project area. Additionally, a detailed briefing on the internal road design was given to host landowners in August 2017.

Indigenous consultation:

The assessments for CWF have been undertaken in consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders and the Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan circulated for review and comment by the stakeholders.

1.14 Describe any environmental impact assessments that have been or will be carried out under Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation including relevant impacts of the project.

All environmental impact assessments have been completed for the NSW and Commonwealth matters. Extensive assessment of the biodiversity values at the Coppabella Wind Farm site has been undertaken for over 10 years with surveys from 2007 and underpins the assessment of impacts on MNES. The survey work completed and reports produced that are relevant to MNES are summarised in Section 2 of the attached Technical Report.

1.15 Is this action part of a staged development (or a component of a larger project)?

Yes

1.15.1 Provide information about the larger action and details of any interdependency between the stages/components and the larger action.

The project includes the development of up to 76 wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure. The project may be developed in stages. The actual extent of staging and scope of project components for individual stages will be confirmed prior to the commencement of the stage of construction and the conditions of consent will be addressed relative to the extent of the stage

being undertaken. It is not part of a larger project. Marilba and Conroys Gap precincts are no longer part of the project.

1.16 Is the proposed action related to other actions or proposals in the region?

No

Section 2 - Matters of National Environmental Significance

Describe the affected area and the likely impacts of the proposal, emphasising the relevant matters protected by the EPBC Act. Refer to relevant maps as appropriate. The interactive map tool can help determine whether matters of national environmental significance or other matters protected by the EPBC Act are likely to occur in your area of interest. Consideration of likely impacts should include both direct and indirect impacts.

Your assessment of likely impacts should consider whether a bioregional plan is relevant to your proposal. The following resources can assist you in your assessment of likely impacts:

• Profiles of relevant species/communities (where available), that will assist in the identification of whether there is likely to be a significant impact on them if the proposal proceeds;

• Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance;

• Significant Impact Guideline 1.2 – Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land and Actions by Commonwealth Agencies.

2.1 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on the values of any World Heritage properties?

No

2.2 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on the values of any National Heritage places?

No

2.3 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on the ecological character of a Ramsar wetland?

No

2.4 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on the members of any listed species or any threatened ecological community, or their habitat?

Yes

2.4.1 Impact table

Species	Impact
BGW CEEC	Loss of 3.23 ha of CEEC by direct impacts and

Species	Impact
	an additional 3.62 ha of indirect impacts (using a 30m buffer to determine indirect impacts). Impacts may be significant.
Superb Parrot	Loss of 60 ha of preferred habitat including 76 hollow bearing trees. Collision risk low. Loss of habitat may be significant.
Regent Honeyeater	Loss of 2.5 ha of preferred habitat (not known from the site but potential habitat has been modelled). Collision risk low. Impacts unlikely to be significant.
Swift Parrot	Loss of 2.5 ha of habitat (not known from the site but potential habitat has been modelled). Collision risk low. Impacts unlikely to be significant.
Koala	Loss of 42 ha of habitat (not known from the site but potential habitat has been modelled). Impacts unlikely to be significant.
Painted Honeyeater	Loss of 3 ha of habitat (not known from the site but potential habitat has been modelled). Collision risk low. Impacts unlikely to be significant.

2.4.2 Do you consider this impact to be significant?

Yes

2.5 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on the members of any listed migratory species, or their habitat?

Yes

2.5.1 Impact table

Species	Impact
Cattle Egret	Loss of 33 ha of marginal pasture habitat (not known from the site but potential habitat has been modelled). Collision risk low. Impacts unlikely to be significant.
Great Egret	Loss of 33 ha of marginal pasture habitat (not known from the site but potential habitat has been modelled). Collision risk low. Impacts unlikely to be significant.
Rainbow Bee-eater	Loss of 0.3 ha of habitat (riparian forest).

Species	Impact
	Collision risk low. Impacts unlikely to be significant.

2.5.2 Do you consider this impact to be significant?

No

2.6 Is the proposed action to be undertaken in a marine environment (outside Commonwealth marine areas)?

No

2.7 Is the proposed action to be taken on or near Commonwealth land?

No

2.8 Is the proposed action taking place in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?

No

2.9 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on a water resource related to coal/gas/mining?

No

2.10 Is the proposed action a nuclear action?

No

2.11 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth agency?

No

2.12 Is the proposed action to be undertaken in a Commonwealth Heritage Place Overseas?

No

2.13 Is the proposed action likely to have ANY direct or indirect impact on a water resource related to coal/gas/mining?

No

Section 3 - Description of the project area

Provide a description of the project area and the affected area, including information about the following features (where relevant to the project area and/or affected area, and to the extent not otherwise addressed in Section 2).

3.1 Describe the flora and fauna relevant to the project area.

Flora

An EPBC Protected Matters Search was conducted on the 3 November 2017 with a 50km radius of the proposed site, 11 threatened flora species were identified. Of these, one is critically endangered (Pterostylis oreophila, Blue-tongued Orchid), 6 are endangered, and two are listed as vulnerable (NPWS 2017).

There are a number of grassland and grassy woodland species which are of regional conservation significance due to the general depletion of these communities. These species include Zornia (*Zornia dyctiocarpa*), Australian Anchor Plant (*Discaria pubescens*), Emu-foot (*Cullen tenax*), Mountain Swainson-pea (*Swainsona monticola*), Wedge Diuris (*Diuris dendrobioides*), Purple Diuris (*D. punctata* var. *punctata*), Hairy Buttons (*Leptorhynchos elongatus*), Austral Trefoil (*Lotus australis*), Yam Daisy (*Microseris lanceolata*), *Picris* species, a milkwort (*Polygala japonica*) and Wild Sorghum (*Sorghum leiocladum*) (ACT Government 2004). These species may occur on less disturbed remnants in the Yass area, however none were recorded within areas to be impacted.

Fauna

Widespread vegetation clearing has caused a decline in woodland-dependent bird, reptile and insect populations. Woodland bird species such as the endangered Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) have noticeably declined (Australian Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment 2002 in NPWS 2003) as a result of landscape fragmentation. A decline in ground feeding insectivores was recently observed in the bioregion (Australian Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment 2002 in NPWS 2003). Some bird species such as the Noisy Miner (*Manorina melanocephala*), Australian Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) and Grey Butcherbird (*Cracticus torquatus*) have substantially increased, consistent with the effects of long term fragmentation (NPWS 2003).

Waterbirds are likely to move between large waterbodies and wetland habitats at the region scale. Lake George (c. 65 kilometres east of the subject site), Lake Burley Griffin and associated wetlands (10-25 kilometres to the south), Lake Burrinjuck (50 kilometres to the south) and major rivers in the region are likely to form part of the foraging range for several mobile waterbird species. Most wetland bird species in the region show signs of long-term decline (Reid *et al.* 2004). Seasonal wetland and swamp habitats have declined throughout the region due to increasing irrigation and water extraction from rivers, increased small dams and

increased use of deep-rooted perennial pastures resulting in reduced runoff. Most wetland bird species in the region show signs of long-term decline (Reid *et al.* 2004).

106 species of fauna were identified in the 2009 survey of the site. This consisted of 77 birds, 4 amphibians, 17 mammals and 8 reptiles. The 2009 Biodiverty Assessment is appended (14 EPBC TR B1).

One threatened fauna species, the Superb Parrot, and one migratory species, the Rainbow Bee-eater have been identified on site. The Superb Parrot is listed as Vulnerable on the Commonwealth EPBC Act. Rainbow Bee-eater is listed as migratory on the EPBC Act. The Golden Sun Moth is listed as Critically Endangered and ocurrs in the locality but is not found onsite.

3.2 Describe the hydrology relevant to the project area (including water flows).

Coppabella Hills occur within the mid Murrumbidgee Catchment north of the Murrumbidgee River, which is the largest river in the vicinity. The Murrumbidgee River catchment is a major component of the Murray-Darling Basin, joining the Murray River at Balranald, with an area of 84,000 square kilometres. The Murrumbidgee catchment has a diverse range of landscapes, and significant agricultural, social and conservation values.

Coppabella Hills is located within the Jugiong Creek and Illalong Creek sub catchments of the mid Murrumbidgee catchment. The major creek within these catchments is Jugiong Creek. There are a number of small creeks that flow into Jugiong Creek which is the primary exit point for water in these sub-catchments to flow into the Murrumbidgee River. The Murrumbidgee flows in a general east to west direction.

Jugiong Creek, a tributary of the Murrumbidgee River is located approximately 1.8kms to the north of the closet portion of the Coppabella Hills Precinct. Coppabella Hills Creek is located to the south of the Coppabella Hills Precinct adjacent to Whitefields Road. Stony Creek, a small tributary of Jugiong Creek, runs in a general north – south direction within the Coppabella Hills Precinct. There are also a number of unnamed drainage lines that traverse the landscape of the Coppabella precinct with the potential to be impacted by the proposal.

Creeks with the potential to be impacted during the proposed works to the access road are: Coppabella Creek, Bald Hill Creek and Deep Stony Watercourse. Creeks with the potential to be impacted during the proposed works to the transmission easement are: Jugiong Creek, Two Mile Creek and Balgalal Creek. Creeks with the potential to be impacted during the proposed works to the both the access track and transmission easement are: Stony Creek and Bushrangers Creek.

The local drainage system within these precincts is defined as “waters’ in accordance with Section 120 of the POEO Act.

Groundwater:

A number of registered groundwater bores are located within the general area of Coppabella Hills. It is likely that residents within the local vicinity of the development area are likely to have their own supply of water for both domestic and agricultural use. It is likely that a number of properties extract water from groundwater bores. The Department of Water and Energy indicated that the vast majority of groundwater registered bores located in the area, both within the Yass Valley and Harden LGAs would be extraction bores for irrigation purposes (pers. comm. M. Mitchell, DWE 17 Dec 2008).

3.3 Describe the soil and vegetation characteristics relevant to the project area.

Soil characteristics:

The landscape within the Coppabella Hills Precinct is generally steep with granite rock outcrops. The soil landscapes which occurs within the development envelope are Oak Creek, Cockatoo, Binalong and Canowindra. With the exception of Canowindra, soils across Coppabella Hills have erosion potential ranging from high to extreme. Gullying on the slopes and foothills is evident.

Soil landscapes within Coppabella Hills:

Murringo (mu): occurs on crests and side slopes moderately deep gradationally textured and duplex red soils. Yellow earths and yellow podzolic soils occur on foot slopes with yellow soldic soils in some drainage lines. Occurs in undulating to rolling low hills with slope gradients generally between 5% and 25%. The Murringo soil landscape has a moderate erosion potential.

Oak Creek (oc): shallow siliceous sands and shallow sandy Red Earths occur on crests and side slopes with minor red and yellow sandy podzolic soils on lower slopes. Oak Creek soils are located on steep hills of elevations varying from 600-750 metres with slope gradients of 30-50%. The Oak creek soil landscape on sandy earths have a high erosion hazard.

Cockatoo (ct): Cockatoo soil landscapes are found on small rocky hills. The soils are shallow to moderately deep, brightly coloured red and yellow gradationally textured soils with weak to occasionally moderate structure. Cockatoo soils are located on rolling low hills and hills with local relief between 60-150 m and gradients varying between 10-30%. The Cockatoo soil landscape has a high erosion potential.

Binalong (bi): moderately deep, bright yellowish brown gradationally or occasionally duplex textured, weakly to moderately structured occur on crests and side slopes. Yellow podzolic soils occur on the lower slopes. Local relief within the unit varies between 30-90 metres with slope gradients between 3-10%. Podzolic soils of the foot slopes have high erosion potential.

Canowindra (cd): yellow and brown Solodic soils occur in some drainage lines, with shallow red podzolic soils sometimes found on crests and upper slopes. Red earths also occur on higher crests. Local relief varies from 20-60 metres with gradients between 2-8%. All soils in this soil

landscape group are described as having a moderate erosion potential. Moderate salinity hazard.

Soil erosion is a serious environmental issue throughout the LGA. The SoE identifies that erosion has occurred across the Yass Valley as a result of clearing for agriculture, poor land management practices, overstocking and flooding events.

Contaminated lands:

A search of the contaminated land record, managed by the NSW DECC (DECC 2009a) identified one site within the Yass Valley LGA and one site within the Harden LGA of known contamination. The first site is a service station located within the township of Yass and the second site is a railway site within the township of Harden. There are no records on the public register of known contamination within or nearby any of the Coppabella wind farm site. It is understood that land use history within the precincts is a mixture of farming (grazing). Farming operations have the potential to contaminate land through activities such as sheep and cattle dips and diesel refuelling. Due to the historical land use of the precincts (farming) and the close involvement of the landowners in the development of the sites, the potential for contamination to be present and disturbed by construction activities is considered to be low.

Vegetation characteristics:

Typical of the region, the site carries Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*), Red Box (*Eucalyptus polyanthemos*) and Blakely's Red Gum (*Eucalyptus blakelyi*), with areas of white box (*Eucalyptus albens*) occupying lower areas. Red Stringybark (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*), Broad-leaved Peppermint (*Eucalyptus dives*) and White Gum (*Eucalyptus rossii*) associations dominate hills.

Box-Gum Woodlands and natural temperate grasslands have been heavily cleared and fragmented by agricultural activities, and are listed as Endangered Ecological Communities. Of the remnant vegetation that remains in the Southern Tablelands region (Fallding 2002), 1% is grassland, 3% is grassland-woodland mosaic, 9% is Box-Gum Woodland, 21% is dry forest, 12 % is wet forest and 0.5% is riparian forest. Box-Gum Woodlands occupied around 23% of the region prior to European settlement. 9% of the region currently carries this community, in varying condition.

While retaining areas of wooded remnants, the subject site is heavily cleared. Woodland remnants contain depauperate or exotic understorey, with many affected by sheep camps. There are some highly restricted and fragmented examples of woodland understorey without tree cover in paddocks and saddles within the study area. There are also fragmented patches of remnant and regrowth woodland with tree cover and relatively intact understorey.

3.4 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values relevant to the project area.

The district forms part of the core breeding area for the threatened Superb Parrot. The Superb

Parrot is known to nest locally in open Box-Gum Woodland or isolated paddock trees and has been recorded onsite. It is rarely found on ridges, moving through the lower landscape preferentially (NGH Environmental 2014,2016 – Appendix B.5 and B.6 of the attached Technical Report: 18 EPBC TR B5 and 19 EPBC TR B6).

The district forms part of the core foraging area for the threatened Eastern Bent?wing Bat. A known maternity cave for the Eastern Bent wing Bats is located c.45km (straight line distance) from the proposed Coppabella Hills wind farm site, near Wee Jasper. Extensive survey has identified the action would not be located within foraging range of the Wee Jasper maternity cave (NGH Environmental 2009).

The district is the centre of distribution for the threatened Yass Daisy. None are located in the project footprint.

3.5 Describe the status of native vegetation relevant to the project area.

Three broad groupings of Box-Gum Woodland and derived native pasture Southern Region vegetation types defined by Thomas, Gellie and Harrison (2000) and Gellie (2005) most closely correspond to the remnant vegetation present in the study area. These include: Box Gum Woodland, Long-leaved Box-Red Stringybark Dry Shrub/Grass Forest and Riparian River Red Gum Forest and are discussed below.

Box-Gum Woodland and derived native pasture;

Vegetation was conservatively assigned to Box-Gum Woodland if Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*), White Box (*E. albens*) or Blakely's Red Gum (*E. blakelyi*) was present, even as a minority component. Box-Gum Woodland with additional tree species Red Box (*E. polyanthemos* ssp *polyanthemos*), Red Stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha*) or Long-leaved Box (*E. goniocalyx*) is present in many parts of the Coppabella Hills Precinct, in varying condition.

Unlike many tableland areas where this community is restricted to lower slopes and valley floors and is replaced by a different assemblage (usually including *E. dives* and *E. mannifera*) on more exposed ridge tops, this Box-Gum Woodland community also occurs on ridge tops in parts of the site. This is possibly as a result of the volcanic geology of the area, which has given rise to relatively deep and fertile soils on the ridge tops. The Box-Gum Woodland community on the site is located on fertile soils, and therefore coincides with prime farmland. It has been heavily impacted by clearing, grazing, cultivation and the introduction of weed and pasture species.

Parts of the subject site have lost nearly all evidence of the natural woodland, including most of the ridge crests and much of the intervening valley floors. Relatively intact Box-Gum Woodland remnants are present in a few small areas in saddles. Ridgetop woodland remnants generally consist of regrowth eucalypts of Yellow Box, White Box or Blakely's Red Gum with low species diversity groundcover. Occasional smaller trees, Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*) or Hickory Wattle (*Acacia implexa*), are also a feature of this community. On some cleared ridges only Kurrajongs remain, while Hickory Wattle is most often present as dead trees. Scattered trees in pasture are frequently in poor condition, with dieback-affected crowns. Shrubs are extremely

rare and are generally restricted to only two species: *Hibbertia obtusifolia* and *Melichrus urceolatus*.

The condition of the groundcover of Box-Gum Woodland remnants on the site is extremely variable across the site and appears to coincide with the intensity of grazing. The condition ranges from good in areas with little or no grazing pressure and a range of native forb and grass species present in the understorey to poor on crests where exotic species are. Poor quality Box-Gum Woodland remnants may or may not include a tree stratum and are most often located at the highest points of the landscape where sheep camp. Many poor quality areas carry thistles (**Onopordum acanthium*, **Carthamus lanatus*), Paterson's Curse (**Echium plantagineum*) and European nettle (**Urtica urens*) as the dominant species. In some areas exotic pasture species such as Barley Grass (**Hordeum leporinum*) and Perennial Rye Grass (**Lolium perenne*) and legumes (**Trifolium* spp) may also be abundant, but more often it is exotic forbs which form the bulk of the cover.

Many Box-Gum Woodland remnants along the ridges, saddles and upper slopes on the site are in poor-moderate to moderate condition. These areas generally have few overstorey trees although carry a higher proportion of native grass and forb species, such as grasses *Austrodanthonia* spp., *Austrostipa scabra* ssp *falcata*, *Aristida ramosa*, *Bothriochloa macra*, and *Microlaena stipoides*, with forbs *Rumex brownii, Solenogyne dominii*, *Hypoxis vaginatus, Drosera peltata* and *Wurmbea* spp. In and near some remnant woodland patches forbs such as *Dichondra repens, Hydrocotyle laxiflora* and *Oxalis perennans* persist in small numbers, but often only beneath logs and rock outcrops where grazing pressure is slightly reduced. Parts of the site with a predominately native understorey have recovery potential if grazing pressure were reduced. Some areas, generally in saddles where native groundcover species tend to dominate, may be capable of producing some tree regeneration and improved native groundcover diversity. Other areas, mostly those on the highest points where turbines would be located, appear to be most heavily impacted by sheep and are unlikely to be capable of recovery as the remaining trees are too stressed to produce seed, and if grazing pressure were reduced exotic groundcovers would simply become more dominant.

There are several closely related Box-Gum Woodland vegetation types described by Thomas *et al.* (2000) and Gellie (2005) which include all or two of White Box, Yellow Box and Blakely's Red Gum. Relevant communities are Forest Ecosystem 116 (*E. macrorhyncha-E. blakelyi*, with occasional *E. melliodora* or *E. goniocalyx*), FE117 (*E. albens-E. blakelyi*), FE120 (*E. macrorhyncha-E. albens* with occasional *E. blakelyi* and *E. polyanthemos*), FE160 (*E. blakelyi-E. melliodora*), FE161 (*E. melliodora*) and FE163 (*E. blakelyi-E. polyanthemos*). All these communities are said to have few or no shrubs and a grassy understorey of very similar species composition, and most of the indicator species mentioned by Gellie (2005) for any of these communities occur on or near the Coppabella Hills Precinct.

The SCRA classification is likely to be based on samples from highly disturbed remnants, and any variation in species composition may reflect past management rather than any inherent community differences. Given these identification difficulties, and since all the types have similar conservation status, they have not been distinguished in this assessment.

Lowland woodland and exotic pasture:

The original vegetation occupying the lowlands surrounding the clusters, and over much of the proposed transmission route, is likely to have been Box-Gum Woodland dominated by Yellow Box and Blakely's Red Gum. Modified Box-Gum Woodland remnants are present alongside Whitefields and Illalong Roads. The road verge clusters have a depauperate groundcover, but frequently include large mature trees. In many arable lowland paddocks, soils have been cultivated and fertilised and the understorey has been replaced with exotic pasture, fodder and weed species. Mixed pasture is also present in valley floors in mosaic with less modified native pasture.

Long-leaved Box – Red Stringybark dry grass forest:

Long-leaved Box (*E. goniocalyx*) tends to dominate patches of remnant forest or woodland on relatively steep slopes often on sheltered aspects. Long-leaved Box also occurs with Red Stringybark (*E.macrorhyncha*) on upper slopes and occasionally ridges as small copses or scattered trees over native pasture. Occasional small trees in this community include Kurrajong, and much less commonly Hickory Wattle, Native Cherry (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*) and Drooping Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*).

In all stands understorey vegetation has been modified, with the general elimination of the shrub stratum, except for a very occasional plant of *Hibbertia obtusifolia, Dodonaea viscosa* or *Melichrus urceolatus*.

The groundcover varies from largely native on steep midslopes to mostly exotic in small remnants on more heavily grazed ridgetop sites (**Lolium perenne, *Hordeum leporinum, *Urtica urens, *Erodium* spp and thistle spp). Native understorey species at less disturbed sites include grasses *Microlaena stipoides, Elymus scaber, Austrodanthonia* spp., and numerous native forbs including *Geranium solanderi, Poranthera microphylla, Cymbonotus* sp.*, Hydrocotyle laxiflora, Wahlenbergia stricta* and many other species, along with annual weeds **Briza maxima* and **Stellaria media*.

This community corresponds most closely to Forest Ecosystem 118: Western Slopes Dry Grass Forest in the Southern Region CRA classification, though a number of very similar communities are described (FE119, Western Tablelands Dry Shrub/Grass Forest, FE121, Northern Tablelands and Slopes Dry Shrub/Grass Forest and FE122, Northern Tablelands and Slopes Dry Shrub/Grass Forest, all of which include several indicator species found on Coppabella Hills Precinct). Key diagnostic species for FE118 present at Coppabella include the trees *Eucalyptus goniocalyx, E. macrorhyncha* and occasionally *E. blakelyi* or *Allocasuarina verticillata*, the shrub *Hibbertia obtusifolia,* the forbs *Gonocarpus tetragynus, Wurmbea dioica, Senecio tenuiflorus* and *Hydrocotyle laxiflora* and the grasses *Microlaena stipoides, Elymus scaber* and *Austrodanthonia* spp.

The difference between Long-leaved Box woodland and Box-Gum Woodland is not well defined in the field, since many stands are of mixed tree species composition. Long-leaved Box Woodland intergrades, and shares many understorey and canopy species, with a number of Box-Gum Woodland vegetation types. Examples of FE188 which have a grassy understorey and a representation of *E. melliodora, E. blakelyi* or *E. albens* may be included in the Box-Gum Woodland EEC/CEEC listed under the TSC Act and the EPBC Act. The understorey

composition can be very similar between the two communities, particularly for stands with similar levels of grazing intensity. Management may have caused initially different understoreys to converge over time due to the elimination of shrubs and more palatable native grasses and forbs. It is not clearly apparent on this site that Long-leaved Box Woodland is a different community from Box-Gum Woodland, although its prominence on sheltered slopes suggests that the two communities may have formerly partitioned the landscape between them based on aspect. Clearing and grazing has since blurred the distinction between them.

Modified riparian habitats: Western Slopes Riparian Moist Sedge Forest/Woodland:

A riparian community dominated by River Red Gum (*E. camaldulensis*) with occasional Apple Box (*E. bridgesiana*) is present along Jugiong Creek. Because of its inherent fertility, and due to impacts arising from clearing, grazing, erosion, sedimentation, and disruption to flow regimes, the riparian habitat has been extensively colonised by exotic pasture grasses and weeds. This community falls within a single SCRA Forest Ecosystem: FE43 Western Slopes Riparian Moist Sedge Forest/Woodland. The single sample of this community seen at Jugiong Creek consisted of very sparse mature River Red Gums, a scatter of young saplings in the creek bed as a result of recent fencing of the riparian zone, a few browsed specimens of bottlebrush *Callistemon sieberi* and an entirely exotic groundcover. Similar vegetation was seen in a less disturbed situation in Travelling Stock Reserve No. 38 on Illalong Road south of the Coppabella Hills Precinct and detected at various points along Illalong Road where the creek closely approaches the road.

Native pasture:

Treeless pasture dominated by native grasses occurs on upper side slopes and in saddles in mosaic with more highly modified areas dominated by weeds. The dominant native grass species in pasture areas were *Austrodanthonia* spp, *Aristida ramosa, Bothriochloa macra, Microlaena stipoides, Austrostipa scabra* ssp *falcata,* and occasional *Panicum effusum* at the time of the survey. The diversity and abundance of native grass and forb species is highly variable between sites and within small areas, and is likely to change over time depending on season, water availability and grazing pressure.

To account for this spatial and temporal variability, native pasture areas and exotic pasture areas have been mapped as a single vegetation type. On most surveyed pasture areas, exotic grasses and forbs were found to dominate native groundcover species. Native pasture tends to occur predominately within saddles and more sheltered areas. The most commonly encountered native forbs are *Wurmbea dioica, W. latifolia, Hypoxis vaginata, Oxalis perennans, Cymbonotus* sp., *Crassula sieberiana, Solenogyne dominii* and *Drosera peltata*, with occasional *Geranium solanderi, Acaena echinata, Dichondra repens* and *Einadia nutans*. Among sheltered crevices created by rocks are ferns are *Cheilanthes* spp, and very rarely, *Asplenium flabellifolium* or *Pleurosorus rutifolius*. Such native pasture is likely to be derived from Box-Gum Woodland, which is the most widespread community in the area.

The composition of native pasture sites reflect a long grazing history and is usually low in native species diversity so that although the bulk of the vegetative cover may be composed of native grasses, the majority of the species present are exotic.

3.6 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

The landscape within the Coppabella Hills Precinct is undulating to hilly terrain with broken ridgelines.

The proposed turbine locations are spread out over one main ridgeline, that runs from north west to south west, and surrounding hills. The gradient varies significantly along the ridgeline and surrounding hills. The highest point is approximately 780m at proposed turbine 2. The lowest point is approximately 446m and lies between proposed turbine 69 and 72.

3.7 Describe the current condition of the environment relevant to the project area.

Forests and woodlands in the study area have been progressively ring-barked and felled over the past two centuries to provide pasture. Clearing and agriculture has produced a range of direct and indirect impacts to flora habitats, including altered microclimate, loss of pollinator and dispersal fauna, erosion of soils, particularly wind erosion from exposed ridge tops, elevated soil nutrients and rising saline groundwater. Agricultural activities have also resulted in the colonisation of a range of introduced plant species, with greatest displacement of natives occurring in moister, more fertile valley floor areas, areas subjected to pasture improvement and cultivation and areas selectively targeted by sheep for grazing and camping (the latter usually on ridges and peaks). In many areas, grazing is likely to have reduced or eliminated selectively grazed or grazing sensitive species, such as Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*), terrestrial orchids, native legumes, wattles and other shrubs. The subject site carries a high proportion of exotic weed and pasture species, ranging from less than one quarter of total herbaceous cover on less disturbed steep side slopes to total displacement of native species on many of the most exposed treeless ridges. The major exotic species are grasses (**Lolium perenne, *Hordeum leporinum*), clovers (**Trifolium* spp), asteraceous weeds (Capeweed, **Arctotheca calendula* and thistles, **Onopordum, *Carthamus* and **Cirsium* spp), Storksbill (**Erodium* spp) and Paterson's Curse (**Echium plantagineum*). In less disturbed areas with a tree canopy the most common exotic species at the time of the survey were annuals, Chickweed (**Stellaria media*) and Quaking Grass (**Briza maxima*). These areas would probably appear less weedy later in the season, when these species have seeded and disappeared. Six weeds listed as noxious in the Southern Slopes County Council area 7 control area under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* were recorded at the subject site. Locations where these weeds were recorded are provided in Table 5-3 below. The six noxious weed species are listed as Class 4 weeds for the Southern Slopes County Council control area. The control objective for Class 4 weeds is to minimise the negative impact of those plants on the economy, community or environment of New South Wales. They are required to be controlled in accordance with a local management plan published by the local control area authority.

3.8 Describe any Commonwealth Heritage Places or other places recognised as having heritage values relevant to the project area.

The Yass Post Office was the only Commonwealth Heritage place listed under the EPBC Protected Matters Report conducted on the 2 November 2017. This Commonwealth Heritage place is approximately 40km from the proposed wind farm site, within the township of Yass and is not relevant to the project area.

3.9 Describe any Indigenous heritage values relevant to the project area.

Assessment of the original Yass Valley Wind Farm documented that, in the region a general correlation between different types of watercourses and the nature of the evidence of past Aboriginal occupation is evident. Higher artefact density sites are located near to permanent water sources and low density artefact distributions are found elsewhere. Rare site types include rock shelters, scarred trees, quarry and procurement sites, burials, stone arrangements, carved trees, contact sites and traditional story or other ceremonial places (NGH 2009).

Archaeological and heritage assessments carried out by NSW Archaeology Pty Ltd (Dibden 2009) identified 70 Aboriginal heritage sites within the Coppabella precinct and the assessment concluded that artefact density is generally very low.

The majority of the Aboriginal object locales recorded (45) were very low or low density distributions of stone artefacts. The archaeological significance of these was assessed to be low. Accordingly, a management strategy of unmitigated impact was considered to be appropriate.

A number of the Aboriginal object locales and/or discrete areas within Survey Units were assessed to be of low/moderate (4) or moderate (21) archaeological significance. Accordingly, in regard to these it was generally recommended that limiting the extent of impacts to these locales, if at all feasible, should be given consideration. In regard to these locales it was recommended that a salvage program of subsurface excavation be undertaken as a form of Impact Mitigation.

In 2016, NSW Archaeology Pty Ltd conducted an Aboriginal heritage (archaeological and cultural) assessment in relation to the proposed new Coppabella Wind Farm. A revised report was prepared (attached in full).

During the two additional periods of field survey an additional 12 Aboriginal object locales were recorded. A total of 82 Aboriginal object locales have been recorded by Dibden (2017a) across the Coppabella precinct. All 12 Aboriginal object locales identified in the 2016 and 2017 surveys are within areas that would be directly impacted by the proposed project modification. Of the 12 newly recorded Aboriginal object locales, six were assessed as having low local scientific significance and the other six were assessed as having potentially moderate scientific significance (Dibden 2017a).

As a result of the project, a total 48 Aboriginal object locales, inclusive of 36 original (from the Yass Valley Wind Farm footprint) and 12 new sites, would now be impacted. This is 34 fewer Aboriginal object locales that would be impacted, compared to the approved Yass Valley Wind Farm project.

Dibden (2017a) states that the results of the revised assessments are entirely comparable to that as previously surveyed (Dibden 2009). The modified project would entail ground disturbance similar in nature to that under the approved project. Accordingly, the construction of the project would have potential to cause impacts to any Aboriginal areas, places or objects which may be present within the zones of direct impact.

The revised ACHA report (attached) provides recommended management strategies relating to each of the Survey Units and Aboriginal object locales that Dibden has recorded in the Coppabella precinct to date. In summary:

The majority of Aboriginal object locales recorded across the Coppabella precinct are very low or low density distributions of stone artefacts, assessed to be of low significance. Accordingly, a management strategy of unmitigated impact is considered appropriate for those sites.

A number of the Aboriginal object locales and/or discrete areas within Survey Units are assessed to be of low/moderate or moderate archaeological significance. For these areas, it has been recommended:

To consider limiting the extent of impacts, if feasible.

Implement a salvage program of subsurface excavation as a form of mitigation.

Additionally, it is noted that a draft Heritage Management Plan (HMP) has been developed (Dibden, 2017b) to satisfy the requirements of Condition 25 of the Development Consent. The HMP document will provide a framework to ensure that the Development Consent conditions are complied with during the construction and operation of the wind farm.

3.10 Describe the tenure of the action area (e.g. freehold, leasehold) relevant to the project area.

Freehold.

3.11 Describe any existing or any proposed uses relevant to the project area.

The proposed wind farm site is located in the Yass Valley and Hilltops Local Government Areas on land zoned for rural uses. Agriculture is a dominant industry in the region, particularly sheep and cattle grazing. A strong transmission network passes through both precincts and connects into the Yass substation, one of the strongest nodes in the transmission network outside of Sydney.

Mineral exploration:

A search was conducted of the NSW Government Planning and Environment MinView website on the 16 November 2017 for all mineral exploration licences. A SHP file was uploaded into the MinView map and the mineral exploration licences layer was added. The search returned no

results, therefore there are no current exploration license within the proposed wind farm site. The NSW DPI suggest that while the construction of the wind farm may not physically prevent exploration from being undertaken within the area, it could be a disincentive to explorations if it restricts or precludes the mining of any resources that may be discovered.

There are no operating mines within the development envelope.

Section 4 - Measures to avoid or reduce impacts

Provide a description of measures that will be implemented to avoid, reduce, manage or offset any relevant impacts of the action. Include, if appropriate, any relevant reports or technical advice relating to the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed measures.

Examples of relevant measures to avoid or reduce impacts may include the timing of works, avoidance of important habitat, specific design measures, or adoption of specific work practices.

4.1 Describe the measures you will undertake to avoid or reduce impact from your proposed action.

The mitigation measures accompanying the project are derived from:

1 EPBC 2013/7002 Yass Valley Wind Farm approval.

2 NSW planning approval (Development Consent SSD 6698).

3 Statements of Commitment made by the proponent; required under the EP&A Act Part 3A,setting out how the proponent proposes to manage the project to minimise, and where possible avoid, impacts.

4 The commitments made in the current modified project (project as described in this referral and consistent with that currently being assessed by the NSW).

Items 1-3 are provided in full in Appendix F of the attached Technical Report (26 EPBC TR F) which also investigates their currency to the new project being referred.

The mitigation strategies for the approved project (EPBC 2013/7002) focused on minimising impacts and offsetting residual impacts. The conditions of EPBC approval 2013/7002 for the project include:

Preparation of a Biodiversity Management Plan to minimise impact on BGW during construction and birds and bats during operation.

Investigation of site usage by Superb Parrot (flight paths).

Offset Strategy for BGW, Superb Parrot, Golden Sun Moth (now determined not to occur at the site and not proposed to be offset), Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot (impacts no longer considered significant and not proposed to be offset).

Additionally, the following mitigation measures are now proposed (refer to Section 7.1.2 of Technical Report for justification: 5 EPBC TR) during both the construction and operational

phases of the project:

Koala Warning signage along Whitefields Road adjacent to the area of Koala habitat with score less than or equal to 7 in the Coppabella Wind Farm site to alert drivers to the potential hazard.

A maximum speed limit of 40 km/hr on internal tracks within the Coppabella Wind Farm project area.

Inclusion of pathogen hygiene protocols in the Biodiversity Management Plan for the project.

This process of minimising the impacts of the project is built into the design, construction and operational stages of the project. Minimisation of impacts during detailed design and construction is a key requirement of the existing Commonwealth and NSW conditions. A process has been completed as part of the early design and assessment of the project whereby minimisation of impacts on higher conservation value areas has informed the construction footprint. The table and map set included in Appendix E of the attached Technical Report shows areas where minimisation of biodiversity impacts has been considered during the detailed design process (25 EPBC TR E). This includes four issues relevant to MNES.

Construction and operational impact management strategies are being developed to minimise impacts and offset all residual impacts, to be formalised in construction and operational managment plans for the project.

Offsets are proposed in accordance with the NSW Framework for Biodiversity Assessment, as set out in Section 7.3 of the Technical Report. This is the NSW offset tool for major projects and it has been endorsed by the Commonwealth government. It meets the NSW endorsed offsets policy in that it:

- Uses the prescribed ‘linear’ assessment method in the FBA to assess the landscape values of the project. This is done accurately using GIS analysis of the footprint buffered by 550m (as required by the methodology).

- Uses standardised field data, collected in accordance with the FBA. The methods and quantity of data satisfy the minimum requirements of the FBA (This is with the exception of two Long-leaved Box Dry Grass Forest plots which were collected in November 2017 and will be used to update the credit calculations. This has no impact on MNES). The input include ‘plot’ data from quadrats as well as properly timed targeted species surveys.

- Uses the approved online calculator to calculate the ‘ecosystem’ and ‘species’ credits required for the project.

- Commits to offset the credit requirement, in accordance with the FBA rules and methodology.

It is proposed that the offsets will:

- Account for the final impact area of the development.

- Be managed for biodiversity improvement in perpetuity.

- Be compliant with OEH endorsed offset guidelines and methodologies.

-Additionally, account for impacts to Hollow bearing trees (HBTs).

-Incorporate input from OEH, Local Land Services, Commonwealth DoE and Council, as appropriate.

The preferred method for securing offset sites required for the Coppabella Wind Farm is that credits representative of the physical offsets would be secured and banked under the Biobanking scheme. If CWFPL is unable to secure sufficient credits for physical offsets, alternate allowable options in NSW would be undertaken, however it is considered highly feasible that all Commonwealth offsets (being a smaller subset of the overall offset package) will be able to be physically secured ‘like for like’ within the project site boundaries. This is a commitment of the project and is discussed further below. More than seven times the NSW Box Gum Woodland offset requirement is available within the project boundaries.

4.2 For matters protected by the EPBC Act that may be affected by the proposed action, describe the proposed environmental outcomes to be achieved.

The outcomes proposed for Box Gum Woodland CEEC are to minimise the impacts as much as practical and to offset all residual impacts. Existing commitments include weed hygiene and sediment erosion controls aimed at minimising indirect impacts.

The outcomes proposed for Superb Parrot are to minimise the impacts as much as practical (avoiding hollow bearing trees as far as possible) and to offset all residual impacts, including supplementary hollow bearing tree offsets. As above, existing commitments include weed hygiene and sediment erosion controls aimed at minimising indirect impacts. Refer to Appendix F of attached Technical Report (attachment as 26 EPBC TR F).

Section 5 – Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

A checkbox tick identifies each of the matters of National Environmental Significance you identified in section 2 of this application as likely to be a significant impact.

Review the matters you have identified below. If a matter ticked below has been incorrectly identified you will need to return to Section 2 to edit.

5.1.1 World Heritage Properties

No

5.1.2 National Heritage Places

No

5.1.3 Wetlands of International Importance (declared Ramsar Wetlands)

No

5.1.4 Listed threatened species or any threatened ecological community

Listed threatened species and communities - Yes

5.1.5 Listed migratory species

No

5.1.6 Commonwealth marine environment

No

5.1.7 Protection of the environment from actions involving Commonwealth land

No

5.1.8 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

No

5.1.9 A water resource, in relation to coal/gas/mining

No

5.1.10 Protection of the environment from nuclear actions

No

5.1.11 Protection of the environment from Commonwealth actions

No

5.1.12 Commonwealth Heritage places overseas

No

5.2 If no significant matters are identified, provide the key reasons why you think the proposed action is not likely to have a significant impact on a matter protected under the EPBC Act and therefore not a controlled action.

-

Section 6 – Environmental record of the person proposing to take the action

Provide details of any proceedings under Commonwealth, State or Territory law against the person proposing to take the action that pertain to the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

6.1 Does the person taking the action have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management? Please explain in further detail.

The Coppabella Wind Farm is being developed by Goldwind and its associated body corporate; Coppabella Wind Farm Pty Ltd (CWFPL). As such, this section has been prepared based on the environmental performance of Goldwind.

Founded in Urumqi, China in 1998, Goldwind is one of the world's leading wind power companies. Goldwind provides products and services that support the global transition toward clean power. Goldwind views manufacturing wind turbine generators as its foundation, customer service as its guiding principal, and technological innovation as its path forward and potential to add value along the renewable energy industry value chain.

Established in 2009, Goldwind's local Australian team offers comprehensive wind power solutions, including investment, construction, and operational and maintenance services. Goldwind's first Australian project, Morton's Lane Wind Farm, has been operational since 2012. Goldwind Australia has a successful track record in developing wind farms including the Mortons Lane Wind Farm (operational since 2012), Gullen Range Wind Farm (operational since 2014) and Gullen Range Solar Farm operational from 2017, and White Rock Wind Farm and White Rock Solar Farm (both currently under construction). All of these projects contribute to meeting Australia's Renewable Energy Target.

Goldwind undertakes its activities in accordance with its certified management system including certification against ISO 14001:2015. Each of its renewable energy projects have specific environmental management plans relevant to construction and operations.

6.2 Provide details of any past or present proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against either (a) the person proposing to take the action or, (b) if a permit has been applied for in relation to the action – the person making the application.

Goldwind has no past or present proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

6.3 If it is a corporation undertaking the action will the action be taken in accordance with the corporation's environmental policy and framework?

Yes

6.3.1 If the person taking the action is a corporation, please provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework.

Goldwind is committed to work health and safety, minimising environmental impact and eliminating pollution, and the supply and maintenance of quality products and services. Goldwind has developed an Environmental and Quality Management System designed to provide a comprehensive framework to address relevant requirements and to ensure that all relevant personnel assist Goldwind in meeting its environmental and other commitments.

The Goldwind Australia Management System incorporates Health, Safety, Environment and other functions through a documented set of plans, actions and procedures to manage risk in an appropriate way. Goldwind Australia has been independently externally accredited by DAkkS for the following standards:

AS/NZS ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System

AS/NZS 9001:2015 Quality Management System

OHSAS 18001:2007 Occupational Health and Safety Management System

6.4 Has the person taking the action previously referred an action under the EPBC Act, or been responsible for undertaking an action referred under the EPBC Act?

Yes

6.4.1 EPBC Act No and/or Name of Proposal.

Goldwind has acquired projects for which Commonwealth approvals had already been obtained by other parties. They have been responsible for undertaking the following actions under the EPBC Act:

Yass Valley Wind Farm, Yass NSW EPBC 2013/7002

Cattle Hill Wind Farm, Tasmania EPBC 2009/4839

Stockyard Hill Wind Farm, Beaufort-Skipton EPBC 2016/7746

Moorabool Wind Farm, Ballan Victoria EPBC 2009/4907

Additionally, Goldwind has sought a decision from the Department of Environment and Energy on:

White Rock Solar Farm, Glen Innes NSW EPBC 2017/7898 – not a controlled action.

Section 7 – Information sources

You are required to provide the references used in preparing the referral including the reliability of the source.

7.1 List references used in preparing the referral (please provide the reference source reliability and any uncertainties of source).

Reference Source	Reliability	Uncertainties
The following documents are attached to this referral, listed by file name, scope and citation.	-.	-
1 Aboriginal heritage assessment 2017. This is the assessment that accompanied the NSW Modification Application. Dibden, J (2017a) Revised Yass Valley Wind Farm – The Coppabella Hills Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report, Draft 3.	High.	Survey and consultation guidelines followed. Remaining uncertainty is acceptable.
2 Commonwealth approval This is the approval for the Yass Valley Wind farm: EPBC 2013/7002.	High	NA
3 NSW approval This is the approval for the Yass Valley Wind farm: NSW Development Consent SSD 6698	High	NA
4 GIS zip folder MNES This is the zip file of all shp files relevant to this referral	Moderate - High	Based on extensive field work and civil design layouts. Uncertainty will always be present in defining vegetation boundaries and preliminary earthworks design.
5 EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm (here after referred to as EPBC TR) Report prepared to support this EPBC referral. It summarises and appends all relevant assessments. See Appendices A to F designated by EPBC TR	High – based on 10 years worth of survey data for the site.	Precautionary assumptions made regarding potential habitat and analysis of collision risk, based on literature and other wind farms

Reference Source	Reliability	Uncertainties
'A-F' below . NGH Environmental 2017c. EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. Report prepared for Goldwind, December 2017.		
6 EPBC TR A1 Appendix A1 of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. Modified construction footprint versus approved infrastructure, NGH Environmental (2017b).	Moderate - High	Based on civil design layouts. Uncertainty will always be present in preliminary earthworks design.
7 EPBC TR A2 Appendix A2 of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. Modified construction footprint versus approved infrastructure showing detailed vegetation mapping, NGH Environmental (2017b).	Moderate - High	Based on extensive field work. Uncertainty will always be present in defining vegetation boundaries. Precautionary assumptions have been applied.
8 EPBC TR A3 Appendix A3 of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. Involved landowner map (host property boundaries), NGH Environmental (2017b).	High	None
9 EPBC TR A4 Appendix A4 of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. CEEC at Coppabella Wind Farm, created for this assessment.	Moderate - High	Based on extensive field work. Uncertainty will always be present in defining vegetation boundaries. Precautionary assumptions have been applied.
10 EPBC TR A5 Appendix A5 of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. Superb Parrot habitat, created for this assessment.	Moderate - High	Based on extensive field work. Uncertainty will always be present in defining ecological boundaries. Precautionary assumptions have been applied.
11 EPBC TR A6 Appendix A6 of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater habitat, created for this assessment.	Moderate - High	Based on extensive field work. Uncertainty will always be present in defining ecological boundaries. Precautionary assumptions have been applied.
12 EPBC TR A7 Appendix A7 of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. Koala	Moderate - High	Based on extensive field work. Uncertainty will always be present in defining ecological

Reference Source	Reliability	Uncertainties
habitat, created for this assessment		boundaries. Precautionary assumptions have been applied.
13 EPBC TR A8 Appendix A8 of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. Areas being investigated for offsets, NGH Environmental (2017b).	Moderate - High	Based on extensive field work. Uncertainty will always be present in defining ecological boundaries. Precautionary assumptions have been applied.
14 EPBC TR B1 Appendix B1 of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. Biodiversity Assessment: Coppabella Hills Precinct, NGH Environmental (2009a), including species list from original survey work.	Moderate.	Now dated but has been updated in the above assessments with targeted surveys and new data base searches to address this.
15 EPBC TR B2 Appendix B2 of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. NSW Modification Application Ecology chapters 8-10, NGH Environmental (2017b; project description coincides with this referral).	High.	Precautionary assumptions made regarding potential habitat and analysis of collision risk, based on literature and other wind farms
16 EPBC TR B3 Appendix B3 of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. Yass Valley Wind Farm – Golden Sun Moth and Striped Legless Lizard 2014/2015 Summer Survey Results. NGH Environmental (2015b).	High.	The species is easily observed during the correct survey window. A reference population was available.
17 EPBC TR B4 Appendix B4 of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. Golden Sun Moth survey effort and results 2015. Extracted from NGH Environmental (2015c).	High.	The species is easily observed during the correct survey window. A reference population was available.
18 EPBC TR B5 Appendix B5 of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. 2014 Superb Parrot Flight Path Mapping surveys, NGH Environmental (2015a).	High.	The species is easily observed during the correct survey window. A reference population was available.
19 EPBC TR B6 Appendix B6	High.	The species is easily observed

Reference Source	Reliability	Uncertainties
of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. 2016 Superb Parrot Flight Path Mapping surveys, NGH Environmental (2017a).		during the correct survey window. A reference population was available.
20 EPBC TR B7 Appendix B7 of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. Wind Farm Risks to Birds and Microbats (Appendix G of the Environmental Assessment. Proposed Yass Valley Wind Farm: Coppabella Hills and Marilba Hills Precincts. Report prepared by NGH Environmental for Epuron. NGH Environmental (2009b)	Moderate.	Now dated but has been updated in the assessment below, to consider new data from other wind farms.
21 EPBC TR B8 Appendix B8 of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. Coppabella Wind Farm – proposed turbine modification impacts on birds and bats, BL&A (2017).	High – based on 10 years worth of survey data for the site.	Precautionary assumptions made regarding collision risk, based on literature and other wind farms
22 EPBC TR B9 Appendix B9 of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. Coppabella Wind Farm – Targeted flora surveys 2017. NGH Environmental (2017c)	High	Target species easily observed during the correct survey window.
23 EPBC TR C Appendix C of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. Protected matters data base search 2017	NA	NA
24 EPBC TR D Appendix D of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. Flora list for Box Gum Woodland Critically Endangered Community Survey Sites	Moderate to High	Experienced botanists employed to collate species lists.
25 EPBC TR E Appendix E of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. Minimisation measures undertaken during design,	NA	NA

Reference Source	Reliability	Uncertainties
informed by ecological advice.		
26 EPBC TR F Appendix F of the EPBC Technical Report Coppabella Wind Farm. All mitigation measures relevant to the project.	NA	NA

Section 8 – Proposed alternatives

You are required to complete this section if you have any feasible alternatives to taking the proposed action (including not taking the action) that were considered but not proposed.

8.0 Provide a description of the feasible alternative?

No alternatives are proposed.

8.1 Select the relevant alternatives related to your proposed action.

8.27 Do you have another alternative?

No

Section 9 – Contacts, signatures and declarations

Where applicable, you must provide the contact details of each of the following entities: Person Proposing the Action; Proposed Designated Proponent and; Person Preparing the Referral. You will also be required to provide signed declarations from each of the identified entities.

9.0 Is the person proposing to take the action an Organisation or an Individual?

Organisation

9.2 Organisation

9.2.1 Job Title

Development Compliance Manager

9.2.2 First Name

Jeff

9.2.3 Last Name

Bembrick

9.2.4 E-mail

jeffbembrick@goldwindaustralia.com

9.2.5 Postal Address

Suite 2, Level 23

201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

9.2.6 ABN/ACN

ACN

141003161 - COPPABELLA WIND FARM PTY LTD

9.2.7 Organisation Telephone

Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy

(02) 9008 1715

9.2.8 Organisation E-mail

info@goldwindaustralia.com

9.2.9 I qualify for exemption from fees under section 520(4C)(e)(v) of the EPBC Act because I am:

Not applicable

Small Business Declaration

I have read the Department of the Environment and Energy's guidance in the online form concerning the definition of a small a business entity and confirm that I qualify for a small business exemption.

Signature:..... Date: .....

9.2.9.2 I would like to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under Schedule 1, 5.21A of the EPBC Regulations

No

9.2.9.3 Under sub regulation 5.21A(5), you must include information about the applicant (if not you) the grounds on which the waiver is sought and the reasons why it should be made

Person proposing the action - Declaration

I, JEFF BEMBRICK, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf of or for the benefit of any other person or entity.

Signature:..... Date: 21/12/17

I, _____, the person proposing the action, consent to the designation of _____ as the proponent of the purposes of the action describe in this EPBC Act Referral.

Signature:..... Date: .....

Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy

9.3 Is the Proposed Designated Proponent an Organisation or Individual?

Organisation

9.5 Organisation

9.5.1 Job Title

Development Compliance Manager

9.5.2 First Name

Jeff

9.5.3 Last Name

Bembrick

9.5.4 E-mail

jeffbembrick@goldwindaustralia.com

9.5.5 Postal Address

Suite 2, Level 23

201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

9.5.6 ABN/ACN

ACN

141003161 - COPPABELLA WIND FARM PTY LTD

9.5.7 Organisation Telephone

(02) 9008 1715

9.5.8 Organisation E-mail

info@goldwindaustralia.com

Proposed designated proponent - Declaration

Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy

I, JEFF BEMBRICK, the proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral.

Signature:..... Date: 21/12/17

9.6 Is the Referring Party an Organisation or Individual?

Organisation

9.8 Organisation

9.8.1 Job Title

Project Manager

9.8.2 First Name

Brooke

9.8.3 Last Name

Marshall

9.8.4 E-mail

brooke.m@nghenvironmental.com.au

9.8.5 Postal Address

Suite 1

216 Carp Street
Bega NSW 2550
Australia

9.8.6 ABN/ACN

ABN

38711349561 - The Trustee For THE NICHOLAS GRAHAM-HIGGS DISCRETIONERY TRUST

9.8.7 Organisation Telephone

02 64928333

Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy

9.8.8 Organisation E-mail

brooke.m@nghenvironmental.com.au

Referring Party - Declaration

I, BROOKE MARSHALL, I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

Signature: Marshall Date: 21/12/2017

Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy

Appendix A - Attachments

The following attachments have been supplied with this EPBC Act Referral:

1. 1_aboriginal_heritage_assessment_2017.pdf
2. 2_commonwealth_approval.pdf
3. 3_nsw_approval.pdf
4. 4_gis_zip_folder_mnes.zip
5. 5_epbc_tr.pdf
6. 6_epbc_tr_a1.pdf
7. 7_epbc_tr_a2.pdf
8. 8_epbc_tr_a3.pdf
9. 9_epbc_tr_a4.pdf
10. 10_epbc_tr_a5.pdf
11. 11_epbc_tr_a6.pdf
12. 12_epbc_tr_a7.pdf
13. 13_epbc_tr_a8.pdf
14. 14_epbc_tr_b1.pdf
15. 15_epbc_tr_b2.pdf
16. 16_epbc_tr_b3.pdf
17. 17_epbc_tr_b4.pdf
18. 18_epbc_tr_b5.pdf
19. 19_epbc_tr_b6.pdf
20. 20_epbc_tr_b7.pdf
21. 21_epbc_tr_b8.pdf
22. 22_epbc_tr_b9.pdf
23. 23_epbc_tr_c.pdf
24. 24_epbc_tr_d.pdf
25. 25_epbc_tr_e.pdf
26. 26_epbc_tr_f.pdf

Appendix G Vegetation Protocol - Construction contractor procedures

G.1 Pre-clearing checklist

Inspection Date:		**Time:**	
Project Ecologist:		**Location:**	
#	**Control Measure**	**Status (Yes/ No/ NA)**	**Comments/ Corrective Action**
1	Boundary of clearing zone fenced?		
2	Has the Project Ecologist completed Pre-clearing surveys for Threatened Species?		
3	Has the pre-clearance survey been completed within 7 days of clearing?		
4	Has all fauna been relocated outside the proposed impact footprint?		
5	Have all workers been shown the limit of clearing, advised of fauna handling procedures and any other controls?		
6	Has the Project Ecologist marked habitats to be disturbed using the recognised colour coding protocol?		
7	Has protective fencing and appropriate signage installed around threatened ecological communities, vegetation to be retained and exclusion zones?		
8	Have hollow bearing trees been checked for inhabiting species?		
9	Has vegetation to be salvaged for re-use been identified?		
10	Has areas of habitat enhancement placement been identified?		
11	Has all equipment been inspected and cleaned to remove materials and debris prior to entering site?		
12	Are environmental control measures including erosion and sediment controls in place to prevent down-stream biodiversity impacts?		
13	Is a suitably qualified person present when necessary to supervise clearing works and relocate or rescue fauna as required.		
14	Hollows are to be felled 24 hours after the non-habitat vegetation has been cleared, then felled		

#	Control Measure	Status (Yes/ No/ NA)	Comments/ Corrective Action
	in a controlled manner and inspected by a qualified ecologist or fauna spotter catcher for presence of fauna that needs to be relocated and potential injuries. All hollows have the potential to support fauna and should be placed in adjacent habitat until the following day for further inspection by an ecologist or fauna spotter catcher to verify no fauna is present. If possible, the hollows could be permanently relocated in adjacent areas. Has this been done?		
15	Retained logs outside of construction area to be checked for native fauna; any animals impacted by clearing works are to be relocated in accordance with the Project Fauna Rescue and Release Procedure.		
16	Any other comments or issues?		

G.2 Fauna rescue and release procedure

Purpose

This procedure explains the actions to be taken in the event fauna (included injured, shocked, juvenile or other animal) are discovered on the project site that require handling or rescue during vegetation and soil clearance and ongoing construction activities.

Scope

This procedure is applicable to all native and introduced fauna species that are found on the project site. If there is an unexpected threatened species finding, the unexpected threatened species finds procedure will be followed.

Induction and training

All site personnel and subcontractors will be made aware of the actions to be taken in the event that fauna is discovered on the project. This training will occur on site during the Project induction and as required in toolbox talks.

Procedure

If wildlife is discovered on the project site during site construction activities that may harm the animal or pose risk to site personnel, the following steps will be taken.

1. Stop all work in the vicinity of the fauna and immediately notify the Superintendent who is then to notify the SEO. The SEO is then to engage an ecologist or wildlife handler.
2. Preferably allow fauna to leave the area without intervention if it is not injured or in shock and if safe to do so (i.e. no machinery in the immediate vicinity)
3. Call the appropriate rescue agency immediately and follow any advice provided by the agency. Once the rescue agency arrives at site they are responsible for the animal. Any decisions regarding the care of the animal will be made by the rescue agency. The licenced fauna ecologist, rescue services and local veterinary surgery's contact details are below:

Organisation	Contact
WIRES	1300 094 737

In the event the rescue service and/or local veterinary service cannot be contacted, the injured animal will be delivered to the relevant agency as soon as practically possible.

4. Where necessary, to minimise stress to native fauna and/or remove the risk of further injury before the appropriate rescue agency arrives onsite, the SEO shall:
    a. Cover the animal with a towel or blanket and place in a cardboard box and/or hessian bag. Appropriate temporary housing for fauna is species dependent. Gliders, possums, bats, snakes, lizards and frogs can be held individually in a calico bag until release in adjacent habitat. Nestling birds and eggs are best placed in a covered cardboard box equipped with soft cloth.

b. Place small animals in a cotton bag, tied at the top.

c. Rescued fauna must be protected from exposure to heat and removed from the areas undergoing clearing activities to minimise exposure to noise. Keep the animal in a quiet, warm, ventilated and dark place. A designated site will be decided upon in advance of any construction work.

d. Aquatic fauna to be placed in a plastic aquaria or plastic bag with sufficient amount of water. Frogs will be transported without water or debris in recognition of the risk of transporting disease and the minimal transport time. Any frog handling will be undertaken in accordance with the Hygiene Protocol for the Control of Disease in Frogs (DECC 2008).

e. Some animals require particular handling (e.g. venomous reptiles, raptors) and should only be handled by appropriately qualified personnel.

f. If handling bats, the handler must be vaccinated against the Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABL), which is a form of rabies.

g. Equipment for fauna rescue (hessian sack, calico bags, gloves and transport boxes) will be kept in designated locations for emergency use by site staff if required. The fauna specialist will carry a fauna rescue kit in a site vehicle, and an additional kit will be located in the site office.

5. If the animal cannot be handled, excluder personnel from the vicinity, record the exact location of the animal and contact the rescue agency.
6. If the fauna species is identified as a threatened species that is not a species identified in the BMP, the SEO must:
   a. Immediately cease all work likely to affect the threatened species
   b. If the fauna is injured, call the rescue agency
   c. Implement the Unexpected Threatened Species Find procedure.
7. If the fauna is to be released, the ecologist must identify suitable fauna release locations within or near the Project site.

All fauna handling and rescue events shall be recorded.

G.3 Unexpected threatened species finds procedure

Purpose

This procedure details the actions to be taken when a threatened flora and fauna species / EEC is expectantly encountered during construction activities.

Scope

This procedure is applicable to all activities conducted by personnel that have the potential to come into contact with threatened species.

Where threatened fauna is unexpectedly encountered that requires handling or rescue, the Project Ecologist and/or local wildlife rescue groups will be consulted.

Induction/Training

Where required, personnel will be inducted on the identification of potential threatened species / EEC occurring on site and the relevant actions for them with regards to this procedure during Project Induction, Site Inductions and regular Toolbox Talks.

Procedure

The SEO is responsible for implementing this procedure.

Threatened species / EEC is unexpectedly encountered during clearing/construction activities

• **STOP ALL WORK** in the vicinity of the find.
• Immediately notify the SEO who will notify the Project Ecologist. The SEO will coordinate contact to the relevant agencies as required:
  ○ CPHR South East rog.southeast@environment.nsw.gov.au.
  ○ DCCEEW PostApproval@dcceew.gov.au

Assessment of impact
An assessment is to be undertaken by the SEO and the Project Ecologist or appropriate specialist to identify the plant or animal to species level and the likely impact to the threatened species/ EEC and appropriate management options, such as relocation measures
Approvals
Obtain any relevant license, permits or approvals required if the threatened species/ EEC is likely to be significantly impacted.

Recommencement of works
Construction works may recommence once the SEO has: • Obtained approvals as required, and • Confirmed that all corrective actions and additional mitigation measures have been implemented. • Ensured that the threatened species / EEC is included in subsequent Project mapping, Project Inductions and Toolbox Talks Provide information to SEO/ Project Ecologist to enable update of ecological monitoring requirements.

G.4 Hollow bearing tree procedure

1. Prior to works commencing, the tree spotter[1] is to undertake a brief site inspection to ensure that each HBT to be removed is (still) clearly marked so that machinery operators and site construction workers are well of their presence to avoid any indirect impacts occurring beyond, or in a manner not consistent with the methodology specified in this document. Marking of the HBTs to be removed and/or retained is to be clear and must differentiate between removed/retained trees such as through the use of different coloured flagging tape or spray paint.
2. Once the tree is identified, using an excavator (preferable) or dozer, gently shake/tap the HBT to encourage any resident fauna to vacate the tree. The tree is then to be left overnight (at a minimum) before being removed. Any HBT that has been left for longer than 48 hours since being shaken/tapped, is to be re-shaken/tapped at least the day prior to removal.
3. When removing hollow-bearing trees, a spotter should be present at each tree to be removed to look for signs of animal movement in the tree to be cleared. The spotter should be able to communicate directly with plant operators.
4. Prior to clearing hollow-bearing trees, use an excavator or loader to hit the trunk as high up the tree as possible several times. Wait at least 30 seconds. Repeat this process several times.
5. The tree would be felled, in a controlled manner with an excavator to minimise break up of tree, and impact/crushing risk to fauna.
6. Once the hollow-bearing limbs or hollow-bearing tree are on the ground, the spotter must check each hollow for signs of wildlife before the next limb/tree is removed.
7. If taking the tree down in stages, remove non-hollow-bearing limbs first. Then remove hollow-bearing limbs.
8. Records of any animals removed or injured must be retained.
9. Felled trees with hollows will be identified, marked as habitat (spray paint “H” or similar) and retained for later reuse as habitat enhancement throughout the disturbance corridor.
10. The remaining fallen trees would be utilised for habitat enhancement in revegetation/ rehabilitation areas.

[1] The ‘spotter’ needs to be experienced and qualified to handle fauna, have experience in undertaking fauna surveys, and recognise fauna attributes and habitats. EPBC ACT PMST

G.5 Post-clearing checklist

Inspection Date:		**Time:**	
Project Ecologist:		**Location:**	
#	**Control Measure**	**Status (Yes/ No/ NA)**	**Comments/ Corrective Action**
1	Was clearing of vegetation within the boundaries?		
2	Were any hollow-bearing trees and hollow logs impacted?		
3	Were any fauna, nests or other fauna features impacted?		
4	Were any animals shocked, injured or killed as a result of clearing works?		
5	Were the fauna recovery procedures followed? If yes, what actions were taken?		
6	Has woody debris been inspected for fauna immediately before chipping to avoid injury or death to fauna that may be present?		
7	Has non-hollow bearing felled timber and salvaged felled hollows resources, that were set aside during the clearing process, been respread throughout the identified Box Gum grassland/ woodlands for habitat enhancement?		
8	Has clearing areas per PCT been calculated and verified?		
9	Any other comments or issues?		

G.6 Seed collection form

Project:						
Collection ID	**Species**	**Collection location**	**Collected date**	**Collected by**	**Raw yield (g) (seed and reproductive structure, ie capsules)**	**Total seed extracted from raw yield**

Appendix H Weeds and Pests Monitoring templates

H.1 Weeds

Weed presence / absence monitoring				
Aim:	To determine weed presence/absence within proximity to Project roads and key Project infrastructure		**Timing (circle one):**	Pre-clearance Bi-annually
Date:		**Location:**	**Collectors:**	

Weed Species	**Coordinates**		**Time**	**Project Phase***	**Size (m^2)**	**% Cover**	**Notable Features* / comments**
	East	**North**					

*Project Phase = Pre-construction, construction, post-construction, Notable features = observed new occurrence, weather, dieback, etc.

H.2 Pests

Method:	Remote camera monitoring	**Timing (circle one):**	Pre-clearance / Bi-annually
Date:		**Location:**	**Collectors:**

# Camera	Coordinates		Time	Project Phase*	Species recorded	Presence/absence	Notable Features*
	East	North					

*Project Phase = Pre-construction, construction, post-construction, Notable features = significant increase in occurrence of feral herbivores observed, etc.

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