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To Whom It May Concern

RE: Application for a Native Vegetation Clearing Permit for Paradigm Haul Road

Evolution Mining (Evolution) is proposing a new haul road to transport ore from Paradigm Gold Mine to the Mungari Processing Plant.

This letter supports an application for a Native Vegetation Clearing Permit (NVCP) pursuant to Section 51E of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

The total disturbance envelope comprises land within miscellaneous tenement L 16/123. This application proposes a total allowable clearing area of **36.19 ha**.

Yours sincerely,

Kara Postle
Environment Superintendent
Evolution Mining (Mungari)

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Appendix A: Proof of Ownership

Appendix B: Biodiversity Studies

1. Flora and Vegetation Survey (NVS, 2023)

2. Fauna Survey (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023)

Appendix C: Surface Water Assessment (AQ2, 2023)

Appendix D: CONFIDENTIAL Aboriginal Heritage

1. Aboriginal Heritage – Marlinyu Ghoorlie (Terra Rosa, 2023)

2. Aboriginal Heritage – Maduwongga (R & E O’Connor, 2022)

1. Proposed Works

Evolution Mining (Evolution) are proposing to construct the Paradigm Haul Road (the Project), to allow transport of mined ore from Paradigm Gold Mine (Paradigm) to Mungari Processing Plant. Paradigm Haul Road will be 7.5 km long and link to an existing haul road. This route has been chosen to minimise clearing by utilising existing roads and may be used to haul ore from other nearby projects in future. Evolution is requesting a total allowable clearing area of **36.19 ha** to allow construction of Paradigm Haul Road.

A Mining Proposal for Paradigm Haul Road will be submitted to Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) in conjunction with this application.

1.1 Location

Paradigm Haul Road is located 50 km north-west of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and 50 km north of Coolgardie in the Eastern Goldfields region of Western Australia. Clearing will occur on miscellaneous tenement L 16/123, details provided in **Table 1** below. The tenement is held by Kundana Gold Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Evolution Mining Limited, see **Appendix A** for proof of tenement holding. A map of the Project location is provided in **Figure 1**.

Table 1: Tenement Details

Tenement ID	Holder	Area (ha)	Purpose
L 16/123	Kundana Gold Pty Ltd	36.19	Pipeline, powerline, road

1.2 Disturbance Envelope

The disturbance envelope is **36.19 ha** and encompasses tenement L 16/123 in its entirety as shown in **Figure 2**. Clearing will facilitate construction of activities including:

- Transport and service infrastructure corridors;
- Topsoil stockpiles; and
- Surface water diversion channels or drains.

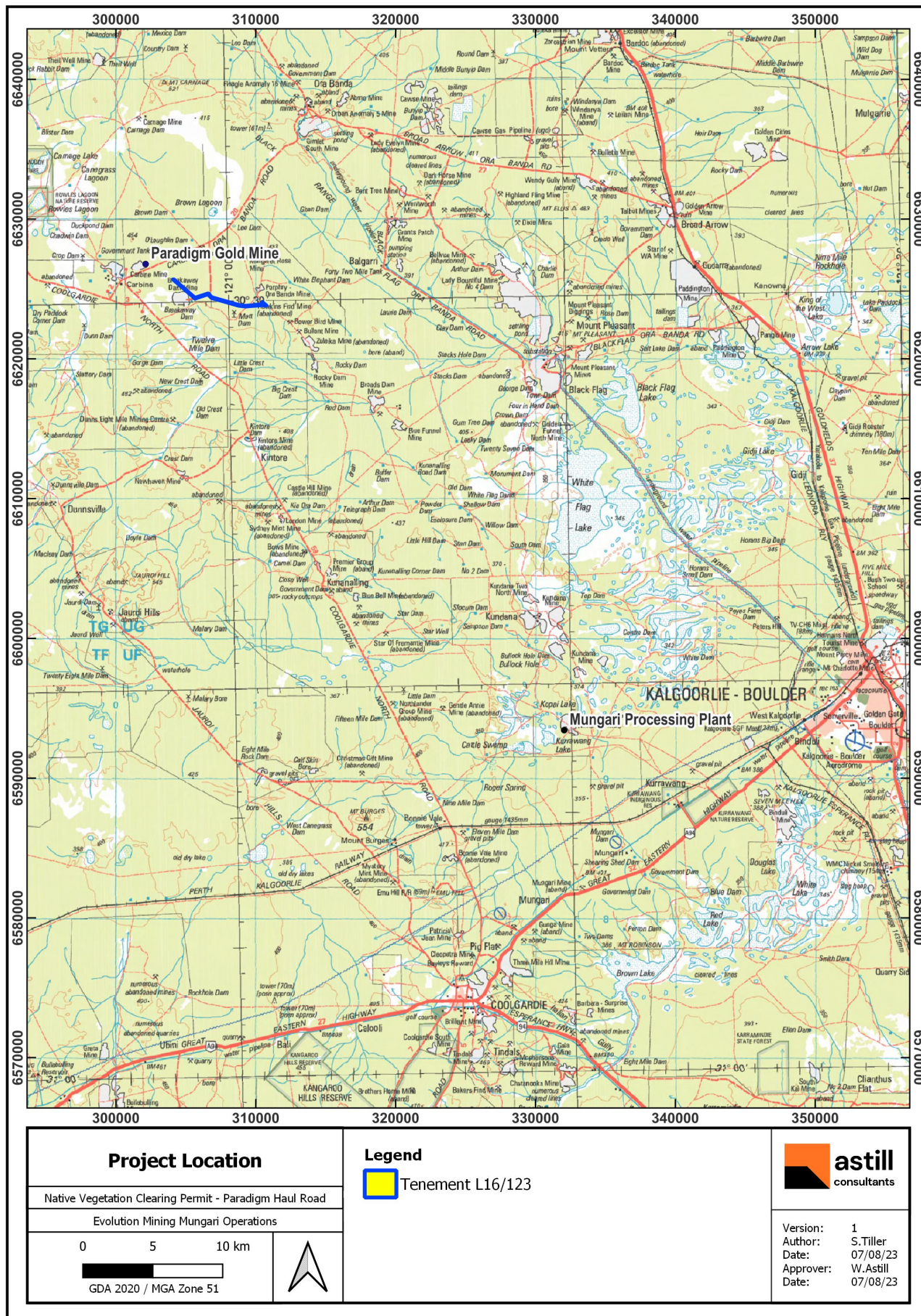


Figure 1: Project Location

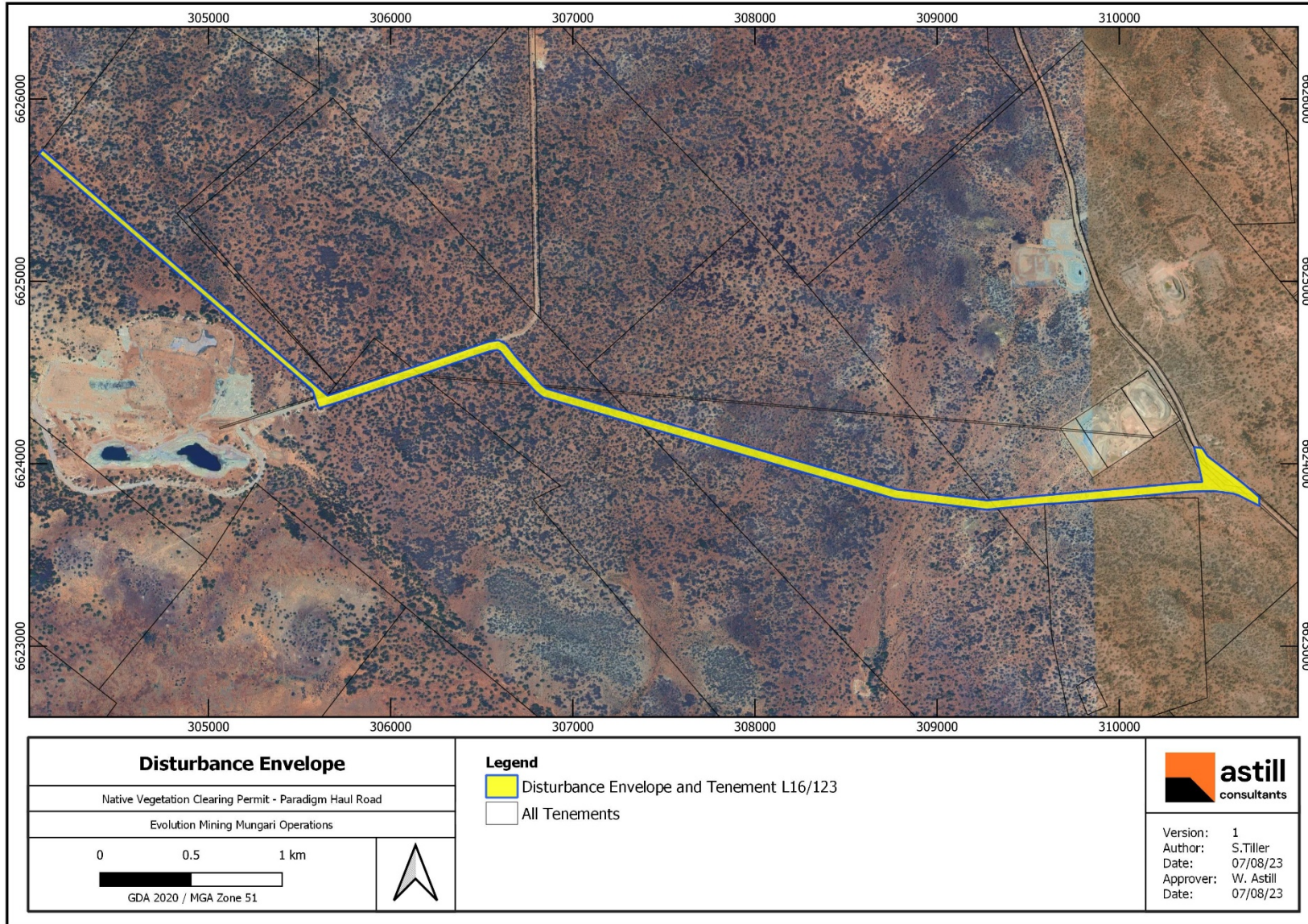


Figure 2: Disturbance Envelope

2. Existing Environment

2.1 Landscape

2.1.1 Bioregion

The Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) classification system categorises the Australian landscape into separate 'Bioregions', which are each classified by broad, landscape-scale natural features and environmental processes that influence the functions of entire ecosystems (DCCEEW, 2023). The Project area is classified as the Coolgardie Botanical District within the Southwest Interzone (Beard, 1990) and the Eastern Goldfields subregion (COO03) of the Eremaean Province of Western Australia, as defined by IBRA (2010). The region is primarily comprised of gently undulating plains that are occasionally interrupted with low hills and Archaean greenstones ridges in the west and by Proterozoic basic granulite in the east (CALM, 2001).

The underlying geologic layer is comprised of gneisses and granites eroded into a flat plane covered with tertiary soils and scattered exposures of bedrock. The dominant soil group is calcareous earths that cover much of the plains and greenstone areas. Sandplains and a series of large playa lakes also characterize the western half of the region (Beard, 1990).

Eucalyptus woodland is the predominant vegetation in the area, with exception of sandplains which are dominated by mallees, acacia thickets and shrub heaths, and salt lakes which support dwarf shrublands of samphire (Cowan, 2001).

2.1.2 Land Use

Paradigm Haul Road is located on Mt Burges pastoral lease that supports grazing of cattle and other pastoral activities. Evolution maintains good relationships with the station owner to ensure information and intentions are shared with transparent communications.

The nearest reserve is a Crown Reserve for the purpose of Water (R 4249), located 5 km north of the Project. The nearest nature reserve is Clear and Muddy Lakes Nature Reserve (R 7634) and Rowles Lagoon Conservation Park (R 4274), located approximately 10 km north-west of the Project. Other nature reserves within 60 km of the Project include Kurrawang Nature Reserve (R 35453), Wallaroo Rock Conservation Park (R35453) and Goongarrie National Park (R 35637).

A map of regional land use of the Project showing pastoral leases and reserves is provided in **Figure 3**.

2.1.3 Soils

Soil-landscape mapping is a publicly available dataset compilation of various surveys held by Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD, 2023a). The disturbance envelope is situated in Mx40 Atlas soil-landscape system (265k6) described as flat to undulating valley plains and pediments with some rock outcrop, as shown in **Figure 4**.

During construction, topsoil will be stripped to a minimum depth of approximately 150 mm and stockpiled for rehabilitation purposes.

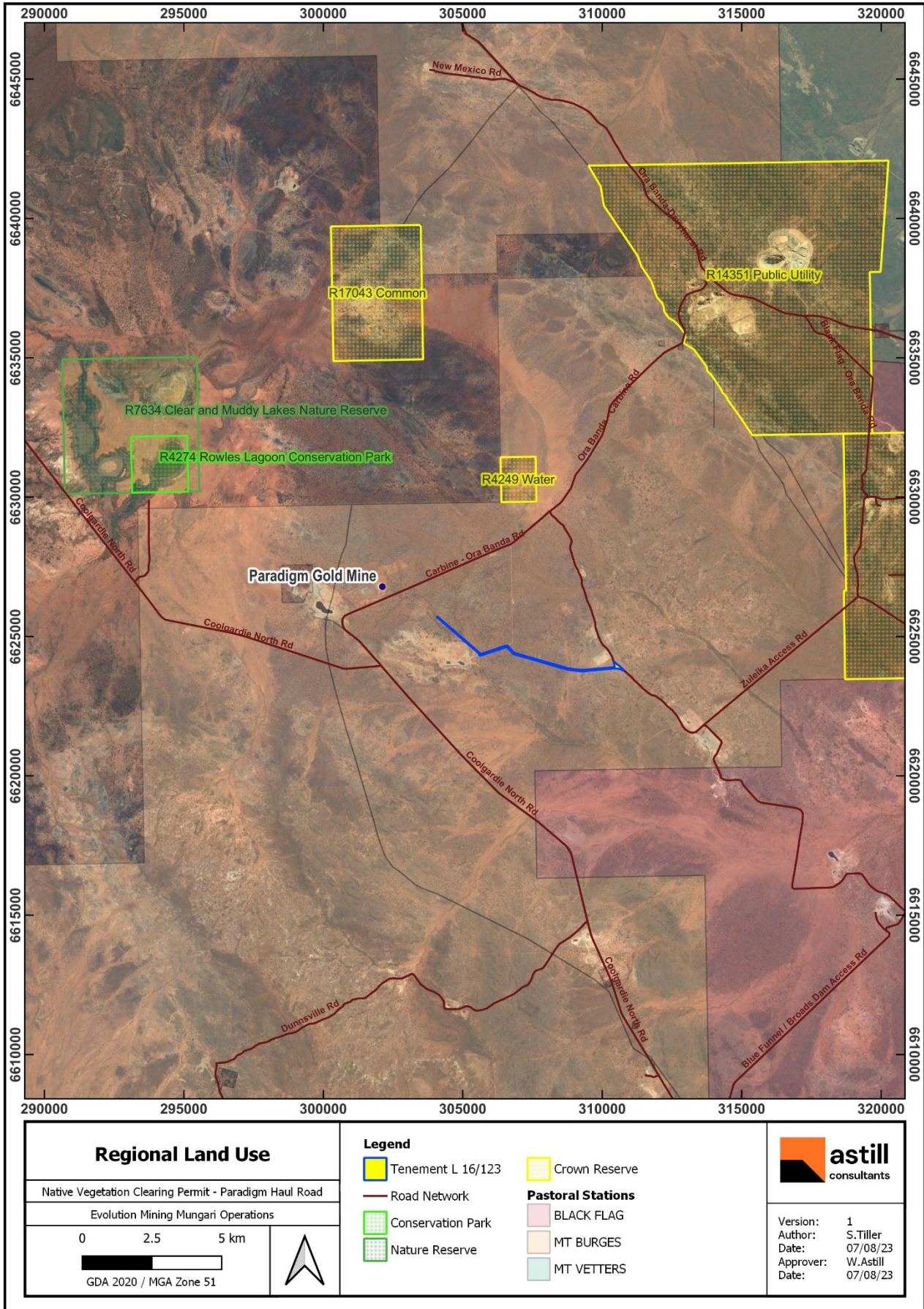


Figure 3: Regional Land Use

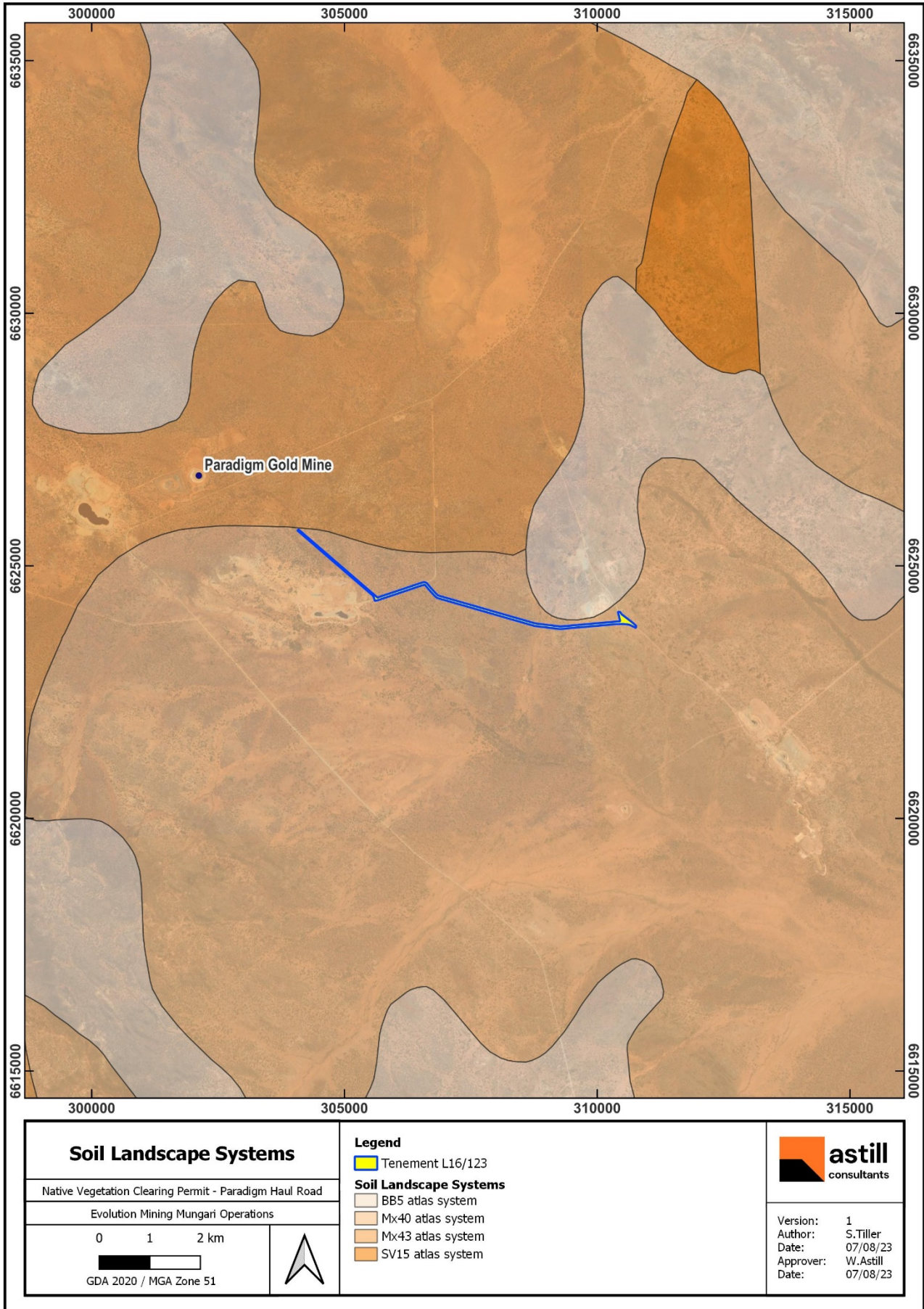


Figure 4: Soil Landscape Systems

2.2 Biodiversity

A detailed flora and vegetation survey was carried out over the disturbance envelope by Native Vegetation Solutions in May 2023, and a basic and targeted fauna survey by Terrestrial Ecosystems in March 2023. Survey results are discussed in the following sections and reports are attached as **Appendix B**. Both studies involved a preliminary desktop survey and field site investigation (NVS, 2023; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023).

During the flora and vegetation survey, NVS examined aerial photography and determined representative sample sites for quadrat locations to provide coverage over all vegetation types. Seven 20x20 m quadrats were established within the disturbance envelope. Data collected at each quadrat included:

- Location
- Photographs
- Landform and soil description
- Comprehensive species list
- Description of disturbances
- Vegetation conditions

During the fauna survey, Terrestrial Ecosystems undertook a site visit, stopping at 34 locations to assess fauna habitat types and condition. Data collected at each site included:

- Location
- Landform
- Habitat quality
- Habitat structure
- Fire history

A targeted search was also carried out for Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), a 'Vulnerable' classed species known to occur in the region. Any Malleefowl mounds observed were classified in accordance with Malleefowl mound profiles used by the National Malleefowl monitoring program (National Malleefowl Recovery Team, 2016).

2.2.1 Vegetation

Pre-European vegetation association dataset (DPIRD, 2019) indicates that the disturbance envelope is located within two vegetation associations. The association descriptions and remaining extent, as specified in 2018 'Statewide Vegetation Statistics' (DBCA, 2018) is provided in **Table 2**.

Areas retaining less than 30% of their pre-European vegetation extent generally experience exponentially accelerated species loss, while areas with less than 10% are considered "endangered" (EPA, 2000). All vegetation associations within the disturbance envelope retain >95% of their pre-European extent. Development within the disturbance envelope will not significantly reduce the extent of pre-European vegetation associations.





Table 2: Pre-European Vegetation

Vegetation Association	Floristic Description	Extent Remaining (%)
468	Wheatbelt; York gum, salmon gum etc. <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> , <i>E. salmonophloia</i> . Goldfields; gimlet, redwood etc. <i>E. salubris</i> , <i>E. oleosa</i> . Riverine; rivergum <i>E. camaldulensis</i> . Tropical; messmate, woolyb	98.63
555	Hummock grassland with scattered shrubs or mallee <i>Triodia</i> spp. <i>Acacia</i> spp., <i>Grevillea</i> spp. <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp	99.71

The detailed flora and vegetation survey (NVS, 2023) identified four vegetation types within the disturbance envelope, shown in Table 3 and Figure 5 below. Existing disturbed areas made up 2.75 ha (7.6%) of the disturbance envelope.

A search of DBCAs database returned no known Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities in or around the disturbance envelope (DBCA, 2023).

Table 3: Vegetation Types

	
<p>Transitional <i>Eucalyptus</i> woodland over sclerophyll shrubland 29.97 ha (82.8%)</p>	<p><i>Eucalyptus griffithsii</i> and <i>Casuarina pauper</i> over sclerophyll shrubland 2.27 ha (6.3%)</p>
	
<p><i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> woodland 1.02 ha (2.8%)</p>	<p>Open chenopod shrubland 0.18 ha (0.5%)</p>

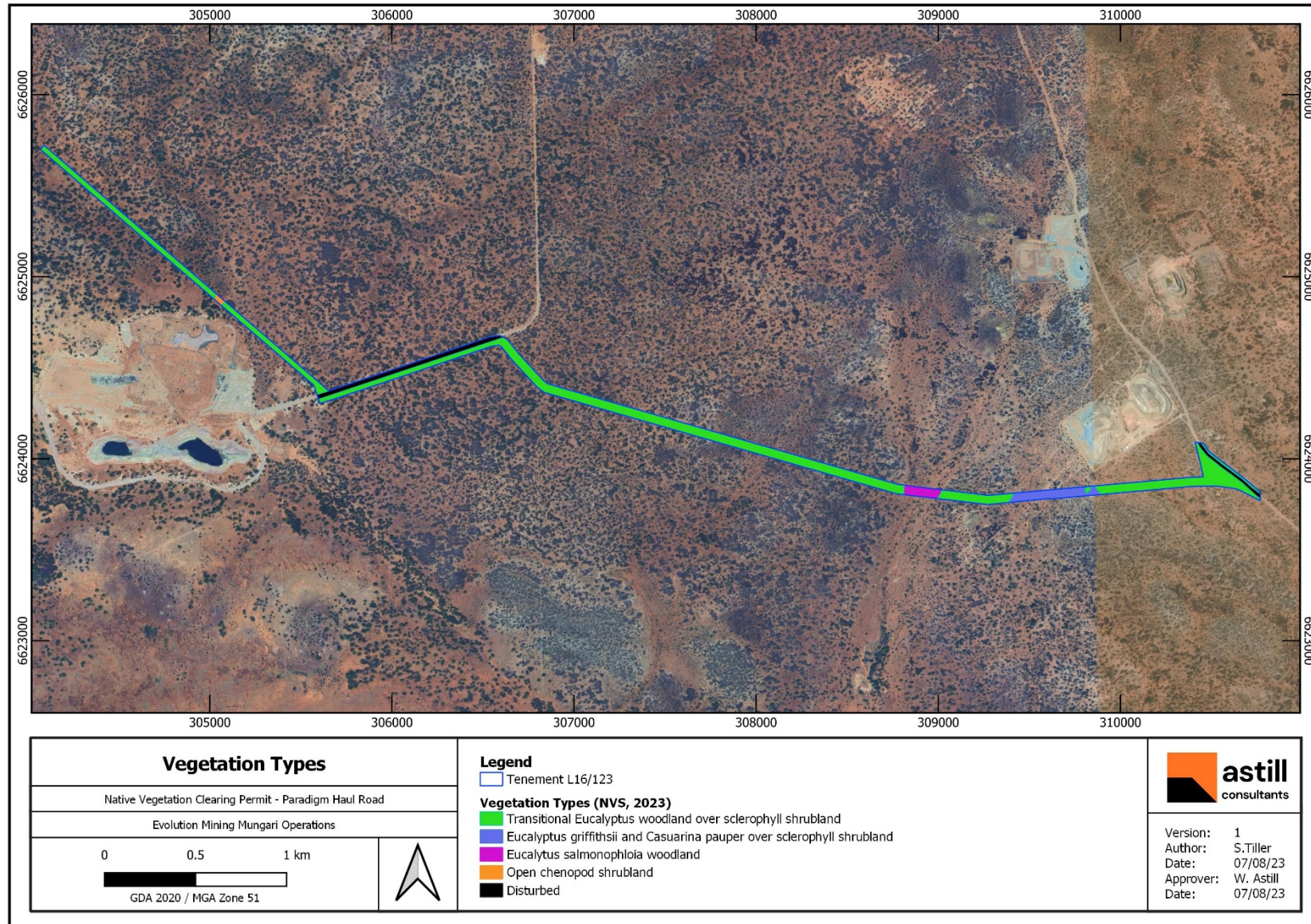


Figure 5: Vegetation Types

2.2.2 Flora

No Threatened or priority flora were identified within disturbance envelope. No introduced weed species were recorded within the disturbance envelope.

2.2.3 Fauna

The basic and targeted vertebrate fauna survey (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023) identified two broad habitat types within the disturbance envelope:

- Mixed Eucalypt woodland over mixed shrubs and chenopods (33.25 ha, 91.9%)
- Chenopod shrubland (0.18 ha, 0.5%)

These are consistent with the vegetation types identified during the NVS flora and vegetation survey. The remaining 7.6% (2.75 ha) was classified as previously disturbed.

No evidence of Threatened or Priority fauna was observed within the disturbance envelope during the fauna survey. The targeted fauna survey identified no Malleefowl or Malleefowl mounds within the disturbance envelope. An additional assessment was carried out to determine potential presence of significant fauna in the disturbance envelope, as shown in **Table 4** (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023).

Table 4: Potential Presence of Conservation Significant Fauna

Species	Status under Commonwealth EPBC Act	BC Act / DBCA Schedule / Priority	Comment on potential presence
Night Parrot <i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>	Endangered	Critically endangered	Not present due to lack of suitable habitat.
Grey Falcon <i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Unlikely to be present.
Malleefowl <i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	No mounds recorded within the disturbance envelope indicating a low density of Malleefowl in the area and considered unlikely to be present
Chuditch <i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Unlikely to be present.
Fork-tailed Swift <i>Apus pacifus</i>	Migratory	Migratory	May infrequently be seen flying in the region.
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Migratory	Migratory	Highly likely the be seen in the project area.
Peregrin Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	–	OS	May very infrequently be seen in the project area
Central Long-eared Bat <i>Nyctophilus major tor</i>	–	Priority 3	Potentially in the project area but will move when disturbed and any impacts are likely to be non-significant.
Western Rosella <i>Platyercus icterotis xanthogenys</i>	–	Priority 4	Potentially in the project area but will move when disturbed and any impacts are likely to be non-significant.
Southern Death Adder <i>Acanthopis antarcticus</i>	–	Priority 3	Very low possibility to be present.
Woma <i>Aspidites ramsayi</i>	–	Priority 4	Very low possibility to be present.

2.3 Hydrology

2.3.1 Surface Water

A Surface Water Assessment for Paradigm Haul Road was carried out by AQ2 in May 2023 (**Appendix C**). Surface water catchments and flow direction is shown in **Figure 6**. Most catchments follow a visible drainage channel, however runoff from some smaller catchments (i.e. 5 and 8) are likely to be mainly sheet flow (AQ2, 2023).

A Crown Reserve (R 4249) for the purpose of 'Water' is located 5 km north of the disturbance envelope. The crown reserve catchment and catchment areas for Paradigm Haul Road do not intersect, and hence it will not be impacted by proposed works.

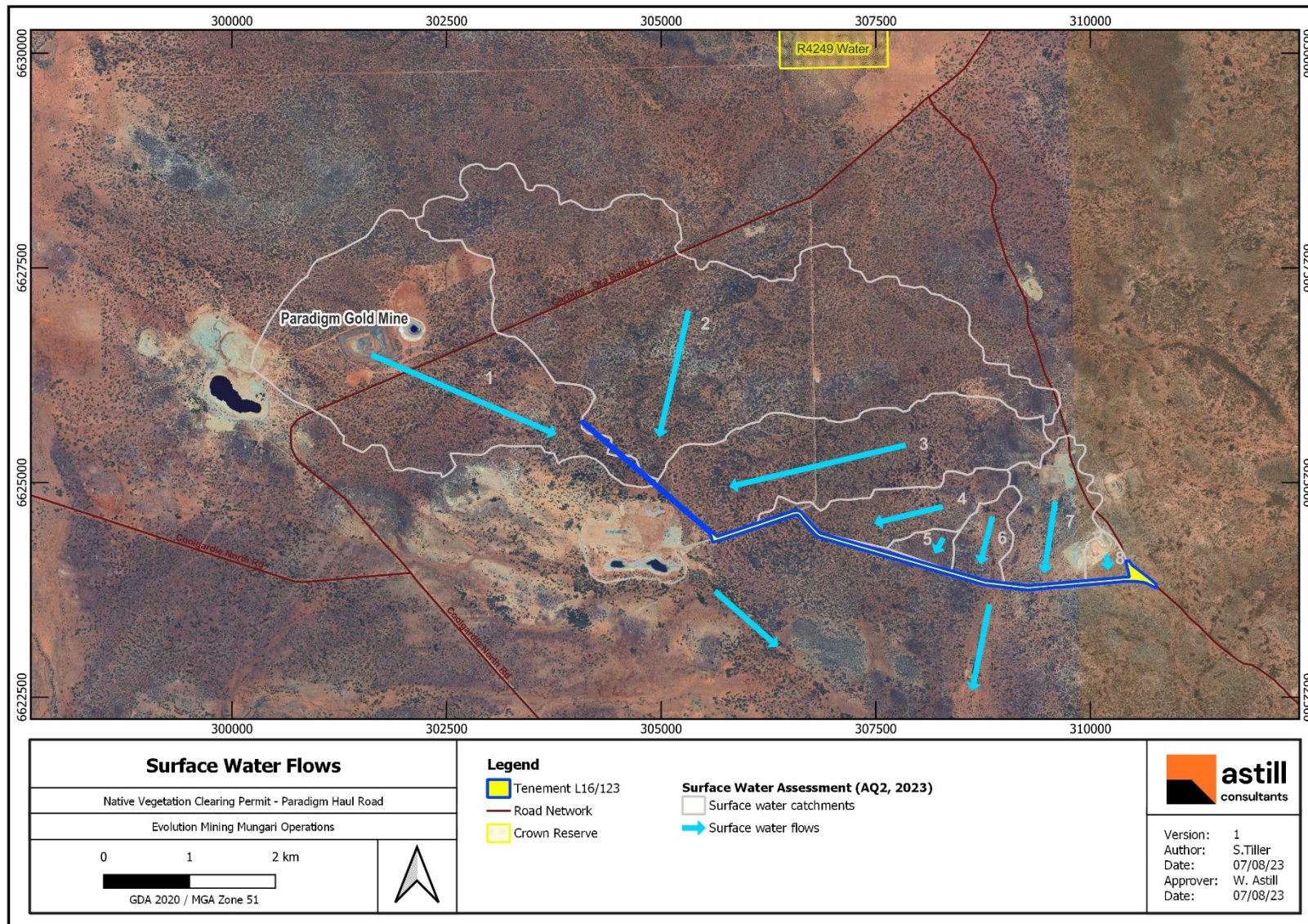


Figure 6: Surface Water Flows

2.4 Heritage

2.4.1 Aboriginal Heritage

There is one registered Native Title claimant group over the Project area; *Marlinyu Ghoorlie* Claim (WC2017/007). Evolution has an agreement in place with the *Marlinyu Ghoorlie* people. The Maduwongga People who also had a registered Native Title claim, now deregistered, are also considered knowledge holders and Evolution will continue to engage with them on matters of heritage.

Evolution is aware of its obligation under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, understanding that at the time submission of this Mining Proposal, the Act is proposed for significant revision. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) maintains an online database known as the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System (ACHIS) which provides spatial information on Aboriginal cultural heritage in WA. A search in August 2023 of DPLH ACHIS identified no Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites within the disturbance envelope (DPLH, 2023). The closest DPLH listed heritage site, a registered site named 'Brown Lagoon' (18697), is located 4 km from the Project (**Figure 7**).

An Aboriginal archaeological and ethnographic survey was carried out over the disturbance envelope by *Marlinyu Ghoorlie* and Terra Rosa Consulting in February 2023. No heritage places or isolated artefacts were identified within the disturbance envelope during the survey (Terra Rosa, 2023).

An Aboriginal archaeological and ethnographic survey was carried out over the disturbance envelope by *Maduwongga* and R & E O'Connor in December 2022. No sacred, ritual or ceremonial Aboriginal sites were identified within the disturbance envelope during the survey (R & E O'Connor, 2022).

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Surveys are provided in **Confidential Appendix D**. No Aboriginal heritage sites will be impacted from implementation of the Project.

2.4.2 European Heritage

A April 2023 search of State Heritage Office inHerit database showed no National or State listed sites in vicinity of the Project.

No European heritage sites will be impacted from implementation of the Project.

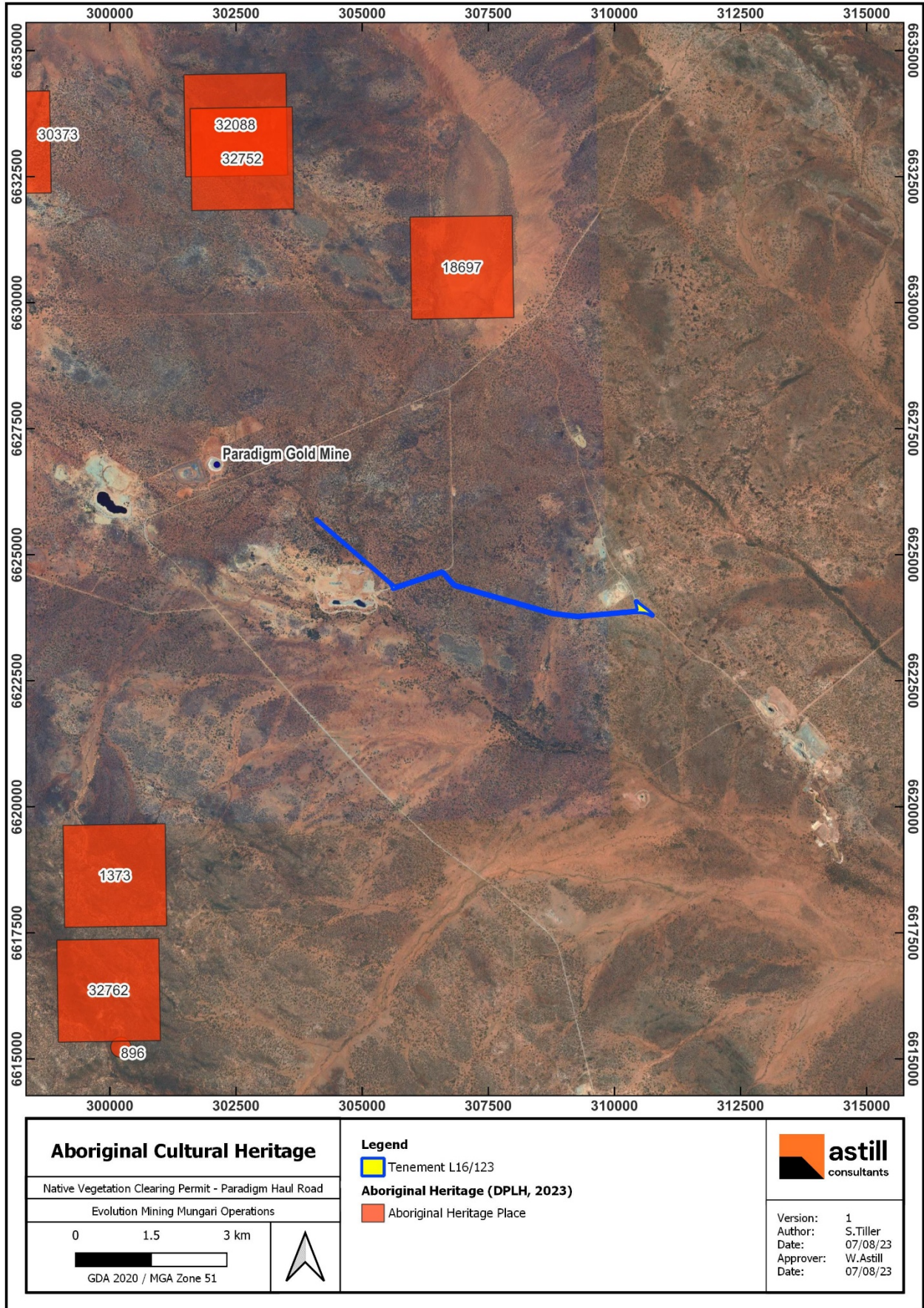


Figure 7: Aboriginal Heritage

3. Land Clearing Process

Clearing will be undertaken progressively using the following equipment and methodology.

3.1 Equipment

The equipment required to support and undertake clearing at the Project will include:

- Dozer;
- Loader;
- Excavator;
- Water Cart; and
- Service Vehicles.

3.2 Methodology

Prior to clearing, the disturbance footprint will be demarcated using high visibility tape or equivalent to ensure operators undertake clearing within the disturbance envelope. Clearing will be undertaken using dozer or loader to remove vegetation, topsoil and overburden. Any salvaged vegetation and topsoil will be stockpiled for rehabilitation purposes. A spotter may be present where required to ensure clearing and disturbance is undertaken within the proposed clearing boundaries.

4. Ten Clearing Principles

An assessment against each of the ten clearing principles demonstrates that the proposed total clearing is not at variance with any of the principles and where required, management measures will be established to mitigate any unacceptable environmental harm (Table 5).

Table 5: Clearing Principles Assessment

Clearing Principle	Assessment of Proposed Activities Against Clearing Principles
a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.	The Eastern Goldfields subregion is rich and diverse in its flora; however, most species (excluding Priority Flora species) are wide ranging and usually occur in at least one, and often several, adjoining subregions (Cowan, 2001). The disturbance envelope is not considered to comprise a high level of biological diversity as the vegetation is similar to the surrounding regions.
b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.	Most fauna species occurring in the region tend to be wide ranging, with the exception of <i>Leipoa ocellata</i> (Malleefowl). No evidence of significant fauna species was observed in the disturbance envelope during the survey, including no evidence of Malleefowl nesting mounds or other activity (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023). Other conservation significant species including Grey Wagtail, Central Long-eared Bat and Western Rosella may potentially enter the project area but will move when disturbed and any impacts are likely to be non-significant (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023).
c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes or is necessary for the continued existence of rare flora.	No Threatened or Priority flora species were recorded in the disturbance envelope during the survey (NVS, 2023).
d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.	There are no known Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities located within a 30 km radius of the disturbance envelope.
e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared	The disturbance envelope includes pre-European vegetation associations 468 and 555, with remaining extent of 98.63% and 99.71% respectively. It is not considered the disturbance envelope represents a significant portion of remnant vegetation, especially as the entire disturbance envelope lies over an active pastoral lease which supports the grazing of cattle and other pastoral activities.
f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.	Minor ephemeral surface water flows through the disturbance envelope may occur during high rainfall events and will be managed to maintain existing drainage patterns. No riparian vegetation is present within the disturbance envelope.
g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	Vegetation in the area is wide-ranging and clearing is not considered to cause appreciable land degradation. A staged clearing approach will be used to avoid unnecessary or over-clearing. Culverts and floodways will be installed where required.

<p>h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.</p>	<p>The nearest conservation area is Clear and Muddy Lakes Nature Reserve (R 7634) and Rowles Lagoon Conservation Park (R 4274) located 10 km north-west of the disturbance envelope. Clearing will not impact these areas.</p>
<p>i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.</p>	<p>Drainage lines are ephemeral and dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall. Surface water will be managed to minimise erosion and sediment transportation. Groundwater in the region is hypersaline and has limited uses.</p>
<p>j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p>	<p>Minor ephemeral surface water flows through the disturbance envelope may occur during high rainfall events and will be managed to minimise ponding and flooding. Culverts and floodways will be installed where required and the haul road raised in low elevation areas.</p>

5. Environmental Management

5.1 Native Vegetation

The majority of vegetation in the disturbance envelope is described as transitional Eucalyptus woodland over sclerophyll shrubland. No riparian vegetation is present within the disturbance envelope (NVS, 2023).

Management Measures

The following management measures will be implemented for native vegetation:

- In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared, Evolution will apply the following principles, set out in descending order of preference:
 - Avoid clearing of native vegetation;
 - Minimise amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
 - Reduce impact of clearing on any environmental value.

5.2 Conservation Significant Flora & Vegetation

No Threatened or Priority flora species were recorded within the disturbance envelope (NVS, 2023).

No significant vegetation including representatives of Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities were identified within the disturbance envelope (NVS, 2023).

Management Measures

The risk to conservation significant flora and vegetation is low, therefore no management measures are required.

5.3 Weeds and Introduced Flora

Weeds are known to occur in the surrounding area.

Management Measures

The following management measures will be implemented for weeds and introduced flora:

- When undertaking any clearing, Evolution will take the following steps to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of weeds:
 - Clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
 - Ensure that no known weed-affected soil, mulch, fill or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
 - Restrict movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of areas to be cleared.

5.4 Conservation Significant Fauna

No evidence of significant fauna species was observed in the disturbance envelope during the survey, including no evidence of Malleefowl nesting mounds or other activity. Evidence shows a low density of Malleefowl present in the area and any significant impact is considered unlikely (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023).

Management Measures

The risk to malleefowl is low, therefore no management measures are required.

5.5 Surface Water

Multiple surface water catchments are present in the area. Most catchments follow a visible drainage channel, however runoff from some smaller catchments are likely to be sheet flow.

Poor surface water management can have adverse impacts on surface water flows and the surrounding environment including ponding and potential flooding during high-rainfall events, creation of runoff shadow areas downstream impacting vegetation, transport of sediments and other contaminants and increased water erosion resulting from concentration of surface water flows due to diversion.

Management Measures

The following management measures will be implemented for surface water:

- Installation of culverts or floodways to manage concentrated and sheet flows where required;
- Scour protection / energy dissipation measures installed where appropriate; and
- Raised haul road embankment in low elevation areas, stabilised with rock armour.

5.6 Hydrocarbon Spills

Due to utilisation of heavy machinery and vehicles, there is the potential for minor hydrocarbon spills to occur within the disturbance envelope. Hydrocarbon storage, handling, disposal, and spill response will be managed in accordance with Evolution's existing hydrocarbon management procedures.

Management Measures

The following management measures will be implemented for hydrocarbon spills:

- Regular inspections and maintenance of machinery;
- Spill kits closely available at key mining areas; and
- Mining personnel are trained to handle different types of spills.

5.7 Fugitive Dust

Dust is generated from clearing activities, heavy machinery and unsealed roads. Excessive dust can increase local ambient particulate levels, impacting surrounding vegetation and sensitive receptors

Management Measures

The following management measures will be implemented for fugitive dust:

- Clearing activities avoided during periods of strong winds;
- Water carts are used on haul roads and high traffic areas as required; and
- No off-road driving. Vehicles to stay on defined tracks and roads.

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- Terra Rosa Consulting (2023). *Archaeological and ethnographic site avoidance heritage survey of the Paradigm Haul Road, Broads Dam Bypass, Mount Pleasant Bypass, and Site Access with Marlinyu Ghoorlie Traditional Owners*. Prepared for Evolution Mining. February 2023.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2023). *Basic and Targeted Vertebrate Fauna Survey*. Prepared for Evolution Mining. July 2023.

7. Appendices