

# **BHP**

## **NVCP Amendment Application**

**Kalgoorlie Nickel Smelter  
Binduli Water Pipeline Replacement**

**15 July 2024**

# Contents

<b>FORM C4 Application to Amend a Clearing Permit.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>NKS Binduli Pipeline Map Index.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>NKS Binduli Pipeline Map 1.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>NKS Binduli Pipeline Map 2.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Assessment against Clearing Principles.....</b>	<b>16</b>

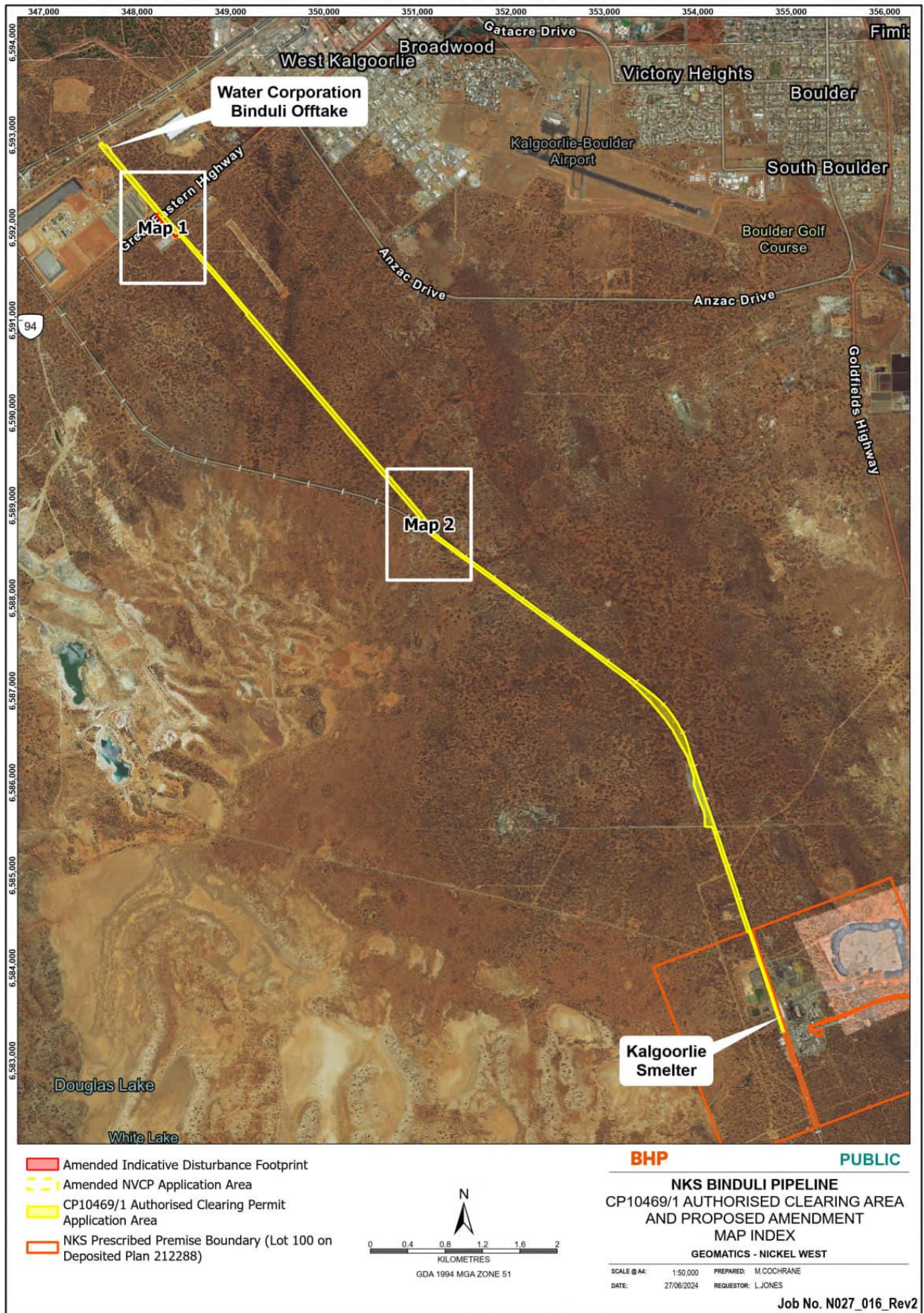


Figure 1: NKS Binduli Pipeline Map Index



Figure 2: NKS Binduli Pipeline Map 1

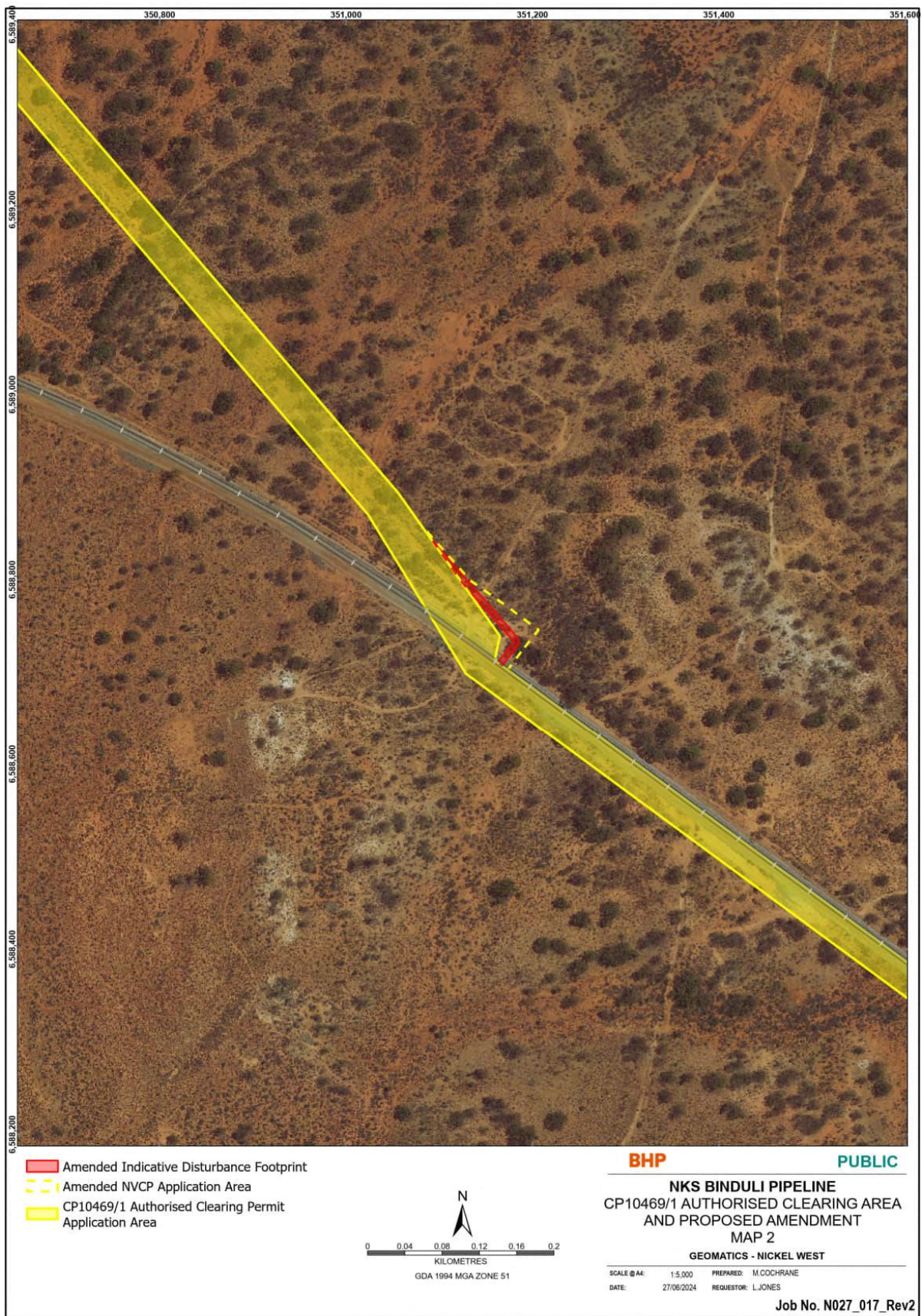


Figure 3: NKS Binduli Pipeline Map 2

# Clearing Principles Assessment

An assessment of the Amended Application Area against the Clearing Principles has been undertaken based on the findings of recently completed flora, vegetation, and fauna surveys (refer to the NVCP Application for CPS 10469/1 for further information). BHP NiW considers the proposed clearing within the Amended Application Area will not result in any significant environmental or social impacts and complies with the Clearing Principles (as detailed in **Table 1**).

**Table 1: Assessment against the Clearing Principles**

Assessment	Outcome
<p><b>Principle A</b> - <i>Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity</i></p>	
<p>The vegetation within the Application Area is represented in the same or better condition within the broader region and is not considered to be of outstanding biodiversity or higher genetic diversity than the remaining native vegetation in the bioregion. The Application Area is largely cleared of native vegetation and the condition of remaining vegetation is considered degraded, due to historic disturbance of the area associated with the existing pipeline and access track.</p> <p>As detailed in Section <b>Error! Reference source not found.</b> of the NVCP Application for CPS 10469/1, none of the vegetation types surrounding the Application Area are considered to be of local importance, with the vegetation types occurring broadly in the subregion. None of the vegetation types have affinities to ecological communities known from the region.</p>	<p>Not at variance to this Principle</p>
<p><b>Principle B</b> - <i>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</i></p>	
<p>The Application Area is largely cleared or degraded and lacking native vegetation, and as such does not provide habitat for fauna species. Native vegetation and fauna habitats in the surrounding area occur broadly in the local area and region. Therefore, the proposed clearing of native vegetation is not considered to alter ecological functions and processes that protect significant habitat for fauna.</p> <p>As discussed in Section <b>Error! Reference source not found.</b> of the NVCP Application for CPS 10469/1, there are no conservation significant fauna known from within the Application Area, and none are considered likely to occur.</p>	<p>Not at variance to this Principle</p>

**Principle C** - Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora

No flora listed under the EPBC Act nor gazetted as Threatened under the BC Act are known from, or recorded in, the Application Area. As discussed in Section **Error! Reference source not found.** of the NVCP Application for CPS 10469/1, surveys of the Application Area did not record any evidence of conservation significant flora, and the landforms/habitat of the Application Area do not provide habitat to support Threatened flora.

Not at variance to this Principle

**Principle 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

No ecological communities are known from within, or adjacent to, the Application Area. The vegetation within the Application Area neither comprises nor is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

As detailed in Section **Error! Reference source not found.** of the NVCP Application for CPS 10469/1, the Application Area consists of largely cleared and degraded vegetation. In addition, none of the vegetation types surrounding the Application Area are considered to be of local importance, and none of the vegetation types have affinities to ecological communities known from the region. The vegetation types occur beyond the Application Area and broadly in the subregion.

Not at variance to this Principle

**Principle 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 Application Area is located wholly within the Eastern Goldfields subregion of the Coolgardie IBRA bioregion. The Eastern Goldfields subregion covers an area of 5,102,428 ha (Cowan, 2001) compared to the area of proposed clearing of 14 ha.

The Application Area is located within three vegetation associations (as mapped by Shepherd, Beeston, & Hopkins, 2002), all of which will have more than 96% of their pre-European extent remaining within the Eastern Goldfields subregion and will remain at more than 96% following the proposed clearing:

Vegetation association	Pre-European Extent (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Current % Remaining	Area in Application Area (ha)	% Remaining after proposed clearing
Coolgardie 9	98,770.16	95,687.65	96.88	11.16	96.87
Coolgardie 123	9,090.22	8,902.02	97.93	0.50	97.93
Coolgardie 1294	6,295.55	6,047.45	96.06	0.75	96.05

(Government of Western Australia, 2019)

The Application Area is already largely disturbed (associated within the existing road and pipeline). The vegetation is not considered a significant remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared. The native vegetation and habitats surrounding the Application Area are well represented in the local area and region.

The Application Area is neither within an extensively cleared region nor will the proposed clearing contribute to a significantly decreased representation of local or regional vegetation types.

As detailed above for Principal B, the Application Area is not considered as habitat for significant species.

Not at variance to this Principle

**Principle F** - Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland

The Application Area does not contain major rivers or watercourses; and there are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within, or associated with, the Application Area.

As discussed in Section **Error! Reference source not found.** of the NVCP Application for CPS 10469/1, three minor non-perennial watercourses intersect the Application Area. These watercourses are only likely to contain surface water for temporary periods of time following substantial rainfall events and flow towards the adjacent ephemeral salt (playa) lakes. Any clearing will be undertaken to maintain the natural surface water flow of the minor ephemeral watercourses that intersect the Application Area.

Not at variance to this Principle

**Principle G** - Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation



<p>Proposed clearing within the Application Area is considered unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation. Previously cleared/ disturbed areas associated with the existing road and pipeline will be utilised where possible to ensure the clearance of native vegetation is minimised.</p> <p>Clearing will be managed through BHP NiW's Environment and Heritage Impact Approval (EHIA) process. This process is used to manage potential environmental impacts and to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, environmental, Aboriginal heritage, land tenure and legal commitments prior to and during land disturbance.</p> <p>No soil will be removed from the Application Area, with all topsoil stockpiled and reused. Clearing and topsoil to be managed in accordance with BHP NiW Topsoil Stripping and Handling Procedure (NIW-HSEC-PRO-0035). Any clearing will be undertaken to maintain the natural surface water flow of the minor ephemeral watercourses that intersect the Application Area. There is no erosion, changes to pH, water logging or salinization anticipated as a result of the proposed clearing within the Application Area.</p> <p>As discussed in Section <b>Error! Reference source not found.</b> of the NVCP Application for CPS 10469/1, three introduced flora (weeds) species have been recorded within the Application Area: <i>*Cenchrus ciliaris</i>, <i>*Echium plantagineum</i> and <i>*Eragrostis curvula</i> (Biologic 2021, Botanica 2023). Each weed was recorded from a single location within the Application Area adjacent to previously disturbed areas; <i>*Cenchrus ciliaris</i> and <i>*Eragrostis curvula</i> were both recorded adjacent to the Goldfields Highway, and <i>*Echium plantagineum</i> was recorded adjacent to the Kalgoorlie rail line. None of the weeds are Weed of National Significance. <i>*Echium plantagineum</i> (Patterson's Curse) is a Declared Pest under Section 22 of the BAM Act, although is exempt from control and keeping requirements. <i>*Eragrostis curvula</i> (African Lovegrass) is on the priority list for weed management in the Goldfields bioregion due to it being currently absent from lands managed by the DBCA. Weed control activities are undertaken at site on an as needs basis to control outbreaks, and weed management will also be managed through the EHIA process.</p>	<p>Not at variance to this Principle</p>
<p><b>Principle H</b> - 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 Application Area is not within or adjacent any conservation areas. The closest conservation area is the Goongarrie National Park. This National Park is located on the boundary of the Murchison region approximately 90 km north of Kalgoorlie. Native vegetation within the Application Area is not considered to form an ecological linkage to this conservation area.</p>	<p>Not at variance to this Principle</p>
<p><b>Principle I</b> - 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>The proposed clearing is not expected to cause deterioration in the quality of surface water or groundwater.</p> <p>Groundwater in the local area is saline and the limited clearing proposed within the Application Area is not expected to cause any changes to the saline levels of the groundwater, or of surface water.</p> <p>As discussed in Section <b>Error! Reference source not found.</b> of the NVCP Application for CPS 10469/1, three minor non-perennial watercourses intersect the Application Area. These watercourses are only likely to contain surface water for temporary periods of time following substantial rainfall events with water flowing via the watercourse towards the adjacent ephemeral salt (playa) lakes. The proposed clearing of native vegetation within the Application Area is not expected to result in changes to the quality of the surface water in these watercourses.</p>	<p>Not at variance to this Principle</p>
<p><b><i>Principle J - Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding</i></b></p>	
<p>The incidence or intensity of flooding is not likely to be altered by the proposed clearing of native vegetation within the Application Area.</p> <p>As detailed in Section <b>Error! Reference source not found.</b> of the NVCP Application for CPS 10469/1, the Application Area does not contain major rivers or watercourses and is likely to only contain surface water in ephemeral watercourse for temporary periods of time following substantial rainfall events.</p> <p>Three minor non-perennial watercourses intersect the Application Area. Surface drainage flows away from the area toward salt lakes situated to the east and west of the Application Area. As the Application Area is already largely cleared and degraded, it is unlikely that surface runoff generated from the proposed clearing could create sufficient concentrated water volumes to cause even a localised flood event.</p>	<p>Not at variance to this Principle</p>