Perth Airport

Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Supplementary Inforation

New Runway Project Impacts to Lot 13631 on DP 219513

19 November 2024

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Boorloo worlak kornt kaadatj Wadjak moort Noongar boodja-k wer baalabang kalyakoorl noyinang Noongar boodja-k. Ngalak kaadatj Noongar Birdiya koora-koora yeyi wer boordakan.

Perth Airport acknowledges the Whadjuk Noongar people as the Traditional Custodians of this region and respects their ongoing connection to this land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

1. Project Background

Perth Airport is located on land owned by the Commonwealth of Australia. In 1997, the operation and management of Perth Airport was transferred from the Commonwealth to Perth Airport Pty Ltd (previously called Westralia Airports Corporation) under a long-term lease. As a leased federal airport, Perth Airport is subject to the planning framework of the Commonwealth *Airports Act 1996*.

In June 2020, the Perth Airport New Runway Project was nominated as one of 15 projects of "national or strategic significance", and is expected to present many economic, social and cultural benefits within Western Australia (WA). The development involves the construction and operation of a new runway and associated infrastructure at Perth Airport. The Project aims to improve Perth's connectivity on an intrastate, interstate and international scale.

Perth Airport's New Runway Project (NRP) Major Development Plan (MDP) was approved in November 2020 by the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Affairs in accordance with requirements of the Commonwealth *Airports Act 1996* (Airports Act).

The MDP approval was issued with conditions to manage environmental impacts, including the submission and approval, by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, of an offset strategy to counteract significant residual environmental impacts as a result of the project.

At the time of assessment, full clearing impact to the NRP MDP area was approved. The assessment to full clearing impact within the NRP MDP resulted in offsets conditioned for Banksia Woodlands Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC), foraging and potential (future) nesting habitat for Carnaby's and Forest Black Cockatoos, the environment as it related to wetlands (specifically Resource Enhancement Wetlands [REW], Conservation Category Wetlands [CCW]) and flora species: Wavy-leaved Smokebush (*Conospermum undulatum*) and Keighery's Macarthuria (*Macarthuria keigheryi*).

Since MDP approval in 2020, Perth Airport have undertaken substantial redesign of the NRP, to minimise the impacts to protected matters to the greatest practicable extent. As a result of avoidance measures, Perth Airport has substantially reduced the clearing footprint, which has resulting in reduced impacts to all protected matters.

The NRP offset strategy, for the reduced area, was approved by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water on 15 May 2024. The approved offset strategy can we found at https://www.perthairport.com.au/Home/corporate/planning-and-projects/major-development-plans

As noted in the NRP MDP, a small section of the runway development footprint (3.11 ha) has not yet been transferred to Commonwealth and is still state land. Perth Airport has a Crown lease that applies to this area, the lease requires Perth Airport to have approval in writing from the Minister and any authority whose approval is necessary to undertake the work to be lawfully carried out. Perth Airport has approval from the Minister for Lands to build the runway, but still requires State approval to clear the 3.11 ha of native vegetation. It should be noted that the Commonwealth Approved offset strategy includes offsetting the environmental impacts for this area.

This document discusses the environmental impacts in relation to the following clearing principles that may be at variance:

Principle (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity
Principle (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna
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

2. Residual Environmental Impacts Summary

The residual environmental impacts are to one Commonwealth Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), forging habitat for 3 protected fauna species, Conservation Category wetlands and one Priority 3 flora species. These environmental values are:

- Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain Threatened Ecological Community (Banksia Woodlands, BWSCP TEC) – Endangered
- Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*) – Endangered
- Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (FRTBC, *Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) – Vulnerable
- Baudin's Black-Cockatoo (*Zanda baudiini*)– Endangered
- *Jacksonia gracillima* (P3) – Priority 3
- Wetlands - Conservation Category

The maximum residual impacts of the proposed action are detailed below in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1: Residual Environmental Impacts of the Proposal

Environmental Values	Impact [ha / no.]
Banksia Woodlands - Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), PEC	0.52 ha
Foraging habitat for: Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo	2.32 ha
Foraging habitat for Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos	0.7 ha
Foraging habitat for Baudin's Black Cockatoos	0.7 ha
Wetlands (conservation category and resource enhancement)	1.95 ha
Jacksonia gracillima (P3)	39 individuals
Native Vegetation	3.11 ha

3. Assessment against the Clearing Principles

Perth Airport Pty Ltd (PAPL) are seeking a state native vegetation clearing permit for a parcel of State-owned land on the Perth Airport Estate. The proposed clearing of 3.11 ha has been assessed against the clearing principles as defined in Schedule 5 of the EP Act and outlines in the (then) Department of Environment Regulation's (DER) A Guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (2014) under Part V Division 2 of the EP Act.

The proposed impact area on Lot 13631 on Deposited Plan 219513 is within the approved New Runway Project on the Airport Estate.

3.1. Principle (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity

3.1.1. Remnant Native Vegetation

Woodman Environmental specialist consultants have conducted an estate-wide baseline flora and vegetation survey (WEC 2019). Survey methodology consisted of a desktop review of publicly available flora and vegetation relevant to the estate, followed by field survey work. Using this survey, Woodman Environmental conducted an impact assessment of the potential impacts to flora and vegetation from the New Runway Project (WEC 2020).

The New Runway Project construction impact within Lot 13631 on DP 219513 will result in the clearing of 2.47 ha of remnant native vegetation (1.78% of the 139.4 ha remnant vegetation within NRP) and 1.16 ha of area previously developed/cleared of native vegetation (0.79% of area within NRP) (Figure 1-1). Table of 5 of WEC 2020 summarises the mapped characteristics of the vegetation within the Airport estate and the NRP.

Vegetation Types for NRP within Lot 13631 on DP 219513 are described within Table 1-2. The native vegetation is in Good to Very Good Condition (Figure 1-2). Table 9 of WEC 2020 summarises the condition of vegetation across the NRP area, with more than 50% of the NRP area classifies as Completely Degraded (Cleared/Developed), and about 40% of the remnant vegetation considered to be in good to excellent condition (WEC 2020).

Vegetation Types 12 and 13 are listed as the significant vegetation type PEC/TEC 'Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain'. This is discussed further in 2.1.3 Banksia Woodlands TEC.

Table 1-2: Vegetation Types within Lot 13631 on DP 219513 and their extent within NRP and Perth Airport Estate

Veg Code	Area (ha)	Area within NRP (ha)	Area within Airport Estate (ha)	Description
2	1.34	10.24	31.5	Low open woodland usually dominated by *Melaleuca rhaphiophylla*, with *Banksia littoralis*, *Melaleuca preissiana* and *Melaleuca viminea* subsp. *viminea* co-dominant, and occasionally *Eucalyptus rudis* present as an emergent, over a tall to mid open to sparse shrubland of mixed species including *Astartea affinis*, *Melaleuca lateritia*, *Hakea varia* and *Pericalymma ellipticum* over low rushland and sedgeland to open rushland and sedgeland dominated by *Leptocarpus decipiens*, *Lepidosperma longitudinale* over a rich herbland with many semi-aquatic sedges (*Centrolepis*, *Isolepis*) and many weeds on flats or in basins that experience seasonal inundation, soils grey sand or brown sandy loams.
10	0.61	48.14	88.5	Open low woodland of *Melaleuca preissiana* and apparently occasionally *Corymbia calophylla* over mid to low open shrubland to shrubland of mixed species dominated by *Hypocalymma angustifolium*, *Jacksonia gracillima*, *Pericalymma ellipticum*, *Melaleuca seriata* and

Veg Code	Area (ha)	Area within NRP (ha)	Area within Airport Estate (ha)	Description
				Daviesia physodes over species-rich rushland and sedgeland dominated by *Cytogonidium leptocarpoides*, *Dasypogon bromeliifolius*, *Patersonia occidentalis*, *Phlebocarya ciliata*, *Schoenus efoliatus*, *Hypolaena exsulca* and *Desmocladus fasciculatus*, over a rich herbland with semi aquatics on lower slopes and flats experiencing some seasonal water logging, soils grey or white sand or sandy loam.
12	0.44	22.71	106.1	Mid woodland of Eucalyptus marginata over a low to mid woodland of *Allocasuarina fraseriana, Banksia menziesii* and *B. attenuata* over a low shrubland dominated by *Hibbertia hypericoides* subsp. *hypericoides* and *Bossiaea eriocarpa* on a mid-open sedgeland of mixed species including *Alexgeorgea nitens*, *Desmocladus flexuosus*, *Mesomelaena pseudostygia* and *Lyginia imberbis*, on dunes and low rises, soils grey sand. PEC/TEC: "Banksia dominated woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain IBRA region"
13	0.09	20.59	58.0	Low woodland to low open forest of *Banksia menziesii*, *B. attenuata* and occasional *Eucalyptus todtiana* over a mid-open shrubland of *Adenanthos cygnorum* subsp. *cygnorum*, *Jacksonia floribunda*, *Scholtzia involucrata*, *Melaleuca seriata* and *Xanthorrhoea preissii* over a low open shrubland dominated by *Eremaea pauciflora* var. *pauciflora*, *Hibbertia hypericoides* subsp. *hypericoides* and *Bossiaea eriocarpa* on a mid-open sedgeland dominated by *Alexgeorgea nitens*, *Desmocladus flexuosus*, and *Lyginia imberbis*, on dunes
C	1.16	292.8	1592.0	Cleared/Developed Land

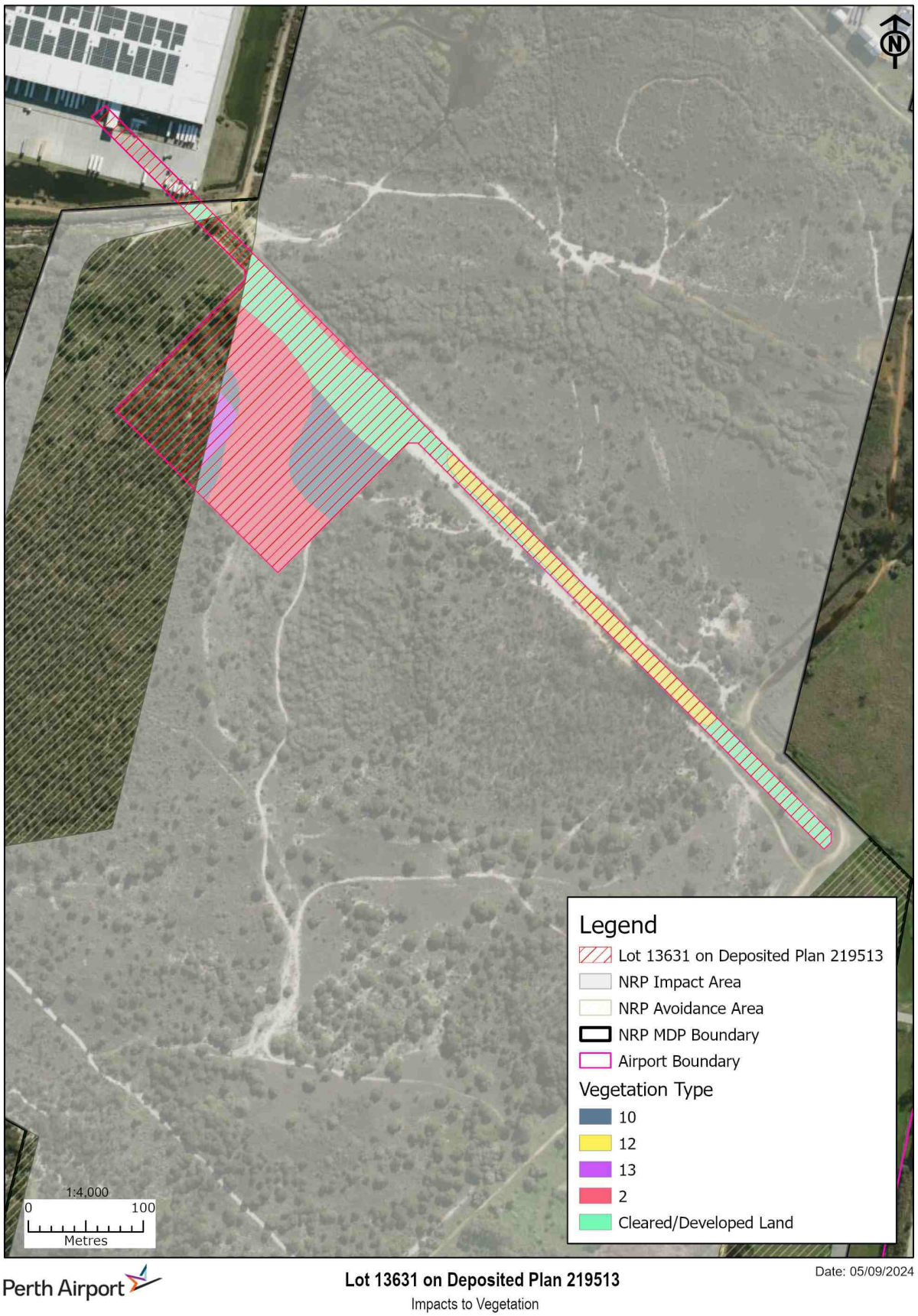

Figure 1-1: Vegetation Types impacted by the proposal

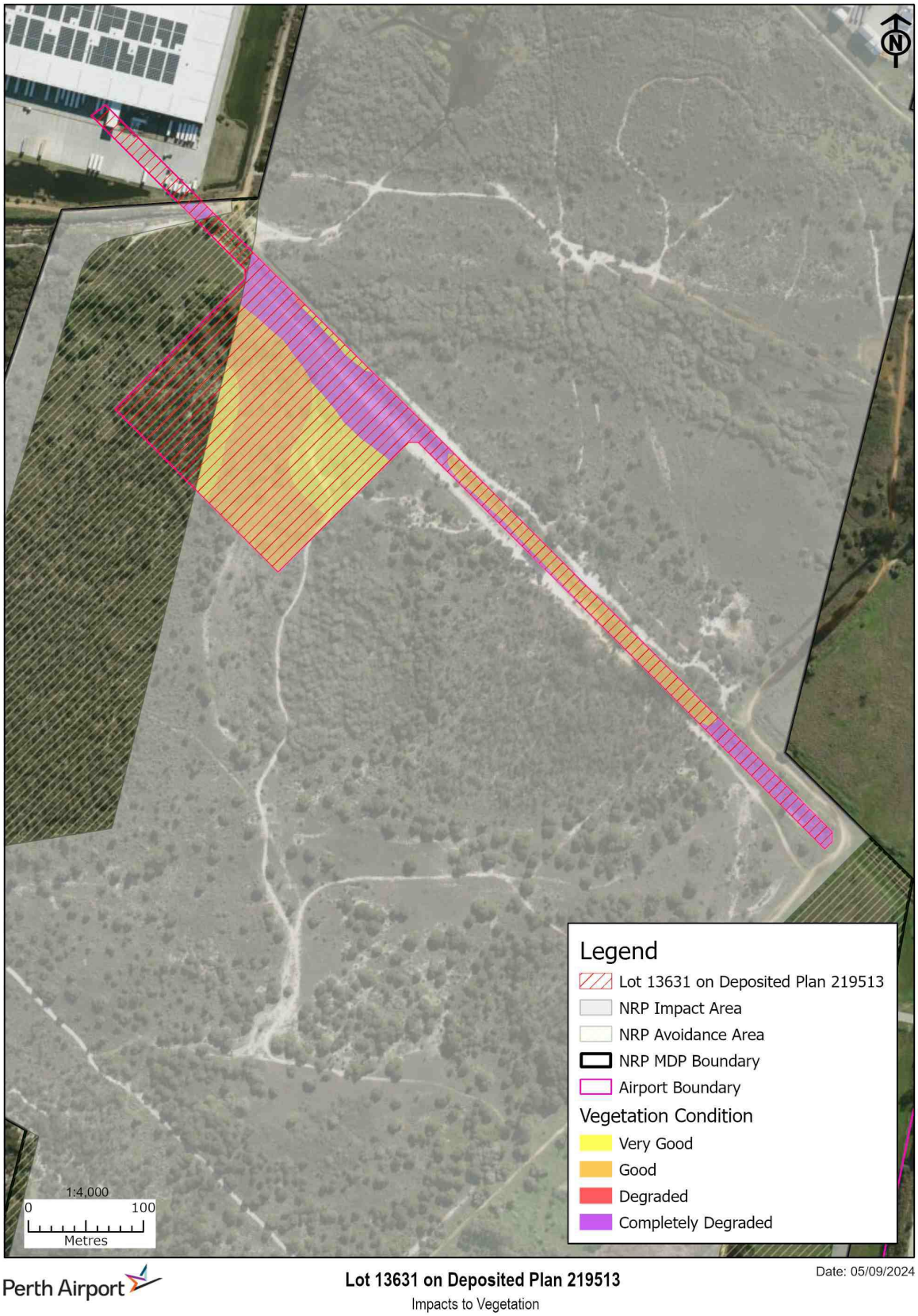

Figure 1-2: Vegetation Condition impacted by the proposal

3.1.2. Priority Flora

Woodman Environmental specialist consultants have conducted an estate-wide baseline flora and vegetation survey (WEC 2019). Survey methodology consisted of a desktop review of publicly available flora and vegetation relevant to the estate, followed by field survey work. Using this survey, Woodman Environmental conducted an impact assessment of the potential impacts to flora and vegetation from the New Runway Project (WEC 2020).

The New Runway Project construction impact within Lot 13631 on DP 219513 will result in the removal of 39 *Jacksonia gracillima* (P3) individuals (Figure 1-3). *Jacksonia gracillima* (P3) is a spreading shrub growing to 1.5 m high occurring on sandy flats and in wetlands. It is known to occur over a range of approximately 195 km in WA.

The New Runway Project will impact 37.5% of the known locations of the priority species across Perth Airport estate where a total of 4,381 individuals are recorded (Table 10 of WEC 2019). The loss of plants at these locations is unlikely to lead to long-term decline of this species in the local area as there are other known populations of *Jacksonia gracillima* in close proximity to the Airport estate with other populations known in the Perth Metropolitan Area, including within the conservation estate. Although the occurrence of *Jacksonia gracillima* is limited to the Swan Coastal Plain, records for locations occur over a 200 km range. The potential impacts of the NRP are not considered to be significant (Section 3.4.2.3 of WEC 2020).

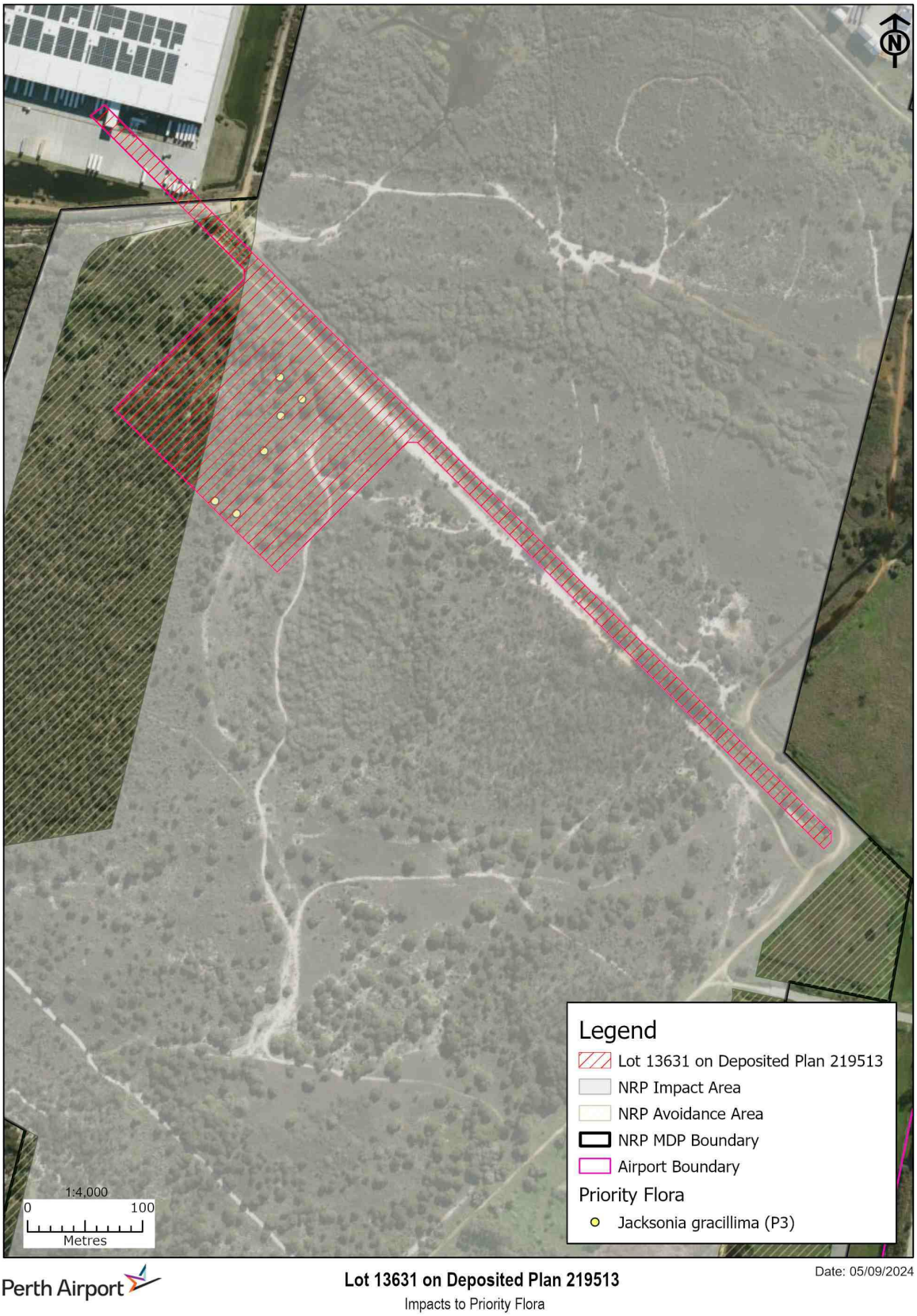

Figure 1-3: *Jacksonia gracillima*(P3) impacted by the proposal

3.1.3. Banksia Woodlands PEC/TEC

Woodman Environmental specialist consultants have conducted an estate-wide flora and vegetation survey of the Airport estate (WEC 2019). This included an assessment of the Banksia Woodlands PEC/TEC, and the assignment of patch identification numbers for those areas that meet the requirements of a patch as defined by the Commonwealth Conservation Advice for the Bankia Woodland TEC (DEE 2016). Survey methodology consisted of a desktop review of publicly available flora and vegetation relevant to the estate, followed by field survey work. Using this survey, Woodman Environmental conducted an impact assessment of the potential impacts to flora and vegetation from the New Runway Project (WEC 2020).

The New Runway Project construction impact within Lot 13631 on DP 219513 will result in the clearing of 0.52 hectares of Banksia Woodland PEC/TEC, which is comprised of 2 PEC/TEC patches as defined by the Commonwealth Conservation Advice for Banksia Woodland TEC (Figure 1-4). The New Runway Project will impact 40.04 ha of Banksia Woodlands PEC/TEC which represents 29.1% of the 146.87 ha within the Perth Airport Estate, and 0.013% of the regional extent of the Banksia Woodlands TEC (Table 18 of WEC 2020). The significant of these impacts to Banksia Woodland PEC/TEC are further discussed in Section 3.3.1.4 of WEC 2020.

Due to the large remaining area, with much in conservation reserves, and the localised impact are, the NRP's potential impacts on the Banksia Woodlands PEC/TEC are not considered significant with respect to the survival of the ecological community across its range.

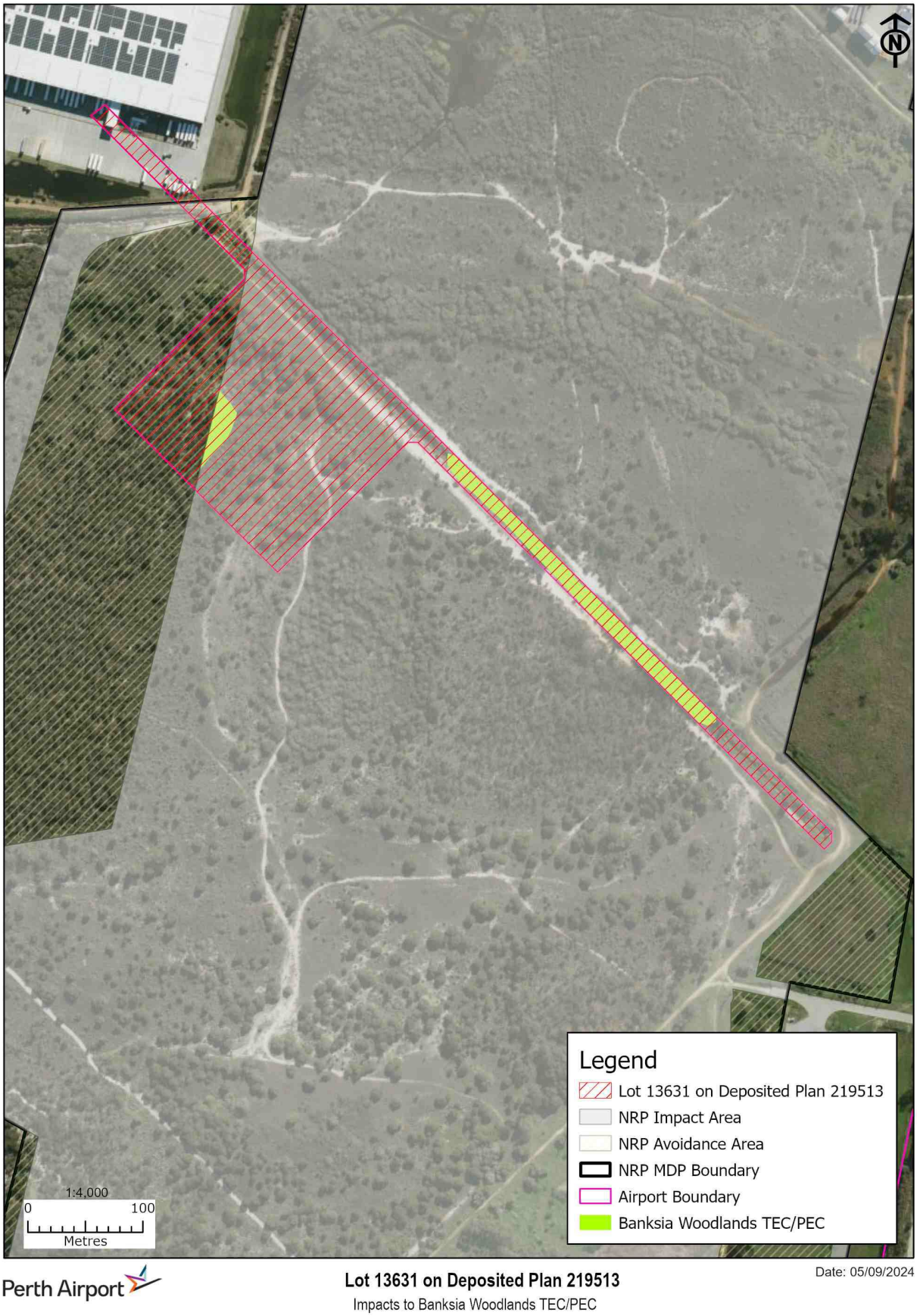

Figure 1-4: Banksia Woodlands PEC/TEC impacted by the proposal

3.1.4. Assessed Outcome

The vegetation in New Runway Project construction impact within Lot 13631 on DP 219513 may to comprise a high level of biodiversity due to the presence of Priority Flora *Jacksonia gracillima* (P3), Banksia Woodland PEC/TEC and Black Cockatoo foraging habitat. Therefore, the proposed clearing is likely to be at variance to this Principle.

- Clearing of 3.11 ha, of which 1.16 ha of area is previously developed/cleared of native vegetation. Of the remaining 2.47 ha of remnant native vegetation, 1.73 ha is in Good Condition and 0.74 ha is in Very Good Condition
- Clearing of 39 *Jacksonia gracillima* (P3) individuals
- Clearing of 0.52 ha of Banksia Woodland TEC
- Clearing of 2.32 ha of Black Cockatoo foraging habitat

3.2. Principle (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna

3.2.1. Black-Cockatoo Foraging Habitat

Black-Cockatoo Foraging habitats within the NRP MDP boundary were assessed by Bamford Consulting Ecologists during an estate-wide baseline fauna survey (BCE 2019).

Foraging habits and habitats differ between Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo and Forest Black-Cockatoos (Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo *(Calyptorhynchus banksii naso)* and Baudin's Black Cockatoo *(Zanda baudiini)*. Carnaby's can forage on a larger range of plant species than Forest Black-Cockatoos.

The New Runway Project construction impact within Lot 13631 on DP 219513 will result in the clearing of:

- 2.32 ha of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo foraging habitat, with a weighted average of 'low' foraging value (Figure 1-5);
- 0.7 ha of Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo foraging habitat, with a weighted average of 'negligible to low' foraging value (Figure 1-6); and
- 0.7 ha of Baudin's Black Cockatoo foraging habitat, with a weighted average of 'negligible to low' foraging value (Figure 1-7).

Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo is the most abundant of the Black-Cockatoos on the Airport Estate and on the coastal plain in the Perth region generally. The Perth Airport Estate provides 761.1 ha of Carnaby's Black Cockatoo habitat with some foraging value, with 232.7 ha occurring within the New Runway Project. Section 5.1 of BCE 2019 provides an overview of the impact of New Runway Project on the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo against the MNES Significant Criteria under Guidelines 1.1.

Baudin's Black-Cockatoo is primarily a species of tall eucalypt forests of the South-West, and Perth is at the northern limit of its range. The Perth Airport Estate provides 282.5 ha of Baudin's Black Cockatoo habitat with some foraging value, with 63.9 ha impacted by the New Runway Project. Section 5.2 of BCE 2019 provides an overview of the impact of New Runway Project on the Baudin's Black Cockatoo against the MNES Significant Criteria under Guidelines 1.1.

The Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo has similar foraging requirements to Baudin's Black-Cockatoo, relying heavily on Marri and to a lesser extent on Jarrah, but it also forages on a suite of exotic plants both within the Airport Estate and in surrounding suburbs. The amount of quality native foraging habitat within the New

Runway Project and Airport Estate is small, so the presence of the species is probably supported by exotic plants within and outside the area. The Perth Airport Estate provides 282.5 ha of Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo habitat with some foraging value, with 63.9 ha impacted by the New Runway Project. Section 5.3 of BCE 2019 provides an overview of the impact of New Runway Project on the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo against the MNES Significant Criteria under Guidelines 1.1.

With respect to nesting habitat, no active or previously used hollows have been recorded in the Estate (3.3.2 of BCE 2019). Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo and the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo do not currently breed in the project area or the Airport Estate and only limited suitable habitat is present, but the species does breed elsewhere on the coastal plain in small numbers (BCE, 2020). Baudin's Black-Cockatoo do not currently breed in the Airport Estate, and it seems unlikely it will do so.

3.2.2. Assessed Outcome

The New Runway Project construction impact within Lot 13631 on DP 219513 will result in the clearing of:

- 2.32 ha of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo foraging habitat, with a weighted average of 'low' foraging value;
- 0.7 ha of Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo foraging habitat, with a weighted average of 'negligible to low' foraging value; and
- 0.7 ha of Baudin's Black Cockatoo foraging habitat, with a weighted average of 'negligible to low' foraging value.

Although New Runway Project has been designed to minimise impacts to fauna habitat, clearing of habitat that is utilised by listed Threatened species is required, therefore the proposed clearing may be at variance with this Principle.

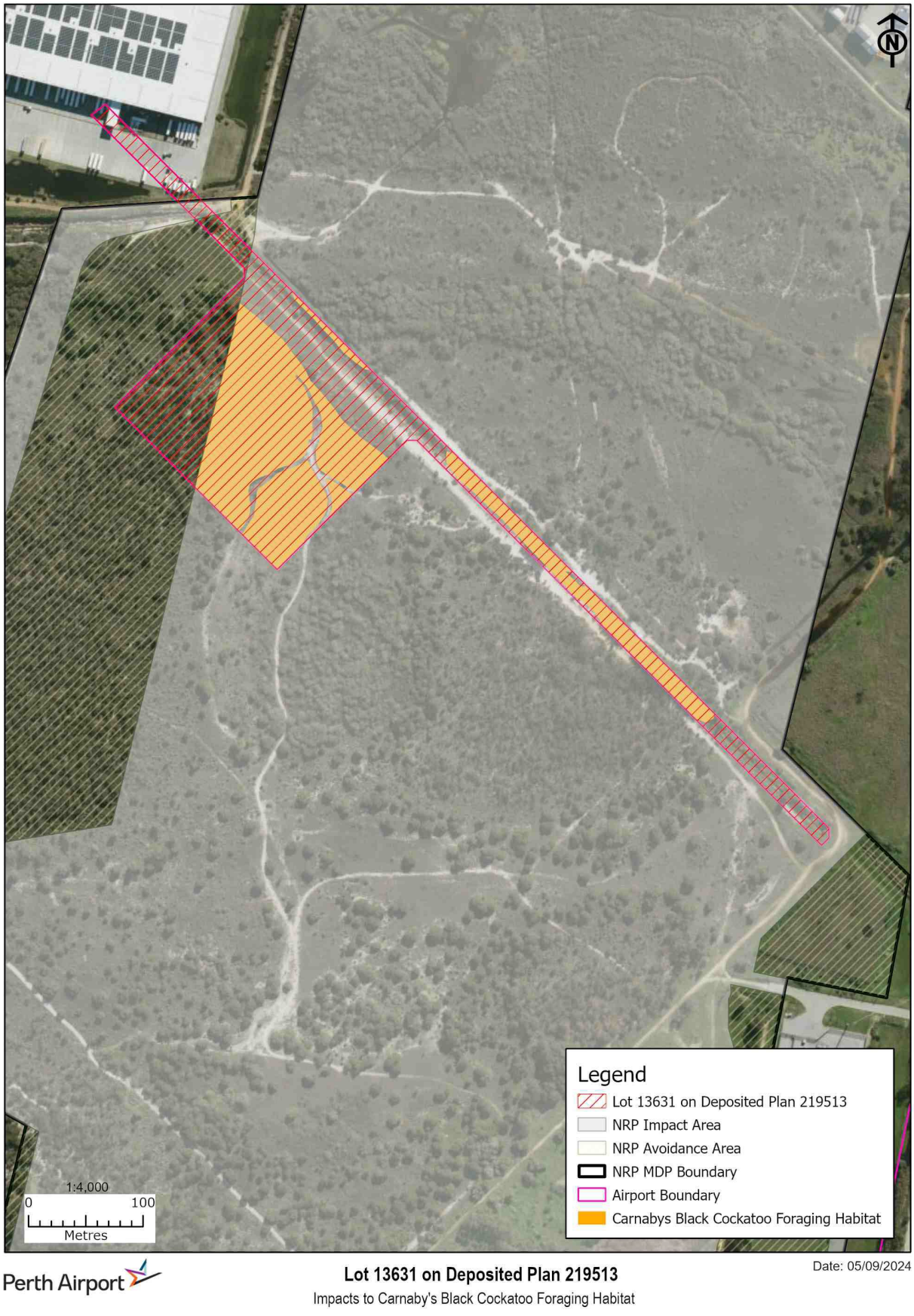

Figure 1-5: Carnaby's Black Cockatoo foraging habitat impacted by the proposal

Figure 1-6: Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo foraging habitat impacted by the proposal

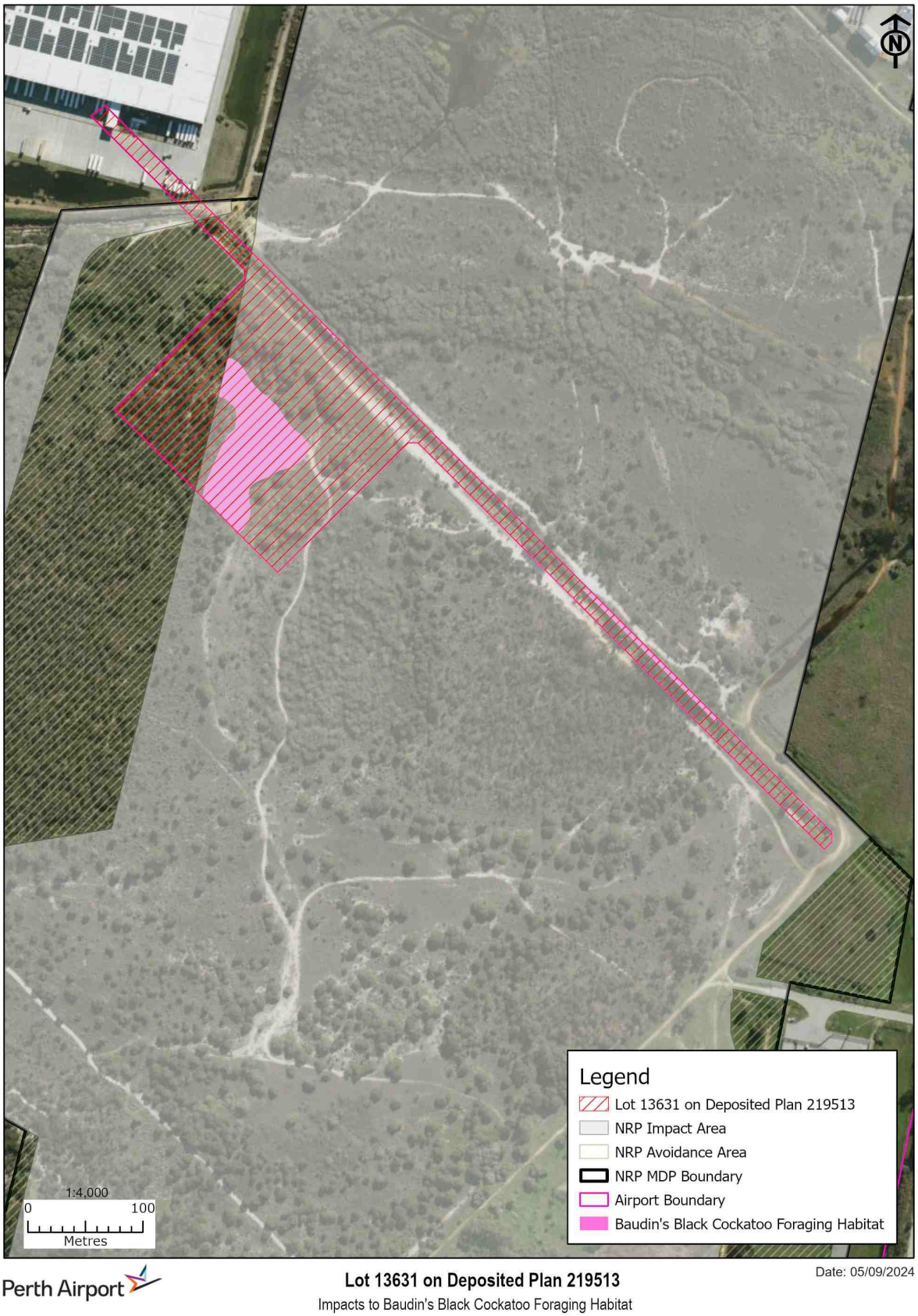

Figure 1-7: Baudin's Black Cockatoo foraging habitat impacted by the proposal

3.3. 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

3.3.1. Wetlands

Wetlands within the Perth Airport were assessed by Woodman Environmental during an estate-wide baseline flora and vegetation survey (WEC 2020) and were subsequently re-assessed and mapped by Eco Logical Australia (ELA 2021) for the estate-wide assessment of wetland areas as per the Western Australian Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)'s *'A methodology for the evaluation of wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain'* (DBCA 2017).

Following boundary delineation, the wetland evaluation and assigning of an appropriate management category to the wetland was undertaken using a two-tiered approach including a preliminary evaluation and a secondary evaluation. If the preliminary evaluation criteria were met, the wetland was assigned as a Conservation Category Wetland (CCW). If the wetland does not meet the preliminary criteria, secondary evaluation was conducted to determine the management category as either Resource Enhancement Wetland (REW) or Multiple Use Wetland (MUW) (DBCA 2017). As a result of the targeted wetland assessment, each wetland on the Airport estate has been assigned an Evaluation Category.

The New Runway Project construction impact within Lot 13631 on DP 219513 will result in the clearing of 1.95 hectares of wetland (Figure 1-8), comprised of 2 individual wetland units, mapped and assessed by suitably qualified ecologists as per DBCA's 'A methodology for the evaluation of wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain' (DBCA 2017). The wetlands mapped within Lot 13631 on DP 219513 is a CCW.

The New Runway Project boundary includes 257.5 hectares mapped as wetland in the current GWSCP dataset, 88% of the total NRP area. Of this 68.1 hectares is mapped as a CCW and 49.4 ha as REW, with the remainder mapped as Multiple use wetland.

Table 9 of ELA 2021 provides a short description of each of the mapped wetlands across Perth Airport Estate with the 2 individual wetland units mapped as wetland ID 12 and 13.

3.3.2. Assessed Outcome

The New Runway Project construction impact within Lot 13631 on DP 219513 will result in the clearing of 1.95 ha of CCW wetland which is at variance with this principle.

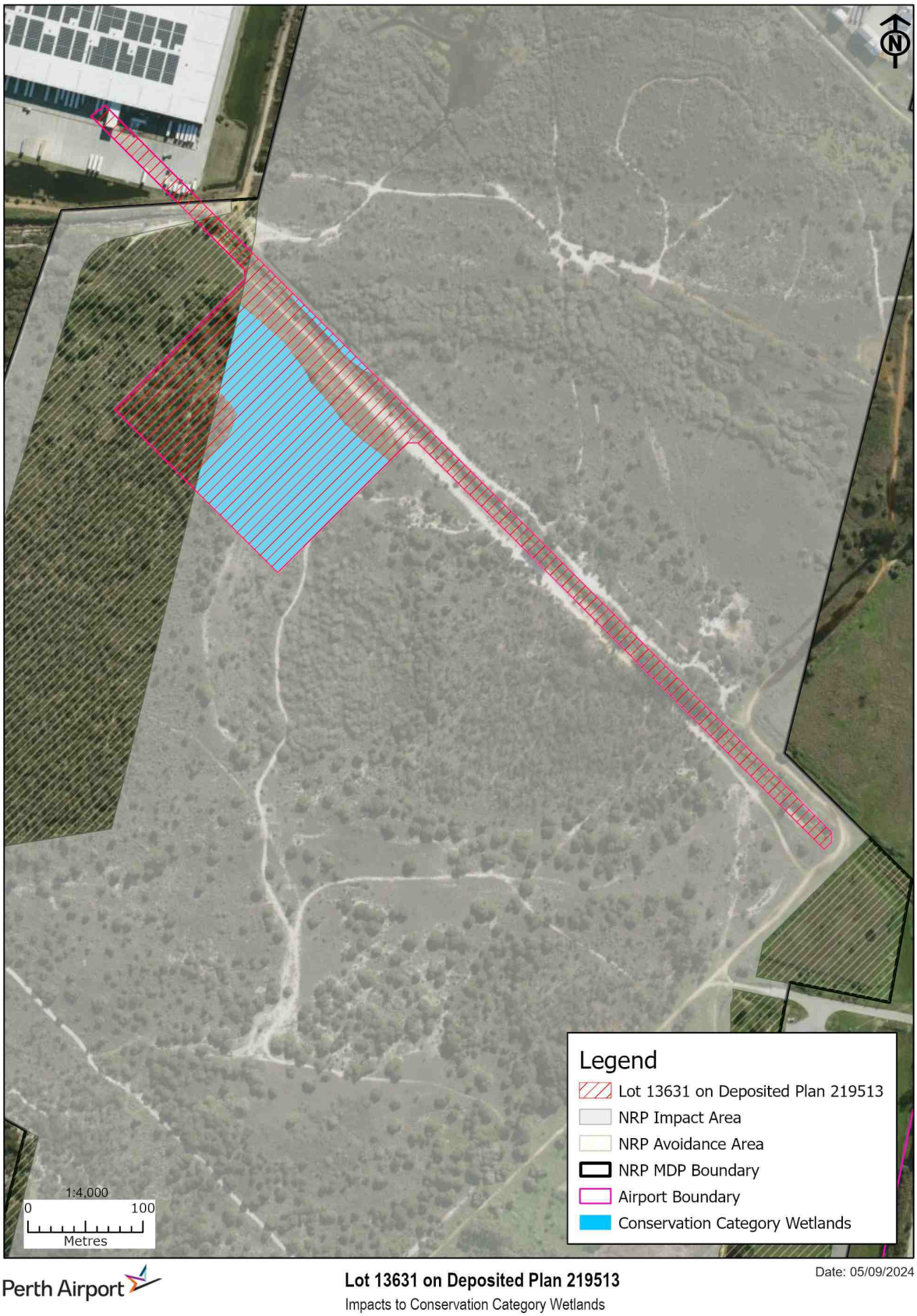

Figure 1-8: Wetland area impacted by the proposal

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