Kwinana Rail Depot – Native Vegetation Clearing Permit – Amendment Application

Aurizon Operations Ltd

Supporting Information

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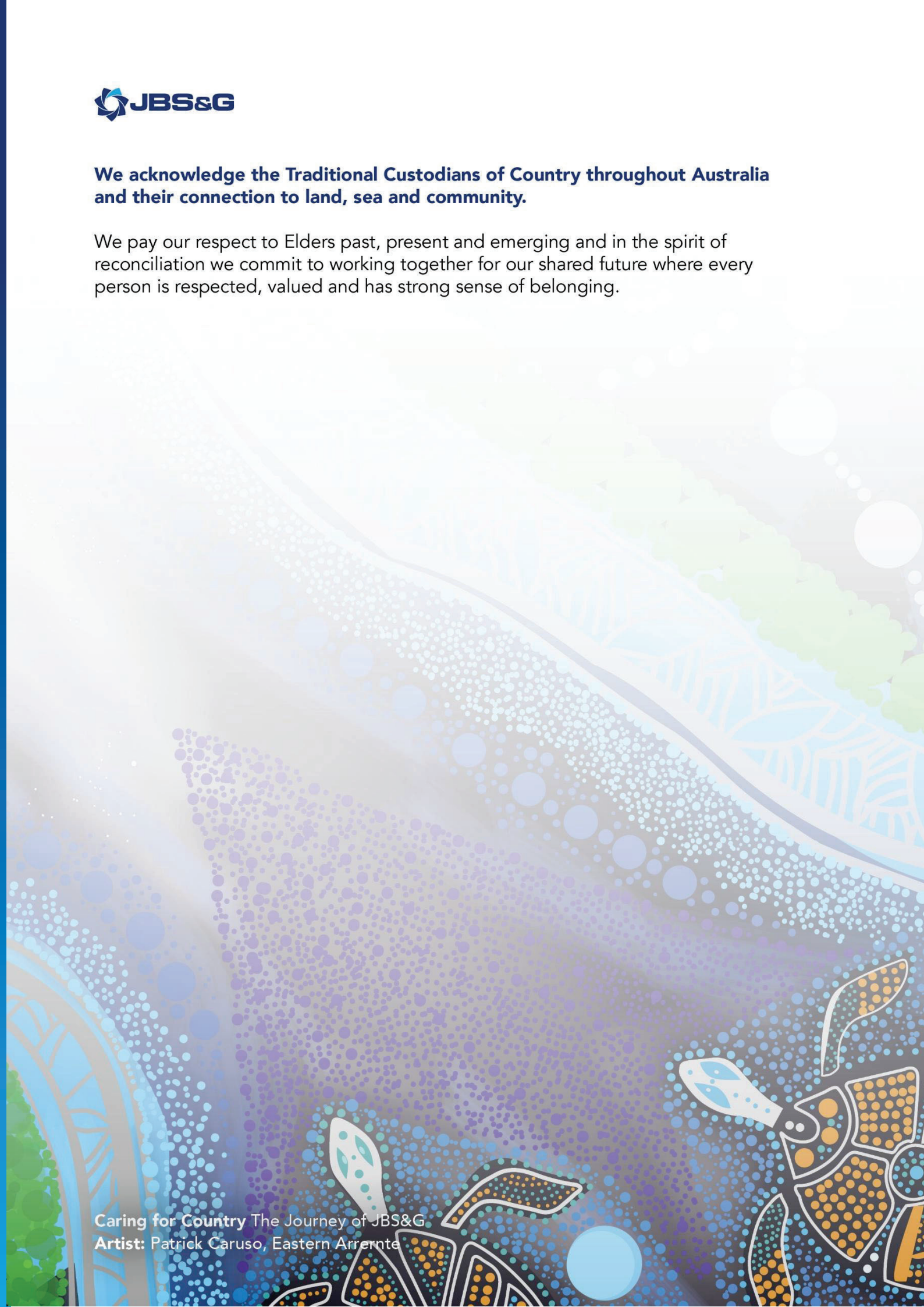
14 January 2026

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connection to land, sea and community.

We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging and in the spirit of reconciliation we commit to working together for our shared future where every person is respected, valued and has strong sense of belonging.



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Abbreviations

Term	Definition
ASS	Acid Sulfate Soils
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions
CBD	Central Business District
CCW	Conservation Category Wetland
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986*
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
FCT	Floristic Community Type
ha	Hectares
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
km	Kilometres
LGA	Local Government Authority
mm	Millimetres
NVCP	Native Vegetation Clearing Permit
PEC	Priority Ecological Community
REW	One Resource Enhancement Wetland
SWA2	Swan Coastal Plan Subregion – Swan Coastal Plain 2
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
WoNS	Weeds of National Significance
VT	Vegetation Type

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Scope

This document has been prepared to support an application to amend an existing native vegetation clearing permit (CPS 10888/2) submitted under Section 51KA of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) to incorporate a minor additional clearing area and includes the following information relating to clearing impacts:

- An overview of the existing environmental conditions and values of the areas;
- An evaluation of the proposed clearing against the 'Ten Clearing Principles' listed under Schedule 5 of the EP Act; and
- Environmental approvals and management requirements.

1.2 Project Background

Aurizon Operations Limited (Aurizon) is proposing to expand operations into undeveloped areas of land at the Kwinana Rail Depot. The rail depot is located at 30 Mounsey Road, Kwinana Beach and comprises a portion of Lot 511 (52.31 ha) in the east and Lot 512 (13.09 ha) in the west on Deposited Plan 41203. Both lots include existing areas of narrow-and-standard gauge railway, container terminal operations and railway maintenance facilities.

A Native Vegetation Clearing Permit (NVCP) was granted to Australia Western Railroad Pty Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of Aurizon Holdings Limited) by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) on 2 April 2025 (CPS 10888/2) for clearing of 1.29 ha of native vegetation on Lots 511 and 512.

Aurizon is seeking approval to undertake an additional 1.26 ha of clearing within Lot 512 as shown in Figure 1.1 (proposed clearing area), via an amendment to the existing NVCP (CPS 10888/2) under Section 51KA of the EP Act.

1.3 Location, Ownership and tenure

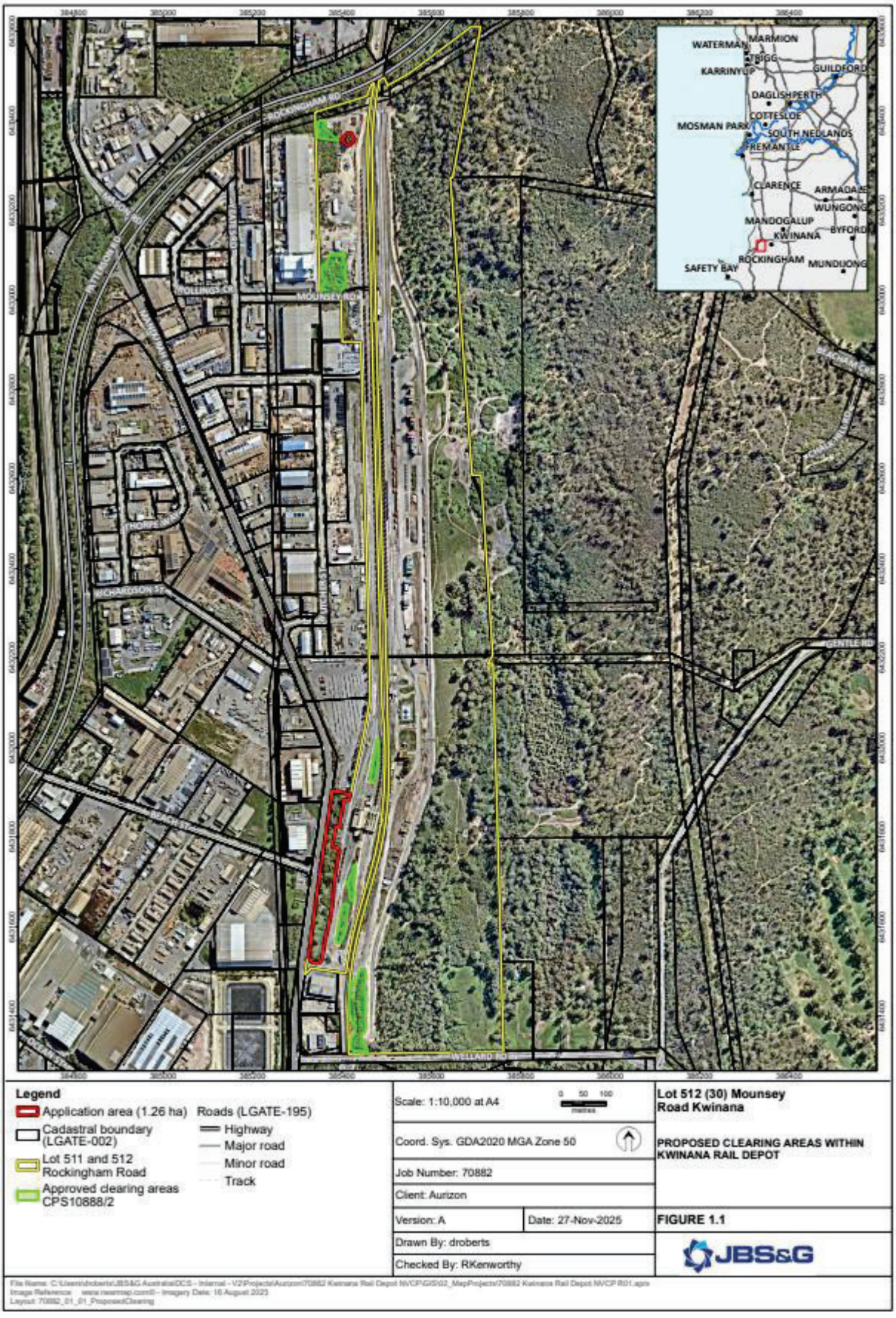
The site is located approximately 40 km southwest of the Perth Central Business District (CBD). The proposed clearing area comprises an additional 1.26 ha within Lot 512.

Site identification details for the proposed clearing area are provided in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Site identification details for Lot 512

Subject	Detail
Lot address	Lot 512 on Plan 41203
Common name of site	Kwinana Rail Depot, 30 Mounsey Road Kwinana Beach
Current certificate of title	Appendix A
Current site owner	Australian Western Railroad Pty Ltd - Ultimate Holding Company Aurizon Holdings Limited
Local Government Authority	City of Kwinana
Current MRS Zoning	Railways (Reserve)
Current LPS Zoning	General industry (Kwinana)

Figure 1.1 Proposed clearing extent



2. Existing Environment

The following studies have been conducted for the site to inform this amendment application:

- Reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey and black cockatoo habitat assessment – Lots 511 and 512 Rockingham Road, Kwinana Beach (Strategen, 2020); and
- Detailed Biological Assessment – Kwinana Depot Expansion (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023).

2.1 Climate

The Kwinana Beach locality experiences a Mediterranean climate characterised by mild, wet winters and warm to hot, dry summers. The nearest Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) weather station at Garden Island HSF (Station No. 9256) provides average monthly climate statistics for the Kwinana Beach locality (Figure 2.1).

Average annual rainfall recorded at Garden Island HSF since 2001 is 618.7 mm (Bureu of Meteorology, 2025). Rainfall may occur at any time of year; however, most occurs in winter in association with cold fronts from the southwest. Highest temperatures occur in February, with average monthly temperature of 28.4 °C while lowest temperatures occur in July, which has an average monthly temperature of 17.9°C (Bureu of Meteorology, 2025).

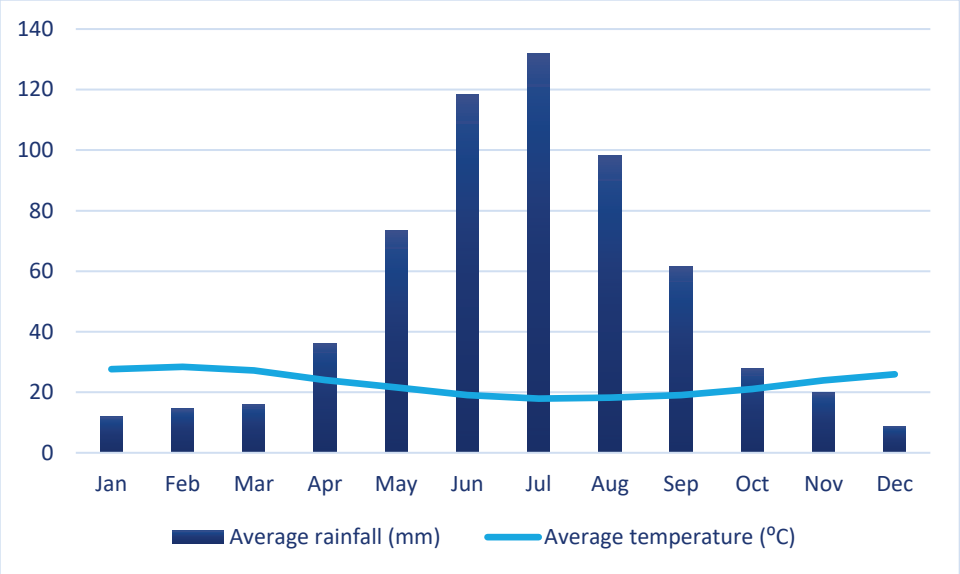


Figure 2.1Mean monthly climate data (rainfall and temperature) Garden Island HSF.

2.2 Geology, landforms and soils

The site is located within the Swan Coastal Plain 2 (SWA2) subregion of Western Australia (Mitchell D, 2002). The Swan Coastal Plain comprises five major geomorphologic systems that lie parallel to the coast, namely (from west to east) the Quindalup Dunes, Spearwood Dunes, Bassendean Dunes, Pinjarra Plain and Ridge Hill Shelf (Gibson, 1994; Churchward, 1980). Each major system is composed of further subdivisions in the form of detailed geomorphologic units (Churchward, 1980; Semeniuk, 1990; Gibson, 1994). Beard (1990) describes the Swan Coastal Plain as a low-lying coastal plain, often swampy, with sandhills also containing dissected country rising to the duricrusted Dandaragan plateau on Mesozoic, mainly sandy, yellow soils.

Specifically, the site is located on the Quindalup Dunes landform unit (Churchward, 1980) and is characterised by sandy soils with occasional limestone outcropping.

2.3 Acid sulfate soils

Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS) are naturally occurring, iron-sulphide rich soils, sediments or organic substrates, formed under waterlogged conditions. If exposed to air, these sulphides can oxidise and release sulphuric acid and heavy metals. This process can occur due to drainage, dewatering or excavation.

A search of the Swan Coastal Plain ASS risk maps (Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, 2017) indicates that there is no mapped risk of ASS occurring within 3 m of natural soil surface within the proposed clearing area.

2.4 Hydrology

Mapping of the geomorphic wetlands of the Swan Coastal Plain (Figure 2.2) indicates no wetlands are present within the site. One Resource Enhancement Wetland (REW) and one Conservation Category Wetland (CCW) (UFI 6375 and UFI 6389, respectively) are mapped directly to the east of the eastern boundary of Lot 511 (Figure 2.2).

2.5 Conservation Areas

There are no conservation areas located within the site. Two Bush Forever sites are within 5 km of the site (Figure 2.2), including:

- Leda and adjacent bushland, Leda (site 349) which shares a boundary along the eastern side of the Survey Area; and
- Lake Cooloongup, Lake Walyungup and adjacent bushland, Hillman to Port Kennedy (site 356), which is situated approximately 3 km to the south of the Survey Area.

The nearest Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) managed land is directly to the south of the site, immediately to the south of Wellard Rd.

2.6 Environmentally Sensitive Areas

2.7 Vegetation and Flora

A reconnaissance flora, vegetation and black cockatoo habitat assessment was undertaken by Strategen JBS&G (2020), with a follow up detailed flora and vegetation survey, targeted black cockatoo habitat survey and a basic fauna assessment undertaken by Focused Vision Consulting (FVC) (2022).

Findings of these surveys have been summarised below in the context of the site and the proposed clearing area.

2.7.1 Regional Vegetation

The proposed clearing area comprises Beard (1981) vegetation association 3048 described as Shrublands, scrub- heath on the Swan Coastal Plain (Beard, 1981) (Heddle, 1980). Based on regional vegetation complex mapping (Heddle, 1980), the site comprises the Quindalup vegetation complex (Figure 2.3), of which, 60.49% remains at the state, IBRA region, and Local Government Authority (LGA) extents (Government of Western Australia, 2018).

Given the proportion of the pre-European extent remaining is well above the 10% threshold that applies to constrained areas of the Swan Coastal Plain, this vegetation association is not considered poorly represented (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023).

2.7.2 Vegetation

2.7.2.1 Vegetation Units and Condition

The mapped vegetation units within the proposed clearing area consist of Tuart woodland (EgAr) and cleared land (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023) (Figure 2.4). The description and clearing area of this vegetation unit are provided in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 Vegetation units within proposed clearing area

Vegetation unit	Description	Clearing area (ha)	% clearing area
EgAr Tuart Woodland	*Eucalyptus gomphocephala* woodland over *Acacia rostellifera* tall open shrubland over weeds.	1.19	94.45%
	Cleared	0.07	5.55%

The vegetation condition of the proposed clearing area was found to be 'degraded' to 'completely degraded' (Figure 2.5). The majority of the site has been highly modified, and a large portion has been previously cleared (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023).

Table 2.2 Vegetation condition within proposed clearing area

Vegetation Condition	Clearing footprint (ha)	%clearing footprint
Degraded	1.19	94.45%
Completely Degraded	0.07	5.55%

2.7.2.2 Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities

Given the location of the site, the Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala)* Woodlands and Forests of the Swan Coastal Plain Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), listed under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), was considered to have the potential to occur. Vegetation within the site was assessed against the diagnostic criteria in the Approved Conservation Advice (incorporating listing advice) for the Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) woodlands and forests of the Swan Coastal Plain Threatened Ecological Community (Department of Environment and Energy , 2019). A total of five Tuart woodland and forest patches were mapped as occurring within the 2023 study area (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023), including the proposed clearing area.

The patch within the proposed clearing area was found to be <5 ha in size and in degraded condition. As per the condition thresholds, patches less than 5ha in size must be at least 'moderate' in condition in order to meet the requirements to be part of the nationally protected ecological community (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023).

The Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain Priority Ecological Community (PEC), listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, also has the potential to occur. The description, area and condition thresholds that apply to the EPBC Act listed TEC of the same name also apply to this PEC (Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, 2023).

Therefore, the proposed clearing area does not contain any TECs or PECs.

2.7.3 Flora

A total of 69 flora species from 58 genera and 31 families were recorded during the 2023 field survey (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023).

2.7.3.1 Conservation Significant Flora

No Threatened or Priority flora species were recorded within the site and, therefore, no conservation significant flora species are present within the proposed clearing area (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023).

2.7.3.2 Introduced Flora

Of the 49 introduced flora species recorded in the 2023 survey, *Asparagus asparagoides* is listed as a weed of national significance (WoNS) (Invasive Plants and Animals Committee, 2016) and a Declared Pest (DP) plant under the *Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007* (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023).

Four additional weed species listed as DP plants were also recorded in the 2023 survey:

- Patterson's Curse (**Echium plantagineum*);
- Cotton Bush (*Gomphocarpus fruticosus*);
- One-leaf Cape Tulip (*Moraea flaccida*); and
- Arum Lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*).

All five of these species are assigned the exempt category, which means that landowners are under no obligation to control infestations (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023).

2.8 Fauna

2.8.1 Conservation Significant Fauna

A desktop assessment identified 37 conservation significant fauna species as having the potential to occur within the survey area (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023). Of these, three species were considered likely to occur, these are:

- Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) – Endangered
- Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) – Vulnerable
- Quenda (*Isoodon fusciventer*) – Priority 4.

During the field survey only one significant fauna species (Carnaby's Black Cockatoo) was observed flying over but not specifically utilising the study area (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023). The area is largely degraded and is surrounded by established developments, as such there is limited habitat remaining for vertebrate fauna. No evidence of roosting or breeding by Black Cockatoo species was recorded (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023).

2.8.2 Fauna Habitat

The 2023 survey area was found to support four key fauna habitats as summarised in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3 Summary of fauna habitats in the survey area

Habitat/ Description	Area (ha)	% of Survey Area	Proposed clearing impact (ha)
Tall Woodland Tuart woodland over *Acacia* Tall Open Shrubland with sparse to dense understorey of weeds. Substrate is sand with some limestone, which is not seasonally damp or inundated.	18.98	31.89	1.19
Shrubland *Acacia* Tall Open Shrubland with sparse to dense understorey of weeds. Substrate is sandy which is not seasonally damp or inundated.	4.9	8.23	0
Open grassland Cleared areas devoid of native vegetation consisting of weeds and grasses and some areas of inundation and significant degradation.	8.58	14.42	0
Cleared and built environment	27.05	45.45	0.07
TOTAL	**59.52**	**100**	**1.26**

The degraded remnant vegetation occurs adjacent to a larger patch of remnant vegetation including Bush Forever site 349. Due to its connection to larger areas of remnant vegetation, the vegetation within the 2023 survey area is part of an ecological linkage corridor (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023). Ecological linkages are connected areas of habitat which allow fauna a passage of movement. The proposed clearing area will impact 6.27% of the tall woodland habitat within the 2023 survey area and, as such, will not result in a significant impact to the function of the broader area as an ecological corridor. As per Section 2.7.2.2 the "tall woodland" fauna habitat is not representative of the Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC.

2.8.3 Black Cockatoo Habitat Assessment

2.8.3.1 Foraging Habitat

The proposed clearing area contains foraging habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo of moderate quality (1.19 ha) (Figure 2.6). This vegetation was recorded as degraded and, therefore, has limited foraging value (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023).

Based on the assumption that all remnant vegetation within a 12 km buffer of the site constitutes foraging habitat, the total impact of the approved clearing footprint (0.58 ha) and the proposed clearing area (1.19 ha) will be 0.015% at a regional level (Table 2-4) (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023).

Black cockatoos are not known to forage within the 2023 study area or occupy the site on a regular basis. The desktop assessment considered Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo to be a 'regular visitor' however further interrogation identified a record of the species from 2006, 275m west of the study area. No evidence of foraging was observed during the 2023 survey (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023).

Table 2-4: Proposed impact on foraging habitat (Regional)

Foraging Habitat Quality	Regional extent ha (12km buffer) (ha)	Approved area CPS 10888/2 (ha)	Proposed clearing area (ha)	Regional impact (%)
Foraging Habitat High	11,858	0	0	0.015
Foraging Habitat Moderate		0.01	1.19	
Foraging Habitat Very poor		0.57		
Nil	NA	NA	0.07	NA

2.8.3.2 Breeding Habitat

No confirmed or unconfirmed black cockatoo breeding sites have been recorded within Lots 511 or 512 (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023). The nearest confirmed breeding site buffer for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos occurs 18 km northeast of the study area (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023).

A total of 365 trees containing potential current or future breeding trees for Black-Cockatoos were recorded across Lots 511 and 512 during the 2023 survey. Of these, 18 were recorded as containing a potentially suitable hollow but with no evidence of use by black cockatoos. 92 trees contained hollows that were unsuitable, 255 trees had a sufficient diameter at breast height (DBH) to form a hollow, but no hollows were present (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023).

Of these, 11 were recorded within the proposed clearing area, all of which were of a suitable DBH but contained no hollows (Figure 2.6) (Table 2-5). The remaining 354 potential breeding trees across Lots 511 and 512 will be retained.

Table 2-5: Proposed impact on breeding habitat

Total number in Tree Rank/Category	Total in survey area	Approved area CPS 10888/2 (ha)	Proposed clearing area (ha)	Impact on survey area (%)
Potential hollow, no evidence	18	0	0	0
Hollow but unsuitable	92	0	0	0
Sufficient DBH, no hollows	255	0	11	4.3
Total	**365**	**0**	**11**	**3.01**

2.8.3.3 Roosting Habitat

No confirmed or unconfirmed roosting sites for black cockatoos occur within the 2023 study area. No evidence of black cockatoo roosting was observed during the survey; however, trees within the 'Tall woodland' habitat have the potential to provide roosting habitat. Based on the known distribution of roost sites in the region, it is considered highly unlikely that black cockatoo roosting occurs in the proposed clearing area (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023).

Figure 2.2 Geomorphic Wetlands of the Swan Coastal Plain, Bushforever Sites

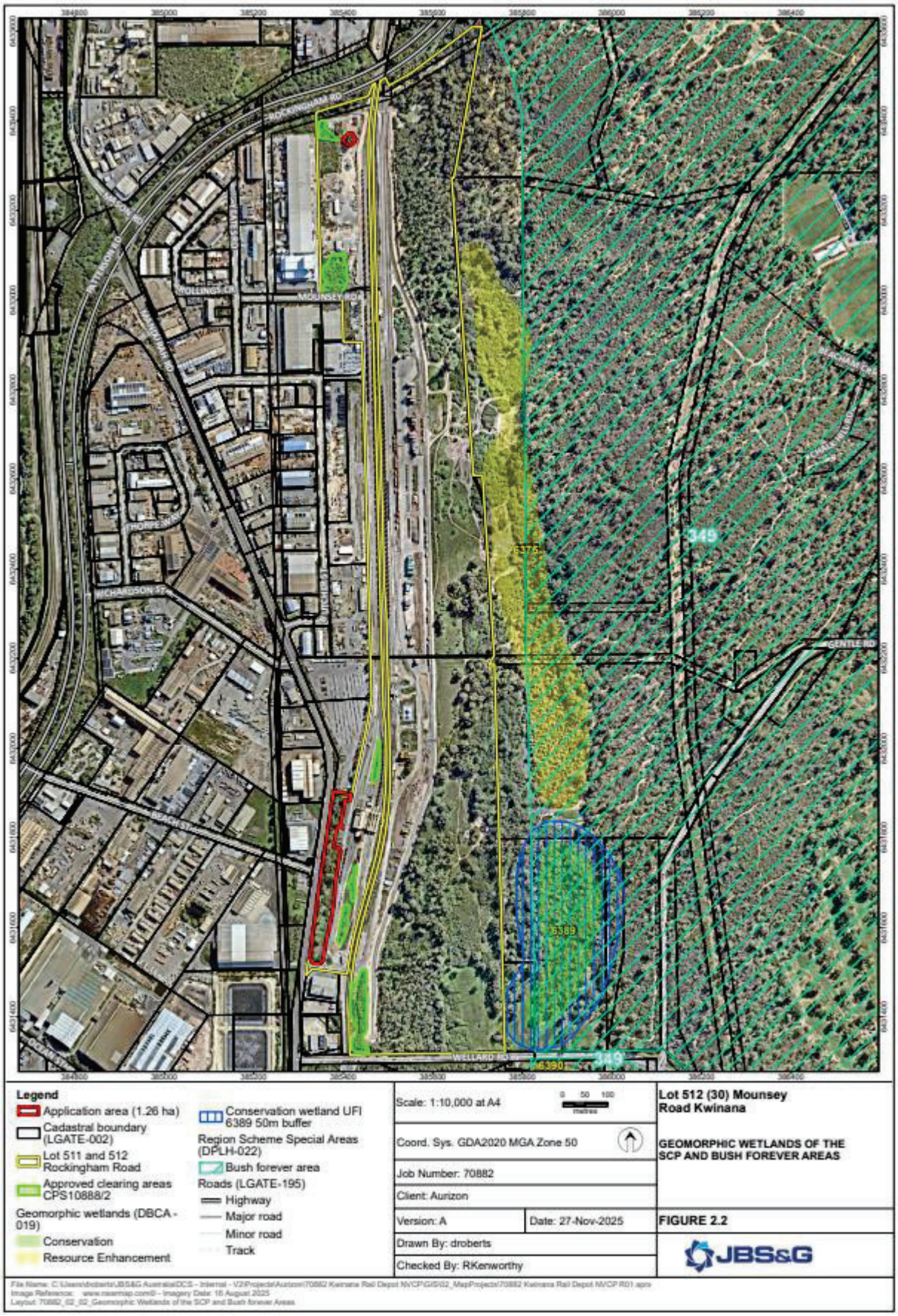


Figure 2.3 Regional vegetation

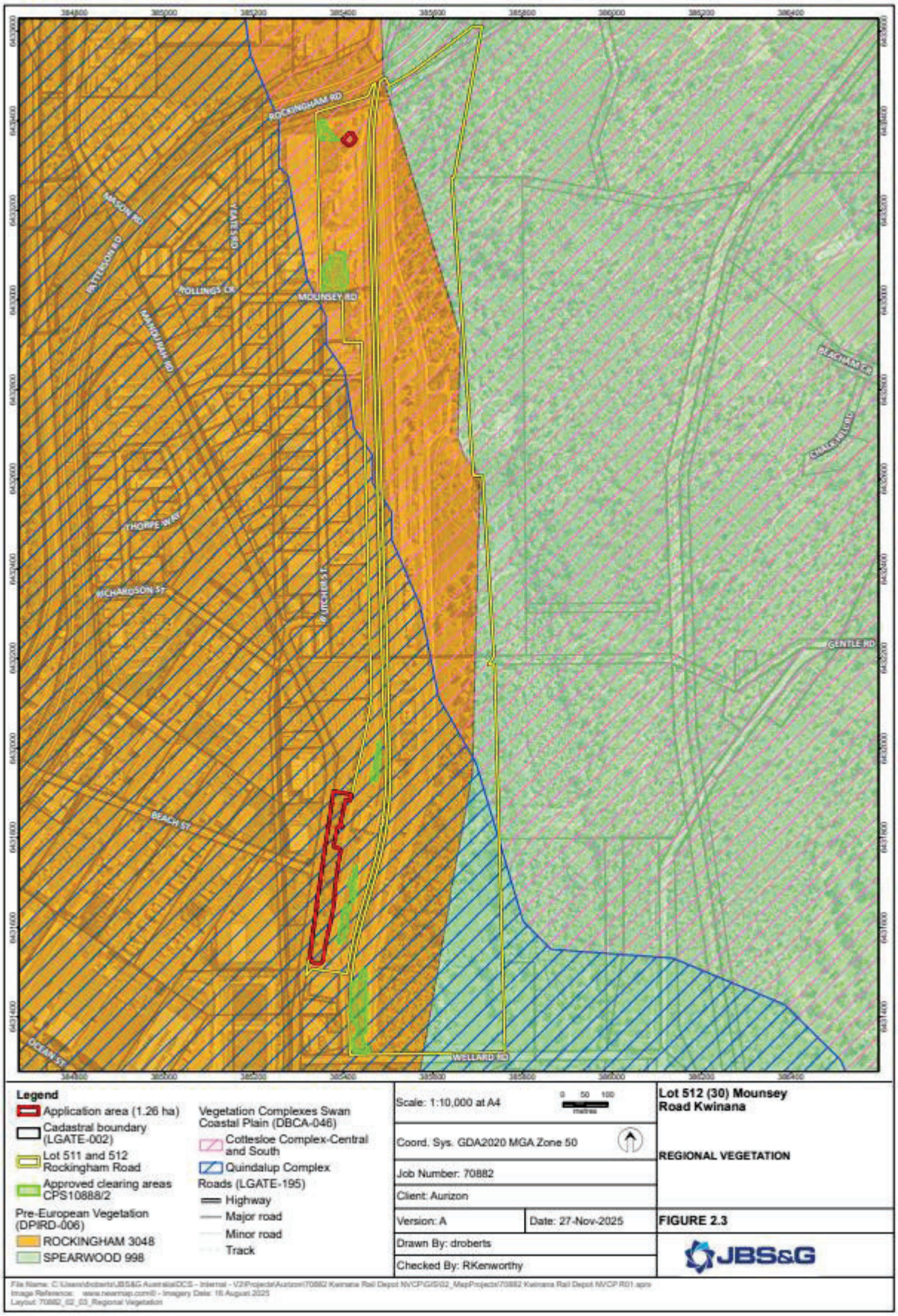


Figure 2.4 Vegetation Type

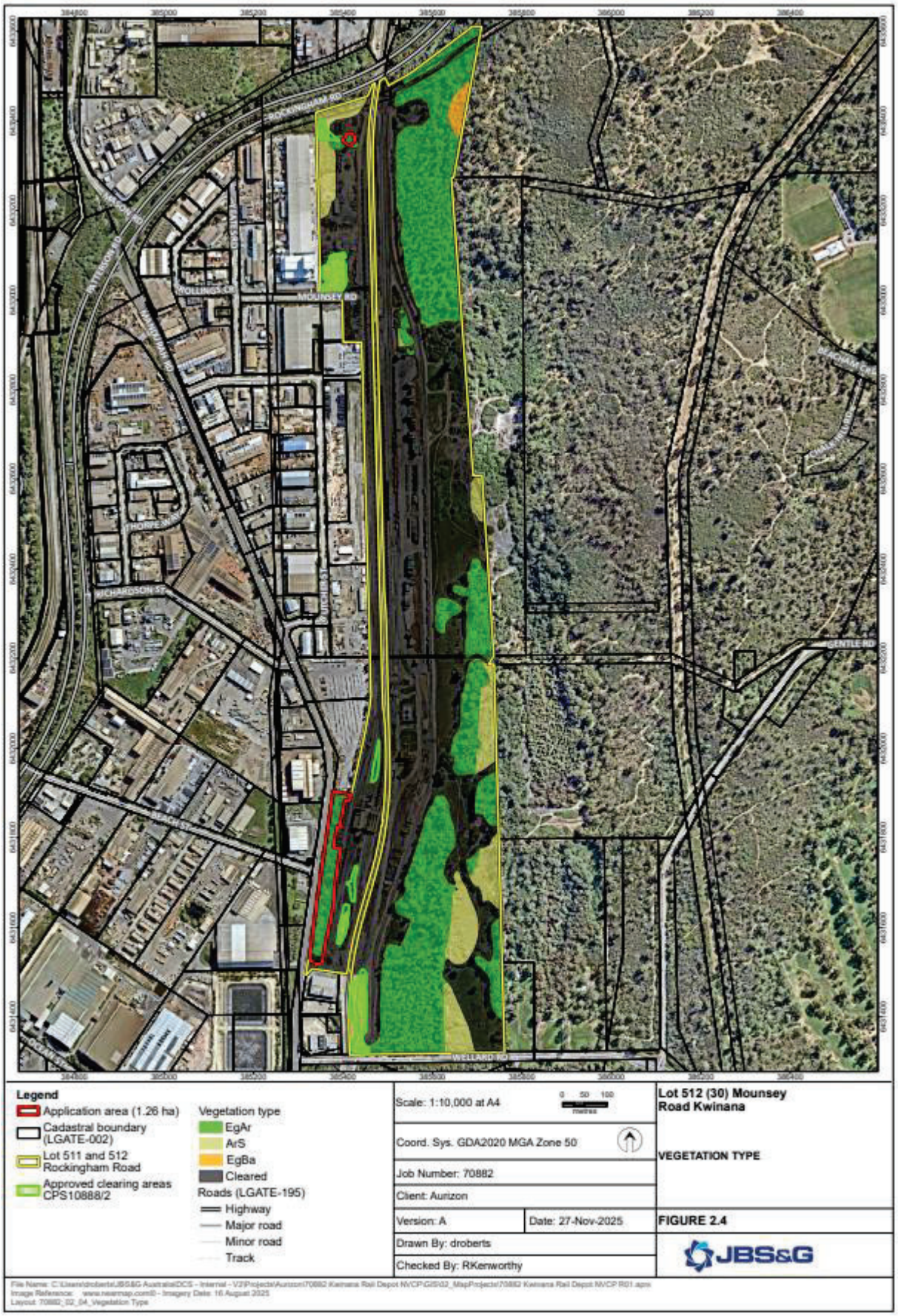


Figure 2.5 Vegetation Condition

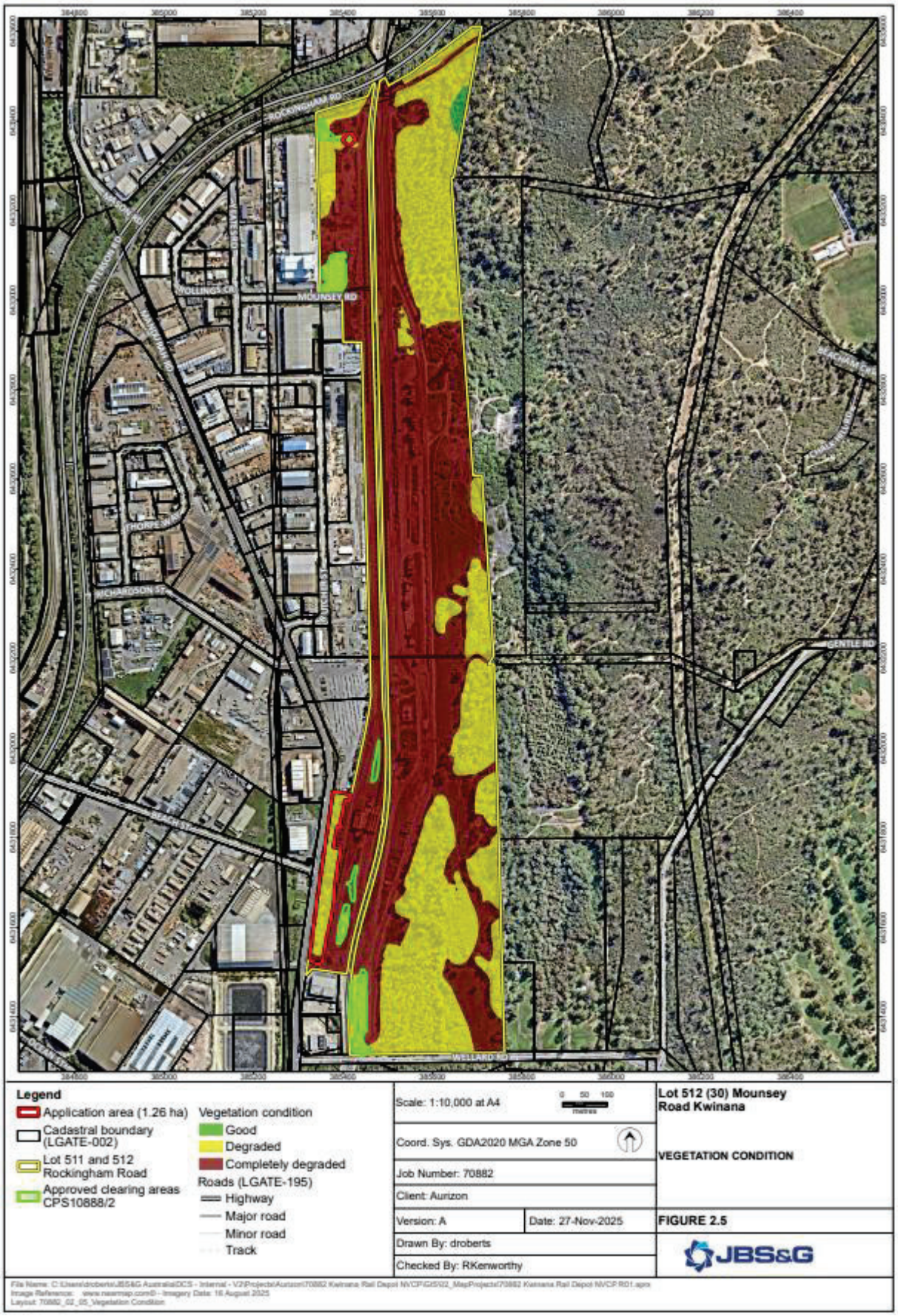
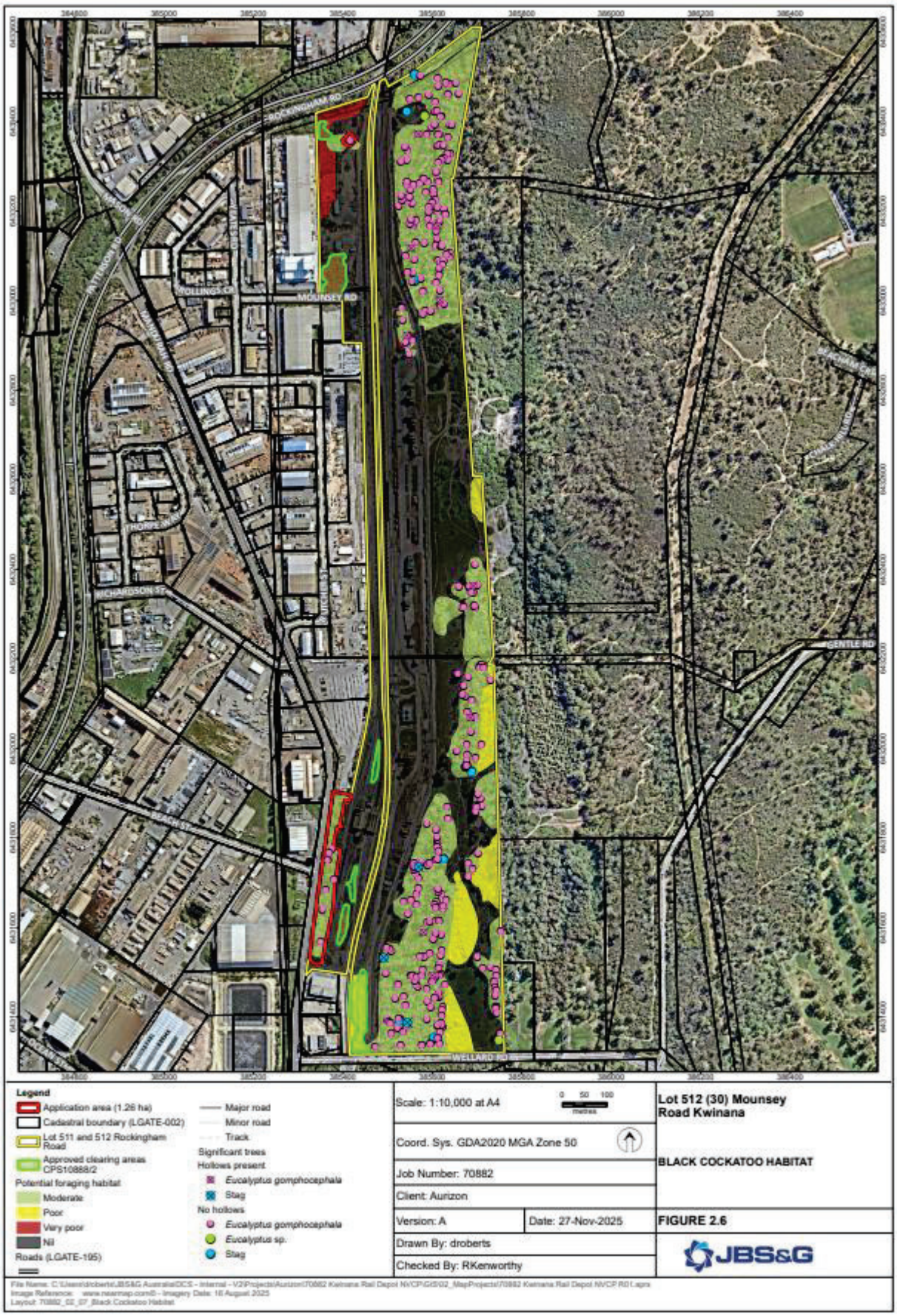


Figure 2.6 Black Cockatoo Habitat



3. Assessment against the EP Act clearing principles

An assessment of the proposed clearing against the ten clearing principles described in Schedule 5 of the EP Act is provided in Table 3.1. The ten clearing principles are considered by DWER prior to the decision being made to issue a clearing permit.

This assessment demonstrates that the proposed removal of 1.29 ha of native vegetation is not at variance with any of the clearing principles. On this basis, it is anticipated that the proposed clearing at the Kwinana Rail Depot can be permitted to occur.

Table 3.1: Assessment against the ten clearing principles

Principle	Assessment	Conclusion
(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.	The proposed clearing area has been subject to flora and vegetation assessments by Strategen (2020) and Focused Vision Consulting (2023). The mapped vegetation units within the proposed clearing area are Tuart woodland (EgAr) and cleared land. No TECs or PECs were recorded in the proposed clearing area. Of the native vegetation present within the proposed clearing area, the condition was mapped as degraded. Based on the low level of biological diversity within the proposed clearing area, clearing is not expected to be at variance with this principle.	Not at variance
(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 indigenous to Western Australia.	The proposed clearing area shows signs of being degraded by clearing, human disturbance and invasive weeds, reducing the value of the site for significant fauna. A targeted black cockatoo habitat assessment undertaken by Focused Vision Consulting (2023) recorded a total of 365 potential black cockatoo breeding trees across Lots 511 and 512; of these, 354 trees (or 97%) will be retained. 11 trees of a sufficient DBH to form hollows in the future but did not contain any hollows at the time of the survey were recorded in the proposed clearing area. The removal of these 11 trees will result in an impact on 2.7% of the total breeding trees within Lots 511 and 512. The proposed clearing area was recorded as containing moderate quality foraging habitat, although the vegetation condition was noted as degraded; therefore, foraging habitat is limited. The total impact of the approved clearing footprint (0.58 ha) and the proposed clearing area (1.19 ha) constitutes 0.015% of potential foraging habitat available at a regional level. The proposed clearing area is not considered to represent habitat critical for fauna species; therefore, the nature and scale of vegetation to be cleared is not considered to be significant at a local or regional scale in regard to indigenous fauna habitat.	Not at variance
(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 within the site and, therefore, no conservation significant flora species are present within the proposed clearing area (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023). Based on the absence of conservation significant flora and highly degraded condition of vegetation within the site, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance with this principle.	Not at variance

Principle	Assessment	Conclusion
(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.	The proposed clearing area is not classified as Tuart Woodland TEC/PEC. As a result, the proposed clearing will not be at variance with this principle.	Not at variance
(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 proposed clearing area consists of vegetation association 3048, of which, 25.5% remains within the IBRA region. The proposed clearing area also consists of the Quindalup vegetation complex of which there is 60.49% remaining within the IBRA region. Therefore, both the vegetation association and vegetation complex within the proposed clearing area have a current extent well above the 10% retention target for constrained areas within the Swan Coastal Plain. Based on the already extensively cleared nature and absence of remnant vegetation within the surrounding land, the proposed clearing area is unlikely to be at variance with this principle.	Not at variance
(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in or in association with a watercourse or wetland.	Mapping of Geomorphic wetlands of the Swan Coastal Plain indicated that no wetlands are present within the proposed clearing area. One Resource Enhancement Wetland and one Conservation Category Wetland (UFI 6375 and UFI 6389, respectively) are mapped directly to the east of the Kwinana Rail Depot. As no Geomorphic wetlands are present within the proposed clearing area, and the small extent of clearing is unlikely to impact surrounding wetlands to the east, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance with this principle.	Not at variance.
(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	Based on the small scale of clearing required, and that the surrounding area has been heavily modified for industrial purposes, the proposed clearing is not expected to increase salinity, waterlogging, nutrient export, water erosion, wind erosion or soil acidity. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance with this principle.	Not at variance.
(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.	There are two Bush Forever sites within 5 km of the proposed clearing area – Leda (Site 349) and Hillman to Port Kennedy (site 356), which is situated approximately 3 km south of the site. Additionally, the nearest DBCA managed land is directly south of the site, immediately to the south of Wellard Rd. None of these sites will be impacted by the proposed clearing as clear demarcation boundaries for the proposed clearing area will be installed, as well as implementation of dust stabilisation controls. Due to mitigation and avoidance strategies via obvious clearing boundaries, no impacts to nearby conservation areas are anticipated. Therefore, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance with this principle.	Not at variance.
(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if	The small scale of clearing required is not expected to cause sediment or nutrient impacts to wetlands, soil acidity or increased	Not at variance.

Principle	Assessment	Conclusion
the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.	salinity. Therefore, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance with this principle.	
(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the intensity of flooding.	The small scale of clearing required is not expected to alter hydrological processes to the extent that it is likely to cause or exacerbate the incidence of flooding. Therefore, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance with this principle.	Not at variance.

4. Environmental Approvals and Management

4.1 Environmental approvals

The key approvals identified as being required and/or potentially required to support the additional proposed clearing include the following:

- Amendment to the existing Native Vegetation Clearing permit (NVCP) (CPS 10888/2) under Section 51KA of the EP Act (this application);
- Referral under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)*;* and
- Development Approval in accordance with City of Kwinana Metropolitan Region Scheme zoning development requirements.

The assessment against the clearing principles concluded that the proposed clearing will not result in a significant impact to any flora or fauna species, or TECs, particularly with consideration of the proposed mitigation and management measures outlined in Section 4.2.

4.1.1 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Aurizon referred the proposed clearing (the Proposed Action), under the EPBC Act in February 2023 (EPBC Number 2023/09474). On 8 May 2023, a delegate of the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment determined that the Proposed Action was a controlled action and that it will be assessed by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) through review of Preliminary Documentation (PD). The PD is currently being drafted to address a request for further information from DCCEEW.

An EPBC Act Section 156A application to vary the referral of the Proposed Action (EPBC Number 2023/09474) was submitted to DCCEEW on 28 November 2025 to remove the proposed clearing area from the Proposed Action Area, due to there being no significant impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) within this area.

The proposed clearing area does not contain any trees with hollows and, therefore, does not provide breeding habitat for black cockatoos (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023). The foraging habitat present is of very limited foraging value and is not relied upon as a food source by black cockatoos, with much better-quality habitat in the surrounding area (Focused Vision Consulting , 2023).

There are also no TECs or PECs present in the proposed clearing area.

4.2 Environmental Mitigation and Management

The location of the proposed clearing area has been selected with consideration of the existing environment and quality of native vegetation. As such, the development has been located in degraded areas and has avoided areas of TEC or which provide potentially suitable breeding habitat for black cockatoos.

Given the proposed clearing area is within a broader area of already cleared and industrially developed land, incidental impacts to the surrounding environment are not expected. The proposed clearing will be undertaken in a manner that effectively manages dust and hygiene, and that will avoid impacts to retained vegetation and fauna in the surrounding area.

Management actions will include:

- Ensure suitably qualified wildlife spotter/handler is on call during clearing works;
- Stabilise cleared areas with methods such as wetting, mulching or other sealing material; and
- Clearly marking the vegetation required to be cleared.

5. Conclusion

The proposed clearing will result in the removal of approximately 1.21 ha of native vegetation in degraded condition. An assessment against the ten clearing principles listed in Schedule 5 of the EP Act has indicated that the proposed clearing is not at variance with any of the principles and can, therefore, be permitted to occur.

In addition, Aurizon has committed to implementing appropriate mitigation measures, including having wildlife spotters on call and stabilising cleared areas, to ensure minimal adverse impacts on the surrounding environment.

This application has been developed with due consideration of relevant cultural values, and Aurizon remains committed to ongoing consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders and other relevant authorities to address any concerns that may arise during the clearing process.

6. Limitations

Scope of services

This report ("the report") has been prepared by JBS&G in accordance with the scope of services set out in the contract, or as otherwise agreed, between the Client and JBS&G. In some circumstances, a range of factors such as time, budget, access and/or site disturbance constraints may have limited the scope of services. This report is strictly limited to the matters stated in it and is not to be read as extending, by implication, to any other matter in connection with the matters addressed in it.

Reliance on data

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Environmental conclusions

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