

2 February 2026

Helen Chernoff
Group Environmental Manager
Ramelius Resources Ltd
Level 1, 130 Royal Street
East Perth, WA 6004

Re: Western Spiny-tailed Skink search of the Mount Magnet mining area

Dear Helen

Terrestrial Ecosystems is pleased to provide a report on the recently completed fieldwork searching for the Western Spiny-tailed Skink (*Egernia stokesii badia*) in the Mount Magnet mining area (Figure 1). This targeted field investigation follows Terrestrial Ecosystems' (2025) Basic vertebrate fauna survey and assessment of the project area.

Several additional surveys of the vertebrate fauna have been conducted near the project area, including:

- 360 Environmental (2021) *Moyagee Gold Project Biological Survey*, Unpublished report for Musgrave Minerals, Perth.
- 360 Environmental (2018) *Moyagee Gold Project Baseline Environmental Studies*, Unpublished report for Musgrave Minerals, Perth.
- Coffey Environments (2013) *Level 2 Fauna Assessment Survey and Impact Assessment – Moyagee tenement*, Unpublished report for Silverlake Resources, Perth.
- Ecologia Environment (2010a) *Egernia stokesii badia summary of results*. Unpublished report for Oakajee Port and Rail Pty Ltd.
- Ecologia Environment (2010b) *OPR Rail Proposal: Terrestrial Fauna Assessment*. Unpublished report for Oakajee Port and Rail, Perth.
- Ecologia Environment (2012) *Karbar Station Solar Energy Project: Vertebrate Fauna Assessment*, Unpublished report for Hyperion Energy, Perth.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2023) *Basic vertebrate fauna survey and risk assessment for the Niobe Project*. Unpublished report for Aldoro Resources, Perth.

Western Spiny-tailed Skink

The Western Spiny-tailed Skink (Plate 1) is listed as Endangered under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act (BC Act) 2016* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC Act) 1999*. It is a large, stout, live-bearing lizard that has several recognised subspecies in Western Australia. The biology of this species is well understood, as it is very similar to that of the *Egernia stokesii* in South Australia, which has been extensively studied (Duffield and Bull 1998; Gardner *et al.* 1999; Gardner *et al.* 2001; Gardner *et al.* 2002). It is typically found in places that provide shallow crevices or hollows, such as hollow logs, granite crevices, particularly exfoliating granite, or some man-made structures that provide layered crevices (Bradley *et al.* 2022). This skink lives in small, fragmented groups that can be genetically isolated (Pearson *et al.* 2020).

It is sedentary and lives in colonies, and How *et al.* (2003) examined old records and visited multiple known sites for this species to report that it is typically found in areas supported by York Gum, but also in Gimlet and Salmon Gum woodlands. It is relatively easy to detect by its scat piles for someone suitably experienced. Western Spiny-tailed Skinks have characteristic scats and use a latrine site (Plate 2); so searching for latrines is a primary method for identifying colonies in the field.



Plate 1. Western Spiny-tailed Skink



Plate 2. Western Spiny-tailed Skink scats

Field assessment

Between 4-9 February and 12 December 2025, Terrestrial Ecosystems zoologists searched the project area. In February, 692 habitat locations were assessed, and fauna habitats mapped. A follow-up field investigation was then conducted in December 2025 where zoologists undertook searches of the identified rocky outcrops and breakaways to search for Western Spiny-tailed Skink or their latrine sites. There were no large, hollow-bearing trees in the area, so searches focused on rocky areas, which were the only available refuges.

The field investigations were undertaken by Tom Raymond, Mitch Plozza and Campbell Young. Field searches were conducted for signs of the skink, using both direct observations and indirect evidence (scat searches). All suitable habitat was searched (Figure 2).

Results

No Western Spiny-tailed Skinks or their scats were found during the searches. Potentially suitable habitat is shown in Plates 1-8.

Discussion

The available habitat in the project area is atypical of habitats where *Egernia stokesii* are regularly encountered. There are no local records of this skink, and they were assessed as unlikely to be present.

Yours sincerely

Dr Scott Thompson
Director and Principal Zoologist

References

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- Bradley, H. S., Craig, M. D., Cross, A. T., Tomlinson, S., Bamford, M. J., Bateman, P. W. (2022). Revealing microhabitat requirements of an endangered specialist lizard with LiDAR. *Sci Rep* **12**(1), 5193. doi:10.1038/s41598-022-08524-2. PMCID: PMC8956745
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- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2023). Basic Vertebrate Fauna Survey and Risk Assessment for the Niobe Project. Unpublished report for Aldoro Resources Perth.
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Plate 3. Fauna habitat



Plate 4. Fauna habitat



Plate 5. Fauna habitat



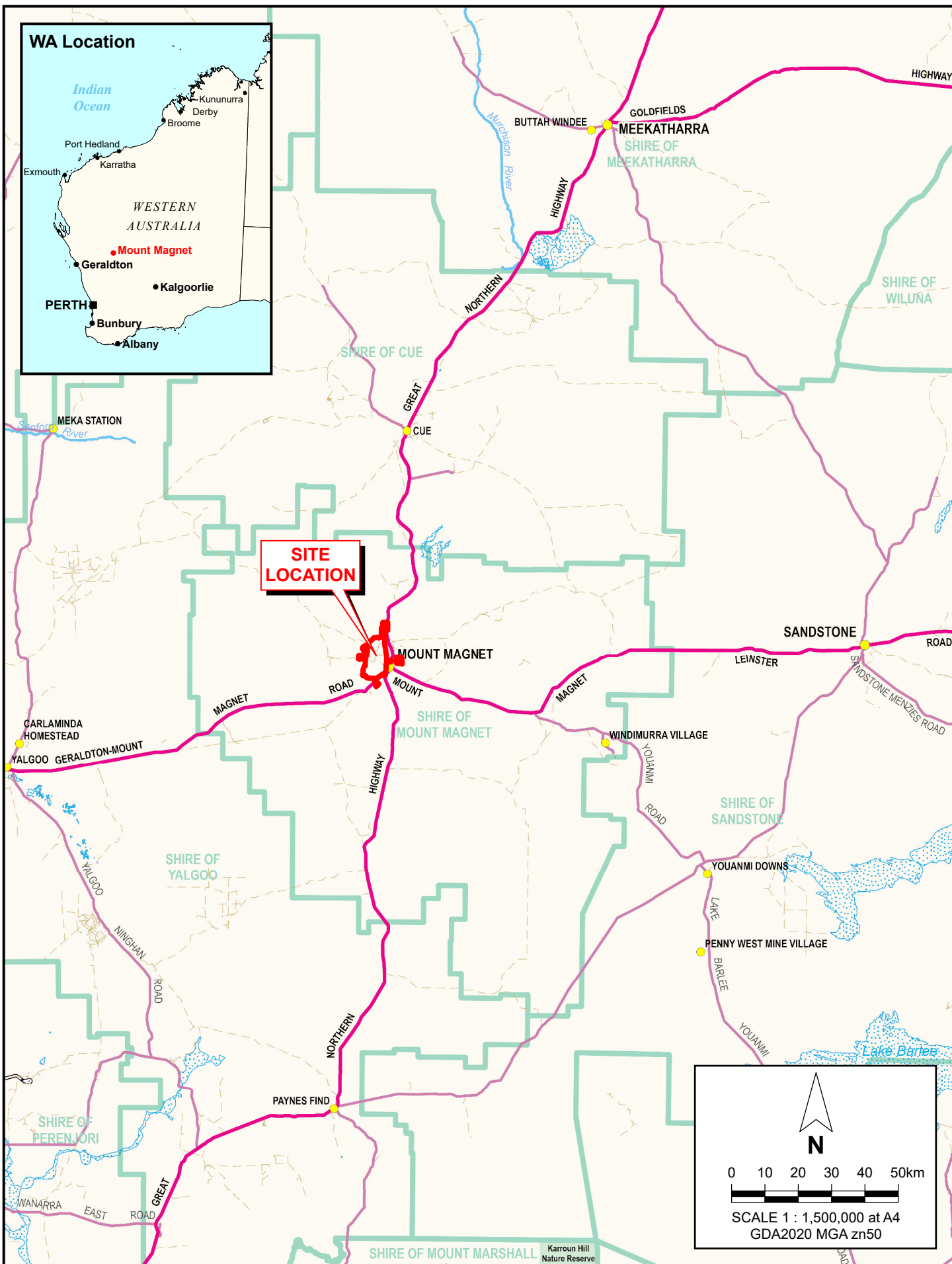
Plate 6. Fauna habitat

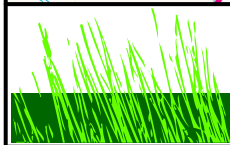


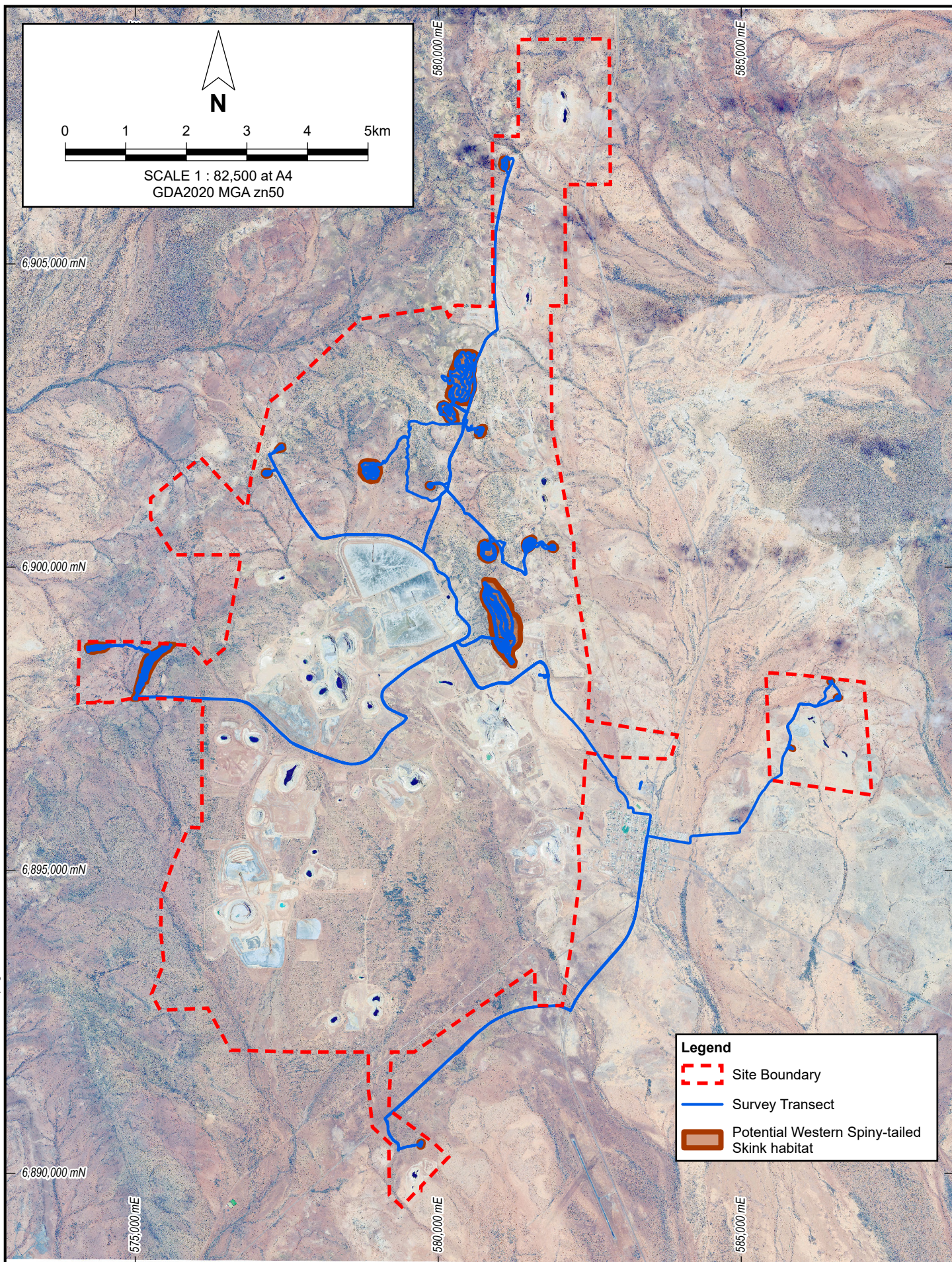
Plate 7. Fauna habitat



Plate 8. Fauna habitat

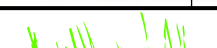


 TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS Drawn: S. Thompson	Ramelius Resources WESTERN SPINY-TAILED SKINK SEARCH MOUNT MAGNET MINING AREA REGIONAL LOCATION	Figure 1 Job: 2025-0184
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Legend

- Site Boundary
- Survey Transect
- Potential Western Spiny-tailed Skink habitat

 TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS	Ramelius Resources WESTERN SPINY-TAILED SKINK SEARCH MOUNT MAGNET MINING AREA	Figure 2
	SEARCH EFFORT	
Drawn: S. Thompson	Date: 2 Feb 2026	Job: 2025-0184