

Environmental Assessment

Lady Ida Project Clearing Permit Application Environmental Assessment

**L16/58, L16/62, L16/103, M16/262, M16/263
& M16/264**



**Prepared for
Geoda Pty Ltd & Lamerton Pty Ltd
September 2026**

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GLOSSARY

Acronym	Description
ANCA	Australian Nature Conservation Agency.
BAM Act	<i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i> , WA Government.
BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , WA Government.
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology.
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, WA Government.
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water, Australian Government.
DMPE	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, WA Government
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, WA Government
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, WA Government
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , WA Government.
EP Regulations	Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004, WA Government.
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority (now DWER), WA Government.
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> , Australian Government.
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area.
Ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres).
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia.
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union.
Km	Kilometre (1,000 metres).
MVG	Major Vegetation Groups.
NVIS	National Vegetation Information System.
PEC	Priority Ecological Community.
RAOU	Royal Australia Ornithologist Union.
SRE	Short Range Endemic.
SSC	Species Survival Commission, International.
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community.
WA	Western Australia.
WAHERB	Western Australian Herbarium.
WAM	Western Australian Museum, WA Government.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Lady Ida Gold Project is located approximately 65 km north of the township of Coolgardie and 80 km northwest of Kalgoorlie, in the Shire of Coolgardie, Western Australia (Figure 1-1).

Open pit mining of gold for the Lady Ida Gold Project occurred at three open pit deposits (Iguana, Lizard and Blue Tongue) between 2000 to 2001. The Project had been largely under care and maintenance since August 2008. The tenements on which gold mining formerly occurred (M16/262, M16/263 and M16/264 for the Iguana, Lizard and Blue Tongue mines, respectively) and associated miscellaneous leases are currently held by Geoda Pty Ltd and Lamerton Pty Ltd (Table 1-1). In April 2024, a native vegetation clearing permit application was submitted to DEMIRS (now known as DMPE) which was granted 14th June 2025; CPS10586/1. This clearing permit allowed for 200 ha of clearing within a 1,313 ha area boundary within the tenements listed in Table 1-1.

A new clearing permit application (referred to as the assessment area) has been prepared to obtain approval for a 3,073 permit area (which wholly encompasses CPS10586/1) and a total clearing area of 400 ha within the tenements listed in Table 1-1.

A map showing the existing approved permit area and the proposed new permit area is provided in Figure 1-2.

Table 1-1: Tenements within the assessment area

Tenement	Holders	Area (ha)	Grant	Expiry
L16/58	Geoda Pty Ltd Lamerton Pty Ltd	114.80	13/12/1999	12/12/2041
L16/62	Geoda Pty Ltd Lamerton Pty Ltd	42.80	13/12/1999	12/12/2041
L16/103	Geoda Pty Ltd Lamerton Pty Ltd	14.98	06/07/2016	05/07/2037
M16/262	Geoda Pty Ltd Lamerton Pty Ltd	989.35	12/03/1999	11/03/2041
M16/263	Geoda Pty Ltd Lamerton Pty Ltd	999.15	12/03/1999	11/03/2041
M16/264	Geoda Pty Ltd Lamerton Pty Ltd	990.95	12/03/1999	11/03/2041

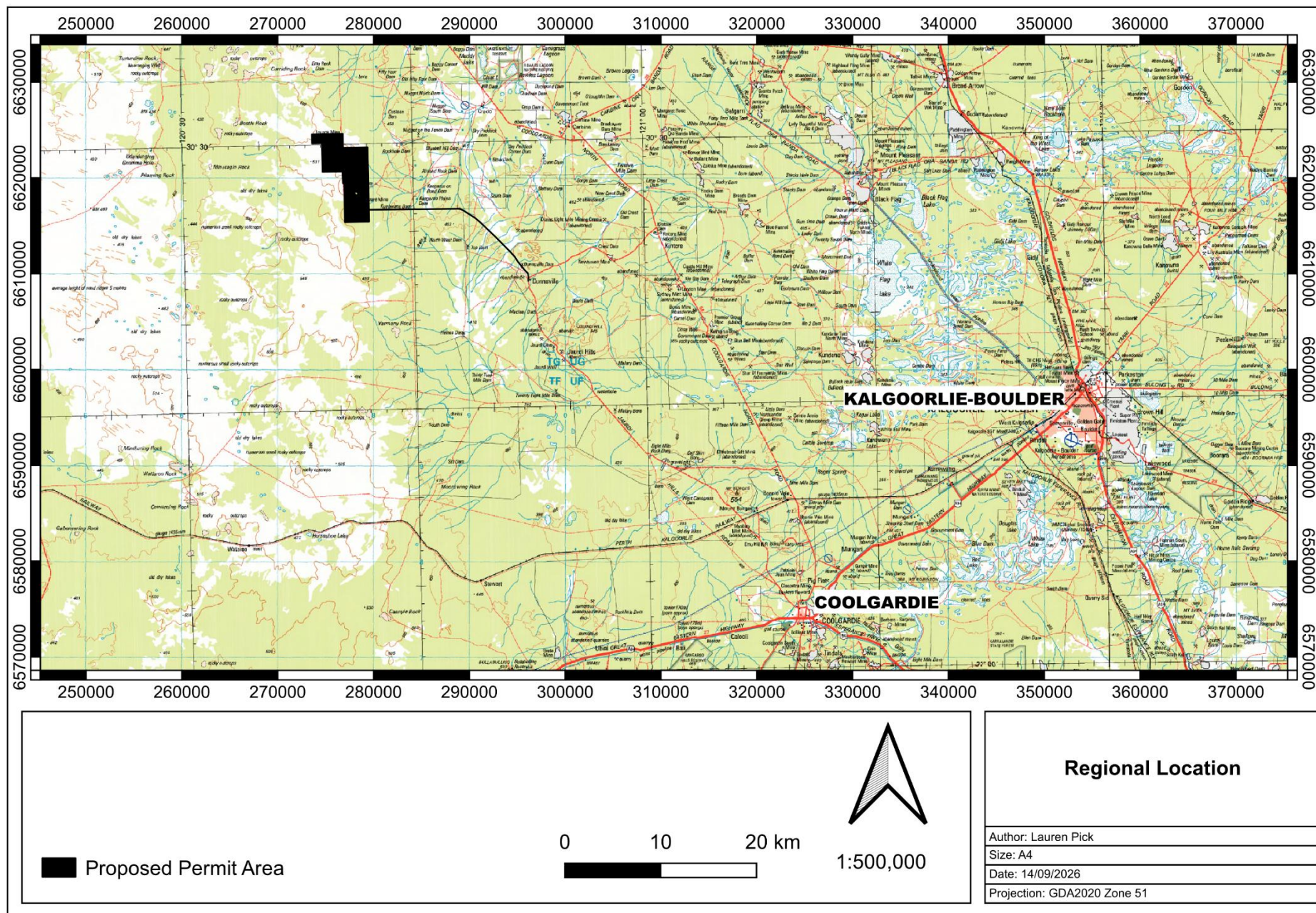


Figure 1-1: Regional location of the assessment area

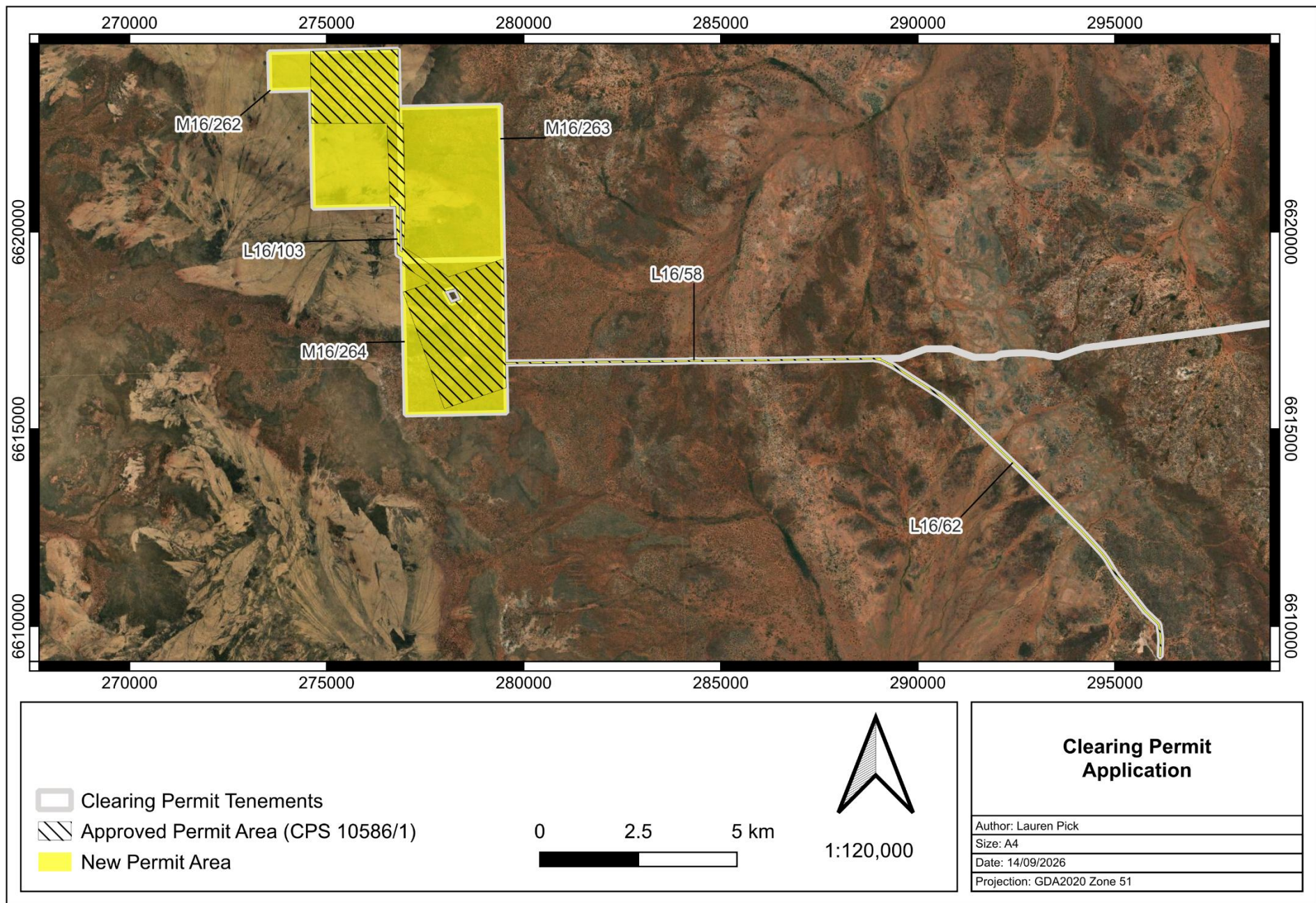


Figure 1-2: Existing permit area and proposed new permit area

2 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

2.1 REGIONAL SETTING

The assessment area lies within the South-West Interzone of WA in the Coolgardie Botanical District. Based on the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA, Version 7) (DotEE, 2012) the assessment area is located within the Coolgardie Bioregion of WA. The Coolgardie Bioregion is further divided into three subregions; Mardabilla (COO1), Southern Cross (COO2) and Eastern Goldfields (COO3) with the assessment area located within the Southern Cross (COO2) and Eastern Goldfields subregion (Figure 2-1).

The Coolgardie Bioregion is located within the Yilgarn Craton. Its granite basement includes Archaean Greenstone intrusions in parallel belts. Drainage is occluded (McKenzie, May & McKenna, 2002). Diverse woodlands, rich in endemic eucalypts, occur on low greenstone hills, on alluvial soils on the valley floors, around the saline playas of the region's occluded drainage system, and on broad plains of calcareous earths (McKenzie, May & McKenna, 2002).

The Southern Cross Subregion has subdued relief, comprising gently undulating uplands dissected by broad valleys with bands of low greenstone hills. It lies on the 'Southern Cross Terrains' of the Yilgarn Craton. The granite strata of Yilgarn Craton are interrupted by parallel intrusions of Archaean Greenstone. Drainage is occluded. Valleys have Quaternary duplex and gradational soils, and include chains of saline playa-lakes (Cowan, *et. al.*, 2001).

The Eastern Goldfields subregion lies on the Yilgarn Craton's 'Eastern Goldfields Terrains'. The relief is subdued and comprised of gently undulating plains interrupted in the west with low hills and ridges of Archaean greenstones and in the east by a horst of Proterozoic basic granulite. The underlying geology is of gneisses and granites eroded into a flat plane covered with tertiary soils and with scattered exposures of bedrock. Calcareous earths are the dominant soil group and cover much of the plains and greenstone areas. A series of large playa lakes in the western half are the remnants of an ancient major drainage line (Cowan, 2001).

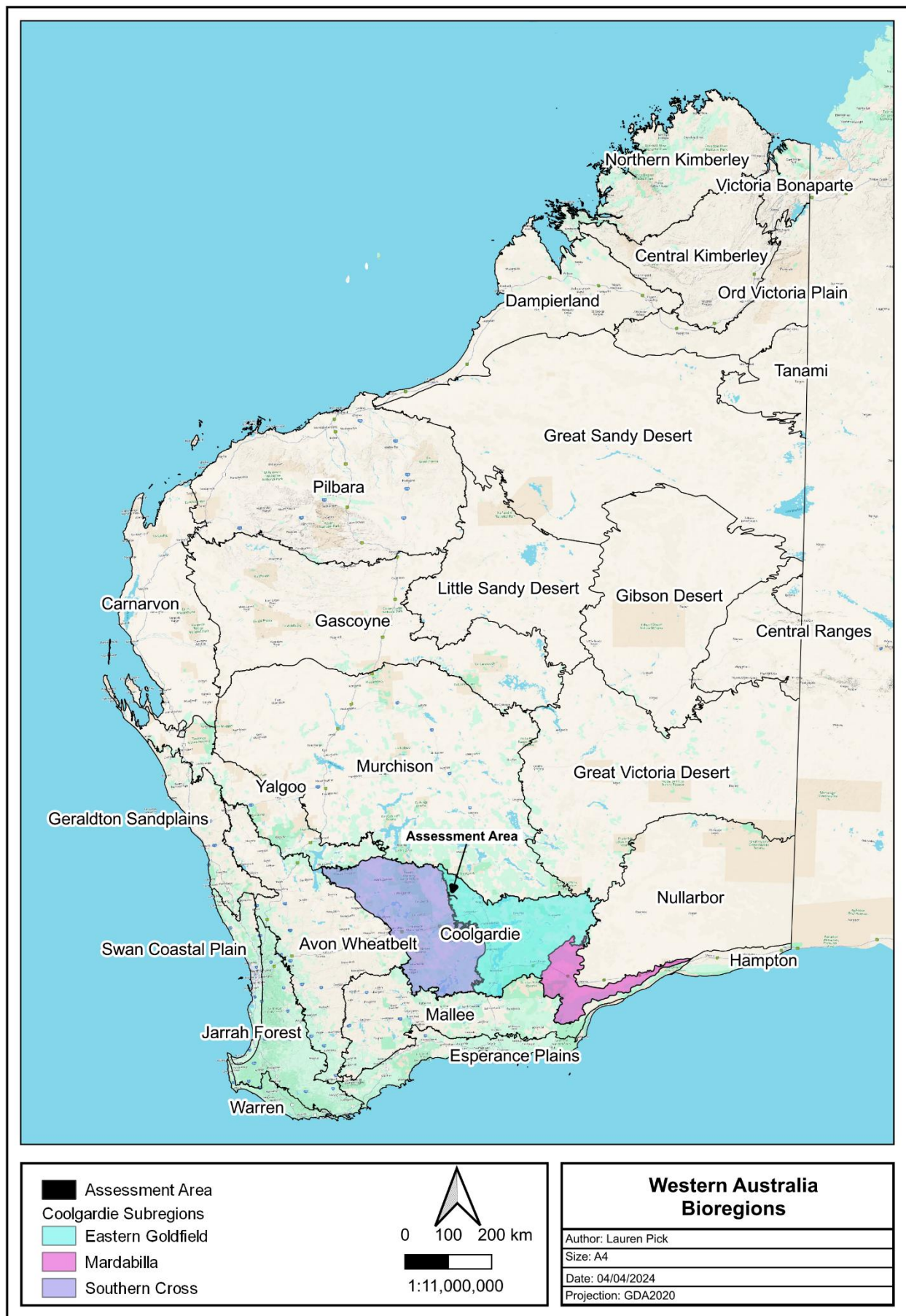


Figure 2-1: IBRA Bioregions in relation to the assessment area

2.2 PRE-EUROPEAN VEGETATION

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) GIS file (2022a) indicates that the assessment area is located within three pre-European vegetation associations as listed in Table 2-1. The extent of this vegetation association as specified in the *2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics* (DBCA, 2019) is provided in Table 2-1.

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). Development within the assessment area will not significantly reduce the extent of pre-European vegetation.

Table 2-1: Extent of Pre-European vegetation associations with the assessment area

Region	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	% remaining	% current extent protected for conservation ¹
<i>Vegetation Association Jaurdi 435: Shrublands; Acacia neurophylla, A. beauverdiana & A. resinimarginea thicket</i>				
Western Australia	119,972	119,972	100	7.81
Southern Cross Subregion	118,433	118,433	100	7.81
<i>Vegetation Association Kununulling 8: Medium woodland; salmon gum & gimlet</i>				
Western Australia	36,369	36,369	100	0
Eastern Goldfields Subregion	36,106	36,106	100	0
<i>Vegetation Association Kununulling 468: Medium woodland; salmon gum & goldfields blackbutt</i>				
Western Australia	186,203	182,938	98.25	0.04
Eastern Goldfields Subregion	184,813	181,667	98.30	0.04

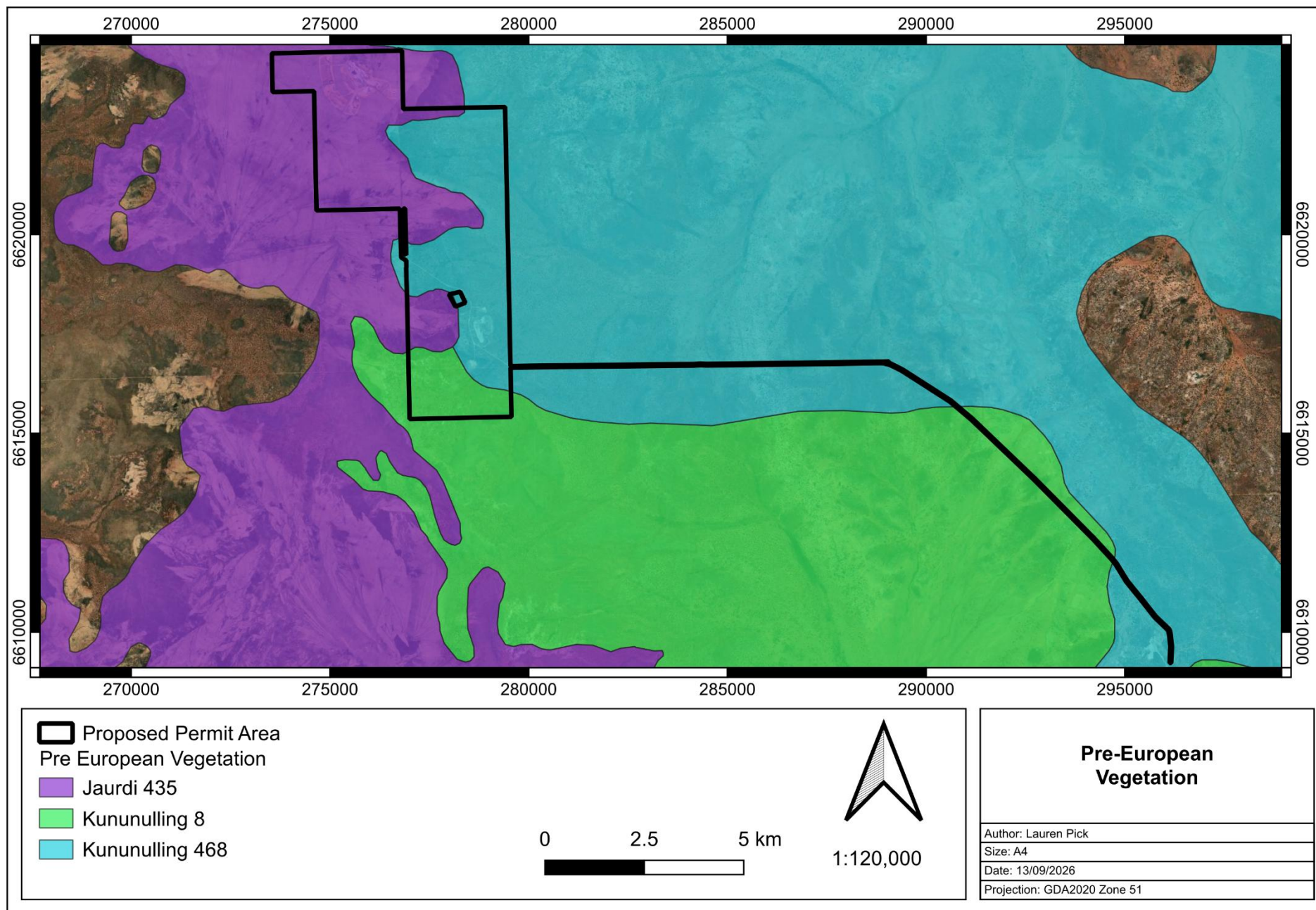


Figure 2-2: Pre-European vegetation associations within the assessment area

2.3 SOILS AND LANDSCAPE SYSTEMS

Based on geographic information provided by the DPIRD (2022b), the assessment area is located within the Kambalda Zone (265) and Norseman Zone (266) of the Kalgoorlie Province (26).

The Kalgoorlie Province is characterised by undulating plains (with some sandplains, hills and salt lakes) on the granitic rocks and greenstone of the Yilgarn Craton. Soils include calcareous loamy earths and red loamy earths with some salt lake soils, red deep sands, yellow sandy earths, shallow loams and loamy duplexes. Vegetation is dominated by Eucalypt woodlands with some Acacia-Casuarina thickets, Mulga shrublands, Halophytic shrublands and Spinifex grasslands. This Province is located in the southern Goldfields between Paynes Find, Menzies, Southern Cross and Balladonia (Tille, 2006).

The Kambalda Zone is characterised by flat to undulating plains (with hills, ranges and some salt lakes and stony plains) on greenstone and granitic rocks of the Yilgarn Craton. Soils include calcareous loamy earths and red loamy earths with salt lakes soils and some red-brown hardpan shallow loams and red sandy duplexes. Vegetation includes red mallee- blackbutt-salmon gum-gimlet woodlands with mulga and halophytic shrublands (and some spinifex grasslands). This zone is located in the south-eastern Goldfields between Menzies, Norseman and the Fraser Range (Tille, 2006).

The Norseman Zone is characterised by undulating plains and uplands (with some sandplains and salt lakes) on granitic rocks of the Yilgarn Craton. Soils comprise of calcareous loamy earths, yellow sandy and loamy earths, red loamy earths, red deep sands and salt lake soils. Vegetation includes Salmon Gum-redwood-merrit-red mallee-gimlet woodland with Acacia/ Casuarina thickets (and some Mulga shrublands and Spinifex grasslands). This zone is located in the southern Goldfields between Koolyanobbing, Menzies, Zanthus (Trans-Australian Railway), Norseman and Lake Hope (Tille, 2006).

The Kambalda Zone and Norseman Zone are further divided into soil landscape systems with the assessment area located within four soil landscape systems as described in Table 2-2.

Table 2-2: Soil landscape systems within the assessment area

Soil Landscape System	Description	Total Extent (ha)
AC1	Gently sloping to gently undulating plateau areas, or uplands, on granites, gneisses, and allied rocks, with long gentle slopes and, in places, abrupt erosional scarps	1,867,705
BB5	Rocky ranges and hills of greenstones-basic igneous rocks	145,065
Mx41	Flat to undulating pediments marginal to unit AC1; granitic rock outcrop; some low escarpments	148,741
Mx43	Gently undulating valley plains and pediments; some outcrop of basic rock	1,229,919

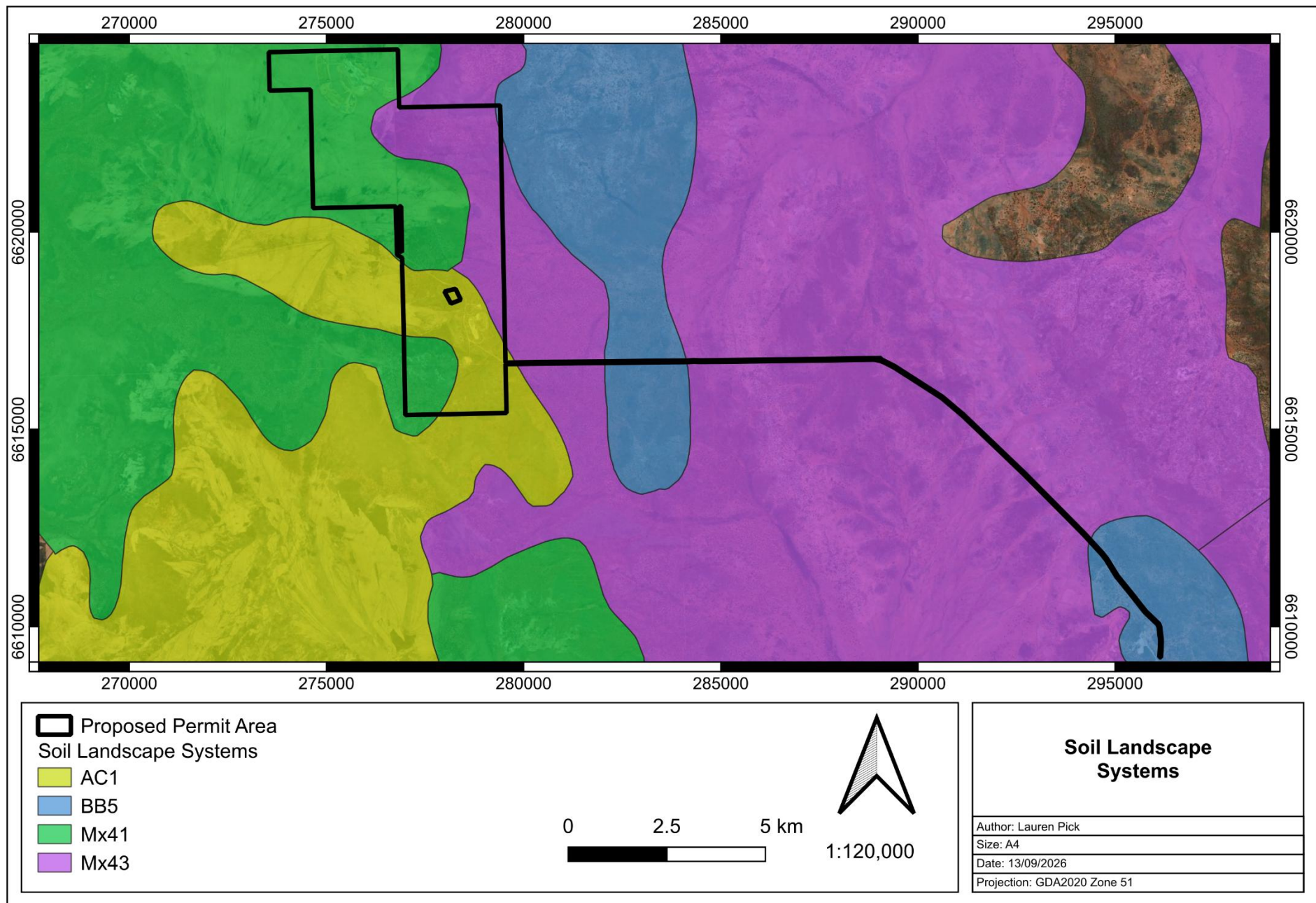


Figure 2-3: Soil landscape systems within the assessment area

2.4 HYDROLOGY

According to the Geoscience Australia Global Map Australia database (2021), there are no permanent or ephemeral inland waters within the assessment area. No permanent drainage lines occur within the assessment area however three minor ephemeral drainage lines intersect the assessment area (Figure 2-4).

Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) includes biological assemblages of species such as wetlands or woodlands that use groundwater either opportunistically or as their primary water source. For the purposes of this report, a GDE is defined as any vegetation community that derives part of its water budget from groundwater and must be assumed to have some degree of groundwater dependency. According to the BoM *Atlas of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems* database (BoM, 2026), there are no known or potential GDEs within the assessment area (Figure 2-4)

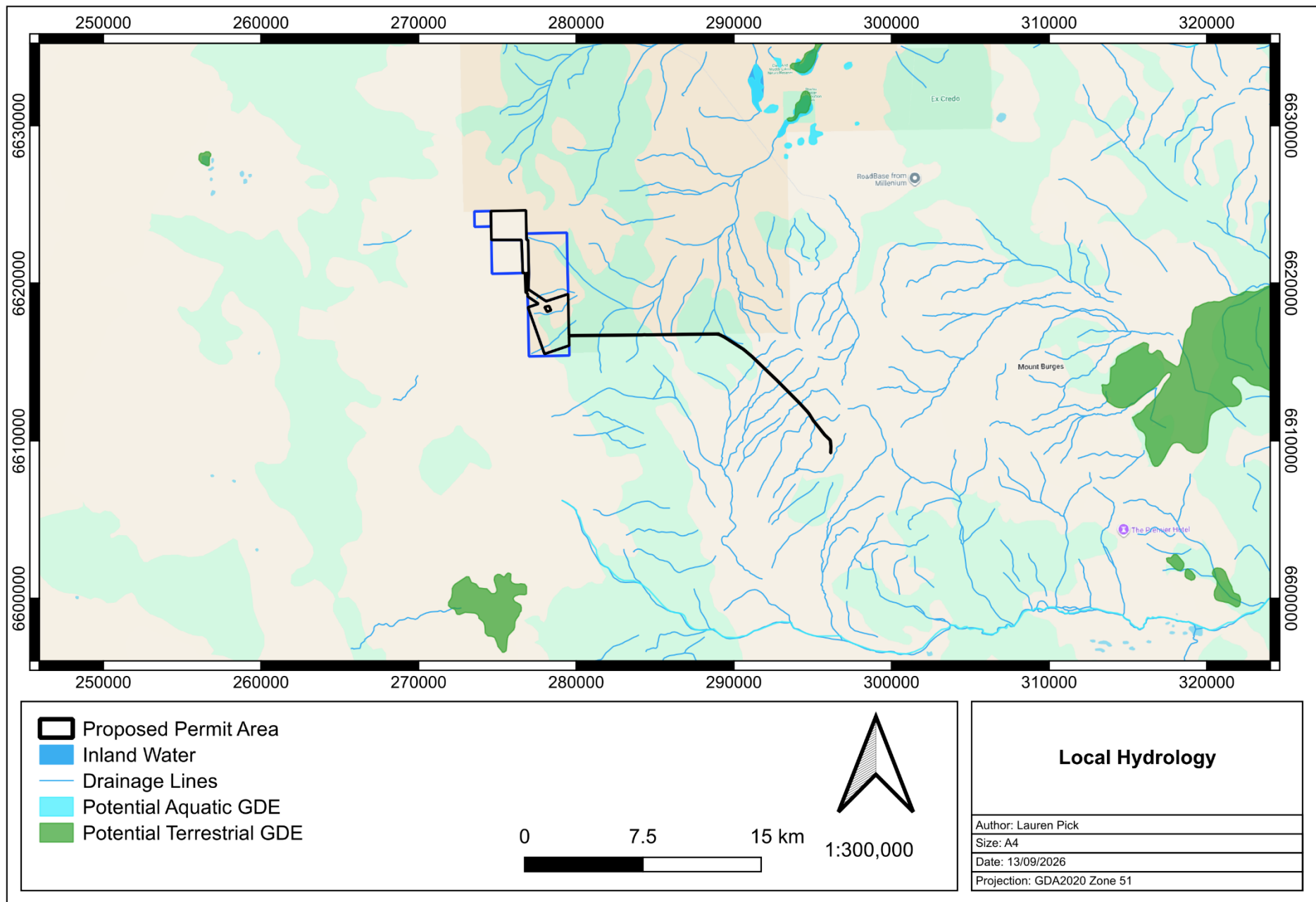


Figure 2-4: Local hydrological features in relation to the assessment area

2.5 CONSERVATION AREAS & GOVERNMENT RESERVES

The assessment area is not located within an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) as listed under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. There are no Ramsar Wetlands or Nationally Important Wetlands within the assessment area.

The nearest gazetted conservation reserves are the Clear and Muddy Lakes Nature Reserve and the Rowles Lagoon Conservation Park (approximately 15 km east-northeast of the assessment area). Freshwater wetlands within the reserve are reported to host an abundance of birdlife which have also been reported to frequent freshwater dams in the Lady Ida area.

The assessment area intersects the south-western region of land managed by the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) known as the Credo Conservation Park (LR3067/590) which was run as a pastoral lease from the early 1900s to 2007, when it was acquired by the (then) Department of Environment and Conservation (now DBCA). Land within the former Credo pastoral station is currently Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) proposed for conservation. The station has been destocked for more than 10 years, although there are reportedly still some cattle present as well as feral herbivores including donkeys, camels and rabbits (Borger, 2021). The Project locality has also been affected by historic timber cutting and land clearing for the purpose of constructing access tracks and water storages.

The assessment area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (listed under Section 9 of the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947*).

A map showing conservation areas and government reserves in relation to the assessment area is provided in Figure 2-5.



2.6 FLORA AND VEGETATION

Vegetation within the former Credo pastoral station is reported to comprise a mosaic of Acacia and Eucalyptus woodlands and chenopod shrublands, with shrubland and forb-lands on granite outcrop and mallee/shrublands on sandplains (Gibson & Langley 2012, cited in Borger, 2021).

The following flora and vegetation surveys have been conducted for the Lady Ida Project:

- Borger J (2021) Reconnaissance vegetation and flora survey of a proposed haul road from Walhalla to Lizard mining areas. Prepared for Ora Banda Mining Ltd.
- Borger J (2023) Targeted Flora Survey of the Lady Ida Project – Iguana Gold Mining Proposal Tenement M16/262 and M16/263, E16/486, March 2023. Prepared for Ora Banda Mining Ltd.
- LP Environmental Pty Ltd. (2024a). *Lady Ida Project: Targeted Flora Survey*.
- AECOM Australia Pty Ltd (2026). Lady Ida Project - Reconnaissance flora and vegetation Assessment. Report prepared for Beacon Minerals Ltd.

Based on vegetation mapping conducted by Borger, 2021 and AECOM, 2025 a total of 13 vegetation types (not including cleared/ modified vegetation) are present within Project tenements as shown in Table 2-3 and Figure 2-6

Table 2-3: Vegetation types within the assessment area

Code	Description	Image
13 Undulating plain; low rise; minor areas of granite outcrops in area	<i>Eucalyptus virella</i> , <i>E. clelandiorum</i> , <i>E. rigidula</i> , <i>E. salubris</i> , <i>E. salmonophloia</i> woodland/ <i>Eremophila</i> spp., <i>Acacia</i> spp., <i>Grevillea acutaria</i> , <i>Scaevola</i> , <i>Santalum</i> shrublands <i>Acacia merrallii</i> , <i>Acacia sericocarpa</i> , <i>Eremophila pustulata</i> present	
14 Undulating plain; depression	<i>Eucalyptus clelandiorum</i> , <i>E. salmonophloia</i> , <i>E. virella</i> , <i>E. griffithsii</i> open woodland over <i>Eremophila ionantha</i> , <i>E. interstans</i> subsp. <i>interstans</i> , over <i>Eremophila ionantha</i> , <i>E. scoparia</i> , <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> , <i>Acacia hemiteles</i> , <i>A. murrayana</i> open shrubland over <i>Olearia muelleri</i> , <i>Maireana triptera</i> , <i>Lomandra effusa</i> low sparse shrubland	

Code	Description	Image
16 Undulating plain Yellow sandplain Old fire regrowth >20 years	<i>Eucalyptus incrassata</i> , <i>E. rigidula</i> , <i>Banksia elderiana</i> , <i>Acacia lasiocalyx</i> low open mallee shrubland over <i>Conospermum stoechadis</i> , <i>Melaleuca cordata</i> , <i>Acacia cylindrica</i> , <i>Leptospermum fastigiatum</i> , <i>Melaleuca calyptroides</i> open shrubland over <i>Triodia rigidissima</i> , <i>Calytrix creswellii</i> , <i>Melaleuca cordata</i> , <i>Myrtaceae</i> sp. low hummock grassland/ shrubland	
16B Undulating plain; yellow sandplain	Mature shrublands to tall shrublands <i>Allocasuarina corniculata</i> , <i>Banksia elderiana</i> , <i>Eucalyptus incrassata</i> , <i>Leptospermum fastigiatum</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Calytrix creswellii</i> , <i>Melaleuca cordata</i> , <i>M. calypttrata</i> , <i>Chrysitrix distigmata</i> , <i>Triodia</i> low shrubland	
17 Low rises on undulating plains; upper catchment	<i>Eucalyptus</i> woodlands (<i>E. griffithsii</i> , <i>E. clelandiorum</i> , <i>E. oleosa</i> subsp. <i>oleosa</i> , <i>E. virella</i>) over <i>Acacia burkittii</i> , <i>E. hemiteles</i> , <i>Eremophila oppositifolia</i> , <i>E. pustulata</i> , <i>Dodonaea stenozyga</i> , <i>Philotheca</i> , <i>Halgania</i> shrublands	
18 Undulating plain Mid to upper slopes	<i>Eucalyptus incrassata</i> , <i>E. leptopoda</i> subsp. <i>subluta</i> , <i>Acacia lasiocalyx</i> low open mallee woodland over <i>Allocasuarina corniculata</i> , <i>Calothamnus gilesii</i> , <i>Eucalyptus incrassata</i> , <i>Melaleuca cordata</i> , <i>M. calyptroides</i> , <i>Conospermum stoechadis</i> , <i>Grevillea paradoxa</i> , <i>Banksia elderiana</i> , <i>Acacia lasiocalyx</i> , <i>A. cylindrica</i> , <i>Daviesia aphylla</i> , <i>Alyxia buxifolia</i> shrubland	

Code	Description	Image
19 Undulating plain; Upper catchment Red sand	<i>Eucalyptus virella</i> low open mallee woodland/ <i>Chrysitrix distigmata</i> , <i>Acacia hemiteles</i> , <i>Olearia</i> sp. <i>Eremicola</i> , <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> sparse sedgeland <i>Eucalyptus virella</i> , <i>E. eremophila</i> mallee stands over <i>Daviesia aphylla</i> , <i>Alyxia buxifolia</i> , <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> , <i>Acacia hemiteles</i> , <i>Eremophila</i> sp. Mt Jackson, <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Exocarpos aphyllus</i> shrubland	
20 Hill, ridge, laterite outcrop; minor haematite	<i>Allocasuarina</i> , <i>Acacia burkittii</i> , <i>Hakea preissii</i> tall sparse shrubland over <i>Allocasuarina corniculata</i> , <i>Phebalium filifolium</i> , <i>Hysterobaeckea ochropetala</i> , <i>Allocasuarina acutivalvis</i> subsp. <i>acutivalvis</i> open shrubland over <i>Hysterobaeckea ochropetala</i> , <i>Phebalium filifolium</i> , <i>Prostanthera grylloana</i> , <i>Acacia burkittii</i> low open shrubland	
21 Drainage line; upper catchment	<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>lissophloia</i> open mallee woodland over <i>Acacia burkittii</i> tall shrubland over sparse shrubland over sparse fernland	
22 Granite outcrops Upper catchment	<i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i> subsp. <i>sieberi</i> , <i>Amphipogon caricinus</i> , <i>Isotoma petraea</i> , lichens low fernland; isolated patches of shrubs (mostly <i>Philothea brucei</i> subsp. <i>brucei</i>)	

Code	Description	Image
23 Granite outcrop surrounds; 30 – 50 +% surface rock Dark brown gritty soils	<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>lissophloia</i> mallee woodland over <i>Acacia burkittii</i> , <i>Alyxia buxifolia</i> , <i>Santalum spicatum</i> tall sparse shrubland over <i>Pittosporum angustifolium</i> , <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i> , <i>Pimelea microcephala</i> shrubland over <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> , <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i> , <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> sparse shrubland	
24 Plain, upper catchment Sandy clay loam	<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>supralaevis</i> , <i>E. celastroides</i> open mallee forest over <i>Eremophila</i> sp. Mt Jackson, <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> , <i>Acacia hemiteles</i> sparse shrubland over <i>Olearia muelleri</i> , <i>Scaevola spinescens</i> , <i>Eremophila oppositifolia</i> subsp. <i>angustifolia</i> , <i>Rhagodia drummondii</i> , <i>Exocarpos aphyllus</i> low open shrubland	
25 Upper midslope; low hill sand/ brown sandy clay loam	<i>Eucalyptus rigidula</i> open mallee woodland over <i>Allocasuarina acutivalvis</i> , <i>Calothamnus gilesii</i> , <i>Callitris columellaris</i> , <i>Grevillea oligomera</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Calothamnus gilesii</i> , <i>Beyeria sulcata</i> , <i>Allocasuarina acutivalvis</i> subsp. <i>acutivalvis</i> , <i>A. corniculata</i> , <i>Phebalium filifolium</i> open shrubland over <i>Phebalium filifolium</i> , <i>Beyeria sulcata</i> , <i>Calothamnus gilesii</i> , <i>Allocasuarina corniculata</i> low open shrubland	
Cleared	Mining disturbance	

Code	Description	Image
Modified	Rehabilitated waste landforms	
Burnt	Areas impacted by a fire in late 2024. The species composition in these areas was dominated by disturbance species	

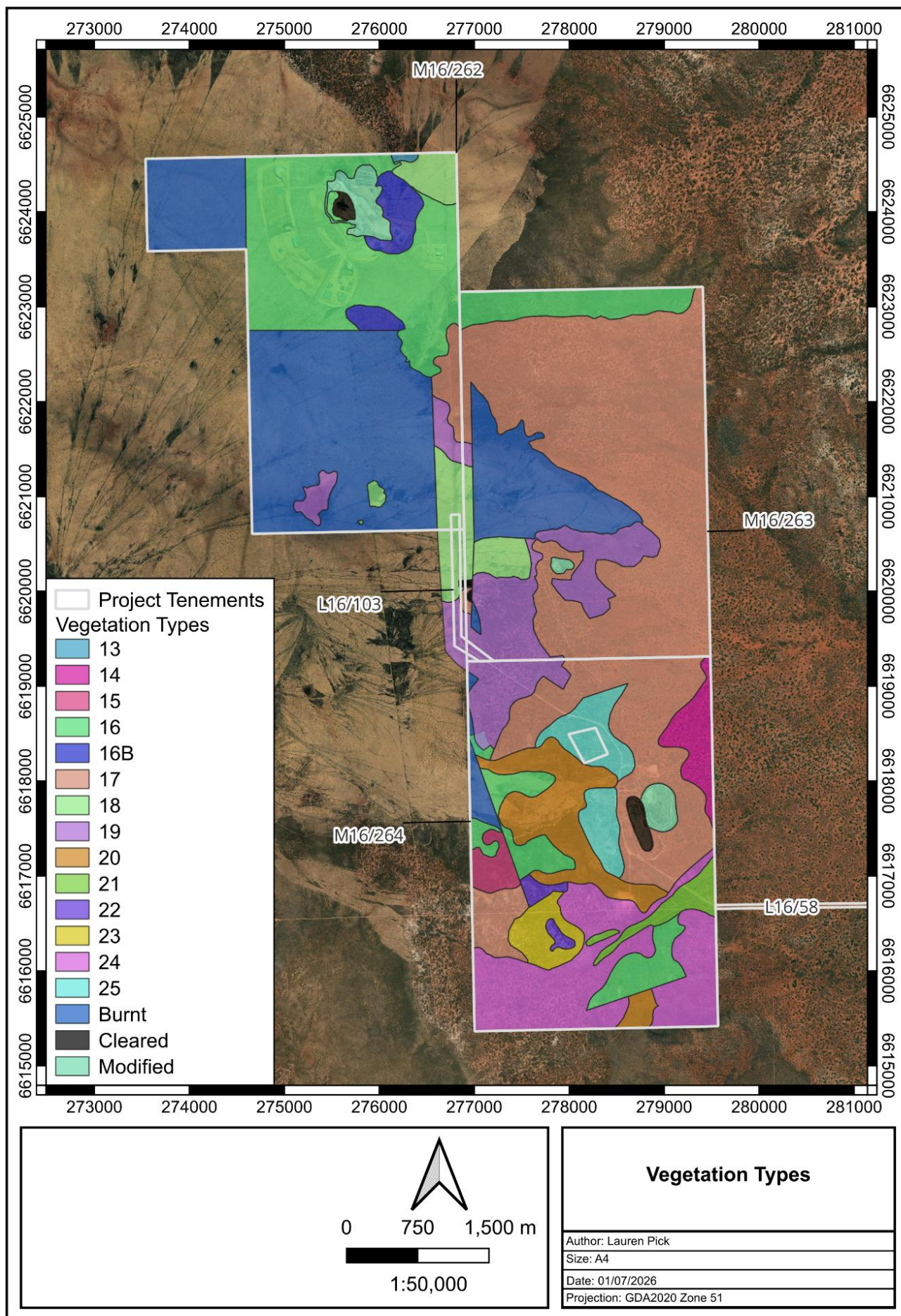


Figure 2-6: Vegetation types within the assessment area

2.6.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

Flora surveys have generally reported vegetation condition ranging from modified to excellent as shown in Figure 2-7. The Project is located within the former Credo pastoral station that has been largely destocked for approximately 10 years. Cattle, donkeys and, to a lesser extent, camels, are common in the area. As a result there is a moderate to high degree of grazing impact evident. A fire occurred in November 2024 which significantly altered the sandplain habitat.

Table 2-4 lists the weed species that may occur in the general Lady Ida Project locality, as they have been reported to occur within the former Credo pastoral station. None of the weeds listed is classified as a 'declared plant' or a 'Weed of National Significance'. No declared weeds have been recorded within the assessment area. Of the weeds listed, only *Salvia verbenaca* has so far been reported to occur within the assessment area.

Table 2-4: Potential Introduced Flora (Weed) Species

Taxon	
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i> (wild sage)	<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>
<i>Cleretum papulosum subsp papulosum</i>	<i>Cuscuta planiflora</i>
<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i> (stinkwort)	<i>Medicago minima</i> (woolly burr medic)
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i> (flatweed, smooth catsear)	<i>Erodium aureum</i>
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> (common sowthistle)	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i> (storksbill)
<i>Carrichtera annua</i> (cress rocket, Ward's weed)	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i> (horehound)
<i>Sisymbrium orientale</i> (rocket)	<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i> (red bartsia)
<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i> (pimpernel)	<i>Pentameris airoides</i>
<i>Rostraria pumila</i> (roughtail)	<i>Schismus barbatus</i> (Mediterranean grass)

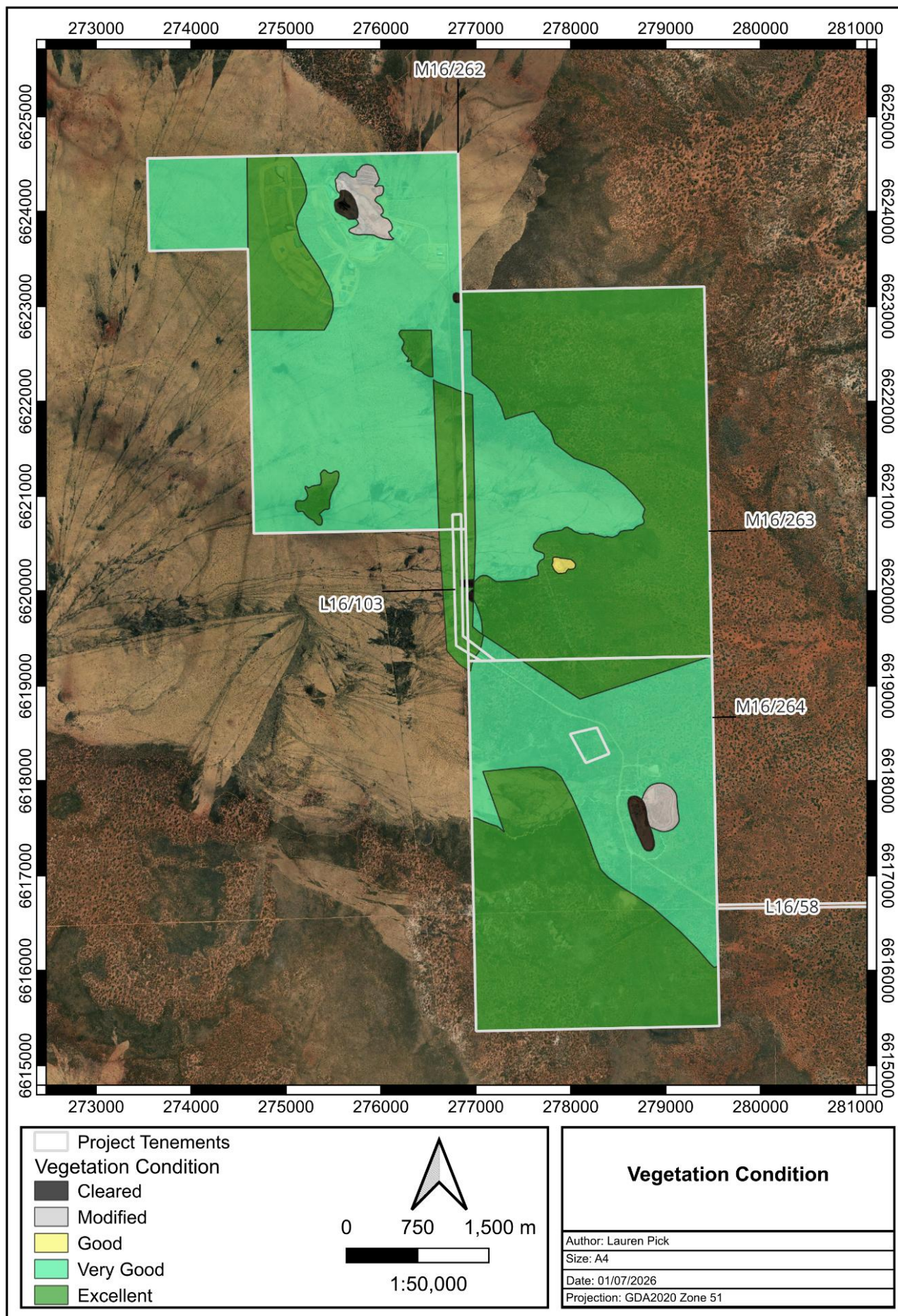


Figure 2-7: Vegetation condition within the assessment area

2.6.2 SIGNIFICANT FLORA

Flora and vegetation studies of the Lady Ida Project area (Borger, 2021; Borger, 2023 & LP Environmental, 2024) have identified three conservation significant flora species within the Project tenements: *Acacia cylindrica*, *Calytrix creswellii* and *Homalocalyx grandiflorus* (Table 2-6 and Figure 2-8). All were classified as 'Priority 3' species, meaning the species are known from several locations or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat. These species are not considered to be under imminent threat, but are poorly known and in need of further survey to assess threatening processes that could affect them.

No new records of these species were recorded during the recent flora survey conducted by AECOM (2026) however an additional conservation significant flora species was identified in the assessment area; *Olearia arida* (Priority 4).

No threatened flora species protected under the EPBC Act or under the BC Act have been recorded within the assessment area.

Table 2-5: Conservation significant flora recorded within the assessment area

Scientific name and description	Species/ Habitat Image	Associated Habitat and Population Extent ¹
<i>Acacia cylindrica</i> (P3) IBRA regions: Avon Wheatbelt, Coolgardie IBRA subregions: Merredin, Southern Cross ~ 400 km east – west range Flowering recorded August to October. Grows on deep yellow or gravelly well drained sand.		Vegetation Type 16 (Undulating plain yellow sandplain) & 18 (Undulating plain mid to upper slopes) 29,099 plants recorded during field surveys.
<i>Calytrix creswellii</i> (P3) IBRA regions: Coolgardie, Murchison IBRA subregions: Eastern Murchison, Southern Cross ~ 400 km NE – SW range (south of Mt Magnet to north of Boorabbin) Flowers recorded from September to December; grows on yellow sand sometimes with lateritic gravel; sandplains.		Vegetation Type 16 (Undulating plain yellow sandplain) & 18 (ndulating plain mid to upper slopes) 138,035 plants recorded during field surveys.

¹ Based on Jenny Borger (2021 & 2023) and LP Environmental (2024) flora survey counts only. Excludes DBCA record counts.

The total plants relates to total number of plants within the 1,767 ha assessment area, within which a maximum of 150 ha is proposed to be cleared. Clearing within Priority flora populations will be avoided and/ or minimised where possible (including within a 10m radius of Priority flora). Where avoidance is not possible, consultation with DBCA will be conducted.

Scientific name and description	Species/ Habitat Image	Associated Habitat and Population Extent ¹
<i>Homalocalyx grandiflorus</i> (P3) IBRA regions: Coolgardie, Murchison IBRA subregions: Eastern Murchison, Southern Cross ~ < 200 km range from the Helena Aurora Conservation Park to Goldfields Hwy south of Menzies. Flowers recorded from October to December. Grows on yellow sand, sandplains.		Vegetation Type 16 (Undulating plain yellow sandplain) 1,744 plants recorded during field surveys.
<i>Olearia arida</i> (P4) IBRA regions: Central Ranges, Coolgardie, Great Victoria Desert, Murchison. IBRA subregions: Central, Eastern Goldfield, Eastern Murchison, Shield. ~ > 600 km range from the Wiluna to Great Victoria Desert. Flowers recorded from July to September. Grows on red or yellow sand, undulating low rises.		Vegetation Type 17 <i>Eucalyptus</i> woodland low rises on undulating plains 5 plants recorded during field surveys.

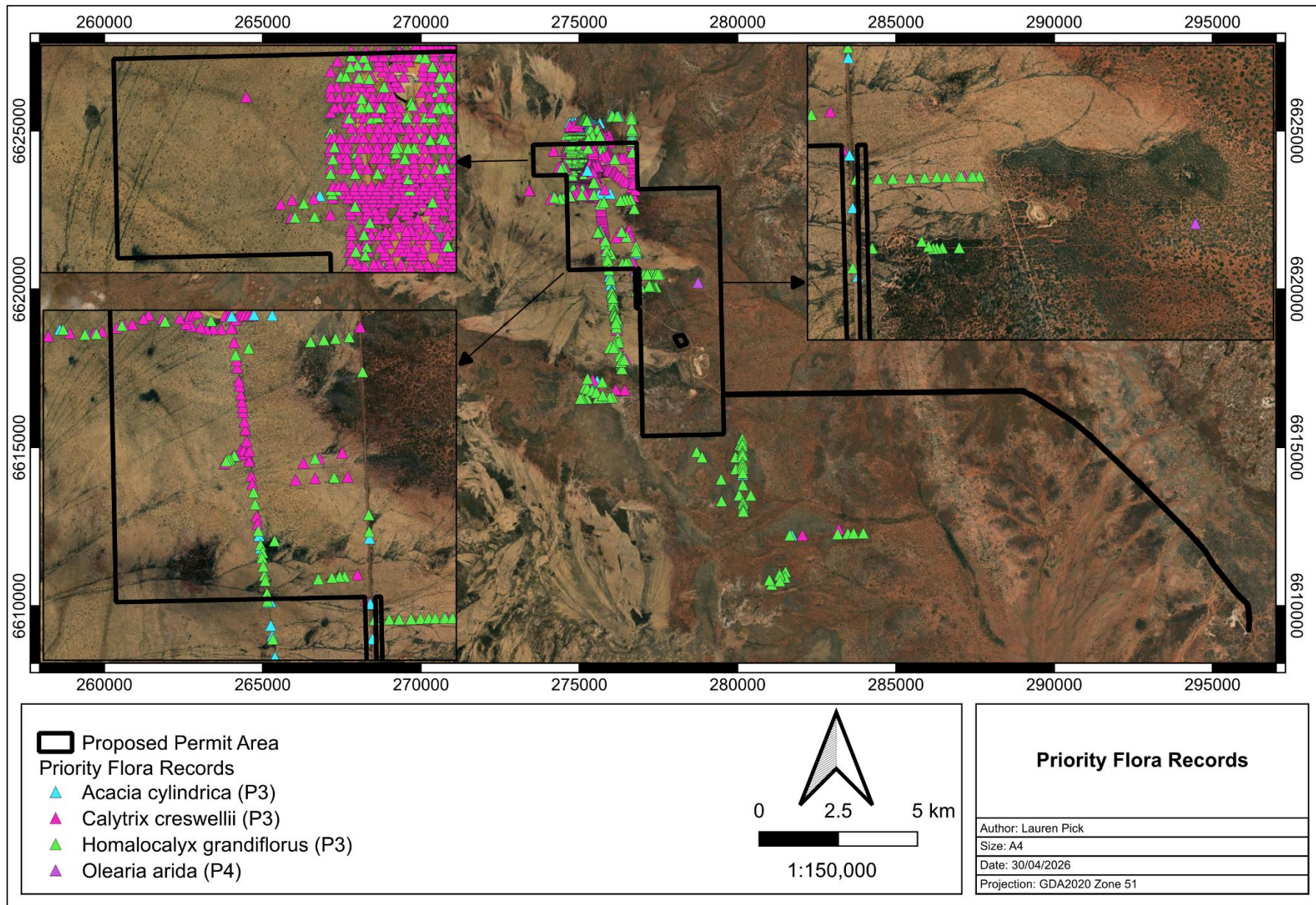


Figure 2-8: Conservation significant flora records in relation to the assessment area

A targeted flora survey was conducted by LP Environmental (2024) to define the potential population extent of the Priority 3 flora. It is important to note, the mapped population extent is conservative with suitable sandplain habitat and DBCA records of these taxa extending further west of the mapped population extent however due to safety requirements, the entire extent of sandplain habitat could not be accessed.

Based on the current mapped extent as shown in Figure 2-9, the populations cover an area of 1,987 ha of which 449 ha is located within the new permit area (the clearing permit requires no more than 400 ha of clearing). Due to the high density of priority flora, not all individual plants could be recorded. At regular intervals, counts of each species were conducted within a 10m X 10m area to determine the average number of plants per 100m² and a total population abundance was extrapolated from these averages, based on the mapped extent of the population as provided in Table 8.

Table 2-6: Priority 3 flora population estimate

Taxon	Average density (100m ²)	Population extent (m ²)	Extrapolated total population abundance
<i>Acacia cylindrica</i>	2	19,867,247	397,345
<i>Calytrix creswellii</i>	4		794,690
<i>Homalocalyx grandiflorus</i>	5		993,362

As shown in Plate 1, following completion of the targeted survey, in November 2024 a significant fire occurred within the sandplain at the Iguana area and as a result much of the priority flora have been burnt. A map showing the pre-fire and post-fire population extent is provided in Figure 2-9.



Plate 1: Fire impacted vegetation

An estimate on the maximum potential impacts on the Priority 3 flora based on both pre-fire and post-fire extent is provided in Table 2-7. It is important to note this is based on the entire extent of the assessment area (i.e. entire 1,767 ha of additional clearing permit area proposed) however the actual area of additional clearing proposed is no more than 400 ha. A 10m exclusion zone will be established surrounding the *Olearia arida* (P4) plants.

Table 2-7: Priority 3 population impact assessment

Taxon	Pre Fire					Post Fire				
	Total Population extent (m ²)	Extrapolated total population abundance	Population extent within assessment area (m ²)	Estimated population abundance within assessment area	% Impact	Total Population extent (m ²)	Extrapolated total population abundance	Population extent within assessment area (m ²)	Estimated population abundance within assessment area	% Impact
<i>Acacia cylindrica</i>	19,867,247	397,345	4,490,000	7,947	2%	4,650,000	93,000	290,000	5,800	6%
<i>Calytrix creswellii</i>		794,690		31,788	4%		186,000		11,600	6%
<i>Homalocalyx grandiflorus</i>		993,362		49,668	5%		232,500		14,500	6%

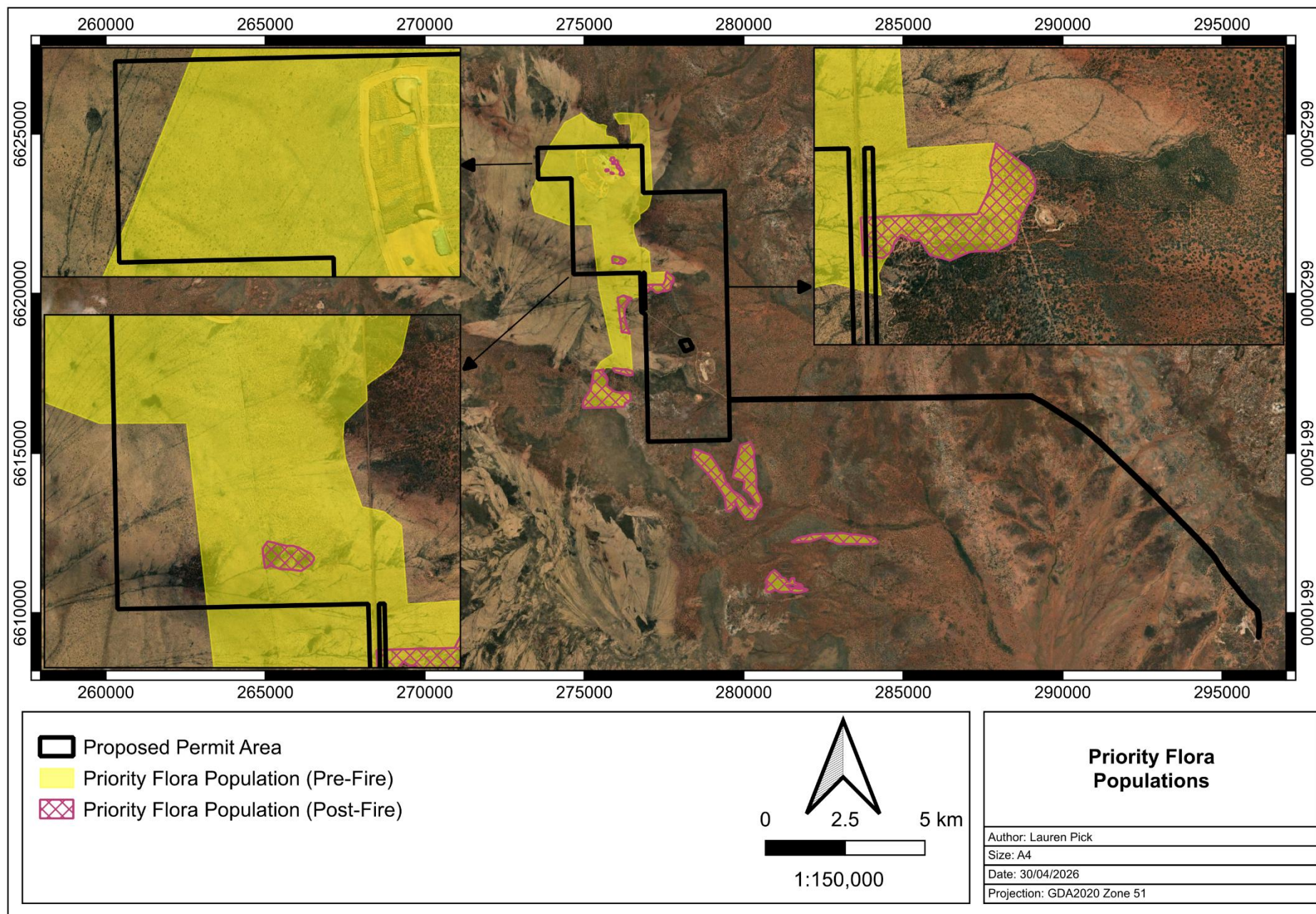


Figure 2-9: Conservation significant flora populations in relation to the assessment area

2.6.3 SIGNIFICANT VEGETATION

No threatened ecological communities protected under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* ('EPBC Act') or under the Western Australian *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* occur within the assessment area. There are no Priority Ecological Communities (as listed by DBCA) within the assessment area. No significant vegetation was identified during field surveys.

2.7 FAUNA

The following fauna surveys have been conducted for the Lady Ida Project:

- Ecotec (WA) Pty Ltd, 2021. Lady Ida Area and Proposed Haul Road Route - Fauna and Habitat Assessment, Revision 0, 7 September 2021.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025). Re: Arid Bronze Azure and Inland Hairstreak Butterfly survey for Lady Ida, Unpublished report for Beacon Mining Pty Ltd, Perth.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2026). Basic and targeted vertebrate fauna survey and assessment for the Lady Ida project, Unpublished report for Beacon Mining Pty Ltd, Perth.

Four fauna habitats (excluding disturbance and modified habitat) were identified at the Lady Ida Project as described in Table 2-8. Sections of the project area had been recently burnt, and these areas were largely devoid of terrestrial vertebrate fauna. In addition, anthropogenic disturbance (e.g., exploration and tracks) has led to vegetation clearance. The density of trees and shrubs in the relatively undisturbed areas varied across the project area. Fauna habitat quality varies from highly degraded (e.g. exploration areas) to very good.

Table 2-8: Fauna habitats within the assessment area

Fauna Habitat	Description	Image
Eucalypt woodland over mixed shrubland	Eucalypt open woodland over Acacia/Allocasuarina shrubland	
Mallee woodland over mixed shrubland	Eucalypt low mallee woodland over Acacia shrubland	

Fauna Habitat	Description	Image
Mixed shrubland	Low to medium Acacia and Allocasuarina shrubland on yellow sandplain	
Rocky breakaway and granite	Broad expanses of outcropping granite and immediate surrounds	
Disturbance	Mining disturbance	
Modified	Rehabilitated waste landforms	

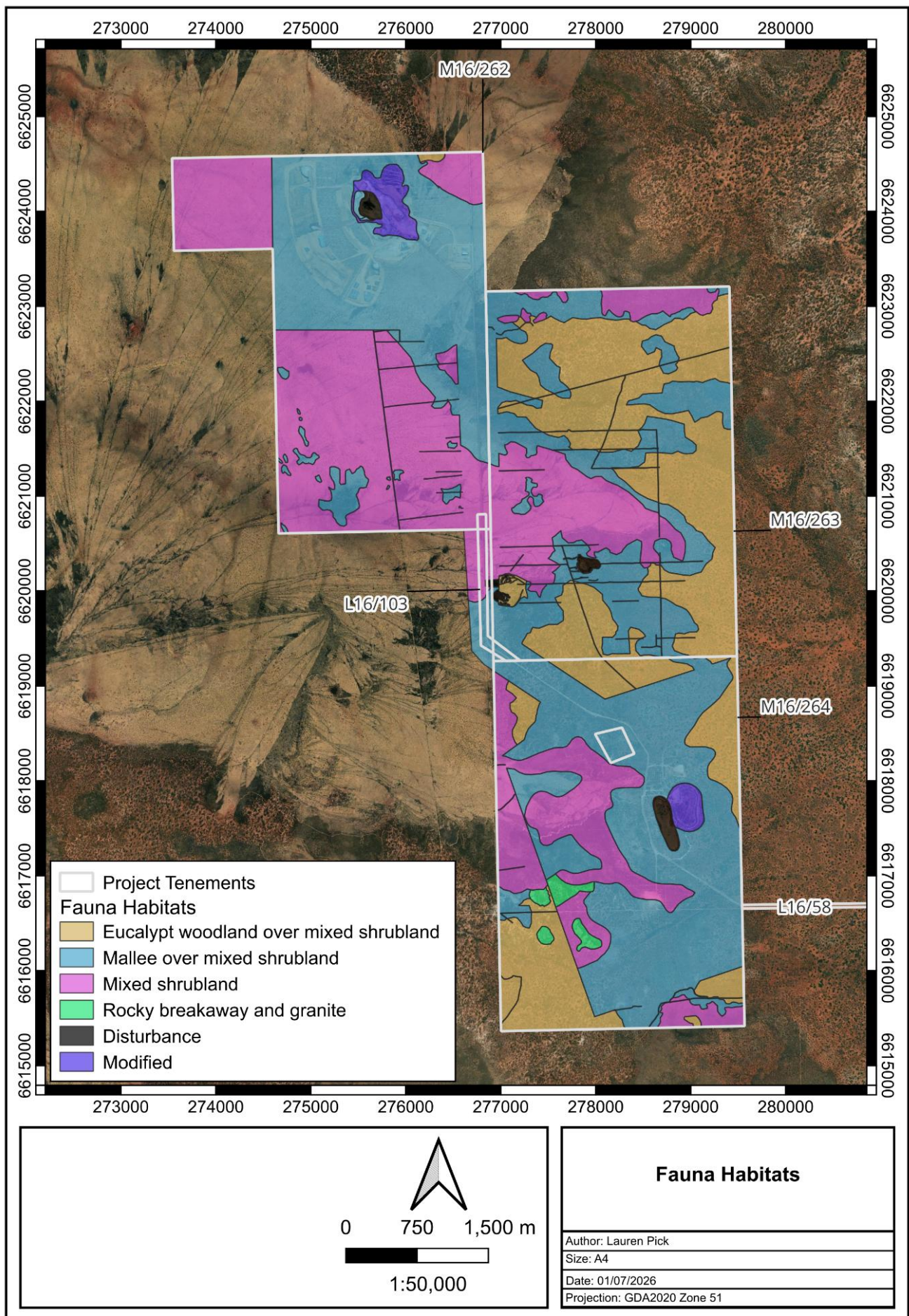


Figure 2-10: Fauna habitats within the assessment area

2.7.1 SIGNIFICANT VERTEBRATE FAUNA

No conservation significant fauna were observed during the fauna field surveys. Based on the assessment by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2026) two threatened species of fauna (Malleefowl and Southern Whiteface) listed under the *EPBC Act 1999* and *BC Act 2016* were considered as potentially present in the project area. Three other species (Peregrine Falcon - Schedule 7; Central Long-eared Bat – Priority 3; Western Rosella – Priority 4) were also considered as potentially in the project area or surrounds.

2.7.1.1 *Southern Whiteface*

The conclusions drawn from the available data are that Southern Whiteface is geographically widespread in the Goldfields, Murchison, and Midwest of Western Australia. There is little or no evidence to indicate a significant recent decline in their abundance or geographical distribution in Western Australia, they are mobile with shifting activity/foraging areas, typically breed between April and October, and have a dome-shaped nest with a side entrance in a hollow branch, tree trunk, crevice between branches, a stump, and a fence post, etc.

Clearing vegetation will remove habitat that has been and could in the future be used by Southern Whiteface, and any of these birds present during vegetation clearing will be displaced to surrounding areas. These factors are not considered to result in a significant impact on this avifauna species (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026).

2.7.1.2 *Malleefowl*

Malleefowl are widespread and very patchy, but in low abundance in the Goldfields, Murchison, and Midwest of Western Australia. They appear most abundant in the denser vegetation east of the Wheatbelt but are scattered through much of the Goldfields. Predators, particularly foxes for adults and foxes, cats, and raptors for chicks and juveniles, have resulted in the decline of the Malleefowl population, and their nest mounds are often found in dense vegetation on a sandy-gravel substrate with an abundance of leaf litter, and little vegetation in the lower stratum.

No recently active Malleefowl mounds were recorded in the project area. However, seven old and long-unused mounds are present, and recent tracks were recorded, indicating that this bird is present but not breeding in the project area. A map showing all inactive malleefowl mounds (seven mounds identified by Terrestrial Ecosystems within the assessment area and five previously known inactive mounds in the local area) are shown in Figure 2-11.

The threats of predation, road mortality and reduced rainfall are likely to be the most significant impacts in the project area. Recommended mitigation actions relating to Malleefowl will need to be implemented as soon as activity begins in the project area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026).

2.7.1.3 *Peregrine Falcon*

The main threat to the Peregrine Falcon in Australia is the use of pesticides. Before 1970, there was a severe decline in populations due to the use of dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) by farmers. Most modern pesticides and rodenticides can be accumulated in predator species. This poses a threat to predatory species (Melbourne's Wild Heart n.d.). Because of how fast these birds can fly, they are also at risk of fatalities when they collide with structures. The Peregrine Falcon may infrequently be seen in the project area. The proposed exploration and mining operations are unlikely to have a significant impact on this species, as it will readily move away from disturbance, and there are abundant areas of similar habitat in the region (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026).

2.7.1.4 *Central Long-eared Bat*

There are no recorded threats to this species, however, based on similar species, some possible threats may include habitat loss and fragmentation, changing fire regimes, decreased hollow availability, grazing causing a lack of shrub understorey and predation by introduced predators. Given that the project area represents a small fraction of similar habitat in the general area, vegetation clearing in the project area is unlikely to have a significant impact on this species (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026).

2.7.1.5 *Western Rosella*

The Inland Western Rosella faces threats due to habitat loss, particularly in the Wheatbelt region. Clearing of native woodlands for agriculture has led to declines or local extinctions (e.g., Coorow, Dandaragan, Moora, and Merredin). Given that the project area represents a small fraction of similar habitat in adjacent areas, it is unlikely that vegetation clearing will have a significant impact on this species, as it will readily move to neighbouring areas if disturbed (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026).

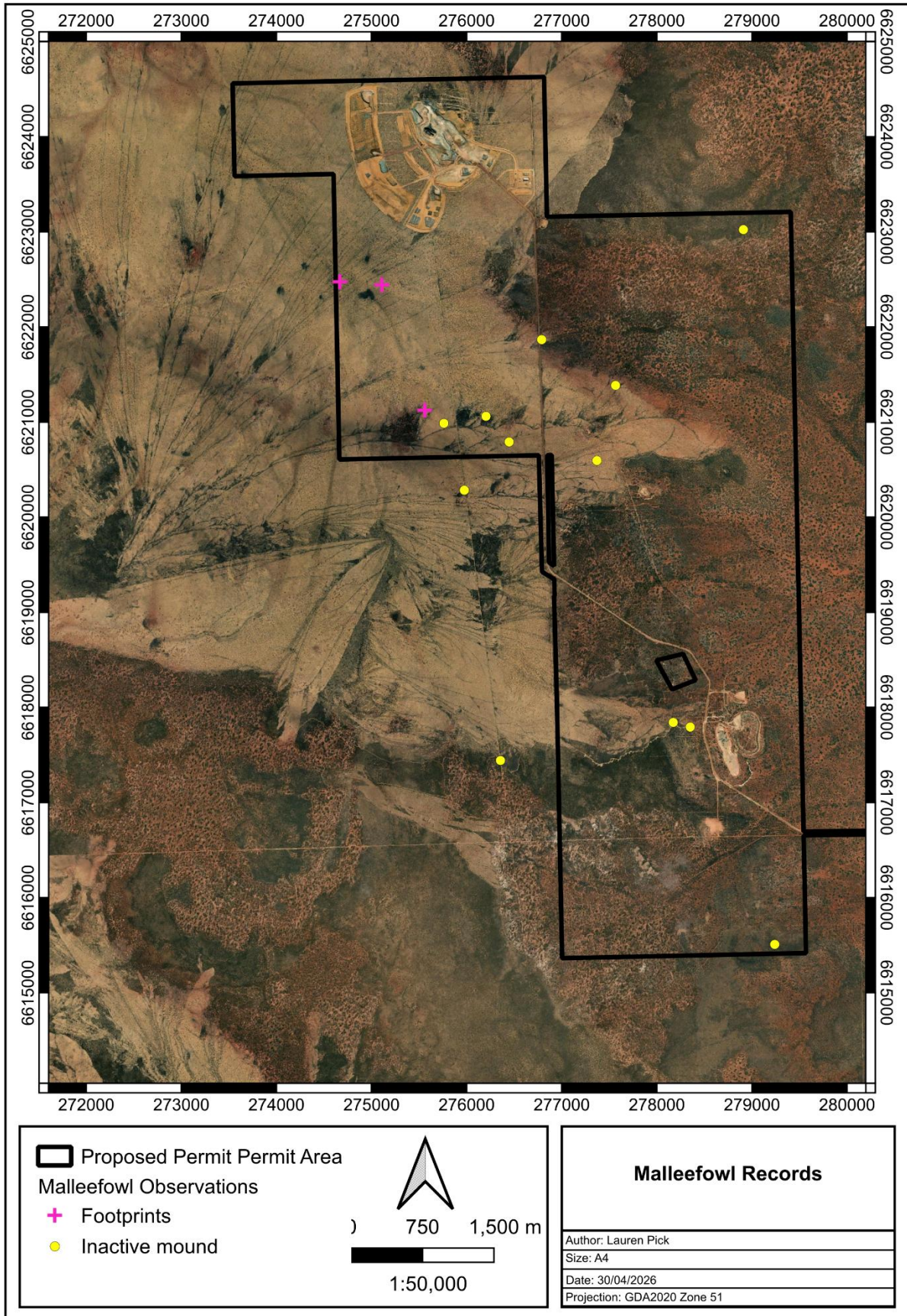


Figure 2-11: Significant fauna records in relation to the assessment area

2.7.2 SIGNIFICANT INVERTEBRATE FAUNA

A targeted survey for Arid Bronze Azure Butterfly (ABAB; *Ogyris subterrestris petrina*) and Inland Hairstreak (*Jaimeus aridus*) was conducted by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025). Terrestrial Ecosystems completed 125.5km of initial transect searches for butterflies in the project area. It is acknowledged that some of this track survey was conducted along the same transect multiple times, however, it significantly exceeds the recommended distances.

There was no evidence of Arid Bronze Azure or Inland Hairstreak butterflies in the project area, however, the host ant for the ABAB was recorded at multiple locations. Because the length of the ABAB flight season is variable and adults may be sparse and difficult to detect, several repeated surveys were undertaken; on each occasion, no ABAB sightings were made. Although it is difficult to confirm the absence of a rarely recorded species, the ABAB is highly unlikely to be present, given the survey effort completed (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026).

3 ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

An assessment of the assessment area against relevant Commonwealth and State environmental legislation is provided in the following sections.

3.1 COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATION

3.1.1 *ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 1999*

The EPBC Act protects matters of national environmental significance, and is used by the Commonwealth DCCEEW to list threatened taxa and ecological communities into categories based on the criteria set out in the Act (www.environment.gov.au/epbc/index.html). The Act provides a national environmental assessment and approval system for proposed developments and enforces strict penalties for unauthorised actions that may affect matters of national environmental significance. Matters of national environmental significance as defined by the Commonwealth EPBC Act include:

- Nationally threatened flora species;
- World heritage properties;
- National heritage places;
- Wetlands of international importance (often called 'Ramsar' wetlands after the international treaty under which such wetlands are listed);
- Nationally threatened ecological communities;
- Commonwealth marine area;
- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park; and
- Nuclear actions (including uranium mining) a water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development.

No matters of national environmental significance as defined by the Commonwealth EPBC Act were identified within the assessment area.

3.2 STATE LEGISLATION

3.2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT WA 1986

The EP Act provides for the prevention, control and abatement of pollution and environmental harm, for the conservation, preservation, protection, enhancement and management of the environment. The Act is administered by The Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER), which is the State Government's environmental regulatory agency.

Under Section 51C of the EP Act and the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations (Regulations) WA 2004* any clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia that is not eligible for exemption under Schedule 6 of the *EP Act 1986* or under the Regulations 2004 requires a clearing permit from the DWER or DMIRS. Under Section 51A of the *EP Act 1986* native vegetation includes aquatic and terrestrial vegetation indigenous to Western Australia, and intentionally planted vegetation declared by regulation to be native vegetation, but not vegetation planted in a plantation or planted with commercial intent. Section 51A of the *EP Act 1986* defines clearing as "the killing or destruction of; the removal of; the severing or ringbarking of trunks or stems of; or the doing of substantial damage to some or all of the native vegetation in an area, including the flooding of land, the burning of vegetation, the grazing of stock or an act or activity that results in the above". Exemptions under Schedule 6 of the EP Act and the EP Regulations do not apply in Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) as declared under Section 51B of the EP Act or TEC listed under State and Commonwealth legislation.

No evidence of the assessment area containing any TEC or Threatened Flora or Fauna was identified during the survey. The assessment area is not located within an ESA.

3.2.2 BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 2016

This Act has been established for the conservation and protection of biodiversity and biodiversity components in Western Australia and to promote the ecologically sustainable use of biodiversity components in the State. Taxa are classified as 'Threatened' when their populations are geographically restricted or are threatened by local processes (see following sections for Threatened definitions). Under this Act all native flora and fauna are protected throughout the State. Financial penalties are enforced under this Act if threatened species are collected without an appropriate licence.

Under Section 54(1) of the BC Act, habitat is eligible for listing as critical habitat if:

- (a) it is critical to the survival of a threatened species or a threatened ecological community; and
- (b) its listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines.

No threatened species or critical habitat listed under the BC Act were recorded within the assessment area.

3.3 NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING PRINCIPLES

Based on the outcomes from the survey, an assessment of the proposed clearing against the native vegetation clearing principles listed under Schedule 5 of the EP Act was conducted as summarised in Table 3-1. The assessment identified that clearing may be at variance with clearing principle f and h. The proposed clearing is not at variance or unlikely to be at variance with all remaining clearing principles.

Table 3-1: Native vegetation clearing principles assessment

Letter	Principle	Assessment	Outcome
	Native vegetation should not be cleared if it:		
(a)	comprises a high level of biological diversity.	Vegetation identified within the assessment area is not considered to be of high biological diversity and is well represented in the local area.	Clearing is unlikely to be at variance to this principle
(b)	comprises the whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to WA.	No significant fauna were observed within the assessment area. The assessment area comprises of broad fauna habitats that are typical of those in the wider region. No recently active Malleefowl mounds were recorded in the project area. However, seven old and long-unused mounds are present, and recent tracks were recorded, indicating that this bird is present but not breeding in the project area.	Clearing is unlikely to be at variance to this principle
(c)	includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of rare flora.	No Threatened Flora taxa, pursuant to the BC Act and the EPBC Act were identified within the assessment area.	Clearing is not at variance to this principle
(d)	comprises the whole or part of or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community (TEC).	No TEC listed under the EPBC Act or by the BC Act occur within the assessment area.	Clearing is not at variance to this principle
(e)	is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared	The assessment area occurs within pre-European Beard vegetation associations Jaurdi and Kununulling of the Coolgardie Bioregion all of which retain >98% of the original pre-European vegetation extent.	Clearing is unlikely to be at variance to this principle
(f)	is growing, in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland	There are no inland waters (lakes/ playas) or perennial drainage lines within the assessment area. Three minor ephemeral drainage lines intersect the assessment area. No distinct vegetation type was associated with these minor ephemeral drainage lines.	Clearing may be at variance to this principle
(g)	Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	The assessment area occurs within pre-European Beard vegetation associations Jaurdi and Kununulling of the Coolgardie Bioregion all of which retain >98% of the original pre-European vegetation extent. Clearing within these vegetation associations is not likely to lead to land degradation issues such as salinity, water logging or acidic soils.	Clearing is unlikely to be at variance to this principle
(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.	The assessment area is not located within a gazetted conservation reserve. The closest conservation reserves are the Clear and Muddy Lakes Nature Reserve and the Rowles Lagoon Conservation Park, which are located approximately 15 km north-east of the assessment area. The assessment area however intersects the south-western region of land managed by the DBCA known as the Credo Conservation Park (LR3067/590).	Clearing may be at variance to this principle
(i)	Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the	There are no inland waters (lakes/ playas) or perennial drainage lines within the assessment area. Three minor ephemeral drainage lines intersect the assessment area.	Clearing is unlikely to be at variance to this principle

Letter	Principle	Assessment	Outcome
	Native vegetation should not be cleared if it:		
	quality of surface or underground water.	Most rainfall is lost by evaporation or surface runoff. Only a small portion infiltrates the soil and recharges the groundwater.	
(j)	Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence of flooding	Rainfall is unreliable and highly variable with an average rainfall for Kalgoorlie-Boulder of approximately 266mm and an evaporation rate of 2400mm. The region is not prone to flooding and does not contain perennial water sources.	Clearing is unlikely to be at variance to this principle

4 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY

Thirteen vegetation types were identified within the assessment area which were common and widespread with no significant vegetation identified including no vegetation representative of Threatened Ecological Communities listed under State or Commonwealth legislation or Priority Ecological Communities listed by DBCA. No Threatened flora listed under State or Commonwealth legislation occur within the assessment area. Four Priority flora species were identified within the assessment area, three of which were located on sandplain habitat adjacent to the existing Iguana mine which has been subjected to recent fire. Clearing within the Priority 3 flora populations will be avoided and/ or minimised where possible (including within a 10m radius of Priority flora). Where avoidance is not possible, consultation with DBCA will be conducted. A 10m exclusion zone will be maintained surrounding the Priority 4 flora (*Olearia arida*).

The assessment area comprises of four broad fauna habitats that are typical of habitat in the wider region. No significant fauna were observed within the assessment area, including no Threatened fauna or Migratory fauna listed under State or Commonwealth legislation or Priority fauna listed by DBCA. No recently active Malleefowl mounds were recorded in the project area. However, seven old and long-unused mounds are present, and recent tracks were recorded, indicating that this bird is present but not currently breeding in the project area. There was no evidence of Arid Bronze Azure or Inland Hairstreak butterflies in the project area.

Given the locality of the assessment area adjacent to existing mining and habitats are represented outside of the assessment area, vegetation clearing in the assessment area is unlikely to have a significant impact on any conservation significant fauna. Clearing within rocky breakaway and granite habitat will be avoided.

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