



## **CLEARING PERMIT**

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 3485/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	BHP Billiton Petroleum (Australia) Pty Ltd
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	28 February 2010 – 26 November 2010

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

### **PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED**

- 1. Purpose for which clearing may be done**  
Clearing for the purpose of geotechnical investigation.
- 2. Land on which clearing is to be done**  
Deposited Plan 64847 (TALANDJI 6710 - Licence Number Lic 995/2008\_1\_194)
- 3. Area of Clearing**  
The Permit Holder must not clear more than 3 hectares of native vegetation within the area shaded yellow on attached Plan 3485/1a and 3485/1b.
- 4. Application**  
This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.
- 5. Compliance with Assessment Sequence and Management Procedures**  
Prior to clearing any native vegetation under conditions 1, 2 and 3 of this Permit, the Permit Holder must comply with the Assessment Sequence and the Management Procedures set out in Part II of this Permit.

### **PART II – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES**

- 6. Avoid, minimise etc clearing**  
In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:
  - (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
  - (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
  - (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

## 7. Weed Control

When undertaking any clearing or other activity authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

## 8. Retain and spread vegetative material

The Permit Holder shall:

- (a) retain the vegetative material removed by clearing authorised under this Permit;
- (b) stockpile the vegetative material in an area that has already been cleared; and
- (c) following clearing authorised under this Permit, lay the vegetative material on any areas no longer required for the purpose of geotechnical investigation.

## PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

## 9. Records must be kept

- (a) The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit in relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
  - (i) the species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
  - (ii) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;
  - (iii) the date that the area was cleared; and
  - (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) In relation to the retention and spread of vegetative materials pursuant to condition 8 of this Permit:
  - (i) the location of those area(s) where vegetative material were spread, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; and
  - (ii) the size of those area(s) where vegetative material were spread (in hectares).

## 10. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO, prior to 26 October 2010, a written report of records required under condition 9 of this Permit and activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit.

### Definitions

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

*fill* means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

*mulch* means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation;

*term* means the duration of this Permit, including as amended or renewed; and

*weed/s* means a species listed in Appendix 3 of the "Environmental Weed Strategy" published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (1999), and plants declared under section 37 of the *Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*.



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Kelly Faulkner  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

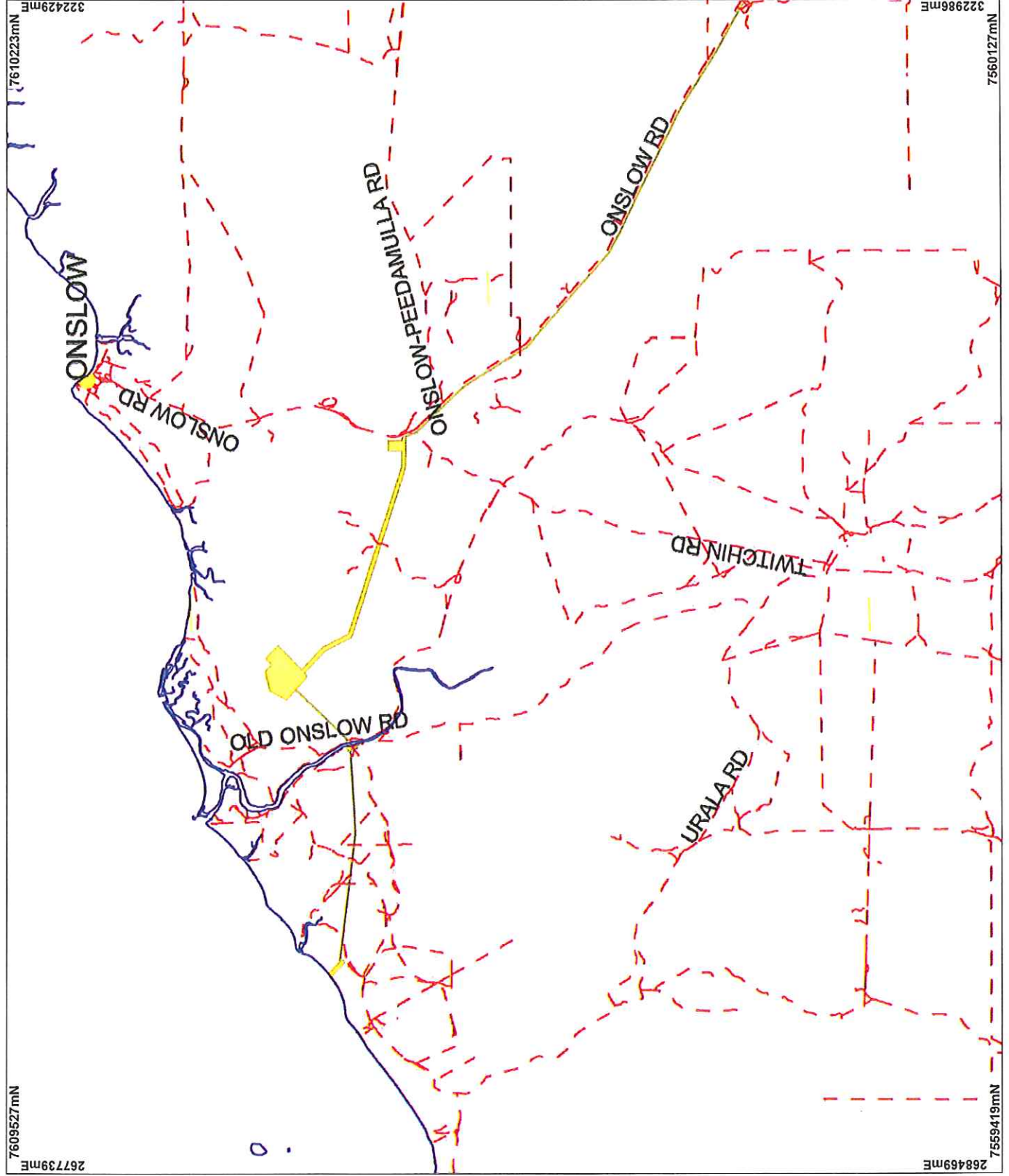
*Officer delegated under Section 20  
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

28 January 2010





# Plan 3485/1a



## LEGEND

- Clearing Instrument
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Towns
- WA Coastline



0 7.5 km

Scale 1:252352

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been projected. They may result in geometric distortions or measurement inaccuracies.

*K. Finkler* Date 28/1/00

K. Finkler

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

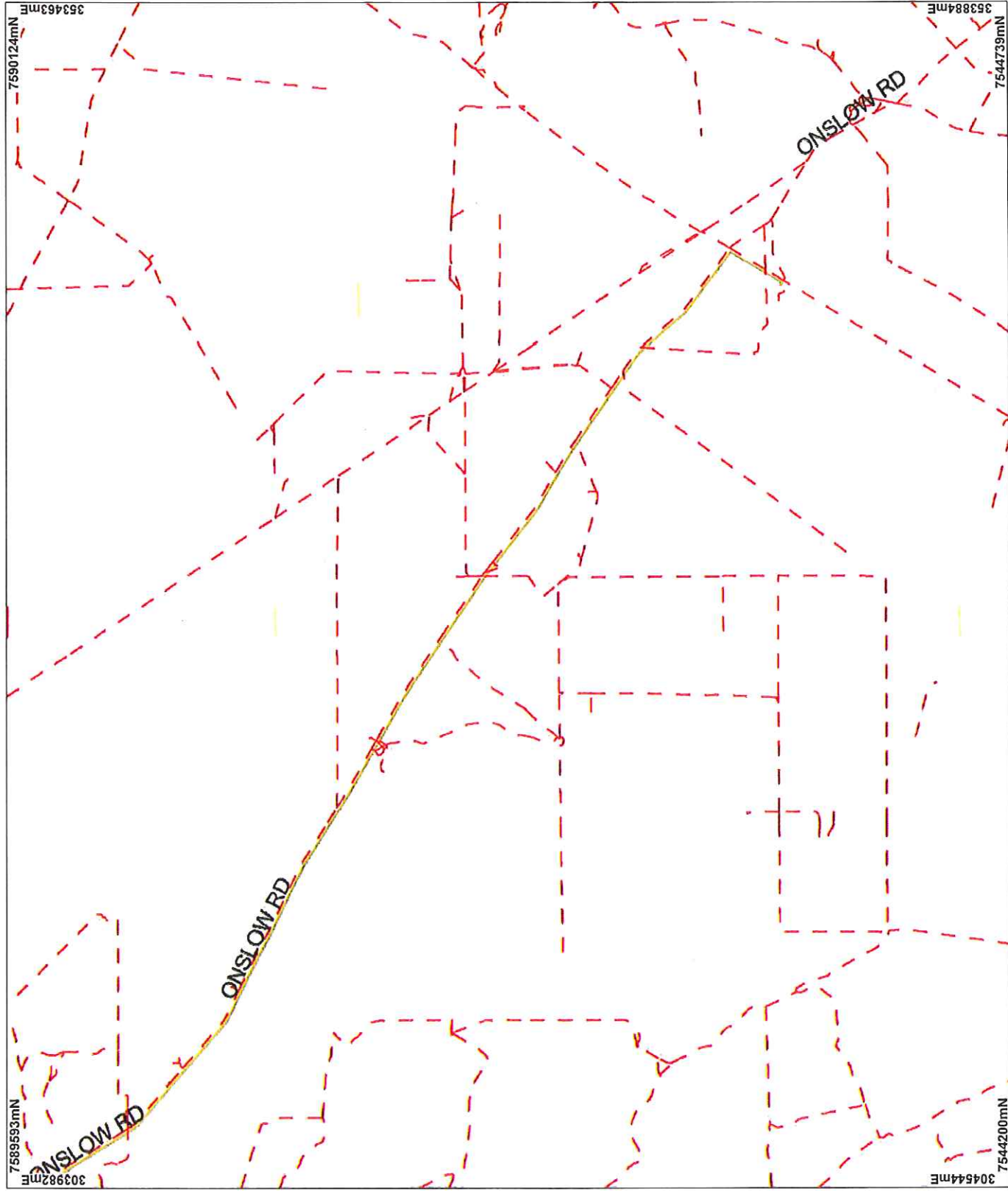
Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.



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# Plan 3485/1b



## LEGEND

- Clearing Instrument
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Towns
- WA Coastline



0 0.25 km

Scale 1:228502

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric distortions and measurement inaccuracies.

*K Faulkner* 28/6/20 Date

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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3485/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: BHP Billiton Petroleum Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: PART LOT 163 ON PLAN 220110 ( TALANDJI 6710)  
PART LOT 163 ON PLAN 220110 ( TALANDJI 6710)

Local Government Area:

Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
3		Mechanical Removal	Miscellaneous

## 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

#### 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Beard Vegetation Associations - 98: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex & Triodia basedowii 117: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex 127: Bare areas; mud flats 585: Mosaic: Shrublands; snakewood & Acacia victoriae scrub / Hummock grasslands, shrub-steppe; kanji over soft spinifex & Triodia basedowii 589: Mosaic: Short bunch grassland - savanna / grass plain (Pilbara) / Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex 670: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; scattered shrubs over Triodia basedowii 676: Succulent steppe; samphire	The application is for the clearing of 3 hectares of native vegetation within a larger area for the purpose of geotechnical investigations. The vegetation is considered to be in a 'very good' condition with some weed species present.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation under application was assessed through supporting information provided by the applicant (BHP, 2009).

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

### Comments

The proposal to clear up to 3 hectare of native vegetation for geotechnical investigations is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts. The vegetation is considered to be in a very good (Keighery, 1994) condition with numerous weed species present (BHP, 2009). Weed management conditions will be placed on the permit to mitigate the spread of weeds.

There are no known occurrences of declared rare flora or threatened ecological communities in the vicinity of the project.



Given the clearing is for 3 ha within a larger area and the high vegetation representation of surrounding vegetation, it is unlikely the proposal will be considered as significant fauna habitat; impacting on conservation areas; or causing or exacerbating land degradation, water quality or flooding.

Clearing of vegetation within the application area may impact on drainage lines or watercourses, though the impact would be low. Rehabilitation conditions will be placed on the permit to mitigate the potential for clearing to incrementally degrade riparian vegetation.

- Methodology**
- BHP (2009)
  - Keighery (1994)
  - GIS Layers:
    - CALM Managed Lands & Waters - CALM 01/06/05
    - Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas - 30 May 2005
    - Hydrography, linear DOW 13/7/06
    - Pre-European vegetation - DA 01/01
    - Mean Annual Rainfall Isohytes (1975 - 2003) - DEC 02/08/05
    - SAC Biodatasets 210110

#### **Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.**

**Comments**

The applicants have over Deposited Plan 64847 (of which the application area is a part) a current Licence to Occupy Crown Land (Section 91) valid until 26 November 2010 (DEC TRIM Ref: DOC112776).

The Native Title claimants advise that they object to the proposal to clear on a number of grounds. This objection will however been withdrawn upon the applicants entering into an agreement with the native title holders (DEC TRIM Ref: DOC116520).

The Macedon Gas Development Project is undergoing an Environment Protection Statement. DEC is not constrained under Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 on making a decision on this assessment.

- Methodology**
- Department of Water licences and permits are not required for the project (BHP, 2009)
  - BHP (2009)

#### **4. Assessor's comments**

**Comment**

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, and the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principle (a) and (f) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing Principles.

#### **5. References**

- BHP Billiton Petroleum (2009) Macedon Gas Development, Geotechnical Drilling Program. Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Supporting Documentation. November 2009. DEC TRIM Ref: DOC110328
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Shepherd, D.P. (2007). Adapted from: Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth. Includes subsequent updates for 2006 from Vegetation Extent dataset ANZWA1050000124.

#### **6. Glossary**

Term	Meaning
BCS	Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now BCS)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
DoE	Department of Environment (now DEC)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum (ex DoIR)
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
WRC	Water and Rivers Commission (now DEC)