



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details and outcome

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 8834/3
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Fortescue Metals Group Ltd
Purpose of clearing:	Powerline and associated infrastructure
Property:	Miscellaneous Licence 45/459 Miscellaneous Licence 45/461 Miscellaneous Licence 45/463 Miscellaneous Licence 45/464 Miscellaneous Licence 45/465 Miscellaneous Licence 45/469 Miscellaneous Licence 47/847 Miscellaneous Licence 47/914
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Ashburton Town of Port Hedland Shire of East Pilbara

### 1.2. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	23 May 2025
Decision area:	90.3 hectares (ha) of native vegetation

### 1.3. Reasons for decision

On 7 May 2020, the then Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety granted Fortescue Metals Group Ltd (the permit holder) Clearing Permit CPS 8834/1. On 14 April 2025, the permit holder applied to extend this clearing permit but withdrew the application during its assessment. On 8 May 2025, the permit holder re-applied to extend the permit duration in accordance with section 51E of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) by five years. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) advertised the application for public comment for a period of seven days and received no submissions.

In undertaking the assessment, the Delegated Officer had regard for the:

- site characteristics
- relevant datasets, including contemporary records of environmental values recorded within a 50-kilometre (km) radius of the application area (the local area)
- the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act
- compliance report required under Clearing Permit CPS 8834/1 (FMG, 2025) which revealed that approximately 60 per cent of the clearing authorised under this permit had been undertaken; and
- any other matters considered relevant to the assessment.

The assessment identified:

- four conservation significant flora in the local area since the assessment for CPS 8834/1 was conducted:
  - *Aristida lazaridis* – recorded approximately 45 km south of the application area within Karrijini National Park

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*Euphorbia inappendiculata* var. *queenslandica* – recorded approximately 24 km west of the application area
- *Quoya zonalis* – recorded approximately 46.5 km east of the application area; and
- *Vittadinia* sp. *Coondewanna* Flats (S. van Leeuwen 4684) – recorded approximately 44 km east of the application area.
- Records of conservation significant fauna such as greater bilby, northern quoll, brush-tailed mulgara, and ecological communities such as 'Four Plant Assemblages of the Wona Land System' priority ecological community. Impacts on these environmental values from the proposed clearing were considered during the assessment for CPS 8834/1.

Based on the assessment undertaken from Clearing Permit CPS 8834/1 and current environmental information, the Delegated Officer determined that:

- a portion of the application area may be necessary for the maintenance of habitat for greater bilby and brush-tailed mulgara
- the proposed clearing of riparian vegetation within the application area has the potential to cause localised erosion and degrade faunal habitat
- the proposed clearing may cause land degradation in the form of wind erosion between clearing and powerline construction and associated activities; and
- the proposed clearing may result in the spread of weeds into adjacent areas.

To minimise impacts to the above environmental values, the Delegated Officer imposed the following risk management conditions on the clearing permit:

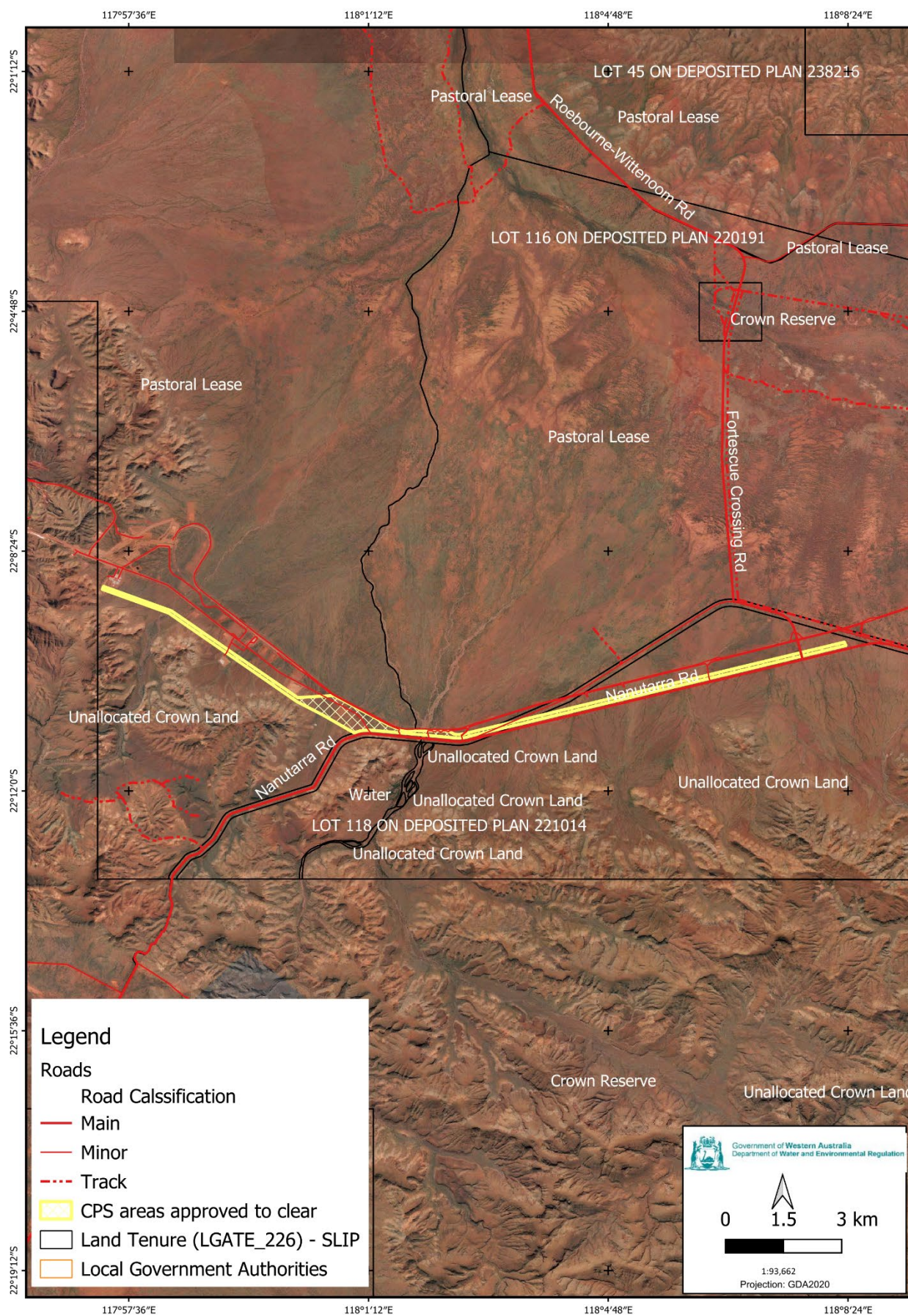
- conduct pre-clearance surveys to identify greater bilby and/or brush-tailed mulgara within the application area
- identify, remove (if present), and relocate (if necessary) greater bilby and/or brush-tailed mulgara from the application area to an area of suitable habitat
- implement vegetation management practices to minimise impacts on riparian vegetation
- commencement of construction activities no later than three (3) months after undertaking the authorised clearing activities; and
- implement weed management measures to mitigate impacts on adjacent vegetation.

No additional environmental impacts have been identified during the assessment of this application. Therefore, the above impacts are consistent with those identified in the decision report CPS 8834/1. Similarly, no additional planning or other matters have arisen since the grant of Clearing Permit CPS 8834/1 that would influence the decision to approve the amendment in this instance.

In determining to grant the amended clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer found that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to an unacceptable environmental risk.

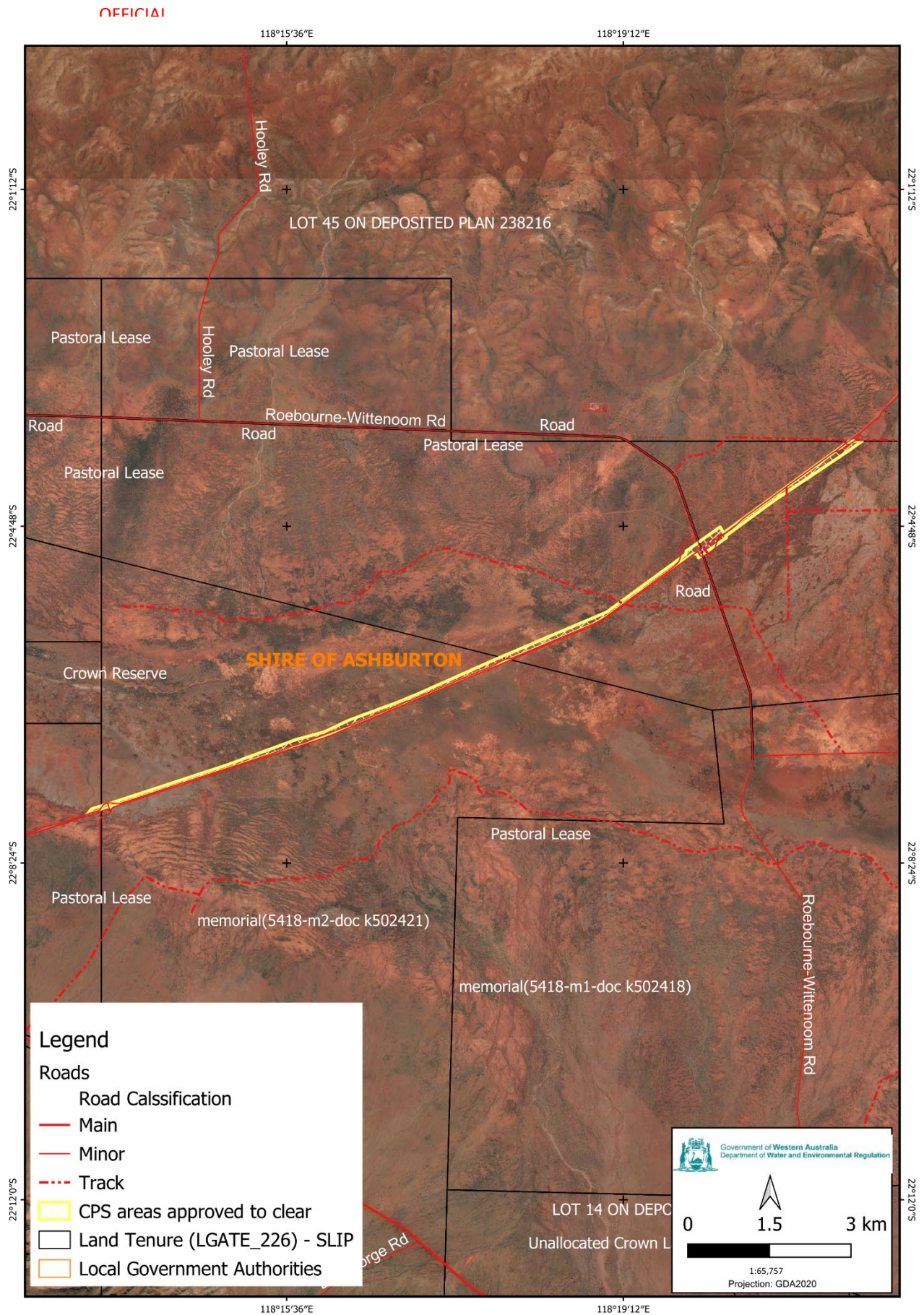


## 2. Site maps



**Figure 1A:** Map of the area within which clearing of native vegetation is authorised

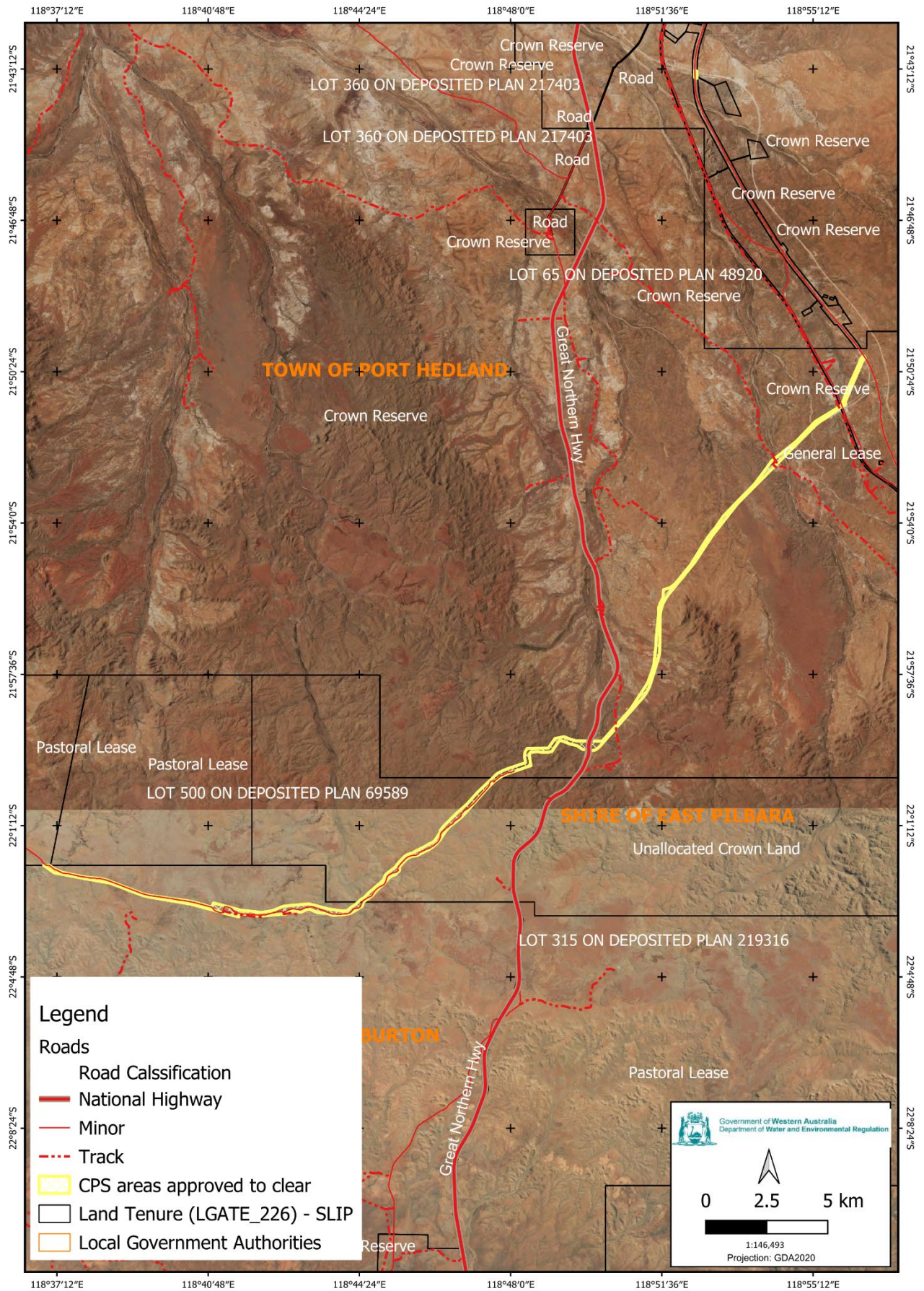




**Figure 2B:** Map of the area within which clearing of native vegetation is authorised

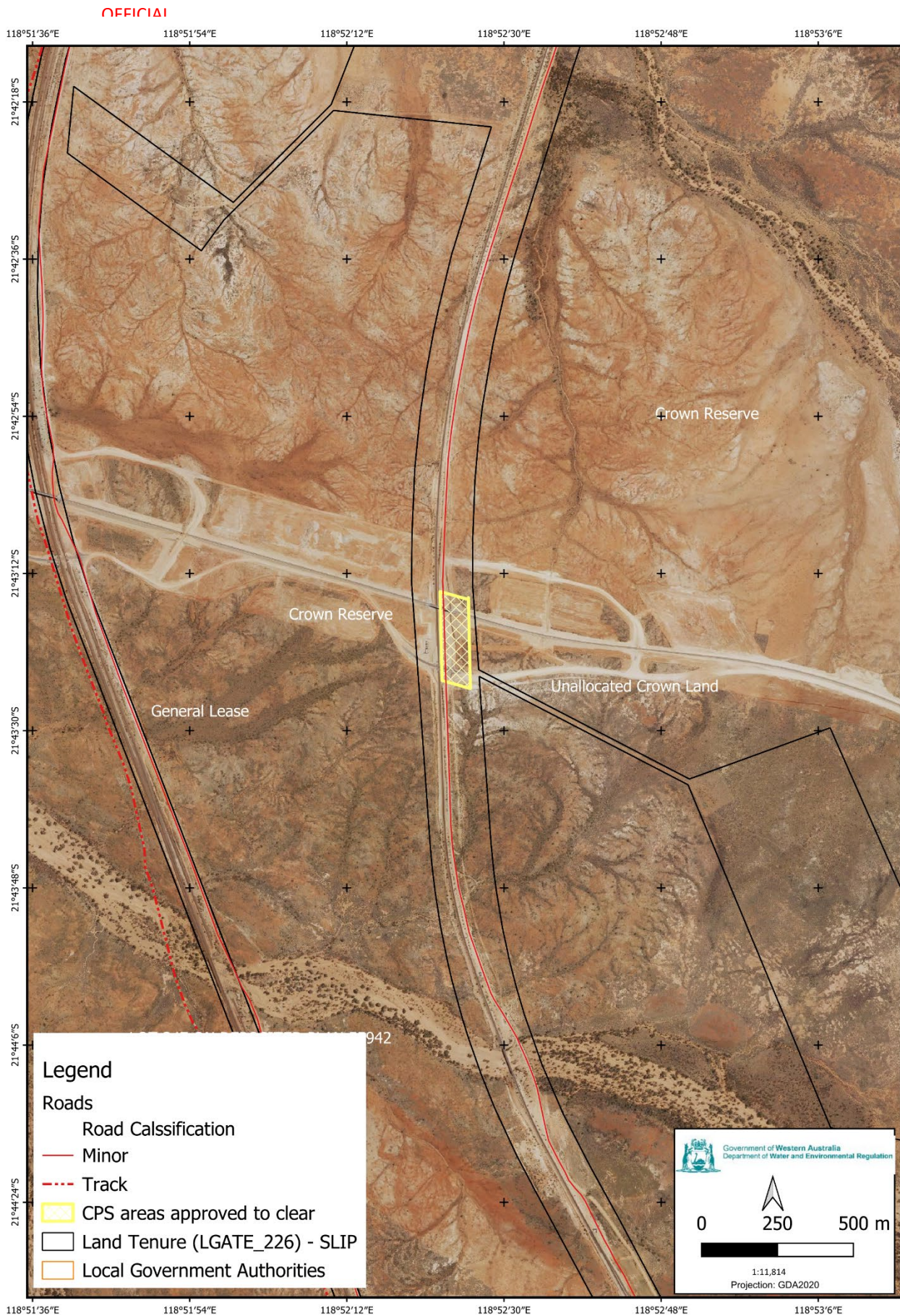


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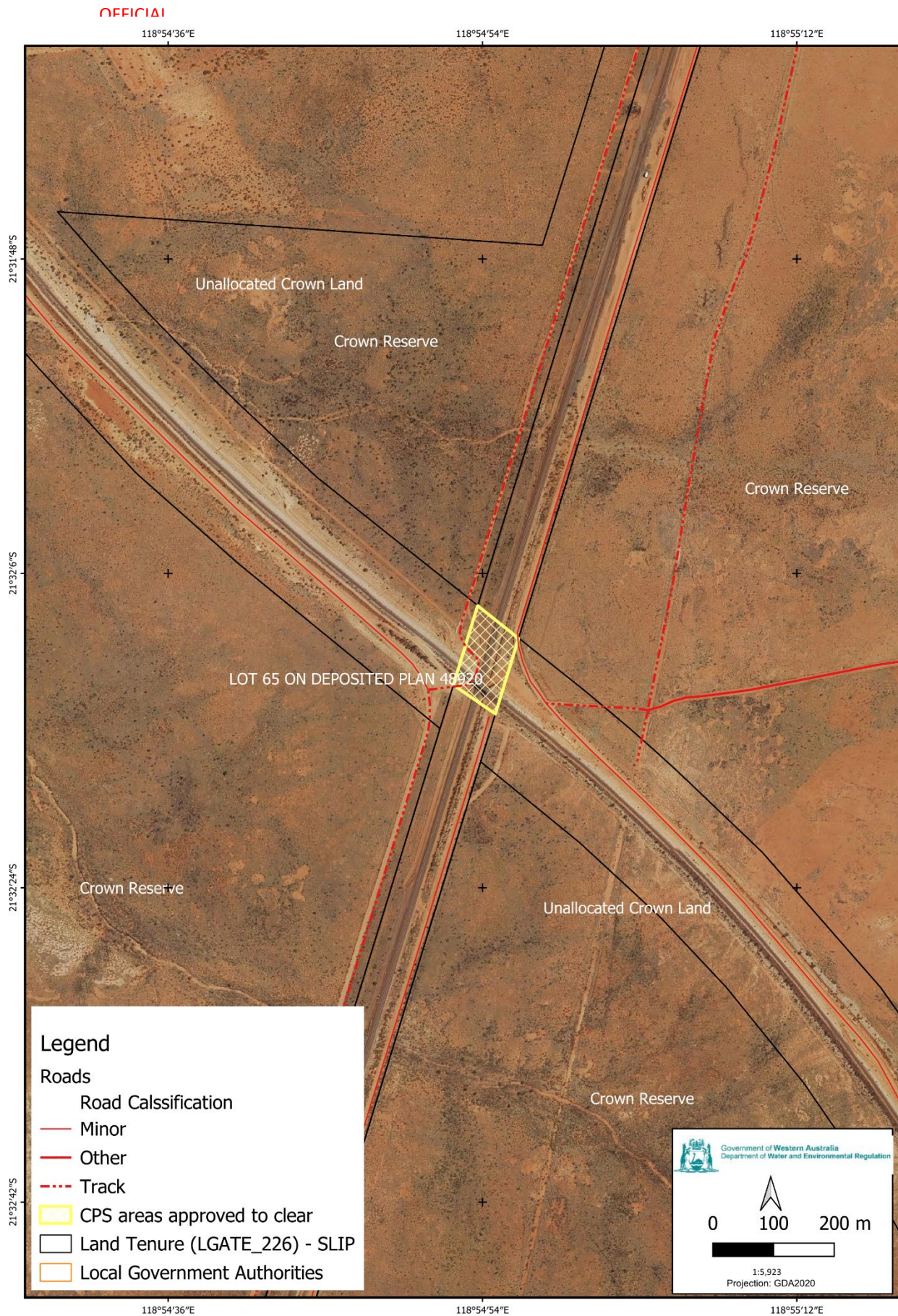
**Figure 3C:** Map of the area within which clearing of native vegetation is authorised





**Figure 4D:** Map of the area within which clearing of native vegetation is authorised

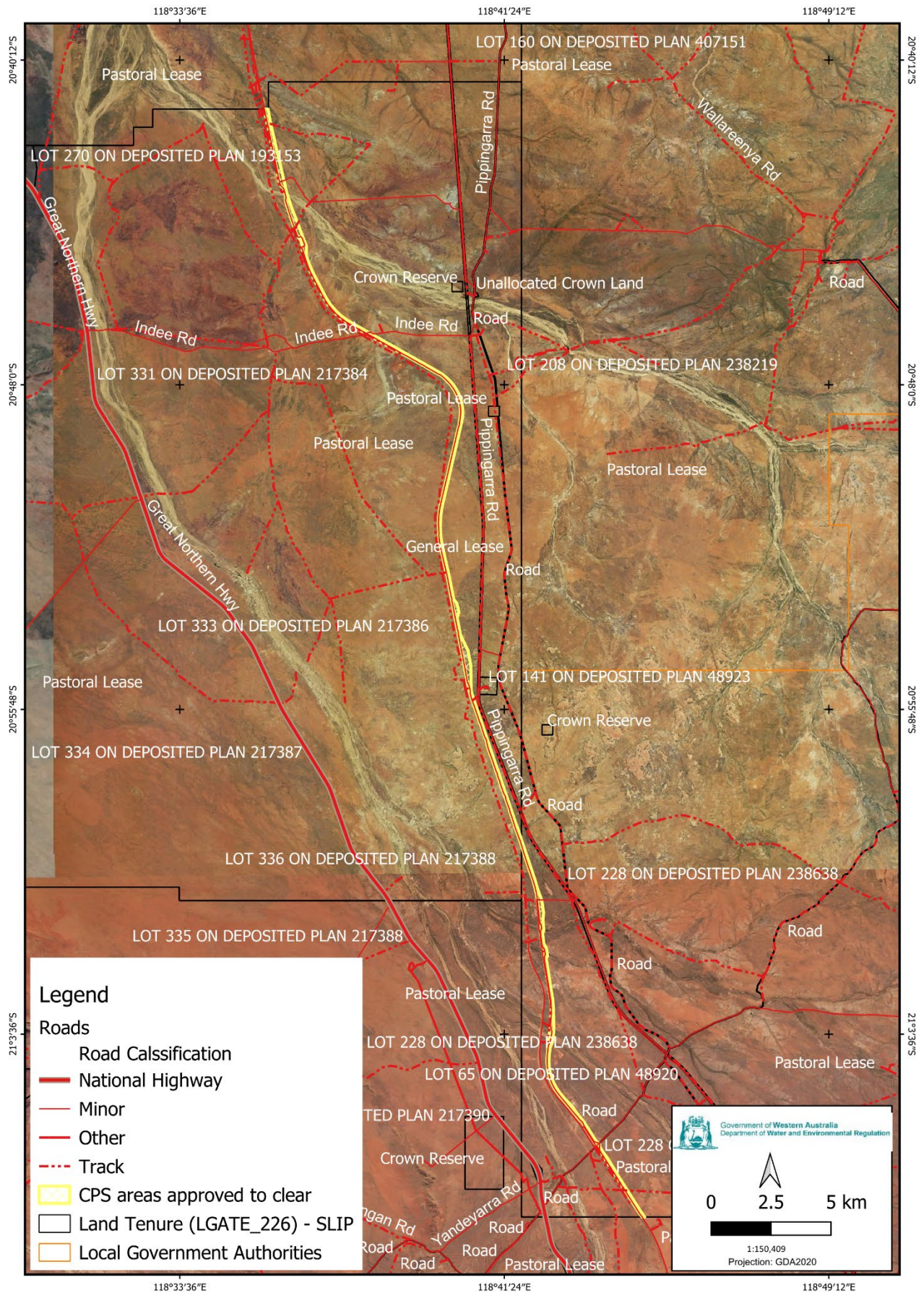




**Figure 5E:** Map of the area within which clearing of native vegetation is authorised



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**Figure 6F:** Map of the area within which clearing of native vegetation is authorised



## Appendix A - References and databases

### 1. GIS datasets

Publicly available GIS Databases used (sourced from [www.data.wa.gov.au](http://www.data.wa.gov.au)):

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

### 2. References

Fortescue Metals Group Ltd. (2025). 2024 Annual Compliance report. Received by DWER on 8 May 2025. DWER ref: DWERDT1115996.