



Tuckabianna Project

CPS 9435/1 Renewal: Supporting Document

13 June 2026

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Mining Area	Cue Gold Operations
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Appendix B: CPS 6435/1 Annual Clearing Report 2024/2025

Appendix C: Tuckabianna Project Area; Flora and Vegetation Reconnaissance and Targeted Flora Survey.
Maia 2021

Appendix D: Tuckabianna West Project Area; Reconnaissance and Targeted Flora Survey. Maia 2020

Appendix E: Tuckabianna Gold Project Basic Terrestrial Fauna Survey. Western Ecological 2021

Appendix F: CPS 9435/1 Decision Report

1. INTRODUCTION

Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd (BBGO), a wholly owned subsidiary of Westgold Resources Ltd (Westgold), owns and operates Cue Gold Operations (CGO) consisting of the Day Dawn, Big Bell, Cuddingwarra and Tuckabianna Projects. As the current Permit Holder of CPS9435, BBGO are approved to clear up to 250 ha of native vegetation within the existing purpose permit boundary of approximately 2,982 ha encompassing the Tuckabianna Project area, due to expire on 25 February 2027.

BBGO request a five (5) year extension to existing permit life of CPS9435/1 to 25 February 2032. The extension is to facilitate future mining activities including further development of existing mining operations, new open pit operations and supporting infrastructure for all associated mining activities.

All correspondence should be forwarded by post or email to the contact details in Table 1.

Table 1: Contact Details

Simon Waters	Tayla Parnham	Marcus Radford
General Manager - CGO	Superintendent Environmental	Principal Environmental Approvals
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1.1 Project History

A total of 23.44 ha of the approved 250 ha has been cleared to date as reported in the Annual Clearing Report 2024/25 (Appendix A). BBGO has maintained compliance with all conditions under CPS9435/1 and have 226.56 ha of approved native vegetation clearing remaining.

A summary of previous clearing is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Record of CPS 9435/1 Clearing Activities

Annual Period	Area of Clearing (ha)
2021/22	0.00
2022/23	16.17
2023/24	3.00
2024/25	4.27
Total	23.44
Permitted clearing area under CPS 9435/1	250.00
Total area permitted for further clearing under CPS 9435/1	226.56

1.2 Location, Tenure and Site Layout Plans

The CPS9435/1 Purpose Permit Envelope (PPE) consists of Tuckabianna Project tenements listed in Table 3. An overview of the PPE is depicted below in **Figure 1**.

Table 3: Details of Mining Tenure Listed on CPS 9435/1

Mining Tenement	Holder	Expiry
M20/108	Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd	05/05/2030
M20/111	Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd	05/05/2030
M20/176	Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd	09/04/2031
M20/195	Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd	15/05/2032
M20/247	Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd	25/10/2034
M20/55	Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd	18/05/2029
M20/183	Big Bell Gold Operations Pty Ltd	04/09/2031



Figure 1: CPS 9435/1 Permit Boundary

1.3 Climate

Cue Gold Operations is situated in the Murchison Region of Western Australia. The climate of the region is described as arid with hot, dry summers and temperate winters. Rainfall exhibits a bimodal distribution with winter and summer peaks (BoM, 2025).

The most relevant weather station is Meekatharra Airport weather station (station number 007045) located approximately 110 km northeast of Cue as the Cue Weather Station ceased recording temperature in 1985. Key statistics for Meekatharra are summarized below with climate data for temperature, rainfall and wind in Figure 2 to Figure 5.

- Mean maximum temperatures (BoM, 2025) range from 38.4°C in January to 19.3°C in July. The highest temperature recorded is 47.1°C on 8 January 2013, the lowest minimum temperature recorded was -0.2°C on 2 July 1950;
- Rainfall at Meekatharra averages 233.0 mm each year (BoM, 2025). Months with the highest rainfall generally occur during March and June, influenced by large scale weather systems during the winter and southward movement of tropical cyclones in summer;
- The calculated annual evaporation rate of 3,750 mm exceeds the mean average rainfall in all months; and
- Average hourly wind speeds at Meekatharra Airport show significant seasonal variation, with the windier part of the year between September through to March. The region experiences seasonal variation of average hourly wind speeds (WeatherSpark, 2025). Meekatharra airport mostly experiences hot strong easterly winds.

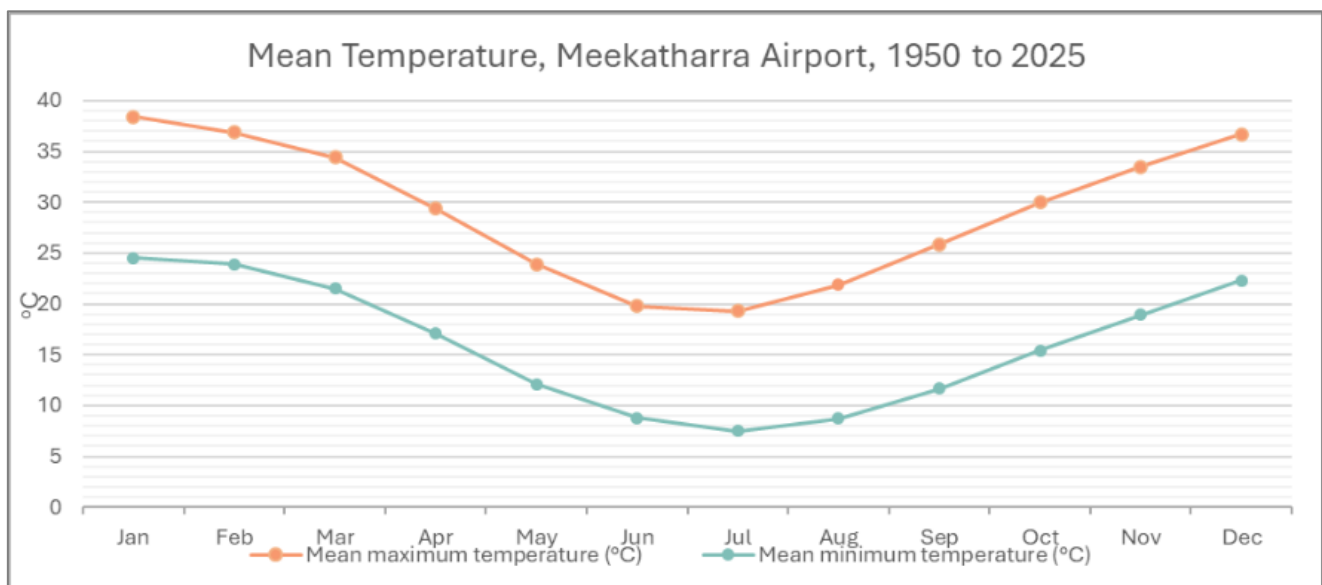


Figure 2: Meekatharra Airport Mean Temperature Data (1950–2025) (BoM, 2025)

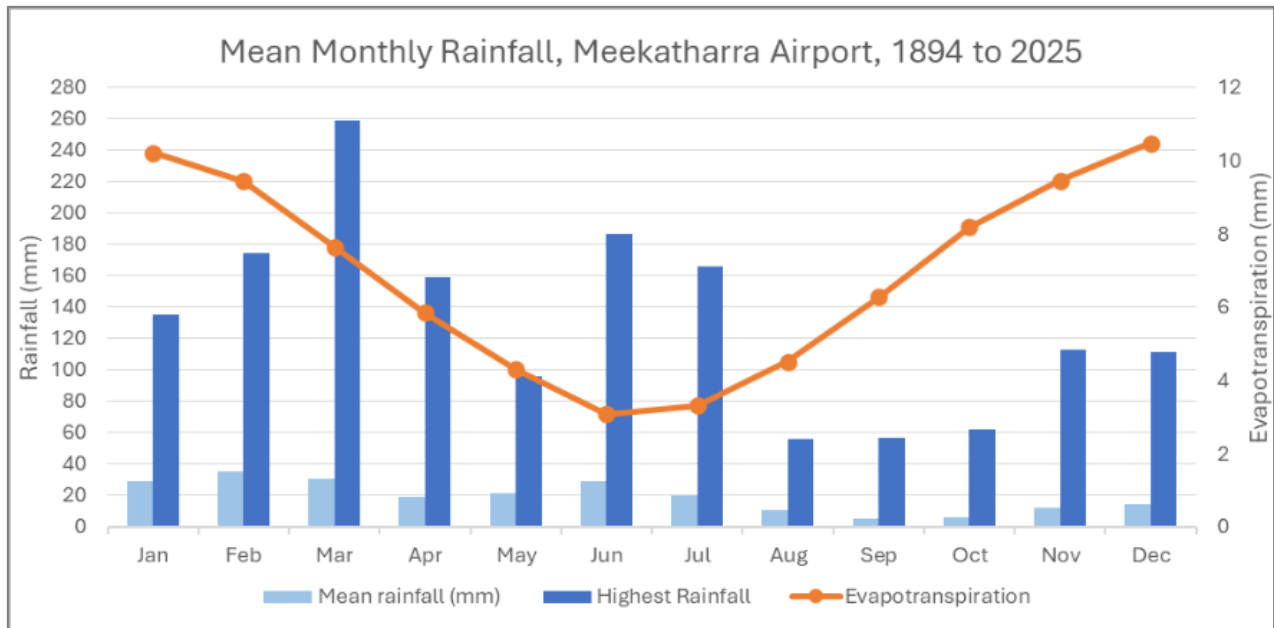


Figure 3: Meekatharra Airport Average Monthly Rainfall Data (1894–2025) (BoM, 2025)

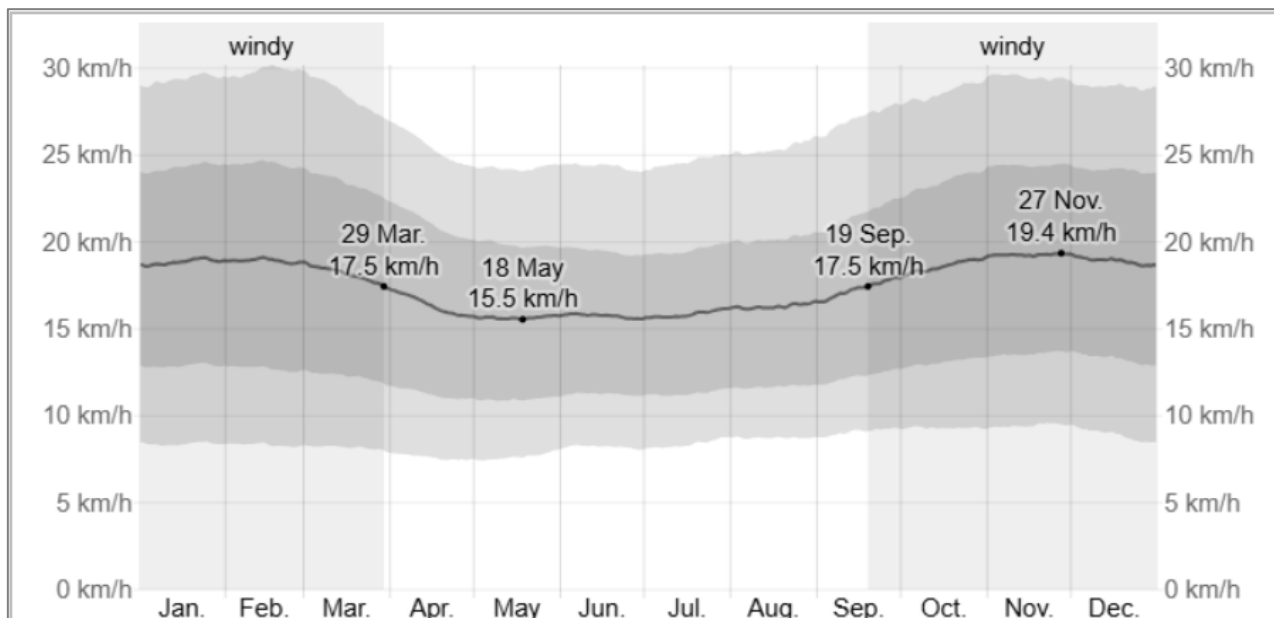


Figure 4: Meekatharra Airport Average Wind Speed (WeatherSpark, 2025)

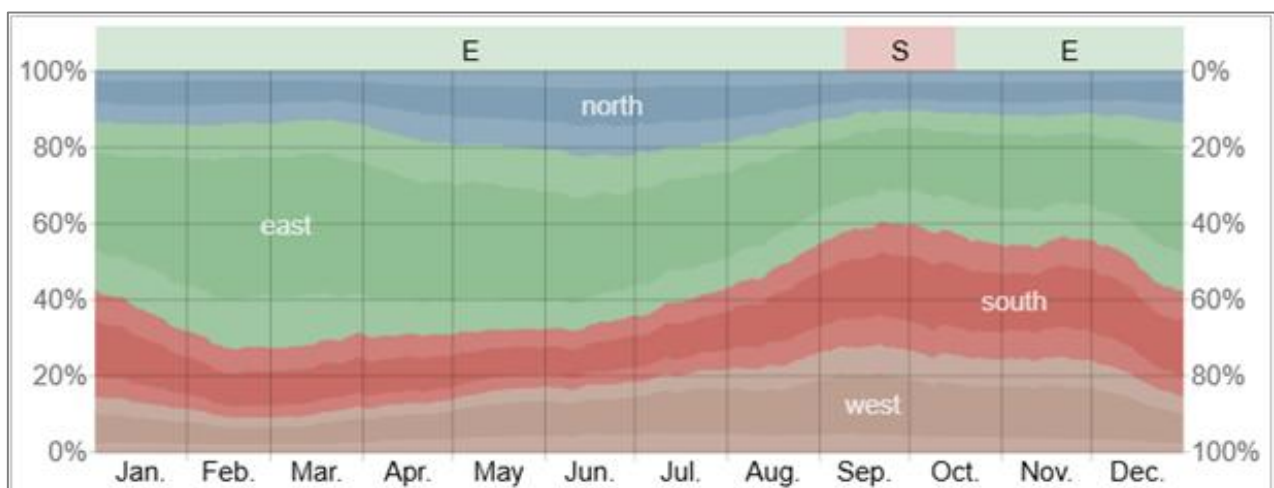


Figure 5: Meekatharra Airport Average Wind Direction (WeatherSpark, 2025)

2. BIODIVERSITY SURVEY FINDINGS

Past biological surveys used to support the original CPS 9435/1 clearing permit application and subsequent amendments were undertaken between 2012 to 2021 which assessed the PPE throughout different operational timelines and planned mining activities.

Section 2.1 contains a summary of the findings from the biodiversity surveys undertaken to date and have previously been assessed as a part of the original CPS9435/1 application.

2.1 Vegetation

BBGO previously commissioned flora and vegetation surveys by Maia Environmental Consultancy (Maia) in March 2020 and March 2021 (Appendix C and Appendix D).

Six vegetation types were mapped. 72.5% of the Survey Area consists of mixed tall sparse Acacia shrubland and 22.9% of the Survey Area is described as disturbed (Table 4). Vegetation condition is described as excellent to very good, with extensive pastoral and mining impacts evident (Maia, 2020; Maia, 2021).

A description of the land systems within the PPE is provided in Table 5. Each land system has more than 97% of its original mapped extent remaining in the Eastern Murchison subregion. The land systems within the PPE are not regionally or locally significant (Maia, 2021).

Table 4: Vegetation Types (Maia, 2020; Maia, 2021)

Vegetation Type	Vegetation Description	Vegetation Condition	Vegetation extent (ha) in Survey Area	Proportion (%) of the Survey Area
AaTSSL	Tall Sparse Shrubland of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> with a Sparse Shrubland of <i>Thryptomene decussata</i> and a Low Sparse Shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>P. schwartzii</i> .	Very Good. Grazing and exploration activities.	25	1.1
ATOSL	Mixed Tall Open Shrubland to Low Open Woodland mainly of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> , <i>A. pteraneura</i> and <i>A. pruinocarpa</i> with an Open shrubland of <i>A. tetragonophylla</i> and <i>A. craspedocarpa</i> (hybrid) and a Low Sparse mixed Shrubland mainly of <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> , <i>E. simulans</i> subsp. <i>simulans</i> and <i>E. punicea</i> .	Very Good. Grazing, exploration and mining activities.	74	3.4
ATSSL (1)	Mixed Tall Sparse Acacia Shrubland mainly of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> , <i>A. ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i> and <i>A. caesaneura</i> x <i>incurvaneura</i> with a mixed Isolated Shrubs mainly of <i>Ptilotus schwartzii</i> , <i>Eremophila simulans</i> subsp. <i>simulans</i> and <i>E. lachnocalyx</i> with +/- Low Isolated Trees of <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> .	Very Good. Grazing, exploration and mining activities.	834	38.0
ATSSL (2)	Tall Sparse Shrubland of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> , <i>A. ramulosa</i> var. <i>linophylla</i> and <i>A. incurvaneura</i> with a mixed Sparse Shrubland mainly of <i>Eremophila galeata</i> , <i>E. latrobei</i> subsp. <i>latrobei</i> and <i>E. simulans</i> subsp. <i>simulans</i> and a mixed Low Sparse Shrubland mainly of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> , <i>P. schwartzii</i> and <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> .	Very Good. Grazing, exploration and mining activities.	612	27.9
ATSSL (3)	Tall Sparse Shrubland of <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i> (hybrid) <i>A. caesaneura</i> (narrow phyllode variant) and <i>A. tetragonophylla</i> with a Sparse Shrubland mainly of <i>Eremophila galeata</i> and <i>E. clarkei</i> and a Low Sparse Shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and or <i>Eremophila lachnocalyx</i> .	Excellent. Grazing, and exploration activities.	145	6.6
MLSSL	Mixed Low Sparse Shrubland mainly of <i>Eremophila latrobei</i> subsp. <i>latrobei</i> , <i>Drummondia miniata</i> (P3) and <i>Hemigenia</i> sp. <i>Yalgoo</i> (A.M. Ashby 2624) with Isolated Tall shrubs of <i>Acacia aulacophylla</i> and / or <i>A. pteraneura</i> and Isolated Tussock Grasses of <i>Eriachne mucronata</i> .	Excellent. Grazing.	3	0.1
Disturbed	Previously cleared or disturbed land	Completely degraded or cleared	501	22.9
Total			2193	100

Table 5: CPS 9435/1 Land Systems

Land System	Description of Land Type (Curry et al, 1994)	Survey Area (ha)	Land System Extent (ha)	Proportion of Land System (%)
Sherwood	Breakaways, kaolinized footslopes and extensive gently sloping plains on granite supporting mulga shrublands and minor halophytic shrublands.	62.53	1,104,767	0.006
Violet	Gently undulating stony and gravelly plains on greenstone, laterite and hardpan, with low stony rises and minor saline plains; supporting groved mulga and bowgada shrublands and patchy halophytic shrublands.	2058.08	411,154	0.501
Wiluna	Low greenstone hills with occasional lateritic breakaways and broad stony slopes, lower saline stony plains and broad drainage tracts; supporting sparse mulga and other acacia shrublands with patches of halophytic shrubs.	18.45	147,882	0.012
Yanganoo	Almost flat hardpan plains and sandy tracts, with or without small wanderrie banks and weak groving; supporting mulga shrublands and wanderrie grasses on banks, mapped as occurring on the northern section of the survey area.	54.75	1,947,960	0.003

2.2 Flora

One threatened flora species listed under both the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) located within 50 km of the PPE- *Eremophila rostrata* subsp. *Rostrata* (Critically Endangered).

Part of the south-eastern corner of the Survey Area (0.07 ha) intersects the Lake Austin vegetation complex (banded ironstone formation (BIF)) Priority 1 Priority Ecological Community (PEC). The vegetation in the area intersecting the PEC buffer is mapped as ATSSL(3). ATSSL(3) is mapped on undulating plains, minor drainage channels and depressions, and not on rocky outcrops or hills or the midslopes and footslopes of a BIF range (Maia, 2020). Therefore, the 0.07 ha section is not representative of the P1 PEC.

No Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) are situated within the PPE. No Threatened flora species, as listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act, were located within the Survey Area (Maia, 2020; Maia, 2021).

Five priority flora species were recorded within the Survey Area:

- *Acacia speckii* (P4)
- *Calotis* sp. *Perrinvale Station* (R.J. Cranfield 7096) (P3)
- *Dodonaea amplisemina* (P4)
- *Drummondita miniata* (P3)
- *Sida picklesiana* (P3).

The majority of the recorded priority flora species are located on the western boundary and in the north-western corner of the Survey Area, as depicted in Figure 6 and Figure 7. These areas have been excluded from the proposed PPE boundary.

Three individual priority plants remain within the PPE. One *Drummondita miniata* (P3) plant is expected to be cleared as it is within the indicative TSF expansion footprint. A *Sida picklesiana* (P3) plant is within 50 m of the proposed TSF footprint. The clearing of these two individual plants will not impact on the conservation status of these species as populations of these species have been recorded regionally and locally (Figure 6, Figure 7).

Santalum spicatum (Sandalwood) was recorded in the PPE and within the Survey Area (Figure 6, Figure 7). Sandalwood is a controlled species under the BC Act (if it has a diameter of greater than 25 mm at the smallest end when stripped of bark; or roots of sandalwood) and it cannot be taken from private land or from Crown land to be processed without a licence (Maia, 2020). BBGO does not intend to remove this individual Sandalwood plant. The required licence will be sought if removal is planned.

The south-western corner of the Survey Area is mapped as having low potential to be a terrestrial groundwater dependent ecosystem (GDE) based on national assessment (Maia, 2020; Maia, 2021). Given that this area consists of sparse shrublands and contains no significant perennial drainage lines, it is unlikely that the terrestrial ecosystem will be groundwater dependent.

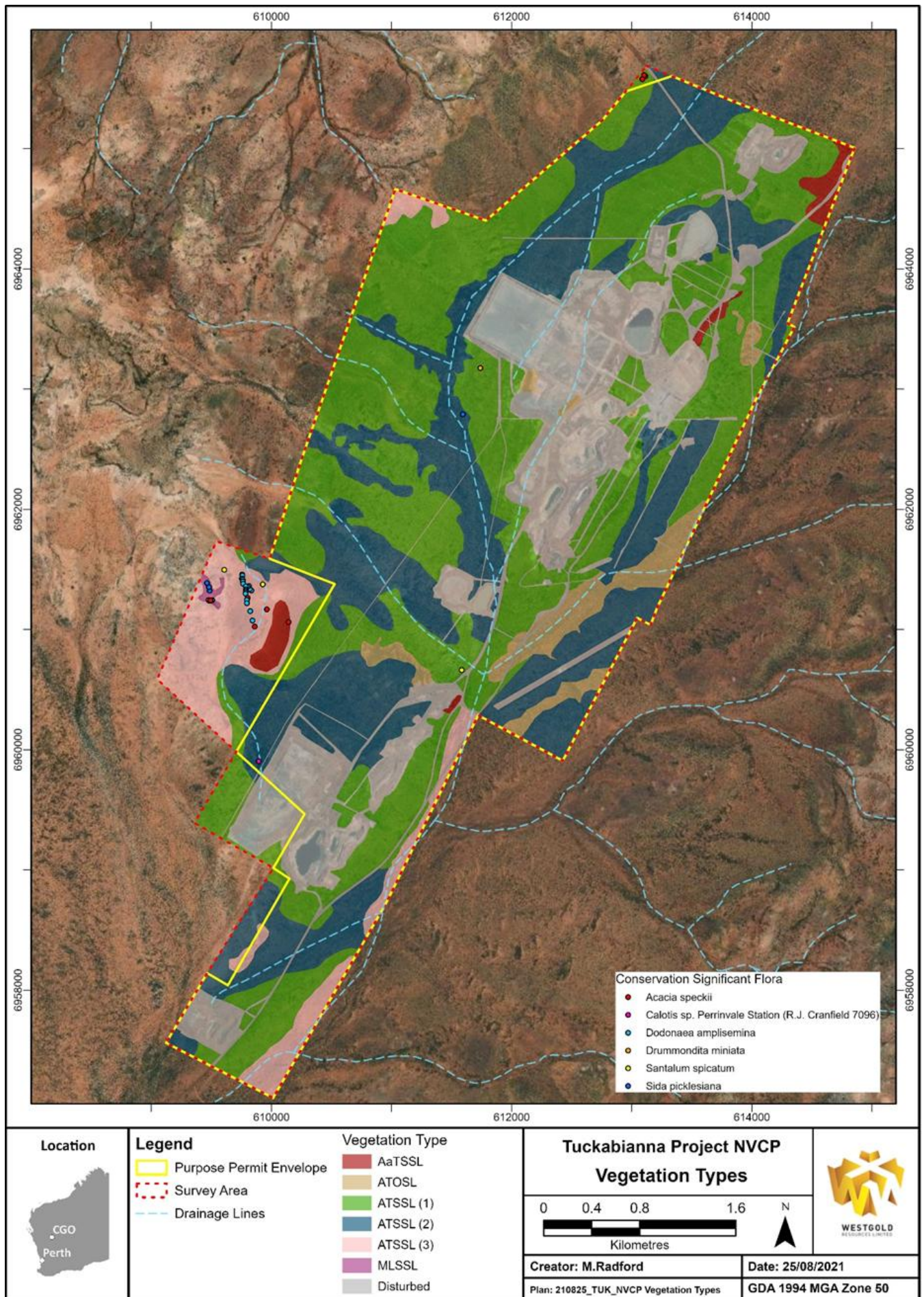
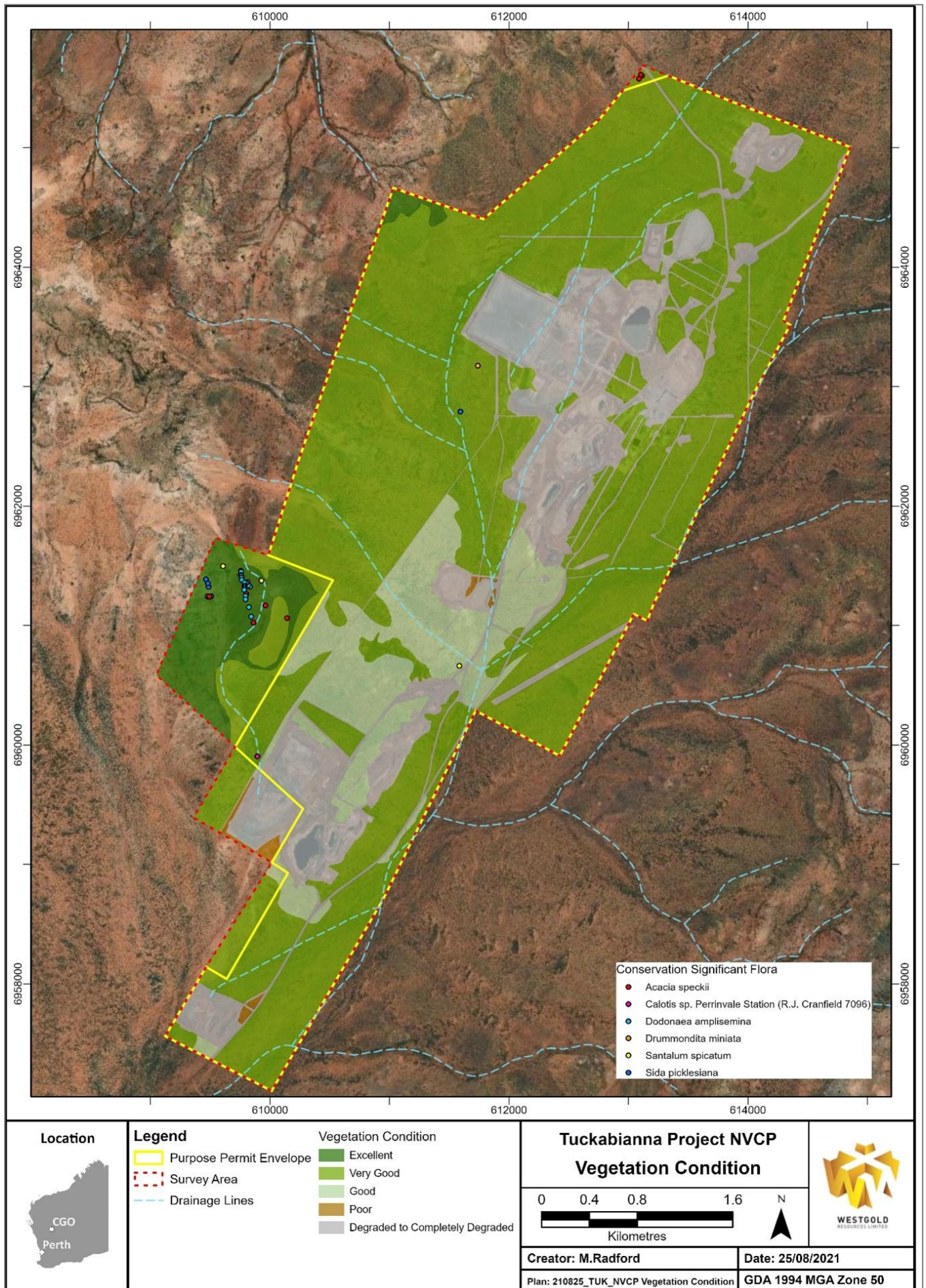


Figure 6: Vegetation Types within the Survey Area



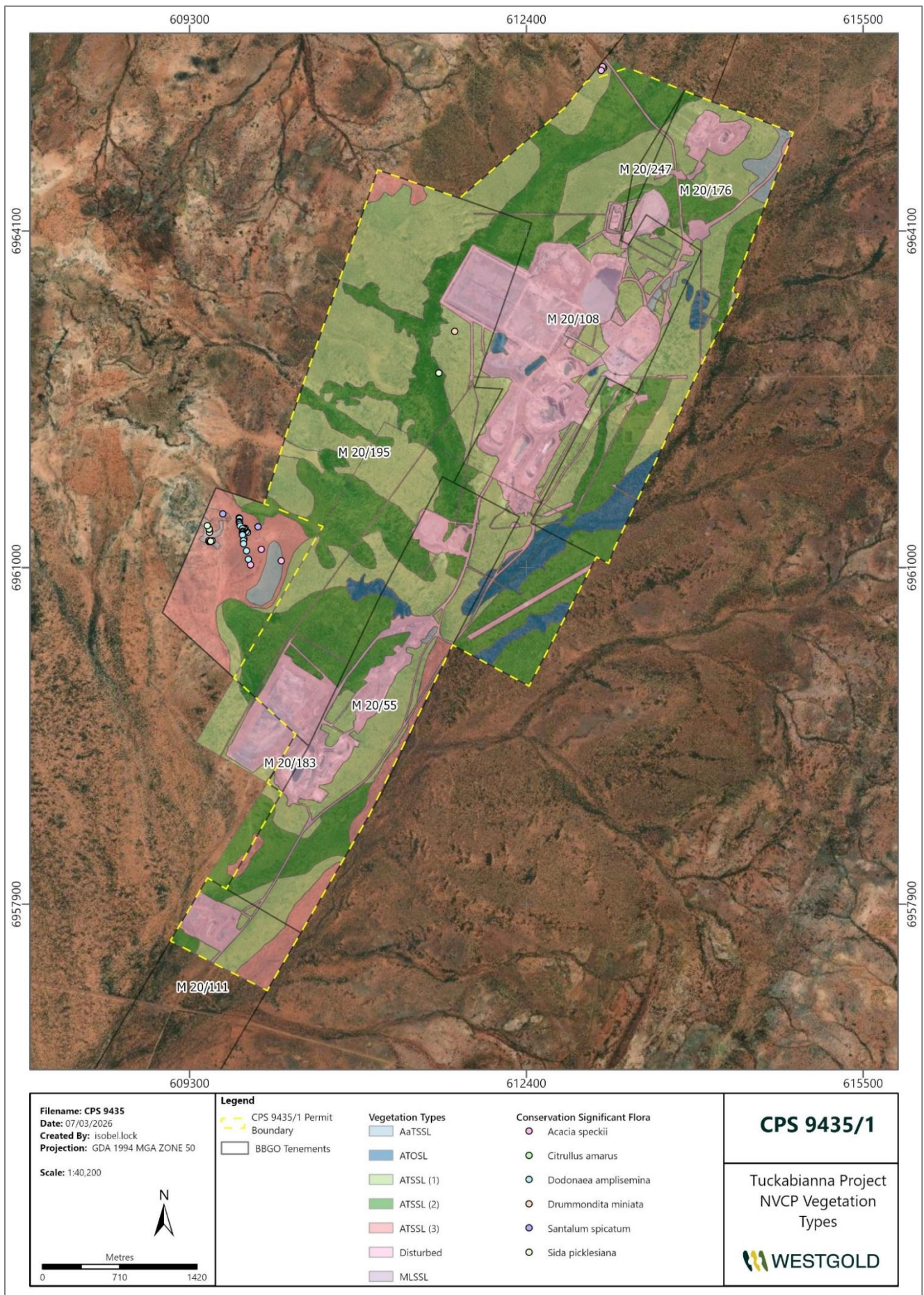


Figure 7: Vegetation Condition within the Survey Area

2.3 Introduced Flora

Most weeds identified through desktop assessments for the Tuckabianna and Tuckabianna West project areas occur in the broader Cue region rather than within the survey footprints themselves (Maia, 2020; Maia, 2021). Both studies noted the regional presence of the WoNS species *Opuntia stricta* and *Tamarix aphylla*, along with a potential declared pest plant, *Argemone mexicana*, recorded nearby; however, none of these were found within either survey area. Desktop searches identified 28 weed species (Maia, 2021) and 24 species (Maia, 2020) in the wider landscape, including several rated as having high ecological impact and rapid invasiveness.

No Weeds of National Significance (WoNS), Declared Pest Plants (DPP), or species listed on any national weed registers were recorded within the survey area (Maia, 2020; Maia, 2021). Four introduced but non-declared weed species were identified: *Cuscuta planiflora* (Small-seeded Dodder), *Lysimachia arvensis* (Pimpernel), *Rumex vesicarius* (Ruby Dock), and *Citrullus amarus* (Paddy Melon). *Rumex vesicarius* is rated as having high ecological impact and rapid invasiveness, while *Citrullus amarus*, represented by a single plant, has a low ecological impact rating in the Midwest region but is also considered rapidly invasive. Figure 8 shows the mapped locations of the introduced flora species.

BBGO conducts quarterly targeted weed spraying at all sites to manage weed presence and growth. In addition, BBGO uses an internal Weed and Seed inspection process, requiring all machinery arriving on site to be thoroughly cleaned and inspected to minimise the introduction and spread of weeds.

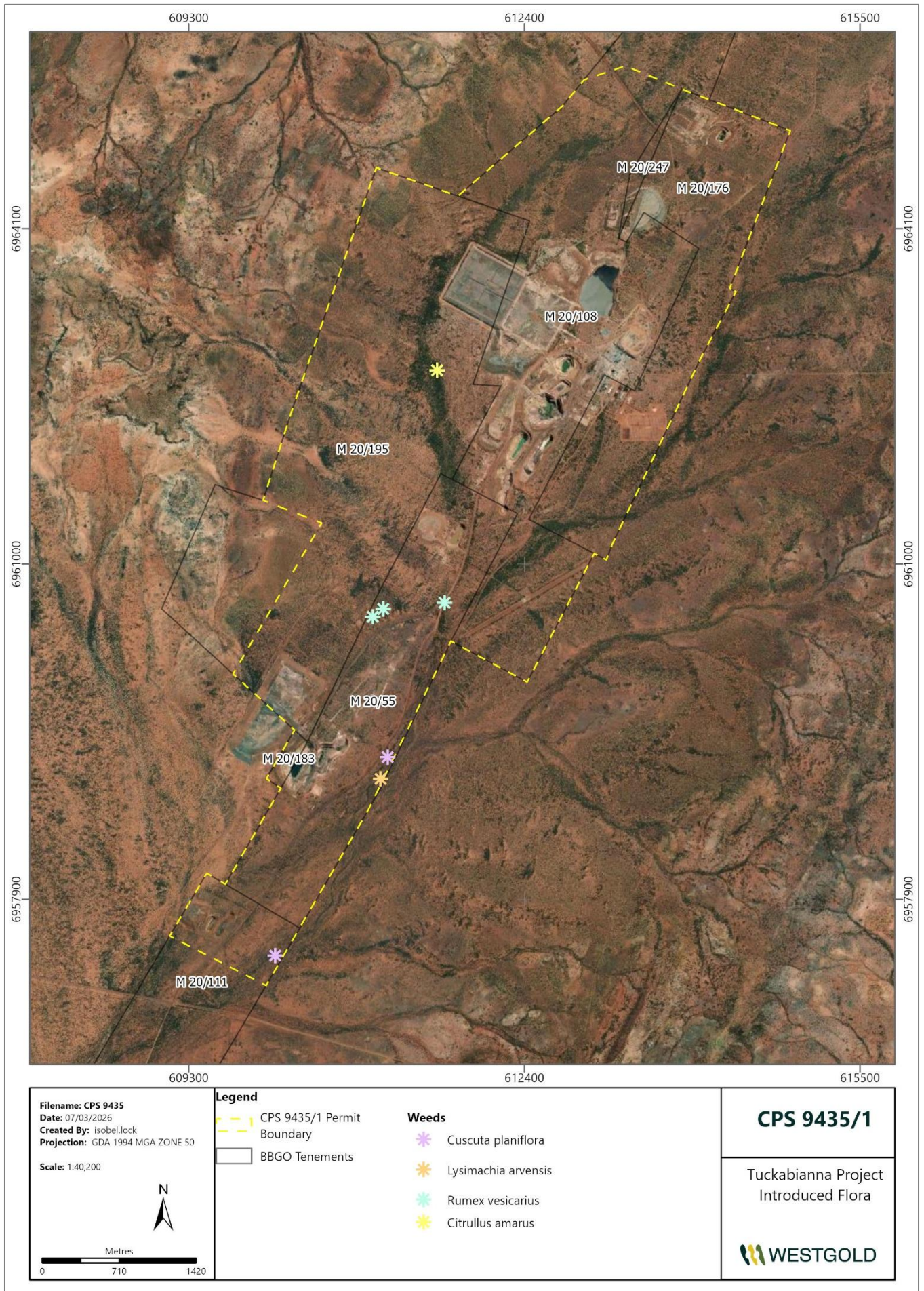


Figure 8: Introduced Flora within the Survey Area

2.4 Fauna

A fauna survey was undertaken by Western Ecological in February 2021 (Attachment 6). The survey included a desktop study that provided fauna species of conservation significance potentially occurring in the survey area which was followed by an on-site field survey to assess existing habitats, identify fauna observations and undertake a targeted search for potential Malleefowl and Night Parrot habitat.

No conservation significant fauna was recorded within the Survey Area or PPE and all recorded fauna species are considered relatively common and widespread (Western Ecological, 2021).

Two conservation significant species were given particular consideration during the field survey; the Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and the Night Parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*). The Survey Area is considered unsuitable for both species, due to a lack of suitable habitat. Habitats in the survey area are considered unsuitable for species. The drainage areas contained denser vegetation. However, too sparse for Malleefowl mound construction and unlikely to build in drainage areas due to flooding. Survey area is considered unsuitable for the night parrot species as the habitat type does not contain spinifex for roosting and nesting.

There were habitat assessments done in the survey area and three broad habitat types were recorded: Mulga Shrubland, Drainage Area and Scattered Acacia on Stony Plains. The remaining areas were classed as totally degraded and consisted of cleared areas, tracks and mining areas. Overall, the survey area had large sections of being degraded in nature and showed evidence of pastoral use, mining and exploration activity. Three broad habitat types are described (Table 6 and Figure 10).

Table 6: Broad Fauna Habitats

Broad Fauna Habitat	Description	Habitat extent in Survey Area (ha)	Proportion of the Survey Area (%)
Mulga Shrubland	Mulga trees and tall shrubs, including <i>A. pteraneura</i> and <i>A. caesaneura</i> , over mixed <i>Acacia</i> open shrubland over a low sparse <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i>	1,176	54
Drainage Area	<i>A. aptaneura</i> , and <i>A. ramulosa</i> tall open shrubland over mixed <i>Acacia</i> and <i>Hakea</i> , over very scattered low shrubs (including <i>Eremophila galeata</i> , <i>E. georgei</i> and <i>E. latrobei</i> and <i>P. obovatus</i> and <i>P. schwartzii</i> , with some mixed grasses on (mainly) sandy soils.	425	19
Scattered Acacia on Stony Plains	Isolated mixed <i>Acacia</i> shrubs, over isolated <i>Eremophila</i> , <i>Ptilotus</i> and <i>Senna</i> low shrubs on stony plains.	97	4
Cleared / Degraded	Previously cleared or completely degraded land	495	23
Total		2,193	100

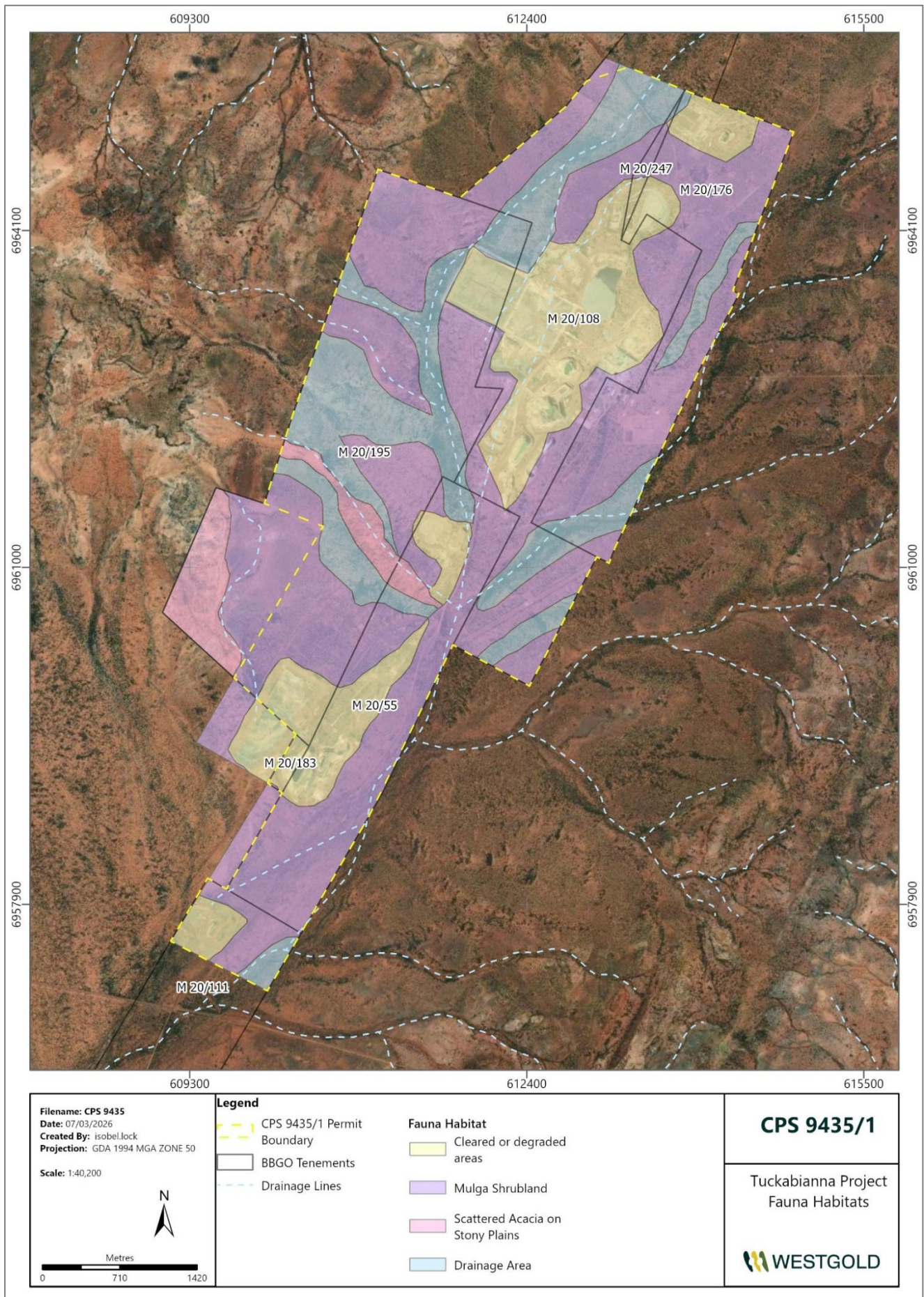


Figure 9: Fauna Habitats within the Survey Area

3. CLEARING PRINCIPLES

An assessment of the proposed clearing against the ten clearing principles outlined in Schedule 5 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 is provided in Table 5. This assessment demonstrates that the proposed removal of 250 ha of native vegetation within a PPE of 1988.6 ha is not at variance with any of the ten clearing principles, and this outcome is consistent with the previous CPS 9435/1 Decision Report, which assessed the same area and found no unacceptable environmental impacts see Appendix E CPS9435/1 Decision Report. No changes to site conditions or environmental values have occurred since that assessment.

Table 7: Assessment Against Clearing Principles

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.	The clearing footprint will be limited to 250 ha within a PPE of 1988.6 ha. The area to be cleared is a mix of very good vegetation to completely degraded. The area is described as extensively disturbed by pastoral and mining activities as well as goat grazing and trampling. No priority listed fauna were recorded during field surveys. Several P3 and P4 flora were recorded within the PPE and will be removed only under special conditions, as determined by this clearing permit. The majority of the recorded priority flora and vegetation in excellent condition within the Survey Area are excluded from the PPE. <i>The proposed clearing activities set out in this NVCP is NOT at variance with Clearing Principle (a).</i>	Not likely to be at variance The clearing of native vegetation is not representative of an area of high level of biodiversity. Any possible significant diversity is well-represented regionally outside of the PPE. The vegetation does not support the whole, or a part of, a significant population of priority flora or priority ecological community, and the native vegetation within the project area does not have a higher diversity than other areas of the same ecological community in the region. The CPS 9435/1 Decision Report found that the vegetation within the project area does not represent a high level of biodiversity, noting that “the vegetation types, fauna habitats and landform types present within the application area are well represented in surrounding areas.” The area remains a mix of very good to completely degraded vegetation, already disturbed by pastoralism and mining. No new flora or fauna values have emerged, and the previous conclusion that the clearing is not at variance with Principle (a) remains unchanged.

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.	Three broad fauna habitat types were identified within the PPE. None of the habitats are described as significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia. <i>The proposed clearing activities set out in this NVCP is NOT at variance with Clearing Principle (b).</i>	The PPE does not represent a habitat for specially protected or threatened fauna or meta-populations of fauna. Clearing will not affect the maintenance of habitat for priority, migratory, specially protected, threatened fauna or meta-populations of fauna. The previous assessment confirmed that “no conservation significant fauna species were identified during the fauna assessment” and that the three habitat types present are widespread and not significant at a regional scale. These conditions remain the same, and no new fauna records or habitat changes have occurred. The clearing therefore continues to be not at variance with Principle (b).
c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes or is necessary for the continued existence of rare flora.	No threatened flora; declared rare or undescribed significant species were found within the PPE during the 2020 and 2021 flora and vegetation surveys. Three Priority species were recorded within the PPE and will be avoided where possible. Individual plants of <i>Drummondita miniata</i> and <i>Sida picklesiana</i> are likely to be removed as part of the proposed clearing activities. The clearing of these individual plants will not impact on the conservation status of these species as populations of these species have been recorded regionally and locally. <i>The proposed clearing activities set out in this NVCP is NOT at variance with Clearing Principle (c).</i>	No clearing of flora declared as rare or listed as threatened, and no clearing of buffers or other areas necessary to maintain ecological processes and functions for rare flora is proposed. The Decision Report stated that “no species of Threatened flora were identified” within the application area, and only a small number of Priority flora individuals would be affected without impacting their conservation status. As no new flora surveys or environmental changes have altered this context, the clearing remains not at variance with Principle (c).
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.	No Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) are situated within the PPE. The Lake Austin vegetation complex (banded ironstone formation (BIF)) PEC lies outside of the PPE and will remain unaffected by the proposed clearing activities. <i>The proposed clearing activities set out in this NVCP is NOT at variance with Clearing Principle (d).</i>	No TEC’s, or habitat necessary for the maintenance of threatened ecological communities, are present within the PPE. The CPS 9435/1 assessment confirmed that no TECs occur within or near the clearing footprint and that the nearby Lake Austin PEC lies outside the project area. Vegetation communities remain unchanged, and no new TEC or PEC listings apply. The clearing is still not at variance with Principle (d).

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
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.	Four land systems are mapped in the Survey Area – Sherwood, Violet, Wiluna and Yanganoo. Each land system has more than 97% of its original mapped extent remaining in the Eastern Murchison subregion. The described land systems within the PPE are not regionally or locally significant and the proposed clearing will not reduce the extent of any of the vegetation associations below the 30% representation level within the bioregion. <i>The proposed clearing activities set out in this NVCP is NOT at variance with Clearing Principle (e).</i>	Clearing will not be undertaken in an area which: - Contains the habitat for a threatened fauna species and is below the national target and objective for biodiversity conservation is proposed; - Comprises biologically diverse remnant vegetation within an extensively cleared landscape; - Is remnant vegetation which is part of a significant ecological linkage within an extensively cleared landscape; or - Is required to maintain ecosystem services or to compensate for a high degree of fragmentation. The Decision Report highlighted that the Murchison Bioregion retains “approximately 99% of the pre-European vegetation” and that Beard vegetation association 18 remains similarly intact. No additional clearing has occurred that would alter this landscape context. The clearing therefore remains not at variance with Principle (e).
f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.	Surface water within the PPE is only evident after heavy rainfall. A network of ephemeral drainage lines run through the PPE which will be avoided where possible. It is unlikely that GDE are present within the PPE. <i>The proposed clearing activities set out in this NVCP is NOT at variance with Clearing Principle (f).</i>	No clearing of a watercourse or wetland dependent habitat is proposed, and clearing will not be undertaken within the identified or known buffer of a watercourse or wetland. The previous assessment identified only ephemeral drainage lines and confirmed “no permanent watercourses or wetlands” within the clearing area. These conditions remain unchanged, and the clearing continues to avoid riparian vegetation. The activity remains not at variance with Principle (f).

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	Limited surface water flows from ephemeral drainage lines within and adjacent to the PPE will help to minimise the amount of erosion, with most of the soil erosion expected to be limited to localised areas. The proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly increase infiltration, which may otherwise lead to a rise in groundwater or increase salinity levels within the PPE. <i>The proposed clearing activities set out in this NVCP is NOT at variance with Clearing Principle (g).</i>	Clearing is not likely to increase salinity, waterlogging, nutrient export, water and wind erosion or soil acidity. The Decision Report noted that the Violet land system is generally resistant to erosion, with only moderate susceptibility where soil is disturbed. Staged clearing was previously recommended and remains appropriate. No new erosion risks or landform changes have occurred, so the clearing remains not at variance with Principle (g).
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.	No conservation significant reserve, CALM Act 1984 listed nature reserve, EPBC Act Ramsar Wetland or ANZECC Wetlands Network (1994) wetland is located within 200 km of the PPE. <i>The proposed clearing activities set out in this NVCP is NOT at variance with Clearing Principle (h).</i>	No Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions managed lands, conservation covenants, significant wetlands and watercourses or heritage areas will be impacted by the clearing within the PPE. The CPS 9435/1 assessment confirmed that “there are no conservation areas in the vicinity of the application area”, with the nearest DBCA-managed land located 28.6 km away. This remains unchanged, and the clearing continues to pose no risk to conservation estate values. The proposal remains not at variance with Principle (h).
i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.	Given the relatively low annual rainfall of the region, the soil characteristics within the PPE and limited surface water flow, it is considered that clearing of native vegetation will not deteriorate the quality of surface water or groundwater. <i>The proposed clearing activities set out in this NVCP is NOT at variance with Clearing Principle (i).</i>	Clearing of native vegetation for the Tuckabianna Project is not likely to: - lead to adverse impacts through sedimentation of water bodies; - contribute to increased nutrient levels in the catchment; - result in low pH waters or acid sulphate soils; or - contribute to increased salinity in catchments. The Decision Report found that the clearing would not affect surface or groundwater quality due to the arid climate, low rainfall, and absence of sensitive water resources. These environmental conditions remain unchanged, and the clearing continues to be not at variance with Principle (i).

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence of flooding.	The Cue region experiences relatively low annual rainfall and a high evaporation rate. Minor ephemeral creeklines run through the PPE in a southern direction towards Lake Austin. Protective bunds and diversion structures will be installed where required to protect natural drainage. No significant perennial drainage lines are located within the PPE. <i>The proposed clearing activities set out in this NVCP is NOT at variance with Clearing Principle (j).</i>	The proposed clearing is unlikely to increase the possibility of waterlogging and should not significantly alter drainage characteristics during 1 in 100-year floods. The previous assessment concluded that the clearing would not alter flooding behaviour, noting the region's low rainfall and ephemeral drainage patterns. No hydrological changes have occurred since that assessment. The clearing remains not at variance with Principle (j).

4. REFERENCES

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