11 July 2019

Ms Sally Stromayr
A/Director Onshore Petroleum
Environment Division |
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Level 1, Arnhemica House, 16 Parap Road, Parap NT 0820

Attention: Linda Pugh

Dear Sally Stromayr

Update of a part of an Environmental Management Plan: Beetaloo Basin Groundwater Monitoring Bore Installation Program Kyalla 117 N2.

Origin is writing to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to advise of a proposed update to the Beetaloo Basin Groundwater Monitoring Bore Installation Program - Kyalla 117 N2 Environmental Management Plan (referred to herein as the "EMP") NT-2050-15-MP-0017.

Origin proposes to update Table 2 of the EMP, to include an additional gravel pit (referred to as ***Gravel Pit A***) and an increase in the disturbance of the existing approved gravel pits. These additional disturbances are required to ensure enough gravel is available to support Origin's exploration activities.

This proposed amendment is reflected in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Updated Table 2 of the Kyalla 117 N2 Groundwater Monitoring Bore EMP

Exploration Permit	Gravel Pit	Station	Zone*	Approx Easting	Approx Northing	Disturbance Area (ha)
EP117	Gravel Pit 1	Shenandoah	53	339880	8134770	1
EP117	Gravel Pit 2	Shenandoah East	53	360420	8134916	1
EP117	Gravel Pit 3	Shenandoah East	53	362876	8134932	2.5
EP117	Gravel Pit A	Shenandoah	53	333798.5	8135069.1	1
				Total Gravel Pit Disturbance Area for 2018 (Ha)		**5.5 ha**

A map of the proposed addition is provided in Attachment 1. All locations are located within the existing approved gravel pit disturbance covered under Origin's current AAPA Certificate C2019/039.

The proposed update will carry an increase in disturbance area of 4.75 hectare, with the total disturbance area for the gravel pits increasing from 0.75 hectares to 5.5 hectares.

An assessment of these areas has been provided in the existing land condition assessment (Attachment 4), with a new land condition assessment table provided in Attachment 2. Consistent with the existing activities within the approved EMP, the proposed new and expanded gravel pits are in regionally extensive vegetation communities, as summarised in Attachment 3.

The following information regarding the environmental, cultural and pastoralist aspects have been provided for inclusion to the EMP.

Environment

- The amendment of the gravel pit locations within the EMP does not result in any material increase the level of impact, with the level of clearing for gravel pits increased from 0.75 hectares to 5.5 hectares.
- The vegetation communities are regionally extensive and not threatened.
- The additional activity is not anticipated to result in a material risk to threatened flora and fauna, with a risk profile consistent with the existing activities within the approved EMP.
- All areas were inspected by AECOM during the recent weed survey and therefore has been baselined.
- The volume of gravel in Gravel Pit A and Gravel Pit 3 are anticipated to be significant. This may reduce or eliminate the clearing required for other pits in the vicinity.
- The risk mitigation controls outlined in the existing EMP are identical and will not require any amendment to accommodate the additional scope.
- The gravel pit inclusion is covered under the existing Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, Weed Management Plan and Emergency Response Plan
- The additional gravel pit area is sufficiently covered under the existing security titled *Agreement: Groundwater Monitoring Program Rehabilitation Provisions- Eight Groundwater monitoring bores located across EP 76, 98 and 117 as outlined in NT-2050-15-MP-0014, NT-2050-15-MP-0017 and NT-2050-15-MP-0018.* This security provision covers up to 9 sites, for which only 3 are likely to been utilised. The value in the security is extremely conservative and has allowed for approximately $2.2million for water bore associated disturbance.

- **Cultural Heritage:**
  - The proposed new gravel pit location and increase in existing gravel pit disturbance is covered by Origin's current AAPA Certificate C2019/039, with the appropriate Native Title holder and NLC clearances obtained.

- **Stakeholder engagement:**
  - The construction of the gravel pit is covered under the existing land access agreement and stakeholder engagement has been completed.

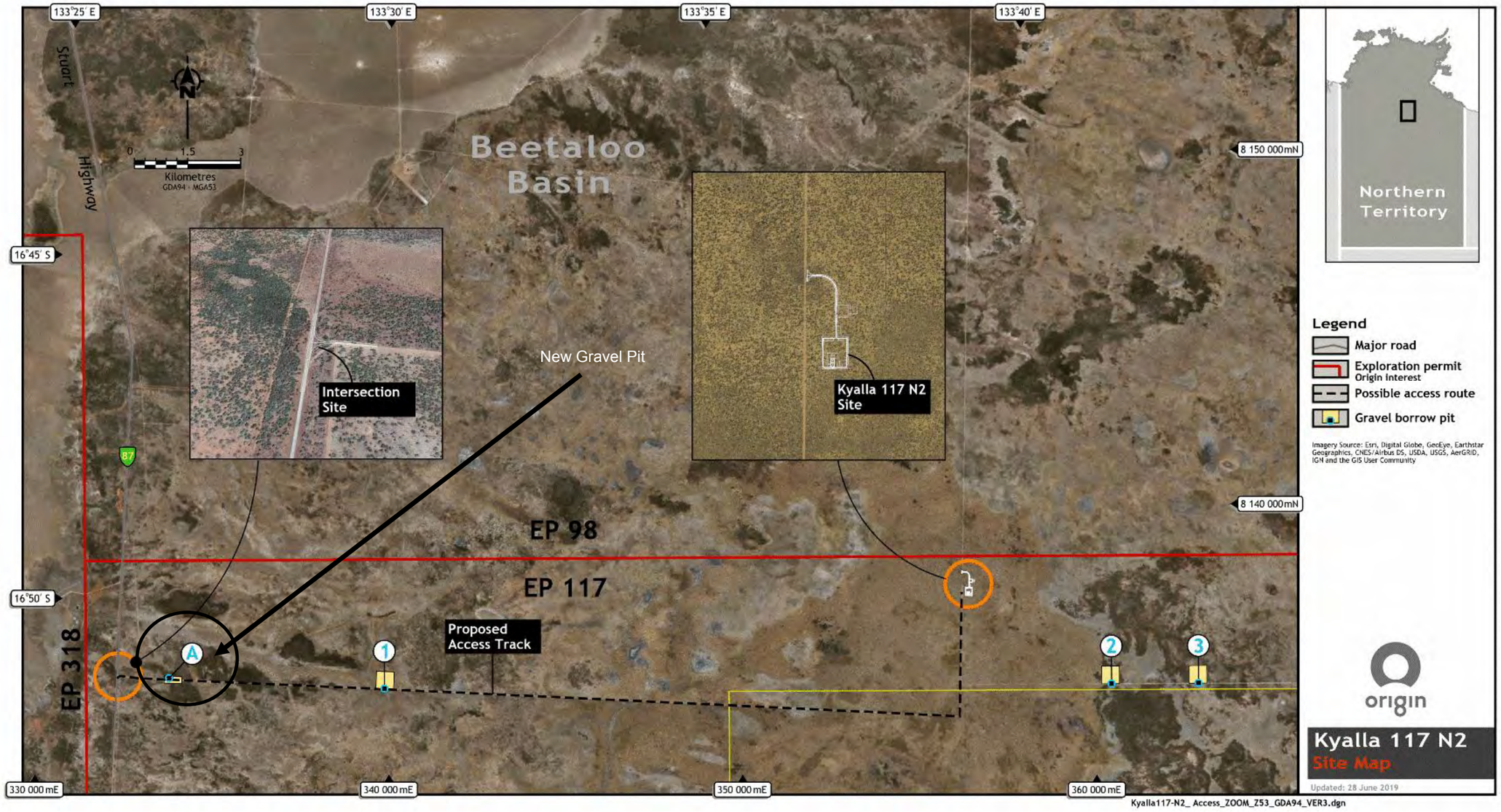
If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to call Matt Kernke on 0467700565.

Kind Regards

PP, Matt Kernke

Tracey Boyes
General Manager, Beetaloo and Growth Assets

Attachment 1- Map of Proposed Area



Attachment 2 Gravel Pit A Land Condition Assessment

Site ID	Gravel Pit 1	Habitat photos at central point of survey site (June 2019)
Location	-16°51'42.60”S, 133°26'23.88”E	 
Landform and soil	Lateritic plains and gently undulating rises. Gravelly lithosols,some shallow red and yellow earths; well drained.	
Habitat type	Acacia low woodland/*Eragrostis* (mixed) low open tussock grassland. Surrounded by *Acacia shirleyi* (Lancewood) and *Macropteranthes kekwickii* (Bullwaddy) forest.	
Vegetation Community	Acacia low woodland/low open tussock grassland This vegetation community is considered regionally extensive and not subjected to extensive clearing.	
Dominant flora species	Canopy dominated by a *Corymbia dichromophloia* (10%), *Erythrophleum chlorostachys*. Shrub layer including *Eucalyptus/Corymbia* regrowth, *Acacia lysiphloia* (Turpentine) *Terminalia canescens*, Ground layer dominated by *Triodia bitextura.*	 
Habitat condition	Habitat disturbed through evidence of recent grazing. Low numbers of hollow bearing trees and logs. The habitat contained low refuge opportunities due to the disturbed nature of the area. North of the proposed gravel pit consisted of Lancewood/Bullwaddy community. No evidence of weeds or feral animals during inspection.	**Additional Habitat Photos across survey site (June 2018)**

Site ID	Gravel Pit 1	Habitat photos at central point of survey site (June 2019)
Potential Listed Threatened Species	Grey Falcon, Northern Crested Shrike-tit, Gouldian Finch, Painted Honeyeater, Yellow-spotted Monitor. Consider low risk due to the proposed size of the disturbance and the condition of the surrounding habitat.	 

Attachment 3 Gravel pit vegetation community summary

Gravel Pit		Vegetation description	Status
Gravel Pit A		Acacia low woodland/Eragrostis (mixed) low open tussock grassland	Regionally extensive, least concern and not threatened
GP1		Corymbia low woodland/Terminalia (mixed) sparse shrubland/Chrysopogon (mixed) low tussock grassland	Regionally extensive, least concern and not threatened
GP2		Acacia open forest/Acacia tall open shrubland/Chrysopogon (mixed) low open tussock grassland	Regionally extensive, least concern and not threatened
GP3		Acacia open forest/Acacia tall open shrubland/Chrysopogon (mixed) low open tussock grassland	Regionally extensive, least concern and not threatened

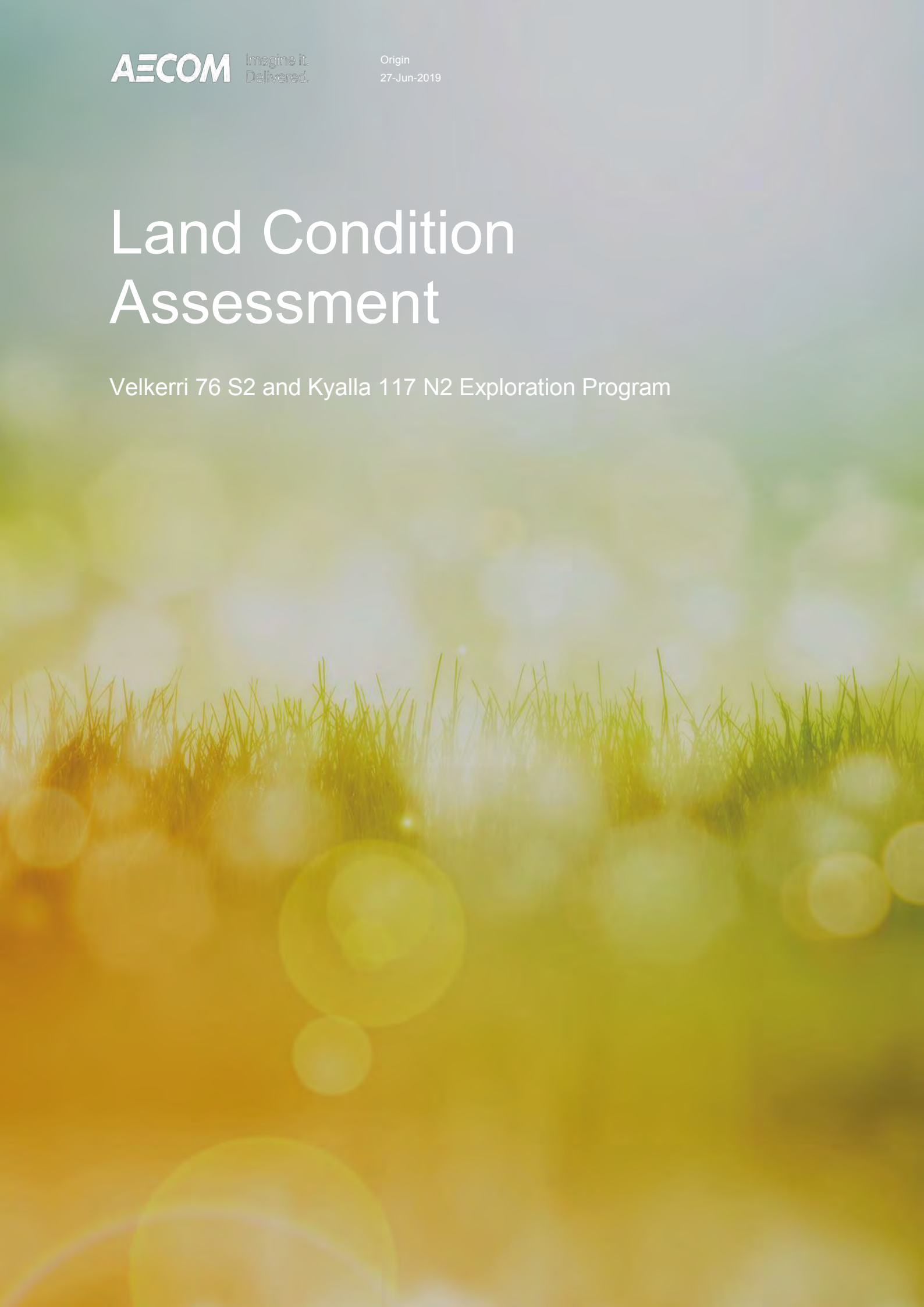
Attachment 3- Land condition assessment- existing Gravel Pits 1 - 3

AECOM Imagine it. Delivered.

Origin
27-Jun-2019

Land Condition Assessment

Velkerri 76 S2 and Kyalla 117 N2 Exploration Program



Land Condition Assessment

Velkerri 76 S2 and Kyalla 117 N2 Exploration Program

Client: Origin

ABN: 66 007 845 338

Prepared by

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27-Jun-2019

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Quality Information

Document	Land Condition Assessment
Ref	60480548
Date	27-Jun-2019
Prepared by	Alana Court
Reviewed by	Abe Francis

Revision History

Rev	Revision Date	Details	Authorised	
			Name/Position	Signature
0	20-Sep-2018	August 2018 Land Condition Assessment	Alana Court Principal Scientist	
1	5-Mar-2019	Revised for 2019 program	Alana Court Principal Scientist	
2	16-May-2019	Revision 2 for 2019 program	Alana Court Principal Scientist	
3	27-June-2019	Update following DENR comments regarding recently released *Weed Management Planning Guide: Onshore Petroleum Projects June 2019*	Alana Court Principal Scientist	

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Table of Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
°C	Degrees Celsius
%	Percentage
AAPA	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
ALA	Atlas of Living Australia
AS	Australian Standard
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology
CLA	Cambrian Limestone Aquifer
Cth	Commonwealth
DoH	Department of Health (NT)
DotEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (Cmwlth)
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NT)
DPIR	Department of Primary Industries and Resource (NT)
DLPE	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment (NT)
EPA	Environment Protection Authority (NT)
EP##	Exploration Permit (e.g. EP76, EP98 and EP117)
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EPBC	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
ESCP	Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
GPS	Global Positioning Device
Ha	hectare
IBA	Important Bird Area
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
Km	Kilometre
km^2	Square Kilometres
km/hr	Kilometre per hour
LCA	Land Condition Assessment
m	metre
MD	Measured Depth
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
mm	millimetre
NLC	Northern Land Council
NT	Northern Territory
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
RWA	Restricted Work Area
TO	Traditional Owner
TPWC Act	*Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*

Acronym	Meaning
WMP	Weed Management Plan
WoNS	Weed of National Significance

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Report

AECOM Australia Pty Ltd (AECOM) conducted a land condition assessment (LCA) to support Origin Energy's (Origin) application to the Northern Territory Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for various exploration activities.

The purpose of the LCA was to gather baseline information to provide an environmental condition assessment to support the proposed exploration activities to be carried out by Origin at two proposed lease sites during 2019/2020.

1.2 Project Boundary

Origin are proposing to undertake a series of activities required to expand their exploration program in the Beetaloo Basin. Origin are targeting two sites for the 2019/2020 exploration program, Velkerri 76 S2 and Kyalla 117 N2. The location and proposed disturbance area are presented in Table 1 and Figure 1.

Table 1 Proposed Lease Area for Exploration Activities and Disturbance Area

Exploration Permit	Name	Station	Zone*	Easting	Northing	Disturbance Area (ha)
EP76	Velkerri 76 S2-1	Amungee Mungee	53	435488	8136321	7.2~
EP117	Kyalla 117 N2-1	Hayfield/Shenandoah	53	356175	8137500	9.8~
EP117	Stuart Highway Intersection	Hayfield/Shenandoah	53	332371	8135170	0.5
EP117	Gravel Pit 1	Hayfield/Shenandoah	53	339883	8135005	1.0
EP117	Gravel Pit 2	Hayfield/Shenandoah	53	360366	8135138	1.0
EP117	Gravel Pit 3	Hayfield/Shenandoah	53	362841	8135102	1.0
EP117	Gravel Pit 4 and access track	Hayfield/Shenandoah	53	397906	8136039	1.5
EP117	Gravel Pit 5 and access track	Hayfield/Shenandoah	53	403386	8135809	1.0
EP117	Gravel Pit 6 and access track	Hayfield/Shenandoah	53	405049	8135927	1.0
EP76	Gravel Pit 7	Amungee Mungee	53	435749	8135306	0.5
Total Disturbance Area (Ha)						**24.5 ha**

** Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) geographic coordinate system is Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 94.*

~Includes well pad, camp lease, stockpile laydown and access track turnin.

For the purpose of this assessment, the project boundaries were defined as the areas which may be affected by the proposed exploration activities, including:

- Construction of a 5.5-ha lease pad at Kyalla 117 N2 and Velkerri 76 S2.
- Construction of a 1.2-ha camp pad at Kyalla 117 N2 and Velkerri 76 S2.
- Construction of a 0.2-ha stockpile area at Kyalla 117 N2 and Velkerri 76 S2.

- Construction of a 0.25-ha helipad and 1-ha wet weather storage area at the Velkerri 76 S2.
- Construct a 650 m long x 8 m wide (0.52-ha) lease pad turn in to Kyalla 117 N2 connecting the proposed lease pad to the existing access track.
- Construct a 1,100 m long x 8 m wide (0.88-ha) lease pad turn in to Velkerri 76 S2 connecting the proposed lease pad to the existing access track.
- Minor intersection upgrade works at the intersection with the Stuart Highway of approximately 0.5-ha in accordance with approved Road Agency approval (2018-0186-D2) and Permit to Work within NT Government Road Reserve.
- Utilise approximately 107 km of existing access track.
- Obtain gravels, as required, for construction of drill pads and sections of the access track at up to seven proposed borrow pits (7 gravel pits up to 1 to 2.1 ha).
- All other activities ancillary to the drilling, stimulation and well testing of an exploration well.

1.3 Scope of works

The scope of work for the LCA involved:

- a review of historical data and reports prepared during the previous Beetaloo onshore oil and gas exploration programs
- a search of the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy (DoTEE) Protected Matters database (27 August 2018)
- a search of the NT Natural Resource Management InfoNet Database (flora and fauna database) (4 September 2018)
- a search of the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) database for flora and fauna records (2014 and 2016)
- completion of LCA field survey of the proposed exploration lease areas drilling program.
- Preparation of this report.

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KALALA
NUTWOOD DOWNS
Kalala
KALALA
Daly Waters
TANUMBIRINI
CARPENTARIA HWY
KALALA
EP98
Cooee Hill
EP117
KALALA
AMUNGEE MUNGEE
TANUMBIRINI
Dunmarra
Hayfields
Kyalla 117 N2-1
Vellkerri 76 N2-1
GP1
GP2
GP3
GP4
GP5-
GP6
GP7
HAYFIELD
STUART HWY
BEETALOO STATION
EP76
HAYFIELD
MURRANJAI
EP117
HAYFIELD
Beetaloo
Newcastle Waters
NEWCASTLE WATERS
Newcastle Waters
Elliott
EP76
NEWCASTLE WATERS
UCHARONIDGE
Ucharonidge
TANDYIDGEE
MUNGABROOM

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LEGEND

- Proposed Wells 2018
- Homestead
- Place Name
- Populated Place
- Gravel Pits
- Highway
- Tracks
- Access Routes
- Cadastre
- Permit Areas
- Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve

LOCATION

Data sources:
Permit Area, Cadastre - NT Gov 2019.
Places, Vegetation - Aust Gov 2019
Highways, Roads, Drainage -

ORIGIN ENERGY RESOURCES LIMITED
2019 Environmental Management Plan

Site Location

PROJECT ID	60480548
CREATED BY	jace.emberg
LAST MODIFIED	20-May-2019
VERSION	1

Figure 1

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2.0 Assessment Method

2.1 Desktop Review

The existing data collected between 2005 and 2016 for the permit areas was mapped based on image interpretation, with ground-truthing of the proposed exploration areas being completed during the field assessment (refer Section 2.2). This information was reviewed prior to the field work to identify the following:

- terrestrial vegetation types and flora and fauna species occurring within the region and with potential to occur within the project area, using existing documents and aerial / satellite imagery.
- terrestrial Commonwealth or Territory listed threatened species or communities identified within the region and with potential to occur within the project area.
- matters of national environmental significance or other matters protected by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) that are likely to occur within the project area.
- existing weeds or feral animals listed under the EPBC Act, *Weeds Management Act* or the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and with potential to occur within the project area.

Table 2 provides a chronological list of reports previously compiled for the exploration permit area between 2004 and 2016, in relation to environmental approvals and management support for petroleum exploration activities in the Beetaloo Basin, NT.

The extent of work undertaken since 2004 has enabled a good understanding of the natural and cultural environment, which has been used in assessing the proposed exploration areas within the Permit Area.

Table 2 Summary of existing Environmental Assessments and Reports for the Beetaloo Basin (2004 to 2018)

Date	Report
Sweetpea Petroleum	
Jul- Aug 2004	Baseline land condition assessment
	Site database established
Jul 2005	Exploration EMP finalised and approved
Petrohunter Australia (Partner to Sweetpea)	
Dec 2006	Baseline vegetation assessment
Apr 2007	Drill site assessments
Apr 2007	Annual report
Jun 2007	Update of the existing EMP to include the new Exploration Permit areas
Jul 2007	Drill Site maps
Jul 2007	Supplemental Environmental Management Plan, Drilling Program 2007, Beetaloo Basin, NT
Jul 2007	Soil erosion assessment
Jul 2007	Groundwater quality
July 2007	Emergency Maps
Jul 2007	Environment & Heritage Induction Materials
Aug 2007	Site-based Drilling EMP
Falcon Oil and Gas	
Dec 2010	Drill site condition assessments

Date	Report
Jan 2011	Archaeological survey
March 2011	Site-specific drilling EMP
2011	Falcon Shenandoah 1 Stimulation and Testing Groundwater Monitoring
2011/2012	Shenandoah 1 Re-Entry Environment Plan (EP)
July 2012	EP99 Archaeological Survey, Beetaloo Basin
2013	EP99 Seismic Exploration Environmental Management Plan
2013	Sweetpea 2006 Closeout Environmental Survey
Origin	
2015 and 2016	Beetaloo Basin Environmental and Heritage Assessment and preparation of Approval documentation.
October 2018	Land Condition Assessment

2.2 Field assessment and reporting

The LCA of the proposed exploration lease areas, including access tracks, was conducted on 28 to 29 August 2018 by Principal Environmental Scientist, Abe Francis. The survey involved helicopter and pedestrian survey of the proposed exploration lease areas and access tracks and was accompanied by the AECOM Principal Heritage Consultant, Luke Kirkwood and the Department of Environment and Natural Resource (DENR) Regional Weed Officer (Onshore Shale Gas Development), Tahnee Hill.

The LCA used rapid assessment techniques, which allowed for large areas to be surveyed over a relatively small period of time. The helicopter provided a good platform to enable the field team a degree of flexibility by allowing an aerial view of the access tracks and proposed exploration lease areas, as well as the ability to land in otherwise remote locations for ground-truthing.

The primary aim of the LCA was to identify and document site condition prior to the proposed activities occurring in the footprint of the two lease areas and proposed access tracks and inform the preparation of the programs Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

Following the desktop review, AECOM undertook a condition assessment at each of the nominated sites and access tracks to record site-based characteristics, including:

- the presence of drainage lines and the direction of surface flows
- the distance to the nearest sensitive receptors (such as significant vegetation communities or fauna habitats)
- soil characteristics and intactness
- terrestrial vegetation community types (note that the vegetation descriptions would be based on dominant species for each vegetation structural component)
- listed threatened flora species and fauna habitat features, such as hollows, logs and burrows (the fauna habitat quality for each mapped vegetation community type would be assessed)
- incidental fauna sightings
- the presence of weeds and/or feral animals (i.e. indication of scats, tracks, wallows etc.)
- general land use description.

For this assessment, the environmental scouting included a 4-hectare area around the proposed exploration areas, plus an additional 500 m buffer to allow for future flexibility for the proposed Origin exploration activities.

A 250 m buffer each side of an existing access track were scouted to allow for locating camps, gravel pits and water supply bores in the future. Where the access tracks were located on a property boundary, the buffer was 500 m out into the property the track was located on.

It is noted that not all of the nominated areas scouted for the exploration areas and/or access tracks will be affected by site activities, but sufficient size was allowed to provide flexibility in the siting of infrastructure and borrow pits, which in turn can be used to minimise environmental and heritage impacts (e.g. significant tree or habitat avoidance, Sacred Site/archaeological artefact avoidance).

3.0 Land Condition Assessment

The results of the LCA and desktop review has been summarised in the following sections. The area covered during the assessment is shown in Figure 2. During the helicopter survey, two sites proposed for exploration activities were ground-truthed, along with the proposed access tracks (refer Section 1.2). Scoping for the gravel pits was also conducted.

3.1 Climate

The climate of the Origin permit areas can be described as arid to semi-arid, with rainfall decreasing in frequency and quantity from north to south. The climate is monsoon influenced, with a distinctive wet and dry season experienced through the year. The area experiences a wet season during the summer months between October and March, which is dominated by hot and wet conditions. Whilst the dry season during the winter months experiences mild days and cool nights between May to August. September and April are transitional months, with occasional rainfall. The average annual rainfall in the north of the permit area is listed at 680 mm at Daly Waters. The southern portion of the permit area records an average annual rainfall of 535 mm at Newcastle Waters and 608 mm listed at Elliott. Approximately 90% of the rainfall occurs during the Wet Season, and annual totals show moderate variability from year to year.

The maximum rainfall for the permit area occurs during January and February. Daly Waters experience the highest rainfall in the region at this time, with 165 mm during each month, followed by Elliott (133-164 mm during each month) and Newcastle Waters (125-130 mm during each month). July and August experience the least amount of rainfall and are the driest months across all three weather monitoring sites, ranging from one to four mm of rainfall. The annual rainfall pattern within the area is highly variable and becomes increasingly unpredictable the further move away from the coast. Drought conditions are known to occur in the region once every ten years (Holt and Bertram, 1981).

The land condition assessment was undertaken between 28 and 29 August 2018. The timing of the assessment was such that it fell within the dry season. The Daly Water airstrip station recorded a higher than average rainfall of 590 mm between January to April 2018 wet season compared to the mean rainfall from 1939 to 2018 of 482 mm.

The average annual rainfall experienced across the region (which includes the BOM data from Daly Waters Airstrip and Elliot) is shown in Table 3.

Table 3 Annual rainfall 2016-2018

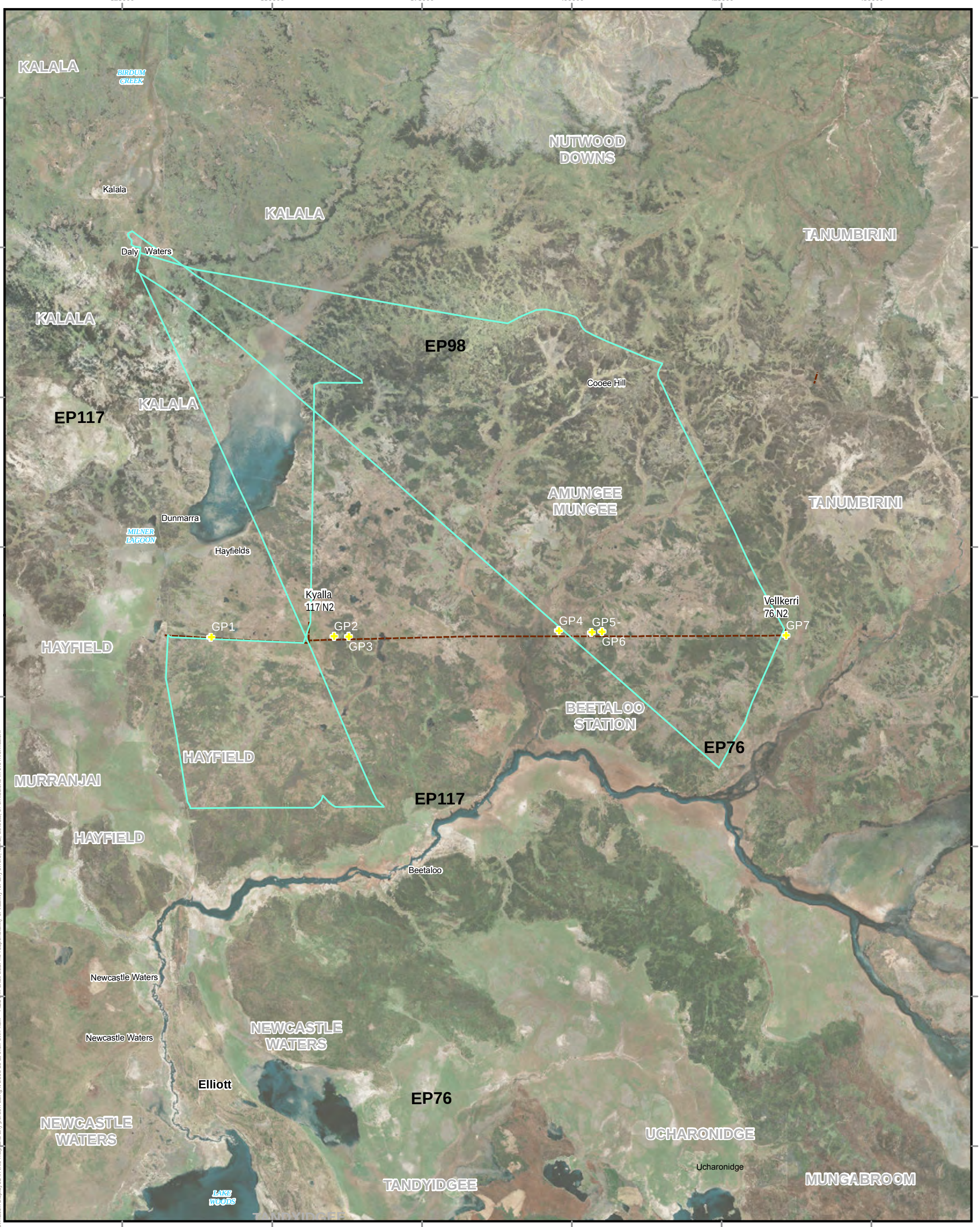
Year	Annual Rainfall (mm)		Months Rain was recorded	
	DW	NW	DW	NW
2016	608	570	12	9
2017	866	607	7	6
2018*	590	270	4	4

DW – Daly Waters Airstrip, NW – Newcastle Waters.

Data sourced from Bureau of Meteorology, Climate Averages for Station 014626 Daly Waters Airstrip recorded from 1939-2018, Station 015131 Elliot recorded from 1949-2018. * note 2018 is only current to date (October 2018)

Due to the timing of the LCA occurring at the end of the dry not all species were able to be identified, however sufficient data was able to be captured to obtain a good understanding of the land condition within the proposed lease areas to help inform required management measures for the protection of the environment.

The proposed lease sites and the short access roads are unlikely to be impacted by the onset of the wet season because they are located outside of the adjacent major flow paths and creeklines within the permit area (refer to Section 3.2).



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LEGEND

- Homestead
- Place Name
- Populated Place
- Highway
- Minor Road
- Tracks
- Access Tracks
- Cadastre
- Permit Areas
- Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve
- Helicopter Transects
- Gravel Pits

LOCATION

Data sources:
Permit Area, Cadastre - NT Gov 2019.
Places, Vegetation - Aust Gov 2019
Highways, Roads, Drainage -

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2019 Environmental Management Plan

Heritage Assessment Transects

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LAST MODIFIED	20-May-2019
VERSION	1

Figure 2

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3.2 Topography, Surface Water and Drainage

The permit area is located within three main topographic zones. These are primarily made up of black soil plains in the south, laterite plains in the north and small sections of bedrock hills in the south west and north east of the permit areas (Tickell, 2003). The proposed lease areas occur within the lateritic plains. The topography of the two sites have low relief and surface water flow ultimately drains in a south and south westerly direction.

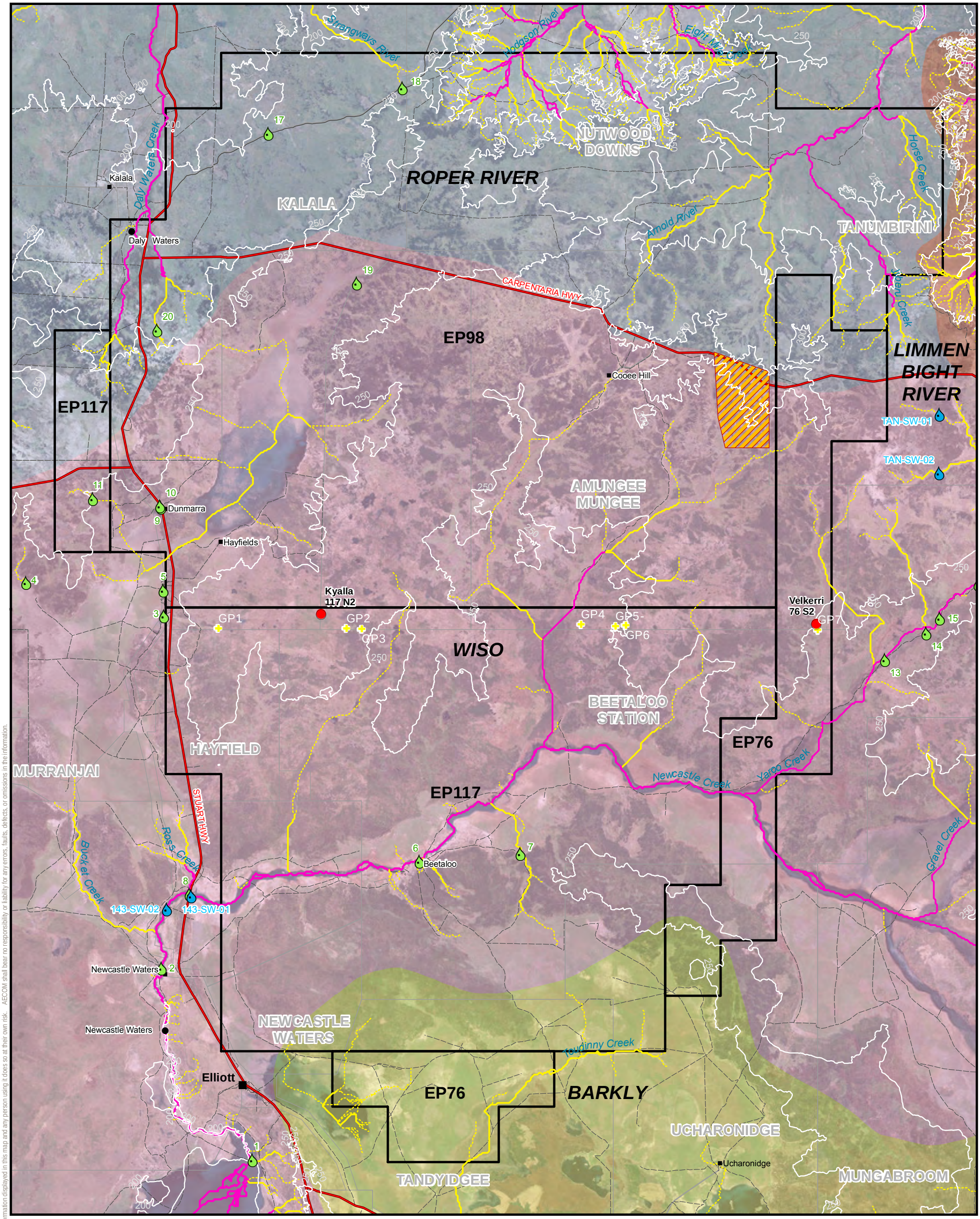
Three main river basins, Roper River Basin to the north, Wiso River Basin in the centre and the Barkly River Basin in the south occur within the exploration permit area (Figure 3). All the proposed lease areas are located within the Wiso River Basin. The Wiso River Basin covers the southern half of EP98 (south of the Carpentaria Highway) and the majority of EP117 and is internally drained by Newcastle Creek and a number of small ephemeral creeks. Newcastle Creek flows into Lake Woods, which is located south of Newcastle Waters Station.

Lake Woods covers an area of inundation of approximately 50,000 ha in normal rainfall years, extending to 80,000 ha in exceptionally wet years, after which it can retain water for several years (AECOM, 2015). Lake Woods is described as a major quasi-permanent surface water body in the region, although some semi-permanent and many ephemeral waterholes are located across the permit area (HLA, 2006b) and is listed as a Site of Conservation Significance by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and is listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia. Lake Woods is listed as a wetland of national significance in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (DIWA: NT013 Lake Woods). The site meets criteria 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and includes DIWA wetland types: B1, B6, B10, B13 and B14.

Although Lake Woods is located outside of the Exploration Permit Areas, it is fed principally by surface inflow of Newcastle Creek originating more than 160 km north-east on Amungee Mungee Station (NTG, undated). During the period of inundation, Lake Woods supports over 100,000 waterbirds including internationally significant numbers of Plumed Whistling-Duck. Numerous bird species nest and feed in the diverse wetland habitat, and the conservation group ‘Birdlife International’ nominated Lake Woods as an ‘Important Bird Area’ (IBA). The lake also includes the largest area of lignum swamp in the Northern Territory and in tropical Australia (NTG, undated).

Newcastle Creek (Stream Order 4) and a number of small intermittent streams (Stream Order 1 and 2) are located along the proposed access tracks to Velkerri 76 S2 site (refer Figure 3). The streams only flow for a short period during the wet season, with waterholes forming at the beginning of the dry season. If the wet season is poor, the waterholes will often remain dry, whereas, during heavy wet seasons, large areas of the internal drainage systems are flooded. The stream banks are often lined with a scatter of small trees which highlights them from the surrounding plains.

The two proposed lease pad areas are not located within the major flow pathway of Newcastle Creek and the small intermittent streams. During the wetseason it is likely the region would experience widespread surface flooding, to a depth of 30 cm, which has previously been identified by debris being collected on fence lines (HLA, 2005).



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GEOCENTRIC DATUM OF AUSTRALIA 94

0 5 10 20

Kilometers

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LEGEND

- Proposed Well 2018
- Homestead
- Place Name
- Populated Place
- Contours
- Gravel Pits
- Surface Water 2007
- Contours
- Surface Water 2015
- DLRM Surface Water
- Highway
- Minor Road
- Tracks
- Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve
- Cadastre
- Permit Areas

River Basins

- Barkly
- Limmen Bight River
- Roper River
- Wiso

Stream Order

Intermittant Streams
- 1
- 2

Creeks
- 3
- 4

Rivers
- 5
- 6
- 7

LOCATION

Data sources:
Permit Area, Cadastre , Basin - NT Gov 2014.
Places - Aust Gov 2014
Highways, Roads, Drainage - StreetPro 2014

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Surface Water and Stream Order of Permit Area

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LAST MODIFIED	20-May-2019
VERSION	1

Figure 3

Filename: \\audwn1fp001\Projects\604x\60480548\4. Tech Work Area\4.99 GIS\02_MXDs\LCA\Surface Water.mxd

A3 size

3.3 Land System

Land systems are defined because of their distinct differences from the surrounding areas and by the recurring pattern of geology, topography, soils and vegetation. Land system mapping for the permit area developed is a compilation of the Northern Land Systems (scale 1:250 000) and the Southern Land Systems (scale 1:1 000 000) (Department of Land Resource Management 2013). The data set is made up of the following:

- *Land Systems of the Northern Part of the Northern Territory* is an amalgamation of 16 existing Land System surveys with modifications to some of the original interpretations. This land system dataset is the Northern Territory contribution to Australian Soil Resource Information System (ASRIS) national soils database at scale 1:250,000.
- *Land Systems of the Southern Part of the NT* is a compilation of three existing land system surveys and the Atlas of Australian Soils (scale 1:2,000,000). It covers the southern part (approx 70%) of the Northern Territory. Published maps were made digital and edited to accommodate overlaps, gaps and mismatching boundaries. Where possible, the land system descriptions have been extrapolated into areas covered by the broader scale Atlas mapping.

Using the available information, there are 22 different land systems located within the exploration permit areas. The Velkerri 76 S2 and Kyalla 117 N2 proposed lease area and seven proposed gravel pits all occur within the Beetaloo Land System which is characterised by:

- gently undulating lateritic plains and rises
- lateritic red earths and lateritic podzolic soils
- *Acacia shirleyi* (Lancewood) forest.

3.4 Soils

The dominant soils encountered within the permit area have been derived from ancient rock formations and ancestral soils that were formed during the earlier weathering cycles. The soils are deeply weathered and leached (Orr and Holmes, 1984). The soils in the permit area have been influenced by:

- past wetter conditions that formed relict Tertiary plains which comprise highly leached and lateritic soils
- extensive areas of Post-Tertiary Alluvia on which a variety of mature soils formed
- the dissected hilly country that is dominated by skeletal soils or rocky outcrops
- a range of parent materials of residual soils, ranging from basic volcanic and highly calcareous rocks to granitoid rocks and sandstones (Christian *et al*, 1951).

The lateritic plains, located within the permit area, are classed as very strongly leached soils of the Tertiary land surface. The three main soil types located within the permit area, include:

- **Tertiary Lateritic Red Earths**, which occur on the gently undulating topography. The soil profile can be described as:

  A-Horizon Grey-brown sandy loam

  B-Horizon Reddish brown sandy clay loam

  C-Horizon Red-brown to red light clay, overlying heavy ferruginous gravel and massive laterite

- **Tertiary Lateritic Red Sands**, which occur on gently undulating to undulating topography of the Tertiary Lateritic Plain, formed from sandstones and complex parent materials of the deep sandy soils. The soil profile can be described as:

  A-Horizon Grey-brown to brown sand

  B-Horizon Brown sand

C-Horizon Red-brown to yellow-brown sand overlying pisolitic ferruginous gravel and massive laterite. Altered colouring of highly siliceous parent sandstone is only evident in the mottled and pallid zones.

- **Tertiary Lateritic Podzolic Soils**, formed on the gently undulating topography over a variety of rocks. These soils are located in the northern section of the Barkly Basin. The soil profile can be described as:

  A-Horizon Grey sand

  B-Horizon Yellowish-grey sand

  C-Horizon Yellow-grey sandy loam with ferruginous gravel overlying massive laterite, mottled and pallid zones.

Geotechnical investigations have confirmed the proposed lease sites consist of red silty sand with some gravel pieces. Although Velkerri 76 S2 test result indicated a higher percentage of gravel content compared to Kyalla 117 N2 both sites should be characterised as red silty sand. The surface soils collected during the field survey indicated the soils were slightly acidic (ph range of 5.0 to 6.2) across the permit area. A dispersion test was also undertaken on the samples which indicated that the soils were non-dispersive and maintained their shape when submerged in water. Results from the soil testing is provided in Appendix A.

There are also small sections of the proposed access track that may traverse through Black soil plain country. Black Soil Plains are located within the Barkly Tablelands, including EP76, the southern part of EP117 and a small section of EP98. The soils usually crack widely in the upper profile upon drying and have a loose, self-mulching surface. The soils are neutral to alkaline, calcareous and commonly have depths to one metre (Fisher, 2001). The cracking clay soils occur mostly on flat or gently undulating plains (‘downs’) and are associated with the exposure and weathering of sedimentary or basic volcanic rocks. The Black soils also occur on the more recent depositional landscapes in the form of alluvial clays associated with drainage lines and major river systems.

3.4.1 Erosion Susceptibility

Soil erosion susceptibility varies throughout the permit area, dependent upon the soil types, slope and extent of ground disturbance. Apart from the erosive impact of climatic conditions, soil erosion is influenced mainly by the inherent properties of the soils and the processes which occurred during the formation of the landscapes (Aldrick and Wilson, 1992).

Erosion will occur in the permit area if the land is used beyond its capacity, as is seen if land is overstocked or vehicle movements not controlled, for example. The location of proposed lease areas has been examined on the ground, to determine the risk of erosion occurring. Factors considered include the following.

- Soil type – soils with higher clay content are prone to generation of bulldust and are easily eroded by wind and water. Gravelly soils tend to be more robust to disturbance on the scale expected during the exploration program. Both sites reported a soil type of red silty sand.
- Slope – the slope of the site will determine the risk of erosion during rainfall events, with steeply inclined areas a higher risk than small undulations in the landform. All the proposed lease sites were in very flat (low relief) with a slope of <1%. During the program, the crossings of the access track on the small ephemeral streams and Newcastle Creek will require additional controls.
- Aspect – the position of the access track and pads in relation to the direction of the contour should be considered and creation of tracks across (as opposed to parallel with) the contour should be avoided.
- Rainfall – Table 4 present the erosion risk rating based on average monthly rainfall using the rating system provided in the IECA (2008) Table 4.4.2 for Daly Waters. The construction activities for all exploration activities is proposed to be commence following the wet season from April 2019 onwards. Most of the soil disturbance activities will be completed prior to the onset of the wet season in November 2019. As such, based on rainfall during the construction period, the overall risk of erosion is considered very low for the Velkerri 76 S2 and Kyalla 117 N2 sites.

Table 4 Erosion Risk Rating based on average monthly rainfall at Daly Waters

-Item	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rainfall (mm)	165.4	165.4	120.1	23.6	5.0	5.6	1.5	1.7	4.9	22.5	59.4	110
Erosion Risk*	H	H	H	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	VL	M	H

** E = Extreme (>225 mm); H = High (100+ to 225 mm); M = Moderate (45+ to 100 mm); L = Low (30+ to 45 mm); VL = Very Low (0 to 30 mm)*

Based on the sites descriptions and the results from the soil samples, the erosion risk for the proposed lease areas is considered None/Slight erosion risk. This was confirmed during the field survey in August 2018 which reported no evidence of erosion within the proposed lease areas.

Certain sections of the proposed access tracks are likely to encounter more erosion susceptible soils, such as the access track to the southern sites and where streams and Newcastle Creek are crossed (refer Section 3.2). Mitigation measures will need to be established to minimise the risk for erosion along the track and are stabilised leading up to the wet season.

Overall, the main issues to be managed in relation to soils during exploration activities in the permit areas include:

- the generation of bull dust along the access tracks. Noting previous observations have indicated bull dust had formed where the surface crust had been disturbed and then subjected to repeated ground disturbance (AECOM 2015). This was primarily in grassland areas.
- The formation erosion gullies along inappropriately placed tracks and fence lines, where a slope was present. Scolding to bedrock has previously been observed in other areas of the permit, as well as pooling of water in areas of compaction and subsidence.

3.5 Biological Environment

3.5.1 Vegetation Communities

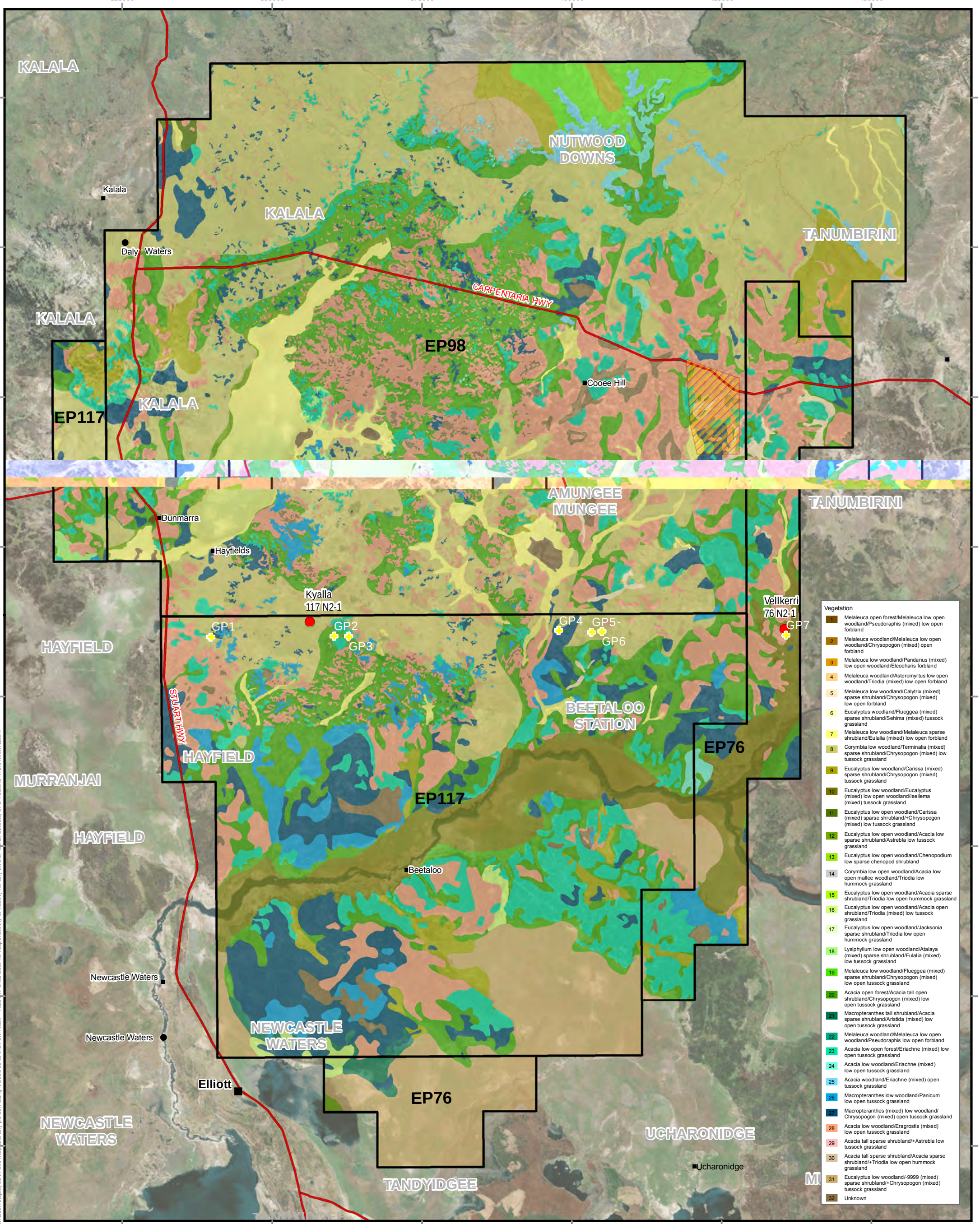
The Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia is a nationally recognised ecosystem classification system (Environment Australia, 2000). Bioregions are large, geographically distinct ecosystems that are distinguished by broad physical and biological characteristics, which can be further classified into Subregions. These regions and subregions are used as the basis for regional comparisons and conservation of flora and floristic communities.

Of the 85 bioregions mapped nationally, 20 occur within the Northern Territory and only two within the Origin permit areas, the Sturt Plateau bioregion and the Mitchell Grass Downs bioregion. The 2018 proposed lease sites all fall within the Sturt Plateau Bioregion which comprises undulating plains on sandstone, with predominantly neutral sandy red and yellow earth soils. Dominant vegetation associations included extensive areas of Lancewood (*Acacia shirleyi*) - Bullwaddy (*Macropteranthes kekwickii*) vegetation. Land condition in the bioregion is moderate to good but is threatened by impacts from weeds, feral animals, pastoralism and changed fire regimes.

Vegetation communities within the permit areas have been ground-truthed during baseline assessments in 2004, 2006 (HLA, 2006; 2006c), 2010, 2014, 2016 (AECOM, 2011; 2014; 2016) and more recently in August 2018, along with assessments of weeds, habitat, erosion and land condition.

Kyalla 117 N2 vegetation community including the turn-in is described as *Corymbia* spp open woodland with mixed *Terminalia* spp. shrubland over low tussock grassland (*Triodia bitextura*). Whereas, Velkerri 76 S2 vegetation community is described as *Eucalyptus/Corymbia spp.* low open woodland with *Iseilema spp.* mixed tussock grassland. Directly to the west and south of Velkerri 76 S2 there is a large stand of Bullwaddy and Lancewood vegetation community which the proposed access track previously traversed. Following site survey the project has determined that the access track will now be diverted around the Lancewood/Bullwaddy stand to minimise impact on a known sensitive vegetation community.

Figure 4 provides vegetation communities across the entire permit area, while Figure 5 and Figure 6 provides the vegetation communities on the proposed lease sites, Kyalla 117 N2 and Velkerri 76 S2.



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0 5 10 20
Kilometers

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LEGEND

- Proposed Wells 2019
- Homestead
- Place Name
- Populated Place
- Highway
- Permit Areas
- Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve
- Gravel Pits

LOCATION

Data sources:
Permit Area, Cadastre - NT Gov 2019.
Places, Vegetation - Aust Gov 2019
Highways, Roads, Drainage -

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2019 Environmental Management Plan

Vegetation Communities

PROJECT ID	60480548
CREATED BY	jace.emberg
LAST MODIFIED	20-May-2019
VERSION	1

Figure 4

A3 size

Filename: \\audwn1fp001\Projects\604x\60480548\4. Tech Work Area\4.99 GIS\02_MXDs\LCA\Veg Communities.mxd

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8140500 8140000 8139500 8139000 8138500 8138000 8137500 8137000 8136500 8136000 8135500 8135000 8134500 8134000

EP98

Camp Area

Kyalla117 N2CMB-G

Kyalla 117 N2

Drilling Pad

EP117

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Meters

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LEGEND

- KYA117-N2 CMB-G
- Proposed 2019
- Drill Pad and Services Location
- Permit Areas

Vegetation Community

- Acacia low woodland/Eragrostis (mixed) low open tussock grassland
- Acacia open forest/Acacia tall open shrubland/Chrysopogon (mixed) low open tussock grassland
- Corymbia low woodland/Terminalia (mixed) sparse shrubland/Chrysopogon (mixed) low tussock grassland

LOCATION

Data sources:
Permit Area, Cadastre - NT Gov 2019.
Places, Vegetation - Aust Gov 2019
Highways, Roads, Drainage -

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2019 Environmental Management Plan

Kyalla 117 N2-1
Vegetation Community

PROJECT ID	60480548
CREATED BY	jace.emberg
LAST MODIFIED	04-Mar-2019
VERSION	1

Figure 5

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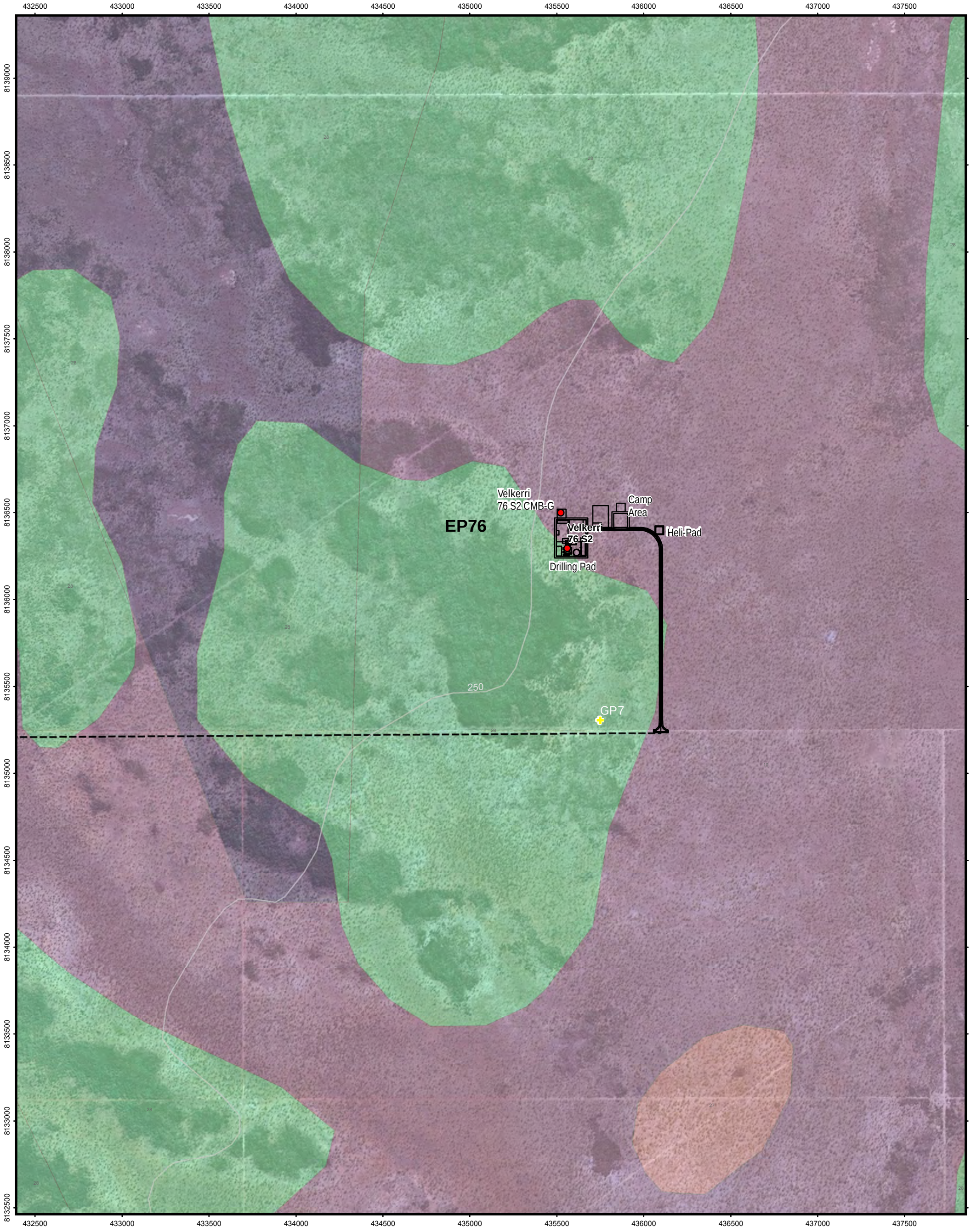
A3 size



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Projection: GDA94 MGA Zone 53

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Meters

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LEGEND

- Velkerri76 S2 CMB-G
- Velkerri76 S2
- Permit Areas
- Tracks
- Contours
- Gravel Pits

Vegetation

- Acacia low woodland/Eragrostis (mixed) low open tussock
- Acacia open forest/Acacia tall open shrubland/Chrysopogon (mixed) low open tussock grassland
- Eucalyptus low woodland/Eucalyptus (mixed) low open woodland/Iseilema (mixed) tussock grassland
- Macropteranthes (mixed) low woodland/Chrysopogon (mixed) open tussock grassland

LOCATION

Data sources:
Permit Area, Cadastre - NT Gov 2019.
Places, Vegetation - Aust Gov 2019
Highways, Roads, Drainage - StreetPro 2019

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2019 Environmental Management Plan

Velkerri 76 S2-1

PROJECT ID	60480548
CREATED BY	jace.emberg
LAST MODIFIED	20-May-2019
VERSION	1

Figure
6

A3 size

Filename: \\audwn1fp001\Projects\604x\60480548\4. Tech Work Area\4.99 GIS\02_MXDs\LCA\Velkerri.mxd

The approximate 107 km of the existing access track is predominantly surrounded by the same vegetation unit as Kyalla 117 N2, with patches of Bullwaddy and Lancewood, including at the proposed entrance off the Stuart Highway and surrounding some of the Gravel Pits. In addition, there are some areas of minor stands of Melaleuca low open wood and mixed acacia woodlands.

Previous exploration activities in the permit area provided some understanding on how the vegetation communities regenerated following clearing and rehabilitation. The rehabilitation monitoring following previous exploration programs were undertake during 2007 and again in 2013 (HLA, 2007 and 2013). It was noted that in the first year the success of rehabilitation was greatest in communities with grassland understory (primarily due to annual grass growth), whereas woodlands (mainly Lancewood and Bullwaddy) showed low levels of natural regeneration. By 2013, six years after disturbance the origin seismic lines through the Lancewood were such that there was almost no difference in the canopy height to the surrounding Lancewood communities.

The vegetation types described for the identified gravel pit locations are described in Table 5.

Table 5 Gravel Pit Vegetation Description

Gravel Pit	Vegetation Description
GP1	Corymbia low woodland/Terminalia (mixed) sparse shrubland/Chrysopogon (mixed) low tussock grassland
GP2	Acacia open forest/Acacia tall open shrubland/Chrysopogon (mixed) low open tussock grassland
GP3	Acacia open forest/Acacia tall open shrubland/Chrysopogon (mixed) low open tussock grassland
GP4	Macropteranthes (mixed) low woodland/Chrysopogon (mixed) open tussock grassland
GP5	Corymbia low woodland/Terminalia (mixed) sparse shrubland/Chrysopogon (mixed) low tussock grassland
GP6	Corymbia low woodland/Terminalia (mixed) sparse shrubland/Chrysopogon (mixed) low tussock grassland
GP7	Acacia low woodland/Eragrostis (mixed) low open tussock grassland

The vegetation throughout the permit area during the August 2018 survey appeared in very good condition with minimal impacts from grazing, fire and erosion.

3.5.2 Flora

A total of 805 plant species have been recorded within the wider region, during the August 2018 survey 10 dominant flora species were identified at Kyalla 117 N2 and Velkerri 76 S2 (Appendix B). As the survey was conducted during the late dry season, grasses and other annual species were difficult or impossible to identify due to the lack of inflorescence or because they had already died-back.

No Commonwealth or NT threatened plant species were identified as occurring by the Protected Matters Searches (refer Appendix C). One species, the prostrate, herbaceous vine *Ipomoea argillicola*, is listed as Near Threatened under Section 29 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 2000* (TPWC Act) and could potentially occur in the project sites, although has not been reported in previous and current surveys. NT flora data base shows that this species has been recorded from the Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve and at locations surrounding the area in previous searches (AECOM, 2015).

The region supports fragmented stands of Bullwaddy, which is listed under the TPWC Act as 'Least Concern', which refers to species that are either widespread or common and cannot be categorised as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Near Threatened or Data Deficient. However, Bullwaddy is significant in terms of the habitat it provides for a range of native species. The extent of Bullwaddy in the permit area is far more extensive than that indicated by the NT Herbarium records.

3.5.3 Weeds

Weeds remain an increasing threat to the Barkly region's natural assets. This threat is not new and considerable time and effort has already been invested in weed management across the region (Department of Land Resource Management, 2015).

Figure 7 and Table 6 provides a list of weed species that are known to occur or likely to occur within the wider exploration Permit Areas.

This information is based on:

- Mapping data provided by the Weed Management Branch, DENR.
- *Weed Management Planning Guide: Onshore Petroleum Projects* (DENR, June 2019).
- Guidelines for the *Management of the Weeds of Beetaloo 2018* (DLRM et al 2018).
- Department of the Environment and Energy (DotEE) EPBC Act Protected Matters Report database.
- Previous data collected by AECOM in the permit area.

Table 6 NT listed weeds known of likely to occur within the Permit Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Data Source
Acacia nilotica	Prickly Acacia	Class A and C, WoNS	Weed Management Branch – Mapping data DotEE Protected Matters Report
Alternanthera pungens	Khaki Weed	Class B and C	DLRM databases (DLRM *et al* 2018)
Andropogon gayanus	Gamba Grass	Class A and C, WoNS	Weed Management Branch – Mapping data
Azadirachta indica	Neem	Class B and C	Weed Management Branch – Mapping data
Cenchrus ciliaris	Buffel Grass	Not declared in NT	DotEE Protected Matters Report
Cenchrus echinatus	Mossman River Grass	Class B and C	DLRM databases (DLRM *et al* 2018)
Datura ferox	Fierce Thornapple	Class A and C	DLRM databases (DLRM *et al* 2018)
Hyptis suaveolens	Hyptis	Class B and C	Weed Management Branch – Mapping data DLRM databases (DLRM *et al* 2018)
Jatropha gossypiifolia	Bellyache Bush	Class B and C, WoNS	Weed Management Branch – Mapping data DLRM databases (DLRM *et al* 2018) DotEE Protected Matters Report
Parkinsonia aculeate	Parkinsonia	Class B and C, WONS	Weed Management Branch – Mapping data DLRM databases (DLRM *et al* 2018) DotEE Protected Matters Report

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Data Source
Prosopis pallida	Mesquite	Class A and C, WONS	Weed Management Branch – Mapping data DLRM databases (DLRM *et al* 2018)
Sida acuta	Spinyhead sida	Class B and C	Weed Management Branch – Mapping data
Sida cordifolia	Flannel Weed	Class B and C	Weed Management Branch – Mapping data DLRM databases (DLRM *et al* 2018)
Sida rhombifolia	Paddy's Lucerne	Class B and C	DLRM databases (DLRM *et al* 2018)
Tamarix aphylla	Athel pine	Class B and C, WONS	Weed Management Branch – Mapping data
Themeda quadrivalvis	Grader Grass	Class B and C, WoNs	Weed Management Branch – Mapping data
Tribulus terrestris	Caltrop	Class B and C	DLRM databases (DLRM *et al* 2018)
Xanthium occidentale	Noogoora Burr	Class B and C	Weed Management Branch – Mapping data DLRM databases (DLRM *et al* 2018)

Note: Declarations under the Northern Territory Weeds *Management Act 2013*:
- a Class A weed is to be eradicated
- a Class B weed is to have its growth and spread controlled
- a Class C weed is not to be introduced to the NT.
  * All Class A and B weeds are also Class C.

They survey undertaken in August 2018 and June 2019 of the proposed exploration lease areas did not identify any weed species. This suggests that the habitat condition in the areas of the proposed sites and surrounding areas were good.

Previous surveys within the Permit Area in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019 of drill sites and access tracks have also found that the proposed areas had a low number of weed species which suggests the habitat condition was fairly high in and around the Permit Area. Specifically, three listed species, *Parkinsonia aculeate* (Parkinsonia), *Hyptis suaveolens* (Hyptis) and *Calotropis procera* (Rubber Bush) have been recorded.

Rubber Bush (Plate 1) was recorded during the follow up survey conducted June 2019. In addition, Wild Passionfruit (*Passiflora foetida*) (Plate 2) and Stylo (*Stylosanthes* sp.) were observed throughout the area but are not listed as weed under NT legislation.

Rubber Bush (Class B and C) has previously been recorded in close proximity to the Beetaloo access track in 2016 and was also noted during the 2019 survey at the start of the Stuart Highway intersection (Plate 1). This was a patch of adult plants with seedpods.

Parkinsonia is considered a Weed of National Significance (WoNS), which are weed species that are the focus of national management programs for restricting their spread and/or eradicating them from parts of Australia. This species was not recorded within the proposed 2019 exploration area.

It is possible that additional species are present but were present in low abundance or difficult to identify due to stage of growth.

Plate 1 Rubber Bush near the Stuart Highway Intersection on Hayfield/Shenandoah

Plate 2 Wild Passionfruit also located near the Stuart Highway Intersection.

These weed species surveyed within the Permit Area and their corresponding Northern Territory *Weeds Management Act 2013* declarations are listed in Table 7.

Table 7 Species found within the permit area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Declaration	Where located
Hyptis suaveolens	Hyptis	Class B and C	Beetaloo access track Access track to Velkerri 98-E1-1 site Stuart Highway
Parkinsonia aculeate	Parkinsonia	Class B and C, WONS	Beetaloo access track
Calotropis procera	Rubber bush	Class B and C	Close proximity to the Beetaloo access track. At beginning of 2019 Access Track near Stuart Highway Intersection

In addition to these 18 species a range of annual grass weeds are known to occur along road corridors throughout the region. Hyptis (Plate 3), and Buffel Grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) (Plate 4) were recorded along the Stuart Highway within the NTG Road Reserves. Buffel Grass is of concern due to its invasive nature and ability to alter ecosystem function. Buffel Grass however was introduced and cultivated for livestock feed and is useful in soil stabilisation.

Plate 3 Hyptis at a road side truck stop on the Stuart Highway

Plate 4 Buffel Grass on top of a Table Drain along Stuart Highway

The *Guidelines for the Management of the Weeds of Beetaloo 2018* (DLRM et al 2018), also identifies a number of introduced plants that have previously been recorded within the proposed permit areas and have been identified as problem weeds in one or more locations across Northern Australia. It is noted that these are not listed under the NT *Weeds Management Act* but could be of concern elsewhere in Australia. Understanding the potential weeds likely to occur within the Permit Area is particularly important when proposed activities include transporting machinery and equipment during the construction process.

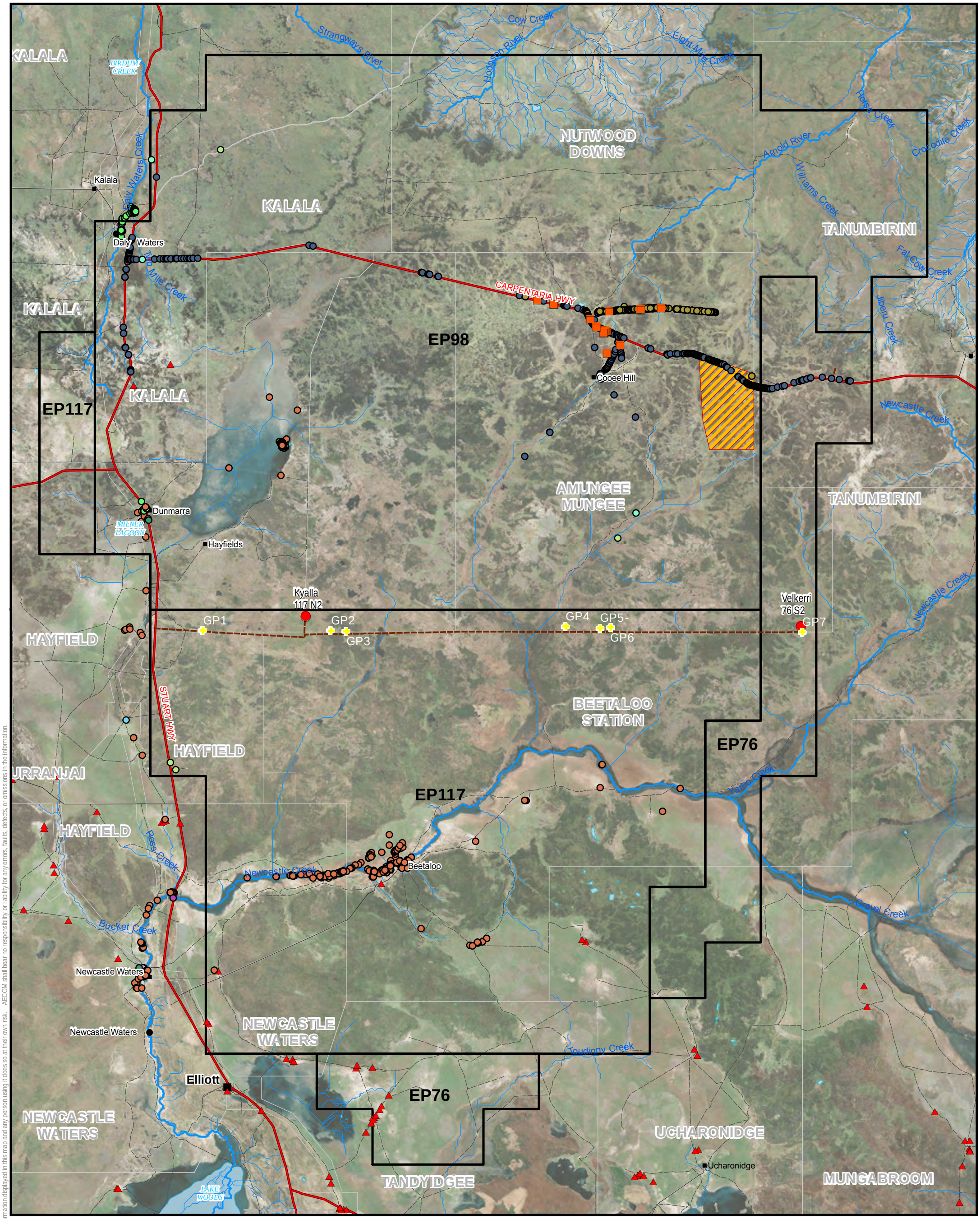
The *Barkly Regional Weed Management Plan* provides additional information on regional weed management priorities and management actions to support landholders in their obligations to manage weeds on their land (DLRM, 2015).

This plan includes a list of alert weed species. These species are not yet naturalised in the region but have the potential to have a high level of impact to the region should they become established. The likelihood of the species naturalising and spreading in the region is perceived to be high (DLRM, 2015).

The alert species identified the *Barkly Regional Weed Management Plan* are listed Table 8. If found the program EMP requires the Weed Management Branch to be contacted for identification and disposal.

Table 8 Alert species identified in the Barkly Region

Scientific Name	Common Name	Declaration
Cenchrus setaceum	Fountain grass	Class B and C
Parthenium hysterophorus	Parthenium	Class A and C, WONS
Cryptostegia grandiflora	Rubber vine	Class A and C, WONS



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LEGEND

- Proposed Wells 2019
- Homestead
- Place Name
- Populated Place
- Major Stream
- Minor Stream
- Access Tracks
- Highway
- Minor Road
- Tracks
- Cadastre
- Permit Areas
- Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve
- Gravel Pits

Weed Name

- Athel pine
- Bellyache bush
- Burr - Noogoora
- Gamba grass
- Grader grass
- Hyptis
- Mesquite
- Neem
- Parkinsonia
- Prickly acacia
- Sida - Flannel weed
- Sida - Spiny head
- Gamba Grass
- Rubberbush

LOCATION

Data sources:
Permit Area, Cadastre - NT Gov 2019.
Places, Vegetation - Aust Gov 2019
Highways, Roads, Drainage - StreetPro 2019

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2019 Environmental Management Plan

Weeds of the Permit Area

PROJECT ID	60480548
CREATED BY	jace.emberg
LAST MODIFIED	20-May-2019
VERSION	1

Figure 7

A3 size

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3.5.4 Fauna and Habitat

Previous surveys and database searches indicate that the permit areas are an important area for a diverse array of fauna. The NT Fauna database provides records for the following fauna species (excluding migratory birds): 32 species of mammal, 198 species of birds, 96 species of reptiles and 19 species of frogs. Surveys undertaken elsewhere within the region have recorded:

- 78 bird, 33 reptile, 11 mammal and six frog species in the Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve (PWCNT, 2005)
- 148 bird, 47 reptile, 21 mammal and six frog species in the Junction Stock Reserve and nearby Newcastle Waters (Fleming *et al*., 1983)
- 157 bird species within the project area as determined by a search of the Birds Australia bird atlas database (Birds Australia, 2010).

The proposed exploration sites are all located within similar habitat types consisting primarily of open *Eucalyptus*/*Corymbia* woodland with a tussock grass understorey. There are Bullwaddy/Lancewood communities around the proposed sites and individuals of both species are dispersed throughout. In the wider landscape, including proposed access tracks, additional vegetation types include those associated with drainage lines, grasslands/floodplains and acacia shrublands.

Eucalypt/Corymbia woodland provides habitat for a range of species. The proposed sites had high native grass cover and included numerous species suitable for granivorous birds (seed eaters). Dense leaf litter and numerous logs provide suitable refuge and foraging sites for fauna such as reptiles. Although most of the species found in this vegetation type are widespread in the tropical savannas of the Northern Territory, some such as the threatened Crested Shrike-tit (*Falcunculus frontatus whitei*) are rare and known to utilise this habitat (DoTEE, 2014, Ward, 2008). Many of the sites have a high density of hollow-bearing trees that provide important habitat for many fauna species. Avoiding clearing large hollow-bearing trees will reduce the impact to native wildlife within the permit area.

Savanna grasslands and open woodland provide suitable habitat for species such as Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) and Australian Bush Turkey (*Ardeotis australis*. Drainage lines and seasonally inundated grasslands may also provide habitat for migratory species during the wet season and are breeding areas for frogs. Limiting disturbances in these areas and avoiding these areas during the wet season would limit impacts on fauna.

3.5.4.1 Threatened Fauna

A search of the DotEE Protected Matters database of nationally significant fauna (PMST), the NT Government fauna database (NRM Infonet), and records from the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) was undertaken for the proposed lease areas and access tracks. The search results indicate the potential presence of 15 fauna species listed as threatened under the EPBC Act and/or the TPWC Act (Table 9). These included ten birds, eight mammals and two reptiles.

The likelihood assessment of species occurrence is based on the availability of suitable habitat within the permit area, records in the vicinity and distributional data. Therefore many of the threatened and migratory fauna species indicated in databases as ‘occurring’ or ‘likely to occur’ have been assessed as *unlikely to occur* within the proposed exploration lease areas. As some areas in the proposed lease area have not been subject to intensive survey and some species are very cryptic, a conservative approach has been taken to assess species presence. A full description of each species, their distribution and habitat associations are outlined in Table 9 below.

No core habitat for threatened fauna was identified at the sites. However, some species may possibly occur and are known to occur in the wider landscape. Threatened species that may possibly occur include:

- Gouldian Finch *Erythrura gouldiae* (E-EPBC Act, VU-TPWC Act)
- Crested Shrike-tit (northern) *Falcunculus frontatus whitei* (VU-EPBC Act, NT-TPWC Act)

Research has shown that critical components of suitable habitat for the Gouldian Finch include suitable nesting trees during the breeding season (particularly *E. tintinnans*, *E. brevifolia* or *E. leucophloia*), a water source and a diverse range of favoured annual and perennial grasses (DoE,

2015). No nesting habitat was recorded during the surveys and it is unlikely this species breeds in close vicinity of the sites. During the wet season Gouldian Finches move from breeding habitat on hillsides with suitable trees down to lower lying areas where they forage on perennial grasses such as *Triodia* sp., *Alloteropsis semialata*, and *Chrysopogon fallax* (Palmer *et al*. 2012). Some of the perennial grasses were recorded during recent surveys so potential foraging habitat is present; however, there are limited records in the vicinity of the sites suggesting it is not an important area for this species.

The Crested Shrike-tit lives in dry Eucalypt forests and woodland where it feeds on insects from the canopy and also under bark (Ward, 2008). It has been recorded in wet Melaleuca open woodlands, woodlands dominated by Nutwood (*Terminalia arostrata*), Bloodwoods with flaky bark and ironwood (DoE, 2014, Ward, 2008). In the NT, nesting has been recorded from September through to January and nests are built in terminal branches at the top of trees (Ward *et al*., 2009). The stronghold of this species is north of this location and only one old record exists near Borroloola. Although it is possible this species may be present in the area, it is unlikely to represent an important area for this species and the impact of the proposed activities, given their size, would be small.

The Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucus*) is a widespread species listed as Vulnerable in the NT that is considered possibly to be present in the study area. The Painted Honeyeater (*Grantiella picta*) has been known to occur in the study area, however, given it does not breed in the NT it would only be present intermittently for foraging. Based on the field assessment there was no breeding habitat recorded, and depending on grass seed and water availability it is unlikely the study area comprises core habitat for this species.

As records of species may be limited in remote areas the precautionary principle has been applied. There are some species that have been assessed as possibly occurring even though their primary habitat is not found within the proposed sites or access tracks. These include species that are associated with ephemeral wetlands, low lying areas that may be seasonally inundated and creeks. During the wet and early dry season these areas may sustain threated species such as wetland birds (including migratory species) and also the Plains Death Adder (*Acanthopis hawkei*).

Table 9 EPBC and TPWC Listed Threatened Species and Likelihood of Occurrence

Species	Conservation Status		Distribution	Habitat	Likelihood of Occurrence
	EPBC	NT			
Birds					
Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper	Marine Migratory	VU	In the NT this species occurs around Darwin, north to Melville Island and Cobourg Peninsula, and east and south-east to Gove. It has been recorded inland from Victoria River Downs and around Alice Springs (Higgins & Davies 1996).	Coastal habitats, inland it has been found around lakes, dams and ephemeral/permanent waterholes.	Unlikely (suitable habitat not present at survey sites but potential sporadic in wider landscape)
Erythrotriorchis radiatus Red Goshawk	VU	-	Found across most of Northern Australia, in the NT most records are from the Top End but there are records from central Australia (Pizzey & Knight, 2012).	Red Goshawks occupy a range of habitats, often at ecotones, including coastal and sub-coastal tall open forest, tropical savannahs crossed by wooded or forested watercourses. In the NT, it inhabits tall open forest/woodland as well as tall riparian woodland (Aumann & Baker-Gabb, 1991).	Unlikely (no records and core habitat absent)
Erythrura gouldiae Gouldian Finch	E	VU	Formerly widespread across northern Australia. In the NT they are found in the Top End south past Daly Waters (Palmer *et al*., 2012).	Gouldian Finches occupy different habitat types in the breeding and non-breeding season. Breeding habitat consist of hillsides with suitable nesting trees. In the non-breeding season they are found in lowland drainages to feed on suitable perennial grasses (Dostine & Franklin, 2002).	Possible (sporadic, foraging only, no recent records)
Falcunculus frontatus whitei Crested Shrike-tit (northern)	VU	NT	This species has a very patchy distribution with records from the Victoria River District to Maningrida. Only one record near Borroloola (1930) (Woinarski & Ward, 2012).	Occupies wet and semi-arid melaleuca and eucalypt open woodlands. May be associated with bloodwoods with flaky bark and ironwood (Ward, 2008).	Possible (no records in vicinity although suitable habitat present, very rare)

Species	Conservation Status		Distribution	Habitat	Likelihood of Occurrence
	EPBC	NT			
Falco hypoleucos Grey Falcon	-	VU	This species has a widespread distribution and records for this species exist throughout the NT. However, most records are from arid and semi-arid regions (Pizzey and Knight, 2012).	Grey Falcons inhabit lightly treed inland plains, gibber desserts, sandridges, pastoral lands, timbered watercourses and, occasionally, the driest deserts. (Pizzey and Knight, 2012). Also found also in association with inland drainage systems.	Likely (probably not at proposed lease areas but likely in floodplains across the permit area)
Geophaps smithii Partridge Pigeon	VU	VU	Occurs across the Top End of the NT, declined/disappeared from lower rainfall areas (Woinarski, 2007).	Found predominantly in open eucalypt forest and woodland with grassy understories (Woinarski, 2007).	Unlikely (no records, occurs north of the permit area although some habitat present)
Grantiella picta Painted Honey Eater	VU	VU	This species is found throughout eastern Australia but breeding is known from south-eastern Australia (Pizzey and Knight, 2012). This species is rare.	This species specialises on the fruit of mistletoes although it may also forage on nectar and insects (Garnett *et al.*, 2011). Numerous large tracts of *Acacia shirleyi* with abundant mistletoes were recorded in the vicinity of the Beetaloo sites.	Possible (records from Barkly Tablelands but none in close vicinity, habitat present, foraging only)
Polytelis alexandrae Princess Parrot	VU	VU	Occupies arid lands in Australia where it is patchily distributed (Woinarski, 2007).	Found in sand dune habitat, spinifex with eucalypts, and shrubs such as acacias, hakeas, and eremophilas (Pizzey and Knight, 2012; Woinarski, 2007).	Unlikely (most records from southern arid region, not primary habitat)
Rostratula australias Australian Painted Snipe	CE	VU	In the NT, probably occurs in central and southern area although it also possible occurs in the northern portion of the area (Woinarski *et al*, 2007).	These birds prefer a habitat of recently flooded temporary vegetated wetlands during the non-breeding period and brackish temporary freshwater wetlands with minimum vegetation during breeding periods. Birds usually forage in thick, low vegetated areas during the day (Curtis *et al*, 2012).	Unlikely* (one record, no suitable habitat at drill sites but may be present in the wider landscape during the wet season)
Tyto novvaehollandiae kimberli	VU	VU	Distributed in Northern Australia although not well	This species inhabits tall open eucalypt forest in the NT, especially those associated	Unlikely

Species	Conservation Status		Distribution	Habitat	Likelihood of Occurrence
	EPBC	NT			
Masked Owl (northern)			known. In the NT, occurs from Cobourg south to Katherine and the VRD and east to the McArthur River (DOTE, 2014)	with *E. Miniata* and *E. tetrodonta (*Woinarski, 2007*)*. Also found in riparian and monsoonal forest and rainforest (DOTE, 2014)	(primary habitat absent)
Mammals					
Dasyurus hallucatus Northern Quoll	E	CE	Found throughout most of Northern Australia although now restricted to six main areas (Menkhorst & Knight, 2011). In the NT it is found in the Top End as far southeast as Boroloola (DOTE, 2014). One previous record from Shenandoah Pastoral Lease (unknown date).	Northern Quolls do not have highly specific habitat requirements although the most suitable appear to be rocky habitats (Woinarski, 2007). They occur in a variety of habitats across their range, including open forest and woodland. Daytime den sites provide important shelter. Shelter sites include rocky outcrops, tree hollows, hollow logs, termite mounds, goanna burrows and human dwellings.	Unlikely (no recent records, no core habitat)
Pseudantechinus mimulus Carpentarian Antechinus	–	VU	Found in QLD and the NT. In the NT it has been reported from the Sir Edward Pellew Island group, and Pungalina reserve near Borroloola.	This species is distributed in rocky habitat including sandstone boulders and outcrops with hummock grasses (Woinarski, 2004). In QLD, this species has been recorded on rocky ridges and hill-slopes (Lloyd *et al*., 2013).	Unlikely (one record but no suitable habitat)
Isodon auratus Golden Bandicoot	V	E	This species used to be found across northern, central and western Australia but decline after European settlement (Woinarski, 2007). Now only found on Marchinbar Island in the NT and small area of the NW Kimberley (Fisher and Woinarski, 1994; Woinarski, 2007).	Previously inhabiting a range of arid and semi-arid habitats, in the NT it occupies heathland and shrubland and hummock grasslands on sandstone, vine thickets and grassy woodlands (Menkhorst and Knight, 2011; Woinarski, 2007).	Highly unlikely (only persists in NE Arnhemland)

Species	Conservation Status		Distribution	Habitat	Likelihood of Occurrence
	EPBC	NT			
Macroderma gigas Ghost Bat	VU	NT	The species' current range in northern Australia ranges from relatively arid conditions in the Pilbara region of Western Australia to humid rainforests of northern Queensland. A large colony occurs in a series of gold mine workings at Pine Creek, NT. This species have also been recorded throughout the mainland Top End north of approximately 17º latitude.	The distribution of this species is influenced by the availability of suitable caves and mines for roost sites (NTG, 2018).	Unlikely (no recent records, no suitable cave located near proposed sites)
Macrotis lagotis Greater Bilby	VU	VU	This species occurs in south-western Queensland and in arid north-western Australia (Western Australia and Northern Territory). This species was previously widespread in arid and semi-arid Australia (Pavey, 2009). The most northern records are from Newcastle Waters and Wave Hill (Southgate & Paltridge, 1998).	In the NT, this species is found on sandy soils dominated by spinifex (Pavey, 2009). Low shrubs such as *Acacias* and *Melaleucas* are also common in this habitat. Also hummock grassland associated with low lying drainage systems and alluvial areas.	Unlikely (no recent records, primary habitat limited in permit area)
Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus Bare-rumped Sheath-Tailed Bat	CE	DD	Wide distribution from India through south-eastern Asia to the Solomon Islands, including north-eastern Queensland and the NT. The north-eastern Australian populations are described as the subspecies S. s. nudicluniatus, although it is	Previous specimens have been collected from Open *Pandanus* woodland fringing the sedgelands of the South Alligator River in Kakudu National Park (Friend and Braithwaite, 1986). In the NT, it has also been recorded from eucalypt tall open forests (Churchill, 1998)	Unlikely (no records and primary habitat not present)

Species	Conservation Status		Distribution	Habitat	Likelihood of Occurrence
	EPBC	NT			
			not clear whether this should be applied to the NT population (Duncan et al. 1999). There have been very few (<5 confirmed) records since (McKean et al. 1981; Thomson 1991). All confirmed records have been from the Kakadu lowlands.		
Trichosurus vulpecula vulpecula Common Brushtail Possum	–	E	Previously widespread in the NT, this species is now found in isolated locations in the southern NT (Woinarski, 2007).	This species occupies riparian habitat in the vicinity of rocky outcrops or slopes (Kerle *et al*., 1992).	Unlikely (no records in the vicinity of the lease area and no suitable habitat)
Rattus tunneyi Pale Field-rat	–	V	Inhabiting higher rainfall area including the Top End of the NT (Menkhorst and Knight, 2011).	This species favours dense vegetation found along rivers where it occupies burrows in loose colonies (Cole and Woinarski, 2002). However, this species can be found in a variety of habitats including woodlands if a dense understorey of grasses is present (Menkhorst and Knight, 2011)	Unlikely (one record from 1999 in greater area, primary habitat absent)
Reptiles					
Acanthopis hawkei Plains Death Adder	VU	VU	In the NT this species is found in the floodplains of the Adelaide, Mary and Alligator Rivers and the Barkly Tablelands.	Found on flat cracking soils in treeless floodplains where it forages on frogs, reptiles and rats.	Unlikely (no records or suitable habitat)
Varanus Mertensi Mertens Water Monitor	–	V	Distributed throughout coastal and inland waters in northern Australia. In the NT found throughout most of the Top	Semi-aquatic species that inhabits vegetation associated with water such as Pandanus and paperbark. Seldom found far away from water (Mayes, 2006).	Unlikely*(was confirmed during previous surveys along Newcastle

Species	Conservation Status		Distribution	Habitat	Likelihood of Occurrence
	EPBC	NT			
			End. Decrease in NT population attributed to Cane Toads.		Creek, habitat unsuitable at proposed exploration lease sites)

3.5.5 Feral Animals

Feral animals known to occur within the region include:

- Pig (*Sus scrofa*)
- Wild Dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*)
- Feral Cat (*Felis catus*)
- Cane Toad (*Bufo marinus*)
- Horse (*Equus caballus*)
- Donkey (*Equus asinus*)
- Water Buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*)
- Camel (*Camelus dromedarius*)
- Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*)
- Domestic Cattle (*Bos Taurus*)

During the August 2018 survey evidence of cattle grazing in present or 1-2 years previously was recorded and in previous surveys of the permit area cat tracks were observed as the only non-native species recorded but based on records many species, especially Dogs/Dingo, Pigs and Cane Toads will be present in permit area. The disturbance from cattle within the proposed sites were considered to have resulted in less than 5% damage or no damage at all.

The Cane Toad is known to be present in the permit area and the Commonwealth DoTEE recognises this species as a 'key threatening process' related to their impacts on biodiversity through predation, competition, land degradation and poisoning. In the Northern Territory, the Cane Toad has been implicated in the decline of several species including a large number of reptiles such as the King Brown Snake and water monitors (Smith & Phillips, 2006).

Pest predators such as the Cat are most likely common although their abundance is difficult to assess due to their cryptic nature. Introduced predators such as Cats can impact many vertebrates (e.g. Dickman, 2009 &1996). One of the primary concerns of introduced predators in the site is the impact on EPBC listed species such as reptiles, and ground-dwelling birds. Feral cats are believed to be one of factors that have led to the decline of threatened ground-dwelling bird the Partridge Pigeon (Woinarski *et al*. 2007)

Species could be attracted to the increased activities at the site potentially increasing their abundance in the landscape, and their control should be taken into consideration during the proposed activities on site. It is of key importance during all phases of the project that care is taken to ensure that rubbish is securely contained (i.e. with suitable lids) and removed from the site as soon as possible to discourage attracting any feral animals.

3.5.6 Fire

Fire is a natural occurrence in most Australian ecosystems and plays an important role in their ecology. Fire is generally excluded from Mitchell grasslands by pastoral management in order to maintain forage throughout the dry season (HLA, 2005) whereas fire is more frequent in the Sturt Plateau.

Historically, the majority of dry season fires (June to September) have occurred in the northern half of the permit area, in EP76, EP98 and EP117. At this time of year, the fires are likely to be high intensity (HLA, 2005). Wet season fires (October to May) have occurred within the permit area. These fires are likely to be patchy and of lower intensity, depending on the state of curing of the fuel load.

Bullwaddy and Lancewood communities, which are located throughout the permit area, are fire sensitive and hot fires have the ability to reduce habitat quality for both flora and fauna species. Research suggests that fauna diversity may be impacted by a hot fire, particularly for diurnal reptiles (e.g. Legge *et al*., 2008).

Based on field data, fire disturbance was determined as follows:

- Vekerri 76 S2-1 – Fire Frequency 2-3 years previous, Intensity 1 (minor scars on some trees/shrubs and Height <1m.
- Kyalla 117 N2-1 – Fire Frequency 1-2 years previous, Intensity 4 (some trees and shrubs killed) and Height 1-4 m. It was noted that site appeared to have had a hot fire go through previously with abundance of new Acacia regrowth.

All sites that showed evidence of fire disturbance were showing signs of regrowth and recovery.

3.6 Land Condition Summary

Detailed land condition description and photographs of each of the proposed lease areas (Velkerri 76 S2-1, Kyalla 117 N2-1) are provided in Table 10 and Table 11 below.

Table 10 Velkerri 76 S2 Condition Description

Site ID	Velkerri 76 S2	Habitat photos at central point of survey site (August 2018)
Location	-16°51' 20.13, 134°23' 39.85	   
Landform and soil	Plains and rises associated with deeply weathered profiles (laterite) including sand sheets and other depositional products; sandy and earth soils. Trace of cracking clay soils.	
Habitat type	*Eucalyptus/Corymbia low woodland*	
Vegetation Community	Eucalyptus low woodland/low open tussock grassland This vegetation community is considered regionally extensive and not subjected to extensive clearing.	
Dominant flora species	Canopy dominated by *Corymbia dichromophloia*, *Erythrophleum chlorostachys*. Shrub layer including *Eucalyptus sp*. Ground layer species include *Aristida latifolia, Pterocaulon sphacelatum, Triodia bitextura.*	
Habitat condition	Good condition with evidence of recent grazing. Large hollow bearing trees and logs were common in the area. The large hollows provide suitable nesting and shelter for numerous fauna species including reptiles, arboreal mammals, and nocturnal birds. The habitat contained moderate refuge opportunities in the form of dense leaf litter, dense grass cover, and woody debris. Good continuous cover adjoining adjacent woodland habitat. No evidence of weeds or feral animals.	**Additional Habitat Photos across survey site (August 2018)**  
Potential Listed Threatened Species	Grey Falcon, Northern Shrike-tit, Plains Death Adder, Gouldian Finch.	

Table 11 Kyalla 117 N2-1 Condition Description

Site ID	Kyalla 117 N2-1	Habitat photos at central point of survey site (August 2018)
Location	-16°50' 29.01, 133°39' 0.16	   
Landform and soil	Plains and rises associated with deeply weathered profiles (laterite) including sand sheets and other depositional products; sandy and earth soils	
Habitat type	*Corymbia* low woodland	
Vegetation Community	*Corymbia* low woodland/*Terminalia* (mixed) sparse shrubland/*Chrysopogon* (mixed) low tussock grassland This vegetation community is considered regionally extensive and not subjected to extensive clearing.	
Dominant flora species	Canopy dominated by *Corymbia dichromophloia, Eucalyptus setosa*. Shrub layer including *Acacia ancistrocarpa, Alphitonia pomaderroides, Brachychiton paradoxus.* Ground layer species include *Triodia bitextura*	**Additional Habitat Photos across survey site (August 2018)**
Habitat condition	Good condition with evidence of recent grazing. Vegetation appeared to heavily burnt in recent years. No evidence of hollow bearing trees and logs. The habitat contained moderate to high refuge opportunities in the form of dense leaf litter, tussock grass cover, and woody debris. Good continuous cover adjoining adjacent woodland habitat and regionally extenisive. No evidence of weeds or feral animals.	 
Potential Listed Threatened Species	Grey Falcon, Northern Shrike-tit, Plains Death Adder, Gouldian Finch.	

4.0 Conclusion

During August 2018, AECOM undertook a land condition assessment of the two proposed exploration lease areas and access tracks to provide a baseline assessment of ecological conditions in support of Origin Energy's application to the Northern Territory Department of Environment and Natural Resources, including the preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for various exploration activities. Additional weed survey was conducted during June 2019 to further inform conditions at the site.

The purpose of the LCA was to gather baseline information to provide an environmental condition assessment to support the proposed exploration activities to be carried out by Origin at two proposed lease sites during 2019/2020.

The LCA identified the ecological conditions and documented the site condition prior to Origin commencement of exploration within two of their Permit Areas EP76 and EP117. The information obtained during the initial LCA will assist in determining that at the end of the exploration activities that the lease areas have been rehabilitated back to its natural state.

The proposed exploration program will have a total disturbance of approximately 24.5 ha and will utilise 107 km of existing access tracks.

The desktop review and field survey assisted in identifying the potential environmental risks and impacts to the environment based on the conditions identified on site and has allowed the development of mitigation measures to minimise Origin's impact on the environment.

During the survey of the proposed exploration lease areas, as well as the areas surrounding the proposed access tracks were assessed to be in generally good condition with no to low evidence of weeds, erosion and disturbance from cattle.

The likelihood assessment concluded that no EPBC listed threatened ecological communities or threatened species are likely to be significantly impacted from the proposed exploration program activities.

Overall, the impacts of the vegetation clearing for the proposed lease areas and access tracks are considered minor from a landscape perspective. Surrounding habitat is extensive and most species are mobile and will be able to access surrounding habitat.

The mitigation measures presented in the Drilling and Stimulation EMP would assist in minimising the impacts from Origin's activities on EPBC listed species and communities.

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Appendix A

Soil Test Results

Soil Id	Photo	Soil pH	Soil Colour	Dispersion Test Observations
Kyalla N2-1		5.14	1.5YR 4/6	**Initial Observation** • Sample was fully crumbed when submerged in demineralised water. **Final Observation** • Non-dispersive, particles crumble though water remains clear.
Velkeri S2		5.02	10YR 3/4	**Initial Observation** • Sample was fully crumbed when submerged in demineralised water. **Final Observation** • Non-dispersive, particles crumble though water remains clear.
NOTE: Initial Observation - observation made when the sample was submerged in water Final Observation - observation made after 2 hours				

Appendix B

Flora Species Record,
August 2018

Appendix B Flora Species Record, August 2018

Table 12 Flora Species Recorded, August 2018 Field Survey

Family	Genus	Species
Asteraceae	*Pterocaulon*	*sphacelatum*
Caesalpiniaceae	*Erythrophleum*	*chlorostachys*
Combretaceae	*Terminalia*	*canescens*
		arostrata
	Macropteranthes	*kekwickii*
Euphorbiaceae	*Petalostigma*	*pubescens*
Fabaceae	*Acacia*	*ancistrocarpa*
		shirleyi
		sp.
Myrtaceae	*Corymbia*	*dichromophloia*
		drysdalensis
		ferruginea
Poaceae	*Aristida*	*holathera*
	Chrysopogon	*fallax*
	Enneapogon	*lindleyanus*
	Eragrostis	*spartinoides*
	Eriachne	*aristidea*
		ciliata
		nervosa
		sp.
	Heteropogon	*contortus*
	Sarga	*plumosum*
	Schizachyrium	*fragile*
	Sporobolus	*australasicus*
	Themeda	*triandra*
	Triodia	*bitextura*
		sp.
Rhamnaceae	*Alphitonia*	*pomaderroides*
Sterculiaceae	*Brachychiton*	*paradoxum*

Appendix C

DotEE Protected Matters Search Report

Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy

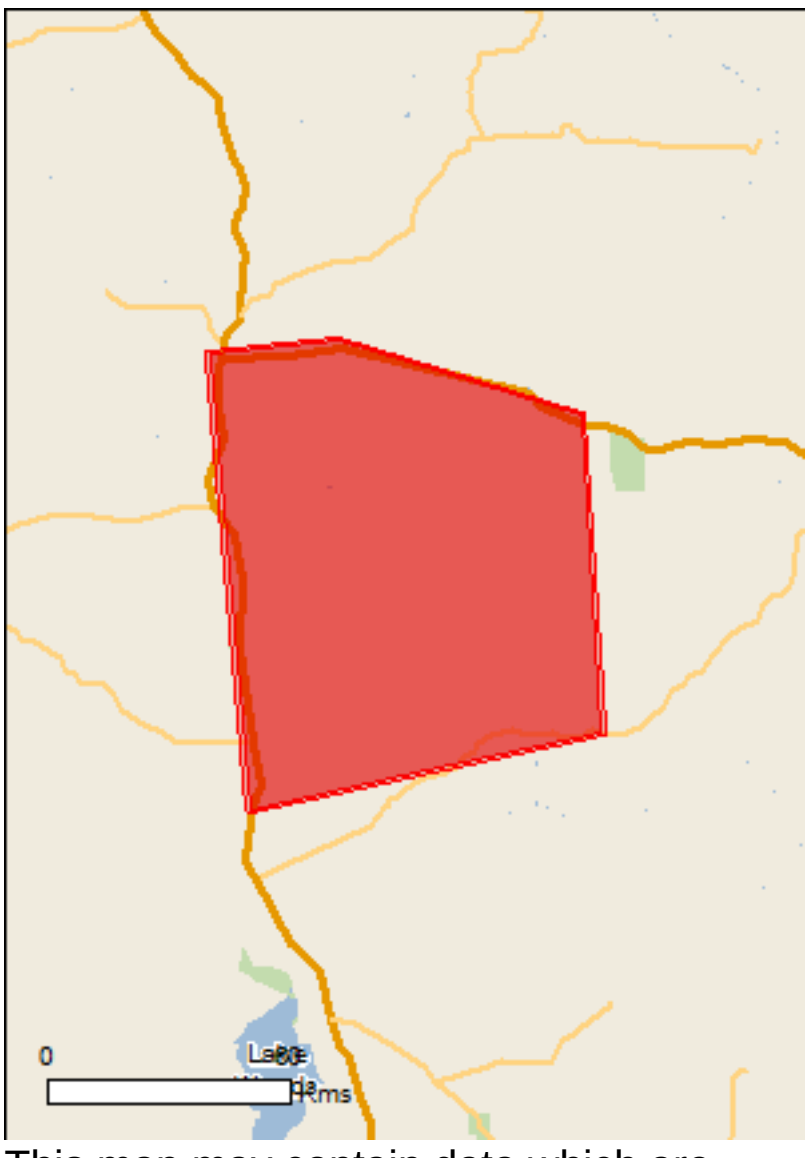
EPBC Act Protected Matters Report

This report provides general guidance on matters of national environmental significance and other matters protected by the EPBC Act in the area you have selected.

Information on the coverage of this report and qualifications on data supporting this report are contained in the caveat at the end of the report.

Information is available about Environment Assessments and the EPBC Act including significance guidelines, forms and application process details.

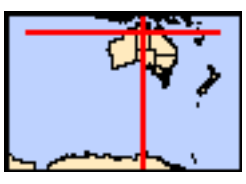
Report created: 27/08/18 10:22:23



This map may contain data which are ©Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia), ©PSMA 2010

Coordinates

Buffer: 1.0Km



Summary

Matters of National Environmental Significance

This part of the report summarises the matters of national environmental significance that may occur in, or may relate to, the area you nominated. Further information is available in the detail part of the report, which can be accessed by scrolling or following the links below. If you are proposing to undertake an activity that may have a significant impact on one or more matters of national environmental significance then you should consider the Administrative Guidelines on Significance.

World Heritage Properties:	None
National Heritage Places:	None
Wetlands of International Importance:	None
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:	None
Commonwealth Marine Area:	None
Listed Threatened Ecological Communities:	None
Listed Threatened Species:	12
Listed Migratory Species:	12

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

This part of the report summarises other matters protected under the Act that may relate to the area you nominated. Approval may be required for a proposed activity that significantly affects the environment on Commonwealth land, when the action is outside the Commonwealth land, or the environment anywhere when the action is taken on Commonwealth land. Approval may also be required for the Commonwealth or Commonwealth agencies proposing to take an action that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment anywhere.

The EPBC Act protects the environment on Commonwealth land, the environment from the actions taken on Commonwealth land, and the environment from actions taken by Commonwealth agencies. As heritage values of a place are part of the 'environment', these aspects of the EPBC Act protect the Commonwealth Heritage values of a Commonwealth Heritage place. Information on the new heritage laws can be found at http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage

A permit may be required for activities in or on a Commonwealth area that may affect a member of a listed threatened species or ecological community, a member of a listed migratory species, whales and other cetaceans, or a member of a listed marine species.

Commonwealth Land:	None
Commonwealth Heritage Places:	None
Listed Marine Species:	19
Whales and Other Cetaceans:	None
Critical Habitats:	None
Commonwealth Reserves Terrestrial:	None
Australian Marine Parks:	None

Extra Information

This part of the report provides information that may also be relevant to the area you have nominated.

State and Territory Reserves:	1
Regional Forest Agreements:	None
Invasive Species:	15
Nationally Important Wetlands:	None
Key Ecological Features (Marine)	None

Details

Matters of National Environmental Significance

Listed Threatened Species		[Resource Information]
Name	Status	Type of Presence
Birds		
Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Erythrotriorchis radiatus Red Goshawk [942]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Erythrura gouldiae Gouldian Finch [413]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Falcunculus frontatus whitei Crested Shrike-tit (northern), Northern Shrike-tit [26013]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Grantiella picta Painted Honeyeater [470]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Rostratula australis Australian Painted-snipe, Australian Painted Snipe [77037]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli Masked Owl (northern) [26048]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Mammals		
Macroderma gigas Ghost Bat [174]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Macrotis lagotis Greater Bilby [282]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat, Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat [66889]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Reptiles		
Acanthophis hawkei Plains Death Adder [83821]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Elseya lavarackorum Gulf Snapping Turtle [67197]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area

Listed Migratory Species		[Resource Information]
* Species is listed under a different scientific name on the EPBC Act - Threatened Species list.		
Name	Threatened	Type of Presence
Migratory Marine Birds		
Apus pacificus Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Migratory Terrestrial Species		
Cecropis daurica Red-rumped Swallow [80610]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Cuculus optatus Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo [86651]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Hirundo rustica Barn Swallow [662]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Motacilla cinerea Grey Wagtail [642]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Motacilla flava Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Migratory Wetlands Species		
Actitis hypoleucos Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Calidris acuminata Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Calidris melanotos Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Charadrius veredus Oriental Plover, Oriental Dotterel [882]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Glareola maldivarum Oriental Pratincole [840]		Species or species habitat may occur within area

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

Listed Marine Species		[Resource Information]
* Species is listed under a different scientific name on the EPBC Act - Threatened Species list.		
Name	Threatened	Type of Presence
Birds		
Actitis hypoleucos Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Anseranas semipalmata Magpie Goose [978]		Species or species habitat may occur within

Name	Threatened	Type of Presence
		area
Apus pacificus Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Ardea alba Great Egret, White Egret [59541]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Ardea ibis Cattle Egret [59542]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Calidris acuminata Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area
Calidris melanotos Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Charadrius veredus Oriental Plover, Oriental Dotterel [882]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Chrysococcyx osculans Black-eared Cuckoo [705]		Species or species habitat known to occur within area
Glareola maldivarum Oriental Pratincole [840]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Haliaeetus leucogaster White-bellied Sea-Eagle [943]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Hirundo daurica Red-rumped Swallow [59480]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Hirundo rustica Barn Swallow [662]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Merops ornatus Rainbow Bee-eater [670]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Motacilla cinerea Grey Wagtail [642]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Motacilla flava Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Rostratula benghalensis (sensu lato) Painted Snipe [889]	Endangered*	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Reptiles		
Crocodylus johnstoni Freshwater Crocodile, Johnston's Crocodile, Johnston's River Crocodile [1773]		Species or species habitat may occur within area

Extra Information

State and Territory Reserves [Resource Information]

Name	State
Frew Ponds	NT

Invasive Species [Resource Information]

Weeds reported here are the 20 species of national significance (WoNS), along with other introduced plants that are considered by the States and Territories to pose a particularly significant threat to biodiversity. The following feral animals are reported: Goat, Red Fox, Cat, Rabbit, Pig, Water Buffalo and Cane Toad. Maps from Landscape Health Project, National Land and Water Resouces Audit, 2001.

Name	Status	Type of Presence
Frogs		
Rhinella marina Cane Toad [83218]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Mammals		
Bos taurus Domestic Cattle [16]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Bubalus bubalis Water Buffalo, Swamp Buffalo [1]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Camelus dromedarius Dromedary, Camel [7]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Canis lupus familiaris Domestic Dog [82654]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Equus caballus Horse [5]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Felis catus Cat, House Cat, Domestic Cat [19]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Rattus rattus Black Rat, Ship Rat [84]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Sus scrofa Pig [6]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Plants		

Name	Status	Type of Presence
Acacia nilotica subsp. indica		
Prickly Acacia [6196]		Species or species habitat may occur within area
Cenchrus ciliaris		
Buffel-grass, Black Buffel-grass [20213]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Jatropha gossypifolia		
Cotton-leaved Physic-Nut, Bellyache Bush, Cotton-leaf Physic Nut, Cotton-leaf Jatropha, Black Physic Nut [7507]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Parkinsonia aculeata		
Parkinsonia, Jerusalem Thorn, Jelly Bean Tree, Horse Bean [12301]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Vachellia nilotica		
Prickly Acacia, Blackthorn, Prickly Mimosa, Black Piquant, Babul [84351]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area
Reptiles		
Hemidactylus frenatus		
Asian House Gecko [1708]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area

Caveat

The information presented in this report has been provided by a range of data sources as acknowledged at the end of the report.

This report is designed to assist in identifying the locations of places which may be relevant in determining obligations under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. It holds mapped locations of World and National Heritage properties, Wetlands of International and National Importance, Commonwealth and State/Territory reserves, listed threatened, migratory and marine species and listed threatened ecological communities. Mapping of Commonwealth land is not complete at this stage. Maps have been collated from a range of sources at various resolutions.

Not all species listed under the EPBC Act have been mapped (see below) and therefore a report is a general guide only. Where available data supports mapping, the type of presence that can be determined from the data is indicated in general terms. People using this information in making a referral may need to consider the qualifications below and may need to seek and consider other information sources.

For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are derived from recovery plans, State vegetation maps, remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps.

Threatened, migratory and marine species distributions have been derived through a variety of methods. Where distributions are well known and if time permits, maps are derived using either thematic spatial data (i.e. vegetation, soils, geology, elevation, aspect, terrain, etc) together with point locations and described habitat; or environmental modelling (MAXENT or BIOCLIM habitat modelling) using point locations and environmental data layers.

Where very little information is available for species or large number of maps are required in a short time-frame, maps are derived either from 0.04 or 0.02 decimal degree cells; by an automated process using polygon capture techniques (static two kilometre grid cells, alpha-hull and convex hull); or captured manually or by using topographic features (national park boundaries, islands, etc). In the early stages of the distribution mapping process (1999-early 2000s) distributions were defined by degree blocks, 100K or 250K map sheets to rapidly create distribution maps. More reliable distribution mapping methods are used to update these distributions as time permits.

Only selected species covered by the following provisions of the EPBC Act have been mapped:

- migratory and
- marine

The following species and ecological communities have not been mapped and do not appear in reports produced from this database:

- threatened species listed as extinct or considered as vagrants
- some species and ecological communities that have only recently been listed
- some terrestrial species that overfly the Commonwealth marine area
- migratory species that are very widespread, vagrant, or only occur in small numbers

The following groups have been mapped, but may not cover the complete distribution of the species:

- non-threatened seabirds which have only been mapped for recorded breeding sites
- seals which have only been mapped for breeding sites near the Australian continent

Such breeding sites may be important for the protection of the Commonwealth Marine environment.

Coordinates

-16.305477 133.356741,-16.297568 133.356741,-16.269886 133.641013,-16.428018 134.180716,-17.098628 134.226035,-17.263941 133.447379,-16.305477 133.356741

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-Department of Environmental and Heritage Protection, Queensland
-Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
-Environment and Planning Directorate, ACT
-Birdlife Australia
-Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme
-Australian National Wildlife Collection
-Natural history museums of Australia
-Museum Victoria
-Australian Museum
-South Australian Museum
-Queensland Museum
-Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums
-Queensland Herbarium
-National Herbarium of NSW
-Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium of Victoria
-Tasmanian Herbarium
-State Herbarium of South Australia
-Northern Territory Herbarium
-Western Australian Herbarium
-Australian National Herbarium, Canberra
-University of New England
-Ocean Biogeographic Information System
-Australian Government, Department of Defence
Forestry Corporation, NSW
-Geoscience Australia
-CSIRO
-Australian Tropical Herbarium, Cairns
-eBird Australia
-Australian Government – Australian Antarctic Data Centre
-Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
-Australian Government National Environmental Science Program
-Australian Institute of Marine Science
-Reef Life Survey Australia
-American Museum of Natural History
-Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk, Tasmania
-Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, Tasmania
-Other groups and individuals

The Department is extremely grateful to the many organisations and individuals who provided expert advice and information on numerous draft distributions.

Please feel free to provide feedback via the Contact Us page.

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