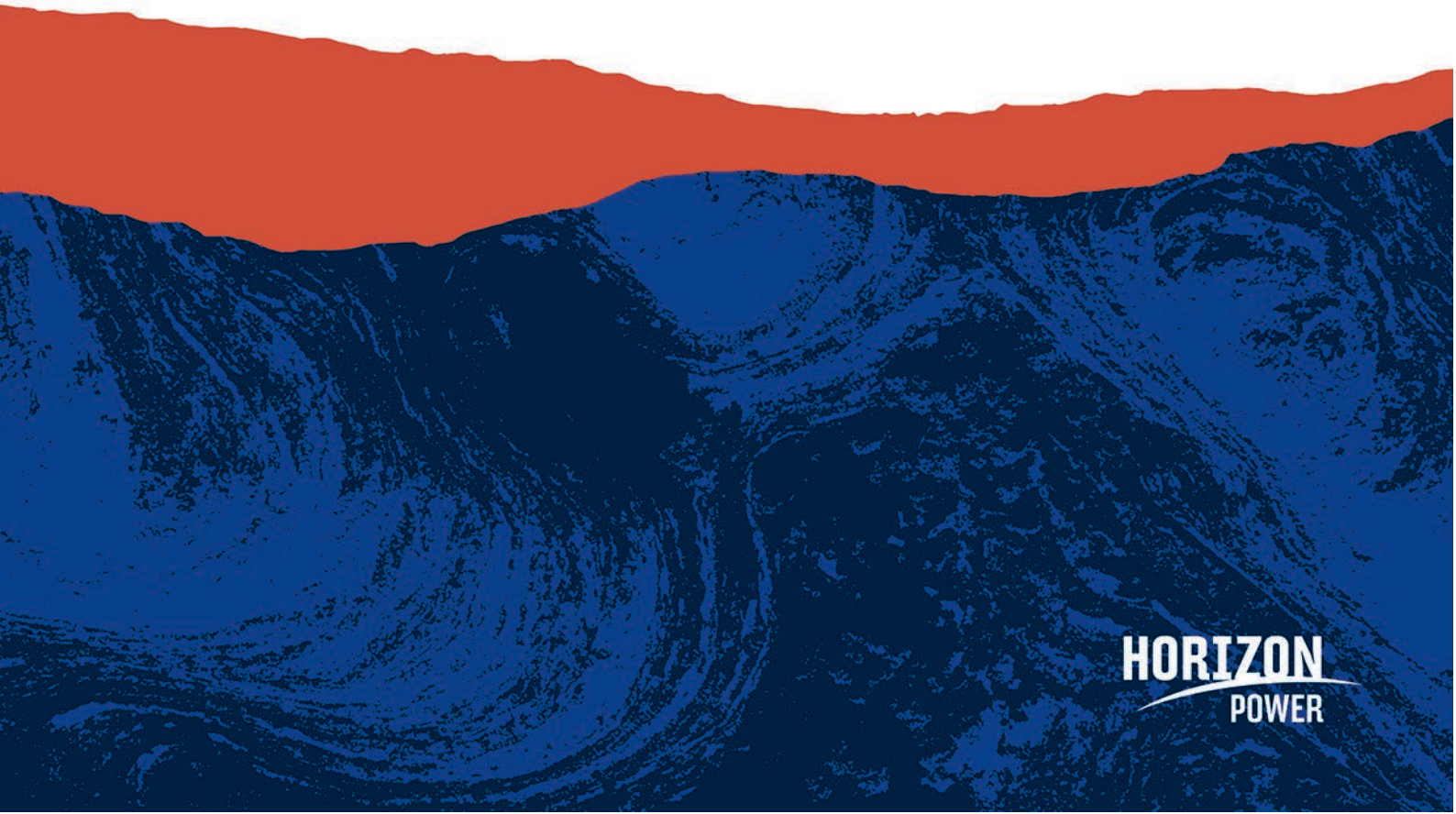
# Sorby Hills Network Connection - Native Vegetation Clearing Permit

## Supporting Document

August 2026



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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Project Context

Regional Power Corporation, trading as (T/A) Horizon Power, is a Western Australian (WA) Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) and the State's regional and remote energy provider. Horizon Power operates under the *Electricity Corporations Act 2005* and is governed by a Board of Directors accountable to the Minister for Energy.

Horizon Power is proposing a new ~55 km electricity distribution connection between the Kununurra substation and the Sorby Hills mine, including installation of a step-up transformer, underground and overhead powerlines, voltage regulation equipment, protection devices, and associated communications infrastructure to enable electricity supply to the mine. Construction activity will occur progressively along the linear corridor, with limited permanent disturbance footprints confined to poles, equipment pads, and access tracks. Approximately 8-11 MW of power is required to run the mine and processing plant. At present, there is an excess of power coming from the Ord River Hydro Plant due to the closure of Argyle Diamond Mine, the excess energy is being sent to a load bank to keep the network stable. The proposed connection would utilise the electricity generation that is currently under-utilised.

The Project will require the clearing of no more than 24.49 ha within a Development Envelope (DE) 331 ha in size (Figure 1). A Native Vegetation Clearing Permit (NVCP) will be required from the Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER) to facilitate the clearing for the Project.

## 1.2 Scope and Purpose

This document has been prepared to support a Native Vegetation Clearing Permit (NVCP) application for the Project. Specifically, this document provides further detail regarding the proposed activities and related clearing (including application of the mitigation hierarchy), and ecological surveys undertaken within and near to the clearing footprint.

An assessment of the 10 Clearing Principles as outlined in '*A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*' (DER, 2014) has also been undertaken and is presented Section 8.

An Environment Management Plan (EMP) has also been prepared in support of the project and is provided in Attachment A.

# 2 Description of the Activity

## 2.1 Clearing area

Permanent clearing of up to 24.49 ha of native vegetation will be required for the Project. This is based on clearing required for a 6m wide track centred to the poles to facilitate access for one light vehicle either side of the poles for installation and maintenance.

## 2.2 Project Location

The Proposed route begins at the current Kununurra Power Station, follows Ivanhoe Road and Research Station Road before joining Weaber Plain Road to the Sorby Hills Mine Site. The proposed route is approximately 55 km long. The land tenures intersecting with the route are presented in Table 2-1 below. The route is primarily located within an existing road corridor running adjacent to agricultural land. The Project Area contains existing infrastructure, including roads, access tracks, existing agricultural lands and artificial drainage channels.

*Table 2-1 Development Envelope Location*

| Size of development Envelope (ha) | Development Envelope location | Shire | Neighbouring land uses |
|---|---|---|---|
| **323.4 ha** | P Road | Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley | Public Road, Irrigation, Agriculture |
| | Dedicated Road (various)<br>• Lot 320 on Deposited Plan 044314<br>• Lot 323 on Deposited Plan 044317<br>• Lot 325 on Deposited Plan 044319<br>• Lot 327 on Deposited Plan 044320<br>• Lot 328 on Deposited Plan 044321<br>• Lot 330 on Deposited Plan 044322<br>• Lot 338 on Deposited Plan 044323<br>• Lot 329 on Deposited Plan 044324<br>• Lot 336 on Deposited Plan 044325<br>• Lot 343 on Deposited Plan 044329<br>• Lot 345 on Deposited Plan 044330<br>• Lot 500 on Deposited Plan 053081<br>• Lot 500 on Deposited Plan 075731<br>• Lot 601 on Deposited Plan 410592<br>• Lot 513 on Deposited Plan 422511<br>• Lot 882 on Deposited Plan 28472 | | |
| | Certificate of Crown Land<br>• Lot 3001 on Deposited Plan 048173, LR3138/929<br>• Lot 602 on Deposited Plan 410592, LR3171/313<br>• Lot 351 on Deposited Plan 423619, LR3177/985<br>• Lot 500 on Deposited Plan 430631, LR3179/343<br>• Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 430631, LR3179/344<br>• Lot 502 on Deposited Plan 430631, LR3179/345<br>• Lot 503 on Deposited Plan 430631, LR3179/346<br>• Lot 915 on Deposited Plan 28481, LR3126/72<br>• Lot 603 on Deposited Plan 410592 | | |
| | Freehold Lots<br>• Lot 897 on Deposited Plan 028476 | | |

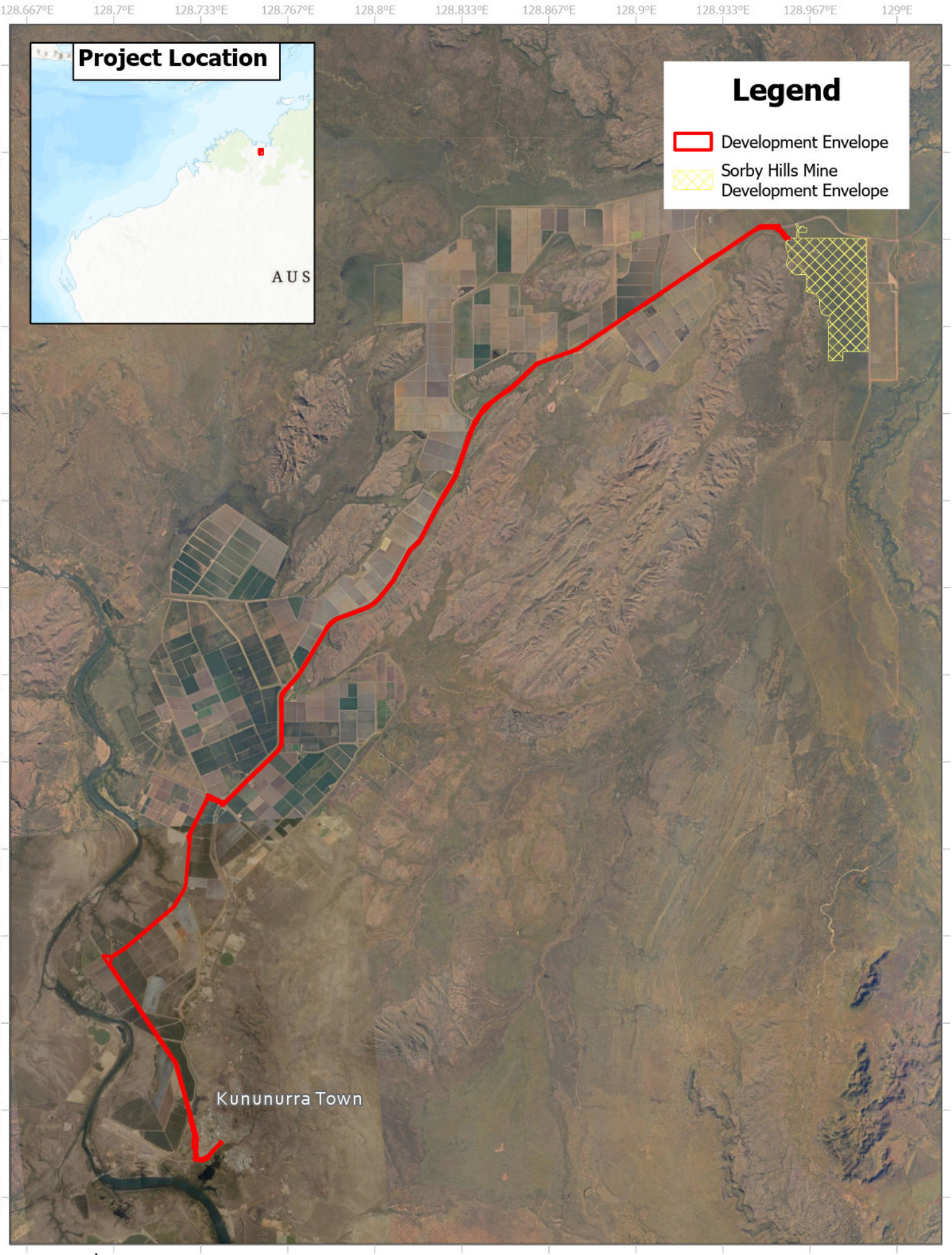



Figure 1 | Project Location

N

0 1,500 3,000 6,000 Meters

Scale: 1:200,000

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## 2.3 Activity Overview and Timelines

Construction is expected to commence at the end of 2026, to allow for electrification of the line in early-mid 2027.

### 2.3.1 Construction

The construction phase is expected to commence in late 2026 for a duration of up to 6 months. Clearing of native vegetation is expected to take approximately 4 to 6 weeks and will be undertaken at the commencement of construction.

Construction works will consist of:

- Clearing of up to 24.49 ha of vegetation to allow construction access and clear vegetation from encroaching on the power line
- Boring and excavation of footings for poles
- Supply of water for construction purposes will be minimal but will be trucked in where required.
- Supply of civil materials for ground levelling and fill will be trucked in from local sources.
- During construction, temporary laydown areas, ablutions and other supporting facilities will be established along the worksite where required.

## 2.4 Land Access

As an 'energy operator', Horizon Power has certain rights under Sections 46 and 49 of the *Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979* (EOPA) which allow Horizon Power to access and use land for the purpose of constructing, maintaining and operating electricity infrastructure. The majority of poles will be installed within dedicated road reserves. Horizon Power is engaging with the landowners of the intersecting land parcels, including freehold and crown land, and will utilise its powers under the *Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979* (EOPA) for the network connection via a Notice of Entry. All intersecting land parcels are presented in Table 2-1.

## 2.5 Project benefits and justification

The proposed clearing is required to facilitate the construction and operation of a new approximately 55 km transmission line connecting the mine site to Horizon Power's Kununurra electricity network. The Project will provide the mine with access to clean, reliable and low-cost renewable energy generated through the Ord River Hydro system, with diesel generation retained only as a backup power source.

The Project delivers significant environmental, economic and social benefits at both a local and regional scale. By connecting the mine to the existing Horizon Power network, the Project will substantially reduce the site's reliance on diesel-powered electricity generation. If the transmission line is not constructed within the required timeframe, the mine would be required to rely on a standalone diesel power station as the default energy supply option. This would result in the combustion of approximately 18 million litres of diesel per year and the emission of approximately 50,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) annually. Over the initial 8.5-year mine life, this equates to more than 400,000 tonnes of avoidable greenhouse gas emissions.

The transmission line therefore represents a significant emissions reduction initiative, supporting the transition of the East Kimberley region towards lower-carbon energy infrastructure. The Project aligns with Horizon Power's commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and supports its vision of positioning the Kimberley as a clean energy region. It also supports the Western Australian Government's target of net zero emissions by 2050 and contributes to the Australian Government's legislated reduction targets.

In addition to its environmental benefits, the Project will provide lower and more stable energy costs over the life of the mine. Access to grid-connected renewable energy reduces exposure to fluctuating diesel fuel prices, strengthens project economics and improves the long-term viability of mining operations in the region.

The Project will also deliver broader strategic benefits beyond the immediate needs of the mine. Extension of the East Kimberley electricity network establishes important regional infrastructure that may support future growth and development opportunities, including potential expansion of the Ord River Irrigation Scheme and other regional industries. The Project therefore acts as an anchor investment in regional energy infrastructure

and is consistent with State and Federal Government objectives to increase the deployment of renewable energy in regional Australia.

Accordingly, the clearing associated with the Project is justified on the basis that it enables infrastructure of significant public and regional benefit, delivers substantial and ongoing reductions in greenhouse gas emissions relative to the diesel-only alternative, supports government energy and climate policy objectives, improves energy security and affordability, and contributes to the sustainable economic development of the East Kimberley region.

# 3 Description of Proposed Clearing

## 3.1 Proposed Clearing Area

The Project will clear no more than 24.49 ha of native vegetation within the 331 ha Development Envelope. Clearing is required for the following:

– Geotechnical surveys
– Network connection infrastructure and access tracks.
  - Installation of 55km pole infrastructure
  - 6 m wide track (3 m either side of the poles to facilitate a light vehicle clearance on either side of the poles)

## 3.2 Proposed Clearing Method

Geotechnical survey works will consist of mainly incidental clearing (driving over and parking on native vegetation) for vehicle / machinery access to test sites. Geotechnical tests will require the mechanical removal of native vegetation. Topsoil and vegetation will be respread over each test location once complete. Test locations will utilise the same clearing footprint, eliminating the need for additional clearing.

Clearing for the network connection and associated infrastructure will be undertaken via mechanical removal.

# 4 Biological Survey

Horizon Power commissioned AECOM to conduct a single-phase detailed and reconnaissance flora and vegetation assessment in March 2026, and a basic and targeted fauna survey. The survey area (400.4 ha) covers 64.9 % of the DE. A small area (116 ha, 35.9% of DE) was extrapolated based on aerial imagery due to a minor change in project alignment after the initial survey (AECOM, 2026).

The project alignment was then subsequently amended to avoid native vegetation, large Boab trees, and Gouldian Finch habitat. The realigned section was surveyed by AECOM in July 2026, with the biological survey report pending. The Development Envelope, extrapolated area and survey areas are detailed in Figure 2  Note, the July survey includes the extrapolated area to ground truth the earlier assumptions made.

The biological surveys were undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) guidelines (EPA, 2016 and EPA, 2020). The March survey is summarised in Table 4-1. The July survey required passing through the March survey area, where it was identified that large sections of the roadside vegetation had either been burned or cleared between March and July 2026. The existing environment detailed in Section 5 has been updated to reflect this change, and a memo detailing the burned and cleared areas is attached in Appendix A.

The July survey area identified the majority of the unsurveyed area was Degraded, Completely Degraded or Cleared, with some populations of Hibiscus sp. Kununurra (P1) recorded. This survey will be provided as soon as completed, estimated August 2026.

*Table 4-1 Summary of Biological Surveys Relevant to the DE*

| Survey | Summary of Findings |
|---|---|
| Kununurra flora, vegetation and fauna assessment, AECOM 2026<br><br>ISA-0001634 | **Survey Dates:** 27-31 March 2026<br>**Survey Area:** 421.8 ha (400.4 ha was subject to a field survey and 21.4 ha was extrapolated using aerial imagery, field notes and existing desktop data).<br>**Vegetation:**<br>– Eleven native vegetation communities were mapped for 245 ha (58.1%) of the survey area and included:<br>• Nine woodlands (AdSp, AlHSp, AnFb, AnHSp, CcT, LcIf, LcTt, MdSp, MlSb)<br>• Two tussock grasslands (EpSp, Sp)<br>– Additionally, four non-native/modified communities were mapped including isolated trees, planted trees, road verge and agriculture. Cleared areas and drainage channels were mapped across 121.7 ha of the Survey Area.<br>– Vegetation condition within the Survey Area ranges from Very Good to Completely Degraded.<br>– Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (TEC/PEC)<br>– Priority 3 land system Ivanhoe Land System was mapped across 129.1 ha (32.2 %) of the Survey Area. This PEC is described as: "many small to medium areas of gently sloping alluvial "black soil" plains with some timbered "red" soil in the central and northern parts of the area" (AECOM, 2026). The extent of this PEC is based on land system mapping only, regardless of condition or vegetation type. Cleared areas were removed to calculate extent.<br>**Flora:**<br>– Floristic data was collected from 28 quadrats, 14 releves and numerous notes and observation points.<br>– Across the Survey Area, a total of 238 species were recorded. Of these, six Priority (P) flora species were recorded:<br>• *Goodenia brachypoda* (P1)<br>• *Goodenia Malvina* (P1)<br>• Hibiscus sp. Kununurra (P1)<br>• *Ipomoea argillicola* (P1)<br>• *Fimbristtylis laxiglumis* (P2)<br>• *Corchorus capsularis* (P1)<br>**Fauna:**<br>During the field survey, four conservation significant species were recorded within or immediately adjacent to the Survey Area, including:<br>– Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*), listed as Migratory and Marine under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* EPBC Act) and protected under China Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA), Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA) and Republic of Korea Australia Migratpry Bird Agreement (ROKAMBA)<br>– Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), listed as Migratory and Marine under the EPBC Act and protected under the Bonn Convention<br>– Freshwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus johnstoni*), listed as Other Specially Protected (OS) under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) |

| Survey | Summary of Findings |
|---|---|
| | – Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), listed as OS under the BC Act.<br>A further 13 species were considered to have a high likelihood of occurrence within the Survey Area:<br>– Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) - Listed as Migratory under the BC and EPBC Acts<br>– Purple-crowned Fairy Wren (*Malurus coronatus coronatus*) - Listed as Endangered under the BC and EPBC Acts<br>– Gouldian Finch (*Chloebia gouldiae*) – Listed as Priority 4 by DBCA and Endangered under the EPBC Act<br>– Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) - Listed as Migratory under the BC Act and Endangered and Migratory under the EPBC Act<br>– Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) - Listed as Migratory under the BC Act and Vulnerable and Migratory under the EPBC Act<br>– Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) - Listed as Migratory under the BC and EPBC Acts<br>– Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) - Listed as Migratory under the BC and EPBC Acts<br>– Swinhoe's Snipe (*Gallinago megala*) - Listed as Migratory under the BC and EPBC Acts<br>– Long-toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*) - Listed as Migratory under the BC and EPBC Acts<br>– Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*) - Listed as Migratory under the BC and EPBC Acts<br>– Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) - Listed as Migratory under the BC and EPBC Acts<br>– Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) - Listed as Migratory under the BC and EPBC Acts<br>– Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) - Listed as Migratory under the BC and EPBC Acts<br><br>**Fauna habitat:**<br>Nine fauna habitats were mapped across the Survey Area:<br>– Open Woodland: Open woodland on seasonally inundated floodplains, dominated by Eucalyptus spp., Acacia spp. and Boab (Adansonia gregorii) over a grassy understorey of variable density. Mature trees occasionally contain hollows, while logs, coarse woody debris and leaf litter are common. Soils comprise clay and loam, with seasonal inundation in low-lying areas. Habitat connectivity is generally high. Moderate to low weed invasion and disturbance present.<br>– Tall Grassland: Tall grassland dominated by Sorghum spp. and other native tussock grasses, with occasional scattered trees. Soils are predominantly brown clay and are subject to seasonal inundation. The habitat is likely to provide seasonal foraging, refuge and, where suitable resources are present, breeding opportunities for a range of conservation significant fauna. Ecological utilisation is expected to increase during periods of seasonal inundation when water availability, prey abundance and primary productivity are elevated. Weed invasion is common, including scattered Neem (**Azadirachta indica*) trees. The habitat provides foraging and refuge opportunities for a range of mammals, reptiles and ground dwelling birds. Minor recent fire disturbance in some areas.<br>– Melaleuca Open Woodland: Seasonally inundated floodplain habitat characterised by an open canopy dominated by Melaleuca spp. over sedges and grasses, with a sparse to absent midstorey. Soils comprise saturated brown clay and clay loam and are frequently waterlogged during the wet season. Structural complexity is relatively low; however, seasonal inundation increases habitat productivity and resource availability, providing foraging, refuge and, for some wetland associated species, breeding opportunities. |

| Survey | Summary of Findings |
|---|---|
| | – Creek lines: Narrow creek lines and adjacent floodplain flats supporting a sparse to open shrub layer and sedges, grasses and forbs. Subject to periodic water flow and seasonal inundation, this habitat provides opportunistic foraging resources, particularly during following rain events. Trees were generally too small to support suitable hollows for hollow dependent fauna.<br>– Low Hills and Slopes: Gently sloping sandstone rises and low hills supporting open woodland with a sparse understorey and scattered rock outcrops. Occurring above the surrounding floodplain, this habitat provides increased structural diversity through exposed rock, coarse woody debris and elevated terrain. The habitat offers shelter, basking and refuge opportunities for reptiles, small mammals and woodland birds, while maintaining connectivity with adjacent floodplain habitats.<br>– Drainage: Artificial (man-made) drainage channels supporting varying levels of seasonal water and wetland vegetation. These habitats may provide temporary foraging and movement opportunities for waterbirds, amphibians and other fauna, particularly following rainfall or flooding events. Majority of these channels are adjacent to or cross the main road. Expected to be dry after months of no rainfall.<br>– Agricultural Land: Modified paddocks dominated by pasture grasses and managed agricultural vegetation. Habitat values are generally low; but may provide foraging habitat for raptors and granivorous birds.<br>– Isolated Trees: Scattered mature trees, primarily Boab (*Adansonia gregorii*) and other remnant native species, occurring within otherwise cleared or modified landscapes. These trees provide perching, nesting, refuge and foraging resources for birds, bats and other fauna.<br>– Disturbed: Highly modified habitat comprising road verges, parkland and disturbed areas dominated by introduced grasses, weeds and scattered planted or minor ground cover remnant native vegetation. Habitat values are generally low, although the area may provide opportunistic foraging and movement habitat for common fauna species. |

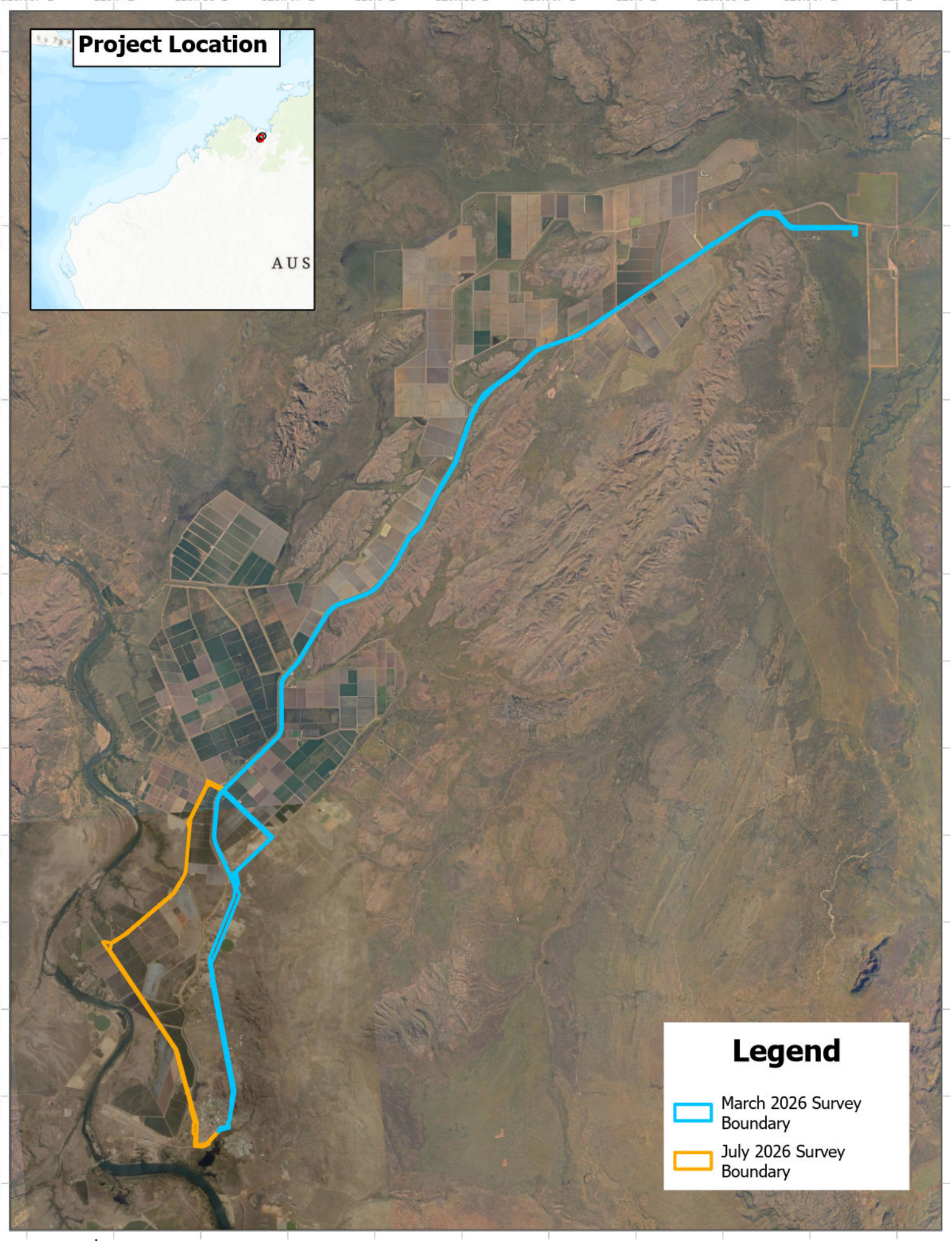



Figure 2 | Biological Survey Area

N

0 1,500 3,000 6,000 Meters

Scale: 1:200,000

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# 5 Existing Environment

The existing environment is summarised in Table 5-1.

*Table 5-1 Existing environment*

<table>
<tr><th>Environmental value</th><th>Assessment</th></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation associations, types and condition</td><td>The project is located within Pre-European Vegetation Associations (VA) 52, VA 59, VA 800 and VA 909. More than 99% of VA 52, VA 800 and VA 909 and over 87% of VA 59 remains at a local and regional level.
<table>
<tr><th>Scale</th><th>Pre-European Extent (ha)</th><th>Current Extent (ha)</th><th>% Remaining</th><th>% of current extent in all DBCA managed land</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Victoria Bonaparte 52</td></tr>
<tr><td>State: WA</td><td>271,480.74</td><td>271,417.56</td><td>99.98</td><td>32.51</td></tr>
<tr><td>Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Bioregion: Victoria Bonaparte</td><td>194,527.94</td><td>194,464.76</td><td>99.97</td><td>39.57</td></tr>
<tr><td>IBRA Subregion: Victoria Bonaparte P1</td><td>194,527.94</td><td>194,464.76</td><td>99.97</td><td>39.56</td></tr>
<tr><td>Local Government Area (LGA): Shire of Wyndham East-Kimberley</td><td>194,546.08</td><td>194,482.89</td><td>99.97</td><td>39.57</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Victoria Bonaparte 59</td></tr>
<tr><td>State: WA</td><td>139,451.36</td><td>121,191.90</td><td>86.91</td><td>9.92</td></tr>
<tr><td>Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Bioregion: Victoria Bonaparte</td><td>138,636.87</td><td>120,695.78</td><td>87.06</td><td>9.71</td></tr>
<tr><td>IBRA Subregion: Victoria Bonaparte P1</td><td>138,636.87</td><td>120,695.78</td><td>87.06</td><td>9.71</td></tr>
<tr><td>Local Government Area (LGA): Shire of Wyndham East-Kimberley</td><td>139,155.11</td><td>121,178.14</td><td>87.08</td><td>9.94</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Victoria Bonaparte 800</td></tr>
<tr><td>State: WA</td><td>39,333.15</td><td>39,097.41</td><td>99.40</td><td>50.62</td></tr>
<tr><td>Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Bioregion: Victoria Bonaparte</td><td>37,968.35</td><td>37,922.39</td><td>99.88</td><td>52.44</td></tr>
<tr><td>IBRA Subregion: Victoria Bonaparte P1</td><td>37,968.35</td><td>37,922.39</td><td>99.88</td><td>52.44</td></tr>
<tr><td>Local Government Area (LGA): Shire of Wyndham East-Kimberley</td><td>38,401.24</td><td>38,355.28</td><td>99.88</td><td>71.71</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">Victoria Bonaparte 909</td></tr>
<tr><td>State: WA</td><td>281,736.78</td><td>278,878.09</td><td>98.99</td><td>5.77</td></tr>
<tr><td>Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Bioregion: Victoria Bonaparte</td><td>281,414.86</td><td>278,753.20</td><td>99.05</td><td>5.77</td></tr>
<tr><td>IBRA Subregion: Victoria Bonaparte P1</td><td>281,414.86</td><td>278,753.20</td><td>99.05</td><td>5.77</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
</table>

| Environmental value | Assessment |
|---|---|

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Local Government Area (LGA): Shire of Wyndham East-Kimberley | 281,609.70 | 278,868.48 | 99.03 | 5.77 |

Seven native vegetation types were defined and mapped in the DE.

| Vegetation type | Description | Condition | Extent (ha) within DE | Extent (%) within DE (surveyed area) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AlHSp - Mixed Low Woodland | *Albizia lebbeck, Lysiphyllum cunninghamii* and **Azadirachta indica* low woodland, over *Sorghum plumosum*, **Bothriochloa pertusa* and *Heteropogon contortus* low to tall tussock grassland. | Poor | 12.69 | 6.12 % |
| AnFb - Acacia Low Open Woodland | *Acacia neurocarpa* low open woodland, over *Fimbristylis punctata*, *Eriachne sulcata* and *Scleria brownii* low to tall mixed open sedgeland and grassland. | Very Good | 1.20 | 0.58 % |
| | | Degraded | 0.36 | 0.17 % |
| AnHSp - Mixed Low Open Woodland | *Acacia neurocarpa, Eucalyptus camaldulensis subsp. obtusa,* and *Terminalia volucris* low open woodland, over *Hibiscus sp. Kununurra* (K.F. Kenneally 1940) low to tall sparse shrubland, over *Sorghum plumosum, Chloris pumilo* and *Eriachne ciliata* low to tall tussock grassland. | Very Good | 0.28 | 0.13 % |
| | | Good | 1.40 | 0.67 % |
| CcT - Mixed Low Open Woodland | *Corymbia confertiflora, Brachychiton ?viscidulus* and *Owenia vernicosa* low open woodland, over *Triodia sp., Sorghum plumosum* and *Sorghum stipoideum* tall hummock and tussock grassland. | Very Good | 0.61 | 0.29 % |
| EpSp - Mixed Low to Tall Tussock Grassland | *Excoecaria parvifolia, Vachellia farnesiana var farnesiana* and *Eucalyptus limitaris* low open woodland, over *Sorghum plumosum, Iseilema fragile* **Bothriochloa pertusa* low to tall tussock grassland. | Very Good | 1.11 | 0.54 % |
| | | Good | 27.13 | 13.08 % |
| | | Poor | 6.84 | 3.30 % |
| LcTt - Mixed Low Open Woodland | *Lysiphyllum cunninghamii, Terminalia volucris*, and *Vachellia farnesiana var farnesiana* low open woodland, over *Themeda triandra, Polytoca hubbardiana* and *Sorghum plumosum* tall closed tussock grassland. | Very Good | 5.20 | 2.51 % |
| | | Degraded | 0.32 | 0.15 % |
| Sp - Mixed Tall Tussock Grassland | *Sorghum plumosum, *Cenchrus ciliaris* and **Dichanthium aristatum* tall tussock grassland. | Very Good | 4.09 | 1.97 % |
| | | Good | 9.28 | 4.47 % |
| | | Poor | 21.78 | 10.50 % |
| | | Degraded | 5.30 | 2.55 % |
| | | Completely Degraded | 6.97 | 3.36 % |
| **TOTAL – NATIVE VEGETATION** | | | **104.56** | **50.4 %** |
| Planted | | Cleared | 0.08 | 0.05 % |

<table>
<tr><th>Environmental value</th><th>Assessment</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>Agriculture</td><td>Cleared</td><td>0.1</td><td>0.04 %</td></tr>
<tr><td>Drainage</td><td>Cleared</td><td>9.15</td><td>4.41 %</td></tr>
<tr><td>Cleared</td><td>Cleared</td><td>73.14</td><td>35.25 %</td></tr>
<tr><td>Road Verge</td><td>Cleared</td><td>20.43</td><td>9.85 %</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">TOTAL – NON-NATIVE VEGETATION</td><td>102.90</td><td>49.6 %</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">TOTAL</td><td>207.46</td><td>100 %</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fauna habitat</td><td>
The AECOM (2026) survey identified nine broad habitat types within the DE. Fauna habitat and condition is detailed below:
<table>
<tr><th>Fauna habitat</th><th>Habitat Condition</th><th>Extent (ha) within DE</th><th>Extent (%) within DE</th></tr>
<tr><td>Agriculture</td><td>Cleared</td><td>0.09</td><td>0.04 %</td></tr>
<tr><td>Disturbed</td><td>Cleared</td><td>20.36</td><td>9.81 %</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Drainage</td><td>Poor</td><td>0.21</td><td>0.10%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Cleared</td><td>9.22</td><td>4.44%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Isolated Trees</td><td>Cleared</td><td>0.08</td><td>0.04 %</td></tr>
<tr><td>Low Hills and Slopes</td><td>Very Good</td><td>0.62</td><td>0.30 %</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Open Woodland</td><td>Very Good</td><td>7.80</td><td>3.76%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Good</td><td>28.53</td><td>13.76%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Poor</td><td>19.53</td><td>9.42%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Degraded</td><td>0.67</td><td>0.32%</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="5">Tall Grassland</td><td>Very Good</td><td>4.09</td><td>1.97%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Good</td><td>9.28</td><td>4.47%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Poor</td><td>21.56</td><td>10.39%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Degraded</td><td>5.30</td><td>2.56%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Completely Degraded</td><td>6.98</td><td>3.37%</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Cleared</td><td>73.14</td><td>35.26%</td></tr>
<tr><td>TOTAL</td><td></td><td>207.46</td><td>100 %</td></tr>
</table>
The AECOM (2026) survey report identified vegetation condition ranging from Very Good to Completely Degraded as follows:
<table>
<tr><th>Vegetation Condition</th><th>Extent (ha) within DE</th><th>Extent (%) within DE</th></tr>
<tr><td>Very Good</td><td>12.51</td><td>6.03 %</td></tr>
<tr><td>Good</td><td>37.81</td><td>18.22 %</td></tr>
<tr><td>Poor</td><td>41.31</td><td>19.91 %</td></tr>
<tr><td>Degraded</td><td>5.98</td><td>2.88 %</td></tr>
<tr><td>Completely Degraded</td><td>6.97</td><td>3.6 %</td></tr>
<tr><td>Cleared</td><td>102.89</td><td>49.60 %</td></tr>
<tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>207.46</td><td>100 %</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Significant fauna</td><td>The AECOM (2026) survey recorded four conservation significant fauna species within the DE or in close vicinity to the DE (Common Sandpiper, Osprey, Freshwater Crocodile and Peregrine Falcon) with an additional thirteen species considered likely to occur.<br>The following species were identified as known or likely to occur within the AECOM (2026) survey area:</td></tr>
</table>

| Environmental value | Assessment | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Fauna Species** | **EPBC Act Listing** | **BC Act/ DBCA Listing** | **Preferred Habitat in the DE** |
| | Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) | Migratory | Migratory | – Drainage<br>– Open Woodland |
| | Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) | Migratory | Migratory | – Agricultural Land<br>– Drainage<br>– Tall Grassland |
| | Freshwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus johnstoni*) | - | Other Specially Protected | – Drainage |
| | Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) | - | Other Specially Protected | – Agriculture<br>– Disturbed<br>– Drainage<br>– Isolated Trees<br>– Low Hills and Slopes<br>– Open Woodland<br>– Tall Grassland |
| | Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) | Migratory | Migratory | – Agricultural Land<br>– Drainage<br>– Open Woodland |
| | Gouldian Finch (*Chloebia gouldiae)* | Endangered | Priority 4 | – Low Hills and Slopes<br>– Open Woodland<br>– Tall Grassland |
| | Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) | Migratory<br>Endangered | Migratory | – Drainage |
| | Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) | Migratory<br>Vulnerable | Migratory | – Drainage<br>– Tall Grassland |
| | Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) | Migratory | Migratory | – Drainage<br>– Open Woodland<br>– Tall Grassland |
| | Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) | Migratory | Migratory | – Open Woodland |
| | Swinhoe's Snipe (*Gallinago megala*) | Migratory | Migratory | – Drainage<br>– Open Woodland<br>– Tall Grassland |
| | Long-toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*) | Migratory | Migratory | – Drainage<br>– Open Woodland |
| | Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*) | Migratory | Migratory | – Agricultural land<br>– Open Woodland |
| | Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) | Migratory | Migratory | – Open Woodland<br>– Agricultural Lands |
| | Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) | Migratory | Migratory | – Agricultural land<br>– Open Woodland |
| | Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) | Migratory | Migratory | – Agricultural Land<br>– Drainage<br>– Open Woodland<br>– Tall Grassland |

| Environmental value | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Significant ecological linkage | The fauna habitats within the DE are part of a contiguous, largely intact area of remnant vegetation present in Kununurra. Land within the Kununurra township has been subject to clearing, but this clearing is minimal and much of the remnant vegetation is intact in the local area. Overall, the habitats within the DE are largely contiguous through the local area. |
| Ecological communities | No State or Commonwealth listed TECs were recorded within the DE (GHD, 2024). One Priority 3 Priority Ecological Community (PEC) was identified in the DE by AECOM (2026), the 'Ivanhoe Land System'. The Ivanhoe Land System is described as "many small to medium areas of gently sloping alluvial 'black soil' plains with some timbered 'red' soil in the central and northern parts of the Ord-Victoria survey area" (Payne and Schnoknecht, 2011). The extent of this PEC is based on land system mapping only, regardless of condition or vegetation type. Cleared areas were removed to calculate extent. This PEC intersects 83.3 ha of the DE.<br>This PEC is discussed further in Section 8. |
| Significant flora | The DBCA Threatened and Priority flora databases identified the presence/potential presence of 13 significant flora taxa within a 20 km buffer of the Survey Area. No EPBC or BC Act listed flora were recorded during the field survey (AECOM, 2026), however five Priority species were recorded within the DE:<br>– *Goodenia brachypoda* (P1) – 28 individuals recorded from 14 locations.<br>– *Goodenia Malvina* (P1) – 3 individuals recorded from 3 locations.<br>– *Hibiscus sp. Kununurra* (P1)- 2,144 individuals recorded from 52 locations.<br>– *Ipomoea argillicola* (P1) – 7 individuals recorded from 6 locations.<br>– *Fimbristylis laxiglumis* (P2) – 1 individuals recorded from 1 location.<br>Additionally, there are five historical records of Threatened species *Lazarum sp. Kununurra* (A.N. Start ANS 1467) (Previously known as *Typhonium sp. Kununurra* (A.N. Start ANS 1467)) within the DE.<br>Significant flora within the DE is discussed further in Section 8. |
| Wetlands and/or waterways | No *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act) Rivers overlap the DE (GoWA, 2026). The DE overlaps the draft RIWI Act Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area, RIWI Act Proclaimed Surface Water Area (Ord Irrigation District), RIWI Act Proclaimed Irrigation District (Camballin Irrigation District) and RIWI Act Proclaimed Surface Water Area (Ord River and Tributaries) (GoWA, 2026).<br>The DE overlaps the draft RIWI Act Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area. The Halls Creek water reserve protection plan: Halls Creek Town Water Supply (Water and Rivers Commission, 2012) reports the depth to the water table as about 50 m.<br>Water required for construction activities (e.g. dust suppression, civil works) is expected to be sourced via trucking in water from local or regional sources, or bores. Operational water demand will be minimal and primary for equipment cleaning and routine maintenance and will be sourced from truck in water and/or rainwater tanks. |
| Water resources | The DE does not overlap any Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA) (GoWA, 2026), Kununurra Water reserve (Priority 1) is the closest PDWSA and is located approximately 50 m of the DE. Standard mitigation measures are outlined in the EMP and no additional impacts are expected to the water reserve. |
| Conservation Reserves | There are no conservation areas intersecting with the DE, however there are several conservation reserves in the surrounding area, outlined below:<br>– Mirima National Park: Located approximately 645 m east of the Kununurra Power Station.<br>– Goomig Conservation Park: Adjacent to the northern portion of the DE.<br>– Darrmalanka Conservation Park: Approximately 4 km north of the northern end of the DE.<br>– Un-named Nature Reserve R 50588: Approximately 2.7 km west of the DE. |
| Environmentally Sensitive Areas | There are no Environmentally Sensitive Areas intersecting with the DE, the nearest ESA is located approximately 45 m south of the DE (associated with (Lake Argyle and Lake Kununurra). |
| Land and soil quality | The DE intersects three land systems:<br>– Cockatoo System: Gently undulating plains with deep sand soils on sandstone and calcareous sandstone supporting stringybark-bloodwood woodlands over upland tall grass.<br>– Ivanhoe System: Alluvial flood plains with black cracking clay soils supporting blue grass grasslands and minor eucalypt woodlands with frontage tall grasses.<br>– Pinkerton System: Ridges, hogbacks, cuestas, and structural plateaux of sandstone, siltstone, and shale supporting stringybark-bloodwood woodlands over upland tall grass. |

| Environmental value | Assessment |
|---|---|
| | According to the Atlas of Australian Acid Sulfate Soils (Fitzpatrick et al., 2011), the DE overlays class C extremely low probability of occurrence (1-5% change of occurrence in mapping unit).<br>The DE does not intersect any known contaminated sites (GoWA, 2026). |
| Environmental heritage | There are no world heritage or national heritage places located within 10km of the DE. |
| Air quality | The proposed works are unlikely to contribute significantly to dust. Dust will be managed during construction in accordance with the EMP. No significant receptors are directly adjacent to the Project and no significant air emissions are expected that would impact the airshed. |
| Amenity values | The Project has the potential to impact on visual amenity of the local area. However, the proposed infrastructure is consistent with existing infrastructure in the region. There are also potential impacts through dust, noise and vibration. However, these will be temporary in nature and limited to the construction phase of the Project. Standard mitigation measures will be implemented and are outlined in the EMP. |

# 6 Avoidance, Mitigation and Management Measures

## 6.1 Avoidance

Initial avoidance and minimisation measures were undertaken during early planning works and route selection, including amending the bottom 30% of the proposed alignment to avoid environmental features identified in the biological survey. This necessitated additional biological survey, however the current DE for this Project was selected as it presented the fewest environmental constraints.

Impact reduction actions undertaken for this project include:

- Amendment of alignment to avoid high value environmental features
- Avoidance of the creek lines habitat type which provides important habitat for the Purple-crowned Fairy Wren and supports several other conservation significant species.
- 93.18 ha of high-quality potential Gouldian Finch habitat was recorded during the AECOM (2026) field surveys, Horizon Power have optimised the design to avoid clearing approximately 91 ha of recorded Gouldian Finch habitat
- During the design process the track width was minimised to 6 m, to accommodate one light vehicle on either side of the poles and minimise the pole clearing.
- Pole placement prioritised utilising existing cleared areas within the road reserve to minimise clearing native vegetation as far as practicable.
- Avoidance of two Registered Heritage sites identified in consultation with Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.
- Clearing will be limited to no more than 5% of the recorded individuals of any Priority flora species identified within the Development Envelope (DE).
- No individuals of *Lazarum sp. Kununurra* (A.N. Start ANS 1467) (Previously known as *Typhonium sp. Kununurra* (A.N. Start ANS 1467)) will be cleared for the Project.

## 6.2 Mitigation and Management

An EMP has been developed for the Project which lists the specific mitigation and management measures to be applied during construction of the Project (see Appendix B). Key management measures for the geotechnical works and Project infrastructure include the following:

- No clearing is permitted outside the DE.
- Clearing impacts will be further reduced through the detailed design process, including the positioning of poles to minimise required clearing of native vegetation (including Priority flora where possible).

- The clearing locations are to be demarcated with flagging tape, GPS or similar prior to clearing activities.
- Clearing areas are to be checked by an Environmental Specialist or Site Supervisor prior to clearing to ensure no more than 24.49 ha of clearing is undertaken for the Project.
- A pre-clearing environmental toolbox will be held so all staff are aware of their responsibilities under the permit.
- Clearing of native vegetation will be undertaken in a slow, progressive manner in one direction to allow fauna to move away from the clearing area.
- Movement of vehicles and machinery will be in convoy along access tracks/ routes and will not go into adjacent vegetation. The existing roadway will be utilised for transport wherever possible.
- Dust, noise, vibration and light management measures will be implemented during construction

# 7 Stakeholder Engagement

## 7.1 Key stakeholders

The key stakeholders identified for the Project are provided in Table 7-1. Engagement has commenced and is expected to be ongoing for the duration of the Project.

*Table 7-1 Key project stakeholders*

| Category | Stakeholders |
|---|---|
| State Government - Entities | – Water Corporation<br>– Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions<br>– Department of Communities<br>– Kimberley Development Commission<br>– Main Roads<br>– Department of Water and Environmental Regulation |
| Traditional Owners | – MG Corporation |
| Local Government | – Shire Wyndham East Kimberley |
| Corporate | – Boab Minerals<br>– Ord Irrigation Cooperative<br>– CGL Fuel<br>– JSW Holdings Pty Ltd<br>– Pacific Blue |
| Aviation Authorities | – Shoal Air<br>– Kununurra Airport |
| Emergency Services | – St John Ambulance |

# 8 Assessment Against the 10 Clearing Principles

An assessment against the 10 Clearing Principles has been undertaken for this project. The assessment found that the proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project may be at variance to Principle b due to the clearing of critical habitat for listed threatened fauna species. The Project is considered unlikely to be at variance with any of the remaining clearing principles.

*Table 8-1 Assessment Against the 10 Clearing Principles*

| Principle | Assessment | Outcome |
|---|---|---|
| (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity. | Up to 24.49 ha of native vegetation is proposed to be cleared for the Project within the DE.<br>**Vegetation**<br>The Project is located in the Victoria Bonaparte IBRA region and Victoria Bonaparte P1 subregion. Seven native vegetation types were mapped across the DE:<br>– Five woodlands (AlHSp, AnFb, AnHSp, CcT, LcTt)<br>– Two tussock grasslands (EpSp, Sp)<br>No TECs listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act were identified within the DE. One PEC, the Ivanhoe Land System, was mapped across 83.3 ha of the DE. The Ivanhoe Land System is described as "many small to medium areas of gently sloping alluvial 'black soil' plains with some timbered 'red' soil in the central and northern parts of the Ord-Victoria survey area." (Payne and Schnoknecht, 2011). The extent of this PEC is based on land system mapping only, regardless of condition or vegetation type. Cleared areas were removed to calculate extent. Up to 23.35 ha of this PEC in Good or better condition may be cleared for the Project.<br>The Ivanhoe PEC has been mapped across 69,292 ha within a 20 km buffer of the DE, clearing of up to 23.35 ha represents 0.031% of the mapped extent of this PEC within 20 km of the Survey Area. During the detailed design phase, efforts will be taken to reduce the extent of clearing within this PEC as far as reasonably practicable.<br>AECOM (2026) did not record any Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) within the Survey Area. The closest ESA is 220 m south of the Survey Area, associated with the Lily Creek Lagoon. No impacts to this ESA are expected from the Project.<br>Vegetation condition across the DE ranged from Very Good to Completely Degraded, with majority of the surveyed area (157.1 ha, 75.8 %) assessed as Poor or worse condition (AECOM, 2026). The Project has been designed to limit impacts on vegetation in Good or better condition.<br>**Flora**<br>238 flora species were recorded in the survey area, including six DBCA listed priority flora species. Within the DE, there are five listed priority species:<br>– *Goodenia brachypoda* (P1) – 28 individuals recorded from 14 locations.<br>– *Goodenia Malvina* (P1) – 3 individuals recorded from 3 locations.<br>– *Hibiscus sp. Kununurra* (P1)- 2,144 individuals recorded from 52 locations.<br>– *Ipomoea argillicola* (P1) – 7 individuals recorded from 6 locations.<br>– *Fimbristylis laxiglumis* (P2) – 1 individual recorded from 1 location.<br>Clearing will be limited to no more than 5% of the recorded individuals of any Priority flora species identified within the DE.<br>Additionally, there are five historical records of *Lazarum sp. Kununurra* (A.N. Start ANS 1467) (Previously known as *Typhonium sp. Kununurra* (A.N. Start ANS 1467)) within the DE. While none of these records intersect with the planned clearing footprint, Horizon Power will apply for a Section 40 Application to Take Threatened Flora under the BC Act. | Unlikely to be at variance |

| Principle | Assessment | Outcome |
|---|---|---|
| | Twenty-seven introduced species were recorded within the DE, including three Declared Pests listed under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) and two weeds listed as high under the Environment Weed Strategy for Western Australia (CALM, 1999):<br>– **Azadirachta indica* Declared Pest - s22(2) (Exempt)<br>– **Calotropis procera* Declared Pest - s22(2) (Exempt) / High (CALM, 1999)<br>– **Senna alata* Declared Pest - s22(2) (Exempt)<br>– **Cenchrus ciliaris* High (CALM, 1999)<br>– **Passiflora foetida* High (CALM, 1999)<br>The DE carries a high weed load, likely due to its proximity to existing disturbance including the road and adjacent farmland.<br>**Fauna and fauna habitat**<br>Eight fauna habitat types were mapped across the Survey Area, as described in Table 4-1 (AECOM, 2026). Four conservation significant fauna species were record within or immediately adjacent to the Survey Area (AECOM, 2026).<br>Up to 24.49 ha of native vegetation is proposed to be cleared for the Project. This vegetation is considered to be well represented locally and regionally, with higher biodiversity vegetation and better-quality fauna habitat located outside the DE. Given the majority of the DE is in poor condition and carries a high weed load, the vegetation is not considered to comprise a high level of biodiversity and clearing is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle. | |
| (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous Western Australia. | Seven fauna habitat types were mapped across the DE, these are described in Table 5-1. Cumulatively, these habitat types were assessed by AECOM to provide potential habitat value to seventeen conservation significant fauna taxa (AECOM, 2026).<br>Four conservation significant species were recorded within or immediately adjacent to the Survey Area (AECOM, 2026) and an additional 13 species were considered highly likely to be present within the DE in a post-survey likelihood of occurrence assessment.<br>**Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) – Recorded**<br>The Peregrine Falcon is listed as Otherwise Specially Protected under the BC Act. The species was recorded from one location within the Survey Area (AECOM, 2026). Within the DE, the Peregrine Falcon is likely to be found within all habitats present. These represent supporting habitat for the species. There are 9 historical records of the species within a 20 km buffer of the Survey Area.<br>Up to 24.49 ha of supporting habitat will be cleared for the Project, however this is not anticipated to represent a significant impact for the species due to the abundance of available habitat within the surrounding area, and given that the species is highly mobile and able to disperse to adjacent habitats. Clearing of up to 24.49 ha represents approximately 0.009 % of available habitat within a 20 km buffer of the DE. The Project will not present a habitat barrier for the species and is not expected to have a significant impact on the species.<br>**Freshwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus johnstoni*) – Recorded**<br>Australian Johnston's freshwater crocodile is endemic to Australia and listed under the BC Act as 'Otherwise Specially Protected". The species inhabits freshwater rivers, creeks, artificial lakes and occasionally tidal reaches (DBCA, 2023). During the AECOM (2026) field survey, four individuals of this species were recorded from two locations within the cleared and drainage habitat types. Additionally, there are 6 historical records of the species within a 20 km buffer of the Survey Area. The Drainage habitat type provides suitable supporting habitat within the DE (AECOM, 2026). Up to 8.81 ha of supporting habitat will be cleared for the Project. This habitat type is a | Unlikely to be at variance |

| Principle | Assessment | Outcome |
|---|---|---|
| | man-made habitat and is not restricted to the Project Area and clearing associated with the Project is not anticipated to have a significant impact on the species.<br>**Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) – Recorded**<br>The Osprey is listed as Migratory under the EPBC and BC Acts. The species occurs widely throughout coastal Australia, primarily associated with marine and estuarine habitats. During the AECOM (2026) survey, the species was recorded twice, overflying the tall grassland habitat and cleared areas. Within the DE, the species is likely to use the Tall Grassland, Drainage and Agricultural Land habitats. Up to 16.02 ha of supporting habitat will be cleared for the Project. The species is highly mobile and is known to forage over and move through a variety of terrestrial habitats where suitable aquatic resources occur nearby (AECOM, 2026). Clearing associated with the Project is not anticipated to be a significant impact for the species.<br>**Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – Recorded**<br>The Common Sandpiper is listed as Migratory under the EPBC and BE Acts. During the non-breeding season, the species occurs widely throughout Australia within a variety of habitats including coastal wetlands, estuaries, mudflats, river margins, drainage channels, fresh-water wetlands and shallow fresh-water including floodplains (DCCEEW, 2025). During the AECOM (2026) Survey, one individual was recorded within the Drainage habitat. Within the DE, the Drainage and Open Woodland habitats provide potential supporting habitat, up to 12.23 ha will be cleared for the Project. This represents approximately 0.004 % of available habitat within a 20 km buffer of the DE.<br>**Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – Known to occur**<br>The Glossy Ibis is listed as Migratory under the EPBC and BC Acts. The species was not recorded during field surveys, however, is considered likely to occur due to the presence of suitable habitat. Within the DE, the Glossy Ibis may utilise the Open Woodland, Tall Grassland and Drainage habitat types. Up to 12.23 ha of potential supporting habitat may be cleared for the Project. Given that there is approximately 280,823.93 ha of supporting habitat available in the surrounding area, clearing of up to 12.23 ha represents approximately 0.004 % of available habitat within a 20 km radius of the DE.<br>**Purple-crowned Fairy Wren (*Malurus coronatus coronatus*) – Likely to occur**<br>The Purple-crowned Fairy Wren is listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act and P4 by DBCA. While the species was not recorded during the AECOM (2026) survey, the creek lines habitat type recorded within the Survey Area provides suitable habitat for the species (AECOM, 2026) therefore they have a high likelihood of occurrence. Additionally, there are two historical records of the species within a 20 km buffer of the DE. The creeklines habitat type has been entirely avoided in the final design of the Project, therefore there will be no clearing within this habitat type and no significant impact expected upon the Purple-crowned Fairy Wren.<br>**Gouldian Finch (*Chloebia gouldiae*) – Likely to occur**<br>The Gouldian Finch (*Chloebia gouldiae*) is listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act and Priority 4 under the BC Act. The species relies on a connected landscape of hollow-bearing eucalypt woodlands, native grass foraging habitat, and permanent water sources. Breeding habitat is highly specialised, typically occurring in rocky areas with smooth-barked eucalypts containing suitable nesting hollows located within 2-4 kilometres of small water bodies that persist throughout the dry season (O'Malley, 2006). Nearby grasslands provide important feeding habitat during the breeding season. The species was not recorded during the AECOM (2026) survey, however there are 313 records of the species within 20 km of the DE. Within the DE, the Gouldian Finch is likely to utilise the Open Woodland and Tall Grassland habitat types due to their foraging values (AECOM, 2026). Up to 19.36 ha of these habitat types may be cleared for the Project, however, the majority of this habitat is in a Poor or Degraded condition and provides limited foraging value to the species. | |

| Principle | Assessment | Outcome |
|---|---|---|
| | Within the Surveyed portion of the DE, up to 0.37 ha of Good and Very Good quality Gouldian Finch habitat intersects with the proposed clearing route, no more than 2 ha of Good or better quality Gouldian Finch habitat will be cleared across the entire DE.<br><br>Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2026) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2026) datasets, total clearing associated with the Project represents approximately 0.007 % of potentially suitable habitat within a 20 km radius of the DE.<br><br>Clearing of up to 19.36 ha of Gouldian Finch habitat, including no more than 2 ha of good or better quality habitat, is not anticipated to represent a significant impact for the species.<br><br>**Common Greenshank – Likely to occur**<br><br>The Common Greenshank is listed as Migratory under the BC Act and Endangered and Migratory under the EPBC Act. The Common Greenshank typically utilises inland wetlands and sheltered coastal habitats (DCCEEW, 2025). Australia does not lie within the breeding range of the species and the habitat types within the DE represent supporting habitat for the species. While the Common Greenshank was not recorded during field surveys, it is considered likely to occur due to the presence of suitable habitat within the DE.<br><br>The Common Greenshank may utilise the Drainage habitat type, this habitat constitutes supporting habitat for the species since it provides potential foraging opportunities when shallow water, exposed mud and saturated soils are present. Up to 8.81 ha of suitable supporting habitat may be cleared for the Project. Based on aerial imagery and the Native Vegetation Extent (spatial dataset DPIRD-005, DPIRD, 2026) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-0006, DPIRD, 2026) datasets, there is a mapped extent of 280, 823.92 ha of available habitat within a 20 km buffer of the DE, clearing of up to 8.81 ha represents 0.003 % of suitable habitat within 20 km of the DE. This is not anticipated to represent a significant impact for the species.<br><br>**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper – Likely to occur**<br><br>The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was not recorded during the AECOM (2026) field survey, however, the species is known to occur widely throughout northern Australia during the non-breeding season (DCCEEW, 2024) and there are 39 historical records of the species within 20 km of the DE. Within the DE, the species may utillise the Tall Grassland and Drainage habitat types. These habitat types constitute supporting habitat for the species (AECOM, 2026), up to 16.02 ha may be cleared for the Project. This represents approximately 0.006% of available habitat within 20 km of the DE and is not expected to be a significant impact for the species.<br><br>**Wood Sandpiper – Likely to occur**<br><br>The Wood Sandpiper is listed as Migratory under the EPBC and BC Acts. The species was not recorded during the AECOM (2026) field survey, however potential foraging habitat is present within the Survey Area. Within the DE, the Tall Grassland and Drainage habitats provide potentially supporting habitat for the species. There are 156 records of this species within 20 km of the DE. The Project may clear up to 16.02 ha of supporting habitat for the species. This represents approximately 0.006 % of available habitat within 20 km of the DE and is not expected to be a significant impact for the species.<br><br>**Fork-tailed Swift – Likely to occur**<br><br>The Fork-tailed Swift was not recorded during the AECOM field surveys, however, it is considered likely to occur due to the presence of suitable habitat. The Open Woodland habitat type provides potential foraging habitat for the species. Up to 12.16 ha of potentially supporting habitat may be cleared for the Project, representing approximately 0.004 % of available habitat within a 20 km buffer of the DE. | |

| Principle | Assessment | Outcome |
|---|---|---|
| | **Swinhoe's Snipe – Likely to occur**<br>Swinhoe's Snipe occurs in a range of freshwater wetland habitats, including marshes, streams, river floodplains, wetland margins, inundated grasslands and drainage systems. There are 15 historical records of the species within a 20 km buffer of the DE.<br>Within the DE, the species may use the Open Woodland, Tall Grassland and Drainage habitat types, these represent potentially supporting habitat for the species. Up to 19.44 ha of supporting habitat may be cleared for the Project, which accounts for 0.007 % of available habitat within a 20 km buffer of the DE.<br>**Long-toed Stint – Likely to occur**<br>The Long-toed Stint was not recorded within the AECOM (2026) Survey, however, may utilise the Open Woodland and Drainage habitat types and therefore is considered to have a high likelihood of occurrence (AECOM, 2026). There are 3 historical records of the species within 20 km of the DE. Up to 12.23 ha of supporting habitat may be cleared for the Project, which represents approximately 0.004 % of available habitat within a 20 km radius of the DE.<br>**Oriental Pratincole – Likely to occur**<br>The Oriental Pratincole is listed as Migratory under the EPBC and BC Acts. This species usually inhabits open plains, floodplains or short grasslands. While the species was not recorded during AECOM (2026) field surveys, however, there are 24 records of the species within 20 km of the DE. Within the DE, it is likely this species will utilise the Open Woodland and Agricultural Land habitat types. Up to 12.16 ha of supporting habitat will be cleared for the Project, which represents approximately 0.004 % of available habitat within 20 km of the DE.<br>**Barn Swallow – Likely to occur**<br>This Barn Swallow is found in open country in coastal lowlands, often found near water, towns and cities. The species inhabits freshwater wetlands, paperbark Melaleuca woodlands, mesophyll shrub thickets and tussock grasslands (DoE, 2025b). This species does not breed in Australia.<br>The Barn Swallow was not recorded during the AECOM (2026) survey, however within the DE, the Open Woodland, and Agricultural Lands habitat types provide supporting foraging habitat for the species (AECOM, 2026). Additionally, there are 24 records of the species within a 20 km buffer of the DE. Up to 12.16 ha of supporting habitat will be cleared for the Project, which represents approximately 0.004 % of available habitat within 20 km of the DE.<br>**Marsh Sandpiper – Likely to occur**<br>The Marsh Sandpiper is typically found in both permanent and ephemeral wetlands of varying salinities. In northern Australia, they prefer intertidal mudflats (Higgins & Davies 1996). The species was not recorded within the DE, however, it may utilise the Open Woodland and Drainage habitat types (AECOM, 2026). There are 33 records of the species within a 20 km buffer of the DE. Up to 12.23 ha of supporting habitat may be cleared for the Project, representing 0.004 % of available habitat within a 20 km buffer of the DE.<br>**Gull-billed Tern – Likely to occur**<br>The Gull-billed Tern is found in a variety of habitats such as saltpans, coastal lagoons, mudflats, marshes and wet fields¸ estuaries, and saltmarshes (eBird, 2026). The Gull-billed Tern was not recorded during the AECOM (2026), however, there are 21 records of the species within a 20 km buffer of the DE. Within the DE, the Gull-billed Tern is may utilise the Open Woodland, Tall Grassland, Drainage and Agricultural land habitat types. Up to 19.44 ha of supporting habitat may be cleared for the Project. This represents 0.007 % of available habitat within a 20 km buffer. | |

| Principle | Assessment | Outcome |
|---|---|---|
| | The Project is considered unlikely to be at variance with this principle due to the limited extent of clearing, poor quality of fauna habitat located adjacent to existing roadways and availability of alternative suitable habitat in the surrounding area. | |
| (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora. | AECOM (2026) undertook a detailed assessment for flora and vegetation in early 2026. The survey timing (March) is appropriate for the Northern botanical province (January to March). No flora species listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act were recorded during the survey. Four DBCA listed priority flora species were recorded from within the DE:<br>– *Goodenia brachypoda* (P1) – 28 individuals recorded from 14 locations.<br>– *Goodenia Malvina* (P1) – 3 individuals recorded from 3 locations.<br>– *Hibiscus sp. Kununurra* (P1)- 2,144 individuals recorded from 52 locations.<br>– *Ipomoea argillicola* (P1) – 7 individuals recorded from 6 locations.<br>– *Fimbristylis laxiglumis* (P2) – 1 individuals recorded from 1 location.<br>Additionally, there are five historical records of *Lazarum sp. Kununurra* (A.N. Start ANS 1467) (Previously known as *Typhonium sp. Kununurra* (A.N. Start ANS 1467)) within the DE. While none of these records intersect with the planned clearing footprint, Horizon Power will apply for a Section 40 Application to Take Threatened Flora under the BC Act.<br>Priority flora will be avoided as far as reasonably practicable during the design process and clearing will be limited to no more than 5% of the recorded individuals of any Priority flora species identified within the Development Envelope (DE).<br>Native vegetation necessary for the continued existence of rare flora is not considered to occur within the Survey Area. The proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project is therefore not considered to be at variance with this Principle. | Unlikely to be at variance |
| (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community. | The survey by AECOM (2026) did not record any TECs listed under the EPBC Act, BC Act or by DBCA, nor were any considered likely to occur.<br>Therefore, the proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project is not considered to be at variance with this Principle. | Unlikely to be at variance. |
| (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared. | The Survey Area intersects four vegetation associations (Victoria Bonaparte 52, 59, 800 and 909).<br>VA 52, 800 and 909 have over 99 % remaining of their pre-European extent at every scale, VA59 has over 87% of it's pre-European extent remaining at every extent. Clearing of up to 24.49 ha associated with the Project will not reduce any of these four vegetation associations to less than 86% of their pre-European extent (Table 5-1).<br>The vegetation types recorded within the Project Area are not restricted to the survey area and they are considered to be well represented in the local and regional area. Therefore, it is considered that the native vegetation proposed to be cleared for the Project is not significant as a remnant of native vegetation within an area that has been extensively cleared, and therefore not at variance to this Principle. | Unlikely to be at variance. |

| Principle | Assessment | Outcome |
|---|---|---|
| (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in or in association with a watercourse or wetland. | There are no wetland features overlapping the Project Area.<br>No significant or nationally important wetlands, rivers or watercourses were identified, and no Ramsar-listed wetland ecosystems or communities were found in the survey area. The closest Ramsar wetland (Lake Argyle and Lake Kununurra) is located approximately 45 m south of the existing power station in Kununurra town site. Clearing in the vicinity of this Ramsar site is limited to the existing road reserve and is not anticipated to impact the wetland.<br>There is an artificial drainage line that runs alongside the existing roadway, which provides habitat for several fauna species, however, the impacts to this habitat type are not expected to be significant.<br>Digging is estimated to a depth of 4 m for the poles. Standard construction measures will be applied and impacts to inland waters are not expected to be significant.<br>There will be no clearing of native vegetation associated with a watercourse or wetland and no indirect impacts are expected from the Project. The proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project is adjacent to existing roads and disturbed areas and is considered unlikely to be at variance with this Principle. | Unlikely to be at variance. |
| (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation. | The Project Area contains clay and loam soils (AECOM, 2026). This soil type is generally considered to be less susceptible to erosion.<br>The Project will incorporate standard construction management measures to reduce the risk of soil erosion as a result of ground disturbance and clearing. Any dust produced during construction will also be managed through the implementation of an EMP. Given the small area to be cleared, it is not likely that the clearing will cause appreciable land degradation. Based on the above, the proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project is not considered to be at variance with this Principle. | Unlikely to be at variance. |
| (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area. | There are no conservation areas intersecting with the DE, however there are several conservation reserves in the surrounding area, outlined below:<br>– Mirima National Park: Located approximately 645 m east of the Kununurra Power Station.<br>– Goomig Conservation Park: Adjacent to the northern portion of the DE.<br>– Darrmalanka Conservation Park: Approximately 4 km north of the northern end of the DE.<br>– Un-named Nature Reserve R 50588: Approximately 2.7 km west of the DE.<br>No off-site impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed clearing of native vegetation within the DE. The proposed clearing is not expected to impact any adjacent conservation areas. | Unlikely to be at variance. |
| (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water. | No RIWI Act Rivers overlap the Project Area (GoWA, 2026).<br>The Project Area does not overlap a mapped Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA) (GoWA, 2026). The Kununurra Water Reserve (P1) is located south of the Project Area (Approximately 50 m from the DE).<br>The Kununurra Water Reserve (P1) is located immediately south of the DE. Standard mitigation measures are outlined in the CEMP and no additional impacts are expected to the water reserve. There are no wetland features overlapping the DE.<br>No significant or nationally important wetlands, rivers or watercourses were identified, and no RAMSAR-listed wetland ecosystems or communities were found in the survey area. | Unlikely to be at variance. |

| Principle | Assessment | Outcome |
|---|---|---|
| | The Project Area overlaps the RIWI Act Canning-Kimberley Proclaimed Groundwater Area. Depth to groundwater is recorded between 7-35 mBGL in the area surrounding the DE.<br>Groundwater interaction and dewatering are not anticipated during construction.<br>The Development Envelope is located within an area with a low potential for ASS (Fitzpatrick *et al.*, 2011).<br>Water required for construction activities (e.g., dust suppression) is expected to be sourced via trucking in water from local or regional sources, or groundwater bores licenced by DWER.<br>Potential impacts to surface water quality from erosion, sedimentation or hydrocarbons are unlikely. Clearing within the Project Area is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water, therefore the Project is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle. | |
| (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the intensity of flooding. | The climate in the Kimberley region is described as a tropical monsoon climate, defined by a distinct wet and dry season. Kununurra has an annual average rainfall of 867.1 mm (Kununurra Aero (Station number 2056)(BOM, 2026)). The wet season is characterised by tropical cyclones and storms and heavy rainfall, particularly in the wet season. No changes to the existing levels of natural flooding are anticipated as a result of the proposed clearing, which is mainly limited to existing disturbed areas.<br>Therefore, the proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project is not considered to be at variance with this Principle. | Unlikely to be at variance. |

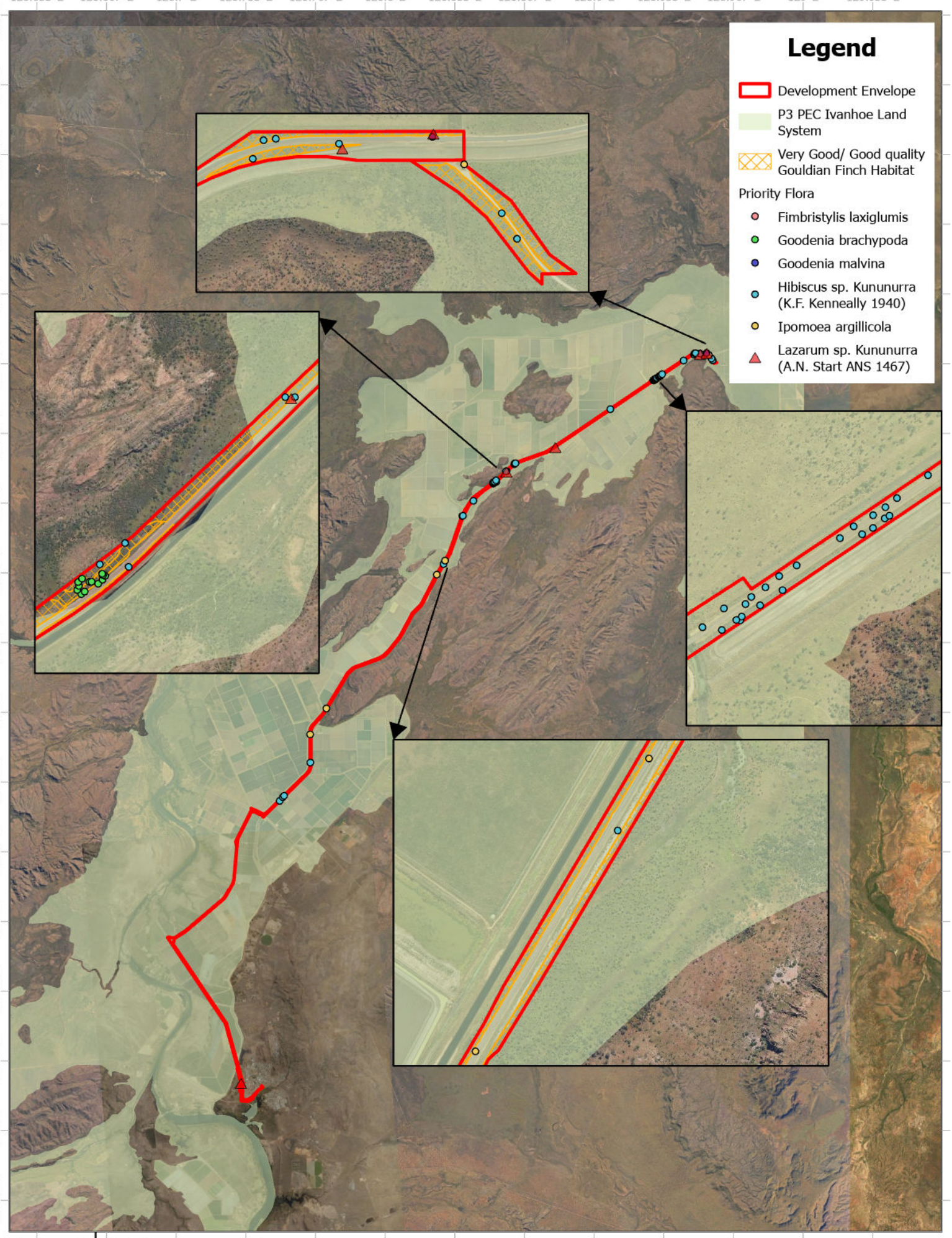



Figure 3 | Environmental Constraints

N

0 2,000 4,000 8,000 Meters

Scale: 1:250,000

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# 9 Other matters

## 9.1 Land Planning

A Development Approval is not required for the proposed works, which will be undertaken in accordance with the powers conferred under the *Energy (Operators) Powers Act 1979*.

## 9.2 Other approvals

| Other approvals | Assessment |
|---|---|
| Referral to Environmental Protection Authority | A Self Assessment was undertaken for the Project and determined that while the Project triggers two EPA Environmental Factors, 'Terrestrial Fauna' and 'Flora and Vegetation', these impacts are predominantly due to the clearing of native vegetation and it is expected that these impacts can be appropriately assessed under a NVCP.<br>The Project triggers two factors, 'Terrestrial Fauna' and 'Flora and Vegetation'.<br>Although two EPA factors are triggered by the Project, the impacts are predominantly due to the clearing of native vegetation and it is expected that these impacts can be appropriately assessed under a NVCP, and referral to the EPA is not considered necessary. |
| Referral to Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) | *Threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities*<br>A search of DCCEEW PMST identified 33 Threatened fauna species within 20 km of the DE, 22 of which are considered likely to occur.<br>Habitats within the DE are not restricted to the DE and are widespread in the surrounding area.<br>Overall, the fauna values of the DE are highly represented on a local and regional scale and clearing of fauna habitat for the Project is not considered significant for any specific species. Significant impacts to threatened fauna is not expected.<br>Horizon Power undertook a self assessment against the Significant Impact Criteria detailed in the MNES Significant Impact Guidelines (DoE, 2013) and identified that Threatened fauna and Migratory fauna may potentially occur within the DE, however, no significant impact to MNES are anticipated as a result of the Project due to the poor condition of habitat within the DE, use of existing cleared areas and the limited extent of clearing of quality fauna habitat required for the Project. While the DE contains important habitat for the Gouldian Finch, clearing of these habitat types were minimised during the design process and the Project will clear no more than 2 ha of Good or Very Good quality Gouldian Finch habitat, which is not anticipated to represent a significant impact to the species. The self assessment concluded that as the proposed clearing is located adjacent to existing roadways and other disturbed areas and the proposed works are considered unlikely to trigger a referral to DCCEEW.<br>*Migratory fauna*<br>A search of the DCCEEW PMST identified 33 Migratory species within 20 km of the DE, of which 15 are considered likely to occur. Migratory species have wide-ranging habitats and no significant habitat for Migratory species is likely to be removed by the Project.<br>*National and World Heritage*<br>There are no National or World Heritage Areas mapped as overlapping the DE (DCCEEW, 2026). No impacts to heritage sites are expected to result from the works.<br>*Wetlands of international importance*<br>There are no wetlands of international importance (Ramsar wetlands) that intersect the DE and none are expected to be impacted by the Project.<br>Based on the above, the Project is unlikely to result in a significant impact to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES). |
| Works Approval or Licence under EP Act | Not Applicable. |
| Groundwater or surface water licence under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 | Horizon Power is permitted to access water under Section 42 and 49 of the *Electricity Operator (Powers) Act 1979*. Any licences required for construction water will be acquired by the construction contractor. |
| Notice of Intent to Clear system under the Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945 | Not Applicable. |

| Other approvals | Assessment |
|---|---|
| State and municipal heritage | There are no state or municipal heritage sites that overlap the DE. The nearest registered heritage site is the Frank Wise Institute of Tropical Agriculture, located approximately 2.4 km west of the DE. |
| Native title | Non-exclusive Native Title has been determined to exist in this area. Miriuwung-Gajerrong (Western Australia) WCD2003/001. |
| Aboriginal Sites of Significance under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 | A search of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System (ACHIS) shows that the publicly known boundaries of seven Registered sites intersect the DE:<br>– Mirma-Dunmun.Gum (ID 12982): Creation/Dreaming Narrative; Painting<br>– Duguwiyang (ID 12999): Ritual/ Ceremonial; Creation/ Dreaming Narrative<br>– Tjaliwong (ID 13998): Creation/ Dreaming Narrative<br>– Kununurra Sacred Hill (ID: 14080): Ritual/ Ceremonial<br>– Lily Creek 8 (ID 14897): artefacts/ Scatter; Camp; Engraing; Grinding areas/ Grooves; Painting<br>– Gunanurreng – Ord River (ID 15153): Burial; Artefacts / Scatter; Ritual / Ceremonial; Creation / Dreaming Narrative; Engraving; Grinding areas / Grooves; Modified Tree; Ochre; Painting; Quarry<br>– Riverfarm Road and Buttons Crossing (ID 21379): Ritual / Ceremonial; Creation / Dreaming Narrative<br>Horizon Power is progressing heritage approval discussions with MG Corporation and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. |

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*Contaminated Sites Database (DWER-059)*

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*Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)*

*RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)*

*RIWI Act Surface Water and Irrigation District (DWER-037)*

*DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)*

*Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems (DPIRD-064)*

*Heritage Council WA - State Register (DPLH-006)*

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## Appendix A: Kununurra Post Clearing and Fire Memo (AECOM, 2026b)

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[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

## 1.0 Introduction

Horizon Power is undertaking feasibility works for construction of a transmission corridor adjacent to Weaber Plain Road and Moonamang Road from existing generation assets in Kununurra to a proposed silver mine at Sorby Hills (the survey area). Baseline ecological surveys were completed by AECOM Australia Pty Ltd (AECOM) in March 2026 (AECOM 2026). The survey was required to understand the environmental values and inform design, avoidance and mitigation strategies during the feasibility assessment phase.

In July of 2026, AECOM completed a reconnaissance flora, vegetation and basic fauna assessment for two proposed alternative corridors in an adjacent survey area. During the survey AECOM recorded some recent clearing and a fire scar (from June 2026) in the March 2026 survey area. This report captures only the changes to impacts to the environmental values of the survey area, as a result of the July 2026 observations.

## 2.0 Results

Fire scars and clearing extents in the survey area have been mapped by AECOM from the July 2026 records. Results are presented below and divided into sections for vegetation directly cleared (7.04 ha) or from fire (6.06 ha).

### 2.1.1 Clearing extent

A total of 7.04 ha was observed to have been cleared in the Kununurra survey area (Figure 1, Plate 1) all of which represents the Sp vegetation community. Vegetation comprised *Sorghum plumosum*, **Cenchrus ciliaris* and **Dichanthium aristatum* tall tussock grassland in degraded to completely degraded condition. All vegetation cleared represented the Priority Ecological Community (PEC) land system “Ivanhoe Land System” intersects with the survey area. This PEC is listed as Priority 3 and is defined as many small to medium areas of gently sloping alluvial "black soil" plains with some timbered "red" soil in the central and northern parts of the area. The PEC aligns with the soil landscape system “Ivanhoe System”. Vegetation impacts are outlined in Table 1 below.

Fauna habitat was previously mapped as Tall Grassland and represented habitat for various significant fauna. Impacts to fauna habitat and significant fauna habitat is outlined in Table 2 below.



**Plate 1 Community Sp in March (left), same location in July (right)**

**Table 1 Clearing impacts to vegetation**

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| Vegetation community | Condition | Reduction in area (Ha) |
|---|---|---|
| **Sp**<br>**Mixed Tall Tussock Grassland** | Degraded | 3.52 |
| *Sorghum plumosum*, **Cenchrus ciliaris* and **Dichanthium aristatum* tall tussock grassland.<br><br>Vegetation represented Priority 3 PEC Ivanhoe Land System. | Completely Degraded | 3.52 |
| **Total reduction in vegetation community/condition** | | **7.04 ha** |
| **Total now Cleared** | | **7.04 ha** |

**Table 2 Clearing impacts to fauna habitats**

| Fauna habitat | Conservation significant fauna habitat | Reduction in area (Ha) |
|---|---|---|
| **Tall Grassland**<br>Tall grassland dominated by *Sorghum spp.* and other native tussock grasses, with occasional scattered trees. Soils are predominantly brown clay and are subject to seasonal inundation. The habitat is likely to provide seasonal foraging, refuge and, where suitable resources are present, breeding opportunities for a range of conservation significant fauna. Ecological utilisation is expected to increase during periods of seasonal inundation when water availability, prey abundance and primary productivity are elevated. Weed invasion is common, including scattered Neem (**Azadirachta indica*) trees. The habitat provides foraging and refuge opportunities for a range of mammals, reptiles and ground-dwelling birds. Minor recent fire disturbance in some areas. | Foraging habitat for:<br>• *Gouldian Finch (Chloebia gouldiae)*<br>Supporting habitat for:<br>• Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)<br>• Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)<br>• Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)-<br>• Swinhoe's Snipe (*Gallinago megala*)<br>• Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) - | **7.04 ha** |
| **Total now Cleared** | | **7.04 ha** |

One known Threatened flora species was considered known to occur along the area that has been cleared (AECOM, 2026). *Lazarum* sp. Kununurra (A.N. Start ANS 1467) is listed as Endangered under the BC Act and is associated with dark grey clay, black soil. The species was known to occur with population 21 occurring in the now cleared area (Figure 1) and another 50 unverified records in a 50 km radius. The species was not recorded at the location in March 2026, however was still considered known to occur as the record represents a verified population. The location was visited again in July 2026 with no individuals recorded. This is not unexpected as the species persists as a dormant, subterranean corm through the dry season (Start 2017). The impact the clearing has had on the population is currently unknown and difficult to determine given the above.

Since clearing has occurred, *Calotropis procera* listed as a Declared Pest under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act), has significantly increased in abundance along this portion of the road corridor, increasing by an approximate 90 individuals (Plate 2). *Calotropis procera* is a disturbance opportunist and the clearing likely increased seed dispersal (Menge, et al. 2016). Individuals were juvenile (Plate 2), and population numbers are likely to increase in time without intervention.



**Plate 2** ***Calotropis procera* recorded in survey area (July 2026)**

## 3.0 Fire extent

A bush fire affected the survey area along Weaber Plain Road in June 2026 (Plate 3). The fire impacted 6.06 ha of the survey area and impacted the recorded populations of the Priority 1 (P1) species *Goodenia brachypoda* and *Goodenia malvina*, recorded by AECOM (2026) in the survey area. Impacts to vegetation communities and fauna habitats are described in Table 3 and Table 4. Impacts to the significant flora populations are described in Table 5. All results are presented in Figure 1.



**Plate 3** **Fire impact March (top) and July (bottom) at Quadrat 25 (AECOM, 2026)**

**Table 3 Fire impacts to vegetation communities**

| Vegetation community | Condition | Area (Ha) |
|---|---|---|
| **AdSp**<br>**Mixed Low to Tall Open Woodland**<br>*Acacia ?difficilis, Eucalyptus tetrodonta and *Azadirachta indica* low to tall open woodland, over *Sorghum plumosum*, *Mesosphaerum suaveolens* and *Setaria apiculata* tall closed mixed tussock grassland and herbland. | Very Good | 5.93 |
| Drainage | Very Good | 0.13 |
| **Total** | | **6.06 ha** |

**Table 4 Fire impacts to fauna habitats**

| Fauna habitat | Conservation significant fauna habitat | Area impacted (Ha) |
|---|---|---|
| **Open Woodland**<br>Open woodland on seasonally inundated floodplains, dominated by *Eucalyptus* spp., *Acacia* spp. and Boab (*Adansonia gregorii*) over a grassy understorey of variable density. Mature trees occasionally contain hollows, while logs, coarse woody debris and leaf litter are common. Soils comprise clay and loam, with seasonal inundation in low-lying areas. Habitat connectivity is generally high. Moderate to low weed invasion and disturbance present. | Foraging and potential breeding for:<br>• Gouldian Finch (*Chloebia gouldiae*)<br>Supporting habitat for:<br>• Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)<br>• Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)<br>• Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*)<br>• Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)<br>• Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)<br>• Long-toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*)<br>• Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)<br>• Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*)<br>• Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) | 5.93 |
| **Creeklines**<br>Narrow creeklines and adjacent floodplain flats supporting a sparse to open shrub layer and sedges, grasses and forbs. Subject to periodic water flow and seasonal inundation, this habitat provides opportunistic foraging resources, particularly during following rain events. Trees were generally too small to support suitable hollows for hollow-dependent fauna. | Supporting habitat for:<br>• Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)<br>• Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)<br>• Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)<br>• Fresh-water Crocodile (*Crocodylus johnstonii*)<br>• Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)<br>• Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)<br>• Long-toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*)<br>• Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)<br>• Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)<br>• Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)<br>• Purple-crowned Fairy-wren (western) (*Malurus coronatus coronatus*)<br>• Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*)<br>• Swinhoe's Snipe (*Gallinago megala*)<br>• Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) | 0.13 |
| **Total** | | **6.06 ha** |

**Table 5 Fire impacts to significant flora**

| Taxon | March 2026 records (AECOM, 2026) | July 2026 records | Amended Population abundance |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Goodenia brachypoda* (P1) | Four populations, 43 individuals | Two individuals destroyed in fire.<br>Additional 15 individuals recorded. | Five populations, 56 individuals |
| *Goodenia malvina* (P1) | Five populations, five individuals | One individual destroyed in fire.<br>No additional individuals recorded. | Four populations, four individuals. |

## 4.0 Conclusions

AECOM completed a reconnaissance flora, vegetation and basic fauna assessment for two proposed alternative corridors in an adjacent survey area. During the survey AECOM recorded some recent clearing and a fire scar (from June 2026) in the March 2026 survey area. A summary of the results include:

- 7.04 ha was cleared, reducing extent of vegetation community Sp and fauna habitat Tall Grassland.
- Priority 3 PEC Ivanhoe Land System extent decreased by 7.04 ha from 129.1 ha to 122.06 ha.
- Declared Pest *Calotropis procera* population increased by approximately 90 individuals in the cleared area.
- 6.06 ha of vegetation was impacted by a fire in June 2026 along Weaber Plain Road. Fire impacted vegetation communities AdSp and Drainage, and fauna habitats Open Woodland and Creeklines.
- Significant flora *Goodenia brachypoda* (P1) population increased to five populations, representing 56 individuals.
- Significant flora *Goodenia malvina* (P1) population decreased to four populations, representing four individuals.

[redacted]

[redacted]

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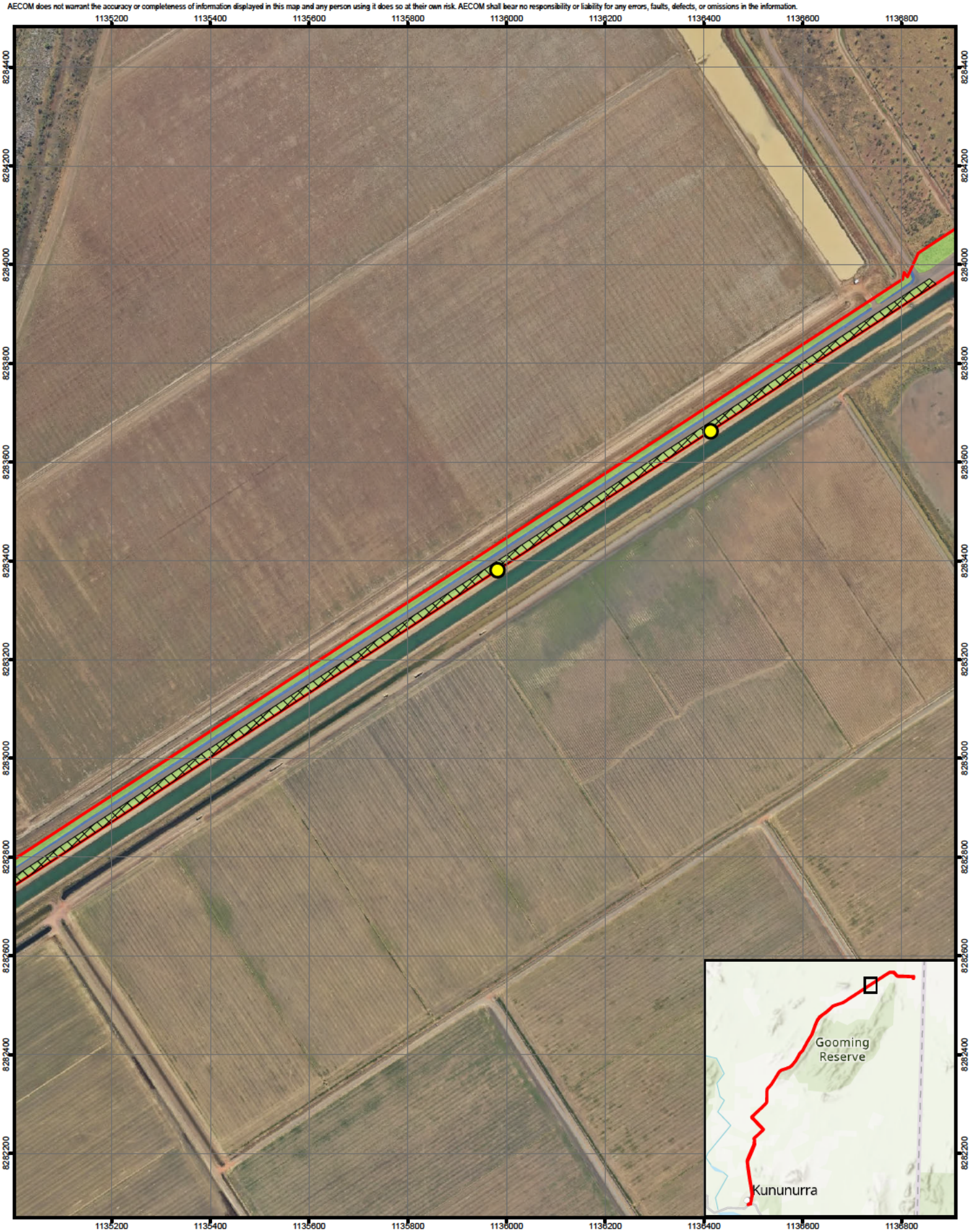
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m

GDA2020 MGA ZONE 51

LEGEND

Survey Area

Clearing

Significant flora July 2026

*Calotropis procera*, DP

Kununurra vegetation community mapping (AECOM, 2026)

Cl

Rv

Sp

# Clearing and Fire Impacts Across the Survey Area

**HORIZON POWER**

***KUNUNURRA BIOLOGICAL SURVEY***

**Figure 1.1**

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LEGEND

- Survey Area
- Clearing

Significant flora July 2026

- *Calotropis procera*, DP

Kununurra vegetation community mapping (AECOM, 2026)

- Cl
- Rv
- Sp

# Clearing and Fire Impacts Across the Survey Area

**HORIZON POWER**

***KUNUNURRA BIOLOGICAL SURVEY***

**Figure 1.2**

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LEGEND

Survey Area

Clearing

41-0326FL_TPFL

Threatened and Priority Flora database (TPFL)

Threatened

Kununurra vegetation community mapping (AECOM, 2026)

Cl

Rv

Sp

# Clearing and Fire Impacts Across the Survey Area

**HORIZON POWER**

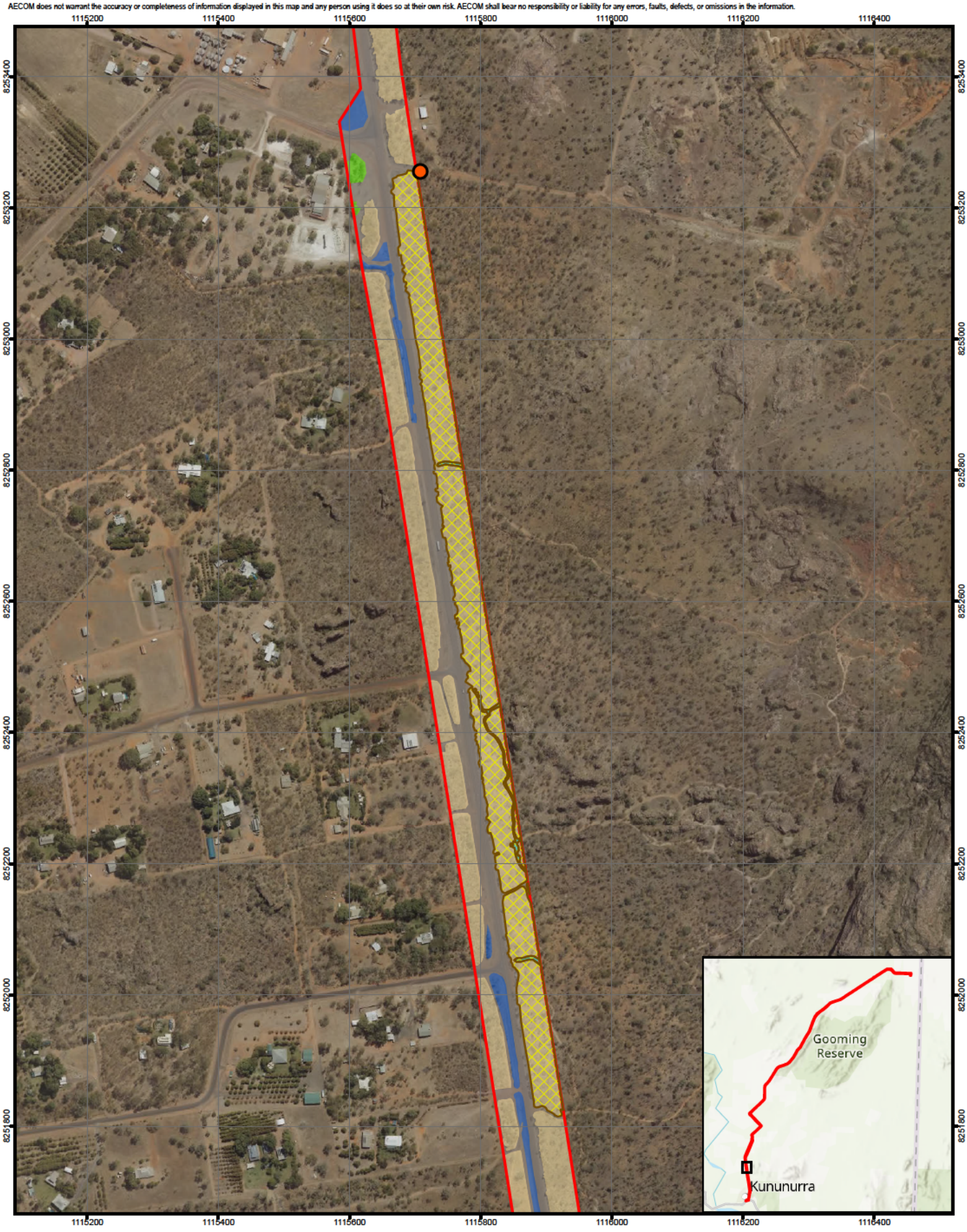
***KUNUNURRA BIOLOGICAL SURVEY***

Figure **1.3**

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GDA2020 MGA ZONE 51

LEGEND

- Survey Area
- Fire
- Significant flora July 2026
- *Goodenia brachypoda*, P1
- Kununurra vegetation community mapping (AECOM, 2026)
- AdSp
- Cl
- Dr
- Rv
- Tr

# Clearing and Fire Impacts Across the Survey Area

**HORIZON POWER**

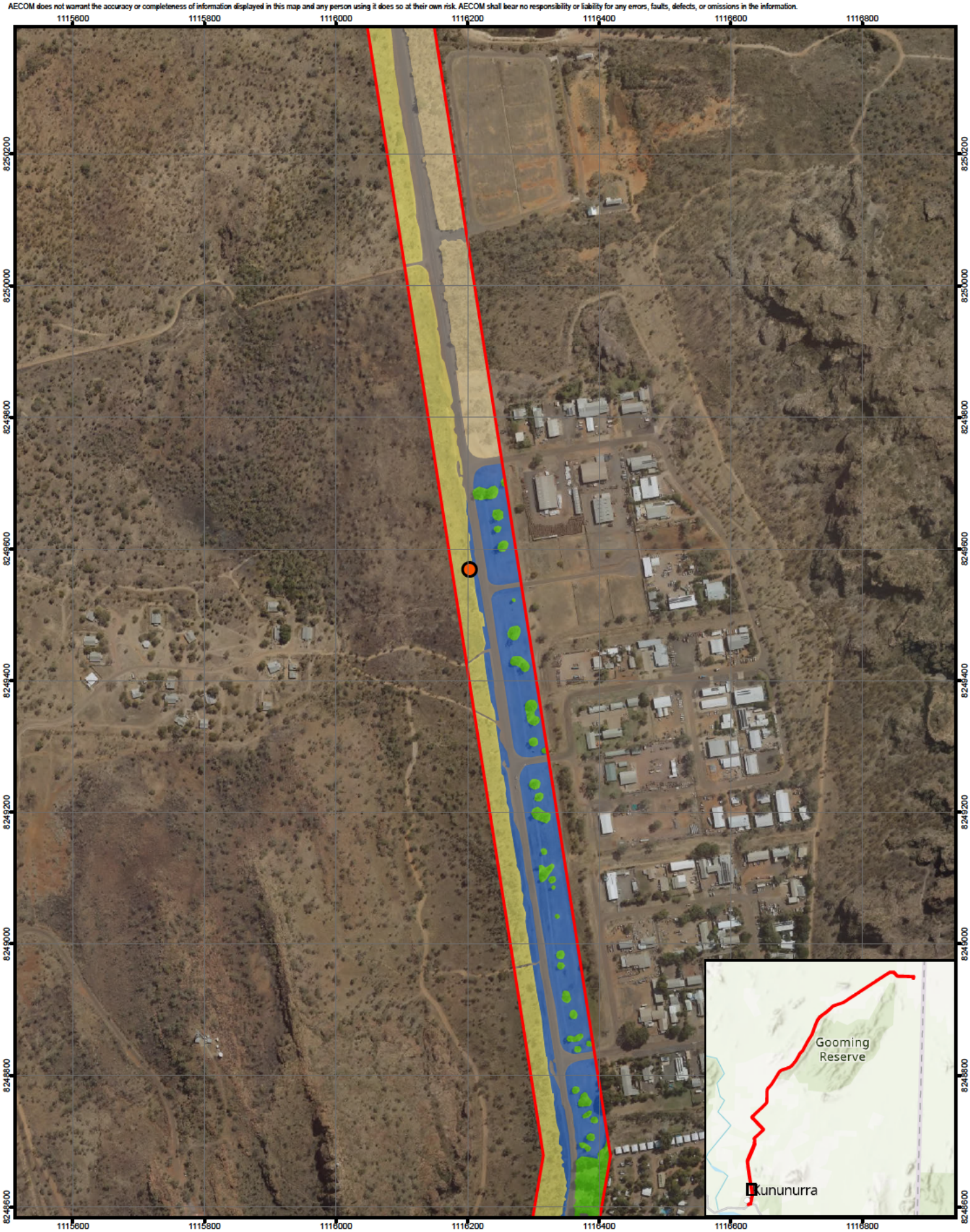
***KUNUNURRA BIOLOGICAL SURVEY***

Figure **1.4**

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GDA2020 MGA ZONE 51

LEGEND

- Survey Area
- Significant flora July 2026
- *Goodenia brachypoda*, P1
- Kununurra vegetation community mapping (AECOM, 2026)
  - AdSp
  - Cl
  - MdSp
  - Rv
  - Tr

# Clearing and Fire Impacts Across the Survey Area

**HORIZON POWER**

***KUNUNURRA BIOLOGICAL SURVEY***

**Figure 1.5**

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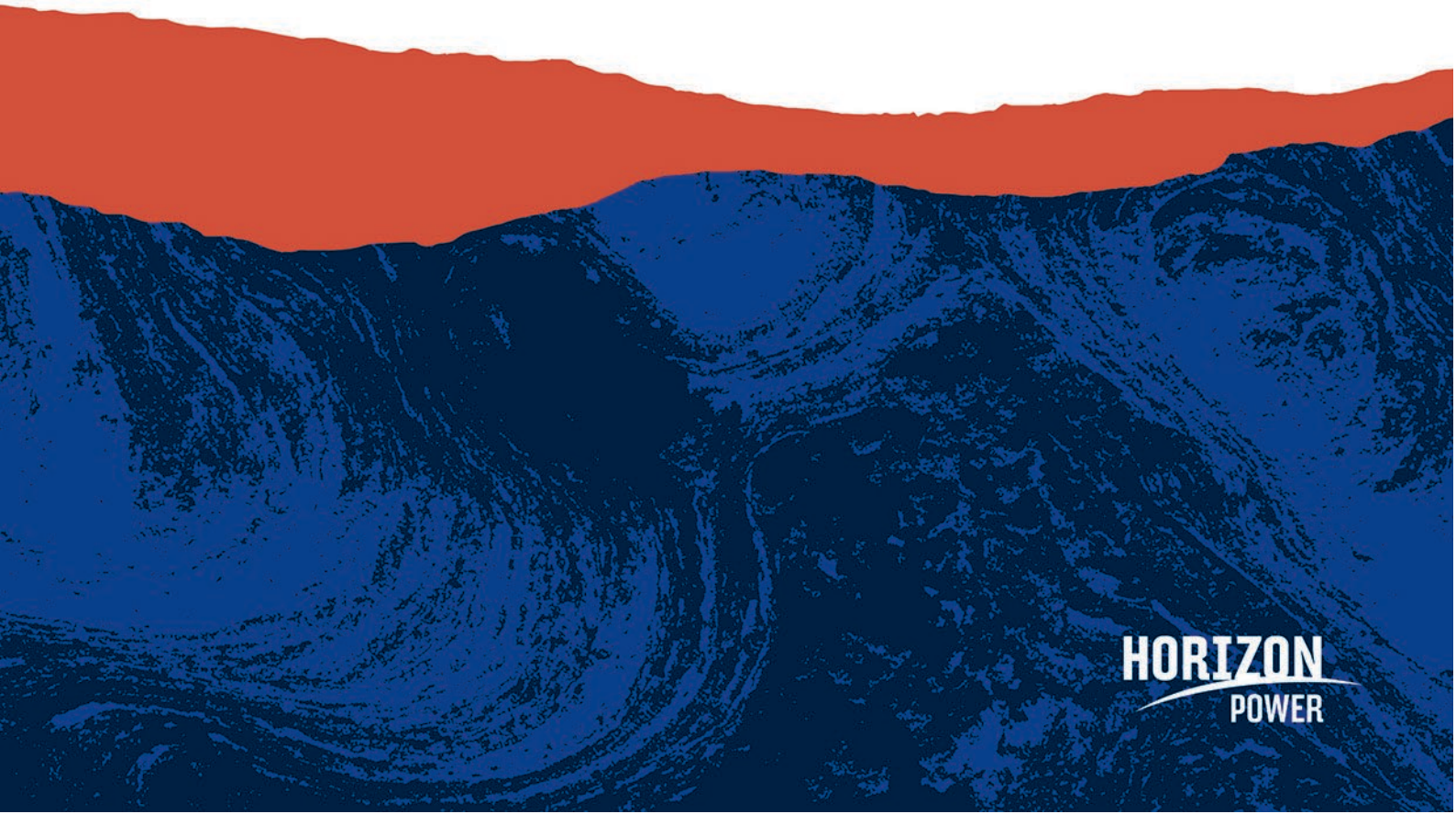
# Appendix B: Environment Management Plan

PROTECTED

# Sorby Hills Network Connection

## Environmental Management Plan

August 2026



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1 Introduction ..... 3
1.1 Project Context and Scope ..... 3
1.2 Scope and purpose ..... 3
2 Description of the Activity ..... 5
2.1 Activity Overview and Timelines ..... 5
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3 Avoidance Measures ..... 5
4 Management Measures ..... 6

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Project Context and Scope

Regional Power Corporation, trading as (T/A) Horizon Power, is a Western Australian (WA) Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) and the state's regional and remote energy provider. Horizon Power operates under the *Electricity Corporations Act 2005* and is governed by a Board of Directors accountable to the Minister for Energy.

Horizon Power is proposing a new ~55 km electricity distribution connection between the Kununurra substation and the Sorby Hills mine, including installation of a step-up transformer, underground and overhead powerlines, voltage regulation equipment, protection devices, and associated communications infrastructure to enable electricity supply to the mine. Construction activity will occur progressively along the linear corridor, with limited permanent disturbance footprints confined to poles, equipment pads, and access tracks. Approximately 8-11 MW of power is required to run the mine and processing plant. At present, there is an excess of power coming from the Ord River Hydro Plant due to the closure of Argyle Diamond Mine, the excess energy is being sent to a load bank to keep the network stable. The proposed connection would utilise the electricity generation that is currently under-utilised.

A Development Envelope (DE) (Figure 1) has been developed as the area within which all works must be retained.

## 1.2 Scope and purpose

This Environmental Management Plan (EMP) has been developed to outline environmental management measures to be implemented by Horizon Power and its contractors during the construction of the Project. This includes, but is not limited to, measures to manage dust, erosion and spread of weeds during clearing of native vegetation.

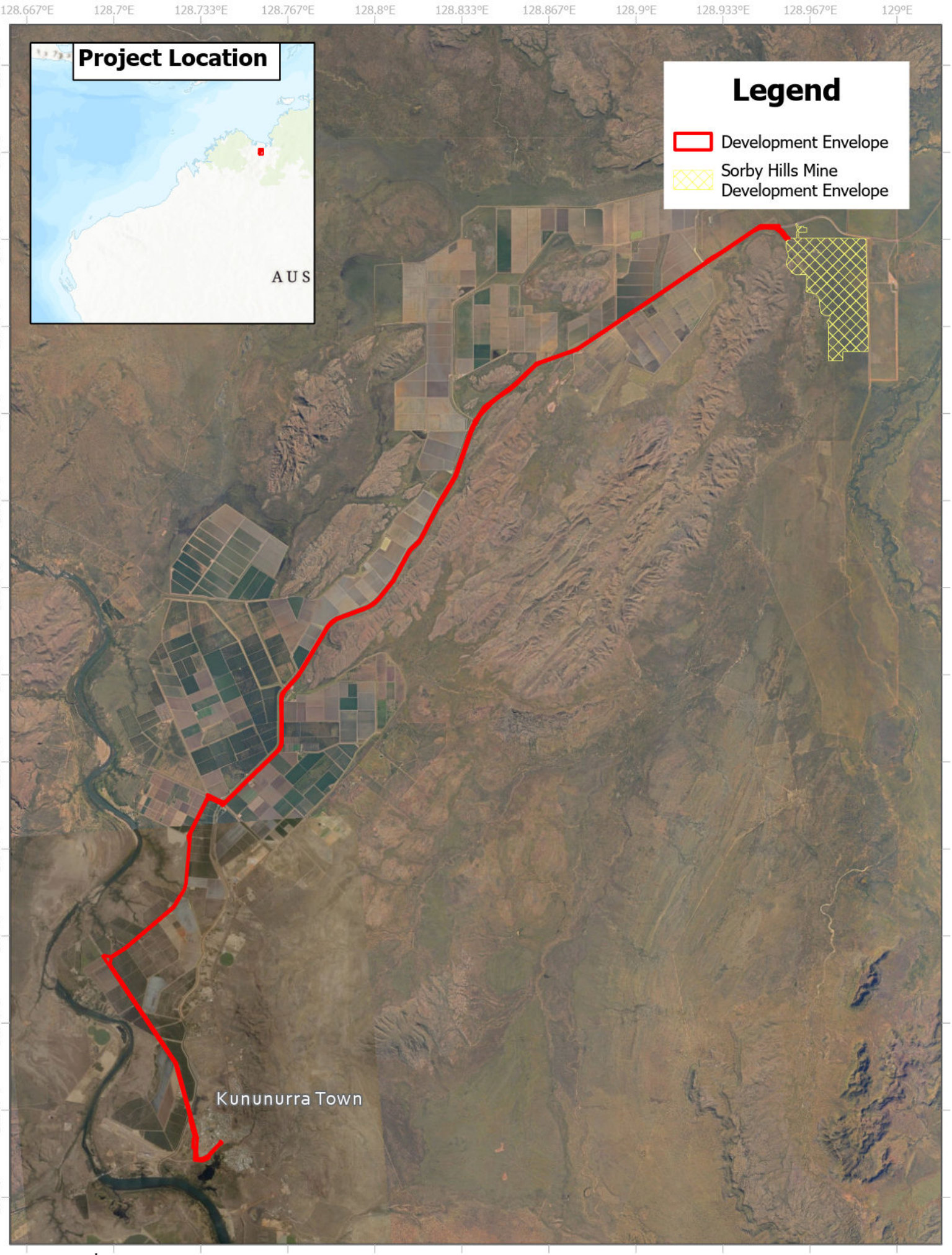



Figure 1 | Project Location

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0 1,500 3,000 6,000 Meters

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HORIZON POWER

# 2 Description of the Activity

## 2.1 Activity Overview and Timelines

Construction is expected to commence at the end of 2026, to allow for electrification of the line in early-mid 2027.

### 2.1.1 Construction

The construction phase is expected to commence in late 2026 for a duration of up to 6 months. Clearing of native vegetation is expected to take approximately 4 to 6 weeks and will be undertaken at the commencement of construction.

Construction works will consist of:

- Clearing of up to 24.49 ha of vegetation to allow construction access and clear vegetation from encroaching on the power lines
- Boring and excavation of footings for pole installation
- Supply of water for construction purposes will be minimal but will be trucked in where required.
- Supply of civil materials for ground levelling and fill will be trucked in from local sources.
- During construction, temporary laydown areas, ablutions and other supporting facilities will be established along the worksite where required.

# 3 Avoidance Measures

Initial avoidance and minimisation measures were undertaken during early planning works and route selection, including amending the bottom 30% of the proposed alignment to avoid environmental features identified in the biological survey. This necessitated additional biological survey, however the current DE for this Project was selected as it presented the fewest environmental constraints.

Impact reduction actions undertaken for this project include:

- Amendment of alignment to avoid high value environmental features
- Avoidance of the creek lines habitat type which provides important habitat for the Purple-crowned Fairy Wren and supports several other conservation significant species.
- 93.18 ha of high-quality potential Gouldian Finch habitat was recorded during the AECOM (2026) field surveys, Horizon Power have optimised the design to avoid clearing approximately 91 ha of recorded Gouldian Finch habitat
- During the design process the track width was minimised to 6 m, to accommodate one light vehicle on either side of the poles and minimise the pole clearing.
- Pole placement prioritised utilising existing cleared areas within the road reserve to minimise clearing native vegetation as far as practicable.
- Avoidance of two Registered Heritage sites identified in consultation with Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.
- Clearing will be limited to no more than 5% of the recorded individuals of any Priority flora species identified within the Development Envelope (DE).
- No individuals of *Lazarum sp. Kununurra* (A.N. Start ANS 1467) (Previously known as *Typhonium sp. Kununurra* (A.N. Start ANS 1467)) will be cleared for the Project.

By containing works within these areas, the Project avoids the need for additional footprint expansion and significantly reduces impacts to native vegetation, fauna habitat, and surface-soil integrity.

# 4 Management Measures

The management measures listed in Table 1 will be implemented during construction of this Project. Clearing of native vegetation will occur as per the conditions in the Native Vegetation Clearing Permit (NVCP) issued by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER).

*Table 1 Management Measures to be Implemented During Construction*

| Aspect | Management Measure |
|---|---|
| Extent of Clearing | – No clearing is permitted outside the DE (Figure 1).<br>– Clearing will be minimised through the preferential use of existing access tracks, and disturbed areas including roadside areas.<br>– The final design will be checked against the clearing permit to ensure that no more than 24.49 ha is cleared for the project, no more than 2 ha of Gouldian Finch habitat is proposed to be cleared and no clearing will occur outside the DE.<br>– A pre-clearing environmental toolbox meeting will be conducted to ensure all personnel understand obligations under the clearing permit and are aware of environmental sensitivities. |
| Flora and vegetation | – Trees and tall shrubs will be avoided, where possible.<br>– Vehicle and machinery movements will be restricted to existing access tracks or designated routes and will not encroach into adjacent native vegetation.<br>– Clearing will be limited to no more than 5% of the recorded individuals of any Priority flora species identified within the Development Envelope (DE). This will be confirmed via review of the final design prior to construction. |
| Fauna | – Clearing of native vegetation will be undertaken in a slow, progressive manner in one direction to allow fauna to move away from the clearing area.<br>– Construction personnel will not touch, feed or otherwise directly interact with fauna.<br>– Vehicle and machinery speeds within the DE will be restricted to reduce the likelihood of fauna strike. |
| Weeds | – The Contractor will ensure that no weed-affected soil, mulch, fill or other material is brought into the DE.<br>– Movement of vehicles and machinery will be restricted to the DE or established tracks and roads. |
| Erosion and soils | – Standard construction measures regarding erosion and sediment control will be implemented during construction works.<br>– Designated access tracks will be applied to prevent additional disturbance.<br>– |
| Dust | – Standard construction dust control and mitigation measures will be implemented during clearing.<br>– Ground disturbance and clearing of vegetation will be restricted during high winds if dust cannot be adequately controlled.<br>– Reduced vehicle speed limits will be applied in areas of unconsolidated soil.<br>– Use of defined routes for machinery/ vehicles travelling on unsealed roads. |
| Noise | – The contractor will comply with the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 Complaints regarding noise will be recorded and investigated by Horizon Power and the Contractor. |
| Waste | – Rubbish will be disposed of in appropriate containers and all waste will be removed from the site. |
| Contamination | – An unexpected finds protocol will be implemented by the Contractor.<br>– Works are to immediately cease if hydrocarbons affected soil are seen or smelled, or if suspected asbestos containing materials are uncovered during works.<br>– Works may recommence once the contamination status has been determined and the contamination is addressed. |

| Aspect | Management Measure |
|---|---|
| Hydrocarbons and chemicals | – Hydrocarbons and chemicals will be appropriately managed on site to prevent spills, including maintaining equipment in good working order in accordance with manufacturers specifications.<br>– Refuelling will be required along the alignment via refuelling truck. Spill kits will be present when refuelling is being undertaken and spills promptly cleaned up.<br>– Chemicals will be appropriately stored. |

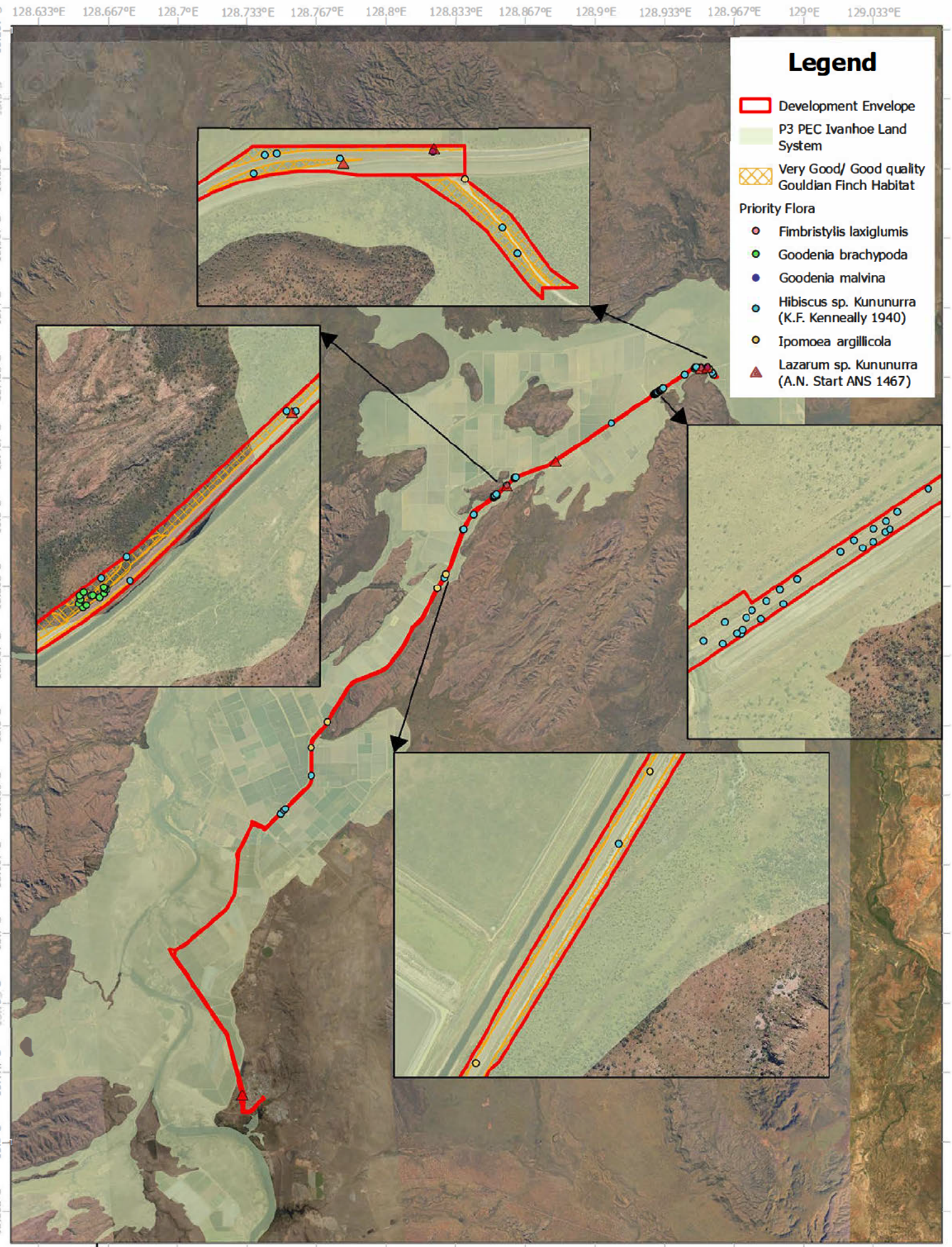



Figure 2 Environmental Constraints

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