

### **APPENDIX 12**

# Yangibana Flora and Vegetation Addendum Report

Hastings Technology Metals Limited

ecoscape



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Yangibana Flora and Vegetation Addendum Report

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AUTHOR	QA REVIEWER	APPROVED	DATE	
Lyn Atkins	All	fthe.	5/04/2019	
	Jared Nelson	Jared Nelson		
	Principal Spatial Ecologist	Principal Spatial Ecologist		
Lyn Atkins			9/04/2019	
	David Kaesehagen	David Kaesehagen		
	Lyn Atkins	Lyn Atkins  Jared Nelson Principal Spatial Ecologist  Lyn Atkins	Lyn Atkins  Jared Nelson Principal Spatial Ecologist  Lyn Atkins  David Kaesehagen  Jared Nelson Principal Spatial Ecologist  David Kaesehagen	

Direct all inquiries to:

Ecoscape (Australia) Pty Ltd

9 Stirling Highway • PO Box 50 NORTH FREMANTLE WA 6159

Ph: (08) 9430 8955 Fax: (08) 9430 8977

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Hastings Technology Metals Ltd (Hastings) is seeking environmental approvals to develop its Yangibana Rare Earths Project in the Upper Gascoyne Region of Western Australia.

A number of flora and vegetation surveys have been conducted for this project; Ecologia Environment (Ecologia 2014) conducted a reconnaissance survey, Ecoscape (2015) conducted a two phase Level 2 survey and Eco Logical Australia (ELA 2018) conducted a reconnaissance and targeted flora survey within the area of the development envelope and beyond.

In 2019, during the environmental approvals process, the EPA identified that the 2015 Ecoscape survey did not meet current standards for flora and vegetation surveys i.e. it did not meet the requirements outlined in (EPA 2016b) *Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment,* known as the Flora and Vegetation Technical Guidance, and requested additional works to bring the surveys into alignment with the current requirements. The additional surveys were required to establish and score additional floristic quadrats within vegetation types within the proposed development envelope that were under-represented, and conduct additional targeted searches for conservation significant flora species and species with range extensions that are known to occur within the proposed development envelope.

Ecoscape conducted the additional survey in March 2019 to meet the EPA requirements.

Nine additional floristic quadrats were established in the following vegetation types:

- **AaSaEs** (*Acacia aptaneura* low open woodland over *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *oligophylla* low sparse shrubland over *Eragrostis setifolia* and *Eragrostis tenellula* low tussock grassland). Two additional quadrats.
- **ApSgAc** (*Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Grevillea berryana* low open woodland over *Senna glutinosa* subsp. x *luerssenii* and *Eremophila phyllopoda* subsp. *obliqua* mid sparse shrubland over *Aristida contorta* and *Eriachne pulchella* subsp. *dominii* low grassland). One additional quadrat.
- **AtGc** (*Acacia tetragonophylla, Dodonaea petiolaris* and *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei* mid open shrubland over *Gomphrena cunninghamii, Aristida contorta* and *Cymbopogon ambiguus* low open forbland/grassland). One additional quadrat.
- **EcBp** (*Eremophila cuneifolia* and *Scaevola spinescens* mid sparse shrubland over *Brachyachne prostrata* and *Sclerolaena eriacantha* low sparse grassland/chenopod shrubland). One additional quadrat.
- **Fs** (*Frankenia setosa, Sclerolaena medicaginoides* and *Maireana georgei* low open shrubland). Two additional quadrats.
- **Mp** (*Maireana ?polypterygia*, *Lawrencia densiflora* and *Eremophea spinosa* low open chenopod shrubland/forbland). One additional quadrat.

Floristic analysis identified that vegetation types **AaSaEs**, **AsFh**, **AtGc** and **Fs** are both floristic and structural vegetation types. However, vegetation types **EcBp** and **Mp** are local variations of the widespread **AxEcAc** vegetation type, and are described on the basis of structure and dominant species rather than floristics. Taking this into account, the following were considered to be significant:

- **AaSaEs:** 21.24% of the mapped occurrence is within the development envelope although none (0%) occurs within the disturbance footprint, and is habitat for *Goodenia berringbinensis* (P4) and prospective habitat for *Elacholoma* sp. Showy flowers (found in this vegetation type as well as **EcBp**, **EpAc** and **EvReMg** which also have minor clay depressions). However, it is likely to be more extensive than indicated by the mapping due to the small extents of some occurrences that are not mapped separately to the surrounding vegetation.
- **AtGc:** corresponds with small rocky outcrops with 35.39% mapped within the disturbance footprint and 67.39% within the development envelope. This vegetation type is habitat for *Acacia atopa* (P3).
- **Fs:** corresponds with sandy clay flats. None of this vegetation type occurs within the disturbance footprint, however 73.11% occurs within the development envelope.

Four priority flora species were identified during the field survey (data presented is from all surveys):

- Acacia curryana (P1): 6,048 individuals were recorded within the development envelope (61.82% of all recorded within the 2015 study area) with 1,647 of these within the disturbance footprint (16.84%). A further 1,443 individuals were recorded during regional surveys. Additional searches were not conducted within the broader study area during this survey (outside of the development envelope) and given this species does not favour any one vegetation type, it is expected that the number of individuals are also greater in areas outside of the development envelope.
- Rhodanthe frenchii (P2): 506 individuals were recorded within the development envelope (29.92%) of which 12 were recorded within the disturbance footprint (0.71%). This species has an approximately 200 km east-west and 280 km north-south distribution, and occurs in two bioregions.
- Acacia atopa (P3): at least 200 individuals were recorded within the development envelope (22.22%, within the ELA survey area but outside the targeted area of this survey) and a further 700+ individuals were recorded regionally. None occurred within the disturbance footprint.
- *Sporobolus blakei* (P3): 28 individuals were recorded from within the development envelope (4.02%) and none were recorded within the disturbance footprint. This species has an almost Australia-wide extent.

Two previously recorded range extension species were also recorded: *Abutilon malvifolium* and *Corchorus tridens*. Both were restricted to minor clay pans/depressions within the development envelope although none were within the disturbance footprint.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 BACKGROUND

Hastings Technology Metals Ltd (Hastings) is seeking environmental approvals to develop the Yangibana Rare Earths Project in the Upper Gascoyne Region of Western Australia.

In 2014 Ecologia Environment conducted a reconnaissance survey at the Yangibana tenement (Ecologia 2014) during which 12 floristic quadrats were established.

In 2015 Hastings appointed Ecoscape to conduct a Level 2 flora and vegetation survey of its 55,000 ha tenement, which was undertaken according to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) guidance that was current at the time of survey; *Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors (in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1986) No. 51 - Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia* (EPA 2004), known as Guidance Statement 51 or GS51. According to GS51, two floristic quadrats were required per vegetation unit in order for the survey to be considered as adequate to describe the flora and vegetation of the study area.

Two phases of field survey were conducted in May and August 2015, resulting in the identification of 472 vascular flora species, including eight Priority Flora, 58 range extensions, one undescribed species and 24 introduced species from 103 floristic quadrats, and 20 vegetation types (Ecoscape 2015). However, due to having only a small extent of three of these vegetation types and due to identifying one vegetation unit as unique during floristic analysis (i.e. after the return from the field surveys), four vegetation types did not have the minimum number of quadrats recorded. At the time of survey, mine areas and the development footprint had not been finalised.

In 2017 Eco Logical Australia (ELA) was appointed to conduct a reconnaissance and targeted flora survey of the proposed access road disturbance footprint, occupying 2,000 ha (ELA 2018). ELA's study area was south of Ecoscape's study area. ELA recorded 38 relevés during its assessment, resulting in the identification of one Priority Flora species, and eight vegetation types, six of which were considered to have been previously recorded by Ecoscape.

In 2019, during the environmental approvals process, the EPA identified that the 2015 Ecoscape survey did not meet current standards for flora and vegetation surveys i.e. it did not meet the requirements outlined in (EPA 2016b) *Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment,* known as the Flora and Vegetation Technical Guidance. According to the Flora and Vegetation Technical Guidance, three floristic quadrats are required to meet the requirements of a detailed survey, considered to be the equivalent of a Level 2 survey according to GS51. The EPA also required additional targeted conservation significant flora searches, and searches for range extension species in order to move forward with the approvals process.

This report outlines the results of the additional 2019 survey.

#### 1.2 SURVEY REQUIREMENTS

On 11 March 2019, prior to commencing the field survey, Stephen Kern (Associate Environmental Scientist, Botanist, Ecoscape) and Dr Lara Jefferson (Environmental Manager, Hastings Technology Metals Limited) attended a meeting with the EPA Services Unit. As a result of this meeting the following was identified to meet the expectation of EPA Services Unit:

- establish and score at least eight floristic quadrats within vegetation types AaSaEs, ApSgAc, AtGc, EcBp,
   Fs and Mp (where there was sufficient extent) to meet the minimum requirement of three quadrats per vegetation unit, within the development envelope with consideration of other vegetation types outside the development envelope if time permits:
- conduct targeted searches for conservation significant flora species and species with range extensions and, where recorded, record extents, in:

- o drainage channels upstream and downstream of impact and non-impact areas (four potential site around the TSF s and process plant and two potential sites near Yangibana West and North pits)
- o impact areas that have not already been surveyed (process plant area x1 and Yangibana West and North areas x2)
- o niche habitats (rocky outcrop areas x3)
- focus on species with significant range extensions and bioregional extensions (except those in the Pilbara with <200 km to nearest location)
- conduct floristic analysis using all available data, taking into consideration survey limitations i.e. not including annuals and using only presence/absence data.

Due to the poor seasonal conditions (lack of rainfall), the EPA Services Unit recognised that a number of species previously recorded are unlikely to be present, and thus do not require targeted searches. One species, *Elacholoma* sp. Showy flowers (C.P. Campbell 1762) (P1, although it was not conservation listed at the time of the 2015 survey), also did not require targeted survey as its habitat did not correspond with areas in the development footprint.

#### 1.2.1 COMPLIANCE

The field survey and analysis was conducted according to the EPA (2016b) *Technical Guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment.* 

The following were also taken into account:

- Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)
- Western Australian Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act)
- Western Australian *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act)
- EPA (2016a) Environmental Factor Guideline: Flora and Vegetation.

### 2 DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

Except for an updated *NatureMap* conservation significant flora search (DPaW 2007-2019, accessed 05 March 2019), no new desktop assessment was required as this survey was undertaken to gather additional field data as directed by the EPA Services Unit.

### 3 METHODS

#### 3.1 FIELD SURVEY

The field survey was conducted by Stephen Kern (Associate Environmental Scientist, Botanist, Flora Licence FB62000001) and Daniel Roberts (Environmental Scientist, Flora Licence FB62000005) during 12-17 March 2019 (4 days of field survey).

#### 3.2 FIELD SURVEY METHODS

The methods utilised during the field survey followed those outlined in the Flora and Vegetation Technical Guidance (EPA 2016b). Conservation criteria used in this assessment are included in **Table 3** in **Appendix One**, noting that no flora or ecological communities listed for protection under the Commonwealth EPBC Act are known to occur in the vicinity of the study area, nor any Threatened Flora (TF) listed for protection under the Western Australian BC Act.

The field survey concentrated on specific areas within the development footprint, namely vegetation types that were represented by less than three quadrats within the development envelope and areas identified for targeted searches of conservation significant flora and species with range extensions.

Additional floristic quadrats were proposed to be recorded in the following Ecoscape (2015) vegetation types:

- AaSaEs (Acacia aptaneura low open woodland over Senna artemisioides subsp. oligophylla low sparse shrubland over Eragrostis setifolia and Eragrostis tenellula low tussock grassland): two additional quadrats
- **ApSgAc** (*Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Grevillea berryana* low open woodland over *Senna glutinosa* subsp. x *luerssenii* and *Eremophila phyllopoda* subsp. *obliqua* mid sparse shrubland over *Aristida contorta* and *Eriachne pulchella* subsp. *dominii* low grassland): one additional quadrat
- **AtGc** (*Acacia tetragonophylla, Dodonaea petiolaris* and *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei* mid open shrubland over *Gomphrena cunninghamii, Aristida contorta* and *Cymbopogon ambiguus* low open forbland/grassland): one additional quadrat
- **EcBp** (*Eremophila cuneifolia* and *Scaevola spinescens* mid sparse shrubland over *Brachyachne prostrata* and *Sclerolaena eriacantha* low sparse grassland/chenopod shrubland): one additional quadrat
- **Fs** (*Frankenia setosa, Sclerolaena medicaginoides* and *Maireana georgei* low open shrubland): two additional quadrats
- **Mp** (*Maireana ?polypterygia*, *Lawrencia densiflora* and *Eremophea spinosa* low open chenopod shrubland/forbland): one additional quadrat.

The above quadrats were recorded as planned, with one additional quadrat in vegetation type **AsFh** (*Acacia synchronicia* and *Eremophila cuneifolia* mid sparse shrubland over *Frankenia hispidula* and *Aristida contorta* low open shrubland/ grassland) that had only a very small extent.

Survey method details are outlined below.

#### 3.2.1 FLORISTIC QUADRATS

Floristic quadrat ('quadrat') locations were selected using aerial photography, environmental values and field observations to represent the vegetation values existing at the site. The unmarked quadrats were  $20 \text{ m} \times 20 \text{ m}$  in dimension, as required according to the Flora and Vegetation Technical Guidance 2016. Where the vegetation consisted of a narrow linear corridor, quadrats were linear but of the same overall size i.e.  $400 \text{ m}^2$ .

The following information was collected from within each quadrat:

- observer
- date
- quadrat/site number
- GPS location (GDA94) of the northwest corner

- digital photograph (spatially referenced with a reference number), taken from the northwest corner, looking diagonally across the quadrat
- soil type and colour
- topography
- list of flora species recorded with the average height and total cover within the quadrat for each species
- vegetation description (as per below)
- vegetation condition.

#### 3.2.2 VEGETATION DESCRIPTION AND CLASSIFICATION

Vegetation was described from each of the quadrats using the height and estimated cover of dominant and characteristic species of each stratum based on the National Vegetation Information System, recorded at Level V (Executive Steering Committee for Australian Vegetation Information [ESCAVI] 2003) (**Table 4** and **Table 5** in **Appendix One**). Up to three species per stratum from each stratum (upper, mid and ground) were used to formulate vegetation descriptions for each quadrat and each vegetation type.

Vegetation type descriptions were created by combining quadrat descriptions and modifying, where necessary, based on the wider vegetation. Vegetation codes for these were formulated using the characteristic species of all strata within the vegetation type e.g. **AaSaEs** refers to **Acacia aptaneura** low open woodland over **Senna artemisioides** subsp. **oligophylla** low sparse shrubland over **Eragrostis setifolia** and **Eragrostis tenellula** low tussock grassland.

No additional vegetation type mapping was conducted during this survey, nor were mapped boundaries altered.

#### 3.2.3 VEGETATION CONDITION

Vegetation condition was assessed at each quadrat using the Vegetation Condition Scale for the Eremaean Botanical Provinces (EPA 2016b) (**Table 6** in **Appendix One**).

No reassessment and re-mapping of vegetation condition was conducted, nor was the previous mapping altered.

#### 3.2.4 TARGETED SEARCHES

Grid searches for significant flora (i.e. conservation significant flora and range extensions) at approximately 200 m-wide spacings were conducted in the areas known as Yangibana West and North, Plant and TSF. Drainage lines downstream and, for the Plant and TSF areas, upstream areas, were also searched as were rocky outcrops. Frasers and Bald Hill were examined at lower intensity. Significant flora species were also recorded if opportunistically observed outside of the development envelope.

#### 3.2.4.1 Conservation Significant Flora

Conservation significant flora identified during the 2015 desktop analysis as having potential to occur, as identified during the 2015 survey, and identified by a recent *NatureMap* (DPaW 2007-2019) search (included in **Appendix Two**) were targeted. The targeted species, described in **Table 7** in **Appendix Two**, were *Acacia curryana* (P1), *Isotropis forrestii* (P1), *Rhodanthe frenchii* (P2), *Gymnanthera cunninghamii* (P3), *Lawrencia* sp. Anna Plains (N.T. Burbidge 1433) (P3), *Maireana prosthecochaeta* (P3) and *Sporobolus blakei* (P3).

However, annuals and short-lived perennials were not targeted during the survey due to the poor seasonal conditions, nor were species whose habitat was not represented within the development envelope and therefore were unlikely to be impacted by the proposed works. These species were *Elacholoma* sp. Showy flowers (C.P. Campbell 1762) (P1), *Acacia petricola* (P2), *Solanum octonum* (P2), *Wurmbea fluviatilis* (P2), *Goodenia berringbinensis* (P4) and *Goodenia nuda* (P4).

The locations of all targeted taxa collected were recorded using a handheld GPS with the following data recorded:

- observer, date and time
- reproductive status and other features such as health of plants, percentage flowering and fruiting

- local abundance/population size and/or population boundary, including outside the development envelopes where possible
- landform
- brief vegetation community description
- representative photos of each species and habitat
- collection of representative specimens.

Two botanists conducted targeted searches for a period of two days (i.e. 10 hrs per day) representing a total of 40 hours spent conducting targeted searches during this survey, which is in addition to the approx. 3-4 days for phase 1 in 2015 (four personnel) and approx. 3-4 days for phase 2 in 2015 (two personnel; Ecoscape 2015).

An opportunistic observation of a conservation significant flora species not within the current targeted search area, but within the known development envelope, was also recorded.

#### 3.2.4.2 Flora Species Representing Range Extensions

Specific targeted searches for significant flora other than those listed as Threatened (TF) or Priority Flora (PF) are not required according to the Flora and Vegetation Technical Guidance (EPA 2016b).

However, the EPA Services Unit requested searches for significant flora identified during the earlier survey (Ecoscape 2015), specifically for species with range extensions of >200 km and bioregional extensions. The list of species with range extensions that met the EPA Services Unit criteria for targeted searches is included in **Table 8** in **Appendix Two** and listed below. The remaining species that were range extensions but did not meet the EPA Services Unit criteria for a targeted search are also listed in **Appendix Two**. Some species in **Table 8** were not targeted in the searches for the reasons that follow:

- annuals and short-lived perennials, due to the poor seasonal conditions
- species whose habitat did not correspond with that identified in the development envelope
- species with a wide-ranging extent where a range or bioregional extension (when taking the overall extent into consideration) was considered insignificant e.g. *Portulaca intraterranea* that has an almost Australia-wide distribution, but was not previously known from the Gascoyne bioregion within which the survey area is located (Atlas of Living Australia 2019, accessed 1 April 2019).

The species that were targeted in the searches were:

- Acacia craspedocarpa
- Corchorus sidoides subsp. sidoides
- Dodonaea pinifolia
- Gymnanthera cunninghamii (P3)
- Hibiscus verdcourtii
- Melhania oblongifolia
- *Sida* sp. Supplejack Station (T.S. Henshall 2345)
- Sporobolus blakei (P3)
- Swainsona oroboides
- Urochloa subquadripara.

Yangibana West and North, Plant and TSF were searched for these species as well as drainage lines downstream of these areas, upstream of the Plant and TSF areas, and rocky outcrops.

#### 3.3 FIELD SURVEY TIMING

The field survey was conducted during March 2019. Whilst this was within the optimal period for a primary survey within the bioregion according the Flora and Vegetation Technical Guidance (EPA 2016b), the rainfall prior to the field survey was significantly below the mean for this period (**Figure 1**).

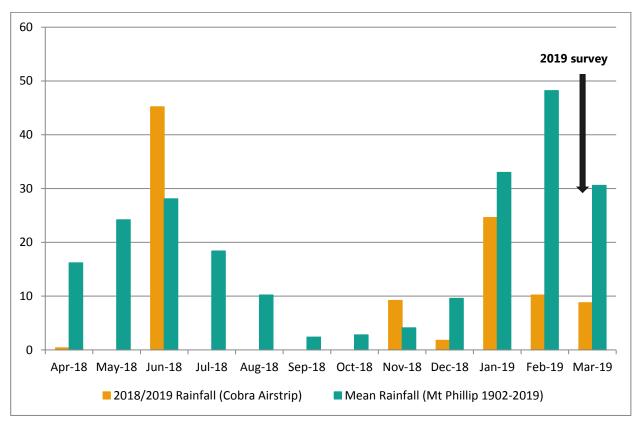


Figure 1: Mean rainfall (Mount Phillips) and rainfall prior to the field survey (Cobra Airstrip) (Bureau of Meteorology 2019)

#### 3.4 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

PATN© software (Belbin & Collins 2006) was used to undertake statistical analysis to generate floristic groups using the data collected from the quadrats and relevés, in order to better understand local significance of floristic units. PATN analysis has been used for several local floristic analyses including Gibson *et al.* (1994) for the Swan Coastal Plain.

PATN is a multivariate analysis tool that generates estimates of association (resemblance, affinity, distance) between sets of objects described by a suite of variables (attributes), and classifies the objects into groups and condenses the information and displays the patterns in the data graphically. It offers a choice of data transformations prior to multivariate analysis.

Floristic groups, identified using a dendrogram output of the analysis, are used as a tool to inform vegetation type groups at various levels and scales.

For this project a variety of analyses were run including using the Bray Curtis similarity coefficient for rows (species) as this provides a good estimation of association for ecological applications (Belbin & Collins 2006) and, for columns (sites), Kulczynski coefficient to produce clusters of related objects (species); these are the floristic groups that are displayed as a dendrogram.

The analyses used presence-absence data as per EPA requirements for this project. The analysis using all species produced similar results to the analysis that excluded annual species. The analysis using data with all annuals and short-lived perennials excluded did not produce floristic groups that represented the vegetation types identified during the 2015 survey analysis.

Interpretation of these purely floristic groups into recognisable and mappable on-ground units is a tool used to identify broad vegetation types. Generally, quadrats that are closely floristically related on the dendrogram form identifiable vegetation units, however interpretation is frequently required for imperfect

results. Vegetation types are therefore determined as a combination of floristic analysis and on-ground interpretation using dominant and characteristic species.

# 4 RESULTS

#### 4.1 VEGETATION

Nine floristic quadrats were established and scored during the field assessment as detailed in **Section 3.2**. Summaries of the quadrats, and within which vegetation type they were located, are provided in **Table 1** below. Complete quadrat data is presented in **Appendix Three**.

Quadrat representation within the vegetation types are shown on Map 1.

**Table 1: Quadrat summaries** 

Quadrat	Vegetation description	Vegetation condition	Quadrat photograph				
<b>AaSaEs</b> : Acacia aptaneura low open woodland over Senna artemisioides subsp. oligophylla low sparse shrubland over Eragrostis setifolia and Eragrostis tenellula low tussock grassland							
HY19110	U+ ^^Acacia citrinoviridis,Acacia tetragonophylla,Acacia aptaneura\^tree\6\i;M ^Senna artemisioides subsp. oligophylla,^Eremophila cuneifolia\^shrub\3\r;G ^Eragrostis setifolia\^tussock grass\1\r	Very Good					
HY19111	U+ ^Acacia aptaneura,^Acacia synchronicia\^tree\6\i;M ^Eremophila phyllopoda\^shrub\3\r;G ^^Eragrostis setifolia,Marsilea hirsuta,Centipeda minima subsp. macrocephala\^tussock grass,fern,forb\1\i	Very Good					
	Acacia pruinocarpa and Grevillea berryana low oper a phyllopoda subsp. obliqua mid sparse shrubland and						
HY19108	U ^ Acacia pruinocarpa, ^ Grevillea berryana\^tree\6\i;M+ ^ Eremophila phyllopoda, Acacia kempeana\^shrub\3\i;G ^ Ptilotus obovatus, ^ Gomphrena kanisi\^shrub\1\bi	Very Good					

Quadrat	Vegetation description	Vegetation condition	Quadrat photograph				
<b>AsFh</b> : Acacia synchronicia and Eremophila cuneifolia mid sparse shrubland over Frankenia hispidula and Aristida contorta low open shrubland/grassland							
HY19112	U ^ Acacia synchronicia,^ Hakea preissi\^\tree\6\r;M+ ^ Eremophila cuneifolia,^ Senna artemisioides subsp. oligophylla\^shrub\3\r;G ^ Frankenia hispidula,^ Sclerolaena cuneata\^shrub,chenopod shrub\1\r	Very Good					
AtGc: Acad Gomphren	cia tetragonophylla, Dodonaea petiolaris and Erem na cunninghamii, Aristida contorta and Cymbopogo 	<i>ophila latrobei</i> on ambiguus lo	subsp. <i>latrobei</i> mid open shrubland over w open forbland/grassland				
HY19107	M+ ^^Eremophila exilifolia,Eremophila latrobei subsp. latrobei,Acacia tetragonophylla\^shrub\3\r;G ^Ptilotus obovatus,^Eriachne mucronata\^shrub,tussock grass\1\r	Very Good					
	nophila cuneifolia and Scaevola spinescens mid spa low sparse grassland/chenopod shrubland	arse shrubland	over <i>Brachyachne prostrata</i> and <i>Sclerolaena</i>				
HY19106	M+ ^^Eremophila cuneifolia,Acacia tetragonophylla,Senna artemisioides subsp. helmsii\^shrub\3\r;G ^Eremophea spinosa\^chenopod shrub\1\r	Very Good					
Fs: Franker	nia setosa, Sclerolaena medicaginoides and <i>Mairea</i>	<i>na georgei</i> low	open shrubland				
HY19104	G+ ^^Frankenia setosa,Sclerolaena medicaginoides,Eragrostis dielsii\^shrub,chenopod shrub,tussock grass\1\r	Very Good					

Quadrat	Vegetation description	Vegetation condition	Quadrat photograph		
HY19105	G+ ^ Frankenia setosa, ^ Sclerolaena medicaginoides \ ^ shrub, chenopod shrub \ 1 \ r	Very Good			
Mp: Maire	rana ?polypterygia, Lawrencia densiflora and <i>Eremc</i>	phea spinosa l	ow open chenopod shrubland/forbland		
HY19109	M+ ^^ <i>Acacia synchronicia,Eremophila cuneifolia,Senna</i> sp. Meekatharra (E. Bailey 1-26)\^shrub\3\r;G ^ <i>Aristida contorta</i> \^tussock grass\1\r	Very Good			

#### 4.1.1 FLORISTIC ANALYSIS

Floristic analysis was conducted using presence-absence data from all surveys as described in **Section 3.4**. Three analyses were conducted: 1) All species included, 2) Excluding annuals, and 3) Excluding herbaceous species i.e. annuals, cormose and short-lived perennial species (as identified from descriptions on *FloraBase* (WAH 1998-2019). The resultant dendrograms indicated that the latter analysis showed the least groupings that correlated with the vegetation types, however, the first two analyses showed similar groupings and correlations. The analysis and resultant dendrogram using no annuals and presence-absence data was used as per EPA Services Unit instructions; the dendrogram is included in **Appendix Four**.

Each vegetation type that required additional quadrats is discussed in relation to the floristics as follows. Association coefficients closer to '0' indicate a closer floristic association than larger numbers i.e. the analysis produced a dissimilarity index. For the purposes of discussion in this report, association coefficients of 0.-0.2 are considered floristically very similar, 0.2-0.4 are considered floristically similar, 0.4-0.6 moderately similar, 0.6-0.8 distantly similar and >0.8 are not considered to be floristically similar. However, groupings within the dendrogram, even with little floristic similarity, can produce valid floristic units when they are separated from other groups i.e. are discrete.

**AaSaEs**: Two additional quadrats were surveyed (one existing quadrat by Ecoscape 2015); highlighted in pink in the dendrogram. The two new quadrats are moderately-distantly floristically similar, with association coefficients of 0.7124 for HY19110 and 0.6759 for HY19111 in association with HY15057, which is the only other quadrat considered to represent this vegetation type. However, the three quadrats are clustered together in a discrete group in the dendrogram, in supergroup 4, thus are considered to represent a valid floristic vegetation type.

**ApSgAc**: One additional quadrat was surveyed (two existing quadrats by Ecoscape 2015); highlighted in yellow in the dendrogram. The new quadrat (HY19108) is only distantly floristically similar to the two existing quadrats (HY15039 and HY14011; association coefficients of 0.7396 and 0.7500 respectively). However, a) the lack of grouping of the two existing quadrats within the dendrogram (they are all in different supergroups) and b) the upper stratum species in the quadrat that correspond with the upper stratum vegetation type

dominant species, indicate that this unit is likely to represent a structural vegetation type rather than a floristic vegetation type.

**AsFh**: No quadrats were specifically requested by the EPA for this vegetation type due to its limited extent, however, one additional quadrat was established and scored (one existing quadrat by Ecoscape 2015). The new quadrat (HY19112) and the existing quadrat (HY15103), highlighted in blue in the dendrogram, are closely grouped within the dendrogram and moderately floristically similar (association coefficient of 0.4833), both within supergroup 10.

**AtGc**: One additional quadrat was surveyed (two existing quadrats by Ecoscape 2015); highlighted in orange in the dendrogram. The new quadrat (HY19107) is moderately floristically similar to the existing quadrats (HY15094 and HY15102; association coefficients of 0.6291 and 0.6825 respectively). However, the quadrats are clustered together in the dendrogram within supergroup 7 indicating they are more similar to each other than other quadrats.

**EcBp**: One additional quadrat was surveyed (two existing quadrats by Ecoscape 2015); highlighted in green in the dendrogram. The new quadrat (HY19106) and existing quadrats (HY15077 and HY15089), whilst moderately floristically similar (association coefficients of 0.4982 and 0.6222 respectively) and occurring within the same supergroup (9), are largely within a broader and more widespread vegetation type characterised by *Acacia xiphophylla* (vegetation type **AxEcAc**). Vegetation type **EcBp** appears to be a localised variation of this widely occurring vegetation type, and separated from it based on dominant species rather than floristics.

**Fs**: Two additional quadrats were surveyed (one existing quadrat by Ecoscape 2015); highlighted in red in the dendrogram. The two new quadrats (HY19104 and HY19105) are floristically very similar to each other (association coefficient of 0.1964) and also similar to the existing quadrat (HY15085; association coefficients of 0.2895 and 0.3158 respectively). They group closely within the very small supergroup 10.

**Mp**: One additional quadrat was surveyed (two existing quadrats by Ecoscape 2015); highlighted in purple in the dendrogram. The new quadrat (HY19109) is moderately floristically similar to the existing quadrats (HY15036 and HY15088, with association coefficients of 0.5897 and 0.5556 respectively), and falls within the same supergroup (9). However, as for vegetation type **EcBp**, this vegetation type appears to be a localised variation of vegetation type **AxEcAc** that occurs widely within the region, and is separated based on dominant species.

#### **Summary**:

The new quadrats support earlier survey findings that indicate that vegetation types **AaSaEs**, **AsFh**, **AtGc** and **Fs** are both floristic and structural vegetation types. However, vegetation types **EcBp** and **Mp** are local variations of the widespread **AxEcAc** vegetation type, and are described on the basis of structure and dominant species rather than floristics.

#### 4.2 FLORA

The flora inventory is presented in **Table 3** in **Appendix Five**.

Eighty three vascular flora taxa were recorded from the nine newly established floristic quadrats and targeted searches. Only one new species (i.e. not recorded during the previous surveys) was recorded: *Glinus lotoides* (Molluginaceae). It has no specific conservation significance.

#### 4.2.1 TARGETED SEARCHES

#### 4.2.1.1 Conservation Significant Flora

Three of the targeted species as listed in **Section 3.2.4.1** were recorded, as below. Plants were considered to correspond with the development footprint if their GPS location was within 5 m of the boundary as this corresponds with GPS accuracy in most circumstances.

Locations of conservation significant flora from the current and previous surveys, with the surveyor's tracklog (search effort, for this survey), are shown on **Map 2**. Grid searches were conducted at the intensity outlined in **Section 3.2.4**.

#### Acacia curryana (P1)

A total of 1,316 *Acacia curryana* (**Plate 1**) individuals were recorded within the development envelope during this survey. This species was also recorded along tracks outside the envelope; a further 100 individuals were recorded within the Ecoscape (2015) survey area, and 140 individuals outside this area, considered to be regional representatives. A total of 11,226 *Acacia curryana* individuals have been recorded over both the 2015 and 2019 Ecoscape surveys.

#### Rhodanthe frenchii (P2)

One dead *Rhodanthe frenchii* plant (**Plate 2**) was recorded at a rock pile that was not within the development envelope, indicating that seasonal conditions and the timing of the survey were suboptimal to locate this species. The earlier surveys (Ecoscape 2015) identified 1,691 individuals of the species.





Plate 1: Acacia curryana

Plate 2: Rhodanthe frenchii

#### Sporobolus blakei (P3)

A total of 26 *Sporobolus blakei* individuals were recorded during this survey from within the development envelope, and a further 5 from within the wider Ecoscape (2015) survey area. A total of 697 individuals of this species have been recorded during the 2015 and 2019 surveys.

#### Acacia atopa (P3)

Acacia atopa (**Plate 3** and **Plate 4**) was not specifically targeted during this survey, however, it was recorded from a rocky hill within the development envelope (within ELA's survey area). At least 200 individual plants were recorded, and an additional 700+ recorded outside the survey area, considered to be regional representatives. It is considered that ELA's ApTSS vegetation type has been incorrectly attributed as being characterised by *Acacia paraneura*, whereas it should have been identified as *Acacia atopa*. The two species are vegetatively similar, and are distinguished by flower and fruit (pod) differences that may not have been present during the ELA survey.





Plate 3: Acacia atopa

Plate 4: Acacia atopa

#### 4.2.1.2 Significant Flora

Abutilon malvifolium and Corchorus tridens were recorded from within quadrats (indicated on **Map 2**). Both occurred within the development envelope, but not within the disturbance footprint. Both were within clay depressions in vegetation type **AaSaEs**.

Due to the poor seasonal conditions, survey timing and amount of livestock (and other) grazing resulting in a lack of available herbage, a significant amount of plant taxa could not be identified with certainty due to lack of reproductive and vegetative material, thus more may occur. The timing of the survey was a known limitation, however, many species listed in **Table 8** in **Appendix Two** have habitat preferences associated with drainage lines and creeks. This habitat type is extensive over the study area and beyond.

### 5 discussion

#### 5.1 VEGETATION TYPES

Additional floristic quadrats were established and scored according to the EPA Services Unit requirements that a supplementary survey within the development envelope and disturbance footprint (that is proposed to be cleared) be conducted to meet the requirements of the Flora and Vegetation Technical Guidance (EPA 2016b).

Floristic analysis confirmed that vegetation types **AaSaEs**, **AsFh**, **AtGc** and **Fs** are both floristic and structural vegetation types.

Vegetation type **AaSaEs** occupies 9.45 ha within the development envelope, of which 0.32 ha occurs within the disturbance footprint (in the vicinity of the SipHon Well borefield). Overall, 44.49 ha was mapped within the broader Ecoscape (2015) study area. The disturbance footprint represents 0.72% of the mapped extent of this vegetation type, with the development envelope corresponding with 21.24% of the mapped extent. Given the location, Hastings has committed to avoiding impact to this vegetation type (pers. comm. Lara Jefferson, 8 April 2018). However, it is likely that this vegetation type, associated with minor clay depressions, occurs sparsely within the wider region, and has naturally small extents due to the small extents of its habitat. It is likely to be more common than indicated by its mapped extent as smaller occurrences would not be mapped separately at the scale that the surveys were conducted. However, given it is prospective habitat for flora species associated with clay depressions including *Elacholoma* sp. Showy flowers (C.P. Campbell 1762) (P1) and *Goodenia berringbinensis* (P4), is restricted in its extent and is a preferred location for pastoral grazing (referred to as 'crab holes' by the pastoralist) as these areas are the last to stay moist and support green grasses for fodder before becoming dry in the summer season and thus this vegetation type is at threat from pastoral land uses, and as a result, does hold some significance.

Vegetation type **AsFh** does not occur within the development envelope or disturbance footprint. It occupied 26.9 ha within the Ecoscape (2015) study area. It corresponded with a stony rise that, aside from slightly floristically different vegetation, was not significantly different from the surrounding area.

Vegetation type **AtGc** occupies 14.75 ha within the development envelope, of which 7.75 ha is within the disturbance footprint. Overall, 21.86 ha was mapped within the broader Ecoscape (2015) study area. The disturbance footprint represents 35.39% of the mapped extent of this vegetation type, with the development envelope corresponding with 67.35% of the mapped extent. This vegetation type corresponds with rocky outcrops and crests, thus, in this landscape, corresponds with habitat that has naturally small extents. *Acacia atopa* (P3) was observed in this habitat as well as vegetation type ApTSS (records of *Acacia paraneura* (ELA 2017) are likely to be *Acacia atopa*).

Vegetation type **Fs** occupies 20.91 ha within the development envelope, none of which is within the disturbance footprint. Overall 28.58 ha was mapped within the Ecoscape (2015) study area. The representation of **Fs** within the development envelope corresponds with 73.11% of the mapped extent of this vegetation type. It occurred on sandy clay flats, with the sandiness of the soil being uncommon in the region.

Floristic analysis identified vegetation types **EcBp** and **Mp** as not being floristic vegetation types.

Vegetation type **EcBp** occupies 66.76 ha within the development envelope, of which 3.61 ha is within the disturbance footprint. Overall, 1,062.63 ha was mapped within the Ecoscape (2015) study area. The disturbance footprint represents 0.34% of the mapped extent of this vegetation type, with the development envelope corresponding with 6.28% of the mapped extent. This vegetation type is considered to represent a local variation (with different dominant species) of the widespread **AxEcAc** vegetation type, which has a mapped extent of 8,079 ha over the study area and 1,714 ha mapped within the development envelope).

Vegetation type **Mp** occupies 113.21 ha within the development envelope, of which 2.28 ha is within the disturbance footprint. Overall, 279.12 ha was mapped within the Ecoscape (2015) study area. The

disturbance footprint represents 7.83% of the mapped extent of this vegetation type, with the development envelope corresponding with 40.56% of the mapped extent.

#### 5.2 FLORA

#### 5.2.1 PRIORITY FLORA

Targeted conservation significant flora searches were conducted within the areas specified by the EPA at approximately 200 m-wide spacing, and observations recorded when the target species were identified outside the search area.

The total recorded numbers of individuals from each of the recorded species, from both the current and 2015 surveys, are discussed below and summarised in **Table 2**.

**Table 2: Targeted species results summary** 

	2015			2019				Grand	
Species	DF	DE <sup>1</sup>	SA	RE	DF	DE <sup>1</sup>	SA	RE	Total
Priority 1									
Acacia curryana	1,034	3,085	3,635	1,303	613	1,316	100	140	11,226
Elacholoma sp. Showy flowers (C.P. Campbell 1762)			1,251						1251
Priority 2									
Rhodanthe frenchii	12	494	1,184				1		1691
Solanum octonum			14						14
Wurmbea fluviatilis		10	116						126
Priority 2									
Acacia atopa						200		700	900
Gymnanthera cunninghamii			5						5
Sporobolus blakei		2	664			26	5		697
Priority 4									
Goodenia berringbinensis			325	90					415
Goodenia nuda			1						1
Range Extension									
Abutilon malvifolium			1			3			4
Corchorus tridens		4	8	1		40	40		93

DF = Development Footprint; DE = Development Envelope ( $^1$  the count within the DE does not include the DF population); SA = Ecoscape 2015 study area minus DE; RE = regional area i.e. outside the 2015 study area. Grand Total = DF + DE + SA + RE over the 2 years.

Acacia curryana (P1), Rhodanthe frenchii (P2), Acacia atopa (P3) and Sporobolus blakei (P3) were recorded during this survey. Wurmbea fluviatilis (P2) was not targeted during this survey as it would not have been detectable given the survey timing; it had previously been recorded from within the development envelope.

Other conservation significant flora species recorded during the Ecoscape (2015) survey (*Elacholoma* sp. Showy flowers (C.P. Campbell 1762), P1; *Solanum octonum*, P2; *Gymnanthera cunninghamii*, P3; and *Goodenia berringbinensis* and *Goodenia nuda*, both P4) have not been recorded from within the development envelope and are not anticipated to be impacted by the proposed mining activities.

#### Acacia curryana (P1)

The total population of *Acacia curryana* recorded within the development envelope is 6,048 individuals, 1,647 of which are located within the disturbance footprint. This represents 61.82% in the development envelope and 16.84% in the disturbance footprint out of the total number recorded within the broader study area during both the 2015 and 2019 surveys (9,783 individuals). A further 1,443 individuals have been recorded during surveys as regional records i.e. outside the study area, indicating a potential 53.87% impact on this

species within the development envelope and 14.67% within the disturbance footprint. It is likely that a greater number of individuals occur within the study area in areas outside of the development envelope, and that its extent is greater in the region.

Acacia curryana is poorly collected with only six *FloraBase* (WAH 1998, accessed 5 April 2019) records and an approximately 100 km east-west and 50 km north-south distribution (*NatureMap*, DPaW 2007-2019, accessed 5 April 2019). However, it has been reported as occurring approximately 85 km south of the 2015 study area (Ecoscape 2015) thus its distribution is likely to be larger than indicated by *NatureMap*, and therefore impacts on the species' population is likely to be significantly less than the figures quoted above.

#### Rhodanthe frenchii (P2)

The total population of *Rhodanthe frenchii* recorded within the development envelope is 506 individuals, of which 12 were recorded in 2015 from the disturbance footprint. This represents (respectively) 29.92% and 1.74% of the total number of individuals recorded during the 2015 and 2019 surveys (1,691), during which no individuals were recorded outside the study area.

Rhodanthe frenchii is poorly collected with only 11 FloraBase (WAH 1998, accessed 5 April 2019) records (18 NatureMap records that also include Threatened and Priority Flora Report Form records as well as vouchered specimens). It has an approximately 200 km east-west and 280 km north-south distribution, and occurs in two bioregions (NatureMap, DPaW 2007-2019, accessed 5 April 2019). Taking this species' extent into consideration, and that it is an annual species that is likely to have a fluctuating population depending on seasonal conditions and other factors including grazing intensity, it is unlikely that development of the proposed Project would have a significant impact on its population as a whole.

#### Acacia atopa (P3)

At least 200 *Acacia atopa* plants were recorded from within the development envelope (within the ELA survey area) and a further 700+ plants recorded outside the 2015 study area i.e. regional records. None occurred within the disturbance footprint. Approximately 22.22% of the total recorded population occur within the development and are associated with vegetation types **AtGc** and **ApTSS**. Thus, it would be unlikely that this population would be affected by the proposed mine activities.

Acacia atopa is represented by 26 FloraBase (WAH 1998, accessed 5 April 2019) records from three bioregions and has an approximately 260 km east-west and 170 km north-south distribution (NatureMap, DPaW 2007-2019, accessed 5 April 2019). Impacts, if any, are unlikely to be significant on this species' population.

#### Sporobolus blakei (P3)

There have been no *Sporobolus blakei* plants recorded from within the disturbance footprint. Over both the 2015 and 2019 surveys, 28 individuals have been recorded from within the development envelope and a further 669 individuals from the wider study area, representing 4.02% of the known local population.

Despite being represented by 10 *FloraBase* (WAH 1998, accessed 5 April 2019) records, *Sporobolus blakei* has an Australia-wide distribution and is represented by 277 *Atlas of Living Australia* (ALA 2019, accessed 5 April 2019) records from all mainland states except Victoria. Therefore, any impacts on this species' population from the proposed mining activities is likely to be insignificant.

#### **5.2.2 RANGE EXTENSION SPECIES**

None of the range extension species that were identified for the targeted searches (listed in Section **3.2.4.2**) were found during specific searches of potential habitat.

However, *Abutilon malvifolium* and *Corchorus tridens* were recorded from within quadrats that corresponded with clay depressions in vegetation type **AaSaEs**. Only a small number of *Abutilon malvifolium* plants were recorded (one plant within one floristic quadrat, with only two recorded from the immediate vicinity), and few *Corchorus tridens* (10 plants within the quadrats and approximately 30 outside). Both species were restricted to within small clay pans, which were not much larger than single quadrat size.

The range extensions reported from the 2015 survey (Ecoscape 2015), and these, are likely due to the survey occurring in a previously unsurveyed area with no known nearby surveys, rather than representing true range extensions.

Abutilon malvifolium has an Australia-wide distribution, with 726 records listed on Atlas of Living Australia (ALA 2019, accessed 5 April 2019) from all mainland states except Victoria. Corchorus tridens has 436 ALA records and a northern Australia-wide distribution. The reported range extensions, when taking into consideration the population extents for these species, are not significant.

### 6 conclusions

In summary, the following conclusions were made from the results of the survey:

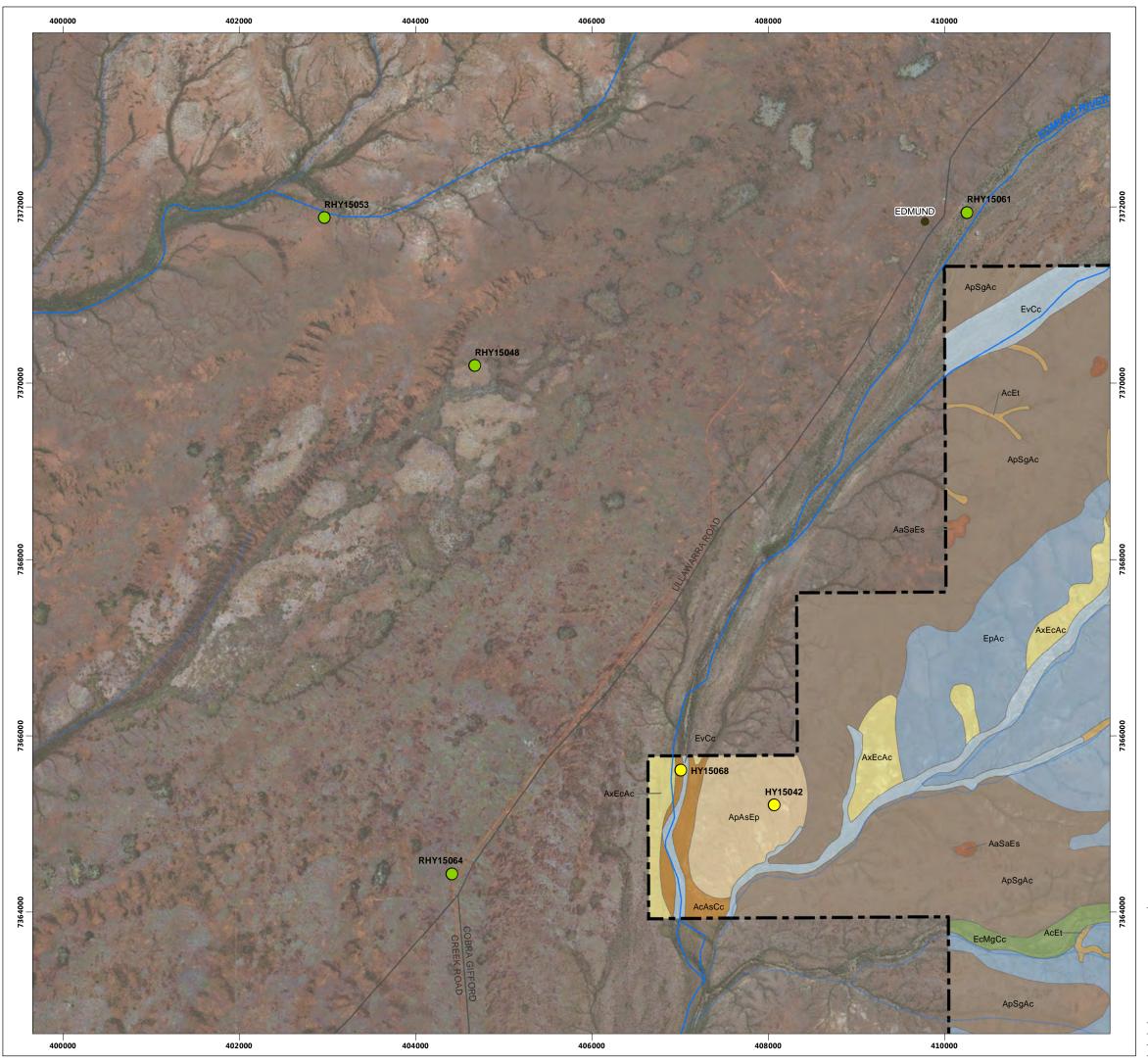
- vegetation type **AaSaEs** that corresponded with minor clay pans has up to 21.24% of the mapped occurrence within the development envelope), and is prospective habitat for conservation significant flora species (*Elacholoma* sp. Showy flowers (C.P. Campbell 1762) (P1) and *Goodenia berringbinensis* (P4)) although these species were previously also recorded within **EcBp**, **EpAc** and **EvReMg** vegetation types, and **AcEt**, **ArPc**, **EcBp** and **EpAc** vegetation types, respectively. However, the vegetation type is likely to be more extensive than indicated by the mapping due to the small extents of some occurrences that are not mapped separately to its surrounding vegetation. This vegetation type can be avoided from any direct impact due to its location: the track within the SipHon Well borefield can avoid direct impact to this vegetation type.
- vegetation type **AtGc** that corresponds with rocky hills with 35.39% mapped as occurring within the disturbance footprint and 67.39% within the development envelope. This vegetation type is habitat for a conservation significant flora *Acacia atopa* (P3), however, this species also occurs within **ApTSS** vegetation type, which has been mapped extensively outside of the development envelope.
- vegetation type **Fs** occurs on sandy clay flats. None corresponds with the disturbance footprint, even though 73.11% of this vegetation type occurs within the development envelope.
- Acacia curryana (P1) occurs within the development envelope and on vegetation types AcAc, EcMgCc, EeAc and EpAc that occur extensively outside of the development envelope. This species also has a wide regional distribution of at least 5,000 km<sup>2</sup> and occurs in an area with few known surveys, thus its extent and population are likely larger than currently recognised.
- The lack of rainfall during the summer season is likely the reason for the lack of species considered as range extensions and some conservation significant species found during this survey. Most of the species that represent range extensions have habitat associated with drainage lines, creeks and riparian habitats. This habitat type is extensive within the broader study area and regionally.
- The range extensions reported from the 2015 survey (Ecoscape 2015) are likely due to the survey occurring in a previously unsurveyed area with no known nearby surveys, rather than representing true range extensions.

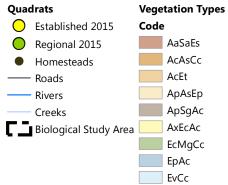
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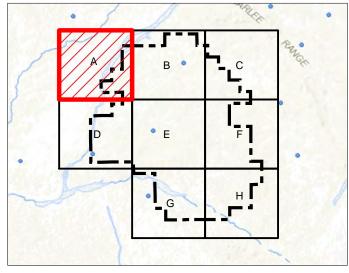
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#### **MAPS**







DATASOURCES:
SERVICE LAYERS: SOURCE: ESRI, DIGITALGLOBE, GEOEYE, EARTHSTAR GEOGRAPHICS, CNES/AIRBUS DS, USDA, USGS, AEROGRID, IGN, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY

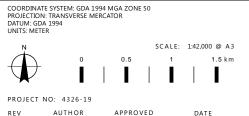
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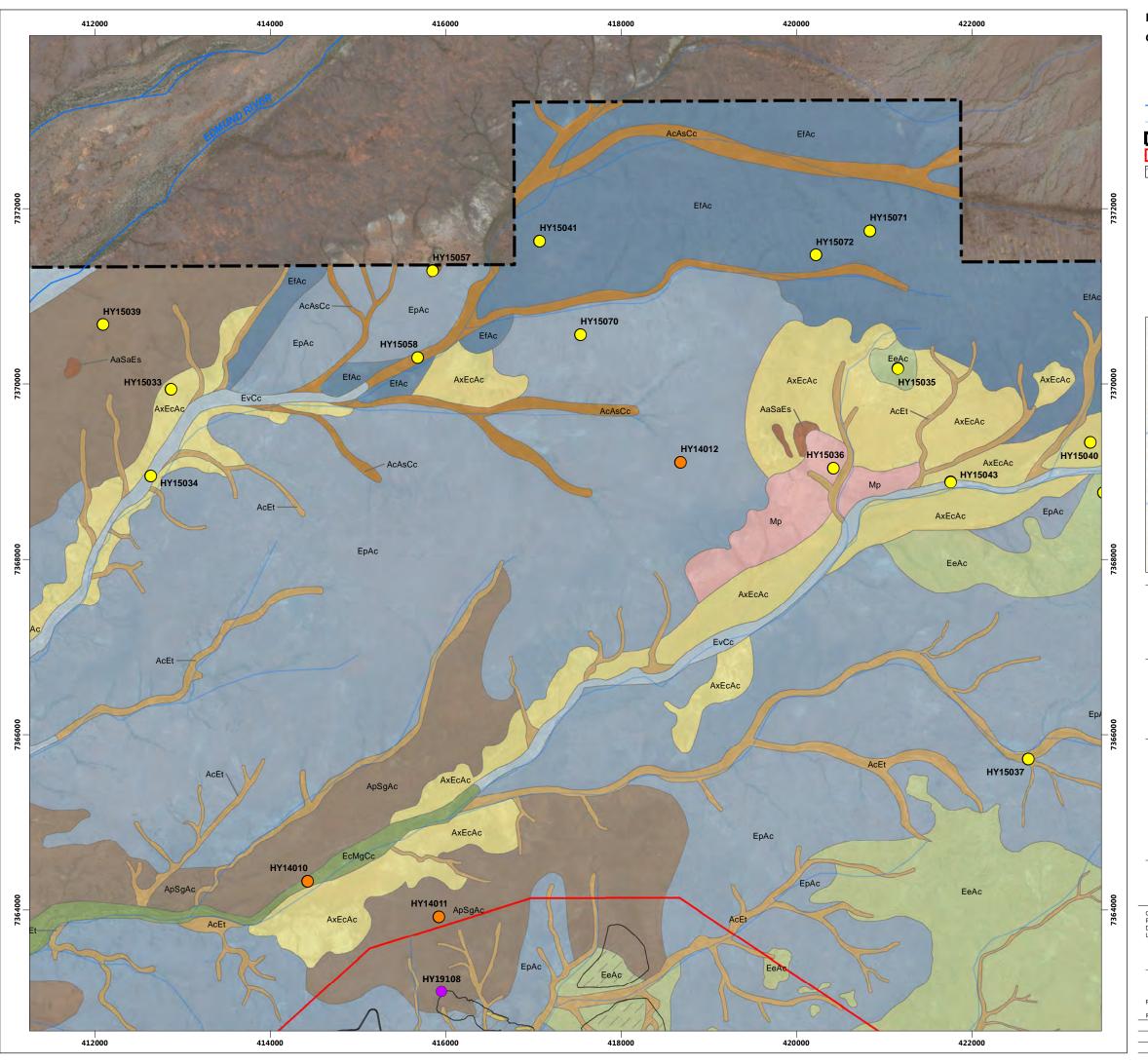
### **QUADRATS AND VEGETATION** TYPES OF THE YANGIBANA **PROJECT**

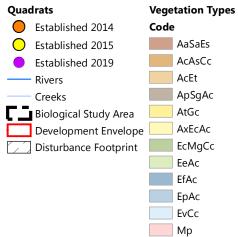
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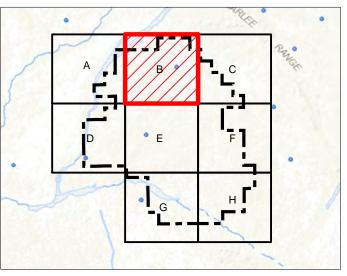
YANGIBANA RARE **EARTHS PROJECT** 

**CLIENT: HASTINGS** 









DATASOURCES:
SERVICE LAYERS: SOURCE: ESRI, DIGITALGLOBE, GEOEYE, EARTHSTAR GEOGRAPHICS, CNES/AIRBUS DS, USDA, USGS, AEROGRID, IGN, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY

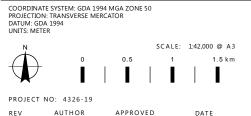
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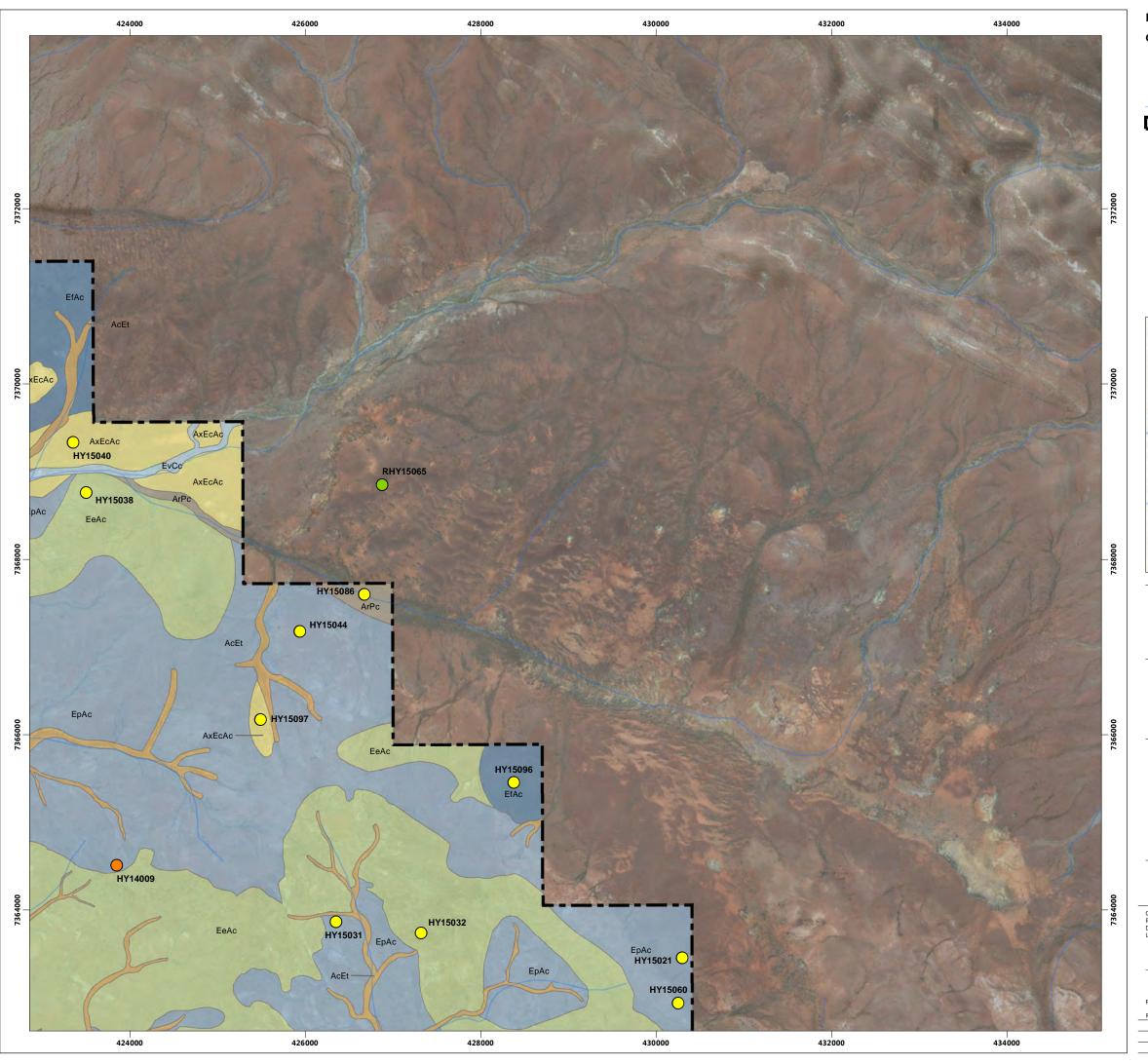
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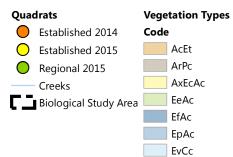
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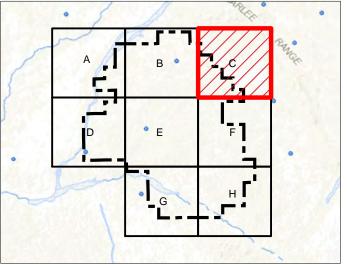
YANGIBANA RARE **EARTHS PROJECT** 

**CLIENT: HASTINGS** 









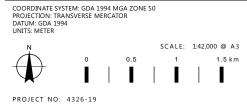
DATASOURCES:
SERVICE LAYERS: SOURCE: ESRI, DIGITALGLOBE, GEOEYE, EARTHSTAR GEOGRAPHICS, CNES/AIRBUS DS, USDA, USGS, AEROGRID, IGN, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY

# ecoscape

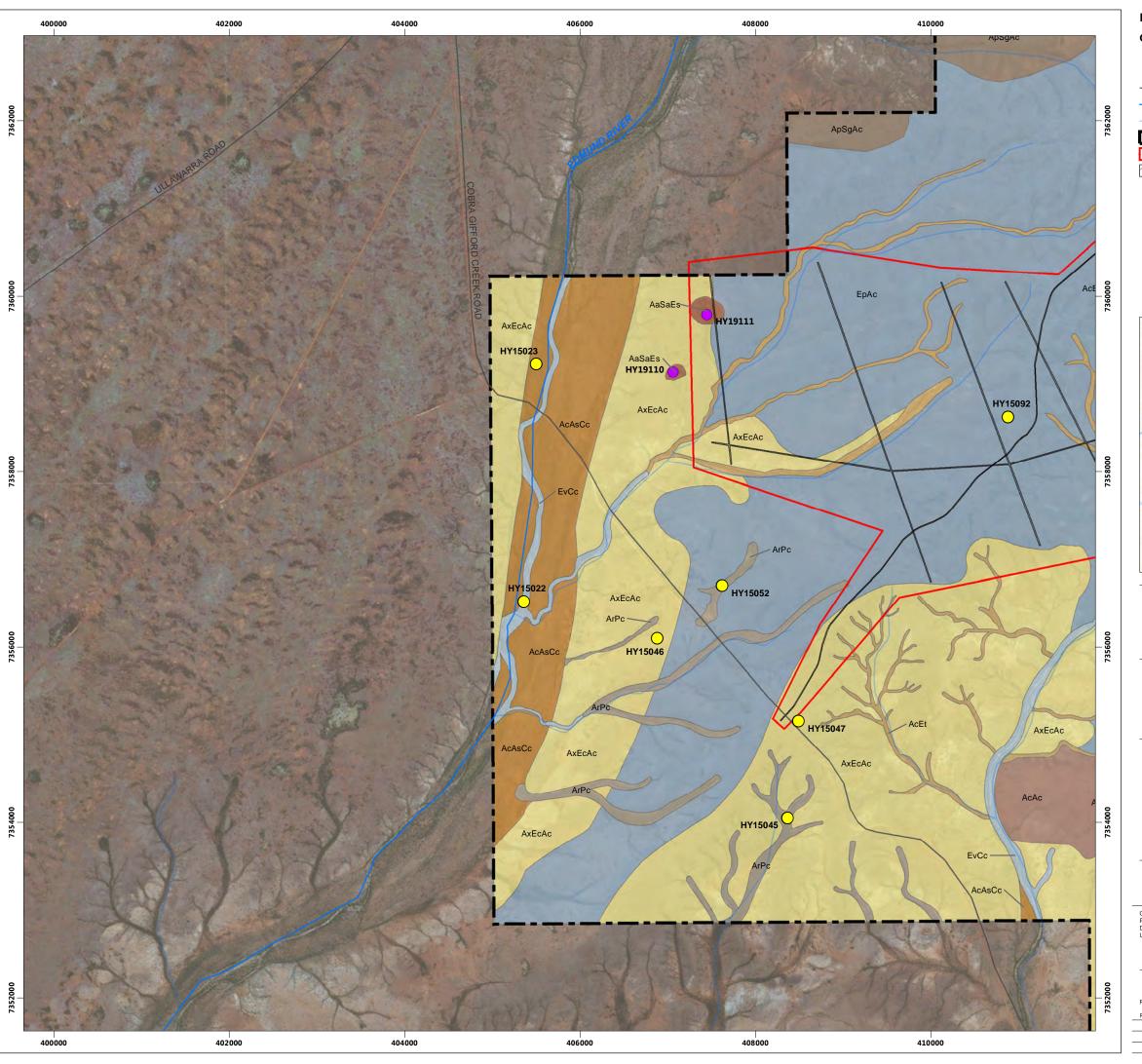
### **QUADRATS AND VEGETATION** TYPES OF THE YANGIBANA **PROJECT**

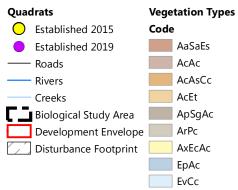
YANGIBANA RARE **EARTHS PROJECT** 

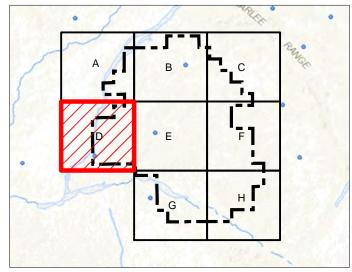
**CLIENT: HASTINGS** 



APPROVED 04/04/2019







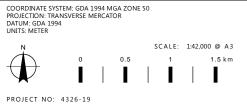
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SERVICE LAYERS: SOURCE: ESRI, DIGITALGLOBE, GEOEYE, EARTHSTAR GEOGRAPHICS, CNES/AIRBUS DS, USDA, USGS, AEROGRID, IGN, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY

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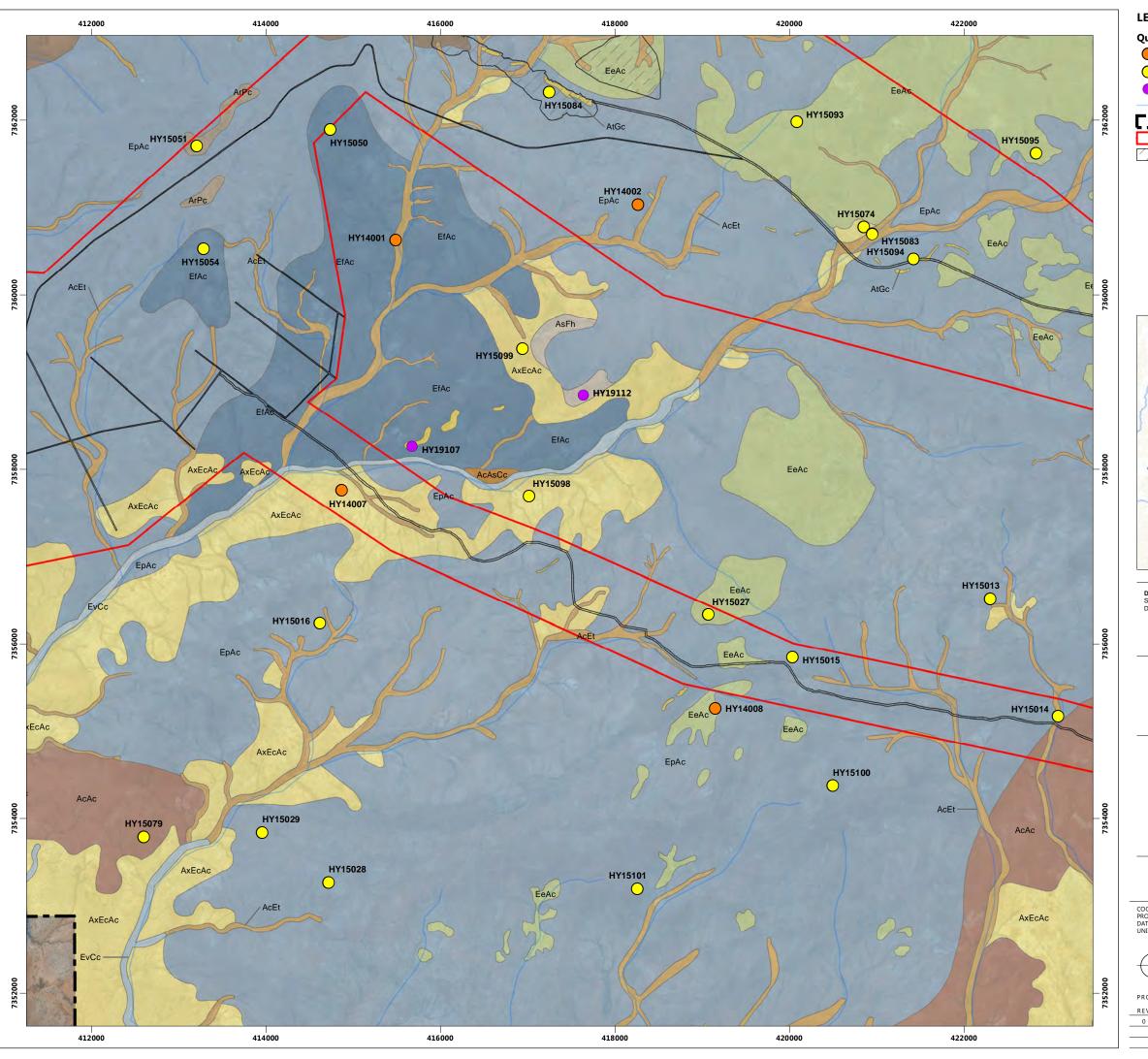
### **QUADRATS AND VEGETATION** TYPES OF THE YANGIBANA **PROJECT**

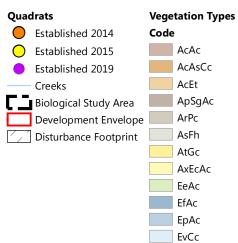
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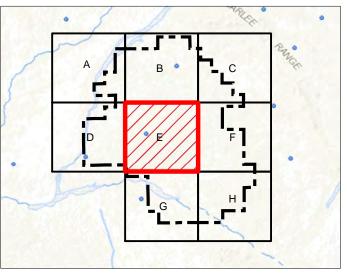
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APPROVED 04/04/2019







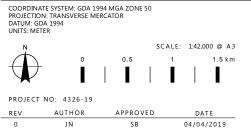
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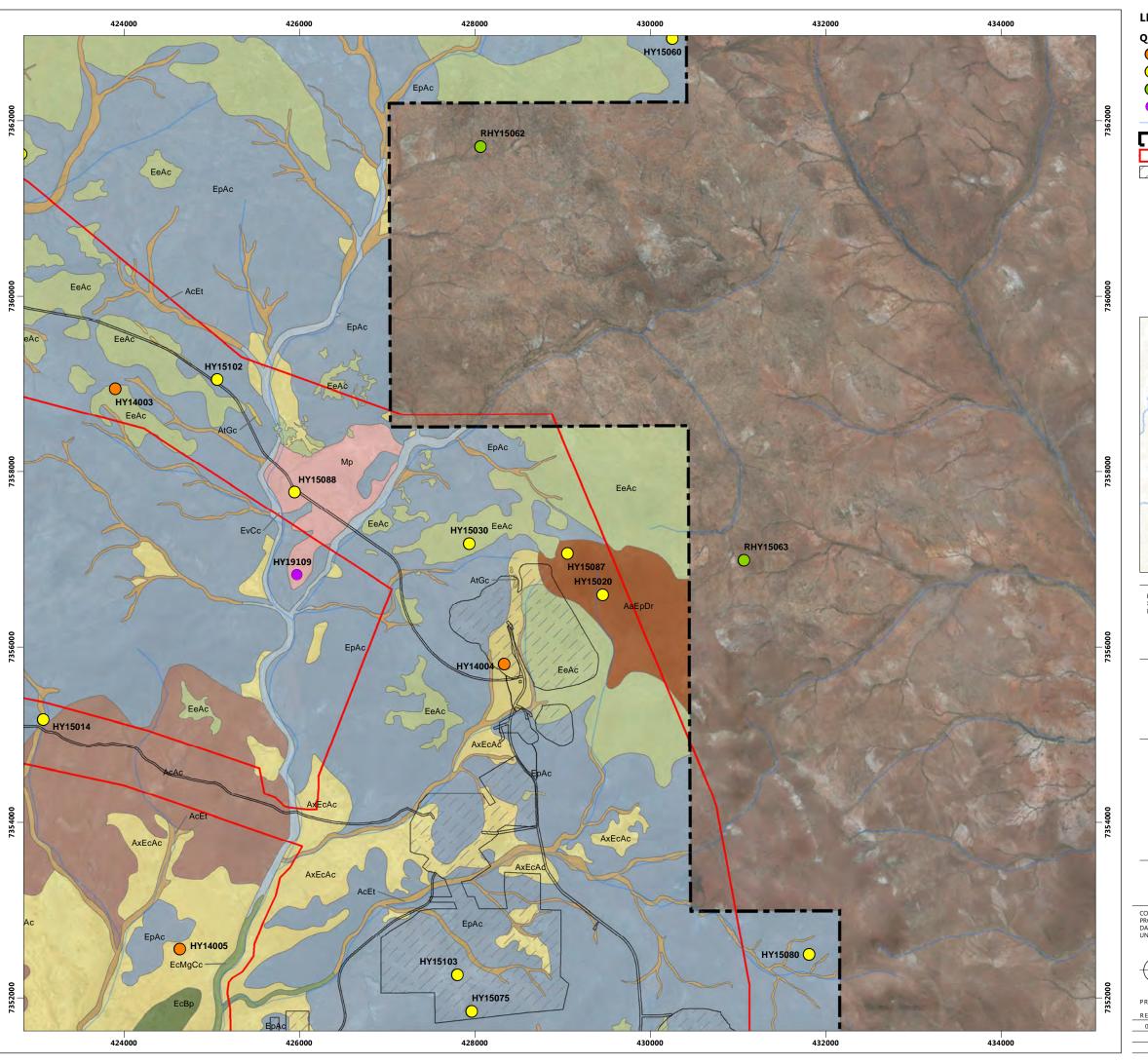
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#### **QUADRATS AND VEGETATION** TYPES OF THE YANGIBANA **PROJECT**

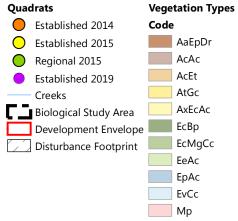
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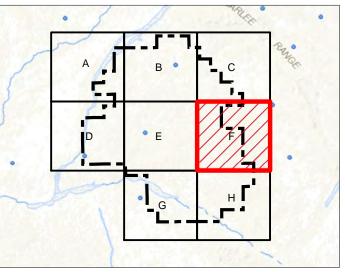
**CLIENT: HASTINGS** 





#### **LEGEND** Quadrats Established 2014 Code





DATASOURCES:
SERVICE LAYERS: SOURCE: ESRI, DIGITALGLOBE, GEOEYE, EARTHSTAR GEOGRAPHICS, CNES/AIRBUS DS, USDA, USGS, AEROGRID, IGN, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY

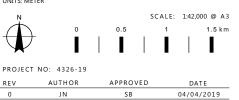
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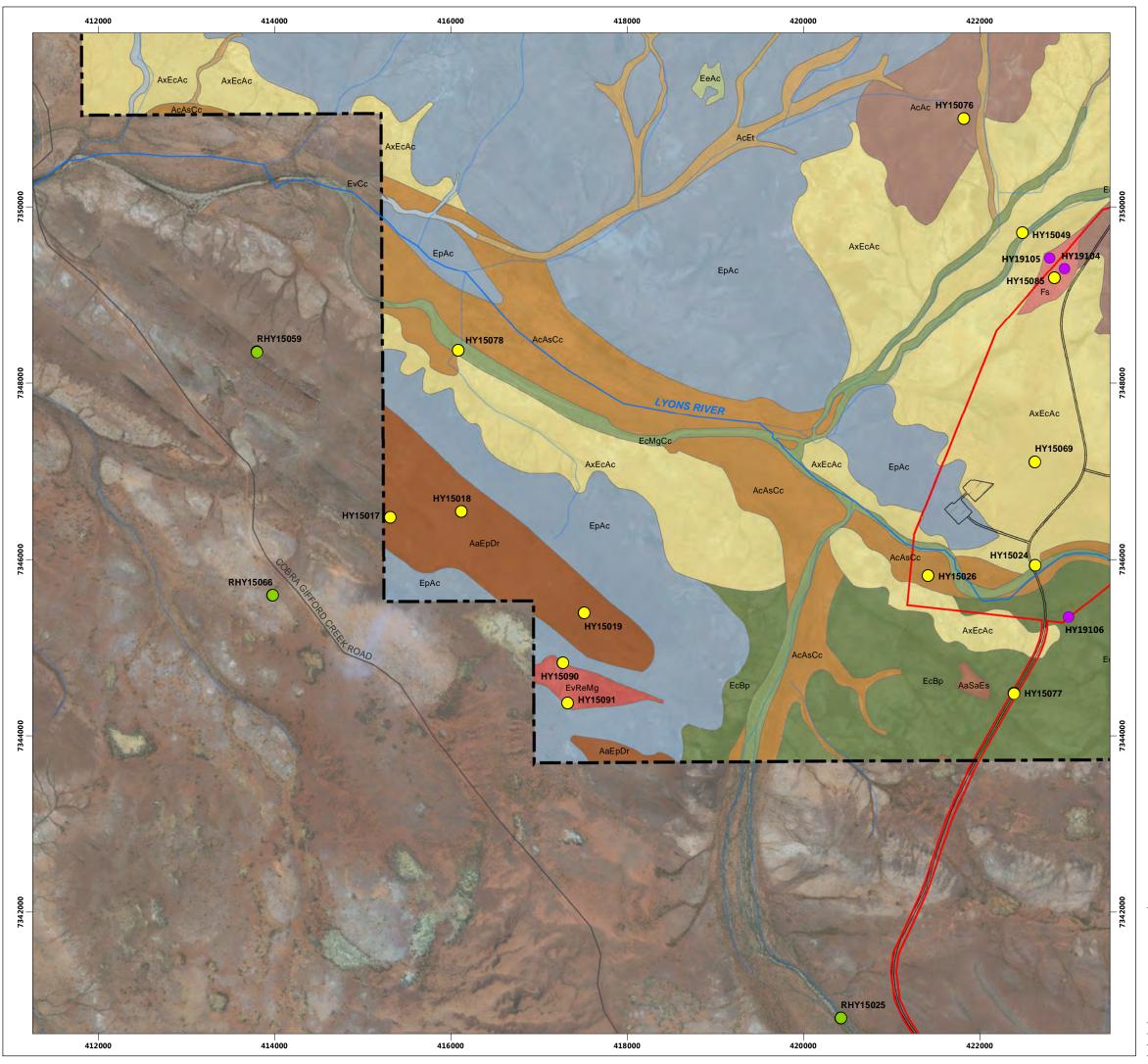
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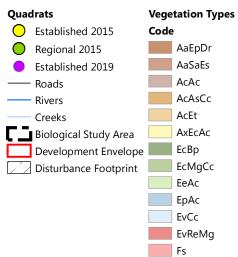
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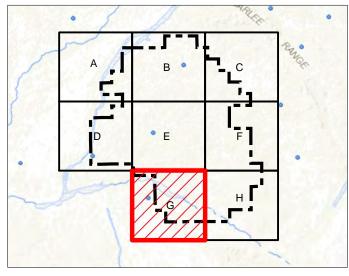
**CLIENT: HASTINGS** 

COORDINATE SYSTEM: GDA 1994 MGA ZONE 50 PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR DATUM: GDA 1994 UNITS: METER









DATASOURCES:
SERVICE LAYERS: SOURCE: ESRI, DIGITALGLOBE, GEOEYE, EARTHSTAR GEOGRAPHICS, CNES/AIRBUS DS, USDA, USGS, AEROGRID, IGN, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY

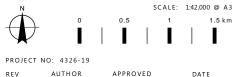
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### **QUADRATS AND VEGETATION** TYPES OF THE YANGIBANA **PROJECT**

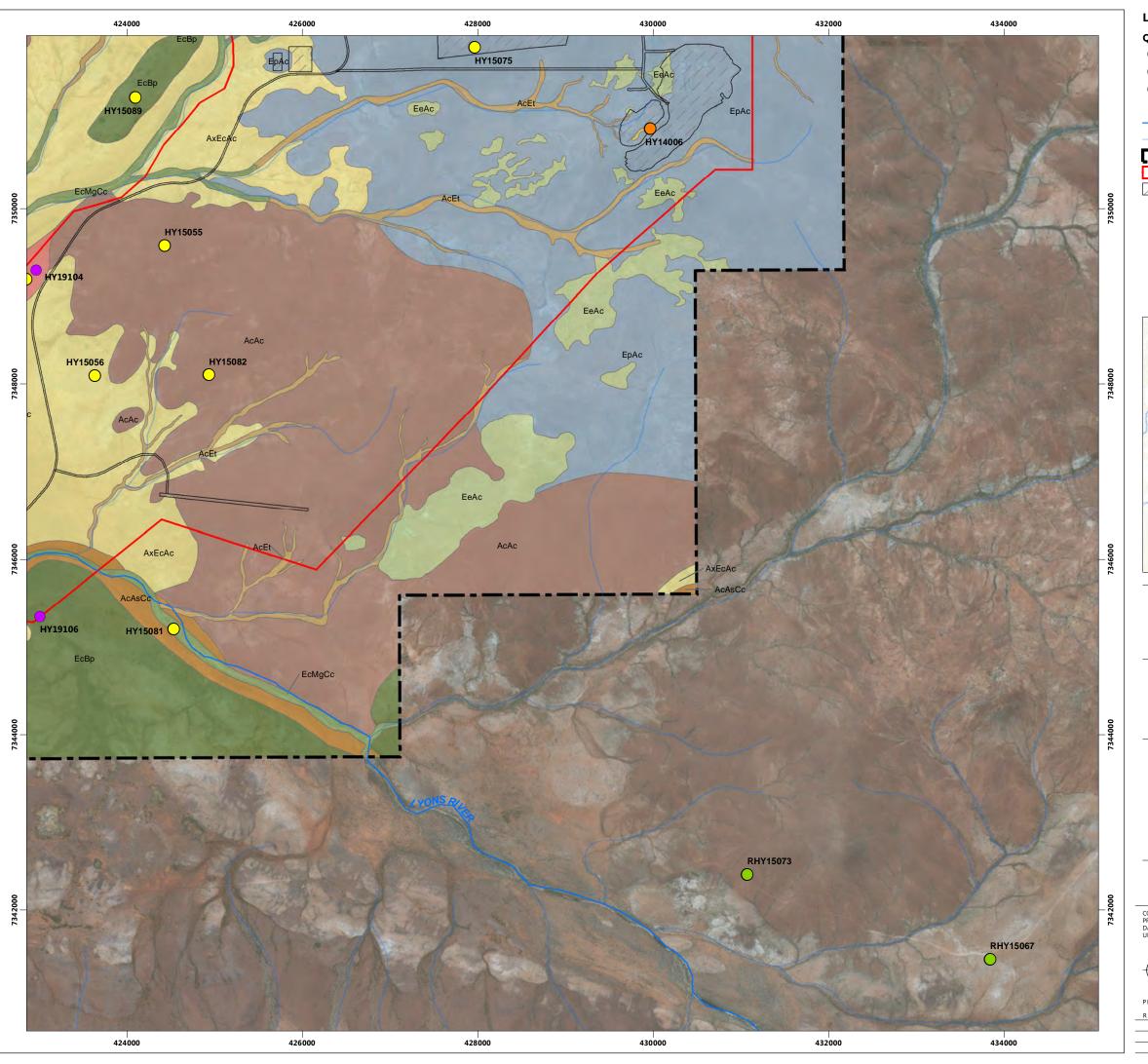
YANGIBANA RARE **EARTHS PROJECT** 

**CLIENT: HASTINGS** 

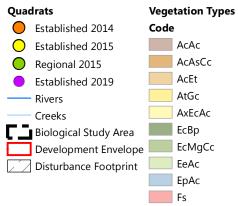
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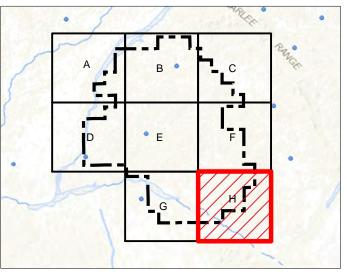


04/04/2019



#### **LEGEND**





DATASOURCES:
SERVICE LAYERS: SOURCE: ESRI, DIGITALGLOBE, GEOEYE, EARTHSTAR GEOGRAPHICS, CNES/AIRBUS DS, USDA, USGS, AEROGRID, IGN, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY

# ecoscape

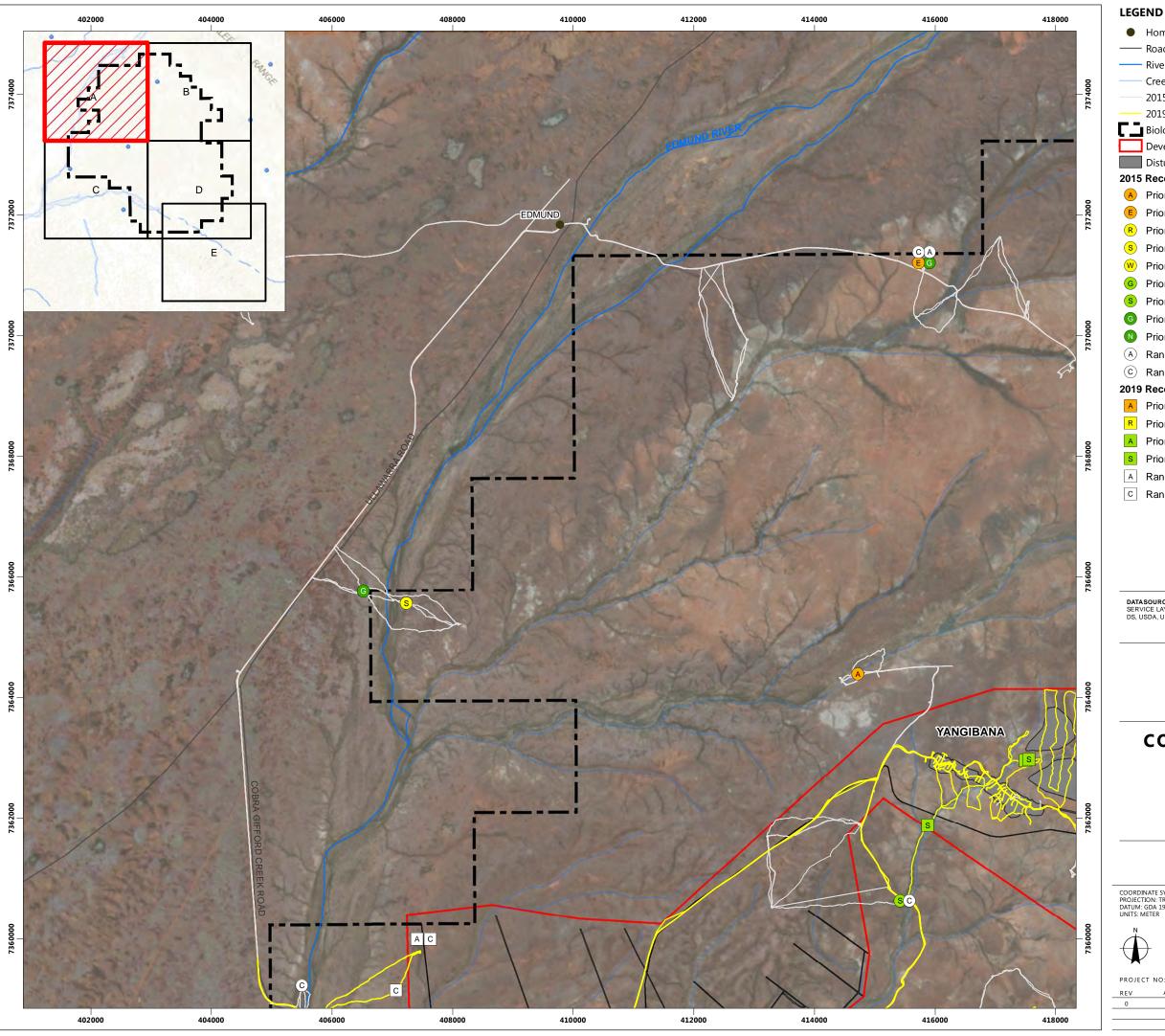
# **QUADRATS AND VEGETATION** TYPES OF THE YANGIBANA **PROJECT**

04/04/2019

YANGIBANA RARE **EARTHS PROJECT** 

**CLIENT: HASTINGS** 

COORDINATE SYSTEM: GDA 1994 MGA ZONE 50 PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR DATUM: GDA 1994 UNITS: METER SCALE: 1:42,000 @ A3



- Homesteads
- ---- Roads
- Rivers
- Creeks
- 2015 Survey Tracks
- 2019 Survey Tracks
- Biological Study Area
- Development Envelope Disturbance Footprint

#### 2015 Records

- A Priority 1 (DBCA), Acacia curryana
- Priority 1 (DBCA), *Elacholoma* sp. Showy flowers (C.P. Campbell 1762)
- Priority 2 (DBCA), Rhodanthe frenchii
- S Priority 2 (DBCA), Solanum octonum
- Priority 2 (DBCA), Wurmbea fluviatilis
- Priority 3 (DBCA), Gymnanthera cunninghamii
- Priority 3 (DBCA), Sporobolus blakei
- G Priority 4 (DBCA), Goodenia berringbinensis
- N Priority 4 (DBCA), Goodenia nuda
- A Range Extension (Targeted), Abutilon malvifolium
- © Range Extension (Targeted), Corchorus tridens

#### 2019 Records

- A Priority 1 (DBCA), Acacia curryana
- Priority 2 (DBCA), Rhodanthe frenchii
- A Priority 3 (DBCA), Acacia atopa
- S Priority 3 (DBCA), Sporobolus blakei
- A Range Extension (Targeted), Abutilon malvifolium
- © Range Extension (Targeted), Corchorus tridens

DATASOURCES:
SERVICE LAYERS: SOURCE: ESRI, DIGITALGLOBE, GEOEYE, EARTHSTAR GEOGRAPHICS, CNES/AIRBUS DS, USDA, USGS, AEROGRID, IGN, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY

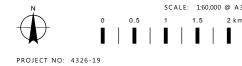
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## **CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANT** FLORA OF THE YANGIBANA **PROJECT**

YANGIBANA RARE **EARTHS PROJECT** 

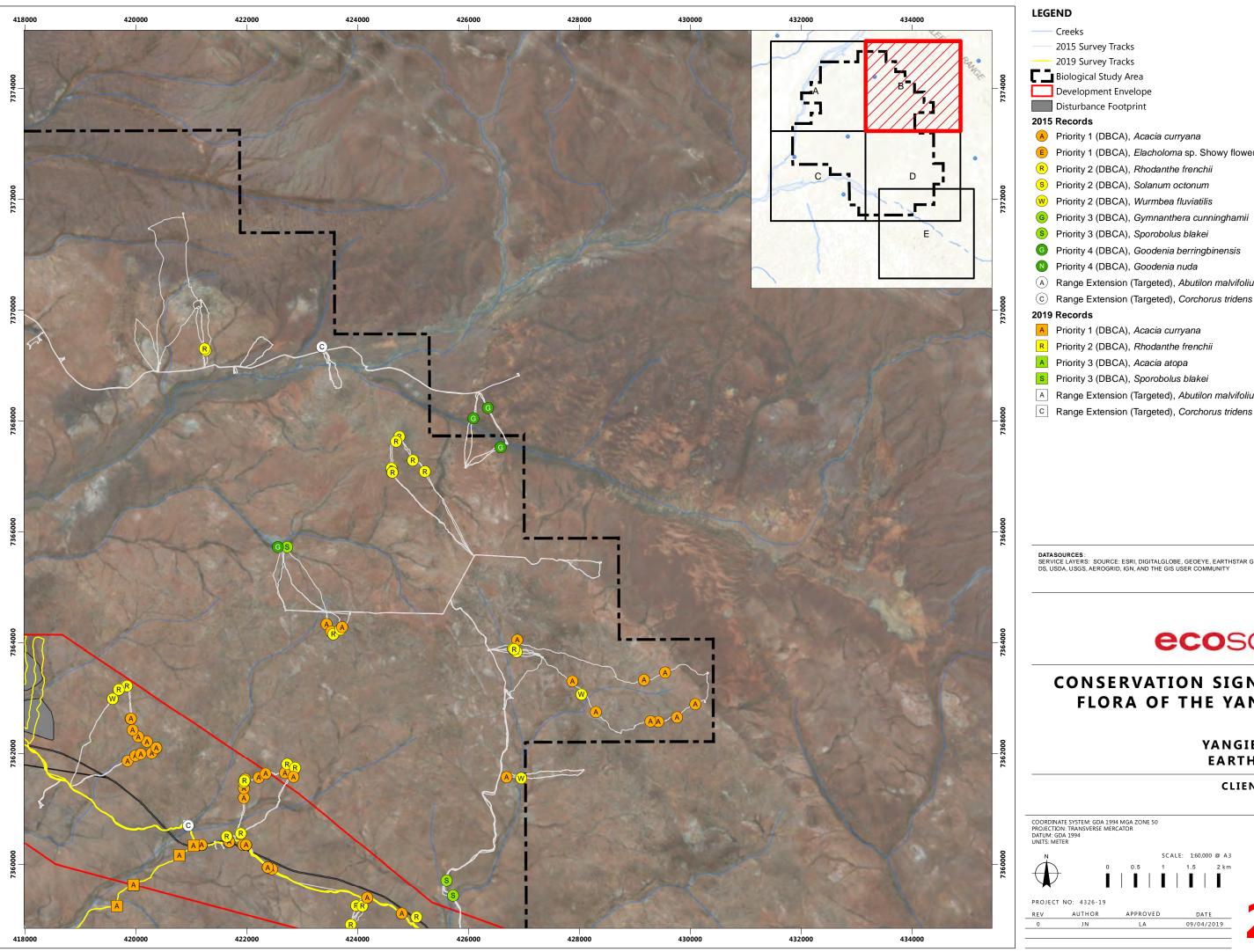
**CLIENT: HASTINGS** 

COORDINATE SYSTEM: GDA 1994 MGA ZONE 50 PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR DATUM: GDA 1994 UNITS: METER



MAP





#### **LEGEND**

Creeks 2015 Survey Tracks 2019 Survey Tracks Biological Study Area

Development Envelope

Disturbance Footprint

#### 2015 Records

A Priority 1 (DBCA), Acacia curryana

Priority 1 (DBCA), *Elacholoma* sp. Showy flowers (C.P. Campbell 1762)

Priority 2 (DBCA), Rhodanthe frenchii

S Priority 2 (DBCA), Solanum octonum

Priority 2 (DBCA), Wurmbea fluviatilis

G Priority 3 (DBCA), Gymnanthera cunninghamii

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G Priority 4 (DBCA), Goodenia berringbinensis

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(A) Range Extension (Targeted), Abutilon malvifolium

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#### 2019 Records

Priority 1 (DBCA), Acacia curryana

Priority 2 (DBCA), Rhodanthe frenchii

A Priority 3 (DBCA), Acacia atopa

Priority 3 (DBCA), Sporobolus blakei

A Range Extension (Targeted), Abutilon malvifolium

DATASOURCES:
SERVICE LAYERS: SOURCE: ESRI, DIGITALGLOBE, GEOEYE, EARTHSTAR GEOGRAPHICS, CNES/AIRBUS
DS, USDA, USGS, AEROGRID, IGN, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY

ecoscape

# **CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANT** FLORA OF THE YANGIBANA

YANGIBANA RARE **EARTHS PROJECT** 

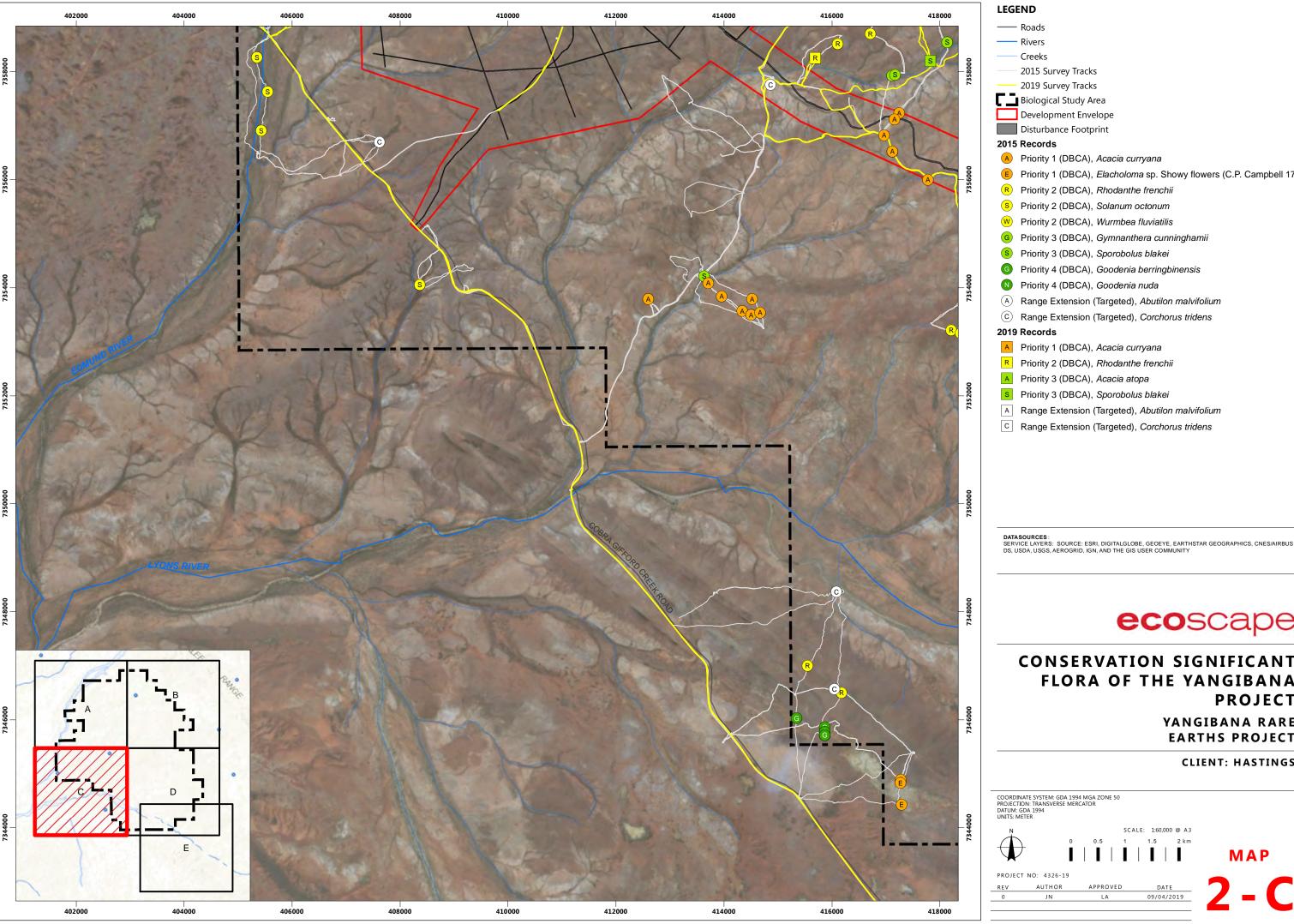
**CLIENT: HASTINGS** 

**PROJECT** 

COORDINATE SYSTEM: GDA 1994 MGA ZONE 50 PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR DATUM: GDA 1994 UNITS: METER



MAP



Priority 1 (DBCA), *Elacholoma* sp. Showy flowers (C.P. Campbell 1762)

A Range Extension (Targeted), Abutilon malvifolium

# ecoscape

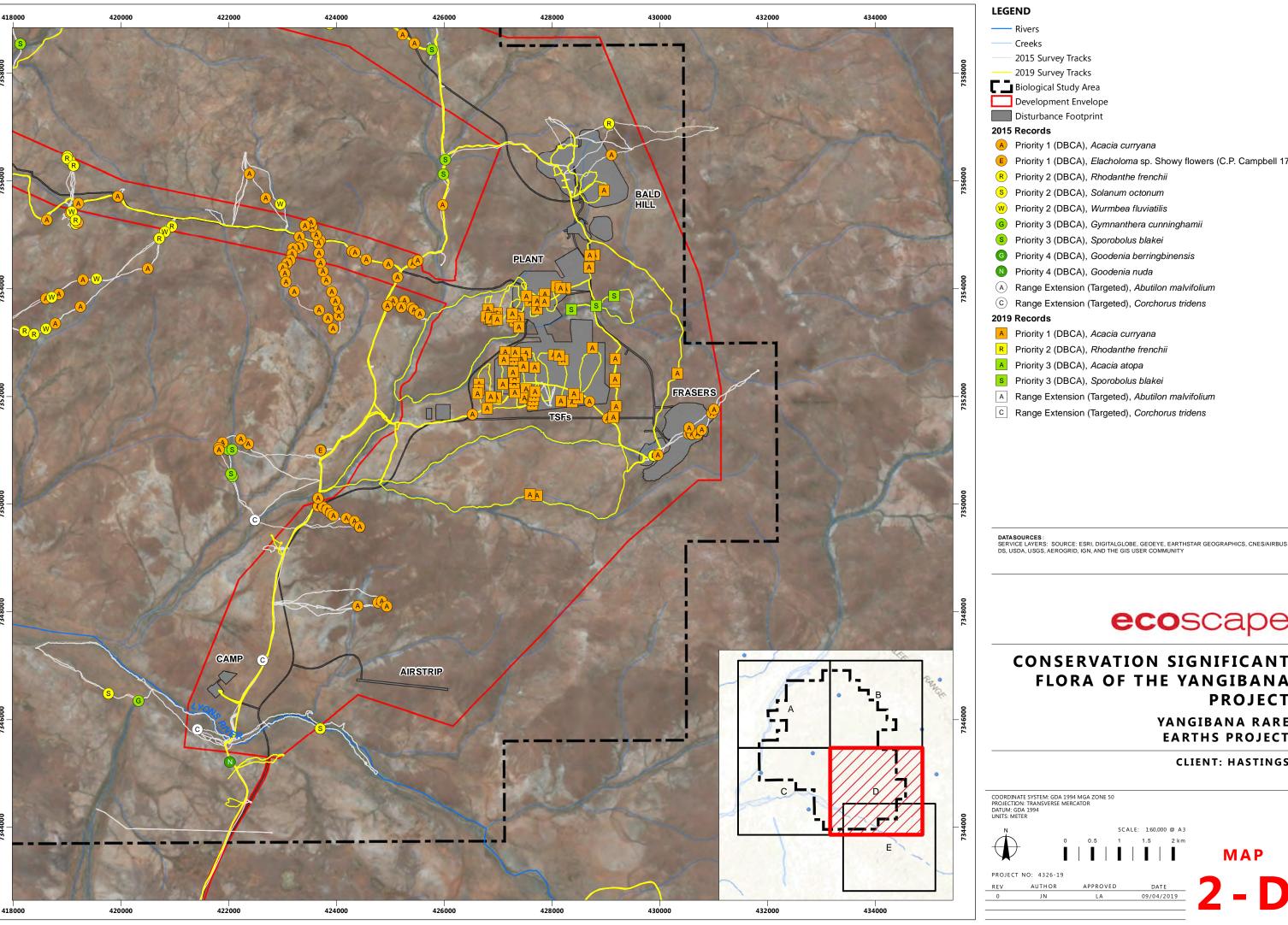
## **CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANT** FLORA OF THE YANGIBANA **PROJECT**

YANGIBANA RARE **EARTHS PROJECT** 

**CLIENT: HASTINGS** 



**MAP** 



Priority 1 (DBCA), Elacholoma sp. Showy flowers (C.P. Campbell 1762)

Priority 3 (DBCA), Gymnanthera cunninghamii

© Priority 4 (DBCA), Goodenia berringbinensis

(A) Range Extension (Targeted), Abutilon malvifolium

© Range Extension (Targeted), Corchorus tridens

A Range Extension (Targeted), Abutilon malvifolium

# ecoscape

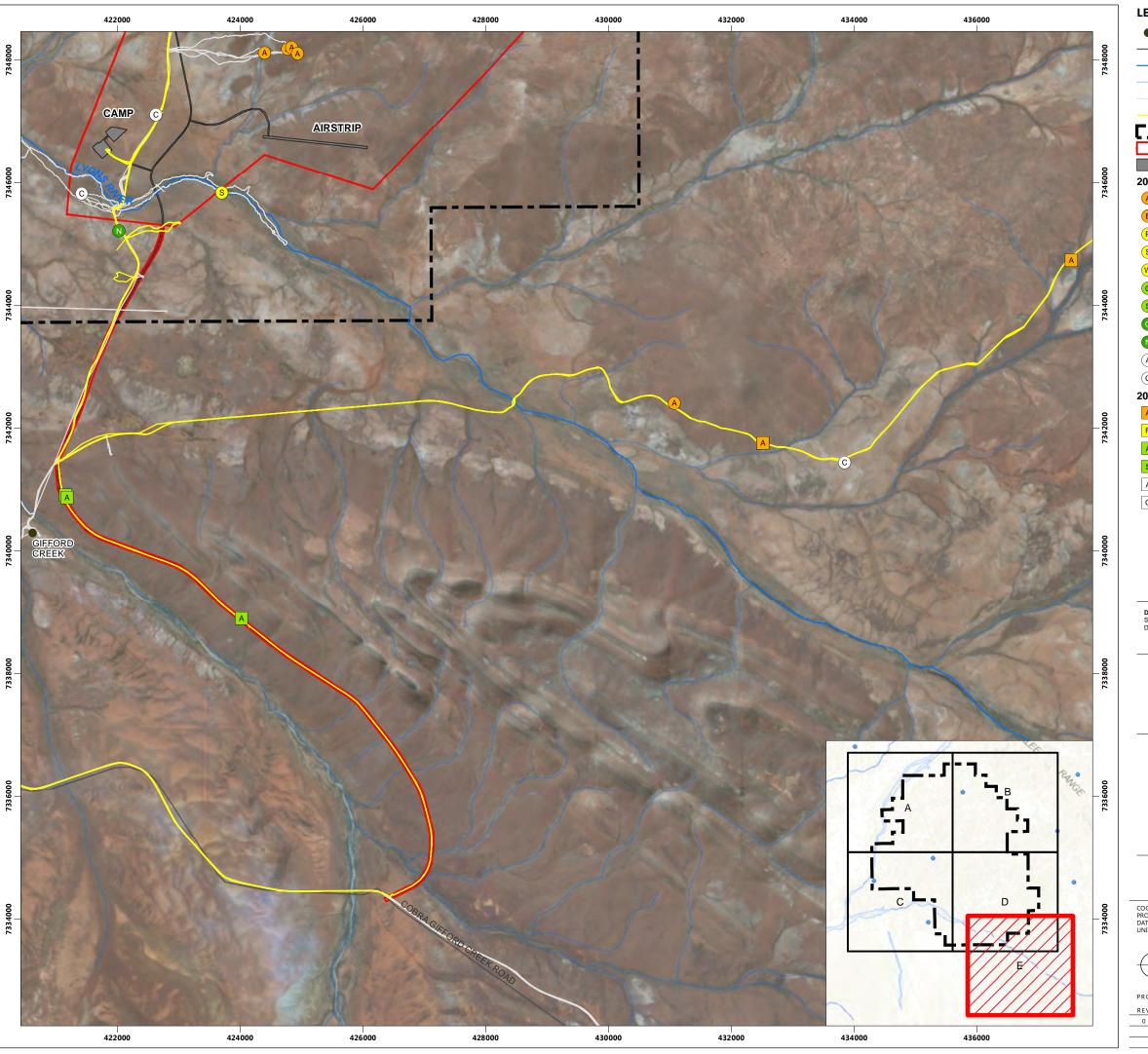
## **CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANT** FLORA OF THE YANGIBANA **PROJECT**

YANGIBANA RARE **EARTHS PROJECT** 

**CLIENT: HASTINGS** 



MAP



#### **LEGEND**

Homesteads

---- Roads

Rivers

Creeks 2015 Survey Tracks

2019 Survey Tracks

Biological Study Area

Development Envelope

Disturbance Footprint

#### 2015 Records

Priority 1 (DBCA), Acacia curryana

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DATASOURCES:
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# ecoscape

## **CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANT** FLORA OF THE YANGIBANA **PROJECT**

09/04/2019

YANGIBANA RARE **EARTHS PROJECT** 

**CLIENT: HASTINGS** 

COORDINATE SYSTEM: GDA 1994 MGA ZONE 50 PROJECTION: TRANSVERSE MERCATOR DATUM: GDA 1994 UNITS: METER



MAP

### APPENDIX ONE DEFINITIONS AND CRITERIA

Table 3: Conservation codes for Western Australian flora and fauna (DBCA 2019)

#### **Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna**

Threatened, Extinct and Specially Protected fauna or flora<sup>1</sup> are species<sup>2</sup> which have been adequately searched for and are deemed to be, in the wild, threatened, extinct or in need of special protection, and have been gazetted as such.

The Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018 and the Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018 have been transitioned under regulations 170, 171 and 172 of the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 to be the lists of Threatened, Extinct and Specially Protected species under Part 2 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

Categories of Threatened, Extinct and Specially Protected fauna and flora are:

	Theatened, Extinct and Specially Frotected harita and nord are.
	Threatened species
	Listed by order of the Minister as Threatened in the category of critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable under section 19(1), or is a rediscovered species to be regarded as threatened species under section 26(2) of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (BC Act).
т	Threatened fauna is that subset of 'Specially Protected Fauna' listed under schedules 1 to 3of the <i>Wildlife Conservation</i> (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018 for Threatened Fauna.
	Threatened flora is that subset of 'Rare Flora' listed under schedules 1 to 3of the <i>Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018</i> for Threatened Flora.
	The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.
	Critically endangered species
CR	Threatened species considered to be "facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines".
	Listed as critically endangered undersection 19(1)(a) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 20 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 1 of the <i>Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018</i> for critically endangered fauna or the <i>Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018</i> for critically endangered flora.
	Endangered species
EN	Threatened species considered to be "facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines".
	Listed as endangered under section 19(1)(b) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 21 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 2 of the <i>Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018</i> for endangered fauna or the <i>Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018</i> for endangered flora.
	Vulnerable species
VU	Threatened species considered to be "facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines".
	Listed as vulnerable undersection 19(1)(c) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 22 and the ministerial guidelines. Published under schedule 3of the <i>Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018</i> for vulnerable fauna or the <i>Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018</i> for vulnerable flora.
Extinct spec	ies
Listed by ord	er of the Minister as extinct under section 23(1) of the BC Act as extinct or extinct in the wild.
	Extinct species
EX	Species where "there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died", and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 24 of the BC Act).
	Published as presumed extinct under schedule 4of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018 for extinct fauna or the Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018 for extinct flora.
	Extinct in the wild species
EW	Species that "is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; and it has not been recorded in its known habitat or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form", and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 25of the BC Act).
	Currently there are no threatened fauna or threatened flora species listed as extinct in the wild. If listing of a species as extinct in the wild occurs, then a schedule will be added to the applicable notice.

#### **Specially protected species**

Listed by order of the Minister as specially protected under section 13(1) of the BC Act. Meeting one or more of the following categories: species of special conservation interest; migratory species; cetaceans; species subject to international agreement; or species otherwise in need of special protection.

Species that are listed as threatened species (critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable) or extinct species under the BC Act cannot also be listed as Specially Protected species.

	Migratory species
	Fauna that periodically or occasionally visit Australia or an external Territory or the exclusive economic zone; or the species is subject of an international agreement that relates to the protection of migratory species and that binds the Commonwealth; and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 15of the BC Act).
MI	Includes birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA China (CAMBA) and The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and fauna subject to the <i>Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals</i> (Bonn Convention), an environmental treaty under the United Nations Environment Program. Migratory species listed under the BC Act are a subset of the migratory animals that are known to visit Western Australia, protected under the international agreements or treaties, excluding species that are listed as Threatened species.
	Published as migratory birds protected under an international agreement under schedule 5 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018.
	Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)
CD	Fauna of special conservation need being species dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 14of the BC Act).
	Published as conservation dependent fauna under schedule 6 of the <i>Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice</i> 2018.
	Other specially protected species
os	Fauna otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 18of the BC Act).
	Published as other specially protected fauna under schedule 7 of the <i>Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice</i> 2018.
	Priority species
P	Possibly threatened species that do not meet survey criteria, or are otherwise data deficient, are added to the Priority Fauna Priority Flora Lists under Priorities 1, 2 or 3. These three categories are ranked in order of priority for survey and evaluation o conservation status so that consideration can be given to their declaration as threatened fauna or flora.
	Species that are adequately known, are rare but not threatened, or meet criteria for near threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened species or other specially protected fauna lists for other than taxonomic reasons, are placed in Priority 4. These species require regular monitoring.
	Assessment of Priority codes is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.
	Priority 1: Poorly-known species
1	Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.
	Priority 2: Poorly-known species
2	Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily fo nature conservation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.
	Priority 3: Poorly-known species
3	Species that are known from several locations, and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat, or from few bu widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. Such species are in need of further survey.
	Priority 4: Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring
4	(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
-7	(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as Conservation Dependent.
	(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The definition of flora includes algae, fungi and lichens.
<sup>2</sup> Species includes all taxa (plural of taxon - a classificatory group of any taxonomic rank, e.g. a family, genus, species or any infraspecific category i.e. subspecies or variety, or a distinct population).

Table 4: NVIS structural formation terminology, terrestrial vegetation (NVIS TWG 2017)

	Cover char		33.	errestriai vegeta	<u> </u>	<u> </u>		
	Foliage cover *	70-100	30-70	10-30	<10	» 0 (scattered)	0-5 (clumped)	unknown
	Cover	d	С	i	r	bi	bc (Ciumpeu)	unknown
Growth Form	code Height Ranges (m)		ormation Classe		'	ы	DC .	UTIKITOWIT
tree, palm	<10,10- 30, >30	closed forest	open forest	woodland	open woodland	isolated trees	isolated clumps of trees	tree, palm
tree mallee	<3, <10, 10-30	closed mallee forest	open mallee forest	mallee woodland	open mallee woodland	isolated mallee trees	isolated clumps of mallee trees	tree mallee
shrub, cycad, grass-tree, tree-fern	<1,1- 2,>2	closed shrubland	shrubland	open shrubland	sparse shrubland	isolated shrubs	isolated clumps of shrubs	shrub, cycad, grass- tree, tree- fern
mallee shrub	<3, <10, 10-30	closed mallee shrubland	mallee shrubland	open mallee shrubland	sparse mallee shrubland	isolated mallee shrubs	isolated clumps of mallee shrubs	mallee shrub
heath shrub	<1,1- 2,>2	closed heathland	heathland	open heathland	sparse heathland	isolated heath shrubs	isolated clumps of heath shrubs	heath shrub
chenopod shrub	<1,1- 2,>2	closed chenopod shrubland	chenopod shrubland	open chenopod shrubland	sparse chenopod shrubland	isolated chenopod shrubs	isolated clumps of chenopod shrubs	chenopod shrub
samphire shrub	<0.5,>0.5	closed samphire shrubland	samphire shrubland	open samphire shrubland	sparse samphire shrubland	isolated samphire shrubs	isolated clumps of samphire shrubs	samphire shrub
hummock grass	<2,>2	closed hummock grassland	hummock grassland	open hummock grassland	sparse hummock grassland	isolated hummock grasses	isolated clumps of hummock grasses	hummock grass
tussock grass	<0.5,>0.5	closed tussock grassland	tussock grassland	open tussock grassland	sparse tussock grassland	isolated tussock grasses	isolated clumps of tussock grasses	tussock grass
other grass	<0.5,>0.5	closed grassland	grassland	open grassland	sparse grassland	isolated grasses	isolated clumps of grasses	other grass
sedge	<0.5,>0.5	closed sedgeland	sedgeland	open sedgeland	sparse sedgeland	isolated sedges	isolated clumps of sedges	sedge
rush	<0.5,>0.5	closed rushland	rushland	open rushland	sparse rushland	isolated rushes	isolated clumps of rushes	rush
herb	<0.5,>0.5	closed herbland	herbland	open herbland	sparse herbland	isolated herbs	isolated clumps of herbs	herb
fern	<1,1- 2,>2	closed fernland	fernland	open fernland	sparse fernland	isolated ferns	isolated clumps of ferns	fern
bryophyte	<0.5	closed bryophyte- land	bryophyte- land	open bryophyteland	sparse bryophyteland	isolated bryophytes	isolated clumps of bryophytes	bryophyte
lichen	<0.5	closed lichenland	lichenland	open lichenland	sparse lichenland	isolated lichens	isolated clumps of lichens	lichen
vine	<10,10- 30, >30	closed vineland	vineland	open vineland	sparse vineland	isolated vines	isolated clumps of vines	vine

Table 5: NVIS height classes (NVIS TWG 2017)

Height Growth form						
Height Class	Height Range (m)	Tree, vine (M & U), palm (single- stemmed)	Shrub, heath shrub, chenopod shrub, ferns, samphire shrub, cycad, tree-fern, grass-tree, palm (multi-stemmed)	Tree mallee, mallee shrub	Tussock grass, hummock grass, other grass, sedge, rush, forbs, vine (G)	Bryophyte, lichen, seagrass, aquatic
8	>30	tall	NA	NA	NA	NA
7	10- 30	mid	NA	tall	NA	NA
6	<10	low	NA	mid	NA	NA
5	<3	NA	NA	low	NA	NA
4	>2	NA	tall	NA	tall	NA
3	1-2	NA	mid	NA	tall	NA
2	0.5-1	NA	low	NA	mid	tall
1	<0.5	NA	low	NA	low	low
	Source: (based on Walker & Hopkins 1990)					

Table 6: Vegetation Condition Scale for the South West and Interzone Botanical Provinces (EPA 2016b)

Condition rating	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance or damage caused by human activities since European settlement.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, disturbance affecting individual species and weeds are non-aggressive species. Damage to trees caused by fire, the presence of non-aggressive weeds and occasional vehicle tracks.
Very Good	Vegetation structure altered, obvious signs of disturbance. Disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. Disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and grazing.
Completely Degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees and shrubs.

### APPENDIX TWO TARGET SPECIES

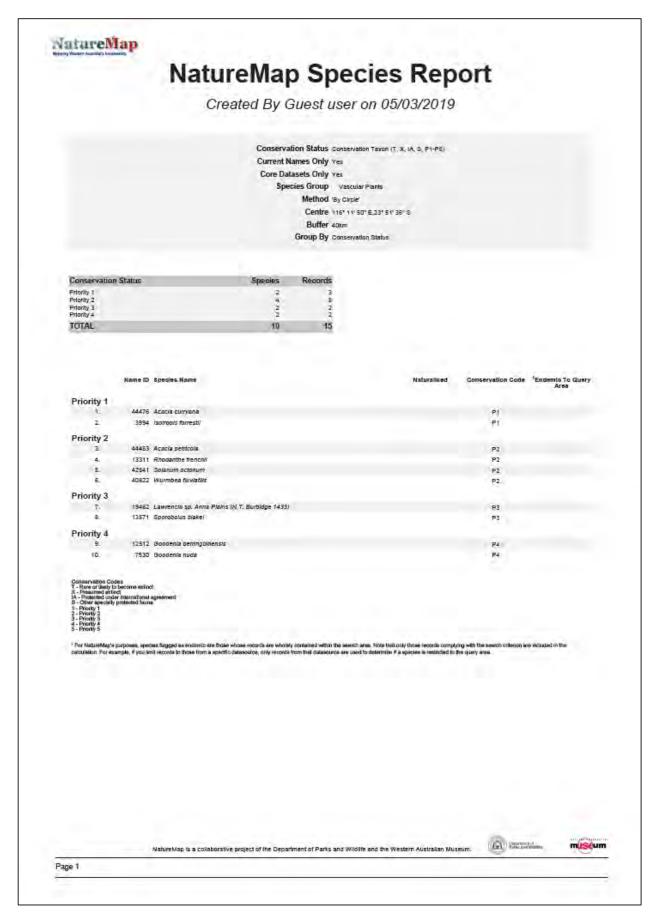


Figure 2: NatureMap (DPaW 2007-2019) search results

**Table 7: Conservation significant flora target species** 

References: (1) FloraBase (WAH 1998), (2) Maslin (2014), (3) Ecoscape (2015)

Species/references	Description	Flowering	Soil	Landform/ habitat	Associated vegetation
P1					
Acacia curryana (1, 2, 3)	Obconic or rounded spreading shrub 1.5-2.5 m high; stems and main branches contorted, small phyllodes	Unknown	Granite clay loam	Diffuse drainage channels	Dominant species
Isotropis forrestii (1)	Erect shrub to 1.5 m high. Yellow/orange/red flowers	Apr-Dec	Clay loam, alluvium	Drainage lines	Eucalyptus camaldulensis
P2					
Rhodanthe frenchii (1)	Erect annual herb to 0.35 m high, yellow flowers	Aug-Oct	Granite, sandstone, banded ironstone	Stony hills, river beds, outcrops, rocky gully	Eremophila spp., Acacia shrubland, Eucalyptus camaldulensis
P3					
<i>Gymnanthera</i> <i>cunninghamii</i> (1)	Erect shrub 1-2 m high, cream/yellow/green flowers	Jan-Dec	Sand	Drainage lines	Eucalyptus camaldulensis, Eucalyptus victrix, Corymbia hamersleyana, Triodia spp.
<i>Lawrencia</i> sp. Anna Plains (N.T. Burbidge 1433)	Upright perennial herb to 0.8 m high. White flowers	Aug	Gravel	Flat	Mulga
Maireana prosthecochaeta	Open shrub with dense leaves to 0.6 m high.	Unknown	Laterite	Hills, saline areas	Mulga
Sporobolus blakei (1)	Tufted perennial grass 0.45-0.6 m high	Mar-Jul	Red sandy clay, loam	Creeks	Acacia cyperophylla woodland, Acacia cuthbertsonii shrubland

### Table 8: Range extension species targeted for survey

Ecoscape (2015) should be viewed to decode the vegetation types.

Taxon	Type of record	Distance from nearest record	No. of locations within the study area	No. of WA Herbarium locations	Vegetation type	Likelihood of occurrence	Ecoscape comment
Acacia craspedocarpa	Range extension	260 km north of nearest known location within the Gascoyne IBRA region	1	134	Not recorded	Med	
Corchorus sidoides subsp. sidoides	Bioregional extension	220 km south of nearest known location in the Pilbara IBRA region	1	100	-	Med	
Dodonaea pinifolia	Range extension	270 km north of nearest known location in the Murchison IBRA region	1	322	Not recorded	Low	Unlikely to be detectable in current dry conditions
<i>Gymnanthera</i> <i>cunninghamii</i> (P3)	Range gap Bioregional extension	170 km of nearest known location in the Carnarvon IBRA region	1 plant	68	EcMgCc	Low	
Hibiscus verdcourtii	Bioregional extension	200 km southwest of nearest known location in the Pilbara IBRA region	1	14	EvReMg	Med	Unlikely to be detectable in current dry conditions
Melhania oblongifolia	Bioregional extension	220 km south of nearest known location in the Pilbara IBRA region	5	302	AxEcAc, EcMgCc, ArPc	Med	

Taxon	Type of record	Distance from nearest record	No. of locations within the study area	No. of WA Herbarium locations	Vegetation type	Likelihood of occurrence	Ecoscape comment
Sida sp. Supplejack Station (T.S. Henshall 2345)	Bioregional extension	210 km southwest of nearest known location in the Pilbara IBRA region	1	10	Not recorded	Med	
Sporobolus blakei (P3)	Range gap	270 km of nearest known location in the Gascoyne IBRA region	8	15	AcEt, AxEcAc, EpAc, EvCc	Med	May not be detectable
Swainsona oroboides	Range extension	260 km northwest of nearest known location in the Gascoyne IBRA region	1	54	Not recorded	Med	Unlikely to be detectable in current dry conditions
Urochloa subquadripara	Range extension	250 km west of nearest known location in the Gascoyne IBRA region	1	63	AcEt	Med	Annual; unlikely to be present in current dry conditions.

Species recorded by Ecoscape (2015) not targeted for searches:

- Abutilon malvifolium
- Blumea tenella
- Bonamia media
- Bonamia pilbarensis
- Calotis porphyroglossa
- Corchorus tridens
- Cullen graveolens
- Elacholoma hornii
- Eremophila latrobei subsp. filiformis
- Eremophila platycalyx subsp. pardalota
- Eriochiton sclerolaenoides
- Euphorbia coghlanii
- Goodenia maideniana
- Hibiscus sturtii var. grandiflorus
- Hypericum gramineum
- Ipomoea coptica
- Ipomoea plebeia
- Ipomoea polymorpha
- Lysiana exocarpi
- Menkea sphaerocarpa
- Najas tenuifolia
- Notoleptopus decaisnei
- Oldenlandia galioides
- Podolepis kendallii
- Portulaca intraterranea
- Ptilotus auriculifolius
- Scaevola tomentosa (note that this is likely to have been a misidentification in 2015)
- Schoenoplectus laevis (more recently known as Schoenoplectiella laevis)
- Setaria surgens
- Sida sp. verrucose glands (F.H. Mollemans 2423) (more recently known as Sida sp. L (A.M. Ashby 4202))
- Sida spinosa
- Swainsona longipilosa
- Swainsona rotunda
- Triglochin hexagona
- Urochloa occidentalis var. ciliata

- Vigna lanceolata
- Vigna sp. Hamersley Clay (A.A. Mitchell PRP 113)
- Zygophyllum aurantiacum subsp. aurantiacum (more recently known as Roepera aurantiaca Lindl. subsp. aurantiaca)

• Zygophyllum eichleri (more recently known as Roepera eichleri (R.M.Barker) Beier & Thulin).

# APPENDIX THREE QUADRAT DETAILS

Staff SOK Date 12/03/2019 Season A

**Revisit** 

**Type** Q 20 m x 20 m

Location

MGA Zone 50 422962 mE 7349298 mN Lat. -23.9663 Long. 116.2428

**Habitat** Flat

Aspect N/A Slope N/A

Soil Type Light red brown sandy loam

Rock Type Quartz

Loose Rock <2% cover; 6-20 mm in size Litter <1 % cover; 0 cm in depth

Bare ground 90% cover Weeds 0% cover

**Vegetation** G+ ^^Frankenia setosa, Sclerolaena medicaginoides, Eragrostis dielsii\^shrub, chenopod shrub,

tussock grass\1\r

Veg. Condition Very Good

**Disturbance** Grazing

Fire Age >10 years



Species	WA Cons.	Height (m)	Cover (%)
Aristida contorta		0.1	<1
Eragrostis dielsii		0.1	1
Frankenia hispidula		0.3	<1
Frankenia setosa		0.4	7
Gnephosis brevifolia		0.1	<1
Gomphrena kanisii		0.2	<1
Lepidium phlebopetalum		0.1	<1

QUADRAT	SUMMARIES

Oldenlandia galioides	0.1	<1
Sclerolaena medicaginoides	0.5	1
Trianthema triquetrum	0.1	<1

Staff SOK Date 12/03/2019 Season P

**Revisit** 

**Type** Q 20 m x 20 m

Location

MGA Zone 50 422794 mE 7349417 mN Lat. -23.9652 Long. 116.2411

**Habitat** Flat

Aspect N/A Slope N/A

Soil Type Light red brown sandy loam

Rock Type Nil

Loose Rock 0% cover; Litter <1 % cover; 0 cm in depth

Bare ground 85% cover Weeds 0% cover

**Vegetation** G+ ^Frankenia setosa,^Sclerolaena medicaginoides\^shrub,chenopod shrub\1\r

Veg. Condition Very Good

**Disturbance** Grazing

Fire Age >10 years



Species	WA Cons.	Height (m)	Cover (%)
Aristida contorta		0.1	<1
Eragrostis dielsii		0.1	1
Frankenia hispidula		0.2	<1
Frankenia setosa		0.5	8
Gnephosis brevifolia		0.1	<1
Gomphrena kanisii		0.2	<1
Sclerolaena medicaginoides		0.5	2

Senna artemisioides subsp. oligophylla

0.6

<1

Staff SOK Date 13/03/2019 Season P

**Revisit** 

**Type** Q 20 m x 20 m

Location

MGA Zone 50 423007 mE 7345348 mN Lat. -24.0020 Long. 116.2430

**Habitat** Flat

Aspect N/A Slope

Soil Type Red clay loam

Rock Type Quartz, ironstone

Loose Rock 20-50% cover; 6-20 mm in size Litter 1 % cover; 0 cm in depth

Bare ground 95% cover Weeds 0% cover

**Vegetation** M+ ^Eremophila cuneifolia, Acacia tetragonophylla, Senna artemisioides subsp.

helmsii\^shrub\3\r;G ^Eremophea spinosa\^chenopod shrub\1\r

Veg. Condition Very Good

**Disturbance** Grazing

Fire Age >10 years



Species	WA Cons.	Height (m)	Cover (%)
Acacia cuthbertsonii subsp. cuthbertsonii		0.6	<1
Acacia synchronicia		0.5	<1
Acacia tetragonophylla		1	<1
Aristida contorta		0.2	<1
Brachyachne prostrata		0.1	<1
Enneapogon caerulescens		0.2	<1
Eremophea spinosa		0.4	3

$\sim$ 1		- A -	- 01			-
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Eremophila cuneifolia 1 4
Senna artemisioides subsp. helmsii 1 1

Staff SOK Date 13/03/2019 Season P

Revisit

**Type** Q 20 m x 20 m

Location

MGA Zone 50 415676 mE 7358262 mN Lat. -23.8850 Long. 116.1717

Habitat Crest

Aspect NW Slope Moderate

Soil Type Red brown loam

Rock Type Chert

Loose Rock 50-90% cover; 60-200 mm in size Litter 1 % cover; 0-1 cm in depth

Bare ground 90% cover Weeds 0% cover

**Vegetation** M+ ^^Eremophila exilifolia, Eremophila latrobei subsp. latrobei, Acacia tetragonophylla\^shrub\3\r;G

^Ptilotus obovatus var. obovatus,^Eriachne mucronata\^shrub,tussock grass\1\r

Veg. Condition Very Good

Disturbance Minimal, some grazing

Fire Age >10 years



Species	WA Cons.	Height (m)	Cover (%)
Acacia aptaneura		3	1
Acacia tetragonophylla		1.3	1
Cheilanthes brownii		0.2	<1
Dodonaea petiolaris		0.7	<1
Eremophila exilifolia		1.5	5
Eremophila latrobei subsp. latrobei		1.3	2
Eremophila reticulata		1	<1

Eriachne mucronata		0.3	3
Gomphrena cunninghamii		0.2	2
Grevillea berryana		0.5	<1
Psydrax latifolia		1	<1
Ptilotus obovatus var. obovatus		0.5	5
Rhodanthe frenchii	P 2	0.2	<1
Solanum horridum		0.2	<1
Solanum lasiophyllum		0.3	<1

Staff SOK Date 13/03/2019 Season P

**Revisit** 

**Type** Q 20 m x 20 m

**Location** Stoney undulating plain

MGA Zone 50 415953 mE 7363071 mN Lat. -23.8415 Long. 116.1747

Habitat Low undulating hills

Aspect SE Slope Very Gentle

Soil Type Clay Loam

Rock Type Mixed

Loose Rock 50-90% cover; 20-60 mm in size Litter 2 % cover; 0-1 cm in depth

Bare ground 55% cover Weeds 0% cover

**Vegetation** U ^Acacia pruinocarpa,^Grevillea berryana\^tree\6\i;M+ ^Eremophila phyllopoda,Acacia

kempeana\^shrub\3\i;G ^Ptilotus obovatus var. obovatus,^Gomphrena kanisil\^shrub\1\bi

Veg. Condition Very Good

**Disturbance** Minimal, some grazing

Fire Age >10 years



Species	WA Cons.	Height (m)	Cover (%)
Acacia kempeana		1.5	6
Acacia pruinocarpa		10	12
Acacia ramulosa var. linophylla		4	0.5
Aristida contorta		0.2	<1
Eremophila phyllopoda		1.5	12
Eriachne pulchella		0.4	<1
Gomphrena kanisii		0.1	<1

Grevillea berryana	4	5
Hibiscus sturtii var. campylochlamys	0.1	<1
Ptilotus exaltatus	0.4	<1
Ptilotus obovatus var. obovatus	0.1	<1
Senna glutinosa subsp. x luerssenii	0.6	<1
Sida sp. dark green fruits (S. van Leeuwen 2260)	0.1	<1
Solanum lasiophyllum	0.4	<1

Staff SOK Date 13/03/2019 Season P

**Revisit** 

**Type** Q 20 m x 20 m

Location

MGA Zone 50 425969 mE 7356826 mN Lat. -23.8985 Long. 116.2727

**Habitat** Flat

Aspect N/A Slope N/A

Soil Type Brown clay loam

Rock Type Quartz

Loose Rock 50-90% cover; 20-60 mm in size Litter <1 % cover; 0 cm in depth

Bare ground 98% cover Weeds 0% cover

**Vegetation** M+ ^^Acacia synchronicia, Eremophila cuneifolia, Senna sp. Meekatharra (E. Bailey 1-26)

\^shrub\3\r;G ^Aristida contorta\^tussock grass\1\r

Veg. Condition Very Good

**Disturbance** Grazing

Fire Age >10 years



Species	WA Cons.	Height (m)	Cover (%)
Acacia synchronicia		1	2
Aristida contorta		0.2	<1
Brachyachne prostrata		0.1	<1
Enneapogon caerulescens		0.2	<1
Eremophila cuneifolia		0.7	<1
Portulaca intraterranea		0.1	<1
Ptilotus exaltatus		0.4	<1

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Salsola australis	0.1	<1
Senna artemisioides subsp. helmsii	0.6	<1
Senna artemisioides subsp. oligophylla	0.6	<1
Senna sp. Meekatharra (E. Bailey 1-26)	0.5	<1
Trianthema triquetrum	0.1	<1

Staff SOK Date 15/03/2019 Season P

**Revisit** 

**Type** Q 20 m x 20 m

Location

MGA Zone 50 407060 mE 7359136 mN Lat. -23.8766 Long. 116.0871

Habitat Clay depression

Aspect N/A Slope N/A

Soil Type Red brown clay

Rock Type Ironstone, quartz

Loose Rock <2% cover; 6-20 mm in size Litter 5 % cover; 0-2 cm in depth

Bare ground 85% cover Weeds 0% cover

**Vegetation** U+ ^^Acacia citrinoviridis,Acacia tetragonophylla,Acacia aptaneura\^tree\6\i;M ^Senna

artemisioides subsp. oligophylla,^Eremophila cuneifolia\^shrub\3\r;G ^Eragrostis setifolia\^tussock

grass\1\r

Veg. Condition Very Good

**Disturbance** Grazing

Fire Age >10 years



Species	WA Cons.	Height (m)	Cover (%)
Acacia aptaneura		5	2
Acacia citrinoviridis		7	10
Acacia synchronicia		0.8	<1
Acacia tetragonophylla		5	5
Centipeda minima subsp. macrocephala		0.1	<1
* Citrullus amarus		0.1	<1

Complex was triple as	0.4	.4
Corchorus tridens	0.1	<1
Duperreya commixta	0.8	<1
Enchylaena tomentosa var. tomentosa	0.3	<1
Eragrostis setifolia	0.2	5
Eremophila cuneifolia	1	1
Evolvulus alsinoides var. villosicalyx	0.1	<1
* Malvastrum americanum	0.4	<1
Marsilea hirsuta	0.1	<1
Phyllanthus maderaspatensis	0.3	<1
Polymeria longifolia	0.2	<1
Ptilotus obovatus var. obovatus	0.5	<1
Scaevola spinescens	0.5	<1
Scaevola spinescens	0.5	<1
Senna artemisioides subsp. oligophylla	1.5	2
Solanum lasiophyllum	0.3	<1
* Vachellia farnesiana	2	1

Staff SOK Date 15/03/2019 Season P

**Revisit** 

**Type** Q 20 m x 20 m

Location

MGA Zone 50 407446 mE 7359788 mN Lat. -23.8707 Long. 116.0910

Habitat Clay depression

Aspect N/A Slope N/A

Soil Type Red brown clay

Rock Type Nil

Loose Rock 0% cover; Litter 2 % cover; 0-1 cm in depth

Bare ground 85% cover Weeds <1% cover

**Vegetation** U+ ^Acacia aptaneura,^Acacia synchronicia\^tree\6\i;M ^Eremophila phyllopoda\^shrub\3\r;G

^^Eragrostis setifolia,Marsilea hirsuta,Centipeda minima subsp. macrocephala\^tussock grass,

fern,forb\1\i

Veg. Condition Very Good

**Disturbance** Grazing

Fire Age >10 years



Species	WA Cons.	Height (m)	Cover (%)
Abutilon malvifolium		0.1	<1
Acacia aptaneura		6	7
Acacia kempeana		3	3
Acacia synchronicia		4	3
Acacia tetragonophylla		4	3
Aeschynomene indica		0.3	<1

Alternanthera denticulata	0.1	<1
* Bidens subalternans var. simulans	0.2	<1
Bulbostylis turbinata	0.1	<1
Centipeda minima subsp. macrocephala	0.1	5
Cleome viscosa	0.2	<1
Corchorus tridens	0.1	<1
Crotalaria medicaginea var. neglecta	0.2	<1
Dichanthium sericeum subsp. humilius	0.2	<1
Eragrostis setifolia	0.3	5
Eremophila phyllopoda	1.5	2
Glinus lotoides	0.1	<1
Goodenia sp.	0.1	<1
Haloragis trigonocarpa	0.2	<1
Ipomoea calobra	2	<1
Lotus cruentus	0.1	<1
* Malvastrum americanum	0.3	<1
Marsilea hirsuta	0.1	10
Phyllanthus maderaspatensis	0.2	<1
Psydrax latifolia	2	<1
Ptilotus gomphrenoides	0.1	<1
Solanum lasiophyllum	0.4	<1
Swainsona sp.	0.3	<1

Staff SOK Date 16/03/2019 Season P

**Revisit** 

**Type** Q 20 m x 20 m

Location

MGA Zone 50 417638 mE 7358851 mN Lat. -23.8798 Long. 116.1910

**Habitat** Flat

Aspect N/A Slope N/A

Soil Type Red brown clay loam

Rock Type Quartz

Loose Rock 20-50% cover; 20-60 mm in size Litter 3 % cover; 0-1 cm in depth

Bare ground 90% cover Weeds 0% cover

**Vegetation** U ^Acacia synchronicia,^Hakea preissii\^tree\6\r;M+ ^Eremophila cuneifolia,^Senna artemisioides

subsp. oligophylla\^shrub\3\r;G ^Frankenia hispidula,^Sclerolaena cuneata\^shrub,chenopod

 $shrub\1\r$ 

Veg. Condition Very Good

**Disturbance** Grazing

Fire Age >10 years



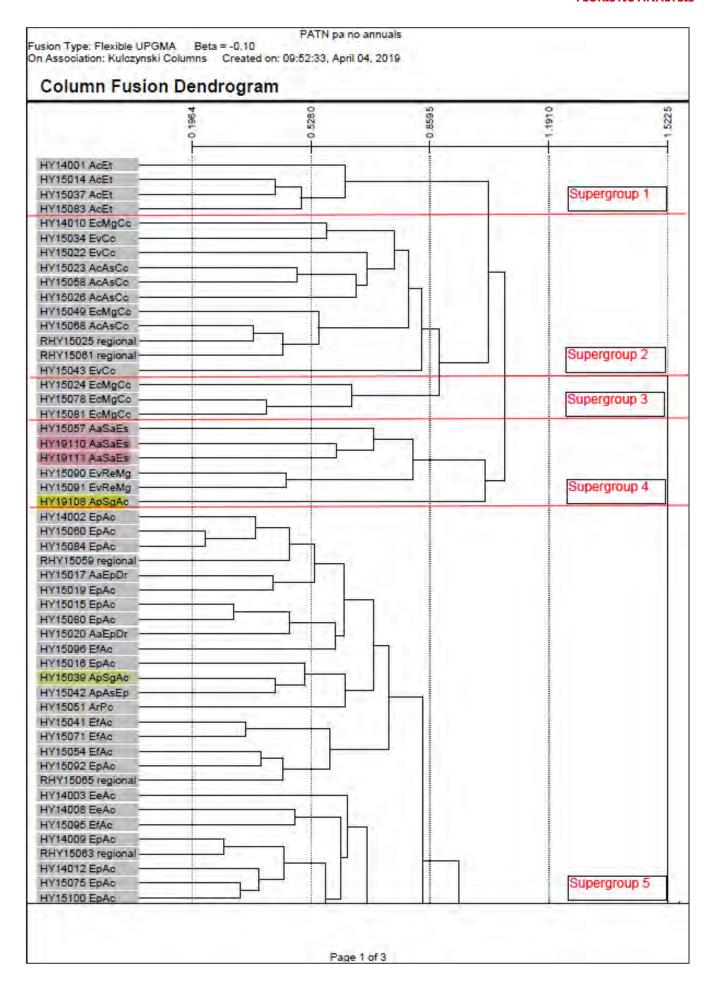
Species	WA Cons.	Height (m)	Cover (%)
Acacia synchronicia		3	2
Acacia tetragonophylla		0.3	<1
Aristida contorta		0.2	<1
Enteropogon ramosus		0.3	<1
Eragrostis xerophila		0.1	<1
Eremophila cuneifolia		1	5

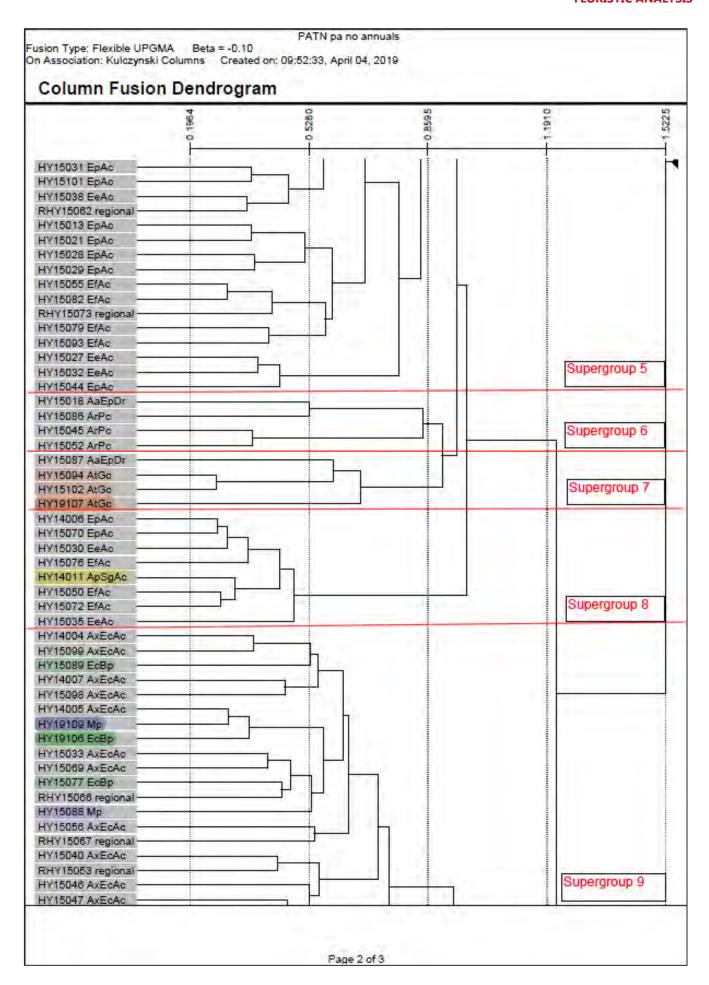
Frankenia hispidula	0.3	3
Hakea preissii	2	2
Scaevola spinescens	1	2
Sclerolaena cuneata	0.3	3
Sclerolaena eriacantha	0.1	<1
Senna artemisioides subsp. oligophylla	1	2
Senna hamersleyensis	0.2	<1
Senna sp. Meekatharra (E. Bailey 1-26)	1	<1
Trianthema triquetrum	0.1	<1

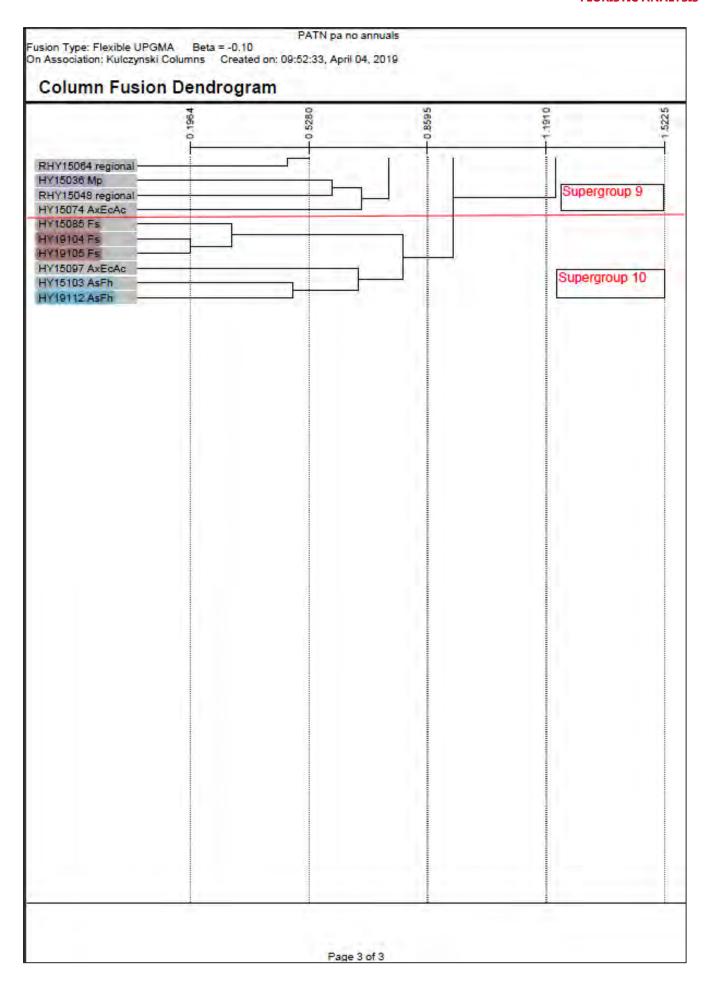
### APPENDIX FOUR FLORISTIC ANALYSIS

The floristic analysis dendrogram is included on the following pages.

The various colours highlight the vegetation types that were identified as requiring additional quadrats, with the darker hue of each colour indicating the new (2019) quadrats.







## **APPENDIX FIVE**

# **FLORA INVENTORY**

Table 9: Flora inventory (site x species)

			4	LO	LO	_	00	0			5	
	ura	Cons. code	HY19104	HY19105	HY19106	9107	HY19108	910	HY19110	HY19111	HY19112	Targeted
Species	Naturalised	Con	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	HY1	H	Tarç
Trianthema triquetrum			Х					Х			Х	
Alternanthera denticulata										Х		
Gomphrena cunninghamii						Х						
Gomphrena kanisii			Х	Х			Х					
Ptilotus exaltatus							Х	Х				
Ptilotus gomphrenoides										Х		
Ptilotus obovatus var. obovatus						Х	Х		Х			
Bidens subalternans var. simulans	*									Х		
Centipeda minima subsp. macrocephala									Х	Х		
Gnephosis brevifolia			Х	Х								
Rhodanthe frenchii		P2				Х						Х
Lepidium phlebopetalum			Х									
Enchylaena tomentosa var. tomentosa									Х			
Eremophea spinosa					Х							
Salsola australis								Х				
Sclerolaena cuneata											Х	
Sclerolaena eriacantha											Х	
Sclerolaena medicaginoides			Х	Х								
Cleome viscosa										Х		
Duperreya commixta									Х			
Evolvulus alsinoides var. villosicalyx									Х			
Ipomoea calobra										Х		
 Polymeria longifolia									Х			
Citrullus amarus	*								Х			
Bulbostylis turbinata										Х		
Acacia aptaneura						Х			Х	Х		
Acacia citrinoviridis									Х			
Acacia curryana		P1										Х
Acacia cuthbertsonii subsp. cuthbertsonii					Х							
Acacia kempeana							Х			Х		
Acacia pruinocarpa							Х					
Acacia ramulosa var. linophylla							Х					
Acacia synchronicia					Х			Х	Х	Х	Х	
Acacia tetragonophylla					Х	Х			Х	Х	Х	
Aeschynomene indica										Х		
Crotalaria medicaginea var. neglecta										Х		
Lotus cruentus										Х		
Senna artemisioides subsp. helmsii					Х			Х				
Senna artemisioides subsp. oligophylla				Х				Х	Х		Х	
Senna glutinosa subsp. x luerssenii				•			Х	-	Ė			

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		Naturalised	Cons. code	HY19104	105	106	107	108	109	110	를	112	ted
		atur	ons.	V19	V19	V19	V19	V19	V19	V19	HY19111	HY19112	Targeted
Family	Species	Z	Ü	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I		F
	Senna hamersleyensis											Х	
	Senna sp. Meekatharra (E. Bailey 1-26)								Х			X	
	<i>Swainsona</i> sp.										Х		
	Vachellia farnesiana	*								Х			
Frankeniaceae	Frankenia hispidula			Х	Х							X	
	Frankenia setosa			X	Х								
Goodeniaceae	Goodenia sp.										Х		
	Scaevola spinescens									Х		Х	
Haloragaceae	Haloragis trigonocarpa										Х		
Malvaceae	Abutilon malvifolium										Х		
	Corchorus tridens									Х	Х		
	Hibiscus sturtii var. campylochlamys							Х					
	Malvastrum americanum	*								Х	Х		
	Sida sp. dark green fruits (S. van Leeuwen 2260)							Х					
Marsileaceae	Marsilea hirsuta									Х	Х		
Molluginaceae	Glinus lotoides										Х		
Phyllanthaceae	Phyllanthus maderaspatensis									Х	Х		
Poaceae	Aristida contorta			Х	Х	Х		Х	Х			Х	
	Cynodon prostratus					Х			Х				
	Dichanthium sericeum subsp. humilius										Х		
	Enneapogon caerulescens					Х			Х				
	Enteropogon ramosus											Х	
	Eragrostis dielsii			Х	Х								
	Eragrostis setifolia									Х	Х		
	Eragrostis xerophila											Х	
	Eriachne mucronata						Х						
	Eriachne pulchella							Х					
	Sporobolus blakei		Р3										Х
Portulacaceae	Portulaca intraterranea								Х				
Proteaceae	Grevillea berryana						Х	Х					
1.01000000	Hakea preissii											Х	
Pteridaceae	Cheilanthes brownii						Х						
Rubiaceae	Oldenlandia galioides			Х									
	Psydrax latifolia						Х				Х		
Sapindaceae	Dodonaea petiolaris						Х				<u> </u>		
Scrophulariaceae	Eremophila cuneifolia					Х	<u> </u>		Х	Х		Х	
	Eremophila exilifolia						Х			<u> </u>			
	Eremophila latrobei subsp. latrobei						X						
	Eremophila phyllopoda							Х			Х		
	Eremophila reticulata						Х	^			<u>  ^ </u>		
Solanaceae	Solanum horridum						X						
Solaliaceae								V		V	V		
	Solanum lasiophyllum						Х	Х		X	Х		