

BORR Northern and Central Section Targeted Fauna Assessment (Biota 2019a) – Part 2c (part 4 of 7)

5.4.2 Breeding Habitat Assessment

Potential black-cockatoo breeding habitat trees were considered to be those of relevant species with a DBH of 50 cm or greater, as defined in the Commonwealth draft referral guidelines (DoEE 2017). A total of 2,804 trees matching these criteria were recorded: 1,153 Marri, 931 Jarrah, 619 Flooded Gum, and 101 Eucalypts of other species (either introduced species, or dead stags that could not be identified). The locations of all trees with greater than 50 cm DBH are shown in Figure 5.9 to Figure 5.11. Also shown in these figures are the trees found to be supporting potentially suitable black-cockatoo hollows as described in Section 5.4.2.1.

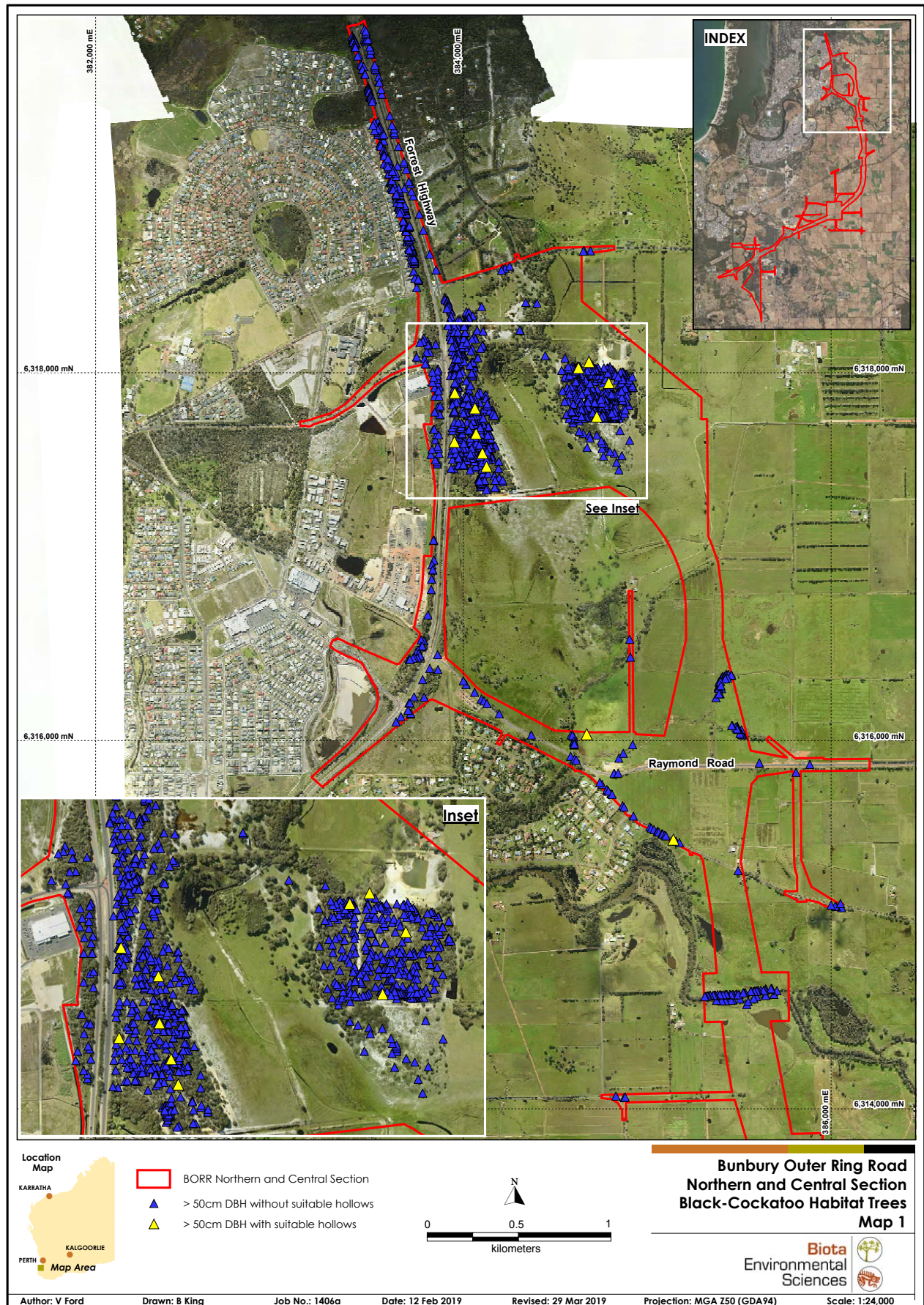


Figure 5.9: Trees >50 cm DBH of hollow-forming species recorded within the study area, including those bearing suitable hollows (northern section, map 1/3).

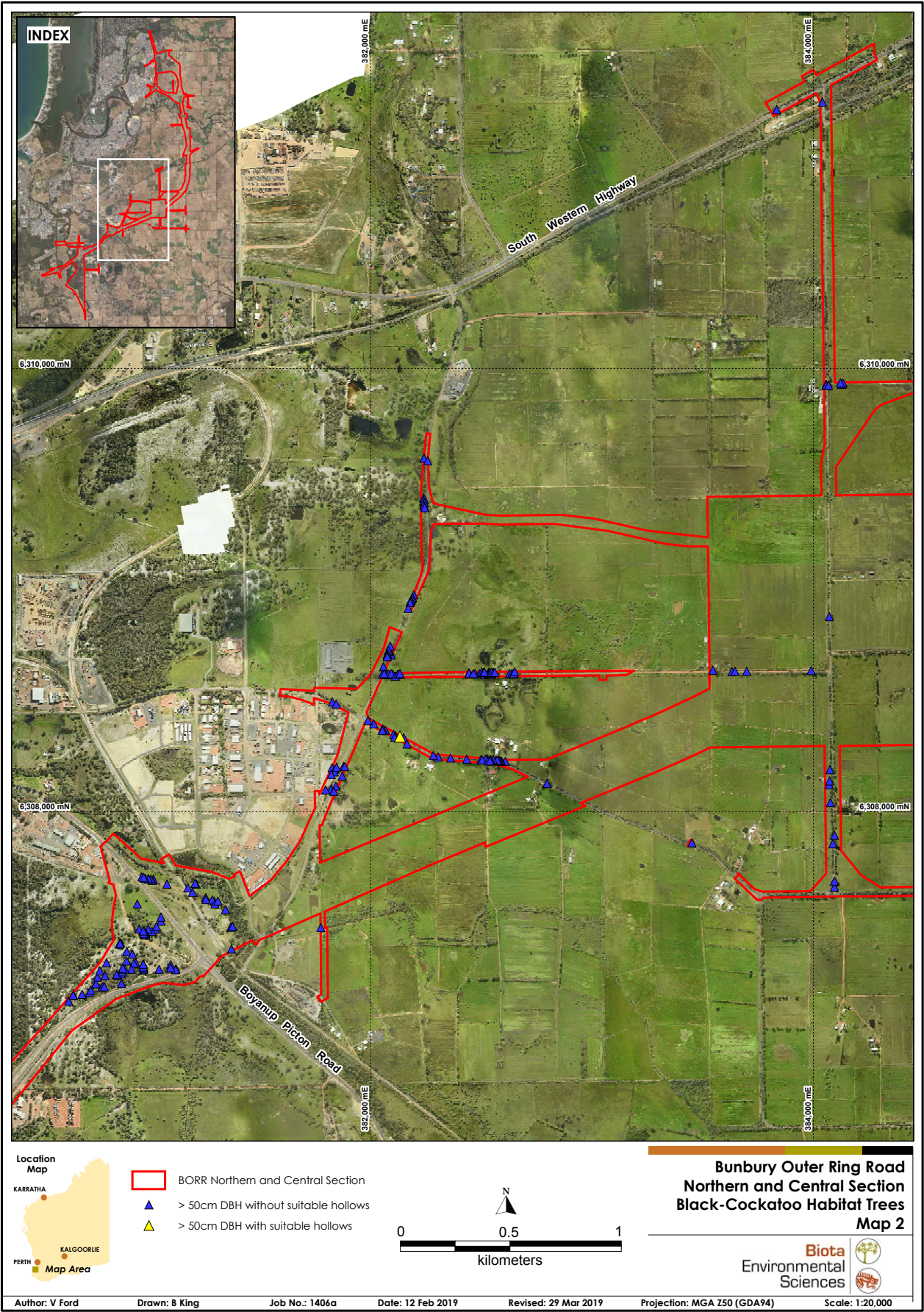


Figure 5.10: Trees > 50 cm DBH of hollow-forming species recorded within the study area, including those bearing suitable hollows (middle section map 2/3).

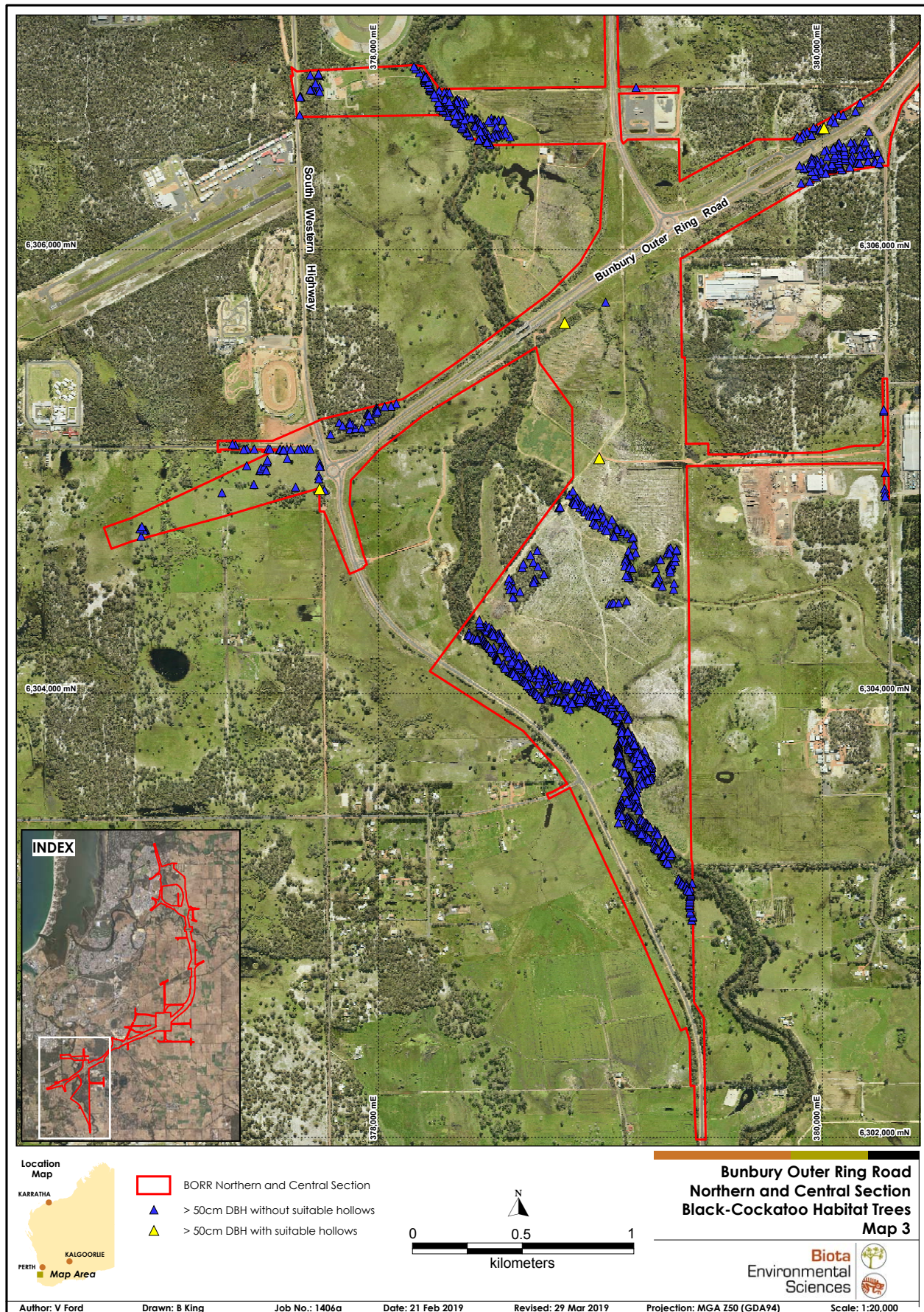


Figure 5.11: Trees >50 cm DBH of hollow-forming species recorded within the study area, including those bearing suitable hollows (southern section, map 3/3).

BORR Northern and Central Section Targeted Fauna Assessment (Biota 2019a) – Part 2d (part 5 of 7)

5.4.2.1 Black-Cockatoo Breeding Hollow Assessment

A total of 145 trees were targeted during the hollow assessment survey. For 30 of the trees, a preliminary examination from ground level indicated that they did not contain suitable breeding hollows (e.g. unsuitable size of entrance, angle of entrance or size of the branch supporting the hollow support a large enough cavity) and as a result they were not flown with the RPA. Seven trees could not be assessed using the RPA due to their proximity to infrastructure or because foliage covered the hollow. However, for one of these trees it was still possible to preliminarily assess the hollow from the ground as potentially suitable.

A total of 156 hollows, from 139 trees, were described in terms of suitability for black-cockatoo nesting using the categories defined in Table 4.12. As some trees supported multiple hollows, the highest ranking hollow of each tree has been used to categorise the trees in Figure 5.12 to Figure 5.14. Twenty hollows (from 19 trees) were categorised as suitable for black-cockatoo breeding, four of these hollows (four trees) showed secondary evidence of use consistent with black-cockatoos. This evidence ranged from chew marks around the entrance through to two broken eggs found in one hollow (Plate 5.3). A further 50 hollows (49 trees) were found to have marginal/limited suitability, that is, some but not all criteria for suitability were met (see Table 4.12), while 84 hollows (74 trees) were assessed as unsuitable for black-cockatoo nesting and one hollow from one tree was assessed as potentially suitable from the ground.

Examples of photographs from the study area taken using the RPA are shown in Plate 5.1 to Plate 5.4.



Plate 5.1: RPA photo of hollow with chew marks.



Plate 5.2: RPA photo of hollow with chew marks.



Plate 5.3: RPA photo showing nest and potential black-cockatoo eggs.



Plate 5.4: RPA photo of Common Brushtail Possum in hollow.

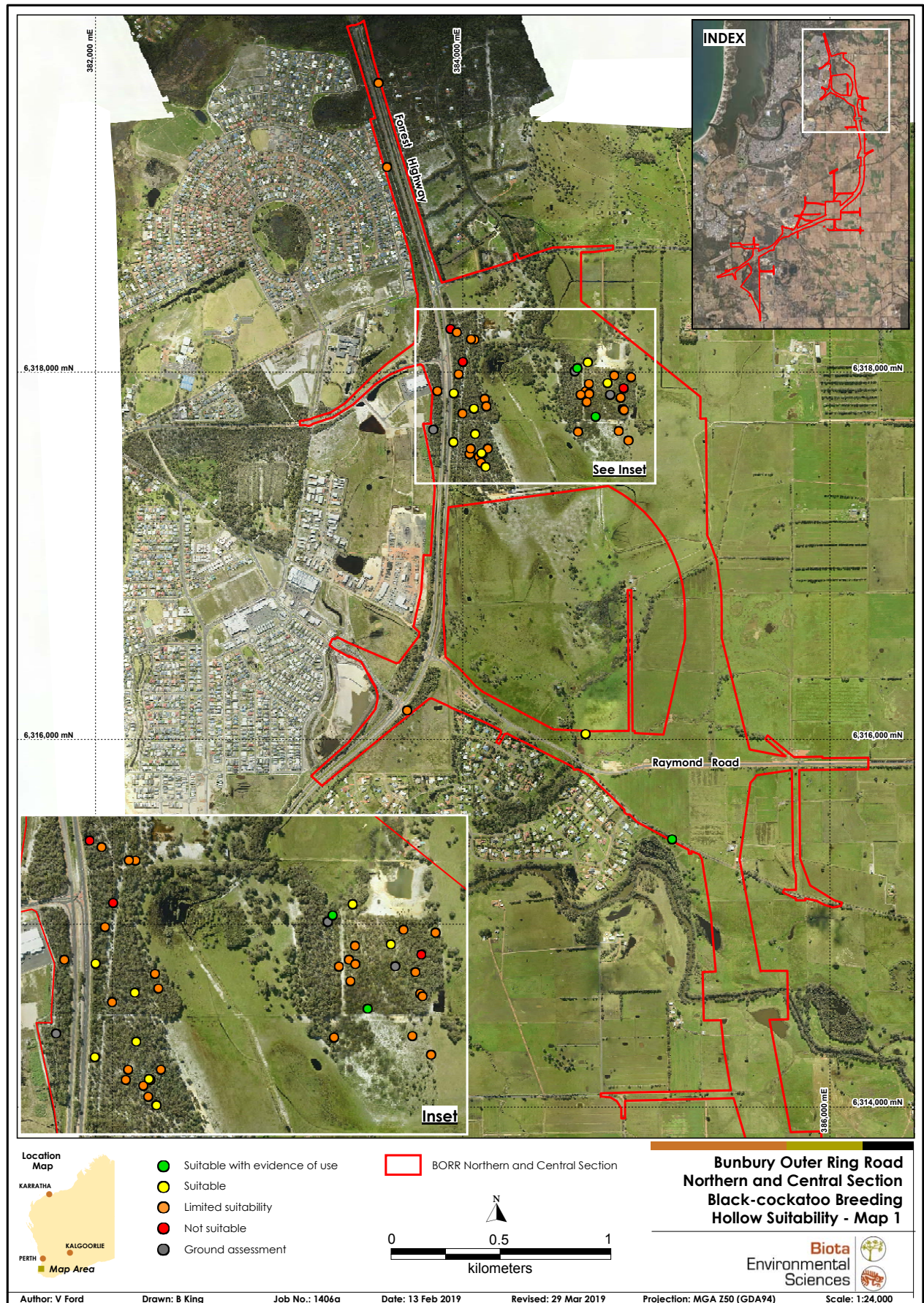


Figure 5.12: Tree hollow assessment results (northern section, map 1/3).

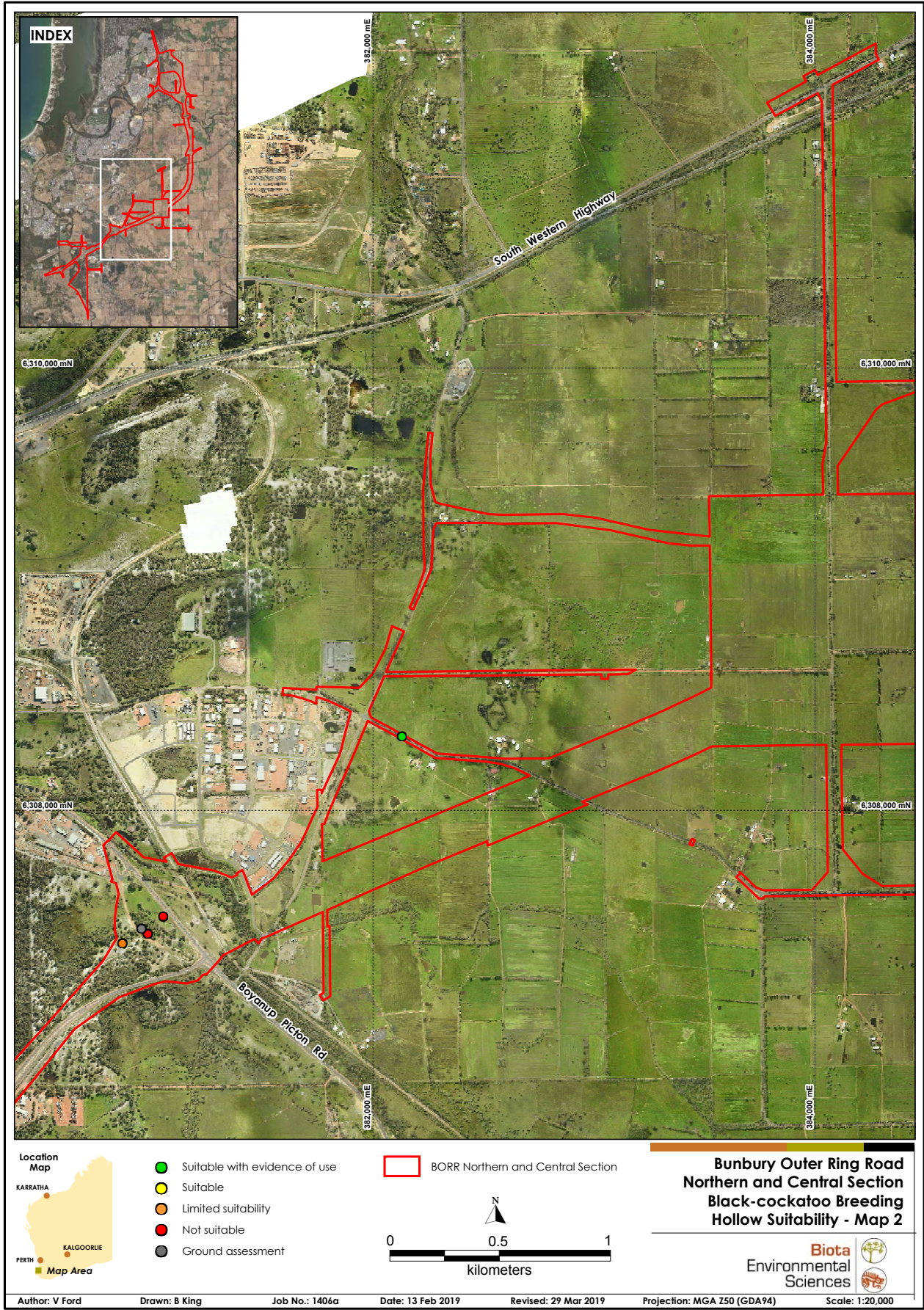


Figure 5.13: Tree hollow assessment results (middle section, map 2/3).