



**Environmental
Protection
Authority**

Earl Grey Lithium Project – Life of Mine Proposal

Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd

**Report 1809
May 2026**

This assessment report has been prepared by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under s. 44 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA). It describes the outcomes of the EPA's assessment of the Earl Grey Lithium Project – Life of Mine Proposal by Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd.

This assessment report is for the Western Australian Minister for Environment and sets out:

- what the EPA considers to be the key environmental factors identified in the course of the assessment
- the EPA's recommendations as to whether or not the proposal may be implemented and, if it recommends that implementation be allowed, the conditions and procedures, if any, to which implementation should be subject
- other information, advice and recommendations as the EPA thinks fit.



Darren Walsh
Chair
Environmental Protection Authority

23 April 2026

ISSN 1836-0491 (Online)
Assessment No. 2387

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Summary

Proposal

The Earl Grey Lithium Project – Life of Mine Proposal (the proposal) is a significant amendment to the Earl Grey Lithium Project Revised Proposal (approved proposal), currently authorised under Ministerial Statement (MS) 1199, to expand existing operations for the mining, processing and transportation of lithium ore.

The proposal is located approximately 100 kilometres (km) south-southeast of Southern Cross in the Goldfields region of Western Australia. The proponent for the proposal is Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd.

The significant amendment includes duplication of the processing plant, additional waste rock landforms and tailings storage facility, addition of an evaporation pond, changes to water disposal locations and expansion of various supporting infrastructure.

Context

The proposal is located at the abandoned Mt Holland mine site, a former gold mining operation, and is centred on the Bounty mine site, which forms the central infrastructure area of current operations. The site was owned and operated by various companies from 1988 until 2001, with the historic processing plant receiving ore from numerous open pits within an approximate 10 km radius of the site, including the existing Earl Grey mine pit.

The proposal is situated in the Southern Cross subregion of the Coolgardie Bioregion, based on the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) classifications. The proposal is located at the western edge of the Great Western Woodlands, the largest intact woodland remaining on Earth covering an area of almost 16,000,000 ha. There are two nature reserves located near the development envelope; Jilbadji Nature Reserve is approximately 2 km north and Lake Cronin Nature Reserve approximately 30 km south. The proposal is in an area with over 80,000 ha of native vegetation occurring within a 10 km radius.

A bushfire resulting from lightning strikes in January 2025 burned approximately 35,000 ha of native vegetation surrounding the proposal area including 2,500 ha within the development envelope. It is noted that the fire was high intensity and may take 10-15 years to regenerate. All baseline flora and fauna surveys for the proposal were undertaken prior to this fire.

Consultation

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) published the proponent's referral information for the proposal on its website for seven days public comment from 8 December 2023 to 14 December 2023 and received three submissions. The EPA considered the comments received in its assessment. On 20 December 2023, the EPA decided to assess the proposal at the level Referral Information with additional

information (no public review period). The EPA also published the proponent’s additional information on its website on 22 April 2026.

Assessment of key environmental factors

The EPA has identified the key environmental factors (listed below) in the course of the assessment. For each factor, the EPA has assessed the residual impacts of the proposal on the environmental values and considered whether the environmental outcomes are likely to be consistent with the EPA environmental factor objectives.

As the proposal is a significant amendment to an approved proposal the EPA’s assessment has been undertaken, having regard to the existing operations and the combined and cumulative effects on the environment. The EPA has also considered whether to inquire into the implementation conditions for the approved proposal.

Environmental factor: Flora and vegetation	
Residual impact on key value	Assessment finding
<p>1. Clearing of 1,443 ha of native vegetation in condition ranging from ‘Completely Degraded’ to ‘Excellent’.</p> <p>The combined effect of the approved proposal and significant amendment is the loss of 1,885 ha of native vegetation.</p>	<p>The EPA advises that the clearing of native vegetation is a residual impact as it provides habitat for conservation significant flora and fauna species. The EPA considered the connection of the remaining intact native vegetation in the local and regional area, with several surrounding nature reserves. Based on the range and extent of remaining vegetation within the region, it is unlikely the proposal will have a significant residual impact on vegetation.</p> <p>The EPA considers that subject to limitations on clearing (condition A1-1), and recommended conditions requiring no disturbance to vegetation within exclusion zones (condition B1-1(1)) and implementing rehabilitation (condition B3), the environmental outcome is likely to be consistent with the EPA objective for this factor.</p>
<p>2. The clearing of threatened and priority flora.</p>	<p>The proposal will directly disturb one threatened flora species (<i>Banksia dolichostyla</i>) and 24 priority flora species including ten Priority 1 (P1) species, three P2 species, seven P3 species and four P4 species.</p> <p>The combined loss of 12 individuals of <i>Banksia dolichostyla</i> is considered to be a significant residual impact. The proposed clearing is not expected to significantly impact on the local extent, regional extent or conservation status of the priority flora species recorded within the development envelope.</p> <p>The EPA has considered the combined effects of clearing with the approved proposal, including advice from Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) on the current knowledge and potential impact, as well as mitigation measures, the proponent’s flora offset strategy and proposed rehabilitation. The EPA has recommended conditions to ensure that relevant measures are undertaken by the</p>

		<p>proponent to manage residual impacts and considers that the offsets appropriately counterbalance the combined effects.</p> <p>The EPA considers that subject to the recommended conditions for clearing limits (conditions A1-1 and B1-1), exclusion zones to protect conservation significant flora (condition B1-1(1)), implementing rehabilitation (condition B3), and offset measures to counterbalance the significant residual impact (condition B4), the environmental outcome is likely to be consistent with the EPA objective for this factor.</p>
3.	<p>Indirect impacts including dust deposition and suppression, introduction/spread of weeds and pathogens (i.e. dieback), altered surface water regimes, seepage of discharge from tailings storage facilities (TSFs), chemical hydrocarbon spill and altered fire regimes.</p>	<p>The proposal has the potential to result in indirect impacts to values of flora and vegetation.</p> <p>The EPA considers that subject to limits on clearing (conditions A1-1 and B1-1), recommended conditions to minimise indirect impacts (condition B1-2), implementation of the revised Flora and Vegetation Environmental Management Plan (condition B1-3), and DMA regulation, any residual impacts to flora and vegetation will be appropriately managed so that the environmental outcome is likely to be consistent with the EPA objective for this factor.</p>

Environmental factor: Terrestrial fauna

Residual impact on key value		Assessment finding
1.	<p>Clearing 1,443 ha of fauna habitat including habitat for malleefowl and chuditch.</p> <p>The combined effect of the approved proposal and significant amendment is the loss of 1,885 ha of fauna habitat.</p>	<p>The combined effect of the significant amendment with the approved proposal will be the clearing of 1,866 ha of foraging and breeding habitat for malleefowl and 1,883 ha of foraging and potential breeding habitat for chuditch. The EPA considers that the loss of habitat for these two threatened species is a significant residual impact.</p> <p>The proponent has prepared fauna offset strategies comprising land acquisition and on-ground management, including a predator control and monitoring program and contributing to fire mitigation efforts.</p> <p>The EPA considers that subject to the recommended conditions for clearing limits (conditions A1-1 and B2-1), exclusion zones around active malleefowl mounds (condition B2-1(5)), pre-clearance inspections (condition B2-3), rehabilitation (condition B3), and offset measures to counterbalance the significant residual impacts (condition B4), the environmental outcome is likely to be consistent with the EPA objective for this factor.</p>
2.	<p>Indirect impacts from fragmentation of habitat, disturbance to fauna via generation of noise, light, vibration, dust, use of hypersaline water, vehicle</p>	<p>The proposal has the potential to result in indirect impacts to values of terrestrial fauna.</p> <p>The EPA considers that subject to limits on clearing (conditions A1-1 and B2-1), recommended conditions to minimise indirect impacts (condition B2-2),</p>

strikes, feral animals and altered fire regimes.	implementation of the revised Terrestrial Fauna Environmental Management Plan (condition B2-5), rehabilitation (condition B3) and DMA regulation, any residual impacts to terrestrial fauna will be appropriately managed so that the environmental outcome is likely to be consistent with the EPA objective for this factor.
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Holistic assessment

The EPA considered the connections and interactions between relevant environmental factors and values to inform a holistic view of impacts to the whole environment. The EPA formed the view that the holistic impacts would not alter the EPA's conclusions about consistency with the EPA factor objectives.

Conclusion and recommendations

The EPA has taken the following into account in its assessment of the proposal:

- environmental values which may be significantly affected by the proposal
- assessment of key environmental factors, separately and holistically (this has included considering cumulative impacts of the proposal where relevant)
- likely environmental outcomes which can be achieved with the imposition of conditions
- consistency of environmental outcomes with the EPA's objectives for the key environmental factors
- EPA's confidence in the proponent's proposed mitigation measures
- whether other statutory decision-making processes can mitigate the potential impacts of the proposal on the environment
- principles of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

The EPA has recommended that the proposal may be implemented subject to conditions recommended in Appendix A.

1 Proposal

The Earl Grey Lithium Project – Life of Mine Proposal (the proposal) is a significant amendment to the Earl Grey Lithium Project Revised Proposal (approved proposal), currently authorised under Ministerial Statement (MS) 1199, to expand existing operations for the mining, processing and transportation of lithium ore.

The proposal is located approximately 100 kilometres (km) south-southeast of Southern Cross in the Goldfields region of Western Australia (see Figure 1).

The proposal includes a disturbance footprint of 2,408 hectares (ha) requiring additional clearing of 1,443 ha of native vegetation (for a total of 1,885 ha) within a revised development envelope of 4,009 ha (Figure 2). The proposal requires additional infrastructure including:

- duplication of the processing plant to provide additional processing/throughput capacity of up to 4.4 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa)
- additional waste rock landforms and tailings storage facility for the disposal of mining and processing wastes
- expansion of various support infrastructure including the accommodation village (mine camp), ore stockpiles, rehabilitation stockpiles, materials laydown, mine roads, power infrastructure, communications and drainage infrastructure, and addition of conveyors between the mine pit and the processing plant
- addition of an evaporation pond and changes to water disposal locations.

The proponent for the proposal is Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd. The proponent referred the proposal to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on 13 October 2023. The referral information was published on the EPA website for seven days public comment. On 20 December 2023, the EPA decided to assess the proposal at the level Referral Information with addition information (no public review period). The EPA published the additional information on its website on 22 April 2026.

The proposal was determined under EPBC Act to be a controlled action by the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (reference EPBC 2023/09711). The proposal has not been assessed by the EPA as an accredited assessment under the EPBC Act. However, the EPA has had regard to issues relevant to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) in its assessment.

The EPA has assessed the residual impacts of the significant amendment by considering the expansions and changes which are now proposed in the context of the approved proposal. The EPA has also considered the combined impacts of the approved proposal and the significant amendment, and cumulative impacts of other activities in the region. The EPA has not reassessed the approved proposal.

The consolidated and updated elements of the proposal which has been subject to the EPA's assessment is included in Table 1.

Table 1: Proposal content document (Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd 2025a)

Proposal element	Location	Approved proposal	Significant amendment	Combined proposal *
<i>Physical elements</i>				
Development envelope	Figures 1 and 2	2,347 ha	Additional 1,662 ha	4,009 ha
Disturbance footprint	Figure 2	882 ha	Additional 1,526 ha	2,408 ha
Native vegetation clearing	Figure 2	442 ha	Additional 1,443 ha	1,885 ha
<i>Operational elements</i>				
Ore processing	Within disturbance footprint	Not specified	NA	Up to 4.4 Mtpa
Waste rock to waste rock landform(s)		Not specified	NA	440 Mt capacity for Life of Mine
Tailings deposition		Not specified	NA	2.6 Mtpa in wet tailings
Disposal of inert refinery waste to waste rock landform(s)		Not specified	NA	390,000 tpa (dry)
Pit dewatering / groundwater abstraction		Not specified	NA	Up to 1.5 GL/year
<i>Greenhouse gas emissions</i>				
Annual average emissions – operational elements	Scope 1		63,450 t CO ₂ -e per annum	
	Scope 2		34,800 t CO ₂ -e per annum	
	Scope 3		1,094,500 t CO ₂ -e per annum	
<i>Rehabilitation</i>				
Rehabilitation will be undertaken progressively during mining operations (where possible) within areas disturbed by the proposal (excluding mine pits) in accordance with a Mine Closure Plan assessed and approved under the <i>Mining Act 1978</i> . Rehabilitation will seek to restore environmental values by supporting native vegetation comparable to adjacent undisturbed areas.				
<i>Commissioning</i>				
Commissioning of the processing plant, power infrastructure and associated infrastructure (as required).				
<i>Decommissioning</i>				
Decommissioning of mine infrastructure in accordance with a Mine Closure Plan assessed and approved under the <i>Mining Act 1978</i> .				
<i>Other elements which affect extent of effects on the environment</i>				

Proposal element	Location	Approved proposal	Significant amendment	Combined proposal *
Proposal time	Maximum project life	Up to 40 years from date of issue of MS 1199	Reduction of 10 years	Up to 30 years, inclusive of decommissioning and rehabilitation

Units and abbreviations

ha – hectare

GL – gigalitres

Mtpa – million tonnes per annum

t CO₂-e – tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent

* Sourced from proponent's amended Proposal Content Document (Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd 2025a)

Proposal amendments

The original proposal is set out in section 2 of the proponent's referral Environmental Review Document (ERD) (JBS&G 2023), which is available on the EPA website. During the assessment process the EPA encouraged the proponent to identify avoidance and mitigation measures for the proposal in addition to those included in the original proposal.

The proponent requested changes to the original proposal during the assessment under section 43A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The changes included an increase in the development envelope for two new booster stations on the existing underground water pipeline (no change to the disturbance footprint), an increase in pit dewatering and groundwater abstraction volumes and a reduction in estimated greenhouse gas emissions. The changes were assessed to be unlikely to significantly increase any impacts of the proposal. The EPA Chair's notice of 5 October 2025, consenting to the change is available on the EPA website.

Proposal alternatives

The proponent considered several options for the construction and operation of the proposal, which are outlined in section 2.17 of the ERD (JBS&G 2023).

Processing options previously considered for the proposal included a potential short-term option to utilise Poseidon Nickel Limited's Lake Johnston processing facility, located approximately 100 km south-east of the proposal. For commercial reasons this option was not advanced by the proponent.

The siting of the mine pit is restricted by the location of the Earl Grey lithium deposit orebody. Two different mining approaches were considered including: open pit mining with progressive in-pit backfilling of the mine pit to the extent practicable, in combination with disposal to waste rock landforms; and open pit mining with no progressive backfilling and all waste rock disposed to waste rock landforms. The proponent has opted for progressive in-pit backfilling to minimise the overall spatial extent of the waste rock landforms and balanced against landform height which may affect visual or aesthetic implementation.

The proponent considered several options for the siting of infrastructure. Infrastructure is to be located within existing cleared or disturbed land (comprising

over 20% of the disturbance footprint) on the abandoned Mt Holland mine site where possible. The proponent has agreed to adopt the closure and rehabilitation liability and risk for the areas which were previously used. This approach will result in a reduction in native vegetation clearing required, support the restoration of ecological health and function of the previously impacted Mt Holland mine site areas, and assist with the closure and restoration of abandoned mine landforms and infrastructure.

Proposal context

The proposal is located at the abandoned Mt Holland mine site, a former gold mining operation, and is centred on the Bounty mine site, which forms the central infrastructure area of current operations. Between 1988 and 2001, the historic processing plant received ore from numerous open pits within an approximate 10 km radius of the site, including the existing Earl Grey mine pit.

The site was owned and operated by various companies from 1988 until 2001. By 2002, the majority of mining tenements had expired or been surrendered with the 'Unconditional Performance Bonds' (financial bonds) called in by the State Government. Limited rehabilitation has occurred on the site. In 2014, Convergent Minerals acquired tenements for the Mt Holland mine site and obtained approval for mining operations under the *Mining Act 1978* (Mining Act); however, one year later, the company entered administration, and no further mining development or rehabilitation occurred (JBS&G 2023).

Kidman Resources acquired the tenements over the historical gold mine in 2016 and entered a joint venture with Sociedad Quimica y Minera. Wesfarmers Lithium Pty Ltd then acquired Kidman's shares and a 50% interest, and Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd was formed as a joint venture to manage the project. The proposal is located across several Mining Lease, General Purpose Lease and Miscellaneous Licence tenements granted under the Mining Act, with the proponent having commercial agreements with the tenement holders to grant land access and authorise operations (JBS&G 2023).

The proposal is situated in the Southern Cross subregion of the Coolgardie Bioregion, based on the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) classifications. The proposal is located at the western edge of the Great Western Woodlands, the largest intact woodland remaining on Earth covering an area of almost 16,000,000 ha. There are two nature reserves located near the development envelope; Jilbadji Nature Reserve is approximately 2 km north and Lake Cronin Nature Reserve approximately 30 km south. The proposal is in an area with over 80,000 ha of native vegetation occurring within a 10 km radius.

The proposal is located within the Marlinyu Ghoorlie Native Title claim area (WC2017/007). Ethnographic and archaeological Aboriginal heritage surveys have been completed for the proposal with representatives from the Marlinyu Ghoorlie. It is understood that the proponent and the Marlinyu Ghoorlie have an established Native Title Agreement and a Heritage Agreement and are working towards agreement on a Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

A bushfire resulting from lightning strikes in January 2025 burned approximately 35,000 ha of native vegetation surrounding the proposal area, including 2,500 ha within the development envelope impacting several flora exclusion zones (Figure 3) and malleefowl mounds (Figure 4). It is noted that the fire was high intensity and may take 10 to 15 years to regenerate. All baseline flora and fauna surveys for the proposal were undertaken prior to this fire.

Application of *Environmental Protection Act 1986* amendments to the proposal

The Earl Grey Lithium Project proposal was initially approved under the EP Act through MS 1118, issued on 21 November 2019. The original proposal was assessed under an accredited assessment and was granted approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) in February 2020 (EPBC 2017/7950).

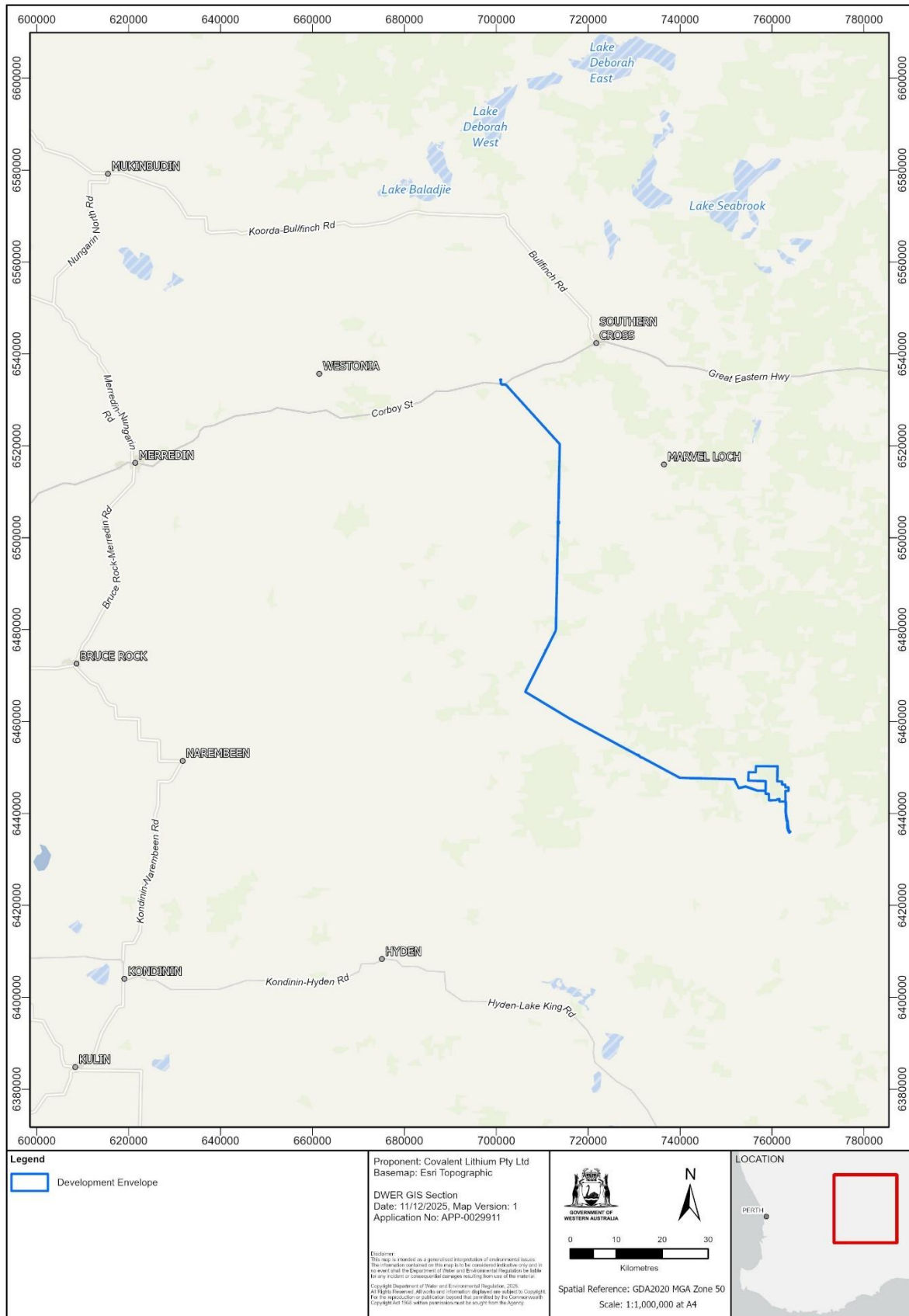
The EPA inquired into the implementation conditions of MS 1118 under section 46 of the EP Act at the request of the proponent. Changes included amendments to a malleefowl mound exclusion zone, the waste rock dump footprint, level of impact and species identification for *Microcorys elatoides* (formerly *Microcorys sp.* Mt Holland (D. Angus DA2397)) and amendments to some offset conditions. Subsequently, MS 1167 was issued on 14 May 2021 which detailed the changes to MS 1118.

Construction of the approved proposal commenced in April 2021 with the first lithium ore mined in December 2022. Annual compliance assessment reports have been submitted since 2021 as required by MS 1199.

The Earl Grey Lithium Project Revised Proposal was approved on 23 November 2022 under MS 1199 as a significant amendment to the existing Earl Grey Lithium Project. Changes to the approved proposal included the proposed construction of a solar plant, variation to the airstrip, change from dry tailings to wet tailings waste disposal, co-disposal of inert refinery waste generated from the Kwinana Lithium Refinery to the approved waste rock landform located at the mine, and modifications to the existing flora and fauna exclusion zones. The revised proposal required an additional disturbance of 56 ha of native vegetation.

The following terminology is used throughout this report:

- **significant amendment** – construction, operation and closure of the Earl Grey Lithium Project Life of Mine
- **approved proposal** – Earl Grey Lithium Project approved under MS 1199
- **proposal** – the combination of the significant amendment with the approved proposal
- **development envelope** – refers to the combined development envelope of the approved proposal and the significant amendment
- **indicative disturbance footprint** – refers to the area proposed to be directly disturbed for the significant amendment.



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Figure 1: Proposal location

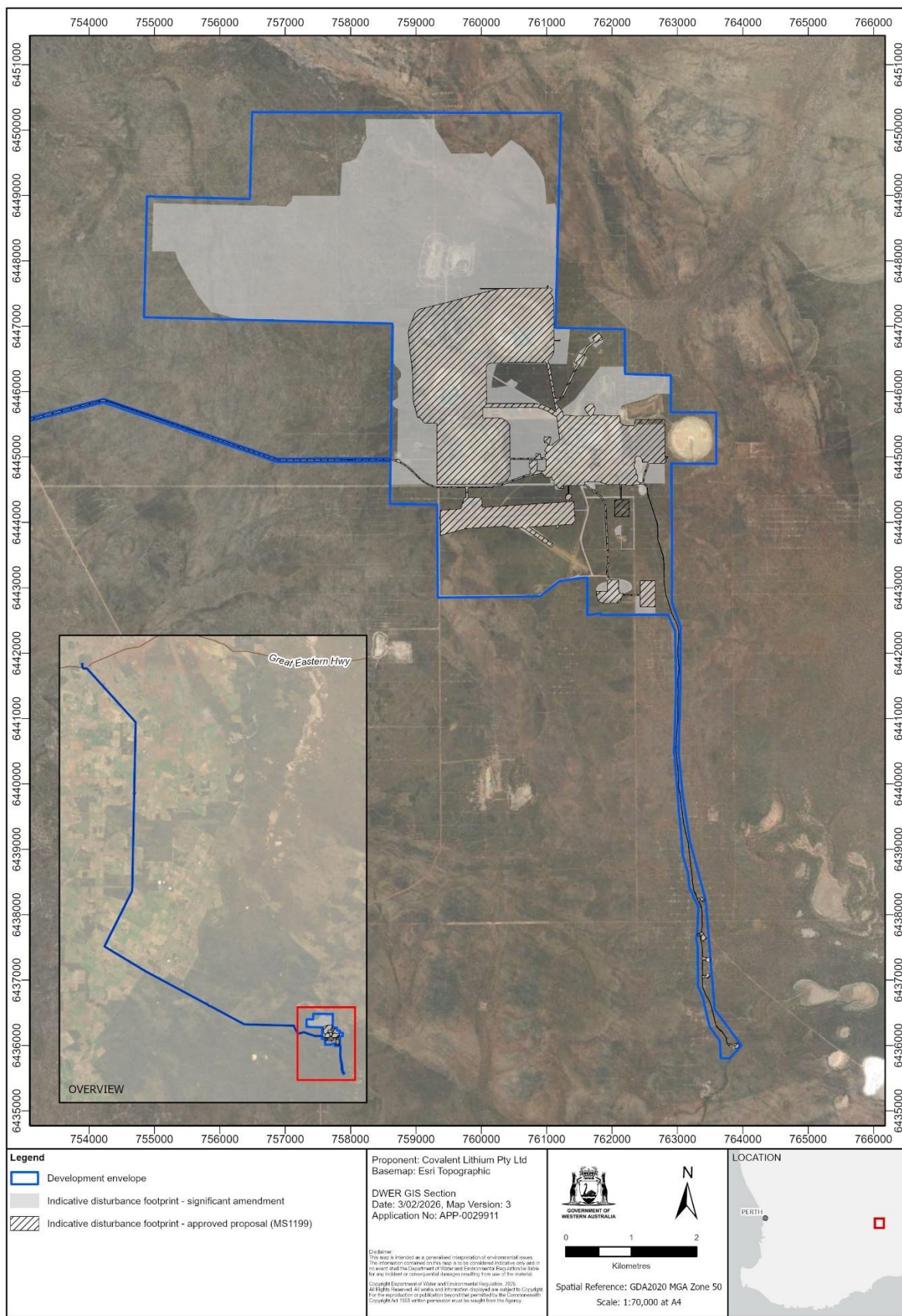


Figure 2: Development envelope and indicative disturbance footprint for the proposal

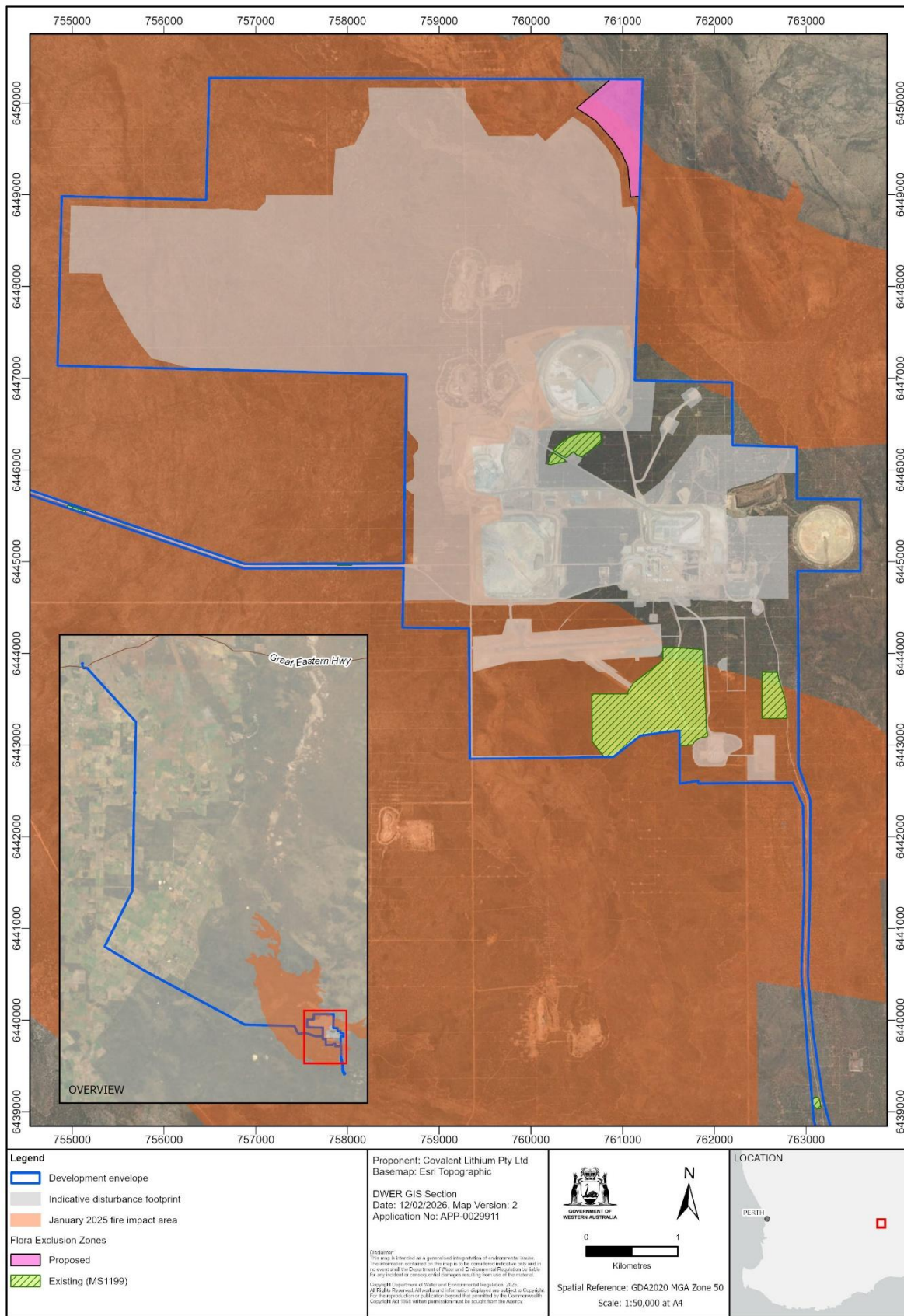


Figure 3: January 2025 fire impact area and flora exclusion zones

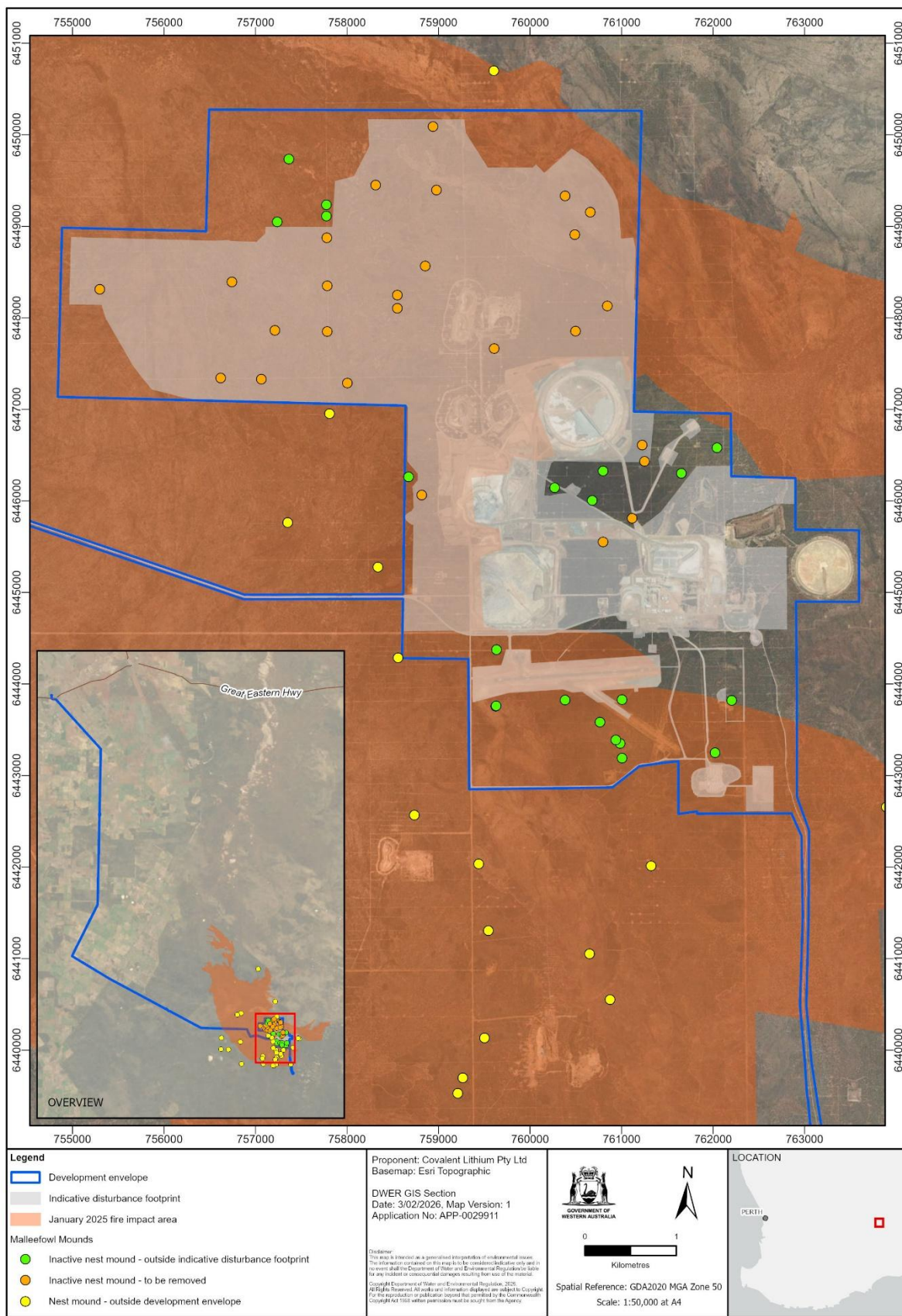


Figure 4: January 2025 fire impact area and malleefowl mounds

2 Assessment of key environmental factors

This section includes the EPA's assessment of the key environmental factors against its environmental objectives, and its recommendations on conditions the proposal should be subject to if it is implemented. The EPA has also considered the principles of the EP Act in assessing whether the residual impacts will be consistent with its environmental factor objective (Appendix D).

The EPA has assessed the proposal in the context of the approved proposal (MS 1199) while having regard to the combined and cumulative effect that the implementation of the approved proposal may have on the following environmental factors.

The EPA also evaluated the impacts of the proposal on other environmental factors and concluded these were not key factors for the assessment. This evaluation is included in Appendix E.

2.1 Flora and Vegetation

The EPA environmental objective for flora and vegetation is *to protect flora and vegetation so that biological diversity and ecological integrity are maintained* (EPA 2016a).

The proponent submitted the following investigations and surveys for the assessment:

- Earl Grey Lithium Project Vegetation Condition Monitoring Autumn 2022 (Mattiske Consulting 2022)
- Earl Grey Lithium Project Vegetation Condition Monitoring Spring 2022 (Mattiske Consulting 2023a)
- Earl Grey Lithium Project Phytophthora Species Occurrence Assessment 2022 (Glevan Consulting 2023)
- Flora and Vegetation Assessment Earl Grey Lithium Project Life of Mine Expansion Area (Mattiske Consulting 2023b)
- Threatened and Priority Flora Assessment Earl Grey Lithium Project Life of Mine Expansion Area Pre-Clearance Surveys (Mattiske Consulting 2023c)
- Covalent Lithium Earl Grey Lithium Proposal Flora and Vegetation Environmental Management Plan (Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd 2025b)
- Earl Grey Lithium Project Life of Mine Proposal Revised Impact Assessment – Conservation Significant Flora (JBS&G 2025a)
- Earl Grey Lithium Project Life of Mine Proposal Updates to supporting information (JBS&G 2025b)
- Targeted Flora and Vegetation Assessment of the Booster Station 3 Development Envelope (Western Botanical 2025a)
- Cumulative Impacts on Significant Flora by the Earl Grey Lithium Project to July 2025 (Western Botanical 2025b)

- *Microcorys elatoides* Pilot Demographic Study (Western Botanical 2025c)
- Review of *Microcorys elatoides* P1, September 2025 (Western Botanical 2025d)
- Covalent Lithium Earl Grey Lithium Project Flora Offset Strategy (JBS&G 2025c)

A list of all flora and vegetation surveys and investigations undertaken for the significant amendment, in addition to those undertaken previously as part of the approved proposal, are included in section 6.4 of the proponent's ERD (JBS&G 2023).

The surveys were consistent with the *Technical Guidance – Flora and vegetation surveys for environmental impact assessment* (EPA 2016b). The EPA considers that the information available is adequate to appropriately inform the assessment.

Table 2: Assessment of flora and vegetation

Key environmental values and context
<p>The proposal is located in the Southern Cross subregion of the Coolgardie IBRA bioregion. The proposal is at the western edge of the Great Western Woodlands in an area of largely intact native vegetation, with over 80,000 ha occurring within a 10 km radius of the proposal and several surrounding nature reserves that are managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).</p> <p>Under MS 1199, the approved proposal was authorised to clear a total of 442 ha of native vegetation within an indicative disturbance footprint of 882 ha and a 2,347 ha development envelope. The significant amendment proposes an additional 1,443 ha of native vegetation clearing for a total of 1,885 ha and an increase of 1,662 ha to the development envelope for a total of 4,009 ha.</p> <p>Several surveys of the broader area have been undertaken as part of this proposal covering approximately 6,780 ha, which have demonstrated that the proposal occurs in an area of very high species richness and endemism for flora. A variety of flora and vegetation values have been identified, comprising of more than 350 native vascular flora taxa.</p> <p>A total of 24 vegetation units were mapped within the indicative disturbance footprint (see Table 13 of the ERD (JBS&G 2023)). Vegetation unit S3 is considered important as it contains the Threatened flora species, <i>Banksia dolichostyla</i> (Ironcaps Banksia)¹, listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act and the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (BC Act). The proponent has designed the proposal to ensure vegetation unit S3 is not within the indicative footprint. Some vegetation units will be cleared by over 50% of surveyed extent, however, a large extent of each vegetation unit will remain. The vegetation community-defining species are common and widespread across multiple bioregions, and at a regional scale the impact represents a loss of less than 0.1% of the pre-European vegetation association (Mattiske Consulting 2023b). In consideration of the regional extent of vegetation remaining and based on biological surveys undertaken by the proponent since 2017, further surveys would likely continue to record increases in the mapped extent of many vegetation units within the proposal area. Noting that a portion of several of the impacted vegetation units will be protected within flora exclusion zones, the impact of clearing is considered to be a low risk to vegetation in a broader context was therefore not considered further by the EPA in its assessment.</p> <p>No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act were recorded within the development envelope. It is possible that Ironcap Hills Priority Ecological Community (PEC) (Ironcap Hills PEC), listed as Priority 3 (P3) under the BC Act, occurs within the development envelope, as the area for the PEC has been mapped with an extent of over 11,800 ha. The indicative disturbance footprint intersects a total of 1,829 ha of the potential Ironcap Hills PEC for both the approved proposal and the significant amendment.</p> <p>No groundwater-dependent vegetation is expected to occur in the development envelope as groundwater is typically saline to hypersaline and occurs at a depth of over 50 metres below ground level.</p>

¹ Previously identified as *Banksia sphaerocarpa* var. *dolichostyla*.

Two threatened flora species, *Banksia dolichostyla* (vulnerable under the EPBC Act and BC Act) and *Eremophila verticillata* (endangered under the EPBC Act and critically endangered under the BC Act) were recorded during surveys for the approved proposal within the development envelope. Only *Banksia dolichostyla* was proposed to be disturbed in the approved proposal. A total of 40 priority listed flora species were also recorded. Table 10 of the ERD (JBS&G 2023) describes all significant flora recorded during surveys for the proposal and their regional distributions. As part of the approved proposal, the proponent has implemented flora exclusion zones to protect several individuals of *Banksia dolichostyla* and priority flora and has proposed offsets for *Banksia dolichostyla* and *Microcorys elatoides* (a Priority 1 species).

No new threatened flora species were recorded during surveys for the significant amendment. Four (4) new priority flora species were recorded additional to those recorded in the approved proposal. Of these, the threatened *Banksia dolichostyla* and 24 priority flora species occur within the indicative disturbance footprint.

Field surveys undertaken between 2019 and 2023 recorded several *Phytophthora* sp. pathogens (both native and introduced) within the development envelope. Surveys have also recorded 17 introduced flora taxa within the development envelope, none of which are prohibited organisms pursuant to section 12 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* or listed as Weeds of National Significance. The proponent has stated that the majority of these records are associated with disturbed land areas of the former Mt Holland mine site.

A high intensity bushfire that occurred in January 2025 burned approximately 35,000 ha of native vegetation surrounding the proposal, including 2,500 ha within the development envelope. The fire impacted six of the eight existing flora exclusion zones, with the newly proposed exclusion zone suffering 98% loss to the bushfire (Figure 3). All baseline flora surveys were completed prior to this fire.

Impacts from the proposal	Assessment finding, environmental outcomes and recommended conditions
<p>Potential impacts</p> <p><u>Direct impacts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clearing of the following for the <u>significant amendment</u> within the development envelope: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1,443 ha of native vegetation ranging in condition from excellent to completely degraded ○ 1,829 ha of potential Ironcap Hills PEC ○ 10 individuals of threatened flora <i>Banksia dolichostyla</i> ○ individuals of 10 P1 flora species ○ individuals of 3 P2 flora species ○ individuals of 7 P3 flora species 	<p>Assessment findings</p> <p>The EPA considers that the key environmental values for flora and vegetation likely to be impacted by the significant amendment are locally significant native vegetation and threatened and priority flora species.</p> <p>The EPA notes that the proponent has undertaken several flora and vegetation surveys across a broad area for the proposal between 2017 and 2025, which has provided a good understanding of the environmental values present at a local scale.</p> <p><u>Vegetation</u></p> <p>The EPA has assessed the likely residual impacts of the significant amendment in the context of the approved proposal, with the overall clearing of native vegetation equating to the removal of 1,885 ha within the revised development envelope.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ individuals of 4 P4 flora species ● clearing of the following for the total <u>approved proposal and significant amendment</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1,885 ha of native vegetation ranging in condition from excellent to completely degraded ○ 1,829 ha of potential Ironcap Hills PEC ○ 12 individuals of threatened flora <i>Banksia dolichostyla</i> ○ individuals of 10 P1 flora species ○ individuals of 3 P2 flora species ○ individuals of 7 P3 flora species ○ individuals of 4 P4 flora species <p><u>Indirect impacts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● dust deposition/hypersaline water for dust suppression ● introduction/spread of weeds and pathogens (i.e. dieback) ● altered surface water regimes ● seepage of discharge from the tailings storage facilities (TSFs) to groundwater or surface water and onto areas of native vegetation ● spills of chemicals or hydrocarbons ● altered fire regimes <p>Avoidance and minimisation measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● modifying the disturbance footprint to avoid certain flora species and vegetation units of higher ecological value ● utilising existing disturbed areas associated with the former Mt Holland mine site (over 20% of the disturbance footprint) 	<p>The EPA acknowledges that the proponent has considered the proposal layout to reduce the area of native vegetation clearing required, resulting in over 20% (523 ha) of the indicative footprint comprising existing disturbed land associated with the former Mt Holland mine site.</p> <p>The EPA notes that while the indicative disturbance footprint intersects the mapped Ironcap Hills PEC, the proponent has stated that the vegetation within the development envelope was not statistically representative of the vegetation communities that define the Ironcap Hills PEC. This is because no vegetation units associated with Ironcap Hills PEC geology occur within the development envelope and there is a different suite of flora taxa and species assemblage (Mattiske 2023b). Noting this, the EPA considers a condition is appropriate to ensure there are no indirect impacts to vegetation that is representative of the Ironcap Hills PEC, should it be identified.</p> <p>The EPA notes the connection of the remaining vegetation in the local and regional area, with largely intact native vegetation and surrounding nature reserves. Based on the range and extent of remaining vegetation within the region, the EPA considers the proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact on vegetation.</p> <p>The EPA acknowledges that the January 2025 high intensity fire has impacted native vegetation within and surrounding the development envelope and could take 10 to 15 years to regenerate. The EPA has considered the impact of the fire in the recommended conditions by including additional prescriptive requirements to monitor flora and vegetation in the Environmental Management Plan.</p> <p>The EPA notes the potential for cumulative impact on the Great Western Woodlands. While 1,885 ha of clearing of vegetation is relatively small within the largely intact Great Western Woodlands, this ecosystem may be under a variety of pressures. With implementation conditions that clearly specify limits on impact and extent, and the requirement for rehabilitation to demonstrate that environmental values can be restored, the cumulative impacts of the proposal and its effect on the Great Western Woodlands can be managed so that it is consistent with the EPA objective for flora and vegetation.</p> <p>The EPA considers that subject to the proposed limits and extents in recommended condition A1, the environmental outcomes in recommended condition B1 (minimising disturbance via exclusion zones) and condition B3 (rehabilitation, including areas of</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintaining existing exclusion zones and proposing an additional exclusion zone to avoid several conservation significant flora species undertaking targeted pre-clearance surveys and annual field surveys implementing dust suppression, including the use of water carts and sealing access roads, and undertaking dust monitoring undertaking weed monitoring to minimise spread of weeds implementing dieback management including inspecting vehicles and equipment and cleaning of soil, vegetative material and seeds on entry/exit to site implementing fire management procedures rehabilitation with native vegetation (excluding the mine pit voids) including on-contour ripping of compacted areas and respreading of materials (vegetation, topsoil and subsoil) that were removed and stockpiled during initial clearing. <p>Regulation by other Decision-Making Authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The approved proposal currently operates under licence L9326/2022/1 and several works approvals administered by Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) under Part V of the EP Act. Impacts from dust emissions, emissions or discharges to groundwater and surface 	<p>existing disturbed land from historical mining activities), the environmental outcome is likely to be consistent with the EPA objective for flora and vegetation.</p> <p><u>Flora</u></p> <p>The combined impact on conservation significant flora is considered in the context of the approved proposal and significant amendment. The proponent has undertaken numerous surveys since referral of the approved proposal, which has provided additional data and reduced the overall percentage of impact to several species. Updated estimations of percentage impact based on the number of individuals identified during surveys and known records within the state were provided by the proponent as part of the additional information in Table 4-1 of the Revised Impact Assessment – Conservation Significant Flora (JBS&G 2025a). The combined effect of the approved proposal and significant amendment will result in the direct loss of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 individuals (0.04%) of threatened species <i>Banksia dolichostyla</i> 44,296 individuals (12.15%) of <i>Microcorys elatoides</i>² (P1) 996 individuals (1.45%) of <i>Acacia lachnocarpa</i>³ (P1) 460 individuals (3.50%) of <i>Brachyloma stenolobum</i> (P1) 2,696 individuals (7.00%) of <i>Chamelaucium</i> sp. Mount Holland (G. Cockerton & G. Grigg WB40918) (P1) 2,284 individuals (4.33%) of <i>Eutaxia</i> sp. North Ironcap (P. Armstrong PA 06/898) (P1) 292 individuals (1.34%) of <i>Grevillea marriottii</i> (P1) 503 individuals (4.67%) of <i>Labichea rossii</i> (P1) 1,597 individuals (3.72%) of <i>Microcorys</i> sp. Mt Holland broad leaf (G. Barrett s.n. PERTH 04104927) (P1) 80,628 individuals (9.14%) of <i>Thryptomene jilbadji</i> (P1) 1,681 individuals (3.34%) of <i>Thryptomene salina</i> (P1) 51,600 individuals (13.30%) of <i>Microcorys</i> sp. Forrestania (V. English 2004) (P4) 440 individuals (3.72%) of <i>Grevillea neodissecta</i> (P4) 10 individuals (0.61%) of <i>Eremophila inflata</i> (P4) 19 individuals (0.02%) of <i>Gyrostemon ditrigynus</i> (P4) 3 different P2 species ranging from 6.70% to 7.77% of known individuals
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² Previously identified as *Microcorys* sp. Mt Holland

³ Previously identified as *Acacia* sp. Mt Holland

<p>water associated with dewatering discharge, TSF seepage, and spills/leaks of contaminants can be adequately addressed and minimised through amendments to the existing licence and/or works approvals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal currently operates under a Mining Proposal/ Mining Development and Closure Proposal and Mine Closure Plan approved by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) under the Mining Act. As part of the significant amendment, the proponent will be required to ensure the revised proposal is consistent with the updated mining approval requirements of the <i>Guideline for preparing Mining Development and Closure Proposals</i> (DMPE 2025a). Additionally, a revised site wide Mine Closure Plan will be assessed by DMPE as a requirement during the life of mining and to continue to function as an important planning tool to demonstrate an operation is tracking towards successful closure in accordance with the <i>Guideline for preparing Mine Closure Plans</i> (DMPE 2025b), which includes requirements for rehabilitation and revegetation of land and closure objectives and criteria. The statutory requirements under section 40 of the BC Act may further manage and mitigate impacts to conservation significant flora species. <p>Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EPA sought advice from the DWER, DBCA and DMPE in relation to flora and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 different P3 species ranging from 0.65% to 26.18% of known individuals. <p>Under the approved proposal, disturbance limits were placed on individuals of <i>Banksia dolichostyla</i> and <i>Microcorys elatoides</i> with offsets required for the two species. Additionally, there were limits to percentage impacts of known populations of P1 flora species <i>Labichea rossii</i> (7%), <i>Microcorys</i> sp. Mt Holland broad-leaf (7%) and <i>Acacia lachnocarpa</i> (5%), with a 2% limit placed on the known population of any other P1 species and no requirement for offsets.</p> <p>The EPA considers that there will be a significant residual impact from the combined loss of 12 individuals of the threatened <i>Banksia dolichostyla</i> as a result of the proposal. The proponent has prepared an updated Flora Offset Strategy (JBS&G 2025c) which outlines the proposed offsets to counterbalance the significant residual impacts of the proposal on this species (see section 4). The offset consists of the translocation of 69 individuals of <i>Banksia dolichostyla</i> within a flora exclusion zone. The EPA notes that discussions with DBCA indicate the proposed translocation for the species to be relatively low risk and the success criteria likely to be achievable. The EPA considers these offsets to be reasonable given the degree of impacts and threat status of the conservation significant flora. The EPA considers a condition to limit the disturbance of 12 individuals of <i>Banksia dolichostyla</i> and the offsets proposed will ensure the environmental outcome is likely to be consistent with the EPA objective for flora and vegetation.</p> <p>A total of 364,577 individuals of <i>Microcorys elatoides</i> has been recorded within a range of approximately 20 km and an extent of occurrence of 109,543 ha, making it locally common in a restricted area of the Mount Holland district, within and around the active mining lease. Native vegetation in this part of the State is largely intact and unsurveyed, thus there is a strong probability of finding additional new populations away from that immediate area (T.C. Wilson & M. Hislop 2020). The significant amendment requires the disturbance of approximately 33,256 individuals of <i>Microcorys elatoides</i> with the proposal to impact on a total of 44,296 individuals representing a cumulative impact of 12.15% of all known records. Through consultation with DBCA, the EPA considers there is no longer a significant residual impact on <i>Microcorys elatoides</i> and offsets are no longer required for the proposal (see section 4). The EPA considers a condition to limit the disturbance of <i>Microcorys elatoides</i> that will be directly impacted by the proposal and rehabilitation requirements will ensure the environmental outcome is likely to be consistent with the EPA objective for flora and vegetation.</p>
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vegetation. Matters raised during consultation and the proponent's responses are provided as part of the additional information requested, which is published on the EPA website. Key issues raised included the extent and significance of impacts on conservation significant flora and vegetation.

Cumulative impacts

- The EPA has considered the impact of the significant amendment in context of the approved proposal (MS 1199). The combined impacts will result in the overall loss of 1,885 ha of native vegetation and additional individuals of threatened and priority flora ranging from P1 to P4.
- A total of 405.73 ha of additional clearing has been approved for third party activities within 20 km of the development envelope, largely associated with clearing permits for mineral exploration. There are no other significant proposals within this vicinity; the closest is Parker Range (Mount Caudan) Iron Ore Project approximately 50 km northwest of the proposal.
- While a cumulative loss of 2,291 ha of vegetation within the Great Western Woodlands is considered small, with approximately 96% of the current extent of pre-European vegetation remaining within Southern Cross subregion, this ecosystem is under increasing pressures from feral animals, weeds and bushfires.

The proposal will directly impact 51,600 individuals (13.30%) of *Microcorys* sp. Forrestania (V. English 2004), a P4 species not considered in the previous assessment (JBS&G 2025a). This species has a total of 387,874 known individuals recorded from over 30 locations with a range of approximately 130 km across two IBRA regions (JBS&G 2023). While there will be some impact to this and three other Priority 4 species, the EPA notes that the regional distributions, number of location records and/or individuals are relatively high. The EPA has recommended conditions for disturbance limits to several P1 and P4 species to ensure the environmental outcome is likely to be consistent with the EPA objective for flora and vegetation.

For the P2 and P3 species, the EPA notes that these are not locally or regionally restricted, have a relatively large extent of occurrence, generally have a high number of location records in the local area and/or a relatively high number of individuals.

The EPA notes that flora exclusion zones were previously established and conditioned under the approved proposal for areas containing *Banksia dolichostyla* and a range of other priority listed species including *Microcorys elatoides*, all other impacted P1 species, as well as several P2 and P3 species and the P4 species, *Microcorys* sp. Forrestania (V. English 2004). The proponent has also proposed an additional flora exclusion zone for the significant amendment within the development envelope to avoid impacts to several significant flora species recorded in the proposal area (Figure 3). Based on the information provided, the EPA considers that the proposed clearing is not expected to significantly impact the local extent, regional extent or conservation status of the threatened and priority flora species.

As the proposal has an indicative disturbance footprint, indirect impacts for the proposal were also considered. Some individuals within the development envelope would be in close proximity to the indicative footprint and have the potential to be indirectly impacted by the proposal. The EPA considers that conditions on proposal-related indirect impacts will minimise the impact to conservation significant species.

While the Mine Closure Plan required by DMPE includes requirements for rehabilitation and revegetation, the proposal would have an impact on priority flora species that are only found in the Great Western Woodlands. As these ecological values should be maintained and restored, the revegetation measures considered to be required to demonstrate the effective restoration are beyond the implementation requirements of the *Guideline for preparing Mine Closure Plans* (DMPE 2025a). Therefore, the EPA considers conditions

for rehabilitation to restore these values is required. These conditions require the proponent to demonstrate that the rehabilitated areas provide self-sustaining habitat for *Banksia dolichostyla* and priority listed flora species impacted by proposal, to ensure that the flora and vegetation of rehabilitated areas reflect the environmental values of the Great Western Woodlands. Additionally, the conditions require the proponent to demonstrate progressive rehabilitation outcomes so that efficacy of closure plans and other restoration management measures can be demonstrated.

The EPA considers that subject to the proposed limits and extents in recommended condition A1, the environmental outcomes in recommended condition B1 (minimising disturbance via exclusion zones), condition B3 (rehabilitation, including areas of existing disturbed land from historical mining activities) and condition B4 (offset measures to counterbalance the significant residual impacts), the environmental outcome is likely to be consistent with the EPA objective for flora and vegetation.

Recommended conditions to ensure consistency of environmental outcome with EPA objective

- Condition A1 – limitations on extent of the proposal
- Condition B1 – no disturbance to flora and vegetation within the flora exclusion zones, limits on disturbance to *Banksia dolichostyla* and several priority flora species, implementing management measures to minimise indirect impacts on significant flora and vegetation representative of Ironcap Hills PEC, implementing weed/dieback control and management
- Condition B3 – specific requirements to rehabilitate the disturbance footprint
- Condition B4 – offset requirements for *Banksia dolichostyla*.

2.2 Terrestrial Fauna

The EPA environmental objective for terrestrial fauna is *to protect terrestrial fauna so that biological diversity and ecological integrity are maintained* (EPA 2016c).

The proponent submitted the following investigations and surveys for the assessment:

- 2021 Malleefowl Monitoring (Ecoscape 2022a)
- 2022 Mt Holland Chuditch Monitoring (Ecoscape 2022b)
- Earl Grey Lithium Project Short-Range Endemic Invertebrate Fauna Desktop Assessment (Bennelongia Environmental Consultants 2023a)
- Earl Grey Lithium Project Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Survey Life of Mine Extension (Ecoscape 2023a)
- 2022 Malleefowl Monitoring (Ecoscape 2023b)
- 2022 Predator Monitoring (Ecoscape 2023c)
- Covalent Lithium Earl Grey Lithium Project Terrestrial Fauna Environmental Management Plan (Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd 2023)
- 2024 Mt Holland Chuditch Monitoring (Ecoscape 2024)
- 2024-2025 Malleefowl Monitoring (Ecoscape 2025a)
- 2024-2025 Predator Monitoring (Ecoscape 2025b)
- Earl Grey Lithium Project Life of Mine Proposal Updates to supporting information (JBS&G 2025b)
- Earl Grey Lithium Project – Life of Mine Threatened Fauna Offset Strategy and Management Plan (JBS&G 2026)

A list of all terrestrial fauna surveys and investigations undertaken for the approved proposal and significant amendment are included in section 7.4 of the proponent's Environmental Review Document (JBS&G 2023).

The surveys were consistent with the *Technical Guidance – Terrestrial fauna surveys for environmental impact assessment* (EPA 2020a). The EPA considers that the information available is adequate to appropriately inform the assessment.

Table 3: Assessment of terrestrial fauna

Key environmental values and context
<p>Three broad fauna habitats were defined within the development envelope which extend beyond the proposal area and are not considered to be locally restricted. The significant amendment requires clearing of an additional 1,443 ha of habitat for a total combined clearing of 1,885 ha comprising mallee woodland (1,417 ha), salmon gum woodland (17 ha) and shrubland (449 ha).</p> <p>Biological surveys have identified the proposal and surrounding area comprises over 120 native vertebrate fauna taxa. All baseline fauna surveys were completed prior to the January 2025 bushfire. The threatened and priority fauna species recorded within the development envelope include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>) listed vulnerable under the EPBC Act and BC Act • Chuditch (<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>) listed vulnerable under the EPBC Act and BC Act • Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) listed specially protected species under the BC Act • Lake Cronin snake (<i>Paroplocephalus atriceps</i>) listed P3 (DBCA) • Western brush wallaby (<i>Notamacropus irma</i>) listed P4 (DBCA) • Inland western rosella (<i>Platycercus ictrotis</i> ssp. <i>xanthogenys</i>) listed P4 (DBCA). <p>Over 80 malleefowl mounds were identified during the assessment of the approved proposal, which authorised removal of one active nest mound and five inactive nest mounds. The estimated population within the development envelope has been one breeding pair since monitoring began (Ecoscape 2025a). As a result of the January 2025 bushfire it is noted there are currently no active mounds within the development envelope (Figure 4). Of the five known 2024-25 breeding pairs in the local area, three have been recorded on cameras post-fire (Ecoscape 2025a).</p> <p>Limited numbers of chuditch have been recorded between 2019-2024, with an estimated local population of no more than 4 individuals. Following the January 2025 bushfire, the standard annual cage trapping program was cancelled as both control and impact sites were severely burnt, and a revised camera-based survey was implemented in June 2025. Monitoring results from June to October 2025 have confirmed at least three chuditch present within the development envelope (Ecoscape 2024).</p> <p>Under the approved proposal, the proponent committed to protecting several malleefowl mounds identified within the development envelope by implementing exclusion zones around them. Additionally, environmental offsets were required to counterbalance the significant residual impact of the approved proposal on habitat for malleefowl and chuditch.</p> <p>While peregrine falcon, western brush wallaby, and inland western rosella have been recorded within the proposal area, these species are noted to be common, widespread and highly mobile. One individual of Lake Cronin snake was opportunistically recorded within the development envelope. There is limited information on the local abundance of this species, but it is known to use several types of fauna habitat which extend beyond the development envelope and is not considered to be locally restricted (JBS&G 2023). Based on the recorded</p>

regional distribution of these priority listed fauna species and locally available habitat, the proposal is unlikely to result in a significant impact to the representation, diversity, viability or ecological function of the species. The proponent has a Terrestrial Fauna Environmental Management Plan as a requirement under MS 1199, which includes measures to avoid and minimise impact to conservation significant fauna. This plan is to be updated to address impacts to the additional fauna that may be impacted by the proposal to ensure that the proponent’s management measures will protect all fauna.

Other conservation significant species that were considered to have the potential to occur within the development envelope included:

- Carnaby’s black cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*) listed endangered under the EPBC Act and BC Act
- Red-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale calura*) listed vulnerable under the EPBC Act and specially protected species under the BC Act
- Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*) listed migratory under the EPBC Act and BC-SPSM
- Central long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus major tor*) listed P3 (DBCA).

Surveys undertaken did not record any of the above listed conservation significant species that may potentially occur, likely due to the survey area being at the extent of their recorded distributions, or unlikely to provide suitable habitat for the species (JBS&G 2023). In consideration of the absence of the above fauna, their high mobility and the extent of remnant native vegetation in the region that may provide suitable habitat, these species were not considered further by the EPA in its assessment.

An updated desktop review for short-range endemic (SRE) invertebrate species was undertaken for the significant amendment with findings similar to that of the approved proposal. Four SRE habitats were identified reflecting the wider landscape with no major geographic barriers to dispersal. No confirmed SRE invertebrate species have been recorded in the development envelope. In consideration of the regional extent and connectivity of habitats, and the absence of any potential barriers for dispersal, the SRE invertebrate fauna that may occur within the proposal area are anticipated to be widespread and therefore this was not considered further by the EPA in its assessment.

The surveys undertaken within the proposal and surrounding area recorded a number of introduced vertebrate fauna species including feral cat, wild dog, European red fox, house mouse and European rabbit.

Impacts from the proposal	Assessment finding, environmental outcomes and recommended conditions
<p>Potential impacts</p> <p><u>Direct impacts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clearing of the following for the <u>significant amendment</u> within the development envelope: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1,443 ha of native vegetation comprising habitat for several conservation significant fauna 	<p>Assessment findings</p> <p>The EPA considers the key environmental values likely to be significantly impacted by the proposal are conservation significant fauna species. The EPA has assessed the likely residual impacts of the significant amendment in the context of the approved proposal, with the overall clearing of native vegetation comprising fauna habitat equating to the removal of 1,885 ha within the revised development envelope.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ removal of two active⁴ malleefowl nest mounds and 21 inactive nest mounds. ● clearing of the following for the total <u>approved proposal and significant amendment</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1,885 ha of native vegetation comprising habitat for several conservation significant fauna ○ removal of three active malleefowl nest mounds and 26 inactive nest mounds. <p><u>Indirect impacts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● fragmentation of habitat ● disturbance to fauna via generation of noise, light, vibration, dust, use of hypersaline water ● vehicle strikes ● increase in feral animals ● altered fire regimes. <p>Avoidance and minimisation measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● avoiding active malleefowl nest mounds in the development envelope ● implementing an exclusion area around active malleefowl nest mounds ● utilising existing disturbed areas associated with the former Mt Holland mine site ● undertaking pre-clearance surveys for malleefowl and chuditch ● undertaking clearing outside of malleefowl breeding period (April to June) where possible ● implementing fauna entrapment controls such as trench inspections by qualified fauna specialists, providing egress ramps, fencing water storage dams and waste facilities ● implementing traffic management controls 	<p>The EPA acknowledges that the proponent has considered the proposal layout to reduce the clearing of native vegetation (i.e. fauna habitat) required, resulting in over 20% of the indicative footprint comprising existing disturbed land associated with the abandoned Mt Holland mine site.</p> <p>The EPA considers the likely residual impacts of the significant amendment on malleefowl to be the clearing of 1,430 ha of foraging and breeding habitat. The combined effect of the of the significant amendment with the approved proposal will be the loss of 1,866 ha of malleefowl habitat. The EPA considers the likely residual impacts of the significant amendment on chuditch to be the clearing of 1,441 ha of foraging and potential breeding habitat. The combined effect of the of the significant amendment with the approved proposal will be the loss of 1,883 ha of chuditch habitat.</p> <p>The EPA considers that malleefowl and chuditch may be directly impacted by clearing activities from the proposal. The EPA has recommended conditions to minimise direct impacts to malleefowl and chuditch individuals that may use the development envelope, including undertaking pre-clearance inspections by fauna spotters of areas targeted to be cleared. Additionally, where active malleefowl nest mounds are detected, an exclusion zone around the active mound should be implemented.</p> <p>The proponent has submitted an updated Terrestrial Fauna Environmental Management Plan (Covalent Lithium 2023) which outlines the management measures to ensure there are no proposal-related direct or indirect adverse impacts to malleefowl or chuditch. The EPA has recommended conditions that address all conservation significant fauna species that would be impacted through implementation of the proposal.</p> <p>The EPA considers the residual impact to malleefowl and chuditch to be significant. The proponent has prepared a Threatened Fauna Offset</p>
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⁴ Status of active malleefowl nest mounds noted to be prior to the January 2025 fire.

- control of introduced fauna (culling, trapping) in co-operation with DBCA
- implementing noise and light management controls
- rehabilitation with native vegetation (excluding the mine pit voids) including on-contour ripping of compacted areas and respreading of materials (vegetation, topsoil and subsoil) that were removed and stockpiled during initial clearing.

Regulation by other Decision-Making Authorities

- The proposal currently operates under a Mining Development and Closure Proposal and Mine Closure Plan approved by the DMPE under the Mining Act. As part of the significant amendment, the proponent will be required to ensure the revised proposal is consistent with the updated mining approval requirements of the *Guideline for preparing Mining Development and Closure Proposals* (DMPE 2025a). Additionally, a revised site wide Mine Closure Plan will be assessed by DMPE as a requirement during the life of mining and to continue to function as an important planning tool to demonstrate an operation is tracking towards successful closure in accordance with the *Guideline for preparing Mine Closure Plans* (DMPE 2025b), which includes requirements for rehabilitation and revegetation of land and closure objectives and criteria.
- The statutory requirements under section 40 of the BC Act may further manage and mitigate impacts to conservation significant fauna species.

Consultation

- The EPA sought advice from DWER, DBCA and DMPE in relation to terrestrial fauna. Matters raised during consultation and the proponent's responses are provided as part of the additional information requested, which is published on the EPA website. Key issues raised included the extent and

Strategy (JBS&G 2026) and a subsequent summary paper (Covalent Lithium 2026c) for the revised offset approach in Jilbadji Nature Reserve, which outlines the proposed offsets to counterbalance the significant residual impacts of the significant amendment on the species, primarily through a predator control and monitoring program and contribution to fire mitigation efforts (see Section 4). The EPA acknowledges that one of the largest threats to malleefowl and chuditch is predators, in particular feral cats and foxes (DCCEEW 2024, DEC 2012). The EPA notes that the fauna offset strategy for the approved proposal under MS 1199 involves land acquisition and management of two parcels of land to counterbalance the existing significant residual impacts on malleefowl and chuditch habitat (JBS&G 2025d).

Similar to flora and vegetation (section 2.1), the revegetation measures considered to be required to demonstrate the effective restoration are beyond the implementation requirements of the *Guideline for preparing Mine Closure Plans* (DMPE 2025b). Therefore, as described in section 2.1, the EPA considers conditions for rehabilitation to demonstrate restoration of these values is required.

The EPA notes the potential for cumulative impact on the Great Western Woodlands. Similar to the measures proposed for vegetation (section 2.1), the cumulative impacts of the proposal and its effect on the Great Western Woodlands can be managed so that it is consistent with the EPA objective for terrestrial fauna.

The EPA considers the potential impacts to malleefowl and chuditch can be adequately regulated through the recommended conditions, so that the species are protected and the environmental outcome is likely to be consistent with the EPA objective for terrestrial fauna.

The EPA considers that subject to the proposed limits and extents in recommended condition A1, the environmental outcomes in recommended condition B2-1 (limiting clearing of habitat, minimising disturbance to malleefowl and chuditch, and implementing exclusion zones around active malleefowl mounds), additional prescriptive conditions including pre-clearance inspections, condition B3

<p>significance of impacts on conservation significant fauna and the proposed offsets.</p> <p>Cumulative impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EPA has considered the impact of the significant amendment in context of the approved proposal (MS 1199). The combined impacts will result in the overall loss of 1,885 ha of native vegetation representing fauna habitat including the cumulative loss of 3 active malleefowl mounds and 25 inactive mounds (pre-fire status). • A total of 405.73 ha of additional clearing of native vegetation (representing fauna habitat) has been approved for third party activities within 20 km of the development envelope. • A cumulative loss of 2,291 ha of fauna habitat within the Great Western Woodlands. 	<p>(rehabilitation, including areas of existing disturbed land from historical mining activities) and condition B4 (offset measures to counterbalance the significant residual impacts), the environmental outcome is likely to be consistent with the EPA objective for terrestrial fauna.</p> <p>Recommended conditions to ensure consistency of environmental outcome with EPA objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition A1 – limitations on extent of the proposal • Condition B2 – limits on extent of clearing of habitat for malleefowl and chuditch, no direct or indirect adverse impacts to malleefowl or chuditch within the development envelope, no disturbance to active malleefowl mounds within the development envelope, pre-clearance inspections for malleefowl and chuditch, and implementing management measures to minimise risks of physical injury or mortality on native fauna and impacts from feral animals. • Condition B3 – requirement to rehabilitate the disturbance footprint • Condition B4 – offset requirements for malleefowl and chuditch.
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3 Holistic assessment

While the EPA assessed the impacts of the proposal against the key environmental factors and environmental values individually in the key factor assessments above, given the link between flora and vegetation and terrestrial fauna, the EPA also considered connections and interactions between them to inform a holistic view of impacts to the whole environment.

Flora and vegetation – terrestrial fauna

The EPA has considered the high level of interconnectivity between the environmental factors of flora and vegetation and terrestrial fauna, and the overall impact of the proposal on the environment, in particular the impacts to the Great Western Woodlands.

Terrestrial fauna has a key reliance on flora and vegetation for habitat. The native vegetation which is proposed to be cleared for the proposal, provides foraging and breeding habitat for EPBC Act and BC Act listed fauna species including malleefowl and chuditch.

Minimising the direct and indirect impacts to flora and vegetation will also minimise impacts to significant fauna habitat. In turn significant fauna aid ecosystem functioning and structure for flora and vegetation.

The EPA is also aware of the potential for emerging industry, including the operational Earl Grey Lithium Project and other activities located within the vicinity of the Great Western Woodlands to influence the complex interactions between environmental factors. These interactions have the potential to influence the environment in a holistic and non-linear nature, affecting all environmental values. As such, the EPA has recommended rehabilitation conditions to ensure that the area is rehabilitated/ restored to a level which reflects the environmental values of the surrounding natural ecosystem of the Great Western Woodlands, and that the efficacy of planned rehabilitation can be demonstrated.

The EPA considers that the proposed mitigation and management measures, as accounted for in the recommended conditions or regulation by other DMAs, and the provision of offsets to counterbalance the significant residual impacts will mean the inter-related impacts are likely to be consistent with the EPA environmental factor objectives.

Summary of holistic assessment

When the separate environmental factors and values affected by the proposal were considered together in a holistic assessment, the EPA formed the view that the impacts from the proposal would not alter the EPA's views about consistency with the EPA's factor objectives as assessed in section 2.

4 Offsets

Environmental offsets are actions that provide environmental benefits which counterbalance the significant residual impacts of a proposal.

Consistent with the *WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines* (Government of Western Australia 2014), the EPA may consider the application of environmental offsets to a proposal where it determines that the residual impacts of a proposal are significant, after avoidance, minimisation and rehabilitation have been pursued.

In this case the proponent applied the mitigation hierarchy by utilising existing cleared or disturbed land (523 ha), identifying actions to minimise indirect impacts, and by proposing to rehabilitate areas of native vegetation identified to be cleared. After considering these measures, the EPA determined the significant residual impacts of the significant amendment to be:

- clearing of 1,430 ha of native vegetation that represents foraging and breeding habitat for malleefowl
- clearing of 1,441 ha of native vegetation that represents foraging and potential breeding habitat for chuditch
- loss of 10 individuals of *Banksia dolichostyla*.

Further detail on avoidance, minimisation and rehabilitation and the EPA's determination of significant residual impacts is included in sections 2.1 and 2.2 of this report.

Environmental offsets are not appropriate in all cases. In this case, the EPA considers offsets are appropriate given the proponent has applied avoidance and mitigation measures by minimising impacts to environmental values (principle 1 of the *WA Environmental Offsets Policy*) and the scale of the significant residual impacts on environmental biodiversity values are not minor (principle 2 of the *WA Environmental Offsets Policy*).

The EPA had regard for the proponent's offsets for the approved proposal, which comprises land acquisition and on-ground management to counterbalance the significant residual impacts to malleefowl and chuditch (Figure 5); and land restoration and translocation to counterbalance the significant residual impacts to *Banksia dolichostyla* (and under MS 1199 required for *Microcorys elatoides*). In the context of the approved proposal and the significant amendment, the EPA considers the combination of land acquisition and on-ground management including predator control and monitoring and restoration/revegetation, will deliver benefits to the same values being impacted across short, medium and long term time scales.

The proponent has refined the proposed offsets for the significant amendment over the course of the assessment to incorporate comments from regulators including the DBCA and DWER. The EPA recognises the efforts the proponent has undertaken during the assessment to revise its offset strategies.

4.1 Proposed fauna offsets

As described in the Earl Grey Lithium Project – Life of Mine Threatened Fauna Offset Strategy and Management Plan (JBS&G 2026) the proponent has proposed to implement a predator control and monitoring program to counterbalance the significant residual impacts of clearing an additional 1,443 ha of native vegetation comprising fauna habitat for malleefowl and chuditch as a result of the significant amendment.

The EPA notes that the proponent has proposed the predator control approach for the additional impact to malleefowl and chuditch based on several factors including:

- the limited availability of suitable land for purchase identifying approximately 8,200 ha in total of small, scattered land parcels over multiple properties with an insufficient area to meet the total offset requirements
- land acquisition alone would have limited conservation gains
- the Great Western Woodlands is well vegetated and the greatest threat to malleefowl and chuditch in the area is introduced predators and fire, particularly given the January 2025 fire event which placed additional pressure on malleefowl and chuditch in the local area
- a lack of active pest and predator management in the region particularly within the Great Western Woodlands
- the offset site provides suitable fauna habitat close to the development envelope with native vegetation that is contiguous with the proposal area
- conservation efforts in the offset site would assist with maintaining viable populations of malleefowl and chuditch that may move in and out of the proposal area currently and post-mine closure.

The proponent provided a detailed options analysis for all potential fauna offset alternatives that were considered which included land acquisition and transfer into conservation estate, restoration of degraded habitat, direct offset by predator control and monitoring in Jilbadji Nature Reserve, direct offset by predator control and monitoring in Unallocated Crown Land (UCL), Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management (NRM) Healthy Lives Programme and funding existing or new conservation trust funds to benefit both species (Covalent Lithium 2026b).

The EPA acknowledges that the proponent has been working to develop the offset strategy in consultation with DBCA Western Shield staff and a senior zoologist to determine the location and size of the offsets that would provide sufficient scale and achieve effective outcomes. The proponent has also consulted with other DBCA staff (including the Environmental Management Branch, Perth and Wheatbelt NRM), National Malleefowl Recovery Group and technical specialists to discuss the above alternate offset options.

While the proposed offset site was to be located within UCL approximately 17.5 km west of the development envelope (JBS&G 2026), access to the land had not been confirmed. Consultation was required with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), as the agency responsible for the UCL, to gain approval to conduct

the predator control and monitoring program, and with the Shire of Yilgarn to confirm the program aligned with their planning, priorities and any other local government processes required for utilising the UCL as an offset. Additionally, the UCL parcel was found to be on land subject to the South West Native Title Settlement (SWNTS) of which the Noongar Land Estate (NLE) is a key component. Land that is part of the NLE is held by the Noongar Boodja Trust, and the Ballardong Regional Corporation must recommend the UCL parcel for inclusion in the NLE.

Given the unresolved issues regarding access and long-term security of the proposed UCL parcel, the proponent revisited the option of using Jilbadji Nature Reserve as the offset site. The proponent subsequently provided a revised offset proposal (Covalent Lithium 2026c) outlining the key features of the alternate approach for the fauna offsets associated with the significant amendment.

The proponent's alternate offset proposal comprises an expanded predator control program in Jilbadji Nature Reserve and is outlined below.

- The offset involves implementation of a predator control program incorporating aerial baiting to target feral cats and foxes and ongoing monitoring of predators, malleefowl and chuditch.
- The program would be based on Western Shield methodology and standards as currently prescribed and would include a Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) survey over the area for the identification of malleefowl mounds to inform development of the monitoring and baiting program.
- The proponent still proposes to contribute to fire mitigation measures and will develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DBCA.
- The offset program is proposed to cover the entire area (207,000 ha) of Jilbadji Nature Reserve.
- Removal of the control site, which was previously proposed to be in a portion of Jilbadji Nature Reserve, due to influence by the baiting program across the entire reserve. The control site would remain as a monitored area to capture data pre and post baiting, with collection of an additional two to three years of baseline data from the area prior to the commencement of the baiting program. Covalent has stated that this period of additional baseline data collection aligns with the current acknowledged period of production limitations of Eradicat® bait.
- The offset is proposed to be implemented and funded by the proponent for 15 to 20 years (aligned with current life of mine production forecasts). The offset strategy would be reviewed and revised as necessary, every five years.
- Removal of the previously proposed financial support for research/conservation programs such as the WA Feral Cat Program, due to increased costs associated with the significant expansion of the baiting area.

Jilbadji Nature Reserve is vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission and managed by DBCA in accordance with the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act). The EPA notes the reserve has a high diversity of flora and fauna values endemic to the region, including recorded individuals of malleefowl, and comprises suitable malleefowl and chuditch habitat. DBCA has advised that they

support the alternate offset approach to undertake a predator control program across the entirety of Jilbadji Nature Reserve, noting that the offset strategy will require revision in consultation with DBCA.

The EPA notes there are currently no predator baiting or monitoring programs within Jilbadji Nature Reserve or outside of the proponent's mining tenure. Landscape scale baiting is proposed to target feral cats and European foxes incorporating annual aerial baiting, primarily with Eradicat® and 1080 bait, based on DBCA's Western Shield methodology. The proponent has been advised by DBCA that supply of Eradicat® bait in Western Australia is low and has committed to employing alternative methods to target cats, such as cat trapping and humanely euthanising, until supply is restored.

The EPA notes that the January 2025 bushfire impacted a large area of the region including the southwest portion of Jilbadji Nature Reserve. The proponent proposes to conduct predator control and monitoring in burnt and unburnt areas, with any spatial difference in post-fire predator occurrence or population numbers identified through the program as an additional knowledge gain. In addition to predator control and monitoring, the proponent proposes to contribute to fire mitigation efforts implemented through the Southern Range Fire Mitigation Plan based on 'tolerable fuel age' of vegetation as per routine DBCA and Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) fire planning. The proponent proposes to develop an MoU with DBCA to detail the arrangements and confirm areas of contribution or support.

The EPA has reviewed and considered the proposed offset program against the guiding values in its *Public Advice for Considering Environmental Offsets at a Regional Scale* (EPA 2024a) in relation to significant residual impacts for this proposal.

- **Regional scale management:** The proponent has had regard for the National Recovery Plans for malleefowl and chuditch, which both identify introduced predators such as feral cats and foxes as one of the key threatening processes to the species. Predator control in the offset site would involve broadscale threat abatement across a large area of land, improving ecological linkages and managing threatening processes, consistent with regional level management.
- **Resilient systems:** The offset would build and maintain resilience in ecological functions and ecosystem services by reducing a key threatening process to malleefowl and chuditch, noting that the January 2025 bushfire impacted a large area in the region which increased the threat to fauna.
- **Expanding scientific knowledge:** The proposed ongoing monitoring, consistent with existing methodology of Western Shield and the recovery groups would contribute to the understanding and literature on malleefowl and chuditch in the Great Western Woodlands, the impact of predators and predator control, and best practice baiting and monitoring techniques.
- **Like for like, and similar, values:** The proposal area and offset site provide suitable habitat for malleefowl and chuditch, and the proposed predator control and monitoring would provide a regional environmental benefit.

- **Connectedness:** The development envelope is close to the offset site and native vegetation is contiguous with the proposal area, providing connectivity of habitat which support the same function for malleefowl and chuditch in the region.

The EPA has considered whether the proposed offsets are likely to counterbalance the significant residual impacts to malleefowl and chuditch. The EPA acknowledges that the offset proposed is not a traditional offset and that the proponent has considered several other options. Additionally, the proponent has acknowledged that supply of Eradicat® bait is low and has stated that they will employ alternative methods to target cats, such as cat trapping and humanely euthanising, until supply is restored. Notwithstanding this, the EPA considers that the offsets proposed meet the requirements for the *WA Environmental Offsets Policy* and the EPA's *Public Advice for Considering Environmental Offsets at a Regional Scale* and will adequately offset residual impacts. The EPA has recommended several environmental outcomes and objectives in condition B4 that the revised offset strategy would need to address to ensure the significant residual impacts are counterbalanced.

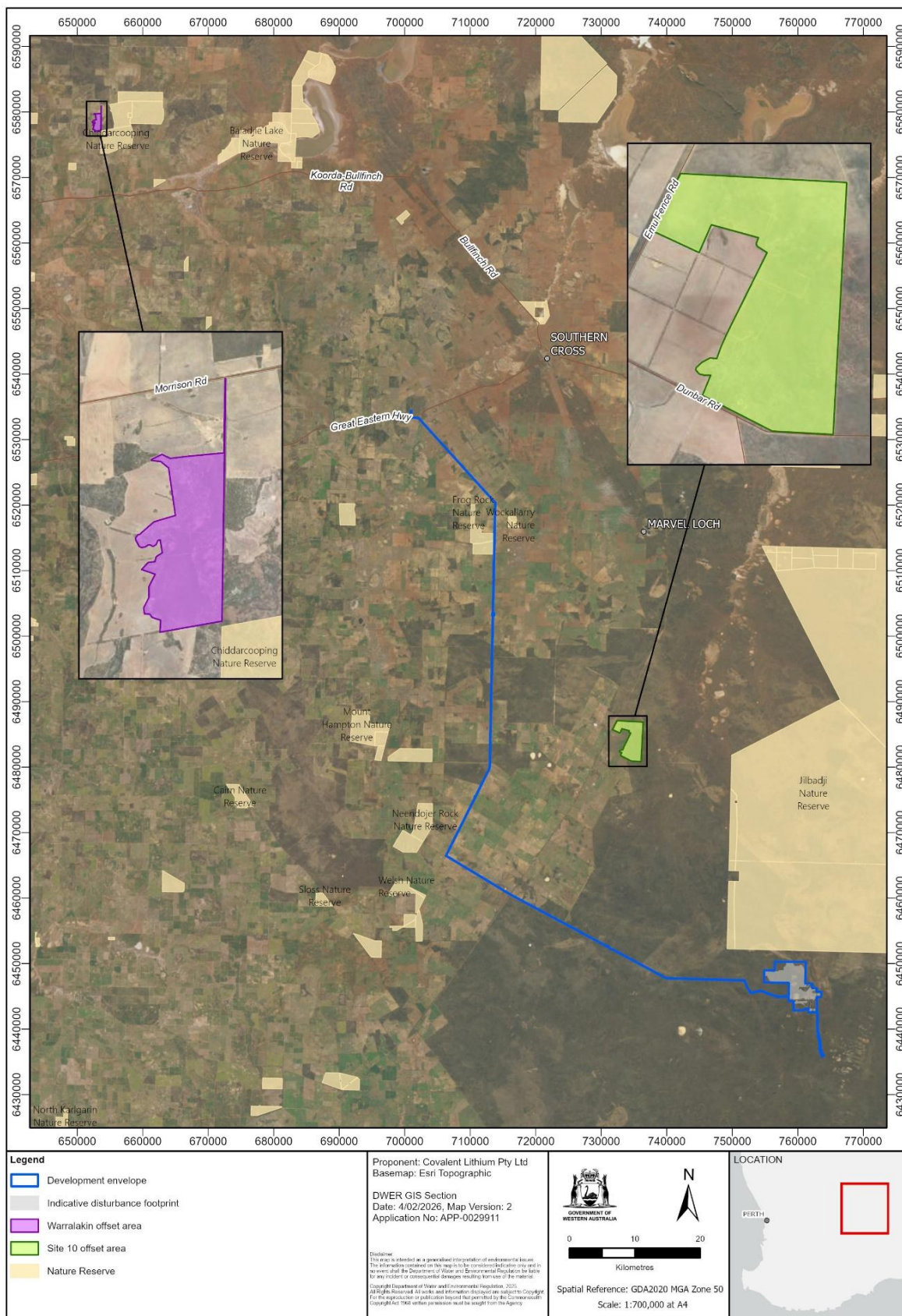


Figure 5: Land acquisition fauna offset locations approved under MS 1199

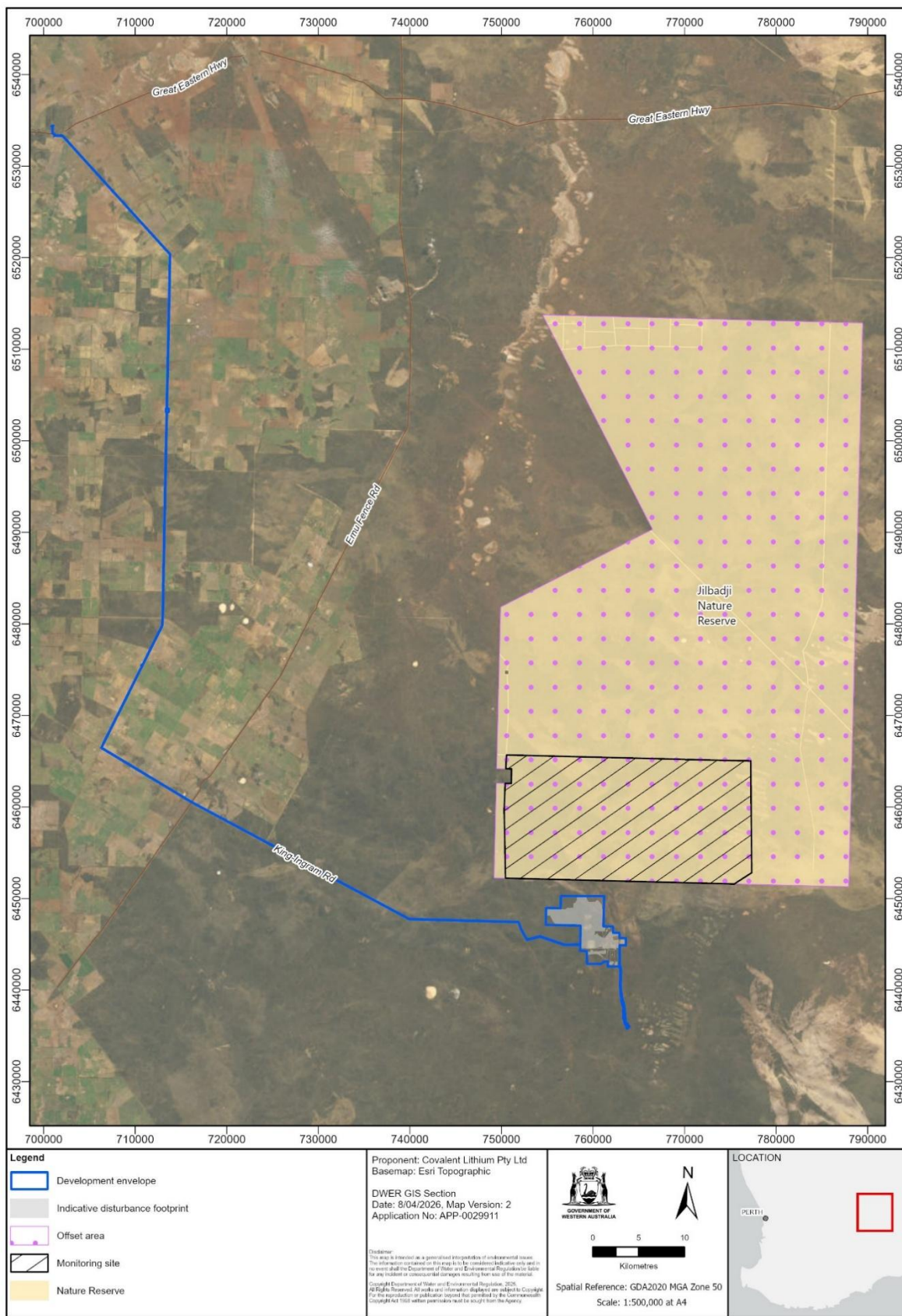


Figure 6: Proposed predator control program fauna offset location for the significant amendment

4.2 Proposed flora offsets

The proponent has provided offsets which build on those considered during assessment of the approved proposal and has submitted a revised Flora Offset Strategy (JBS&G 2025c). The strategy details the objectives and methodology to counterbalance the significant residual impacts on 12 individuals of *Banksia dolichostyla* as a result of the approved proposal and significant amendment.

Offsets proposed include establishing and maintaining at least 69 individuals of *Banksia dolichostyla* through direct seeding and translocation at a designated restoration site. The restoration is proposed to be undertaken within an area of approximately 3 ha located in a flora exclusion zone within the development envelope (Figure 7). The restoration site is part of a decommissioned airstrip located more than 500 metres from the proponent's active mining operations and contained numerous individuals of naturally occurring *Banksia dolichostyla*.

The high intensity January 2025 bushfire impacted vegetation within and surrounding the restoration site and is estimated that natural vegetation regeneration could take between 10 to 15 years. The EPA notes that all baseline flora surveys for the proposal were completed prior to the fire, and local provenance *Banksia dolichostyla* seed has been collected ensuring adequate seed stock is available for rehabilitation.

The EPA supports the proponent's proposed offsets within the development envelope noting they contain the same environmental values as those being impacted. The offset would provide a short-term benefit to the local *Banksia dolichostyla* population, particularly following the recent fire. The EPA notes that the proposed offset site is within a flora exclusion zone and ongoing rehabilitation area and will remain protected for the life of the proposal's operations, and that the restoration activities would enhance existing suitable habitat for *Banksia dolichostyla* to regenerate. The EPA also notes that the underlying land tenure of the restoration offset site is Unallocated Crown Land, within an area that comprises Mining Act tenements, therefore any long-term protection mechanism is unknown.

Advice from DBCA noted that while translocations are generally considered high-risk and unreliable mechanisms for offsetting significant residual impacts, the proposed translocation of a minimum 69 individuals of *Banksia dolichostyla* is considered a relatively low risk to both the species and the identified recipient site. The success criteria as proposed are likely to be achievable, and DBCA does not anticipate any significant barriers to BC Act approval; however, have recommended that, where applicable, the strategy is updated to ensure consistency with the finalised translocation proposal documentation.

The EPA has considered whether the offsets are likely to counterbalance the significant residual impacts to *Banksia dolichostyla*. The EPA is of the view that the offset is relevant and proportionate to the environmental values that will be impacted. The EPA recommends condition B4 be imposed to ensure the offsets are likely to counterbalance the likely significant residual impacts.

Microcorys elatoides

Under the approved proposal, the proponent was required to offset impacts to 9,732 individuals of *Microcorys elatoides*, currently listed by DBCA as a Priority 1 flora species.

The EPA notes that the proponent has provided further information since the original referral with an updated impact assessment for significant flora based on additional individuals of *Microcorys elatoides* recorded within the development envelope and surrounds. A total of 364,577 *Microcorys elatoides* individuals has been recorded within the region, from 17 known location records within a range of approximately 20 km and an extent of occurrence of 109,543 ha. The proposal would impact on a total of 44,296 individuals representing a cumulative impact of 12.15% of all known records (JBS&G 2025a).

The proponent provided an assessment of *Microcorys elatoides* to support its view that the environmental effect of the proposal on this species was not environmentally significant to the extent that the representation, diversity, viability, or ecological function of the taxa would be adversely affected (Western Botanical 2025c, 2025d). This was based on:

- the total number of known individuals since referral which has increased by more than 120,000 with over 16% known to occur within Jilbadji Nature Reserve and over 56% within UCL outside the development envelope
- the spatial distribution of the species within a 20 km radius of the proposal to the north, west and southwest
- the distribution of populations and sub-populations within the region
- the relatively large extent of occurrence and area of occupancy.

DBCA advised that, based on the large number of plants to be retained, the proposal is unlikely to pose a high risk to the conservation of the species. On this basis, DBCA considers that the proposed cumulative impacts on *Microcorys elatoides* from the proposal are unlikely to be significant based on known populations.

The *WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines* state that, in general, significant residual impacts include those that affect rare and endangered plants and animals, areas within the formal conservation reserve system, important environmental systems and species that are protected under international agreements and areas that are already defined as being critically impacted in a cumulative context. Impacts may also be significant if they could cause plants or animals to become rare or endangered, or they affect vegetation which provides important ecological functions. Consistent with the *WA Environmental Offset Guidelines* and based on the information provided and advice from DBCA, the EPA is of the view that the residual impact to *Microcorys elatoides* is no longer significant and therefore does not require offsetting.



Figure 7: Proposed flora offset location

5 Recommendations

The EPA has taken the following into account in its assessment of the proposal:

- environmental values likely to be significantly affected by the proposal
- assessment of key environmental factors, separately and holistically (this has included considering cumulative impacts of the proposal where relevant)
- EPA's confidence in the proponent's proposed mitigation measures
- likely environmental outcomes which can be achieved with the imposition of conditions
- consistency of environmental outcomes with the EPA's objectives for the key environmental factors
- whether other statutory decision-making processes can mitigate the potential impacts of the proposal on the environment and
- principles of the EP Act.

The EPA recommends that the proposal may be implemented subject to the conditions recommended in Appendix A.

6 Other advice

The EPA may, if it sees fit, include other information, advice or recommendations relevant to the environment in its assessment reports, even if that information has not been taken into account by the EPA in its assessment of a proposal.

The EPA provides the following information for consideration by the Minister.

It is noted that while several biological surveys of the broader area have been undertaken for the proposal covering an area of approximately 6,780 ha, available data for the region is limited. The EPA considers that for future impact assessment in this region, further surveys beyond proposal impact areas, particularly for vegetation, will provide quantitative local and regional information to support a thorough impact assessment for flora and vegetation and for terrestrial fauna.

The proponent proposes to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DBCA for the proposed threat abatement and fire mitigation activities within Jilbadji Nature Reserve as part of the threatened fauna offset strategy for the significant amendment. DBCA has advised that relevant licences/authorisations under the CALM Act, BC Act and Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002 are required to facilitate delivery of the offset. The EPA recommends ongoing consultation with DBCA so that preparation of the relevant licences/authorisations and the MoU is undertaken as soon as practicable to provide further confidence in the offsets proposed, and that DWER is notified when the MoU is accepted. The proponent has committed to this level of engagement with DBCA to ensure offsets are delivered in a timely manner. The EPA has included contingency offsets in the recommended conditions, to ensure that if implementation of the offsets proposed does not achieve the required environmental outcomes and objectives, the proponent must undertake an additional offset to counterbalance the significant residual impact to the relevant environmental values.

The EPA understands that the proponent and the Marlinyu Ghoorlie Traditional Owners have an established Native Title Agreement and a Heritage Agreement and are working towards agreement on a Cultural Heritage Management Plan. The EPA recommends ongoing consultation between the proponent and Marlinyu Ghoorlie Traditional Owners as the project progresses and encourages the proponent to seek their input into the proposed Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

Appendix A: Recommended conditions

Section 44(2)(b) of EP Act specifies that the EPA's report must set out (if it recommends that implementation be allowed) the conditions and procedures, if any, to which implementation should be subject. This appendix contains the EPA's recommended conditions and procedures.

Recommended Environmental Conditions

STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED (*Environmental Protection Act 1986*)

EARL GREY LITHIUM PROJECT – LIFE OF MINE

Proposal: The proposal is a significant amendment to the Earl Grey Lithium Project to expand existing operations for the mining, processing and transportation of lithium ore.

Proponent: Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd
Australian Company Number 623 090 139

Proponent address: 15 Mason Road
Kwinana Beach WA 6167

Assessment number: 2387

Report of the Environmental Protection Authority: 1809

Introduction: The proposal is a significant amendment to the existing Earl Grey Lithium Project approved proposal which was agreed to be implemented under Ministerial Statement 1118 as amended by Ministerial Statement 1167 and Ministerial Statement 1199. The EPA's Reports for the existing proposal are Reports 1651, 1697 and 1730, and corresponding EPA Assessment Numbers 2123, 2279 and 2315.

Pursuant to section 45 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, it is now agreed that:

1. the significant amendment proposal described and documented in the proponent's Proposal Content Document (October 2025), may be implemented;
2. Ministerial Statements 1118, 1167 and 1199 for the existing Earl Grey Lithium Project proposal is superseded under section 40AA (6) (b) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*; and
3. the implementation of the significantly amended proposal (being the existing approved proposal as amended by the significant amendment proposal) is subject to the following implementation conditions and procedures.

Conditions and procedures

Part A: Proposal extent

Part B: Environmental outcomes, prescriptions and objectives

Part C: Environmental management plans and monitoring

Part D: Compliance and other conditions

PART A: PROPOSAL EXTENT

A1 Limitations and Extent of Proposal

A1-1 The proponent must ensure that the proposal is implemented in such a manner that the following limitations or maximum extents / capacities / ranges are not exceeded:

Proposal element	Location	Maximum extent
Physical elements		
Development envelope	Figure 1	No more than 4,009 ha .
Disturbance footprint	Figure 1	Disturbance of no more than 2,408 ha within a 4,009 ha development envelope .
Direct disturbance of native vegetation	Figure 1	Clearing no more than 1,885 ha of native vegetation within the development envelope .
Flora exclusion zones	Figure 2	No direct disturbance including, but not limited to, mining activities, pits, excavation, waste dumps and permanent structures. Low impact activities to support environmental monitoring and management are permitted.
Operational elements		
Groundwater abstraction – mine pit dewatering and water supply	-	No more than 1.5 GL per annum.
Timing elements		
Project life	-	Up to 30 years, inclusive of decommissioning and rehabilitation, from the date of issue of this Statement.

PART B – ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES, PRESCRIPTIONS AND OBJECTIVES

B1 Flora and Vegetation

B1-1 The proponent must ensure the implementation of the proposal achieves the following environmental **outcomes**:

- (1) no direct or indirect **disturbance** to flora and vegetation in the **flora exclusion zones** as shown on Figure 2;
- (2) **disturb** no more than 12 individuals of *Banksia dolichostyla* within the **development envelope**;
- (3) **disturb** no more than 13% of the **known population** of *Microcorys elatoides* within the **development envelope**;
- (4) **disturb** no more than 10% of the **known population** of *Thryptomene jilbadji* (Rye) within the **development envelope**;
- (5) **disturb** no more than 7% of the **known population** of *Chamelaucium* sp. Mount Holland (G. Cockerton & G. Grigg WB40918) within the **development envelope**;
- (6) **disturb** no more than 14% of the **known population** of *Microcorys* sp. Forrestania (V. English 2004) within the **development envelope**;
- (7) **disturb** no more than 5% of the **known population** of the following species within the **development envelope** :
 - (a) *Brachyloma stenolobum*;
 - (b) *Eutaxia* sp. North Ironcap (P. Armstrong PA 06/898);
 - (c) *Labichea rossii*; and
 - (d) *Thryptomene salina* (Rye and Trudgen).

B1-2 The proponent shall implement appropriate management measures within the **development envelope** to achieve the following environmental **objectives**:

- (1) minimise **disturbance** to flora and vegetation including, but not limited to, impacts from dust, **dieback**, **environmental weeds**, altered hydrological regimes, bushfire and fragmentation; and
- (2) minimise indirect impacts on flora taxa listed as **threatened flora** and **priority flora** and vegetation representative of Priority Ecological Community 'Ironcap Hills vegetation assemblages (Mt Holland, Middle, North and South Ironcap Hills, Digger Rock and Hatter Hill) (banded ironstone formation).

B1-3 The proponent must review and revise the Flora and Vegetation Environmental Management Plan (Revision 8-V1, October 2025), so that it satisfies the requirements of condition C4-1, condition C4-2 and condition C5-1 and demonstrates the environmental **outcomes** in condition B1-1 and **objectives** in condition B1-2 can be achieved, and submit it to the **CEO**.

B2 Terrestrial Fauna

B2-1 The proponent must ensure the implementation of the proposal achieves the following environmental **outcomes**:

- (1) clearing of no more than 1,866 ha of **breeding habitat** and **foraging habitat** for the malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*);
- (2) clearing of no more than 1,883 ha of **potential breeding habitat** and **foraging habitat** for the chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*);
- (3) no direct or indirect **adverse impacts** to malleefowl or chuditch within the **development envelope**;
- (4) no **disturbance** of **active malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) mounds** within the **development envelope**; and
- (5) implement two hundred (200) metre **malleefowl exclusion zones** around any **active malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) mounds** identified within the **development envelope**.

B2-2 The proponent shall implement appropriate management measures to achieve the following environmental **objectives**:

- (1) minimise the risk of physical injury, mortality and **adverse impacts** including behavioural changes and health impacts from **construction activities** or **operation activities** on native fauna; and
- (2) minimise **proposal**-related direct or indirect impacts to native fauna from **feral animals** within the **development envelope** during the life of the proposal.

B2-3 Prior to **ground disturbing activities**, the proponent must undertake the following actions:

- (1) within seven (7) days prior to clearing, using a **fauna spotter**, undertake **pre-clearance inspections** to target malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) individuals or mounds and chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) individuals within the **development envelope**;
- (2) where malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) individuals in B2-3(1) are identified, **ground disturbing activities** shall not commence until either:

- (a) the individual has been relocated by a licensed **fauna handler**; or
- (b) the individual has been observed by the **fauna spotter** to have moved on from the area to adjoining suitable habitat.

B2-4 The proponent must submit as part of the Compliance Assessment Report required by condition D2, a report on fauna management undertaken, in line with condition B2-3. The report shall include the following:

- (1) details of fauna **pre-clearance inspections**;
- (2) dates and details of **clearing activities** for each area inspected;
- (3) the number and type of fauna removed and relocated and actions taken;
- (4) details of the **fauna spotter** and/or **fauna handler** commissioned;
- (5) results of **pre-clearance inspections**; and
- (6) any observed vertebrate fauna mortalities that occurred during **ground disturbing activities**.

B2-5 The proponent must review and revise the Terrestrial Fauna Environmental Management Plan (Revision 6, October 2023), so that it satisfies the requirements of condition C4-1, condition C4-3 and condition C5-1 and demonstrates the environmental **outcomes** in condition B2-1 and **objectives** in condition B2-2 can be achieved, and submit it to the **CEO**.

B3 Rehabilitation

B3-1 The proponent must implement the **proposal** to ensure the following environmental **outcomes** are achieved:

- (1) rehabilitated areas provide suitable, **self-sustaining** habitat for *Banksia dolichostyla* and any other **threatened flora** or **priority flora** species impacted from the proposal, ensuring that the flora and vegetation of rehabilitated areas reflect the environmental values of the Great Western Woodlands;
- (2) rehabilitated landforms are stable, do not cause **pollution** or **environmental harm**;
- (3) rehabilitated vegetation is **self-sustaining**, including not **adversely impacted** by **environmental weeds**;
- (4) flora and vegetation within rehabilitated areas are comparable with ecosystem structure and composition within suitable analogue or reference sites;

- (5) rehabilitation includes the use of native seeds and propagated material collected from native vegetation within the **development envelope**;
- (6) rehabilitated vegetation achieves a cover and diversity of native vegetation species comparable to pre-clearing habitat for terrestrial fauna impacted by the **proposal**, particularly for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*); and
- (7) closure planning and rehabilitation are undertaken in a progressive manner consistent with achievement of the above **outcomes** during operations, where practicable, and as soon as practicable upon closure.

B3-2 In order to demonstrate the outcomes of condition B3-1 can be met, the proponent shall commence rehabilitation within twelve (12) months of the date of this Statement, or as otherwise agreed in writing by the **CEO**.

B3-3 The proponent shall submit annually to the **CEO**, with the Compliance Assessment Report required by condition D2, a rehabilitation progress report, which identifies:

- (1) results of rehabilitation; and
- (2) contingency measures and actions in the event the rehabilitation **objectives** may not be achieved.

B3-4 The proponent shall continue to implement the rehabilitation required by condition B3-2 until the proponent has demonstrated that the **outcomes** of condition B3-1 will be met, or as otherwise agreed by the **CEO**.

B4 Offsets

B4-1 The proponent must implement offsets to counterbalance the significant residual impacts of the proposal on the following **environmental values**:

- (1) malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) **foraging habitat** and **breeding habitat**;
- (2) chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) **foraging habitat** and **potential breeding habitat**; and
- (3) *Banksia dolichostyla*.

B4-2 To meet the requirements of condition B4-1, the proponent must ensure the implementation of the offsets achieves the following environmental **outcomes** and **objectives**:

- (1) counterbalance the significant residual impacts to the **environmental values** identified in condition B4-1;

- (2) ensure **land acquisition** and/or **on-ground management** offsets including threat abatement within Jilbadji Nature Reserve, **revegetation** and/or restoration activities achieve a **tangible improvement** to **foraging habitat** and **breeding habitat** for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), **foraging habitat** and **potential breeding habitat** for chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) and populations of *Banksia dolichostyla*;
- (3) ensure a **tangible improvement** in habitat managed for conservation purposes for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*);
- (4) demonstrate a **tangible improvement** in local malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) populations from established **baseline populations**;
- (5) ensure a **strategic conservation benefit** is achieved for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) and *Banksia dolichostyla*; and
- (6) develop techniques for restoration and establishment of *Banksia dolichostyla* individuals impacted by the proposal.

B4-3 To meet the requirements of condition B4-1, the proponent must implement offset measures to the extent and at the locations as set out and described in Table 1.

Table 1: Environmental values, locations, extent and type of offset measures required to meet condition B4-1

Environmental value	Offset locations	Extent of area to receive offset measure	Type of offset measures
Foraging habitat and breeding habitat for malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>).	Lot 958 of Parcel 214324, Emu Fence Road and Dunbar Road in Skeleton Rock, Shire of Yilgarn (Site 10)	1,200 ha	Land acquisition and on-ground management
Foraging habitat and potential breeding habitat for chuditch (<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>)	Lot 366 of Parcel 203231, Echo Valley Road in Warralakin, Shire of Westonia (Warralakin)	175 ha	Land acquisition and on-ground management
	Jilbadji Nature Reserve 24049	207,000 ha	On-ground management (threat abatement)

Environmental value	Offset locations	Extent of area to receive offset measure	Type of offset measures
<i>Banksia dolichostyla</i>	Flora exclusion zone within the development envelope	3 ha	On-ground management

Threatened Fauna Land Acquisition Offset Strategy Environmental Management Plan

- B4-4 In order to ensure the environmental **outcomes** and **objectives** relevant to malleefowl and chuditch of condition B4-2 are met, the proponent must implement the *Earl Grey Lithium Project Approved Project Threatened Fauna Offset Strategy* (Rev 5 V2, 29 January 2026) or subsequent versions approved by the **CEO**.
- B4-5 The *Earl Grey Lithium Project Approved Project Threatened Fauna Offset Strategy* (Rev 5 V2, 29 January 2026), and any subsequent versions approved by the **CEO**, must include the implementation of the offset measures to the extent and at the locations set out and described in Table 1 and Figure 3.

Threatened Fauna Offset Strategy Environmental Management Plan

- B4-6 The proponent must, in consultation with the **DBCA**, review and revise the *Earl Grey Lithium Project – Life of Mine Threatened Fauna Offset Strategy and Management Plan* (Rev 4v1, 9 March 2026) to meet the requirements of condition B4-1(1) and condition B4-1(2) and submit it to the **CEO**.
- B4-7 The *Earl Grey Lithium Project – Life of Mine Threatened Fauna Offset Strategy and Management Plan* (Rev 4v1, 9 March 2026) and any subsequent versions approved by the **CEO**, must include the implementation of the offset measures to the extent and at the locations set out and described in Table 1 and Figure 4, and must:
- (1) identify the **objectives** and intended **outcomes**, and specify the deliverables and completion criteria;
 - (2) spatially identify the area(s) to receive offset measures;
 - (3) demonstrate how the offset will result in positive conservation **outcomes** or **tangible improvement**, and will improve management and protection for the **environmental values** identified in condition B4-1(1) and condition B4-1(2);
 - (4) demonstrate the consistency of the **outcomes** and **objectives** relevant to malleefowl and chuditch in condition B4-2 with any relevant

- guidance, including but not limited to, **recovery plans**, area management plans or **conservation advice**, the principles of the *WA Environmental Offsets Policy*, the *WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines*, or any subsequent revisions of these documents;
- (5) identify how the ongoing performance of the offset measures, and whether they are achieving the relevant **outcomes** and **objectives** for malleefowl and chuditch in condition B4-2, will periodically be made publicly available;
- (6) for any offsets **acquired** specify:
- (a) a timeframe and works associated with establishing the **Offset Conservation Area(s)**, including a contribution for maintaining the offset for at least twenty (20) years after completion of purchase; and
- (b) identify the **relevant management body** for the on-going management of the **Proposed Offset Conservation Areas**, including its role, and the role of the proponent, and confirmation in writing that the **relevant management body** accepts responsibility for its role.
- (7) for any predator control program proposed:
- (a) state the targets for each **environmental value** to be achieved by the predator control program which will result in a **tangible improvement** to the **environmental values** being offset;
- (b) demonstrate the consistency of the targets with environmental **outcomes** and **objectives** relevant to malleefowl and chuditch in condition B4-2 and the objectives of any relevant guidance, including but not limited to, **recovery plans** or area management plans;
- (c) detail the **on-ground management** actions, with associated timeframes for implementation and completion, to achieve the targets identified in condition B4-7(7)(a) and how the implementation of the predator control program will facilitate the achievement of the **objectives** in condition B4-2(4) and condition B4-2(5); and
- (d) detail the monitoring, reporting and evaluation mechanisms for the targets and actions identified under condition B4-7(7)(a) and condition B4-7(7)(c).
- (8) for any **research offset** proposed, prepare a research program that:

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- (a) identifies the **objectives** and intended **outcomes**, and specifies the deliverables and completion criteria;
 - (b) identifies how the research will result in a positive conservation outcome, and will either improve management and protection or address priority knowledge gaps that have been identified as a research priority needed to improve management and protection, for the **environmental values** identified in condition B4-1;
 - (c) demonstrate the consistency of the **objectives** in condition B4-7(8)(a) with any relevant guidance, including but not limited to, **recovery plans**, area management plans or **conservation advice**, the principles of the *WA Environmental Offsets Policy*, the *WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines*, or any subsequent revisions of these documents;
 - (d) identifies and justifies the how the research will support land **acquired** and/or **on-ground management** in achieving a positive conservation **outcome**;
 - (e) provides an implementation and reporting schedule, including an outline of key activities, all deliverables, stages of implementation, reporting of research results (including interim results), reporting on implementation status, and milestones towards completion criteria;
 - (f) identifies the governance arrangements including responsibilities for implementing, and oversight of, the research program, agreements with government agencies, agreements with any third parties, and **contingency measures**;
 - (g) identify how a research program summary, and the results (including interim results) of the research program will be communicated and/or published in an open access format; and
 - (h) identifies the third party to carry out the work required to meet the **outcomes** of condition B4-7(8)(a), who is satisfactory for the role to the **CEO**. In applying to the **CEO** for endorsement of the selected third parties, the proponent shall provide:
 - (i) demonstration of the track record, experience, qualifications and competencies of the proposed third party to carry out the work and achieve the outcomes.

Flora Offset Strategy Environmental Management Plan

- B4-8 In order to ensure the environmental **outcomes** and **objectives** relevant to *Banksia dolichostyla* of condition B4-2 are met, the proponent must implement the *Earl Grey Lithium Project Flora Offset Strategy* (Rev 5, 21 October 2025) or subsequent versions approved by the **CEO**.
- B4-9 The *Earl Grey Lithium Project Flora Offset Strategy* (Rev 5, 21 October 2025), and any subsequent versions approved by the **CEO**, must include the implementation of the offset measures to the extent and at the locations set out and described in Table 1 and Figure 5.

Contingency offsets

- B4-10 If, after receiving the ongoing performance review of the offsets and monitoring required by condition B4-4, condition B4-7(7)(d) and condition B4-8, the **CEO** determines that the proposal has not met the environmental **outcomes** and **objectives** in condition B4-2, and after notifying the proponent in writing, the proponent must undertake an additional offset to counterbalance the significant residual impact from the additional impact to the **environmental values** identified in condition B4-1.
- B4-11 Within twelve (12) months of receiving notice in writing from the **CEO** that an additional offset is required under condition B4-11 the proponent must update the relevant Offset Strategy Environmental Management Plan required by condition B4-4, condition B4-6 or condition B4-8 to include additional offsets to counterbalance the significant residual impacts to the **environmental values** identified in condition B4-1.

B5 Environmental Performance Report

- B5-1 The proponent shall submit an Environmental Performance Report to the Minister every five (5) years.
- B5-2 The first Environmental Performance Report shall be submitted within three (3) months after five (5) years from substantial commencement, or such other time as may be approved by the **CEO**.
- B5-3 Each Environmental Performance Report shall report on the following:
- (1) state of the **threatened flora** and **priority flora** impacted by the proposal;
 - (2) state of malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroyi*) impacted by the proposal; and
 - (3) the success of progressive rehabilitation against the environmental **outcomes** required under condition B3-1.

B5-4 The Environmental Performance Report must include:

- (1) a comparison of the **environmental values** identified in condition B5-3 at the end of the five (5) year period, against the state of each **environmental value** at the beginning of the five (5) year period;
- (2) a comparison of the **environmental values** identified in condition B5-3 at the end of the five (5) year period, against the state of the **environmental values** identified in first Environmental Performance Report submitted in accordance with condition B5-2; and
- (3) proposed adaptive management and continuous improvement strategies.

B5-5 The Environmental Performance Report may be in whole, or part, prepared in conjunction with other proponents where there are cumulative impacts from their proposals.

B5-6 Each Environmental Performance Report must be published on the proponent's website and provided to the **CEO** in electronic form suitable for on-line publication by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation within twenty (20) business days of being provided to the Minister.

PART C – ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS AND MONITORING

C1 Environmental Management Plans: Conditions Related to Commencement of Implementation of the Proposal

C1-1 The proponent must:

- (1) within twelve (12) months of the date of this Statement, or otherwise agreed to by the **CEO**, revise and resubmit the environmental management plans required by condition B1-3 and condition B2-5 so that they meet the requirements of those conditions, condition C4 and condition C5; and
- (2) within twelve (12) months of the date of this Statement, or otherwise agreed to by the **CEO**, revise and submit the *Earl Grey Lithium Project – Life of Mine Threatened Fauna Offset Strategy and Management Plan* (Rev 4v1, 9 March 2026) required by condition B4-6 so that it meets the requirements of that condition.

C2 Environmental Management Plans: Conditions Relating to Approval, Implementation, Review and Publication

C2-1 Upon being required to implement an environmental management plan(s) under Part B, or after receiving notice in writing from the **CEO**, on advice from **DBCA**, under condition C1-1 that the environmental management plan(s) required in Part B satisfies the relevant requirements, the proponent must:

- (1) implement the most recent version of the **confirmed** environmental management plan; and
- (2) continue to implement the **confirmed** environmental management plan referred to in condition C2-1(1), other than for any period which the **CEO**, on advice from **DBCA**, confirms by notice in writing that it has been demonstrated that the relevant requirements for the environmental management plan have been met, or are able to be met under another statutory decision-making process, in which case the implementation of the environmental management plan is no longer required for that period.

C2-2 The proponent:

- (1) may review and revise a **confirmed** environmental management plan provided it meets the relevant requirements of that environmental management plan, including any consultation that may be required when preparing the environmental management plan;
- (2) must review and revise a **confirmed** environmental management plan and ensure it meets the relevant requirements of that environmental

management plan, including any consultation that may be required when preparing the environmental management plan, as and when directed by the **CEO**; and

- (3) must revise and submit to the **CEO** the **confirmed** Environmental Management Plan if there is a material risk that the outcomes or objectives it is required to achieve will not be complied with, including but not limited to as a result of a change to the proposal.

C2-3 Despite condition C2-1, but subject to conditions C2-4 and C2-5, the proponent may implement minor revisions to an environmental management plan if the revisions will not result in new or increased **adverse impacts** to the environment or result in a risk to the achievement of the limits, outcomes or objectives which the environmental management plan is required to achieve.

C2-4 If the proponent is to implement minor revisions to an environmental management plan under condition C2-3, the proponent must provide the **CEO** with the following at least twenty (20) business days before it implements the revisions:

- (1) the revised environmental management plan clearly showing the minor revisions;
- (2) an explanation of and justification for the minor revisions; and
- (3) an explanation of why the minor revisions will not result in new or increased **adverse impacts** to the environment or result in a risk to the achievement of the limits, outcomes or objectives which the environmental management plan is required to achieve.

C2-5 The proponent must cease to implement any revisions which the **CEO** notifies the proponent (at any time) in writing may not be implemented.

C2-6 **Confirmed** environmental management plans, and any revised environmental management plans under condition C2-4(1), must be published on the proponent's website and provided to the **CEO** in electronic form suitable for on-line publication by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation within twenty (20) business days of being implemented, or being required to be implemented (whichever is earlier).

C3 Conditions Related to Monitoring

C3-1 The proponent must undertake monitoring capable of:

- (1) substantiating whether the proposal limitations and extents in Part A are exceeded; and

- (2) **detecting** and substantiating whether the environmental outcomes identified in Part B are achieved (excluding any environmental outcomes in Part B where an environmental management plan is expressly required to monitor achievement of that outcome).

C3-2 The proponent must submit as part of the Compliance Assessment Report required by condition D2, a compliance monitoring report that:

- (1) outlines the monitoring that was undertaken during the implementation of the proposal;
- (2) identifies why the monitoring was capable of substantiating whether the proposal limitation and extents in Part A are exceeded;
- (3) for any environmental outcomes to which condition C3-1(2) applies, identifies why the monitoring was scientifically robust and capable of **detecting** whether the environmental outcomes in Part B are met;
- (4) outlines the results of the monitoring;
- (5) reports whether the proposal limitations and extents in Part A were exceeded and (for any environmental outcomes to which condition C3-1 (2) applies) whether the environmental outcomes in Part B were achieved, based on analysis of the results of the monitoring; and
- (6) reports any actions taken by the proponent to remediate any potential non-compliance.

C4 Environmental Management Plans: Conditions Relating to Monitoring and Adaptive Management for Outcomes Based Conditions

C4-1 The environmental management plans required under condition B1-3, condition B2-5, condition B4-4, condition B4-6 and condition B4-8 must contain provisions which enable the substantiation of whether the relevant **outcomes** of those conditions are met, and must include:

- (1) **threshold criteria** that provide a limit beyond which the environmental outcomes are not achieved;
- (2) **trigger criteria** that will provide an early warning that the environmental outcomes are not likely to be met;
- (3) monitoring parameters, sites, control/reference sites, methodology, timing and frequencies which will be used to measure **threshold criteria** and **trigger criteria**. Include methodology for determining alternate monitoring sites as a contingency if proposed sites are not suitable in the future;
- (4) baseline data;

- (5) data collection and analysis methodologies;
- (6) adaptive management methodology;
- (7) **contingency measures** which will be implemented if **threshold criteria** or **trigger criteria** are not met; and
- (8) reporting requirements.

C4-2 The environmental management plan required under condition B1-3 is also required to include:

- (1) monitoring of burnt and unburnt replicate reference sites both within and beyond the **development envelope**;
- (2) monitoring of other impacted **priority flora** species:
 - (a) *Labichea rossii*;
 - (b) *Eutaxia* sp. North Ironcap (P. Armstrong PA 06/898);
 - (c) *Thryptomene Jilbadji*; and
 - (d) *Thryptomene salina*.
- (3) identification of **contaminated** areas, including provision of evidence of notification and proposed management measures to relevant statutory authorities.

C4-3 The environmental management plan required under condition B2-5 is also required to include:

- (1) a re-assessment of fauna habitat post-fire within the **development envelope**;
- (2) a re-assessment of malleefowl mounds post-fire within the **development envelope** and within a five (5) km radius of the **development envelope**;
- (3) species-specific management measures to minimise impacts on all conservation significant fauna impacted by the **proposal**; and
- (4) a summary of the effectiveness of predator monitoring and control, and whether this has informed adaptive management within the **development envelope**.

C4-4 Without limiting condition C3-1, failure to achieve an environmental outcome, or the exceedance of a **threshold criteria**, regardless of whether **threshold contingency measures** have been or are being implemented, represents a non-compliance with these conditions.

C5 Environmental Management Plans: Conditions Related to Management Actions and Targets for Objective Based Conditions

- C5-1 The environmental management plans required under condition B1-3, condition B2-5, condition B4-4, condition B4-6 and condition B4-8 must contain provisions which enable the achievement of the relevant objectives of those conditions and substantiation of whether the objectives are reasonably likely to be met, and must include:
- (1) **management actions**;
 - (2) **management targets**;
 - (3) **contingency measures** if **management targets** are not met; and
 - (4) reporting requirements.
- C5-2 Without limiting condition C2-1, the failure to achieve an environmental objective, or implement a **management action**, regardless of whether **contingency measures** have been or are being implemented, represents a non-compliance with these conditions.

PART D – COMPLIANCE, TIME LIMITS, AUDITS AND OTHER CONDITIONS

D1 Non-compliance Reporting

D1-1 If the proponent becomes aware of a potential non-compliance, the proponent must:

- (1) report this to the **CEO** within seven (7) days;
- (2) implement **contingency measures**;
- (3) investigate the cause;
- (4) investigate environmental impacts;
- (5) advise rectification measures to be implemented;
- (6) advise any other measures to be implemented to ensure no further impact;
- (7) advise timeframe in which contingency, rectification and other measures have and/or will be implemented; and
- (8) provide a report to the **CEO** within twenty-one (21) days of being aware of the potential non-compliance, detailing the measures required in conditions D1-1(1) to D1-1(7) above.

D1-2 Failure to comply with the requirements of a condition, or with the content of an environmental management plan required under a condition, constitutes a non-compliance with these conditions, regardless of whether the **contingency measures**, rectification or other measures in condition D1-1 above have been or are being implemented.

D2 Compliance Reporting

D2-1 The proponent must provide an annual Compliance Assessment Report to the **CEO** for the purpose of determining whether the implementation conditions are being complied with.

D2-2 Unless a different date or frequency is approved by the **CEO**, the first annual Compliance Assessment Report must be submitted within fifteen (15) months of the date of this Statement, and subsequent reports must be submitted annually from that date.

D2-3 Each annual Compliance Assessment Report must be endorsed by the proponent's Chief Executive Officer, or a person approved by proponent's Chief Executive Officer to be delegated to sign on the Chief Executive Officer's behalf.

D2-4 Each annual Compliance Assessment Report must:

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- (1) state whether each condition of this Statement has been complied with, including:
 - (a) exceedance of any proposal limits and extents;
 - (b) achievement of environmental outcomes;
 - (c) achievement of environmental objectives;
 - (d) requirements to implement the content of environmental management plans;
 - (e) monitoring requirements;
 - (f) implement **contingency measures**;
 - (g) requirements to implement adaptive management; and
 - (h) reporting requirements;
 - (2) include the results of any monitoring (inclusive of any raw data) that has been required under Part C in order to demonstrate that the limits in Part A, and any outcomes or any objectives are being met;
 - (3) provide evidence to substantiate statements of compliance, or details of where there has been a non-compliance;
 - (4) include the corrective, remedial and preventative actions taken in response to any potential non-compliance;
 - (5) be provided in a form suitable for publication on the proponent's website and online by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation; and
 - (6) be prepared and published consistent with the latest version of the Compliance Assessment Plan required by condition D2-5 which the **CEO** has confirmed by notice in writing satisfies the relevant requirements of Part C and Part D.

D2-5 The proponent must prepare a Compliance Assessment Plan which is submitted to the **CEO** at least six (6) months prior to the first Compliance Assessment Report required by condition D2-2, or prior to implementation of the proposal, whichever is sooner.

D2-6 The Compliance Assessment Plan must include:

- (1) what, when and how information will be collected and recorded to assess compliance;
- (2) the methods which will be used to assess compliance;

- (3) the methods which will be used to validate the adequacy of the compliance assessment to determine whether the implementation conditions are being complied with;
- (4) the retention of compliance assessments;
- (5) the table of contents of Compliance Assessment Reports, including audit tables; and
- (6) how and when Compliance Assessment Reports will be made publicly available, including usually being published on the proponent's website within sixty (60) days of being provided to the **CEO**.

D3 Contact Details

D3-1 The proponent must notify the **CEO** of any change of its name, physical address or postal address for the serving of notices or other correspondence within twenty-eight (28) days of such change. Where the proponent is a corporation or an association of persons, whether incorporated or not, the postal address is that of the principal place of business or of the principal office in the State.

D4 Time Limit for Proposal Implementation

- D4-1 The proposal must be substantially commenced within five (5) years from the date of this Statement.
- D4-2 The proponent must provide to the **CEO** documentary evidence demonstrating that they have complied with condition D4-1 no later than thirty (30) days after substantial commencement.
- D4-3 If the proposal has not been substantially commenced within the period specified in condition D4-1, implementation of the proposal must not be commenced or continued after the expiration of that period.

D5 Public Availability of Data

D5-1 Subject to condition D5-2, within a reasonable time period approved by the **CEO** upon the issue of this Statement and for the remainder of the life of the proposal, the proponent must make publicly available, in a manner approved by the **CEO**, all validated environmental data collected before and after the date of this Statement relevant to the proposal (including sampling design, sampling methodologies, monitoring and other empirical data and derived information products (e.g. maps)), environmental management plans and reports relevant to the assessment of this proposal and implementation of this Statement.

D5-2 If:

- (1) any data referred to in condition D5-1 contains trade secrets; or
- (2) any data referred to in condition D5-1 contains particulars of confidential information (other than trade secrets) that has commercial value to a person that would be, or could reasonably be expected to be, destroyed or diminished if the confidential information were published,

the proponent may submit a request for approval from the **CEO** to not make this data publicly available and the **CEO** may agree to such a request if the **CEO** is satisfied that the data meets the above criteria.

D5-3 In making such a request the proponent must provide the **CEO** with an explanation and reasons why the data should not be made publicly available.

D6 Independent Audit

D6-1 The proponent must arrange for an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of this statement, including achievement of the environmental **outcomes** and/or the environmental **objectives** and/ or environmental performance with the conditions of this statement, as and when directed by the **CEO**.

D6-2 The independent audit must be carried out by a person with appropriate qualifications who is nominated or approved by the **CEO** to undertake the audit under condition D6-1.

D6-3 The proponent must submit the independent audit report with the Compliance Assessment Report required by condition D2, or at any time as and when directed in writing by the **CEO**. The audit report is to be supported by credible evidence to substantiate its findings.

D6-4 The independent audit report required by condition D6-1 is to be made publicly available in the same timeframe, manner and form as a Compliance Assessment Report, or as otherwise directed by the **CEO**.

Table 2: Abbreviations and definitions

Acronym or abbreviation	Definition or term
Acquire/ land acquisition	The protection of environmental values on an area of initially unprotected land for the purpose of conservation through improved security of tenure or restricting the use of land (e.g. ceding land to the Crown or perpetual conservation covenants). This includes upfront costs of establishing the offset site and the on-going management of costs of maintaining the offset for the long term (20 years).
Active malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>) mound/s	As defined in the National Malleefowl Monitoring Manual (2020) or its updates.
Adverse impact / adversely impacted	<p>Negative change that is neither trivial nor negligible that could result in a reduction in health, diversity or abundance of the receptor/s being impacted, or a reduction in environmental value. Adverse impacts can arise from direct or indirect impacts, or other impacts from the proposal.</p> <p>In relation to flora and vegetation, includes but is not limited to, a definable change in spatial coverage or a change in the health, species diversity, structure and plant density of vegetation, vegetation and flora mortality, spread or introduction of environmental weeds, introduction or spread of disease and edge effects.</p> <p>In relation to terrestrial fauna, includes but is not limited to, habitat fragmentation, vehicle strike, collision with fencing, artificial light and vibration, noise emissions and predation.</p>
Approved/ existing proposal	Earl Grey Lithium Project Revised Proposal approved under Ministerial Statements 1118, 1167 and 1199.
Baseline population(s)	The measured population size of malleefowl and chuditch at the Offset Conservation Area(s) established following completion of baseline monitoring.
Breeding/ potential breeding habitat	Vegetation and plant species known to support breeding for malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>) and chuditch (<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>).
CEO	The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of the Public Service of the State responsible for the administration of section 48 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , or the CEO's delegate.
Cleared/ clearing	Has the same meaning as in section 51A of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .

Acronym or abbreviation	Definition or term
Confirmed	<p>In relation to a plan required to be made and submitted to the CEO, means, at the relevant time, the plan that the CEO confirmed, by notice in writing, meets the requirements of the relevant condition.</p> <p>In relation to a plan required to be implemented without the need to be first submitted to the CEO, means that plan until it is revised, and then means, at the relevant time, the plan that the CEO confirmed, by notice in writing, meets the requirements of the relevant condition.</p>
Conservation advice	Conservation advice made or adopted by the Australian Government Minister for Environment under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .
Construction activities	Activities that are associated with the substantial implementation of a proposal including but not limited to, earthmoving, vegetation clearing, grading or construction of right of way. Construction activities do not include Geotechnical investigations (including potholing for services and the installation of piezometers) and other preconstruction activities where no clearing of vegetation is required.
Contaminated	Having a substance present at above background concentrations that presents, or has the potential to present, a risk or harm to human health, the environment or any environmental value .
Contingency measures	Planned actions for implementation if it is identified that an environmental outcome, environmental objective, threshold criteria, or management target are likely to be, or are being, exceeded. Contingency measures include changes to operations or reductions in disturbance or adverse impacts to reduce impacts and must be decisive actions that will quickly bring the impact to below any relevant threshold, management target and to ensure that the environmental outcome and/or objective can be met.
DBCA	Means the Department responsible for administration of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> which at the time of writing is the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).
Detecting	The smallest statistically discernible effect size that can be achieved with a monitoring strategy designed to achieve a statistical power value of at least 0.8 or an alternative value as determined by the CEO .
Development envelope	The maximum area within which the proposal will be located, and consistent with the Proposal Content Document for the proposal as referred to in the Introduction to this Statement, and defined by coordinates in Schedule 1.
Dieback	A plant disease of native ecosystems, which are microscopic soilborne organisms that are both native and introduced into

Acronym or abbreviation	Definition or term
	Western Australia. The species recorded for this proposal include <i>Phytophthora arenaria</i> (native), <i>Phytophthora boodjera</i> (native) and <i>Phytophthora nicotianae</i> (introduced).
Disturb/ disturbance	Means directly has or materially contributes to the disturbance effect on health, diversity or abundance of the receptor/s being impacted or on an environmental value . In relation to flora, vegetation or fauna habitat, includes to result in the death, destruction, removal, severing or doing substantial damage. In relation to fauna, includes to have the effect of altering the natural behaviour of fauna to its detriment.
Disturbance footprint	The location within which the physical proposal elements will occur.
Environmental value(s)	A beneficial use, or ecosystem health condition.
Environmental weeds	Any plant declared under section 22(2) of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i> , any plant listed on the Weeds of National Significance List and any weeds listed on the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Goldfields and Wheatbelt Impact and Invasiveness Ratings list, as amended or replaced from time to time.
Malleefowl mound exclusion zone(s)	An area where ground-disturbing activities or any other proposal related activities are not permitted. Low impact activities to support environmental monitoring and management are permitted.
Fauna handler	A person who is qualified and has attained the appropriate licence/s and authorisation/s under section 40 of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> and the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018.
Fauna spotter	A person who is suitably trained in species identification, who does not perform any handling of animals where a licence to do so is required.
Feral animal/s	Non-native (introduced) fauna species that are, or have the potential to, become established in the wild. Examples relevant to the proposal include but are not limited to: cat (<i>Felis catus</i>), European red fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>), dog (<i>Canis lupus</i>), dingo (<i>Canis dingo</i>), house mouse (<i>Mus musculus</i>) and European rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>).
Flora exclusion zone(s)	A spatial area where ground-disturbing activities or any other proposal related activities are not permitted. Low impact activities to support environmental monitoring and management are permitted.

Acronym or abbreviation	Definition or term
	The spatial area is depicted in Figure 2 and defined by geographic coordinates in Schedule 1.
Foraging habitat	Vegetation and plant species known to support foraging for malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>) and chuditch (<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>).
GL	Gigalitres
Ground disturbing activities	Any activity or activities undertaken in the implementation of the proposal , including any clearing, civil works or construction.
ha	Hectare(s)
km/hr	Kilometres per hour
Known population	Number of individuals for species known at the time of assessment as detailed in the <i>Earl Grey Lithium Project Life of Mine – Environmental Review Document</i> (13 October 2023), <i>Revised Impact Assessment – Conservation Significant Flora</i> (21 October 2025) and supporting spatial data.
Low impact activities	<p>Activities involving minimal disturbance of the ground or vegetation. Activities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring of fauna, vegetation, water, cultural or heritage values; • management activities associated with feral animal control, environmental weed control or protection of cultural or heritage values; • implementation of contingency measures; • cultural or ecological restoration activities; or • use or maintenance of existing infrastructure.
Management action(s)	The identified actions implemented with the intent of to achieving the environmental objective .
Management target(s)	A type of indicator to evaluate whether an environmental objective is being achieved.
Objective(s)	An objective is the proposal-specific desired state for an environmental factor/s to be achieved from the implementation of management actions .
On-ground management	This includes revegetation (re-establishment of native vegetation in degraded areas) and enhancement (repair of ecosystem processes and management of weeds, disease or feral animals) with the objective to achieve a tangible improvement to the environmental values in the offset area(s).
Operations/ commencement of operations/	Operation of the plant/mine infrastructure for the proposal and includes pre-commissioning, commissioning, start-up and operation of the plant/mine infrastructure for the proposal.

Acronym or abbreviation	Definition or term
operation activities	
Offset Conservation Area(s)	The land(s) identified in condition B4-3 and containing the environmental values identified in condition B4-1.
Outcome(s)	A proposal-specific result to be achieved when implementing the proposal.
Pollution	Has the meaning provided by section 3A(1) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
Pre-clearance inspection(s)	Means a search of immediate impact areas prior to clearing to locate fauna. The pre-clearance inspections should focus on locating nests, burrows, recent foraging signs, fresh tracks and scats. Refer to DBCA guidelines.
Priority flora	Species listed as priority by the DBCA .
Proposal	The proposal described in Table A1-1.
Recovery plans	Recovery plans made or adopted by the Australian Government Minister for Environment under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .
Relevant management body	A party or parties that has a role in the establishment and/or on-going management of the Offset Conservation Area(s) . Note: This includes the role of the proponent.
Research offset	A program or study that must be reasonably related to the impact and is designed to result in a positive conservation outcome. It may include improving the management and protection of existing conservation estate, adding to existing State Government initiatives, policies or strategies, or addressing priority knowledge gaps.
Revegetation	Re-establishment of native vegetation/habitat.
Self-sustaining	Refers to vegetation that can survive (continue indefinitely) without ongoing management actions such as watering, weed control, dieback management or infill planting.
Significant amendment	The significant amendment is the extension to the approved/existing proposal documented in the proponent's Proposal Content Document (October 2025).
Strategic conservation benefit	Overall or long-term improvements in ecological resilience and/or function.
Tangible improvement	A perceptible, measurable and definable improvement that provides additional ecological benefit and/or value.

Acronym or abbreviation	Definition or term
Threatened flora	Species and/or communities listed under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> or <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> .
Trigger criteria	Indicators that have been selected for monitoring to provide a warning that, if exceeded, the environmental outcome may not be achieved. They are intended to forewarn of the approach of the threshold criteria and trigger response actions.
Threshold criteria	The indicators that have been selected to represent limits of impact beyond which the environmental outcome is not being met.

Figures (attached)

- Figure 1 Earl Grey Lithium Project Life of Mine development envelope and indicative disturbance footprint (This figure is a representation of the co-ordinates referenced in Schedule 1)
- Figure 2 Flora exclusion zones (This figure is a representation of the co-ordinates referenced in Schedule 1)
- Figure 3 Land acquisition fauna offset locations
- Figure 4 Predator control program fauna offset location
- Figure 5 Flora offset location

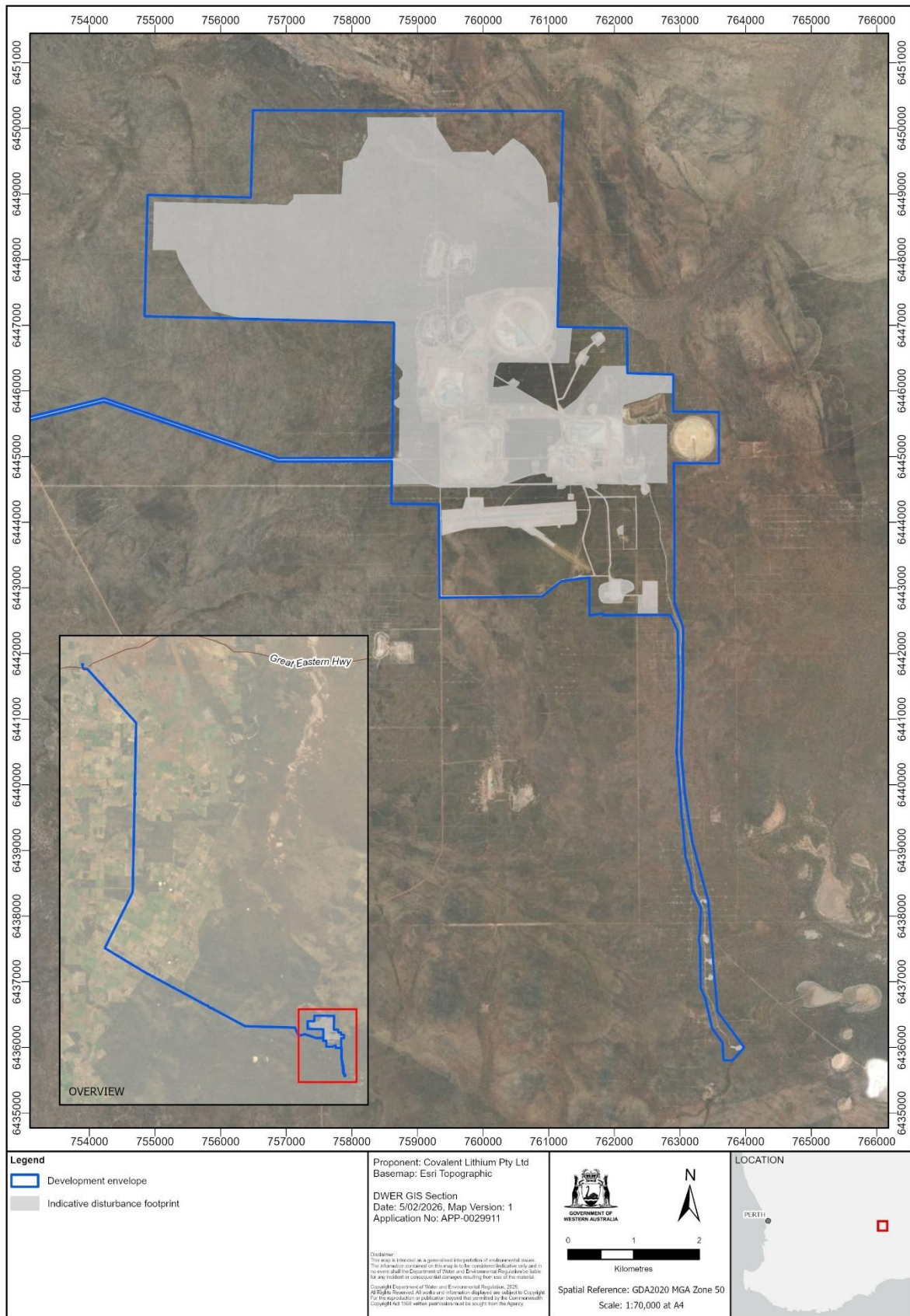


Figure 1: Earl Grey Lithium Project Life of Mine development envelope and indicative disturbance footprint

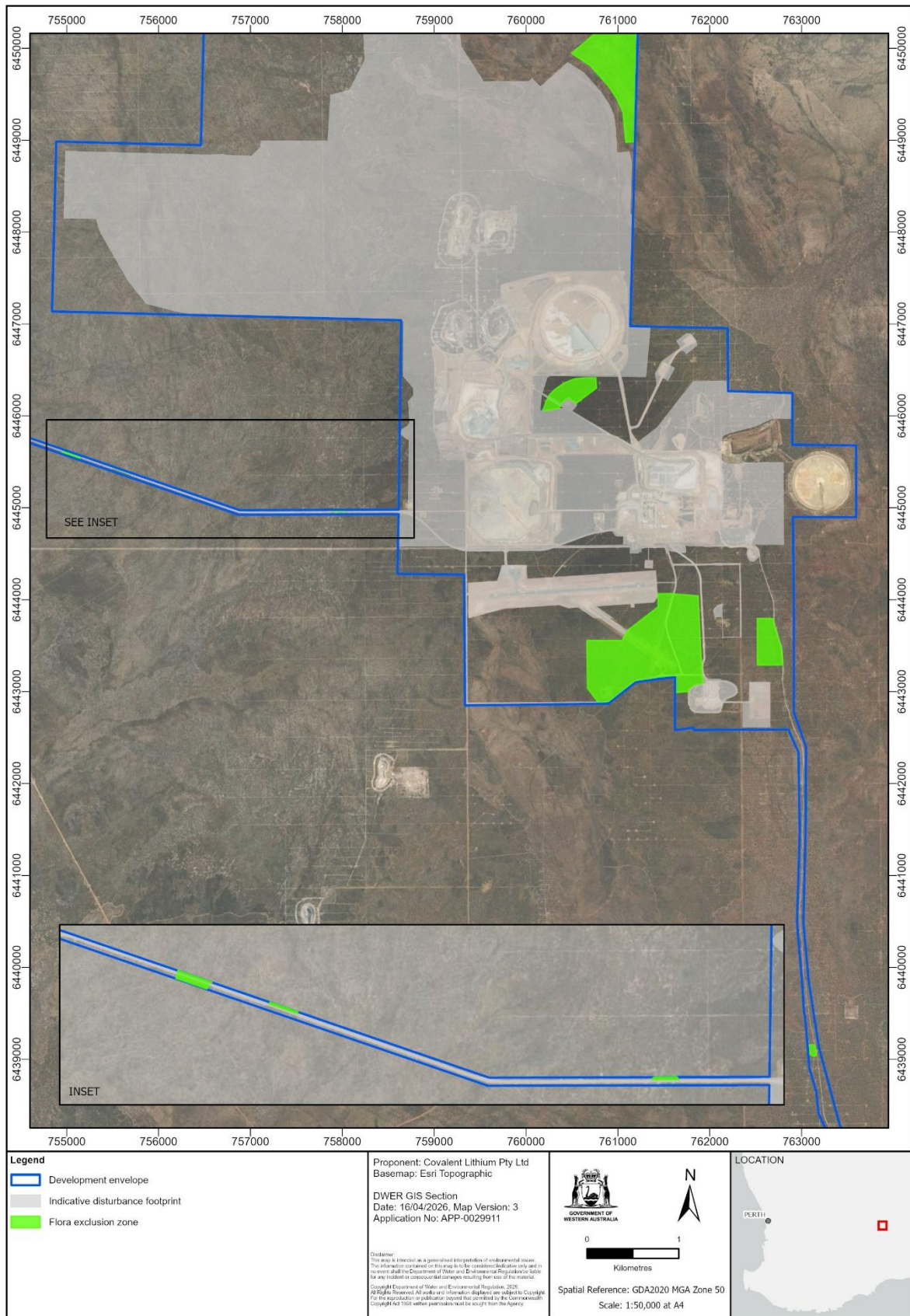


Figure 2 : Flora exclusion zones

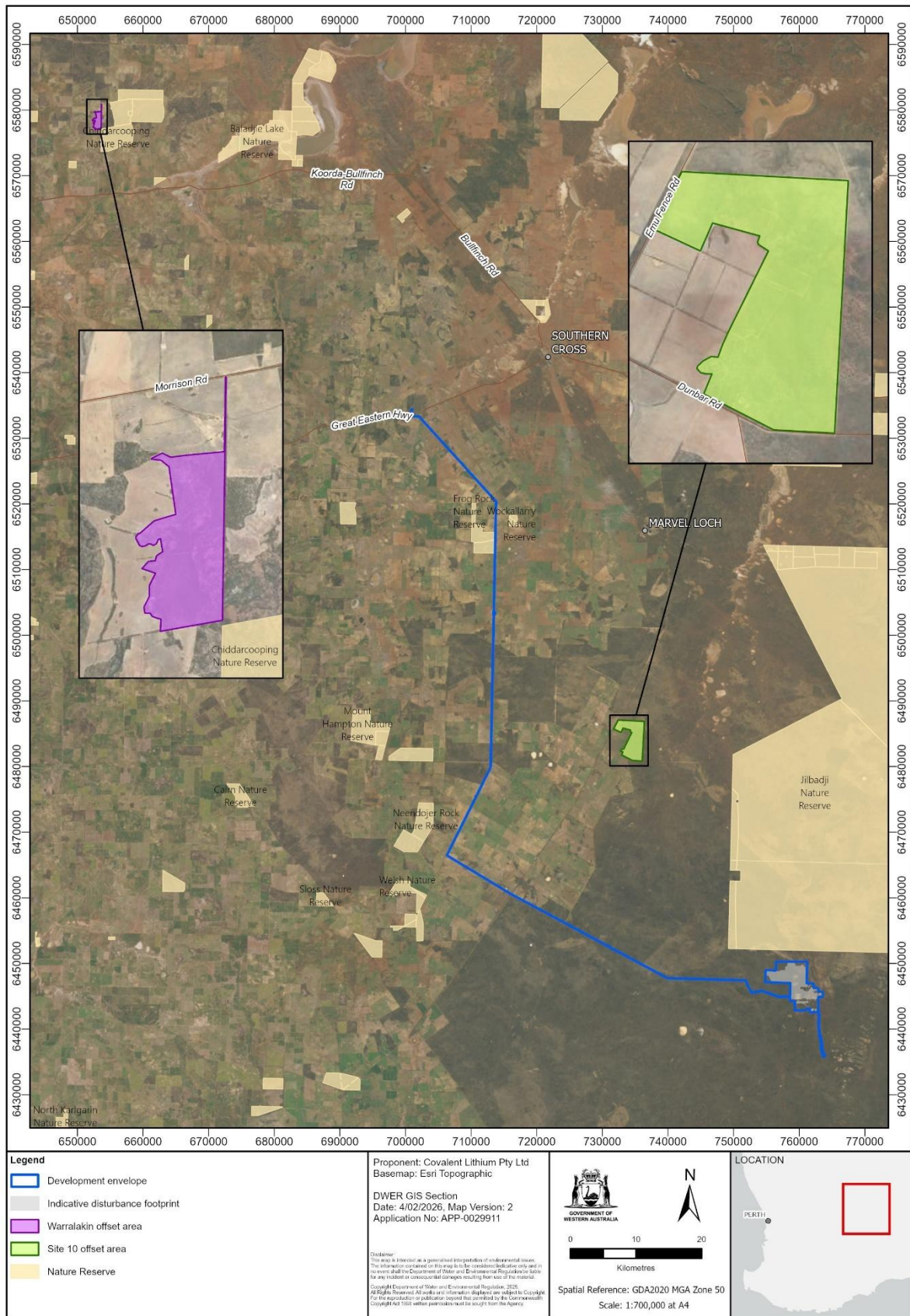


Figure 3: Land acquisition fauna offset locations

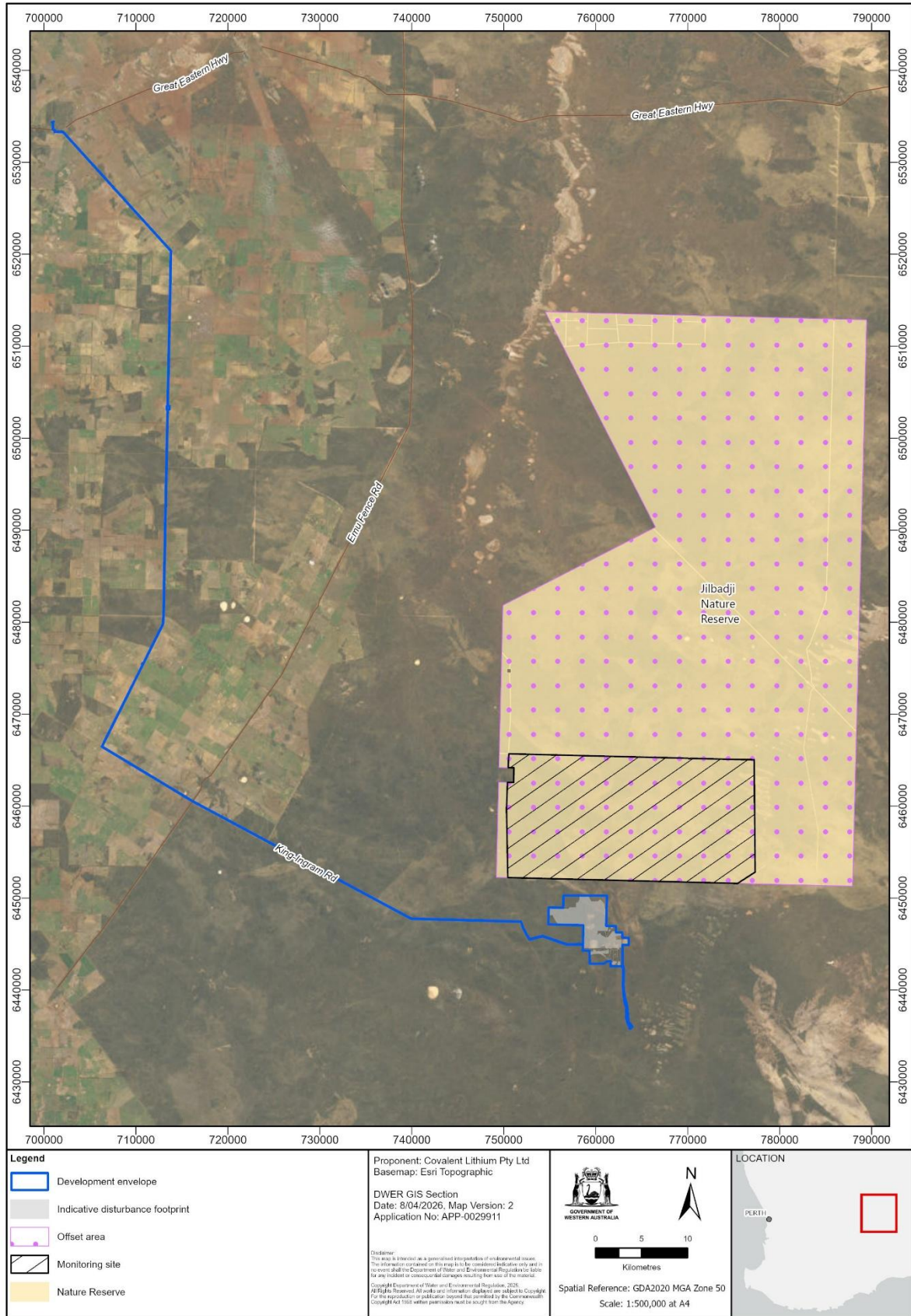


Figure 4: Predator control program fauna offset location



Path: S:\Projects\EIA\38\2023_APP0024066_EarlGreyLithiumProjectLifeOfMineProposal\3_Assessment\ArcPro\APP0029911_EarlGreyLithiumProjectLifeOfMineProposal_s43A\APP0029911_EarlGreyLithiumProjectLifeOfMineProposal_s43A.aprx

Figure 5: Flora offset location

Schedule 1

All co-ordinates are in metres, listed in Map Grid of Australia Zone 50 (MGA Zone 50), datum of Geocentric Datum of Australia 2020 (GDA2020).

Spatial data depicting the figures are held by the Department of Water and Environmental regulation. Record no. APP-0024966.

Appendix B: Decision-making authorities

Table B1: Identified relevant decision-making authorities for the proposal

Decision-Making Authority	Legislation (and approval)
1. Minister for Aboriginal Affairs	<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i> - section 18 consent to impact a registered Aboriginal heritage site
2. Minister for the Environment	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> - section 40 authority to take or disturb threatened species
3. Minister for Water	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> - section 5C licence to take water - groundwater abstraction licence - section 26D licence to construct or alter bores - dewatering licence
4. Chief Executive Officer, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> - authority to take flora and fauna (other than threatened species)
5. Chief Dangerous Goods Officer Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration	<i>Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004</i> - storage and handling of dangerous goods
6. Executive Director Resource and Environmental Compliance, Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration	<i>Mining Act 1978</i> - mining development and closure proposal - mine closure plan
7. State Mining Engineer, Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration	<i>Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994</i> - mine safety - approval to commence mining operations
8. Chief Executive Officer, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> - part V works approval and licence - part IV compliance (Ministerial Statements)

Appendix C: Regulation under other statutory processes

Table C1: Regulation under other statutory processes

Statutory decision-making process	Environmental outcome
<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i>	<p>No disturbance to Aboriginal cultural heritage, unless consent is granted to disturb that site under the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i> (AH Act) and has involved reasonable steps to consult with relevant Traditional Owners.</p> <p>No disturbance of registered Aboriginal heritage sites is proposed, but if required the impacts can be considered and regulated under the AH Act to support the EPA objective for social surroundings.</p>
<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>	<p>The taking of threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities does not result in any species or community being listed under a higher conservation status.</p>
<i>Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004</i>	<p>Regulation and licencing of the safe storage, handling, and transport of dangerous goods.</p>
<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (Part V works approval and licence)	<p>Regulate emissions and discharges from construction and operations to achieve the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - minimise and manage noise and dust emissions to protect environmental values and amenity at sensitive receptors - maintain air quality and minimise emissions so that environmental values are protected - no adverse impacts to soil, surface water and groundwater quality. <p>Emissions and discharges from the approved proposal, including treated effluent, dewatering discharge and tailings, are regulated by DWER under Part V of the EP Act through operating licence L9326/2022/1. DWER has provided advice that other aspects of the proposal that could be regulated via controls in a works approval or licence include noise and dust emissions, water quality for dust suppression and emissions or discharges to groundwater and surface water.</p>
<i>Mining Act 1978</i>	<p>The mining proposal and mine closure plan will regulate the construction, operation, decommissioning and rehabilitation of the proposal to be consistent with the DMPE environmental factor objectives for water resources, land and soils and rehabilitation and mine closure to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintain the hydrological regimes, quality and quantity of groundwater and surface water to

	<p>the extent that existing and potential uses, including ecosystem maintenance are protected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintain the quality of land and soils so that environmental values are protected - ensure mining activities are rehabilitated and closed in a manner to make them physically safe to humans and animals, geo-technically stable, geo-chemically non-polluting/non-contaminating, and capable of sustaining an agreed post-mining land use, and without unacceptable liability to the State.
<p><i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i></p>	<p>The approved proposal is operating under a current groundwater licence. Water licences regulate the use, management, allocation, and protection of water resources with the key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - protect the state's water resources - promote the sustainable and efficient use of water - meet the needs of current and future users - protect ecosystems and the environment. <p>The proponent will be required to amend existing groundwater licence GWL205547 to abstract additional water (up to 1.5 GL/year) for the proposal, which will be assessed and regulated by DWER through the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i>.</p>

Appendix D: Environmental Protection Act principles

Table D1: Consideration of principles of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

EP Act principle	Consideration
<p>1. The precautionary principle</p> <p><i>Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.</i></p> <p><i>In application of this precautionary principle, decisions should be guided by –</i></p> <p>(a) <i>careful evaluation to avoid, where practicable, serious or irreversible damage to the environment; and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>an assessment of the risk-weighted consequences of various options.</i></p>	<p>The EPA has considered the precautionary principle in its assessment of flora and vegetation, and terrestrial fauna.</p> <p>The proponent has investigated the biological and physical environment to identify environmental values of the proposal and surrounding area. The EPA considered the proponent's avoidance and minimisation measures for conservation significant flora, vegetation and fauna such as utilising previously disturbed areas associated with the former Mt Holland mine site where possible, maintaining and increasing exclusion zones to avoid conservation significant flora and undertaking pre-clearance surveys. Where offsets are required under the WA offset guidelines to counterbalance impacts to species, they have been proposed. Where possible impacts have been limited to provide certainty that irreversible damage is avoided.</p> <p>The EPA has recommended conditions to ensure that risks are minimised or avoided where possible, and that relevant measures are undertaken by the proponent to manage residual impacts. The EPA has concluded that subject to the implementation of the recommended conditions, the proposal is unlikely to pose a threat of serious or irreversible harm.</p>
<p>2. The principle of intergenerational equity</p> <p><i>The present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained and enhanced for the benefit of future generations.</i></p>	<p>The EPA has considered the principle of intergenerational equity in its assessment and has had particular regard to this principle in its assessment of flora and vegetation and terrestrial fauna.</p> <p>The EPA notes that the proponent has identified measures to avoid and minimise impacts to flora and vegetation and terrestrial fauna. The proponent proposes rehabilitation works which will include some of the previously disturbed areas of the Mt Holland Mine Site, to enhance the environmental values for future generations. The EPA has considered these measures during its assessment and has recommended conditions to ensure that appropriate actions are implemented.</p> <p>The EPA is of the view that the recommended offset measures have the potential to manage threatening processes to the significant fauna, increase the quality of vegetation and increase the numbers of threatened and priority flora.</p>

EP Act principle	Consideration
	<p>From its assessment of this proposal, the EPA has concluded that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment will be likely be maintained for the benefit of future generations, subject to implementation of recommended conditions, particularly offsets.</p>
<p>3. The principles of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity</p> <p><i>Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration.</i></p>	<p>The EPA has considered the principle of conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity in its assessment and has had particular regard to this principle in its assessment of flora and vegetation, and terrestrial fauna.</p> <p>The EPA has considered to what extent the potential impacts from the proposal to flora and vegetation and terrestrial fauna can be ameliorated to ensure consistency with the principle of conservation of biological diversity and ecological, including by provision of offsets.</p> <p>The EPA has concluded that given the nature of the impacts to the areas of vegetation and habitat for conservation significant fauna species that will be cleared, offsets are required to counterbalance the impacts of the loss of biological diversity and ecological integrity.</p>
<p>4. Principles relating to improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms</p> <p><i>(1) Environmental factors should be included in the valuation of assets and services.</i></p> <p><i>(2) The polluter pays principle — those who generate pollution and waste should bear the cost of containment, avoidance or abatement.</i></p> <p><i>(3) The users of goods and services should pay prices based on the full life cycle costs of providing goods and services, including the use of natural resources and assets and the ultimate disposal of any wastes.</i></p> <p><i>(4) Environmental goals, having been established, should be pursued in the most cost effective way, by establishing incentive structures, including market mechanisms, which enable those best placed to maximise benefits and/or minimise costs to develop their own solutions and responses to environmental problems.</i></p>	<p>In considering this principle, the EPA notes that the proponent will bear the costs relating to implementing the proposal to achieve environmental outcomes, and management and monitoring of environmental impacts during construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposal. The EPA has had particular regard to this principle in considering flora and vegetation, and terrestrial fauna. EPA notes the proponent has pursued these principles by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertaking surveys to identify and confirm environmental values within the development envelope and surrounding local area • taking into consideration environmental factors to reduce significant impact when designing the location of infrastructure • implementing procedures to ensure emissions and discharges are minimised as far as practicable • preparing a Mining Proposal and Mine Closure Plan that includes environmental management and mitigation, rehabilitation and closure planning. <p>The EPA notes that the proponent will be responsible for bearing the cost of rehabilitation and acquisition and management of the proposed offsets.</p>

EP Act principle	Consideration
<p>5. The principle of waste minimisation</p> <p><i>All reasonable and practicable measures should be taken to minimise the generation of waste and its discharge into the environment.</i></p>	<p>The EPA has considered the principle of waste minimisation in its assessment and has had particular regard to this principle in its assessment of the proposal.</p> <p>The EPA notes the proponent will implement appropriate management of wastes on site and will avoid and minimise discharge of emissions into the environment during construction, operation and closure by adopting the hierarchy of waste controls (avoid, minimise, reuse, recycle and safe disposal). Planning for the proposal has sought to minimise wastes through the use of cleared materials (topsoil/subsoil and vegetation) in post-exploration rehabilitation works and through appropriate collection, removal and disposal of all other waste materials.</p> <p>The EPA recognises that other decision-making authorities, including DMPE and DWER, will have additional requirements that will further prevent impacts associated with waste management and disposal.</p>

Appendix E: Other environmental factors

Table E1: Evaluation of other environmental factors

Environmental factor	Description of the proposal's likely impacts on the environmental factor	Government agency comments	Evaluation of why the factor is not a key environmental factor
Land			
<p>Terrestrial environmental quality</p>	<p>Potential impacts to terrestrial environmental quality include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construction and management of overburden storage and other landforms including integrated waste landform (IWL) • seepage of contaminants from the tailings storage facilities (TSF) • erosion of cleared and exposed areas (e.g. gravel roads and laydown areas) • inadequate transport, handling and storage of hydrocarbons, chemicals and waste. 	<p>DMPE advised that activities considered and managed under the Mining Act include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • management of mine waste, inclusive of potentially acid forming and fibrous materials, waste rock landform design and ongoing stability • TSF design (integrated with waste rock landforms), operational management and ongoing stability • surface water management (flow, regime, quality) during operations and at closure • topsoil management, progressive rehabilitation, rehabilitation trials and monitoring • site wide decommissioning, post-mining rehabilitation, monitoring and closure. <p>DWER advised that the approved proposal currently operates under licence L9326/2022/1 which comprises processing and beneficiation of metallic and non-metallic ore, crushing and screening, sewage facility, used tyre storage and class II or III putrescible landfill. There are also several works approvals including for the IWL/TSF, waste water treatment plants, concentrator and crushing/screening plant, site landfill and mine dewatering. Additional works approvals</p>	<p>Terrestrial environmental quality was identified as a preliminary key environmental factor when the EPA decided to assess the proposal.</p> <p>Having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the low potential for tailings to be acid forming • the TSFs not intercepting any major drainage or creek lines, and the occurrence of groundwater at a depth of over 50 metres with no groundwater dependent vegetation present • emissions from the prescribed premises can be adequately assessed, managed, and regulated under Part V of the EP Act • waste structures including the IWL and TSF will be designed to ensure they are physically safe, geotechnically stable, and geochemically non-polluting and non-contaminating, consistent with the DMPE (2025a,b) Guidelines for preparing Mining Development and Closure Proposals and Mine Closure Plans. Operational and closure impacts associated with the IWL/TSFs can be regulated under the Mining Act • recommended condition B3 to progressively rehabilitate and to ensure rehabilitated landforms are stable and do not cause pollution or environmental harm.

Environmental factor	Description of the proposal's likely impacts on the environmental factor	Government agency comments	Evaluation of why the factor is not a key environmental factor
		<p>will be required prior to construction of infrastructure directly related to the prescribed premises and a licence amendment for ongoing operation, where they meet the relevant categories, definitions and thresholds specified in Schedule 1 of the EP Regulations.</p>	<p>Accordingly, the EPA did not consider terrestrial environmental quality to be a key environmental factor at the conclusion of its assessment.</p>
Water			
<p>Inland waters</p>	<p>Potential impacts to inland waters include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alteration of local surface water drainage from the construction of elements such as waste rock landforms and tailings storage facilities, evaporation pond and supporting infrastructure such as roads and ore stockpiles • increase in pit dewatering and groundwater abstraction volumes to 1.5 GL per year. 	<p>DWER Swan-Avon Region advised that based on the depth of the water table, the produced brine of comparable or lesser salinity to the receiving background hypersaline groundwater and the absence of sensitive environmental receptors within the estimated zone of impact, it is likely that the environmental effects of the proposal to inland waters will not be significantly different to the approved proposal. Any additional groundwater abstraction requirements to the proponent's existing groundwater licence would be subject to assessment by DWER.</p> <p>DWER advised that aspects of the proposal which could be regulated via controls in a works approval or licence issued under Part V of the EP Act include emissions or discharges to groundwater and/or surface water associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dewatering discharge • reverse osmosis plant brine discharged via a WWTP • seepage from TSF, causing mounding and groundwater contamination 	<p>Inland waters was identified as a preliminary key environmental factor when the EPA decided to assess the proposal.</p> <p>Having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the absence of any major surface water drainage lines or creek lines within or in proximity to the proposal • groundwater depth over 50 metres and typically saline to hypersaline • the absence of groundwater dependent ecosystems within the development envelope • no recorded beneficial uses of the surface water or groundwater in proximity to the proposal • proposed mitigation measures and management of surface water via drains, bunds, culverts and floodways so that downstream flows will not be impacted • groundwater licence requirements regulated under the RiWI Act • design and construction of the TSF to be consistent with DMP (2013) Tailings storage facilities in Western Australia: code of practice • Part V of the EP Act will mitigate emissions and impacts to water quality

Environmental factor	Description of the proposal's likely impacts on the environmental factor	Government agency comments	Evaluation of why the factor is not a key environmental factor
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • escape of contaminated stormwater from the plant or runoff from waste stockpiles. 	<p>Accordingly, the EPA did not consider inland waters to be a key environmental factor at the conclusion of its assessment.</p>
Air			
Air quality	<p>Potential impacts to air quality include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dust emissions from construction and mining operations including but not limited to land clearing, drilling, blasting, excavation, loading/unloading of ore and waste rock, and vehicle movements • wind erosion in cleared areas • air emissions from processing and power generation. 	<p>DWER advised that dust emissions associated with construction and operation of the prescribed premises and air emissions from the processing plant and on-site power generation could be assessed and regulated via controls in a works approval or licence issued under Part V of the EP Act.</p>	<p>Air quality was identified as a preliminary key environmental factor when the EPA decided to assess the proposal.</p> <p>Having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the absence of sensitive land uses or residential dwellings in the vicinity of the proposal that could be affected by changes in air quality • the proposed mitigation and management measures to minimise the impact of air emissions, including minimising the extent of cleared (exposed) areas, suppression of dust through dampening with groundwater, water sprays and emissions control on processing equipment, minimising vehicle traffic and vehicle speeds on unsealed roads, and rehabilitation of disturbed land areas • monitoring of dust air emissions during mining operations • air quality and dust impacts can be suitably regulated under Part V of the EP Act. <p>Accordingly, the EPA did not consider air quality to be a key environmental factor at the conclusion of its assessment.</p>
Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions	<p>Emissions released to the atmosphere have the potential to contribute to GHG emissions. Estimated GHG emissions for the proposal are as follows:</p>	<p>No comments were received for this factor.</p>	<p>GHG emissions was identified as a preliminary key environmental factor when the EPA decided to assess the proposal.</p> <p>Having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the EPA Environmental Factor Guideline – Greenhouse Gas Emissions (EPA 2024b) which

Environmental factor	Description of the proposal's likely impacts on the environmental factor	Government agency comments	Evaluation of why the factor is not a key environmental factor
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope 1 – annual average of 63,450 t CO₂-e/year largely from diesel combustion, land clearing and the transportation of spodumene to the proponent's refinery situated in Kwinana or to Bunbury port for international shipping. The initial phase of the proposal involving land clearing has the highest projected annual scope 1 emissions, peaking at 91,445 tCO₂-e in 2027. • Scope 2 – annual average of 34,800 t CO₂-e/year derived from electricity purchased from the South West Interconnected System (SWIS) grid. Scope 2 emissions peak in 2029 at 70,910 tCO₂-e when the proposal expansion is commissioned and then decline in 2031 to a steady rate as electricity purchased will remain constant. • Scope 3 – annual average of 1,094,500 t CO₂-e/year from purchased goods and services, fuel and energy related activities, employee commuting, downstream transportation and distribution, and processing of sold products. 		<p>details that GHG emissions from a proposal will be considered where they are reasonably likely to exceed 100,000 tonnes CO₂-e of scope 1 or scope 2 emissions in any year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • estimated scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions for the proposal to be below the 100,000 tCO₂-e threshold for this factor guideline • GHG emissions from the proposal will be measured and reported in accordance with the Commonwealth <i>National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007</i>. <p>Accordingly, the EPA did not consider greenhouse gas emissions to be a key environmental factor at the conclusion of its assessment.</p>

Environmental factor	Description of the proposal's likely impacts on the environmental factor	Government agency comments	Evaluation of why the factor is not a key environmental factor
People			
Social surroundings	<p>Potential impacts to social surroundings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disturbance to areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage • disturbance to the access of Holland's Track. 	<p>The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage advised that the development envelope intersects the boundaries of three Lodged Aboriginal Heritage Places and that approval under the AH Act is required if damage to an Aboriginal heritage site is proposed.</p>	<p>Social surroundings was identified as a preliminary key environmental factor when the EPA decided to assess the proposal.</p> <p>Having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the absence of any recorded Registered sites or objects of Aboriginal heritage value, or any Other Heritage Places which may indicate sites or objects of Aboriginal heritage value under the AH Act within the development envelope • the completion of ethnographic and archaeological Aboriginal heritage surveys for the proposal with representatives from the Marlinyu Ghoorlie Traditional Owners • the proponent's commitment to ongoing engagement with the Marlinyu Ghoorlie, the established Native Title Agreement and Heritage Agreement, and working towards an agreement on a Cultural Heritage Management Plan • any disturbance to Aboriginal sites being in accordance with Section 18 of the AH Act • the proponent's statement that there is no conflict between mining operations and the use of Holland's Track, and the proposed ongoing maintenance of operational signage for the bypass. <p>Accordingly, the EPA did not consider social surroundings to be a key environmental factor at the conclusion of its assessment.</p>

Appendix F: List of submitters

7-day comment on referral

Organisations and public

- Three public submissions were received from individuals.

Government agencies

- No submissions were received from government agencies.

Review of proponent information

Government agencies

- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Appendix G: Assessment timeline

Date	Progress stages	Time (weeks)
20 December 2023	EPA decided to assess – level of assessment set	
2 February 2024	EPA requested additional information	6
22 October 2025	EPA received additional information	90
6 March 2026	EPA received additional information for assessment	19
19 March 2026	EPA completed its assessment	2
3 April 2026	EPA received final information	2
4 May 2026	EPA provided report to the Minister for Environment	4
7 May 2026	EPA report published	3 days
28 May 2026	Appeals period closed	3

Timelines for an assessment may vary according to the complexity of the proposal and are usually agreed with the proponent soon after the EPA decides to assess the proposal and records the level of assessment.

In this case, the EPA met its timeline objective to complete its assessment and provide a report to the Minister.

Appendix H: Relevant policy, guidance, procedures and references

The EPA had particular regard to the policies, guidelines, procedures and references listed below in the assessment of the proposal.

Bennelongia Environmental Consultants 2023a, *Earl Grey Lithium Project Short-Range Endemic Invertebrate Fauna Desktop Assessment*, prepared for Covalent Lithium, September 2023.

Bennelongia Environmental Consultants 2023b, *Earl Grey Lithium Project Subterranean Fauna Desktop Assessment*, prepared for Covalent Lithium, September 2023.

Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd 2023, *Covalent Lithium Earl Grey Lithium Project Terrestrial Fauna Environmental Management Plan*.

Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd 2025a, *Proposal Content Document*, October 2025.

Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd 2025b, *Covalent Lithium Earl Grey Lithium Proposal Flora and Vegetation Environmental Management Plan*.

Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd 2026a, *Additional Information Required from EPA: Earl Grey Life of Mine Threatened Fauna Offset Strategy*, February 2026.

Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd 2026b, *Covalent Lithium Earl Grey Lithium Life of Mine Proposal – Review of Alternate Fauna Offset Strategies*, Technical memo, 6 March 2026.

Covalent Lithium Pty Ltd 2026c, *Covalent Lithium Earl Grey Lithium - Life of Mine Proposal Proposed Alternate Threatened Fauna Offset Strategy Expanded Predator Control in Jilbadji Nature Reserve – Option C*, Summary paper, 21 April 2026.

DCCEEW 2024, *National Recovery Plan for the Malleefowl (Leipoa ocellata)*, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Canberra.

DEC 2012, *Chuditch (Dasyurus geoffroii) Recovery Plan*, Wildlife Management Program No. 54. Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth, Western Australia.

DMP 2013, *Tailings storage facilities in Western Australia – code of practice*: Resources Safety and Environment Divisions, Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia.

DMPE 2025a, *Guideline for preparing Mining Development and Closure Proposals*, Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, November 2025.

DMPE 2025b, *Guideline for preparing Mine Closure Plans*, Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, November 2025.

Ecoscape 2022a, *2021 Malleefowl Monitoring*, prepared for Covalent Lithium, Ecoscape (Australia) Pty Ltd.

Ecoscape 2022b, *2022 Mt Holland Chuditch Monitoring*, prepared for Covalent Lithium, Ecoscape (Australia) Pty Ltd.

Ecoscape 2023a, *Earl Grey Lithium Project Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Survey Life of Mine Extension*, prepared for Covalent Lithium, Ecoscape (Australia) Pty Ltd.

Ecoscape 2023b, *2022 Malleefowl Monitoring*, prepared for Covalent Lithium, Ecoscape (Australia) Pty Ltd.

Ecoscape 2023c, *2022 Predator Monitoring*, prepared for Covalent Lithium, Ecoscape (Australia) Pty Ltd.

Ecoscape 2024, *2024 Mt Holland Chuditch Monitoring*, prepared for Covalent Lithium, Ecoscape (Australia) Pty Ltd.

Ecoscape 2025a, *2024-2025 Malleefowl Monitoring*, prepared for Covalent Lithium, Ecoscape (Australia) Pty Ltd.

Ecoscape 2025b, *2024-2025 Predator Monitoring*, prepared for Covalent Lithium, Ecoscape (Australia) Pty Ltd.

EMM Consulting 2025, *Mt Holland Earl Grey TSF2 Groundwater Model*, July 2025.

EPA 2016a, *Environmental factor guideline – Flora and vegetation*, Environmental Protection Authority, Perth, WA.

EPA 2016b, *Technical guidance – Flora and vegetation surveys for environmental impact assessment*, Environmental Protection Authority, Perth, WA.

EPA 2016c, *Environmental factor guideline – Terrestrial fauna*, Environmental Protection Authority, Perth, WA.

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Appendix I: Contemporising of Ministerial Statement 1199

The proposal is a significant amendment to the Earl Grey Lithium Project Revised Proposal (approved proposal), authorised under MS 1199. The existing conditions of MS 1199 have been reviewed as outlined in Table I1 to determine whether they remain relevant. The proposed changes to conditions have been incorporated into the recommended conditions in Appendix A.

Table I1: Consideration of Ministerial Statement 1199

Ministerial condition or proponent's environmental management commitment	Environmental factor	Proposed change	Comments including assessment and evaluation of proposed changes where relevant to ensure the combined proposal can be implemented consistently with EPA objectives
Condition 1	N/A (Proposal implementation)	Delete condition and replace with consolidated contemporary style condition A1.	This condition has been replaced by condition A1 which sets out the scope of the proposal that may be implemented consistent with the EPA's contemporary approach to condition setting.
Condition 2	Flora and vegetation	Update and replace with new condition B1.	The EPA has assessed the combined effects of the significant amendment proposal and the approved proposal with regard to impacts on flora and vegetation and included an updated new condition B1 that sets out requirements for avoiding and minimising impacts on native vegetation, threatened flora and priority flora species for the remaining life of the proposal.
Condition 3	Terrestrial fauna	Update and replace with new condition B2.	The EPA has assessed the combined effects of the significant amendment proposal and the approved proposal with regard to impacts on terrestrial fauna and included an updated new condition B2 that sets out requirements for avoiding and minimising impacts on terrestrial fauna including habitat for malleefowl and chuditch for the remaining life of the proposal.
Condition 4	Offsets	Update and replace with new condition B4.	The EPA has assessed the combined effects of the significant amendment proposal and the approved proposal with regard to offset measures and included an updated new condition B4 that sets out requirements to counterbalance the significant residual impacts on

Ministerial condition or proponent's environmental management commitment	Environmental factor	Proposed change	Comments including assessment and evaluation of proposed changes where relevant to ensure the combined proposal can be implemented consistently with EPA objectives
			malleefowl foraging habitat and breeding habitat, chuditch foraging and potential breeding habitat and <i>Banksia dolichostyla</i> .
Condition 5	Rehabilitation	Update and replace with new condition B3.	The EPA has assessed the combined effects of the significant amendment proposal and the approved proposal with regard to mine closure and included an updated new condition B5 that sets out requirements for rehabilitation for the remaining life of the proposal.
Condition 6	N/A (Environmental Performance Report)	Update and replace with new condition B5.	The general requirements of this condition are still relevant but have been replaced by condition B5 which requires the proponent to report on the state of threatened and priority flora, the state of malleefowl and chuditch impacted by the proposal and the success of progressive rehabilitation against updated environmental outcomes.
Condition 7	N/A (Contact details)	Delete condition and replace with consolidated contemporary style condition D3.	Notification of a change in contact details is addressed through a new contemporary condition.
Condition 8	N/A (Compliance reporting)	Delete condition and replace with consolidated contemporary style conditions D1, D2, D5 and D6.	This condition has been replaced by conditions D1, D2, D5 and D6 which reflect the EPA's contemporary approach to condition setting for compliance reporting.
Condition 9	N/A (Public availability of data)	Delete condition and replace with consolidated contemporary style conditions D5.	This condition has been replaced by conditions D5 which reflect the EPA's contemporary approach to condition setting for the public availability of data.