Clearing Assessment Report

Biddelia Telecom Installation

January 2025

Western Power

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Document Control

Document version history

Version	Date	Amendment
1	05/02/2025	Initial version
2	07/03/2025	Final

1. Project Information

Assessor details		
Assessor:	**Email:** **N/A**	**Ph:** **N/A**
Responsible person (Western Power (WP) Project Manager or equivalent)		
WP Project Owner:	**Email:**	**Ph:**
WP Delegate:	**Email:**	**Ph:**
Project Area		
Project name: Biddelia Telecom Installation		**Contract/Work Order No:** 06188356
Main purpose of clearing	**Permanent/Temporary**	**Clearing area (ha)**
Fire protection/hazard reduction around new and existing infrastructure	Permanent ☒	0.136 ha
	Temporary ☐	0 ha

Proposed start date: **March 2025**	**Expected completion date:** **April 2025**
Method of clearing: **Mechanical**	**Machinery to be used:** **Excavator, Bobcat or equivalent**
Project details: Western Power is constructing a new telecommunications site at Biddelia. The project comprises a new communications hut, tower, perimeter fence, bush fire protection zone and connection to power. The project will require the clearing of native vegetation to establish a bushfire protection zone.	
Guardian Permit ID reference number: PER-0000857	**Permit/Exemption number:** CPS 1918/11

2. Map/photos

2.1 Figures

CARLOTTA

BIDDELIA

PEERABEELUP

Legend

- Proposal Area
- Proposal Area- 10km Buffer
- Cadastre
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Locality / Suburb

Paper Size ISO A3

0 1 2 3 4

Kilometers

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020
Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 50

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SLIP POWERED BY LANDGATE

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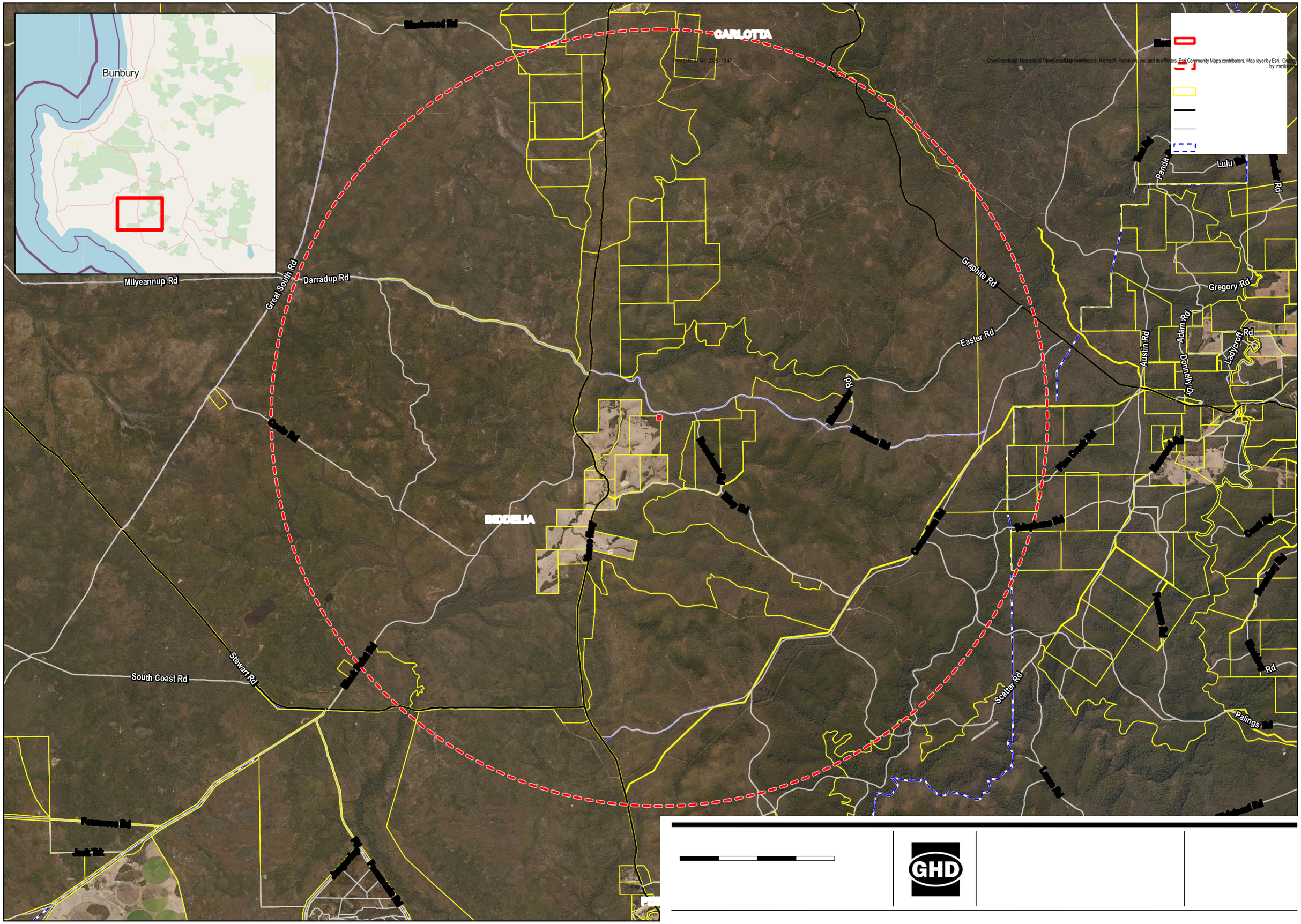
Western Power Clearing Impact Assessment-
Backhaul Rebuild Southern Telecoms Network- Biddelia

Project No. **12657899**
Revision No. **0**
Date **7/03/2025**

Site Locality

FIGURE 1

Data source: WANow: Landgate / SLIP


Bunbury
Milyeannup Rd
Great South Rd
Darradup Rd
Redmond Rd
CARLOTTA
Print date: 11 Mar 2025 - 13:47
OpenStreetMap: Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Inc. and its affiliates, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri. Created by: mmiles
Graphite Rd
Easter Rd
Rd
Panda
Lulu
Rd
Gregory Rd
Austin Rd
Adam Rd
O'Donnell Dr
Ladycroft Rd
BIDDELIA
South Coast Rd
Stewart Rd
Scatter Rd
Palings
Rd
GHD

Legend

- Tower
- Tree to be Retained
- Tracklogs
- Approximate Tower Footrpint
- Proposed Clearing Area
- Proposal Area
- Cadastre

Paper Size ISO A3

0 10 20 30 40

Meters

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020

Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 50

O

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Proposal Area

FIGURE 2

Data source: WANow: Landgate / SLIP
World Imagery Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community
OpenStreetMap: Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Inc. and its affiliates, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri. Created

SLIP
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GHD

Paper Size ISO A3

0 10 20 30 40

Meters

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020

Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 50

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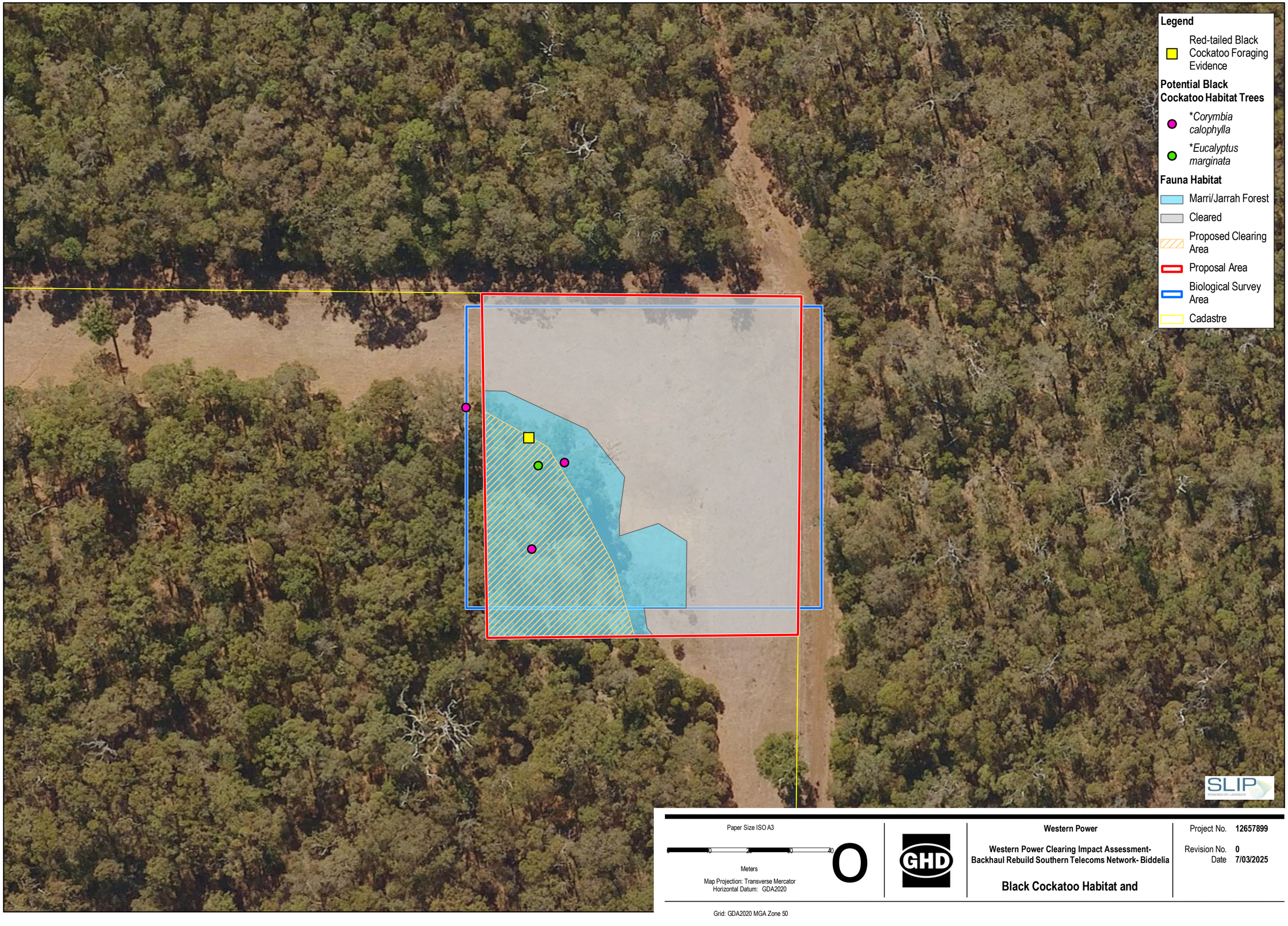
Vegetation Types

FIGURE 3

Data source: WANow: Landgate / SLIP. Created by: mmikkonen



Paper Size ISO A3

0 20 40 80

Meters

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020

Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 50

GHD

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Black Cockatoo Habitat and

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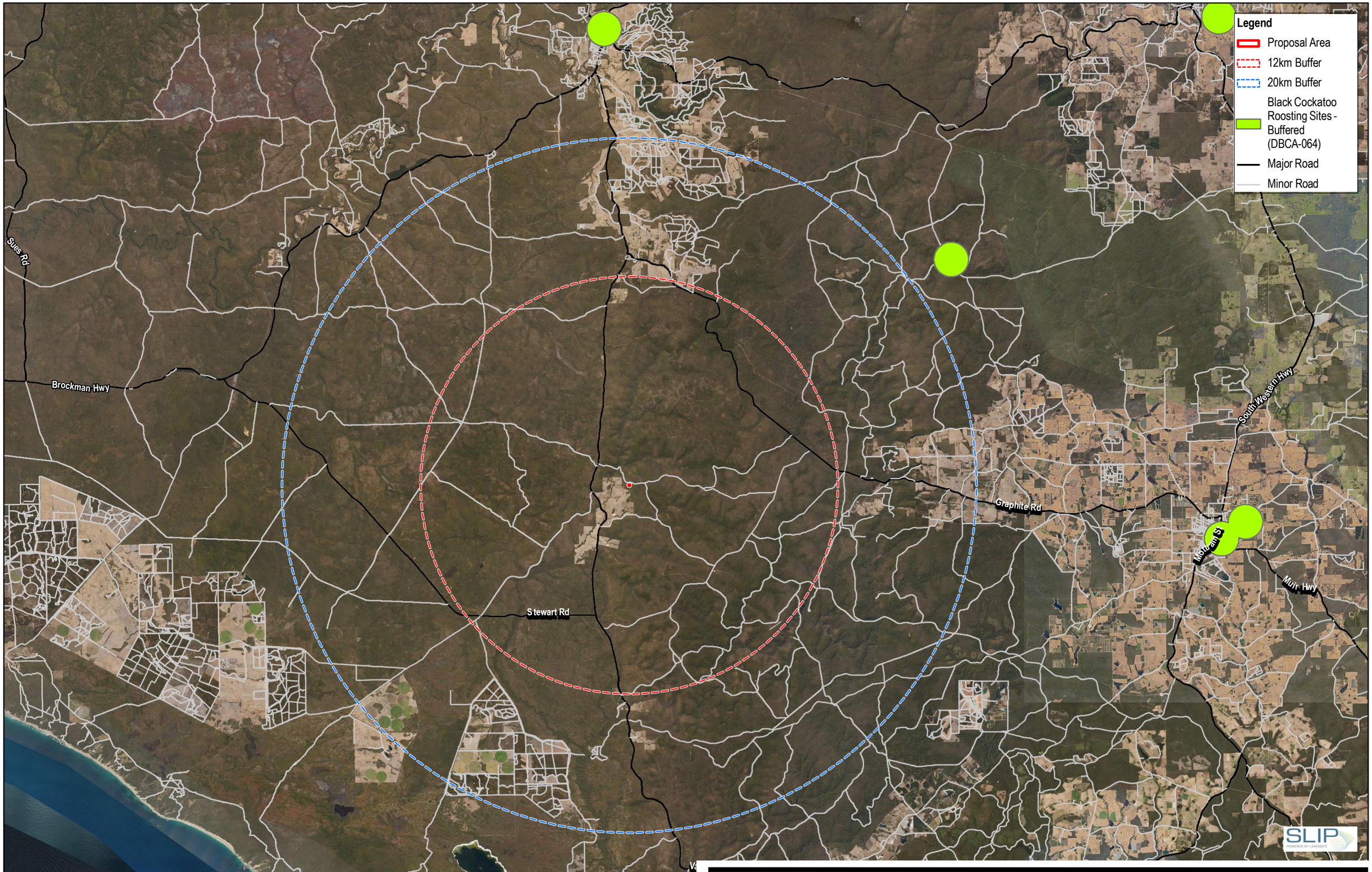
Proposed Clearing Area

FIGURE 4

Data source: WANow: Landgate / SLIP. Created by: mmikkonen



Paper Size ISO A3

0 2 4 6 8

Kilometers

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020
Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 50

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Western Power Clearing Impact Assessment- Backhaul Rebuild Southern Telecoms Network- Biddelia

Black Cockatoo Desktop Assessment- Breeding and Roosting Habitat

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FIGURE 5

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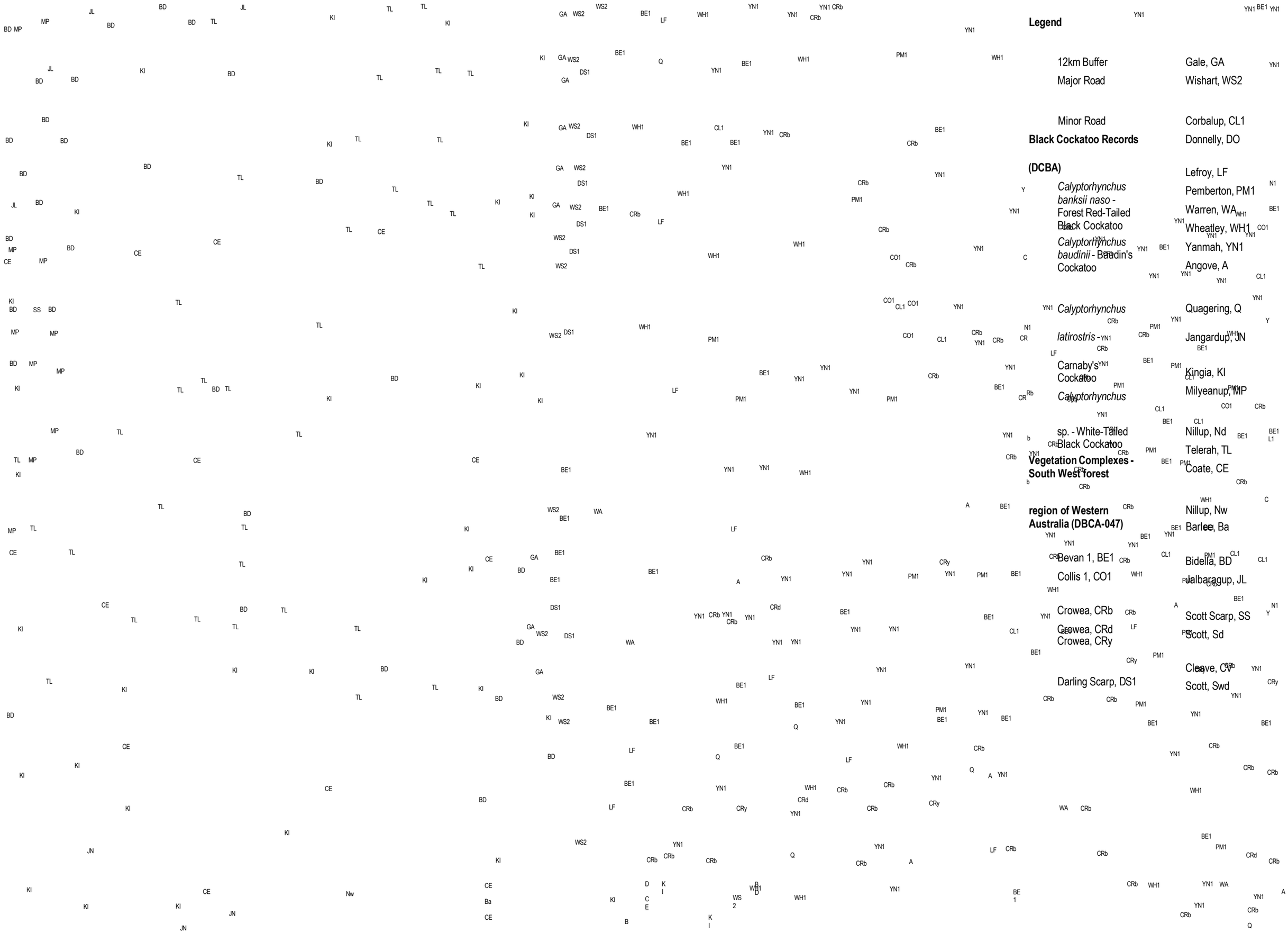
Data source: WANow: Landgate / SLIP. Created by: mmikkonen


Legend
12km Buffer
Major Road
Minor Road
Black Cockatoo Records
(DCBA)
Calyptorhynchus banksii naso - Forest Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo
Calyptorhynchus baudinii - Baudin's Cockatoo
Calyptorhynchus latirostris - Carnaby's Cockatoo
Calyptorhynchus sp. - White-Tailed Black Cockatoo
Vegetation Complexes - South West forest region of Western Australia (DBCA-047)
Bevan 1, BE1
Collis 1, CO1
Crowea, CRb
Crowea, CRd
Crowea, CRy
Darling Scarp, DS1
Gale, GA
Wishart, WS2
Corbalup, CL1
Donnelly, DO
Lefroy, LF
Pemberton, PM1
Warren, WA
Wheatley, WH1
Yanmah, YN1
Angove, A
Quagering, Q
Jangardup, JN
Kingia, KI
Milyeanup, MP
Nillup, Nd
Telerah, TL
Coate, CE
Nillup, Nw
Barlee, Ba
Bidella, BD
Jalbaragup, JL
Scott Scarp, SS
Scott, Sd
Cleave, CV
Scott, Swd

Paper Size ISO A3

0 1 2 3 4

Kilometers

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020

Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 50

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Print date: 07 Mar 2025 - 14:33

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Black Cockatoo Desktop Assessment- Vegetation Complexes of the South West

Forest and Previous DBCA Records

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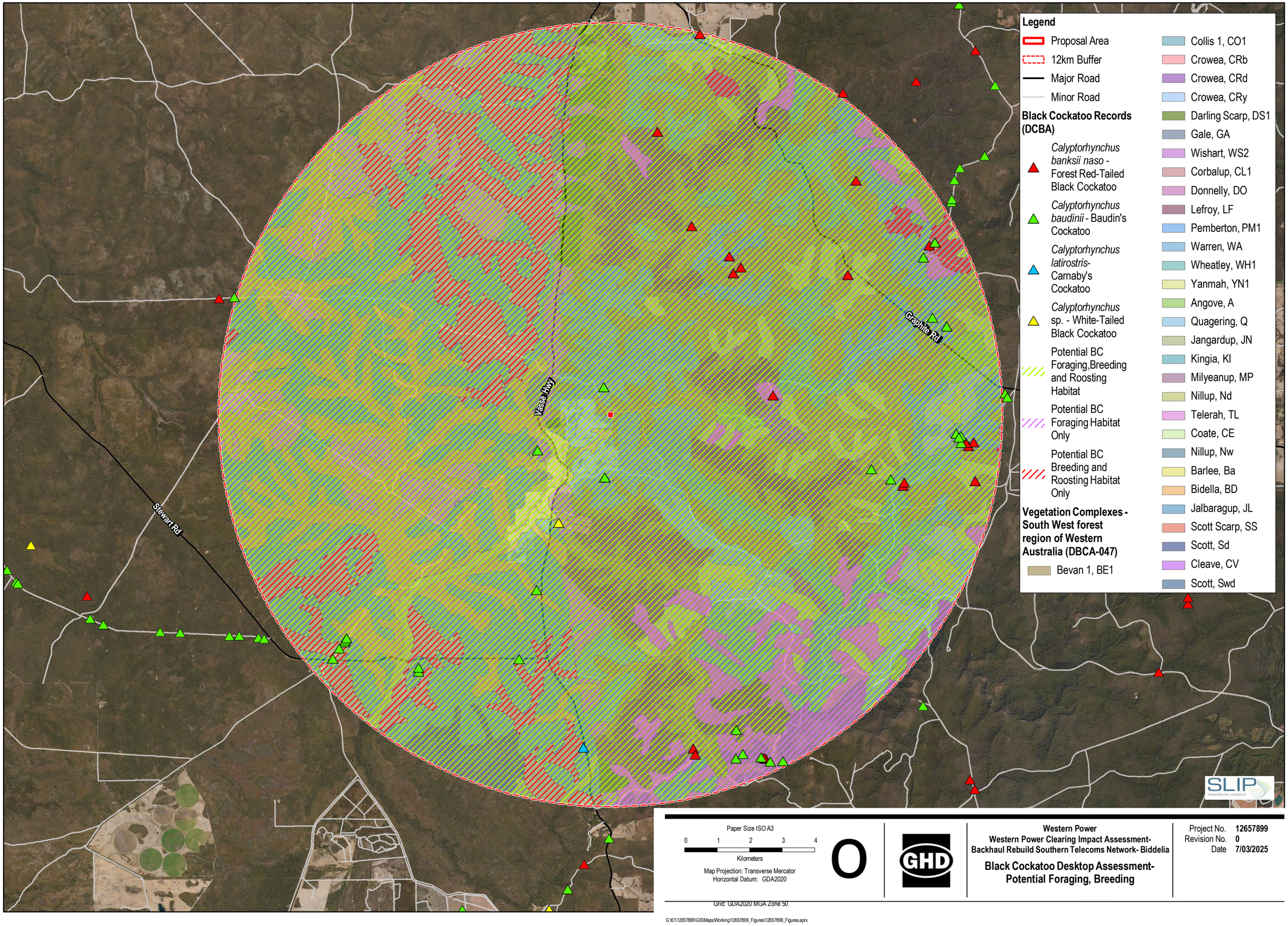
FIGURE 6

Data source: WANow: Landgate / SLIP. Created by: mmikkelsen

SLIP POWERED BY LANDGATE

GHD



Legend

- Proposal Area
- 12km Buffer
- Major Road
- Minor Road

Black Cockatoo Records (DCBA)

- *Calyptorhynchus banksii naso* - Forest Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo
- *Calyptorhynchus baudinii* - Baudin's Cockatoo
- *Calyptorhynchus latirostris*- Carnaby's Cockatoo
- *Calyptorhynchus* sp. - White-Tailed Black Cockatoo
- Potential BC Foraging,Breeding and Roosting Habitat
- Potential BC Foraging Habitat Only
- Potential BC Breeding and Roosting Habitat Only

Vegetation Complexes - South West forest region of Western Australia (DBCA-047)

- Bevan 1, BE1
- Collis 1, CO1
- Crowea, CRb
- Crowea, CRd
- Crowea, CRy
- Darling Scarp, DS1
- Gale, GA
- Wishart, WS2
- Corbalup, CL1
- Donnelly, DO
- Lefroy, LF
- Pemberton, PM1
- Warren, WA
- Wheatley, WH1
- Yanmah, YN1
- Angove, A
- Quagering, Q
- Jangardup, JN
- Kingia, KI
- Milyeanup, MP
- Nillup, Nd
- Telerah, TL
- Coate, CE
- Nillup, Nw
- Barlee, Ba
- Bidella, BD
- Jalbaragup, JL
- Scott Scarp, SS
- Scott, Sd
- Cleave, CV
- Scott, Swd

Paper Size ISO A3

0 1 2 3 4

Kilometers

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020

Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 50

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Black Cockatoo Desktop Assessment- Potential Foraging, Breeding

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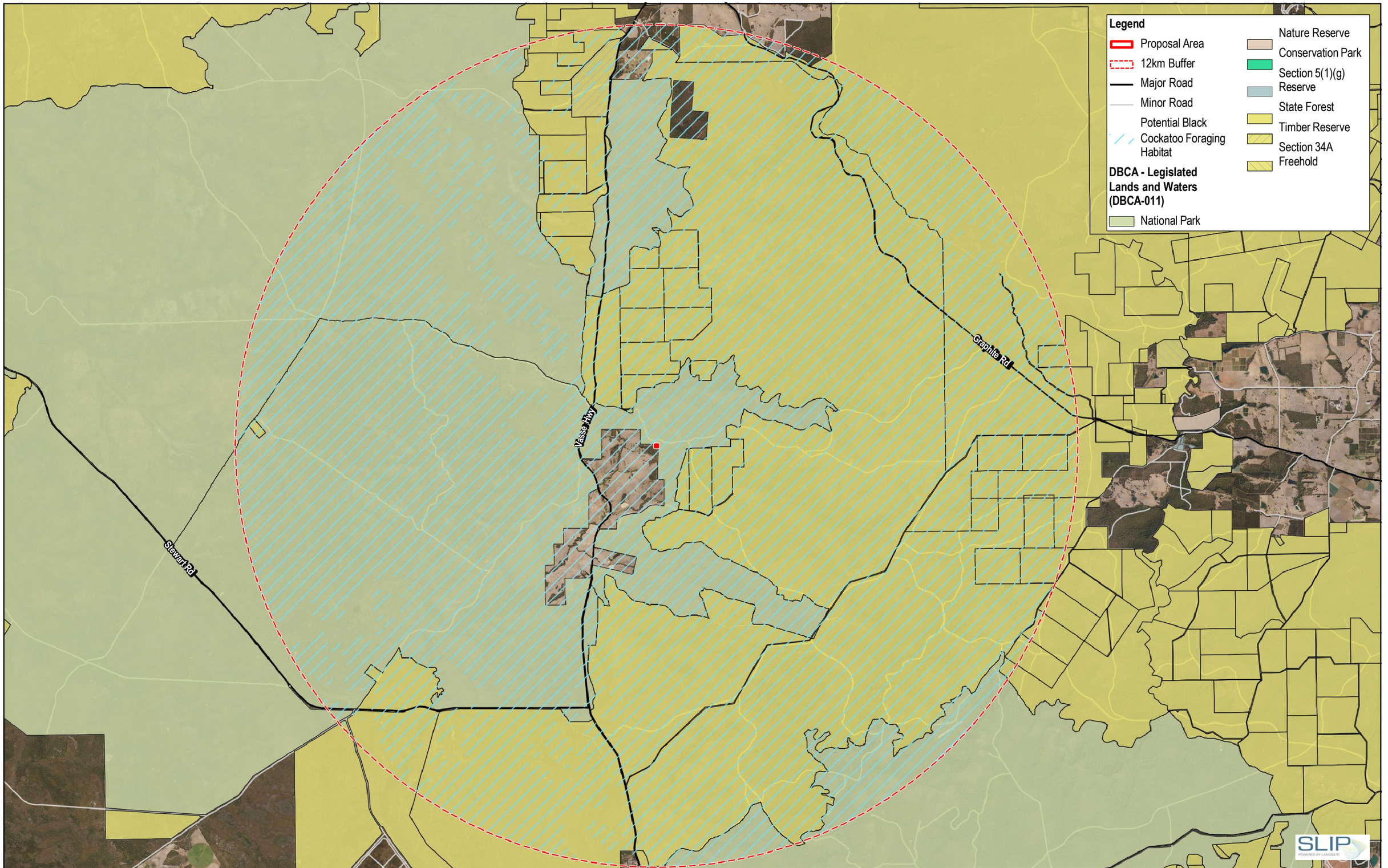
& Roosting Habitat (12 km)

FIGURE 7

Data source: WANow: Landgate / SLIP. Created by: mmikkonen



Paper Size ISO A3

0 1 2 3 4

Kilometers

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020

Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 50

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Western Power Clearing Impact Assessment- Backhaul Rebuild Southern Telecoms Network- Biddelia

Black Cockatoo Desktop Assessment- DBCA Managed Lands & Potential

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Date **7/03/2025**

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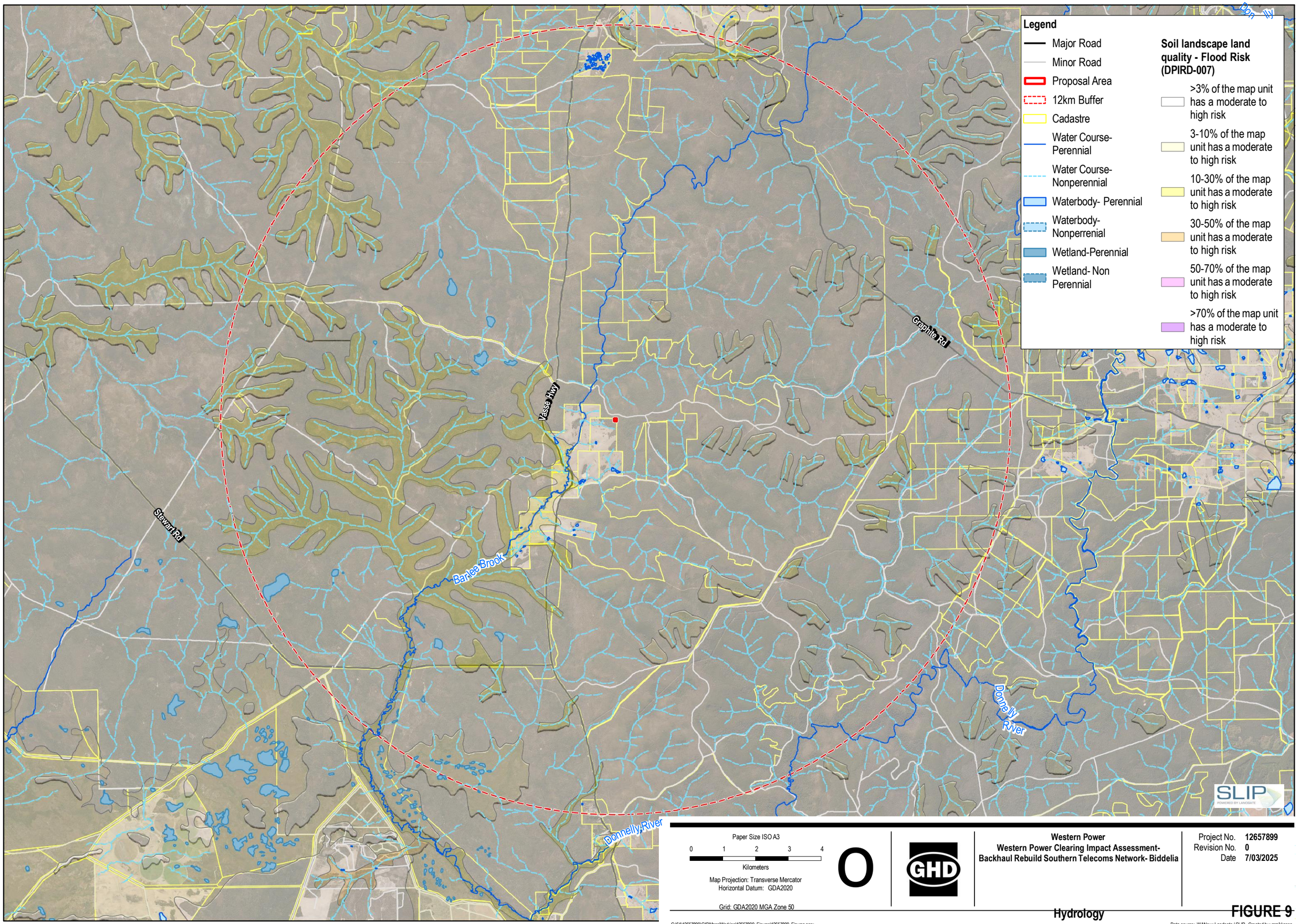
Black Cockatoo Foraging Habitat (12 km)

FIGURE 8

Data source: WANow: Landgate / SLIP
World Imagery: Earthstar Geographics. Created by: mmikkonen



Paper Size ISO A3

0 1 2 3 4

Kilometers

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA2020

Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 50

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Revision No. **0**
Date **7/03/2025**

Hydrology

FIGURE 9

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Data source: WANow: Landgate / SLIP. Created by: mmikkonen

2.2 Site Photographs

Photo 1 *Tree to be retained*

Photo 2 *Telecoms tower and fencing*

Photo 3 *Site looking towards the clearing area*

Photo 4 *Tall open forest on western slope*

Photo 5 *Site looking towards the west*

Photo 6 *site looking towards the southwest*

3. Avoid, minimise and reduce extent and impact of clearing

Alternatives to clearing considered during the development of this project are outlined in Table 1:

Alternative to Clearing	Applicable	Discussion
Directional drilling of underground cables instead of open trenching	*No*	*Not applicable to this assessment. The assessment is focused on the asset protection zone clearing only.*
Existing tracks are utilised where possible	*Yes*	*The new infrastructure was relocated to an area outside the adjacent conservation area utilising previously cleared areas. Only existing tracks will be used to access the site. The assessment is focused on the asset protection zone clearing only.*
utilising previously cleared areas where possible	*Yes*	*The new infrastructure was relocated to an area outside the adjacent conservation area utilising previously cleared areas. This limited the clearing required to that needed for asset protection zone. See* Figure 2 *Proposal area.*
consideration of alternative engineering and design options	*Yes*	*Alternative designs have been discounted due to the proximity of vegetation, slope and elevation of the site. Location determined based on maximising use of already cleared areas.*
Other	*Yes*	*Vegetation not required to be removed will be retained, as shown in* Figure 2*, which indicates the retention of a Black Cockatoo habitat tree.*

4. Site context

4.1 Land Tenure (Cadastral Information)

The area is located within Lot 3651 on Plan 130591 and is approximately 35 km south of Nannup within the Shire of Nannup. The development envelope area covers 0.65 hectares (ha) and is shown in

.

Property: 3651 P130591 (Land ID: 1963488, Land type: private)

Local Government: Shire of Nannup

Conservation Estates: The proposal area is located adjacent to the Easter National Park

4.2 Vegetation description

The project is located within the Jarrah Forest bioregion (JAF) and Southern Jarrah Forest subregion (JAF02) as described by the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA).

Broadscale (1:250,000) pre-European vegetation mapping of the area was completed by Beard (1976) at an association level. The mapping indicates that one vegetation association is present within the Clearing Area: Medium Forest; jarrah-marri (association no 3).

The pre-European mapping has been adapted and digitised by Shepherd et al. (2002). The extent of the vegetation association has been determined by the state-wide vegetation remaining extent calculations maintained by DBCA (latest update March 2019 – GoWA, 2019). As shown in Table 1, the current extents remaining of vegetation association 3 are greater than 59% at all scales and greater than 90% within the Shire of Nannup.

Table 1. Pre-European vegetation association

Scale	Pre-European (ha)	Current extent (ha)	% remaining	% Current extent remaining in DBCA reserves
Statewide (WA)	2,661,404.62	1,803,437.48	67.76	55.23
IBRA Bioregion Jarrah Forest	2,390,591.54	1,604,101.56	67.10	54.35
IBRA Sub-region Southern Jarrah Forest	1,482,491.85	880,655.65	59.40	46.63
Local Government Authority Shire of Nannup	201,839.27	182,770.09	90.55	87.20

Broadscale (1:50,000) pre-European vegetation mapping of the south west forest region of Western Australia was undertaken by Mattiske and Havel (1998) at the complex level. The mapping indicates that one vegetation complex is present within the Clearing Area:

Tall open forest of *Corymbia calophylla- Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata* on uplands in per humid and humid zones (Bevan 1 complex).

The extent of vegetation complexes has been determined by the south west vegetation remaining extent calculations maintained by DBCA (latest update March 2019 - GoWA, 2019). As shown below, the current extent remaining of Bevan 1 complex is greater than 80% of pre-European extent.

Vegetation complex	Pre-European (ha)	Current extent (ha)	% remaining	% Current extent remaining in DBCA reserves
Bevan 1	76,781.57	62,802.37	81.79	77.18

At the local government scale, as shown below, the Bevan 1 complex has greater than 80% remaining in the Shire of Nannup.

Vegetation complex	Pre-European (ha)	Current extent (ha)	% remaining	% Current extent remaining within the Nannup LGA
Bevan 1	28,888.79	25,896.59	89.64	37.62

A site inspection of the Clearing Area was undertaken by Western Power in February 2023 (photographs shown in Photo 3 to Photo 6). The site inspection indicates the Clearing Area contains native vegetation comprising Karri, Jarrah and Marri trees with various mid to tall shrubs in the south west corner of the area covering approximately 0.136ha. The remainder of the Clearing Area has been previously cleared and is dominated by introduced grasses and herbs (0.514 ha). The vegetation condition of the native vegetation is considered good as the vegetation structure is significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances including clearing and grazing.

The vegetation description and condition are based on site photos, site inspection, biological survey and aerial imagery.

4.3 Summary of results of surveys

The biological survey included a desktop assessment followed by a reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey as well as a targeted flora survey. These surveys were conducted on the 25 November 2023 in accordance with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) guidelines (EPA 2016). Additionally, a basic fauna survey was performed in compliance with EPA guidelines (EPA 2020). The survey area was also assessed for Black Cockatoo habitat. The biological survey area is located on a farming property and is surrounded by areas of native vegetation and cleared paddocks and tracks. Based on the structural and floristic characteristics observed in the field, one remnant vegetation type was recorded in the survey area, VT01 CcEm - Tall open forest to woodland of *Corymbia calophylla* and *Eucalyptus marginata.* The survey area is part of a larger patch of vegetation within a cleared area of other small remnants, surrounded by larger continuous native vegetation containing State Forest areas of vegetation that are intact. Vegetation within the survey area ranged in condition from Very Good to Degraded, with over half of the survey area cleared 0.436 ha (67.28%).

VT01 CcEm - Tall open forest to woodland of *Corymbia calophylla* and *Eucalyptus marginata* does not represent an occurrence of any known TEC/PEC. VT01 is a typical vegetation type of the wider region and is widespread.

No EPBC Act or State listed Threatened flora were recorded within the survey area, additionally no DBCA listed Priority flora species were recorded. The survey area did not contain any specific habitat types, such as granite outcropping or drainage areas that may support significant species. The likelihood of occurrence assessment post-field survey concluded that of the 34 taxa identified by the desktop assessment as occurring within the desktop study area (20km buffer of the survey area), all are considered unlikely or highly unlikely to occur post survey given the intensity of the survey effort, their visibility at the time of the survey and/or lack of suitable habitat.

One broad fauna habitat type (not including cleared areas) was identified within the survey area based on the predominant landforms, soil and vegetation structure in the area. The habitat type identified was Marri/Jarrah Forest. The survey area represents a large continuous tract of forest and woodland with good connectivity to all habitats directly adjacent apart from the paddock clearing in the immediate Biddelia area.

The field survey recorded a total of 12 birds and two mammals (one introduced). During the survey, evidence of one significant fauna species was recorded. Foraging evidence attributed to the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo from chewed Jarrah fruit was observed. An assessment of the likelihood of significant fauna identified in the desktop assessment occurring in the survey area was undertaken post survey. Of the 31 significant fauna identified in the desktop searches, one species was recorded as present and nine species are considered likely to occur within the survey area post-survey.

Neither Carnaby's Cockatoo, Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo or Baudin's Black Cockatoo were observed during the survey. A total of four potential Black Cockatoo habitat trees (>500 mm DBH) were recorded within the survey area, including three *Corymbia calophylla* and one *Eucalyptus marginata*. These trees did not contain any hollows. Based on the foraging quality scoring tool outlined in the Black Cockatoo referral guidelines (DAWE 2022) fauna habitats Marri/Jarrah Forest mapped within the survey area are considered to have a foraging score of 7 (high value) for Carnaby's Cockatoo, Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo or Baudin's Black Cockatoo. As the survey area is surrounded by larger continuous native vegetation containing State Forest areas with suitable habitat for foraging and breeding, these significant fauna species would not be reliant upon the survey area for continual persistence in the landscape.

5. Spatial assessment (SPIDA View)

Western Power's online risk GIS database was analysed, and the following layers are indicated as having the potential for clearing impacts within a local area search radius of 1m.

DBCA managed tenure	☒	Bush Forever	☐	CAWS Act Area	☐	Native Vegetation Clearing Regs ESAs	☐
Conservation listed fauna	☐	Conservation listed flora	☐	Western Power ESA sites	☐	Native vegetation remaining	☒
Threatened ecological communities	☐	Acid Sulfate Soils	☐	PDWSA	☐	Ramsar or Important Wetlands	☐
Geomorphic or other mapped wetlands	☐	Disease Risk Areas	☐	Erosion risk	☐	Offset areas	☐
Watercourses	☐	Land Degradation	☐		☐		
Other ☐ Details:							

6. Assessment of vegetation clearing impacts

Clearing permit principles full assessment	
a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity.	**Not likely to be at variance**

Assessment:

The project requires clearing of approximately 0.136 ha of native vegetation within a development envelope Area of 0.648 ha, for the purposes of installing and maintaining a fire protection zone around a communications hut, tower, perimeter fence and power connection.

A site survey of the Clearing Area was undertaken by GHD in November 2023. The survey area is located on a farming property and is surrounded by areas of native vegetation and cleared paddocks and tracks. Based on the structural and floristic characteristics observed in the field, one remnant vegetation type was recorded in the survey area, VT01 CcEm - Tall open forest to woodland of *Corymbia calophylla* and *Eucalyptus marginata*.

Vegetation within the survey area ranged in condition from Very Good to Degraded, with over half of the survey area cleared. The vegetation within the survey area has been impacted by a number of disturbances including previous clearing on the edge, weeds and grazing in the areas mapped as Degraded. In the area mapped as Very Good the understorey is intact with high native species diversity and reduced weed cover.

Tall open forest to woodland of *Corymbia calophylla* and *Eucalyptus marginata* does not represent an occurrence of any known Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) as listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act. Additionally, it has no

affinities to any DBCA listed PECs. A total of 16 vascular flora species, from nine families and 15 genera, were recorded in the survey area. The dominant plant families were Poaceae, Fabaceae and Myrtaceae. Approximately 75% of the flora recorded were native taxa. No EPBC Act or State listed Threatened flora were recorded within the survey area, additionally no DBCA listed Priority flora species were recorded.

One broad fauna habitat type (not including cleared areas) was identified within the survey area based on the predominant landforms, soil and vegetation structure in the area. The habitat type identified was Marri/Jarrah Forest. The survey area represents a large continuous tract of forest and woodland with good connectivity to all habitats directly adjacent apart from the paddock clearing in the immediate Biddelia area.

Ten nature reserves occur within a 10 km radius. The closest is the Easter National Park (R 47877), which is Class A and borders the Clearing Area to the north and east (GoWA 2023).

The project will result in vegetation and habitat loss through direct clearing of native vegetation, however it is unlikely to have a significant impact on local and regional linkages given the relatively small amount of native vegetation clearing (0.136 ha).

The Clearing Area is unlikely to comprise greater biological diversity than the surrounding areas and is therefore not likely to be at variance to this principle.

b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.	**Not likely to be at variance**

Assessment:

As part of the Biological Assessment, a fauna desktop assessment and field survey were conducted. The desktop assessment concluded identified the presence/potential presence of 31 significant fauna species within the study area from The EPBC Act PMST, *NatureMap* and DBCA Threatened and Priority Fauna database. This total does not include those species that are exclusively marine as no marine habitat is present within the survey area. The desktop searches recorded:

- 19 species listed under the EPBC Act and/or the BC Act
- Four species listed as Migratory under the EPBC Act and BC Act
- One species listed as Conservation Dependent under the BC Act
- One species listed as Other Specially Protected under the BC Act
- One Priority 3 taxon
- Five Priority 4 taxa.

An assessment of the likelihood of significant fauna identified in the desktop assessment occurring in the proposal area was undertaken as part of the biological survey. This assessment is based on species' biology, habitat requirements, the quality and availability of suitable habitat as determined during the field survey, and records of the species in the survey area and locality. Species specific searches of the DBCA NatureMap database were also conducted in order to gather information about the broader regional occurrence of species to further inform the likelihood of occurrence assessment. Some species identified in the EPBC Act PMST (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water 2023) or DBCA search are not realistically considered to occur in the survey area or are not terrestrial vertebrate species, and have been excluded from the assessment (i.e. marine species).

Of the 31 significant fauna identified in the desktop searches, one species was recorded as present and nine species are considered likely to occur within the survey area, the remaining species rated as Unlikely or Highly Unlikely.

Neither Carnaby's Cockatoo, Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo or Baudin's Black Cockatoo were observed or heard during the survey. However, foraging evidence attributed to Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo from chewed Jarrah nuts was recorded within the survey area.

A total of four potential Black Cockatoo habitat trees (>500 mm DBH) were recorded within the biological survey area see

Figure 4, including three *Corymbia calophylla* and one *Eucalyptus marginata*. These trees did not contain any hollows. One of these trees as shown in

Figure 2 is to be retained. Retention of a single tree complies with the asset protection zone requirements detailed in the bushfire management plan. To reduce bushfire risk, trees greater than 5m must be a minimum distance of 10m from the communication buildings. The canopy cover should be less than 15%, with tree canopies at maturity spaced at least 5m apart to avoid forming a continuous canopy (Western Power, 2023). This tree was selected to be retained as it is a habitat tree with a >500mm DBH.

There are no know breeding or roosting sites within 20km of the proposal area see

Figure 5 Based on the foraging quality scoring tool outlined in the Black Cockatoo referral guidelines (DAWE 2022) fauna habitats Marri/Jarrah Forest mapped within the survey area are considered to have a foraging score of 7 (high value) for Carnaby's Cockatoo, Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo or Baudin's Black Cockatoo. As the survey area is surrounded by larger continuous native vegetation contained in the The Easter National Park that borders the Clearing Area to the north and east and covers an area of approximately 1,917 ha (GoWA 2023) and contains suitable habitat for foraging and breeding, these significant fauna species would not be reliant upon the survey area for continual persistence in the landscape.

Habitat within the indicative clearing footprint represents <0.0005 % of the available resources within a 12 km radius of the Project (estimated at 0.136ha) – the 12 km radius represents the distance Black Cockatoos will generally forage while breeding see

Figure 6.

The clearing area constitutes less than 0.00005% of the habitat for Black Cockatoos and does not include any trees with hollows. With 45,594.9 hectares of Black Cockatoo habitat within a 12km radius, the impact on local or regional fauna indigenous to Western Australia is expected to be not significant. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to be a variance to this principle.

c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for, the continued existence of rare flora.	**Not likely to be at variance**

Assessment:

The proposal area is located on a farming property and is surrounded by areas of native vegetation and cleared paddocks and tracks. Based on the structural and floristic characteristics observed in the field, one remnant vegetation type was recorded in the survey area, VT01 CcEm - Tall open forest to woodland of *Corymbia calophylla* and *Eucalyptus marginata.*

The proposal area is part of a larger patch of vegetation within a cleared area of other small remnants surrounded by larger continuous native vegetation containing State Forest areas of vegetation that are intact. Vegetation within the proposal area ranged in condition from Very Good to Degraded, with over half of the survey area cleared.

VT01 CcEm - Tall open forest to woodland of *Corymbia calophylla* and *Eucalyptus marginata* does not represent an occurrence of any known TECs as listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act. Additionally, VT01 has no affinities to any DBCA listed PECs

VT01 is a typical vegetation type of the wider region and is widespread.

No EPBC Act or State listed Threatened flora were recorded within the survey area, additionally no DBCA listed Priority flora species were recorded.

The proposal area did not contain any specific habitat types, such as granite outcropping or drainage areas that may support significant species. The likelihood of occurrence assessment concluded that of the 34 taxa identified by the desktop assessment as occurring within the desktop study area, all are considered unlikely or highly unlikely to occur post survey given the intensity of the survey effort, their visibility at the time of the survey and/or lack of suitable habitat.

The clearing area is unlikely to support habitat that is necessary for, the continued existence of rare flora. The proposed clearing is not likely to be a variance to this principle

d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.	Not at variance

Assessment:

VT01 CcEm - Tall open forest to woodland of *Corymbia calophylla* and *Eucalyptus marginata* does not represent an occurrence of any known TECs as listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act. Additionally, VT01 has no affinities to any DBCA listed Priority Ecological Communities (PEC)

The proposed clearing is not at variance to this principle.

e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.	Not likely to be at variance

Assessment:

Broadscale (1:250,000) pre-European vegetation mapping of the area was completed by Beard (1976) at an association level. The mapping indicates that one vegetation association is present within the Clearing Area, Medium Forest; jarrah-marri (association no. 3).

The extent of the vegetation association has been determined by the state-wide vegetation remaining extent calculations maintained by DBCA (latest update March 2019 – GoWA, 2019). The current extents remaining of vegetation association 3 are greater than 59% at all scales and greater than 90% within the Shire of Nannup

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation recognise that the retention of 30 per cent or more of the pre-clearing extent of each ecological community is necessary if Australia's biological diversity is to be protected (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001).

Within the surrounding 10km there is approximately 30,641.5 ha of remnant native vegetation remaining. The project will clear a small amount of native vegetation, approximately 0.136 ha. The Clearing Area is not located within an extensively cleared area and the vegetation within the Clearing Area is not considered to represent a significant remnant of native vegetation.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with this principle.

Pre-European Vegetation Association	Scale	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Percent remaining	% Current Extent remaining in DBCA reserves (proportion of Current extent)
Vegetation Association No. 3	**Statewide (WA)**	2,661,404.62	1,803,437.48	67.76	81.50
	IBRA Bioregion Jarrah Forest	2,390,591.54	1,604,101.56	67.10	81.00
	IBRA Sub-region Southern Jarrah Forest	1,482,491.85	880,655.65	59.40	78.50
	Local Government Authority Shire of Nannup	201,839.27	182,770.09	90.55	96.30

f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.	Not likely to be at variance

Assessment:

The Clearing Area is located in the Donnelly River catchment and Barlee Brook sub-catchment. No wetlands or watercourses intersect the Clearing Area. One major watercourse, the Barlee Brook, is located approximately 800 m west if the Clearing Area (see igure 9) and two unnamed watercourses run to the north and south of the Clearing Area, both approximately 200 m from the Clearing Area. An unnamed wetland is located approximately 3.9 km south west of the Clearing Area (GoWA, 2023).

A biological survey of the clearing area was undertaken in November 2023 indicating the Clearing Area contains native vegetation comprising Jarrah and Marri trees with various mid to tall shrubs in the south west corner of the area. The remainder of the Clearing Area is previously cleared and is dominated by introduced grasses and herbs.

The vegetation within the Clearing Area does not grow in or is associated with an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland. Accordingly, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	**Not likely to be at variance**

Assessment:

Based on the Manjimup land resources survey, Bevan subsystem (Dwalganup) the soil landscape in the Clearing Area can be described as "Broad, gently sloping (3-15%) divides on laterite, soils are sandy gravels and loamy gravels

Natural Resource Management Soil Systems and CSIRO risk mapping indicates a low salinity risk and low water erosion risk with a high risk of subsurface acidification and wind erosion within the Clearing Area (GoWA 2023). Given the small scale of the Clearing Area, there is not likely to be an appreciable increase in land degradation due to wind erosion.

Clearing of native vegetation within the Clearing Area is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.	**Not likely to be at variance**

Assessment:

Ten nature reserves occur within a 10 km radius. The closest is the Easter National Park (R 47877), which is Class A and borders the Clearing Area to the north and east. The Easter National Park covers an area of approximately 1,917 ha.

Areas of the Clearing Area adjacent to the Easter National Park are already cleared, comprising weedy grasses and herbs. The clearing of native vegetation within the Clearing Area is not likely to have an appreciable impact on the environmental values of Easter National Park or any of the other nearby nature reserves or ESAs. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.	**Not likely to be at variance**

Assessment:

No wetlands or watercourses intersect the Clearing Area. One major watercourse, the Barlee Brook, is located approximately 800 m west of the Clearing Area and two unnamed watercourses run to the north and south of the Clearing Area, both approximately 200 m from the Clearing Area. An unnamed wetland is located approximately 3.9 km south west of the Clearing Area (GoWA, 2023).

Several man-made dams are located down gradient, west and south west of the Clearing Area with the closest being approximately 400 m from the Clearing Area.

No Public Drinking Water Source Areas occur within the Clearing Area. The Donnelly River Water Reserve is located approximately 6 km to the south east of the Clearing Area.

It is considered unlikely that the small scale of clearing within the Clearing Area would disturb or interrupt any natural drainage and surface water run-off patterns and is unlikely to alter groundwater quality in the local area.

The proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	Not likely to be at variance
Assessment: Desktop searches indicate the Clearing Area is mapped as having sandy gravels and loamy gravel soils. The Clearing Area averages 975.1 mm of rainfall annually (BOM, 2023). The soils of the Clearing Area have a low risk of flooding or waterlogging (GoWA, 2023). Given the small scale of the clearing, it is unlikely that the removal of vegetation would cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding or localised waterlogging in the local area. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.	

7. Planning instrument or other relevant matters

The Clearing Area occurs within Private Land.

No other approved policies and planning instruments apply to the Clearing Area.

8. Clearing Permit Details

Western Power manages impacts of clearing through the implementation of an internal Vegetation Clearing Permit. This project has been deemed to Low Risk given that clearing will be undertaken under CPS 1918/11 and it is not at variance with any clearing principles. Accordingly, no clearing intervention is required.

9. Post assessment requirements

Post assessment	Outcome	Justification / Further Action Required
Are submissions required?	*No*	The clearing has been assessed as not at variance or not likely to be at variance with the clearing principles. As per CPS 1918 there is no requirement to publish on the website.
Could the area be affected by dieback?	*Yes*	annual rainfall >400 mm
Could the area be affected by other pathogens?	*No*	
Is a Vegetation Management Plan required?	*Yes*	Bushfire management plan is required to manage APZ
Is rehabilitation/revegetation required?	*No*	Area will be maintained as an APZ
Is a Dieback Management Plan required?	*No*	No further action required follow vegetation management plan
Is an offset required?	*No*	The clearing area constitutes less than 0.00005% of the habitat for Black Cockatoos and does not include any trees with hollows. In addition, a habitat tree within the clearing area is to be retained. As such intent is to confirm with DWER that there is no requirement to offset.

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Appendix A Vegetation Management Plan

10.1 Introduction

The Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) has been prepared in accordance with condition 6 of CPS 1918/11.

10.2 Scope of the Project Activities

Western Power is constructing a new telecommunications site at Biddelia. The project comprises a new communications hut, tower, perimeter fence, bush fire protection zone and connection to power. The project will require the clearing of native vegetation to establish a bushfire protection zone.

10.3 Scope of the Vegetation Management Plan

The VMP highlights the project management issues and provides actions required to be undertaken before, during and following project completion. The aim of the VMP is to provide management actions to avoid, mitigate and/or manage the clearing impacts, to allocate areas of responsibility required for the implementation of management actions identified and to provide timeframes for completion and monitoring actions.

10.4 Non-Compliance

All non-compliances related to this VMP will follow Western Power's incident management procedure and will be logged in Guardian.

Project Component	Management Action	Evidence Action completed	Responsible Person	Completion Timeframe
Standard Actions				
Clearing	At the pre-start meeting provide clear maps indicating the areas approved to be cleared to the crew undertaking the works	Record sheet to be signed at pre-start meeting by all personnel.	Site Supervisor	Prior to clearing commencing
	All access and laydown areas will be clearly delineated on plans	Plans to be captured in the Volt.	Site Supervisor	Prior to clearing commencing
	Have a copy (electronic or hard copy) of the VMP on site during the clearing activities	One compliance inspection will occur prior to clearing.	Site Supervisor	Once clearing has been completed
	Clearing of vegetation shall not exceed the approved limits of clearing. All vegetation to be cleared will be demarcated on site prior to the commencement of project activities	One compliance inspection will occur prior to clearing. Representative photos will be taken.	Site Supervisor	Prior to clearing commencing
	Any vegetation cleared beyond the extent of approvals shall be rehabilitated to the pre-clearing condition	Clearing incident reported	Site Supervisor	Within 24 months
	Cleared vegetation will be respread in the neighbouring areas after project activities are completed	One compliance inspection will occur after clearing.	Site Supervisor	Once clearing has been completed
Specific Actions				
Principle a	Where possible avoid and limit the amount of clearing on site.	One compliance inspection will occur prior to clearing.	Site Supervisor	Prior to clearing activities.

	Ensure Back cockatoo habitat tree shown in Figure 2 to be retained is demarcated and the importance of protecting this area will be communicated to the crew during the pre-start. No ground disturbance should be undertaken within the drip line of the tree.	One compliance inspection will occur prior to clearing. Representative photos will be taken.	Site Supervisor	Prior to clearing activities.
Dieback Management	*Implement weed hygiene and control measures to prevent new pathogen (and weed) infestations from occurring within the project area and the spread of existing weeds.* *Follow EDM CPS 1918/11 Condition 9.* *Schedule works for the dry season i.e. the summer period*	*One compliance inspection of weed infestations will occur post clearing.*	*Site Supervisor*	*Completion construction*
	Remove or kill any weeds growing in project area that are likely to spread and result in environmental harm to adjacent area of native vegetation that are in good or better condition.			
	Clean earth moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entry and exit to project areas adjacent to conservation areas.			
	Adhere to DBCA protocol.			
Standard Record Keeping				

Record Keeping-Clearing	Maintain the following records for the cleared area: • Location of Clearing Area as a shapefile • Size of clearing (ha) • Date(s) on which clearing was done	Clearing data via CPS 1918/11 Condition 12a12a submitted to Environment team.	WP Project Owner	Data to be submitted within 30 days of project clearing activities being completed
Record Keeping - Clearing	Copies of all Vehicle Environmental Inspection Registers used to check that clearing machinery is free of soil and vegetative material must be maintained	Copies of completed registers submitted to WP Project Owner	Site Supervisor	Copies of completed registers are to be submitted within 30 days of project clearing activities being completed

Appendix B Biddelia Biological Assessment (GHD,2024)

Appendix C Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (Western Power, 2023)