Development Application - Unzoned Land Clearing – Section 46(3) *Planning Act 1999*

CONTEXT: This form can be used to apply for a clearing permit for unzoned land. The questions in this application form seek to help you address section 46(3) of the *Planning Act 1999*, and the performance criteria for the application, which is specified in Clause 3.2 CNV – Clearing of Native Vegetation of the Northern Territory Planning Scheme 2020. For further information contact the Vegetation Assessment Unit, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (DLPE) on (08) 8999 3631 or refer to the following website: Apply to clear native vegetation on freehold unzoned land | NT.GOV.AU

The Northern Territory Planning Scheme Land Clearing Guidelines (NTPS LCG) are designed to assist landholders and the consent authority to decide which areas are suited to development and those that should be left in their natural state to help protect the environment and maintain biodiversity. Development applications for the purpose of clearing of native vegetation must consider the NTPS LCG.

PRE-LODGEMENT: Applications will be screened by the Vegetation Assessment Unit, DLPE before being accepted for assessment to ensure applications contain all the information required to enable assessment. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Vegetation Assessment Unit to discuss their application prior to lodgement.

LODGEMENT: Submit the completed form along with all required attachments and associated spatial data (e.g. proposed clearing shapefile, land types shapefile) through Development Applications Online.

INFORMATION: The DLPE respects and is committed to safeguarding the confidentiality and privacy of the information that it collects and handles, in accordance with the *Northern Territory Information Act 2002*. You have been asked to provide personal information necessary for us to accept the application. You do not have to provide your personal information but if you choose not to, it may impact the processing of the application. The information you provide will be accessible to the public. You may request access to the personal information we hold about you. To find out more read our privacy policy. If you want more information about the Northern Territory's privacy laws, please refer to the *Northern Territory Information Act 2002*, or the Office of the Information Commissioner NT.

1. Application details

Property Address:	1035 Roper Highway, Mataranka (NT Portion 8570)
Tenure Reference Type (e.g. Freehold, crown lease):	Freehold
Property Name (if applicable):	-
Proposed Clearing Area (ha):	50.98 ha
Document Version Number:	1
Date:	15/10/2026

2. Applicant details

Under section 46(1) of the *Planning Act 1999*, an application for a development application may only be made by the owner of the land, or a person authorised in writing by the owner.

Owner's authorisation is required in writing if the applicant is not the owner or the sole property owner. If the land is owned by a company or body corporate, written authorisation should be obtained from the company director/s or from the body corporate. If the land is owned by more than one person or company, written authorisations should be obtained from each person or company named on the title. Download the Land owner/s authorisation to lodge a development application.

Authorisation should be dated within 6 months of the date of the application.

Applicant name:	Claytan Leigh Dehne & Zoe Lee Dehne
Applicant ABN:	-
Applicant email/postal address:	bloodwooddowns@bigpond.com
Contact Person name*:	Helen Groves (Magnat Agri Services)
Contact Person telephone:	0439937802
Contact Person email:	helen@magnat.com.au
Contact Person postal address:	508 Pilton Valley Rd, Pilton QLD 4361

*All correspondence regarding the application will be directed to the contact person.

☒ Attach land owner/s authorisation form. Attachment No: 1

3. Pre-lodgement meeting

3.1 Provide details of any pre-lodgement meetings held regarding this application.

Note: DLPE recommend a pre-lodgement meeting for all applications.

Enter the date, DLPE contact name and any issues raised at the pre-lodgement meeting
Pre-lodgement consultation was undertaken by email on 28 September 2026 with DLPE Vegetation Assessment Unit. Advice was received that the application should include an assessment against the SREBA mapping. It was explained that the mapped vegetation did not accurately reflect field observations and that a methodology statement had been prepared to explain the land type assessment. This approach was supported and a pre-lodgement review was proposed once the complete application was ready.

4. Description of proposal

4.1 Provide an overview summarising the proposed development.

Include any relevant information or details you wish to be considered that is not captured in the following sections, including design rationale
Approval is sought to clear 50.98 ha at NT Portion 8570, 1035 Roper Highway, Mataranka, to establish non-irrigated Sabi grass pasture for livestock grazing. The property is unzoned freehold, and pasture production will rely on seasonal rainfall. The proposed clearing extent is shown in Attachment 4. The land has been assessed as a single land type, Land Type A, which includes native woodland and an existing mahogany plantation.

5. Merits of the proposal

5.1 Describe the merits of the proposal and how it will benefit the economy, society or environment.

Include any relevant information or details of the merits of the proposal
The proposal aims to improve the property's grazing productivity by establishing Sabi grass pasture, increasing available forage and providing greater flexibility in livestock management. This would support the productive agricultural use and economic viability of the property. Pasture production would rely on seasonal rainfall without requiring irrigation. Development and grazing management would be informed by the land capability assessment, with measures to maintain groundcover, control weeds and minimise erosion. These measures would help protect the soil resource and sustain pasture productivity over time.

6. Existing clearing

6.1 Provide details of the extent of existing clearing within the property.

Note: Land clearing approvals are published online at Unzoned land clearing applications and approvals | NT.GOV.AU.

Site	Area (ha)	Year cleared	Permit No.	Area within proposed clearing extent (ha)	Description
Example: *Site 1 Front paddock*	*10.5ha*	*1980*	*NA*	*7.5*	*Western half of front paddock cleared in 1980 for improved pasture, now contains regrowth. This area (excluding stream buffer) is proposed to be cleared.*
TRACK	0.89 ha	Unknown, prior to November 2005	NA	0.27 ha	Track and firebreak that runs across the northern width of the property adjacent to a fence line.
REGROWTH AREA	4.99 ha	Unknown, prior to November 2005	NA	4.99 ha	Historical clearing area that has mostly not been maintained.
MAHOGANY BLOCK	0.98 ha	Unknown, prior to November 2005	NA	0.98 ha	Existing mahogany plantation that is proposed to be cleared.
Total:	6.86 ha			6.24 ha	

☒ Attach a map and/or spatial data showing areas of existing clearing within the property.

Attachment No: 2

7. Proposed clearing

7.1 Provide details of the proposed clearing extent.

Site Id	Proposed Use	Area (ha)
Example: Polygon 1	*Non-irrigated improved pasture for grazing and hay production (Jarra Finger Grass).*	*90.5ha*
NTP8570	Non-irrigated improved pasture for grazing (Sabi Grass).	50.98 ha
Total:		50.98 ha

☒ Attach any relevant information about the intended use. For example see, Agnotes, technotes and technical bulletins | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Attachment No: 3

7.2 Provide a proposed clearing plan.

The proposed clearing plan is a map showing the location of the proposed clearing area/s as identified in Section 7.1. The plan must include:

- The map datum (preferred: GDA94);
- The map projection or zone;
- A north arrow;
- A grid or scale bar;
- A suitable background (e.g. cadastre and aerial/satellite imagery); and
- Area (in hectares) of each polygon (preferred: GDA94 Australian Albers projection).

Document	Attachment Number
☒ Attach proposed clearing plan	4
☒ Attach clearing plan spatial data* **Note**: Spatial data can be placed into a zip folder for upload to Development Applications Online or emailed to: landclearing.DLPE@nt.gov.au	CLEARING PLAN V1

*Please refer to the spatial data requirements: Spatial data for clearing applications | NT.GOV.AU.

8. Water Resources

8.1 Does the proposed use require irrigation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

8.2 Provide details regarding the proposed water requirements for each proposed crop/use.

Note: If the proposal requires irrigation and a Water Extraction Licence (WEL) has not been issued please contact Water Resources Division, DLPE by email waterresources@nt.gov.au or telephone: (08) 8999 4455 for advice. For further information visit Water | NT.GOV.AU. Pre-lodgement advice should be sought for

consideration streamlining the regulatory approval process. To discuss, contact the Development Coordination Branch by email landclearing.DLPE@nt.gov.au or (08) 8999 4454.

Crop/use & polygon	Area (ha)	Water required (ML/year)	Water source	Licence required (yes/no)	Licence No. or application status
N/A					
Total:					

☐ Attach a copy of any relevant licences. Attachment No: _____

8.3 Are you proposing to clear in a Water Control District?

For more information refer to section 4.5.3 of the NTPS LCG or use NR Maps to view WCDs.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Identify the Water Control District and any beneficial uses as declared under the *Water Act 1992*
Daly Roper Beetaloo; No beneficial use proposed.

9. Land Resources

Note: Land resource mapping and soil site data is available on NR Maps. This broad scale mapping can provide useful information and guidance with respect to planning a more detailed site-specific resource assessment to prepare a Land Type map. For further information visit Land, soil and vegetation information | Department of Lands, Planning and Environment.

9.1 Provide a Land Type map for the proposed clearing extent.

Note: Consideration of an application cannot proceed without the collection and orderly presentation of field-verified site-specific data and mapping. In accordance with the NTPS LCG (section 4.2.3) all clearing applications need to be accompanied by an appropriate soil, vegetation and land resource assessment in the form of a Land Type map at a scale of 1:5,000 to 1:20,000.

Document	Attachment Number
☒ Attach a Land Type map for the proposed clearing extent.	5
☒ Attach one Land Type description for each Land Type unit (use proforma at **Appendix** A – Land Type description proforma).	6
☒ Attach Land Type spatial data*	LAND TYPE A
☒ Attach supporting field verified data (e.g. spatial data* of site inspection track, site locations, photo points and photos).	6B

*Please refer to the spatial data requirements: Spatial data for clearing applications | NT.GOV.AU.

9.2 Provide a Land Capability Assessment (LCA).

Note: Land capability evaluates a common set of broad land-based development constraints and determines the appropriateness of the land in general for a broad range of land uses.

In accordance with the NTPS LCG, a LCA (section 4.2.7) evaluates the key soil and land resource attributes recorded within a Land Type map against a defined set of criteria to determine an overall Land Capability Class.

Document	Attachment Number
☒ Attach a LCA table for Land Types within the proposed clearing extent (use proforma at **Appendix B** – Land Capability Assessment table).	7
☒ Attach a map of the proposed clearing extent showing the Land Types' overall Land Capability Classes.	8

Note: Some projects may also require a land suitability assessment (LSA) to assess the potential of a soil or land resource for a specific irrigated agricultural land use (refer to section 4.2.8 of the NTPS LCG). To determine if a LSA is required, contact the Land Assessment Branch, DLPE (08) 8999 4443.

10. Biodiversity

10.1 Describe any records of threatened flora and fauna species or migratory species listed under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976* (TPWC) or the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) within 20km of the proposed clearing extent.

Also describe any such species for which there are no records but have a reasonable likelihood of occurring within the habitats (i.e. Land Types) comprising the proposed clearing extent.

Note: Threatened flora and fauna species and migratory species records can be found using NR Maps or Protected Matters Search Tool - DCCEEW. For further information contact the Flora and Fauna Division, DLPE via email Biodiversity.Assessments@nt.gov.au or telephone: (08) 8995 5000.

Add additional rows to the table as needed.

Common name	Species name	TPWC Act listing	EPBC Act listing	Location
Example: Ghost Bat	*Macroderma gigas*	*Near Threatened*	*Vulnerable*	*Nearest record is 5km*
Gouldian Finch	*Chloebia gouldiae*	Vulnerable	Endangered	68 records within 20 km; nearest mapped record approximately 9.86 km from the clearing extent.
Red Goshawk	*Erythrotriorchis radiatus*	Vulnerable	Endangered	190 records within 20 km; nearest approximately 8.28 km from the clearing extent.

Grey Falcon	*Falco hypoleucos*	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	11 records within 20 km; nearest mapped records approximately 2.68 km from the clearing extent, with positional uncertainty of 5–10 km.
Northern Shrike-tit	*Falcunculus frontatus whitei*	Near Threatened	Vulnerable	26 records within 20 km; nearest approximately 7.87 km from the clearing extent. Recorded as *Falcunculus frontatus* in the NT fauna dataset.
Partridge Pigeon (eastern)	*Geophaps smithii smithii*	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	One record, dated 1976, approximately 13.72 km from the clearing extent.
Common Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*	Least Concern	Endangered; Migratory	One record, dated 1983, approximately 13.56 km from the clearing extent, with positional uncertainty of 1.8 km.
Ghost Bat	*Macroderma gigas*	Near Threatened	Vulnerable	15 records within 20 km; nearest approximately 10.04 km from the clearing extent.
Northern Brushtail Possum	*Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis*	Near Threatened	Vulnerable	87 records within 20 km; nearest approximately 5.41 km from the clearing extent.

Pale Field-rat	*Rattus tunneyi*	Vulnerable	Not listed	Two records, dated 1996, approximately 11.24 km from the clearing extent, downstream of Bitter Springs in Elsey National Park.
Gulf Snapping Turtle	*Elseya lavarackorum*	Least Concern	Endangered	Four records within 20 km; nearest approximately 7.80 km from the clearing extent at 12 Mile Yard, Elsey National Park.
Northern Blue-tongued Skink	*Tiliqua scincoides intermedia*	Not listed as threatened	Critically Endangered	Ten records within 20 km; nearest approximately 3.01 km from the clearing extent.
Mertens' Water Monitor	*Varanus mertensi*	Vulnerable	Endangered	21 records within 20 km; nearest approximately 7.58 km from the clearing extent.
Mitchell's Water Monitor	*Varanus mitchelli*	Vulnerable	Critically Endangered	Eight records within 20 km; nearest approximately 9.53 km from the clearing extent.
Largetooth Sawfish	*Pristis pristis*	Vulnerable	Endangered; Migratory	One record, dated 2021, approximately 7.80 km from the clearing extent at 12 Mile Yard, Elsey National Park.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	*Calidris acuminata*	Not listed as threatened	Vulnerable; Migratory	PMST: species or habitat may occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.
Curlew Sandpiper	*Calidris ferruginea*	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered; Migratory	PMST: species or habitat may occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.
Australian Painted Snipe	*Rostratula australis*	Endangered	Endangered	PMST: species or habitat may occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.
Masked Owl (northern)	*Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli*	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	PMST: species or habitat likely to occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.
Northern Quoll	*Dasyurus hallucatus*	Critically Endangered	Endangered	PMST: species or habitat likely to occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.
Northern Brush-tailed Phascogale	*Phascogale pirata*	Endangered	Vulnerable	PMST: species or habitat may occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.

Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat	*Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus*	Not listed as threatened	Vulnerable	PMST: species or habitat may occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.
Fork-tailed Swift	*Apus pacificus*	Not listed as threatened	Migratory	PMST: species or habitat likely to occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.
Saltwater Crocodile	*Crocodylus porosus*	Not listed as threatened	Migratory	PMST: species or habitat likely to occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.
Red-rumped Swallow	*Cecropis daurica*	Not listed as threatened	Migratory	PMST: species or habitat may occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.
Oriental Cuckoo	*Cuculus optatus*	Not listed as threatened	Migratory	PMST: species or habitat may occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.
Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	Not listed as threatened	Migratory	PMST: species or habitat may occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.

Grey Wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	Not listed as threatened	Migratory	PMST: species or habitat may occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.
Yellow Wagtail	*Motacilla flava*	Not listed as threatened	Migratory	PMST: species or habitat may occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.
Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	Not listed as threatened	Migratory	PMST: species or habitat likely to occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.
Pectoral Sandpiper	*Calidris melanotos*	Not listed as threatened	Migratory	PMST: species or habitat may occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.
Oriental Plover	*Charadrius veredus*	Not listed as threatened	Migratory	PMST: species or habitat may occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.
Oriental Pratincole	*Glareola maldivarum*	Not listed as threatened	Migratory	PMST: species or habitat may occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.

Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*	Not listed as threatened	Migratory	PMST: species or habitat likely to occur within the search area. No records within 20 km of the clearing extent in the NT fauna dataset.

10.2 Describe potential impacts to species identified above from the proposed clearing.

Note: To determine the risk to threatened species, information should be considered at the scale of the proposed clearing and at a regional context. Consider any associations that the species may have with landforms, vegetation structure or dominant plant species proposed for clearing.

Common name	Potential impact	Risk*	Justification
Gouldian Finch	Loss of native grass seed resources, shelter and any suitable nesting hollows.	Medium	Records occur within 20 km, but none are mapped within the proposed clearing area. Recorded grasses include *Sorghum stipoideum* and *Chrysopogon fallax*, recognised food resources. The flat woodland differs from typical rocky breeding habitat, but seasonal foraging is plausible. Conversion to Sabi grass would alter the native seed resources.
Red Goshawk	Loss of woodland hunting habitat and potential nest trees; disturbance if an occupied nest is affected.	Medium	Records occur within 20 km, but none are mapped within the proposed clearing area. The woodland may provide hunting habitat. Recorded tree heights were 21.5 m or less at all but one inspection site, where 27 m was recorded. Preferred nesting habitat generally includes large trees near watercourses, which is not characteristic of the clearing area.
Grey Falcon	Localised loss of potential hunting and perching habitat; disturbance of nesting birds if present.	Low	Records occur within 20 km, but none are mapped within the proposed clearing area. The species principally occupies sparsely timbered arid and semi-arid plains, often associated with inland drainage systems. Land Type A is less characteristic habitat, although occasional hunting is possible.
Northern Shrike-tit	Loss and fragmentation of canopy foraging and potential breeding habitat.	Medium	Records occur within 20 km, but none are mapped within the proposed clearing area. Corymbia woodland is consistent with the species' habitat requirements. Its sparse distribution and resident behaviour mean that relatively small woodland areas may contribute to local territories.

Partridge Pigeon (eastern)	Loss of native seed resources, ground cover and potential nesting habitat; injury or mortality during clearing.	Medium	Records occur within 20 km, but none are mapped within the proposed clearing area. Grassy lowland woodland provides potential habitat. Clearing and pasture establishment would replace the native woodland–grass mosaic used for feeding, shelter and ground nesting.
Common Greenshank	Potential indirect degradation of offsite wetland habitat through sediment-laden runoff.	Low	Records occur within 20 km, but none are mapped within the proposed clearing area. The species feeds around shallow water and wetland margins. These habitats have not been identified within Land Type A, making direct habitat loss unlikely.
Ghost Bat	Loss of potential foraging habitat and hunting perches; possible entanglement if new barbed-wire fencing is installed.	Medium	Records occur within 20 km, but none are mapped within the proposed clearing area. No cave, mine or comparable roost feature is identified in or adjacent to the clearing area. Direct roost loss is therefore unlikely, but woodland may provide foraging habitat associated with regional roosts.
Northern Brushtail Possum	Loss of feeding habitat, shelter and any hollow-bearing trees; injury or mortality during clearing.	Medium	Records occur within 20 km, but none are mapped within the proposed clearing area. The woodland and variable shrub layer provide potential habitat.
Pale Field-rat	Loss of grassy shelter and food resources; destruction of occupied burrows and increased exposure to predators.	Medium	Records occur within 20 km, but none are mapped within the proposed clearing area. The species can occupy woodland with dense grassy understorey and shelters in shallow burrows. Land Type A provides potential habitat where ground cover is sufficiently dense.

Gulf Snapping Turtle	Potential indirect effects on downstream aquatic habitat from sediment, pollutants or altered runoff.	Low	Records occur within 20 km, but none are mapped within the proposed clearing area. The species depends on permanent river pools and associated riparian habitat, which are not identified within the footprint. Direct loss of aquatic or riverbank nesting habitat is unlikely.
Northern Blue-tongued Skink	Loss of foraging habitat and shelter; injury or mortality during clearing and increased exposure to heat, fire and predators.	Medium	Records occur within 20 km, but none are mapped within the proposed clearing area. Woodland and tussock grassland are recognised habitat types.
Mertens' Water Monitor	Potential indirect degradation of aquatic habitat through runoff; disturbance of individuals moving through the locality.	Low	Records occur within 20 km, but none are mapped within the proposed clearing area. The species is strongly associated with waterbodies and their margins. No comparable habitat is identified within the clearing extent, making direct loss of principal habitat unlikely.
Mitchell's Water Monitor	Potential indirect effects on offsite waterways and disturbance of dispersing individuals.	Low	Records occur within 20 km, but none are mapped within the proposed clearing area. This semi-aquatic species generally uses watercourse, swamp and lagoon margins, including trees near water. These habitat associations are not identified within the clearing extent.
Largetooth Sawfish	Potential downstream habitat degradation from sediment or pollutants.	Low	Records occur within 20 km, but none are mapped within the proposed clearing area. The species occupies rivers, estuaries and connected aquatic habitats, which are not identified within the footprint. The proposed non-irrigated pasture use does not involve an identified water-extraction or fish-passage impact.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Potential indirect degradation of offsite wetland feeding habitat.	Low	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. The species uses shallow wetlands and muddy water margins. No corresponding habitat feature is identified within the footprint.
Curlew Sandpiper	Potential indirect impacts on offsite wetland habitat through runoff.	Low	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. The species mainly uses coastal mudflats and occasionally inland wetlands. Land Type A lacks an identified wetland or exposed mudflat habitat.
Australian Painted Snipe	Potential indirect alteration or degradation of nearby wetland habitat.	Low	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. The species uses shallow permanent or temporary wetlands, including waterlogged grasslands. The woodland, well-drained soils and seasonal imagery indicate a poor overall habitat match.
Masked Owl (northern)	Loss of potential hunting habitat and suitable nesting or roosting hollows; disturbance or mortality if an occupied tree is cleared.	Medium	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. Land Type A differs from the Darwin Stringybark–Darwin Woollybutt forests most commonly associated with this owl, but could provide hunting habitat.
Northern Quoll	Loss of potential foraging and shelter habitat; injury or mortality during clearing and increased exposure to predators.	Medium	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. No rocky denning habitat is identified, reducing the match with preferred refuges. However, quolls also use woodland and may shelter in hollow trees or logs, therefore potential use has been considered.

Northern Brush-tailed Phascogale	Loss of potential feeding habitat and den hollows; injury or mortality if occupied trees are cleared.	Medium	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. Land Type A differs from the tall Darwin Stringybark–Darwin Woollybutt forests most commonly associated with the species. Nevertheless, potential feeding resources and den hollows have been considered.
Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat	Loss of potential hollow-tree roosts and local foraging habitat; mortality if an occupied roost tree is felled.	Medium	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. Savanna woodland falls within the species' habitat range. Communal roosting in deep tree hollows means individual trees may be valuable habitat.
Fork-tailed Swift	Minor local changes to aerial insect availability and temporary disturbance.	Low	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. This non-breeding visitor feeds almost entirely in flight. Overflight is possible, but direct dependence on vegetation within the footprint is unlikely.
Saltwater Crocodile	Potential indirect effects on offsite aquatic habitat; disturbance of an occasional dispersing individual.	Low	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. No river, billabong, swamp or associated nesting habitat is identified within the footprint. The woodland is unlikely to support regular use.
Red-rumped Swallow	Minor alteration of potential aerial feeding opportunities and temporary disturbance.	Low	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. Feeding is predominantly over wetlands and well-watered grasslands. Woodland is a poor habitat match, although overflight is possible.

Oriental Cuckoo	Loss of potential seasonal feeding and resting habitat.	Medium	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. This migrant uses woodland and forest edges. Seasonal use of Land Type A is plausible, but its importance has not been established.
Barn Swallow	Minor alteration of aerial feeding habitat and temporary disturbance.	Low	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. Feeds over open vegetation, agricultural land and water. Occasional use is possible, but a concentrated feeding resource is not identified.
Grey Wagtail	Potential indirect degradation of offsite waterside feeding habitat.	Low	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. Strongly associated with water, particularly rocky watercourse margins. These features are not identified within the footprint.
Yellow Wagtail	Potential disturbance of occasional visitors, particularly during temporary wet conditions.	Low	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. Favours wet grasslands and wetland fringes. Land Type A lacks an identified corresponding habitat feature, making regular use unlikely.
Common Sandpiper	Potential indirect effects on offsite wetland margins through runoff.	Low	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. Uses muddy or rocky wetland margins. Such habitat is not identified within Land Type A, making direct habitat loss unlikely.
Pectoral Sandpiper	Potential indirect degradation of offsite shallow wetland feeding habitat.	Low	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. Associated with shallow freshwater to saline wetlands. No corresponding habitat feature is identified within the footprint.

Oriental Plover	Temporary disturbance of occasional visitors and alteration of potential open-ground feeding areas.	Low	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. Favours open grasslands and plains. Woodland with 20–50% canopy cover is a poor structural match.
Oriental Pratincole	Minor changes to aerial feeding opportunities and potential disturbance of resting birds.	Low	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. Uses open grasslands and wetland margins. Overflight is possible, but no regular feeding or resting area is identified.
Osprey	Possible loss of an occasional perch or nest tree if present; indirect effects on offsite fish habitat.	Low	No records are mapped within 20 km, including the proposed clearing area; occurrence is predicted by PMST. Associated with fish-bearing waters, including large northern rivers. No aquatic feeding habitat or nest is identified within the footprint.

*Use the following risk matrix (adapted from Table 17 in the NTPS LCG):

Risk rating	Characteristics
Low	The proposed clearing extent is characterised by a combination of factors such as: • It is a relatively small area • It does not contain sensitive or significant vegetation • It is unlikely to provide habitat for the identified species • It is unlikely to cause offsite impacts to the identified species.
Medium	The proposed clearing extent has characteristics between the Low and High risk classes. (e.g. it may support the identified species, however the local occurrence of the species may not be considered significant or the extent of clearing as a proportion of habitat available to the species may be sufficiently small enough to not pose a High risk).
High	The proposed clearing extent is important habitat for the identified species. Note: If the clearing has the potential to negatively impact the species identified, even a small clearing extent could be categorised as high risk.

10.3 Identify which of the following types of sensitive features are present within and in proximity to the proposed clearing extent.

Feature	NTPS LCG	Present/Absent*
Sensitive or significant vegetation such as rainforest, vine thicket, closed forest, riparian vegetation, mangroves and vegetation containing large trees with hollows suitable for fauna.	Section 4.4.6	Absent
Drainage depressions, streams, creeks and rivers	Section 4.4.7	Present

Wetlands and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems	Section 4.4.8	Absent
Sinkholes	Section 4.4.9	Absent

*If present, features must be ground-truthed in order to determine the adequacy of any proposed buffer.

Document	Attachment Number
☒ Attach a map showing the location/s of these features	9
☒ Attach supporting field verified data (e.g. spatial data of site inspection track, site locations, photo points and photos)	10

10.4 Identify the individual sensitive features within and in proximity to the proposed clearing extent and the associated Land Type.

Note: Refer to the relevant sections of the NTPS LCG (identified above) for information regarding recommended native vegetation buffer widths and value attribution.

Feature	Land Type	Value / Order	Location in relation to proposed clearing extent	NTPS LCG recommended buffer width (m)	Proposed buffer width (m)
Examples:					
Dry Rainforest	*8d*	*Low*	*West of polygon 4*	*50m*	*150m*
Crocodile Creek	*5c*	*2nd order stream*	*East of polygon 1*	*50m*	*125m*
Wetland	*6a*	*High*	*South of polygon 2*	*250m*	*250m*
DEPRESSION 1	-	Low	South of Clearing Plan V1	25m	25m
Riparian/wetland GDE	-	High	North of Clearing Plan V1	250m	250m

10.5 Provide reasons for discretion and describe proposed mitigation measures for any proposed buffers that are not consistent with the NTPS LCG recommendations.

Note: Additional supporting evidence should be attached.

Feature	Reasons for discretion	Proposed mitigation
(Discretion not requested)		

☐ Attach relevant supporting evidence. Attachment No: _____

10.6 Identify the wildlife corridors to be retained within proximity of the proposed clearing extent and reasons for siting and design.

Note: A corridor of 100m is considered the minimum width to be viable in the NT context for clearing between 100 and 500ha. A corridor of 200m is considered to be the minimum width for clearing greater than or equal to 500ha. As a default, corridor density should be at a rate of one corridor per linear kilometre of clearing or equivalent – refer to NTPS LCG section 4.4.10.

Note: Question 3 in the Land Management Plan (template available at **Appendix E** – Land Management Plan) addresses property boundary buffers.

Corridor ID	Location	Proposed width (m)	Justification
Example: Eastern corridor	*Between polygons 1 and 2*	*200m*	*Connects areas of species X habitat and incorporates low value wetland.*
No corridors proposed			

10.7 Does the proposed clearing or property fall wholly or partly within, or is adjacent to, areas recognised as having biodiversity value/s?

Note: A biodiversity value may be recognised as: internationally – Ramsar Convention; or nationally – Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia, important wetlands, Sites of Conservation Significance (SoCS), sites on the Register of the National Estate, National Parks, Priority Environmental Management Areas, Conservation zones*.

☒ Yes ☐ No

10.8 Describe conservation areas and natural features.

Description of conservation area	Distance to proposed clearing	Identified values present within clearing area? Y / N
Mataranka thermal pools	0m	Y
Elsey National Park	~4.5m	N

☒ Show the location of any conservation areas in proximity to the proposed clearing footprint on the land type map and clearing plan.

*Information about conservation areas can be found at:

- Section 4.4.5 of the NTPS LCG
- NT Sites of Conservation Significance
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia
- Australia's Ramsar Sites
- NR Maps Parks and Reserves

10.9 Assess the risk of the proposed clearing to regional biodiversity and provide an overall risk rating.

Note: To determine the risk to regional biodiversity, information is to be considered at the scale of the proposed clearing footprint and evaluated within a regional context. Refer to Section 4.4.2 and 4.4.3 of the NTPS LCG or contact the Flora and Fauna Division, DLPE via email Biodiversity.Assessments@nt.gov.au or telephone: (08) 8995 5000.

Consideration	Yes/No	Explain
Are there any important biodiversity values within the proposed clearing extent?	Yes	he proposed clearing extent falls within the Mataranka Thermal Pools Site of Conservation Significance (SoCS 31), which is recognised for its nationally significant wetlands, groundwater-fed springs, threatened species habitat and ecological importance within the upper Roper River system. However, the clearing extent comprises predominantly mixed Corymbia–Erythrophleum woodland on well-drained soils, rather than the aquatic, riparian and wetland habitats that contribute most significantly to the conservation values of the SoCS. The woodland provides potential foraging, shelter and movement habitat for threatened fauna identified in Sections 10.1 and 10.2.
Are there any important biodiversity values within proximity of the proposed clearing extent?	Yes	Elsey National Park is identified approximately 4.5 m from the proposed clearing extent. The property also occurs within the Mataranka Thermal Pools SoCS, which encompasses important groundwater-dependent ecosystems, spring-fed waterways, wetlands and riparian vegetation associated with the upper Roper River system. A riparian/wetland GDE is identified immediately north of the proposed clearing and is protected by a proposed 250 m native vegetation buffer. These areas provide habitat for threatened species and contribute to regional biodiversity and ecological connectivity.
Does the proposed clearing have the potential to impact any important biodiversity values?	Yes	The proposed clearing will result in the localised removal of native woodland and associated fauna habitat within a recognised conservation area. Potential impacts include habitat loss and fragmentation, disturbance to fauna and indirect impacts on nearby sensitive environments through sediment runoff, weed spread or changes to surface drainage. However, the clearing avoids identified riparian vegetation, wetlands and groundwater-dependent ecosystems, with appropriate riparian vegetation buffers proposed. The development is non-irrigated and does not require groundwater extraction, reducing the potential for impacts on groundwater-dependent ecosystems and the spring-fed aquatic systems of the region.

Consideration	Yes/No	Explain
Have all reasonable alternatives been considered to avoid impacts to important biodiversity values?	Yes	The proposed clearing layout has been developed with consideration of field-verified land types, regional SREBA vegetation and aquatic ecosystem mapping, sensitive environmental features and proximity to recognised conservation areas. The proposal retains a 250 m native vegetation buffer to the riparian/wetland GDE north of the clearing and a 25 m buffer to the identified drainage depression to the south. Clearing is confined to the predominantly well-drained woodland component of the property, avoiding direct disturbance to identified wetlands, riparian areas and aquatic habitats. These measures reduce the potential for direct and indirect impacts on important regional biodiversity values.
What is the overall biodiversity risk rating (Low, Medium, High)?	N/A	The proposed clearing involves a relatively small area of 50.98 ha within the Mataranka Thermal Pools Site of Conservation Significance (SoCS) and in close proximity to Elsey National Park. While the clearing will result in the localised removal of native woodland that may provide habitat for threatened fauna, extensive areas of native vegetation remain at a regional scale, particularly to the north and east of the proposed clearing extent. These areas provide ongoing habitat availability and ecological connectivity across the broader landscape, reducing the relative significance of the proposed habitat loss and potential impacts on fauna movement. The clearing footprint does not directly affect the spring-fed aquatic systems, wetlands, riparian vegetation or groundwater-dependent ecosystems that contribute significantly to the region's recognised conservation values. Proposed native vegetation buffers will protect identified sensitive features, while the non-irrigated land use avoids groundwater extraction and associated potential impacts on groundwater-dependent ecosystems. Considering the relatively small clearing extent, extensive availability of native vegetation in the surrounding landscape, avoidance of sensitive habitats and proposed mitigation measures, the overall risk to regional biodiversity is assessed as **Low to Medium**.

11. Infrastructure and amenity

11.1 Describe any public facilities, utilities or infrastructure within the locality and how any potential impacts from the proposed clearing development will be managed.

Infrastructure	Location	Potential impacts	Proposed mitigation
(None)			

11.2 Identify any public roads within 200m of the proposed clearing extent.

Note: Refer to NTPS LCG sections 4.3.5 and 4.3.5.1.

Please contact the relevant road authority if access from a public road is required.

For land adjoining a Northern Territory Government road reserve, Transport and Civil Services Division of the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure generally recommend that a vegetated buffer of a minimum width of 50m, be retained as native vegetation or established groundcover to reduce overland flow.

Please note that road buffers do not replace the need for the retention of appropriate property boundary buffers in accordance with the NTPS LCG Section 4.3.3.

Road name	Distance from proposed clearing extent (m)
Roper Highway	210 m
Stuart Highway	9,200 m

11.3 Assess the risks posed to the following public values and the proposed mitigation measures.

Note: Risk assessment should describe the likelihood of impacts occurring and the potential consequences.

Value	Risk and consequence	Mitigation
Amenity	**Low.** The proposed clearing is located in a rural setting and is not in close proximity to residential or urban development. Clearing and establishment works may result in temporary localised noise, dust and visual disturbance; however, these effects are expected to be limited to the establishment period and are unlikely to materially affect public amenity.	Clearing and establishment activities will be managed to minimise dust and unnecessary disturbance. Existing vegetation outside the approved clearing extent will be retained, including required buffers, to limit visual and off-site impacts.
Recreation	**Low.** No public recreational facilities or recognised recreation areas occur within or immediately adjacent to the proposed clearing extent. Recreational destinations in the broader Mataranka locality are separated from the clearing area and are not expected to be directly affected by the development.	Clearing will be confined to the approved development footprint and will not restrict public access to established recreational areas or facilities.

Tourism	**Low.** There are no tourism interests within proximity to the proposed clearing extent. The nearest identified tourism and visitor destinations are 12 Mile Yards and Jalmurark Campground approximately 7.6 km north, Stevie's Hole 8.7 km north-west, Elsey Freedom Camping Ground 8.7 km west/south-west, Mataranka Falls 9.8 km north-east and Mataranka Hot Springs 10 km north. Mataranka township is approximately 13.7 km north-west. Other nearby public infrastructure includes Mataranka Airfield approximately 8.8 km west and the Stuart Highway approximately 9.2 km west. Given these separation distances and the relatively small-scale rural nature of the development, adverse effects on tourism values, visitor access or visitor experience are unlikely.	No specific tourism mitigation is considered necessary. Clearing and development activities will remain within the property and will not affect access to, or operation of, identified tourism destinations.

12. Land Management

12.1 Attach land management plans

Document	Attachment Number
☒ Attach a proposed Establishment Plan (see template at **Appendix C – Establishment Plan**	12
☒ Attach a proposed Staging Plan (see template at **Appendix D – Staging Plan**)	13
☒ Attach a proposed Land Management Plan, including slope and runoff map (see template at **Appendix E – Land Management Plan**)	14, 15, 16A & 16B

13. Weed Management

13.1 List all weeds declared under the *Weeds Management Act 2001* present within the property and describe the proximity of species to the proposed clearing extent.

Note: For information refer to section 4.6 of the NTPS LCG.

Further information can be found at Weeds | NT.GOV.AU and NR Maps.

Weed species	Class	Location	Density
Example: Grader grass	*Class B*	*Along verge of main station road; 200m upslope of proposed clearing polygon X at closest point.*	*Uncommon. Occasional individual plants only.*

Hyptis	Class B	Observed occasionally during site inspection. No distinct location of occurrence.	Uncommon. Scattered occurrence on property.
Sida	Class B	Observed occasionally during site inspection. No distinct location of occurrence.	Uncommon. Scattered occurrence on property.

13.2 Provide details of weed management on the property.

Note: Consider whether the weed has a statutory Weed Management Plan. Information available at Weed management plans and regional strategies | NT.GOV.AU.

Weed species	Management aim	Method	Current / Proposed
Hyptis *Hyptis sauveolens*	Eradication and contain spread.	Spot spray seedlings and adults with 2-4,D amine 625g/L @ 320mL/100L + spray adjuvant during periods of active growth.	Method is both current and proposed.
Sida *Sida sp.*	Eradication and contain spread.	Spot spray seedlings and adults with 2-4,D amine 625g/L @ 320mL/100L + spray adjuvant during periods of active growth.	Method is both current and proposed.

☐ Attach supporting information (e.g. a property weed management plan)

Attachment No: N/A

14. Cultural Heritage

14.1 Contact the Heritage Branch, DLPE for advice regarding the proposed clearing in relation to the *Heritage Act 2011*.

The Heritage Branch can be contacted via email: heritage.branch@nt.gov.au or telephone (08) 8999 5039.

☒ Attach a copy of the advice from Heritage Branch. Attachment No: 17

14.2 Provide details of any heritage or archaeological surveys conducted within the property and any findings relevant to the proposed clearing extent.

Survey name	Year conducted	Completed by	Findings relevant to the proposed clearing extent
(None known)			

☐ Attach relevant information from the survey relevant to the proposed clearing extent (e.g. maps, site descriptions). Attachment No: _____

14.3 Provide details of any known (i) places, (ii) archaeological places, or (iii) Aboriginal or Macassan archaeological places, within the meaning of the *Heritage Act 2011* located within the property.

For more information go to Heritage Register: search for places or objects | NT.GOV.AU.

Note: Risk assessment should describe the likelihood of impacts occurring and the potential consequences.

Place / Site	Location in relation to the proposed clearing extent	Risk	Mitigation
(None)			

☐ Attach a map showing the location of any declared sites/places in proximity to the proposed clearing extent. Attachment No: _____

14.4 Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) Abstract of Records

Contact AAPA to obtain an Abstract of Records online at Request for Information | Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.

Note: Consent is required from AAPA to share the Abstract of Records with the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment, and the relevant Land Council for the purpose of lodging a land clearing application. Please request consent directly from AAPA.

Document	Attachment Number
☒ Attach the Abstract of Records	18A
☒ Attach consent to share Abstract of Records	18B

14.5 Provide details of any sacred sites within the meaning of the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* located within proximity of the proposed clearing extent.

For more information contact the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.

Note: Risk assessment should describe the likelihood of impacts occurring and the potential consequences.

Site	Location in relation to the proposed clearing extent	Risk	Mitigation
(None)			

☐ Attach a map showing the location of any declared sites in proximity to the proposed clearing extent.

Attachment No: _____

14.6 Have you, or do you intend to apply for an Authority Certificate?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide a copy of the Authority Certificate as part of the application or before the application is determined. Attachment No: _____

15. Environment Protection

Proposals that have the potential to have a significant impact on the environment require a referral to the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) in accordance with the *Environment Protection Act 2019*.

Refer to the document Referring a proposal to the NT EPA or contact the Environment Division, DLPE via telephone (08) 8924 4218 or email eia.ntepa@nt.gov.au for further information.

Note: An applicant is required to self-refer, or obtain appropriate advice from the NT EPA that self-referral is not required, if the proposed clearing results in a total of 5,000ha to be cleared in aggregate.

If a project is assessed and granted an environmental approval under the *Environment Protection Act 2019* then a land clearing permit granted under the *Planning Act 1999* is not required.

15.1 Has the application been referred for assessment under the *Environment Protection Act 2019*?

☐ Yes, referred

☒ No, not referred. A completed referral checklist is required, located in Appendix 1 of Referring a proposal to the NT EPA.

Document	Attachment Number
☐ Referred: Attach advice from the NT EPA	
☒ Not referred: Attach a completed referral checklist	19

15.2 Assess the risks associated with the following potential pollutants from clearing and development works and describe the proposed mitigation measures.

Consideration of risk should include potential sources, the likelihood of impacts occurring and the potential consequences.

Note: Under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998* everyone in the NT has a 'general environmental duty' to not carry out any activity that causes or is likely to cause environmental harm, unless measures to prevent or minimise the harm have been taken. For more information refer to the following website Environmental obligations and duties | NTEPA or contact the Environment Division, DLPE via telephone (08) 8924 4218 or email pollution@nt.gov.au.

For information regarding spray drift and the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical (Control of Use) Act 2004* contact Chemicals Services, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries via email chemicals@nt.gov.au or telephone 08 8999 2344.

Potential pollutants	Risk	Mitigation
Dust	**Low to Moderate during clearing and establishment; Low following pasture establishment.** Mechanical clearing, debris removal, cultivation and vehicle movements may generate localised dust, particularly during dry and windy conditions. Potential impacts include temporary nuisance and off-site dust movement towards adjoining land.	Undertake works when soil conditions are suitable, minimise unnecessary vehicle movements and exposed soil, cease or modify dust-generating activities during unfavourable wind conditions, maintain retained vegetation buffers and establish permanent pasture groundcover as soon as practicable.
Chemical spray drift	**Low to Moderate.** Herbicides will be used during site preparation and ongoing weed management. Off-target application could affect adjoining native vegetation or nearby land if spraying is undertaken under unsuitable weather conditions.	Apply herbicides strictly in accordance with label directions using suitable equipment and trained operators. Avoid spraying during strong or variable winds, temperature inversions or other unsuitable conditions, use appropriate low-drift application techniques and prevent application into retained vegetation and sensitive areas.
Chemical runoff (to surrounding land or riparian systems)	**Low.** The proposed development is non-irrigated and occurs on predominantly gentle terrain. Herbicides and fertiliser could potentially be transported in runoff if applied immediately before intense rainfall.	Apply agricultural chemicals and fertiliser at recommended rates and under suitable weather conditions. Avoid application immediately prior to significant rainfall, retain nominated vegetation buffers, maintain natural drainage patterns and exclude chemical application from drainage depressions and groundwater-dependent ecosystem buffers.

Groundwater contamination	**Low.** No groundwater extraction or irrigation is proposed. Potential contamination pathways are limited principally to accidental fuel or chemical spills associated with machinery and pasture establishment.	Store and handle fuel and agricultural chemicals appropriately, undertake refuelling away from drainage features and sensitive areas, maintain spill-response materials on site, promptly contain and clean up spills and dispose of chemical containers in accordance with label and regulatory requirements.

16. Other relevant information

16.1 Provide any additional relevant information not addressed above and outline in the table below.

Description	Attachment Number
PMST report	20
SOCS 31 Mataranka Thermal Pools	21

17. Checklist of Attachments and Required Spatial Data

Complete the following checklist.

Note: Spatial data for the items indicated must be provided before the application will be accepted. ESRI shapefile (.shp) is the preferred format. Please refer to the spatial data requirements: Spatial data for clearing applications | NT.GOV.AU. Contact landclearing.DLPE@nt.gov.au for assistance.

Attachment No.	Name	Question No.	Spatial data
1	Owners/s Authorisation form	2	N/A
2	Map of existing clearing	6.1	**Required**
3	Relevant information about the intended use	7.1	N/A
4	Proposed clearing plan and spatial data	7.2	**Required**
-	Water licence &/or bore reports	8.2	N/A
5	Land Type map and spatial data	9.1	**Required**
6	Land Type descriptions	9.1 / Appendix A	N/A
6A, 6B, 6C	Supporting field data	9.1	**Required**
7	LCA table	9.2 / Appendix B	N/A
8	LCA map	9.2	N/A
-	LSA report and map	9.4	N/A
9, 10	Sensitive features map and supporting field data	10.3	**Required**
-	Buffer discretion – supporting evidence	10.5	N/A
11	Conservation areas	10.7	N/A
12	Establishment Plan	12.1 / Appendix C	N/A
13	Staging Plan	12.1 / Appendix D	N/A
14	Land Management Plan	12.1 / Appendix E	N/A
15	Slope & runoff map	12.1 / Appendix E-2	**Required**
16A, 16B	ESC map	12.1 / Appendix E-9	Optional
-	ESC details	12.1 / Appendix E-10	N/A
-	Weed management supporting information	13.2	N/A
17	Heritage Branch advice	14.1	
-	Heritage/archaeological survey information	14.2	N/A
-	Map of heritage/archaeological places	14.3	N/A
18A	Abstract of Records	14.4	N/A
18B	Consent to share Abstract of Records	14.4	N/A
-	Map of sacred sites	14.5	N/A
-	NT EPA advice	15.1	Optional
19	NT EPA referral checklist	15.1	N/A
20, 21	Other additional information	16	Optional

Appendix A – Land Type description proforma

Refer to question 9.1.

Note: Complete one table per Land Type. Data generated from Land Type field investigations needs to be provided – refer to the NTPS LCG – section 4.2.5.

☐ Attach map and spatial data showing site inspection track, site locations, photo points and Land Types.

Attachment No: _____

Attribute	Description
Land Type	*E.g. Use a letter or number to distinguish each Land Type.*
Landform	*E.g. Describe the landform, slope range, extent of surface rock. Refer to NTPS LCG Section 4.2.4.*
Soil	*E.g. Describe the dominant soil in this Land Type highlighting features such as soil texture, depth, colour, occurrence of surface gravel or cracking, Wet season drainage. Refer to NTPS LCG Section 4.2.4.*
Vegetation	*E.g. Describe the average height and cover of the upper-storey (e.g. individual tree canopies generally overlapping, partially separated, clearly separated or very sparse) and the dominant trees, shrubs, grasses and weeds. Refer to Section 4.2.5 (NVIS level 5).*
Photo No.	*E.g. Insert numbered photo (representative of Land Type) and show location on map.*

Appendix B – Land Capability Assessment table

Refer to question 9.2

Note: Refer to the NTPS LCG – Land Capability Assessment (section 4.2.7.1).

Land Type	Acid Sulfate Soils	Flooding	Microrelief	Salinity	Sodicity	Slope	Soil depth	Drainage	Surface Rock	Wind erosion	Initial capability class	Overall capability class

Appendix C – Establishment Plan

Refer to question 12.1

Note: Refer to NTPS LCG sections 4.3.2.3 and 4.3.2.4.

Activity	Timing (month & year)	Methods/Details
Demolition of vegetation		Machinery and techniques:
Removal of debris		Machinery and techniques, including burning, mulching, temporary location and removal of windrows:
Site preparation		Machinery and techniques, use of raised beds and their angle to contour:
Planting		Machinery and techniques:
Weed management		Indicate control methods:
Regrowth management		Indicate control methods:
Grazing management (if applicable)		Outline when stock will be introduced and stocking regime to be used after establishment:
Crop management (if applicable)		Outline how crops will be tilled and/or rotated and whether any additional crops or pastures are likely to be added in the future:

Appendix D – Staging Plan

Refer to question 12.1

Note: Refer to NTPS LCG section 4.3.2.4.

Requested Permit Base Period

Clearing of native vegetation development permits allow for a base period of two years to comply with the conditions. Where the works permitted under the permit are substantially commenced within two years the permit is automatically extended by a further two years. Applicants may request a longer base period that is appropriate to the proposed clearing program if appropriate justification is provided.

Requested Base Period:

☐ 2 years

☐ Other (please specify): _____

Justification for the Requested Base Period
Please explain why the requested base period is appropriate for the proposed clearing activities.

Staging

Year	Site ID (e.g. polygon / paddock)

Appendix E – Land Management Plan

Refer to question 12.1

Note: The following Land Management Plan should be developed with reference to the proposed Establishment and Staging Plan. It is not an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP). For large or complex clearing areas, preparation and implementation of an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) can be an effective way of managing erosion risk – however it is not an alternative to retaining native vegetation which should otherwise be retained in accordance with the NTPS LCG, or used as a "catch-all" means of mitigating other risks the clearing may pose (see NTPS LCG section 4.3.2.5).

Whether a formal ESCP is required as a condition of a land clearing permit will be at the discretion of the consent authority based on the advice of the Land Management Unit, DLPE and will depend on the level of detail provided in this Land Management Plan and the erosion risk associated with the proposal. For further information, contact the Land Management Unit, DLPE on (08) 8999 4404.

1. Provide a general description of the soil loss factors for the proposed clearing extent.

Note: Refer to Section 4.3.2 of the NTPS LCG.

Factor	Description
Rainfall Consider the climatic zone, seasonal outlook and proposed timing of works	
Soil Consider the erodibility of soil types present based on soil type texture and structure. Note whether soils are dispersive or sodic.	
Length of slope Indicate the average length of slope within the proposed clearing extent and areas that exceed this.	
Slope gradient (%) Indicate the range of slope within the proposed clearing extent (e.g. 0-2%) and areas that exceed 2%.	
Groundcover Consider the timing, duration and frequency of soil exposure.	
Management Consider the level of soil disturbance associated with the proposed method of clearing and land use.	

2. Describe where rainfall runoff flows within the proposed clearing extent.

Polygon	Direction of runoff	Receiving environment

☐ Attach map showing slope gradient, direction of runoff and field verified slope points within the proposed clearing extent.

Attachment No: _____

3. Identify whether property boundary buffers will be retained in accordance with the NTPS LCG and provide reasons for discretion (if required).

Note: Valid reasons must be provided for instances where no property boundary buffers or buffers less than the NTPS LCG recommendations are proposed to be retained. Refer to section 4.3.3 of the NTPS LCG.

Note: Property boundary buffers must exclude firebreaks – refer to section 4.3.6 of the NTPS LCG.

Property Boundary	Proposed buffer width (m)	Reasons for discretion

4. Describe any land management buffers to be retained within proximity of the proposed clearing extent.

Note: A land management buffer is different to a wildlife corridor or property boundary buffer – refer to section 4.3.4 of the NTPS LCG.

Buffer ID	Location	Width (m)	Purpose and design justification

5. Describe any existing erosion within the proposed clearing extent.

Note: Erosion types include: wind, sheet, rill, gully or tunnel erosion.

Erosion Site	Location	Cause	Erosion type & description	Mitigation

6. **Considering all information provided above; describe the potential risk, likelihood and impact of erosion associated with the proposed development.**

Source of risk	Likelihood of occurring	Potential impacts

7. **Considering all information provided above; describe the proposed erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures to be implemented during the clearing and establishment phase of the development.**

ESC measure	Location	Temporary/Permanent	Description

8. **Considering all the information provided above; describe the proposed erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures to be implemented during the operational phase of the development.**

ESC measure	Location	Temporary/Permanent	Description

9. **Provide an erosion and sediment control (ESC) map showing the location of the following information.**

☐ Attach an ESC map showing the location of the following within the proposed clearing extent:

- Land management buffers (Question 4)
- Existing erosion (Question 5)
- Temporary ESC measures to be installed (Question 7 & 8)
- Permanent ESC measures to be installed (Question 7 & 8)
- Firebreaks, tracks and fences.

Attachment No: _____

10. **Provide any ESC standard drawings or design details.**

Note: The level of information required will depend on the complexity of the proposed measures. Information is available at Soil, land and vegetation | NT.GOV.AU.

☐ Attach ESC standard drawings / design details Attachment No: _____

12 October 2026

Land Development Coordination

Department of Lands, Planning and Environment

PO Box 496, Palmerston NT 0831

Subject: Letter of authorisation to submit an application to clear native vegetation.

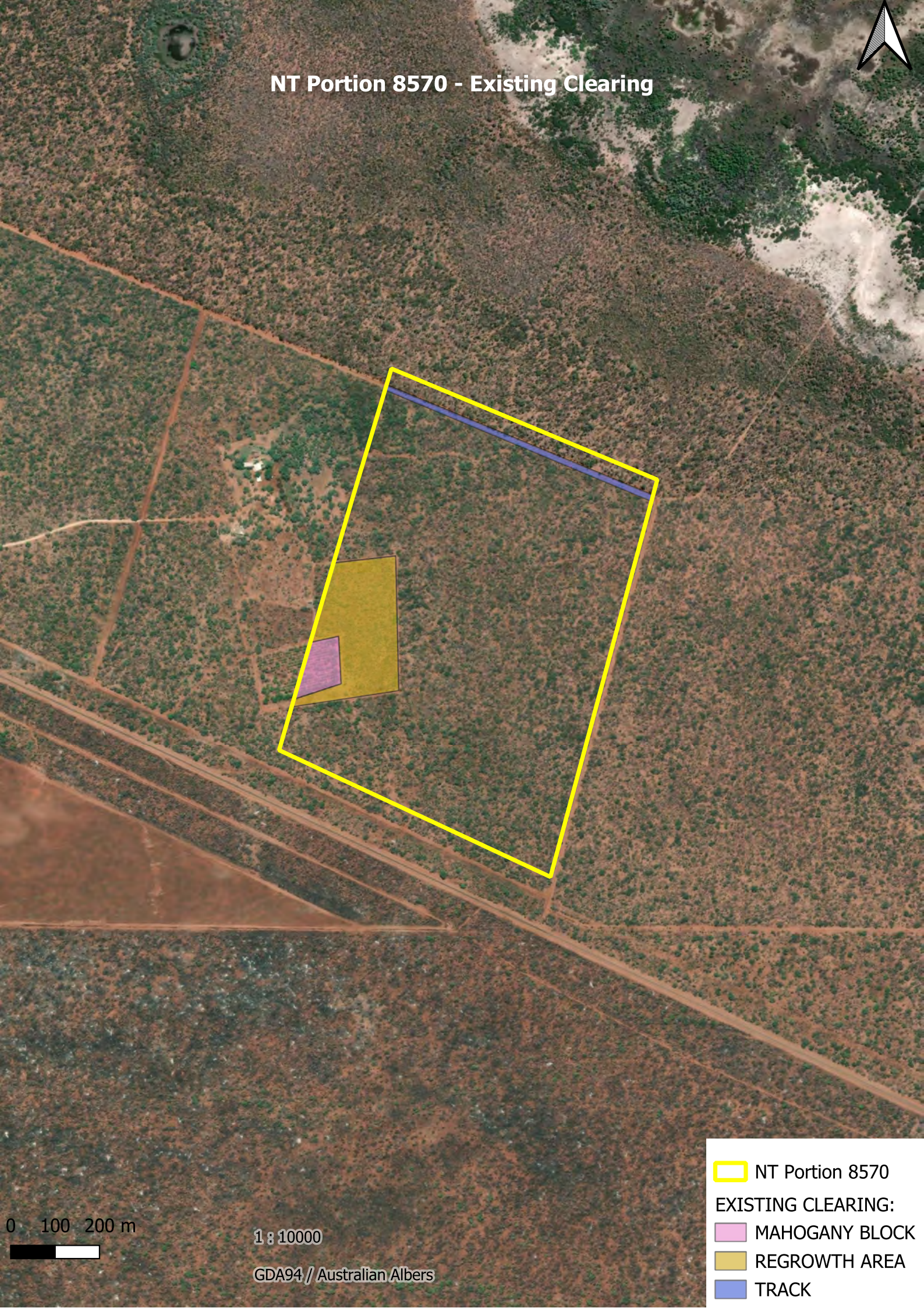
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to give authorisation for Helen Groves (Magnat Agri Services) to submit an application to clear native vegetation for NT Portion 8570 on behalf of Zoe Lee Dehne and Claytan Leigh Dehne, as the owners of the property the application relates to.

Best regards,

.....
Zoe Lee Dehne

.....
Claytan Leigh Dehne


NT Portion 8570 - Existing Clearing
NT Portion 8570
EXISTING CLEARING:
MAHOGANY BLOCK
REGROWTH AREA
TRACK
0 100 200 m
1 : 10000
GDA94 / Australian Albers

Agnote

No: E27

August 2010

Sabi Grass

(Urochloa mosambicensis)

A. G. Cameron, Principal Pastures and Extension Agronomist, Darwin

DESCRIPTION

Sabi grass (*Urochloa mosambicensis*) is a perennial with a variable plant habit. It may have stolons or short rhizomes.

Stems are smooth, erect and up to 100 cm tall and often branch at the nodes. Flowering spikes are up to 15 cm long. The leaves are often in clusters and are hairy on both the upper and lower surfaces. They are 15 cm long and 15 mm wide.

One suitable cultivar called Nixon was released in the Northern Territory (NT). It differs from the general description of sabi grass as described above in that it has short rhizomes and erect stems reaching up to 80 cm in length and its leaves are pale to bright green, 10 to 15 mm wide and 10 to 20 cm long, tapering to a point. In a dense stand, the leaves are usually erect, while in sparse stands they are mostly semi-erect. Flowering spikes are 2 to 6 cm long. Nixon commences flowering three to four weeks after the first rains of the wet season and continues to produce inflorescences until soil moisture is exhausted in the dry season. Seeds are a light buff or cream in colour and number about a million per kilogram.

Figure 1. Nixon seedhead

In Queensland, the seeds of a 'common' strain are harvested and sold. This strain may have the same origin as Nixon.

A new cultivar called Saraji, which was developed as a ground cover for mining revegetation in Central Queensland, preformed poorly at Berrimah Farm, near Darwin. It may perform better in drier areas.

CLIMATE AND SOILS

A native of southern and eastern Africa, sabi grass is suitable for monsoonal areas which have an annual rainfall of 500 to 1200 mm. It has become naturalised in the NT, particularly around Katherine and in the Douglas/Daly area, as well as in Queensland.

It will grow on a wide range of soil types, from clay loams to sandy soils, including Tippera and Blain soils.

Sabi grass is fairly drought-resistant but will not tolerate flooding or prolonged water-logging.

Nixon responds well to light unseasonal rainfall and early wet season storms.

SOWING

Establishment is relatively easy because a thin stand will thicken up over time from seed set by existing plants.

For best results, seed should be sown onto a well-prepared seedbed at the rate of 1 to 4 kg/ha.

Freshly-harvested seed will not germinate because of seed dormancy, but it can be used six to 12 months after harvest.

MANAGEMENT

Fertiliser Requirements
Sabi grass responds well to increased amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen in the soil.

Seeds should be sown with 50 to 150 kg/ha of superphosphate, depending on soil type and rainfall. Maintenance dressings of 25 to 50 kg/ha of superphosphate should be applied annually.

Nitrogen should be supplied to the pasture by planting a legume with sabi grass.

Yield
Dry matter production from sabi grass of 4 to 6 t/ha has been achieved from grazed and un-grazed swards where no nitrogen fertiliser was applied. Sabi grass yields reached 10 to 12 t/ha following nitrogen application at the rate of 100 to 200 kg /ha. Up to three crops of sabi seed of 50 kg/ha or more can be produced at six-weekly intervals during the wet season.

Grazing
Sabi grass is very palatable and can withstand close grazing. It hays off rapidly as the soil dries out and forage quality declines rapidly in the dry season. However, it often continues to produce some green material during the dry season.

Mixtures
Amiga,Verano, Wynn, Seca, Siran and Cavalcade legumes may be included in mixtures with sabi grass.

Note: Sabi grass tolerates burning.

PESTS AND DISEASES

There is no evidence of pests or diseases that affect sabi grass production in the NT.

WARNING

Pasture plants have the potential to become weeds in certain situations. To prevent that, ensure that pasture seeds and/or vegetative materials are not inadvertently transferred to adjacent properties or road sides.

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www.nt.gov.au/d

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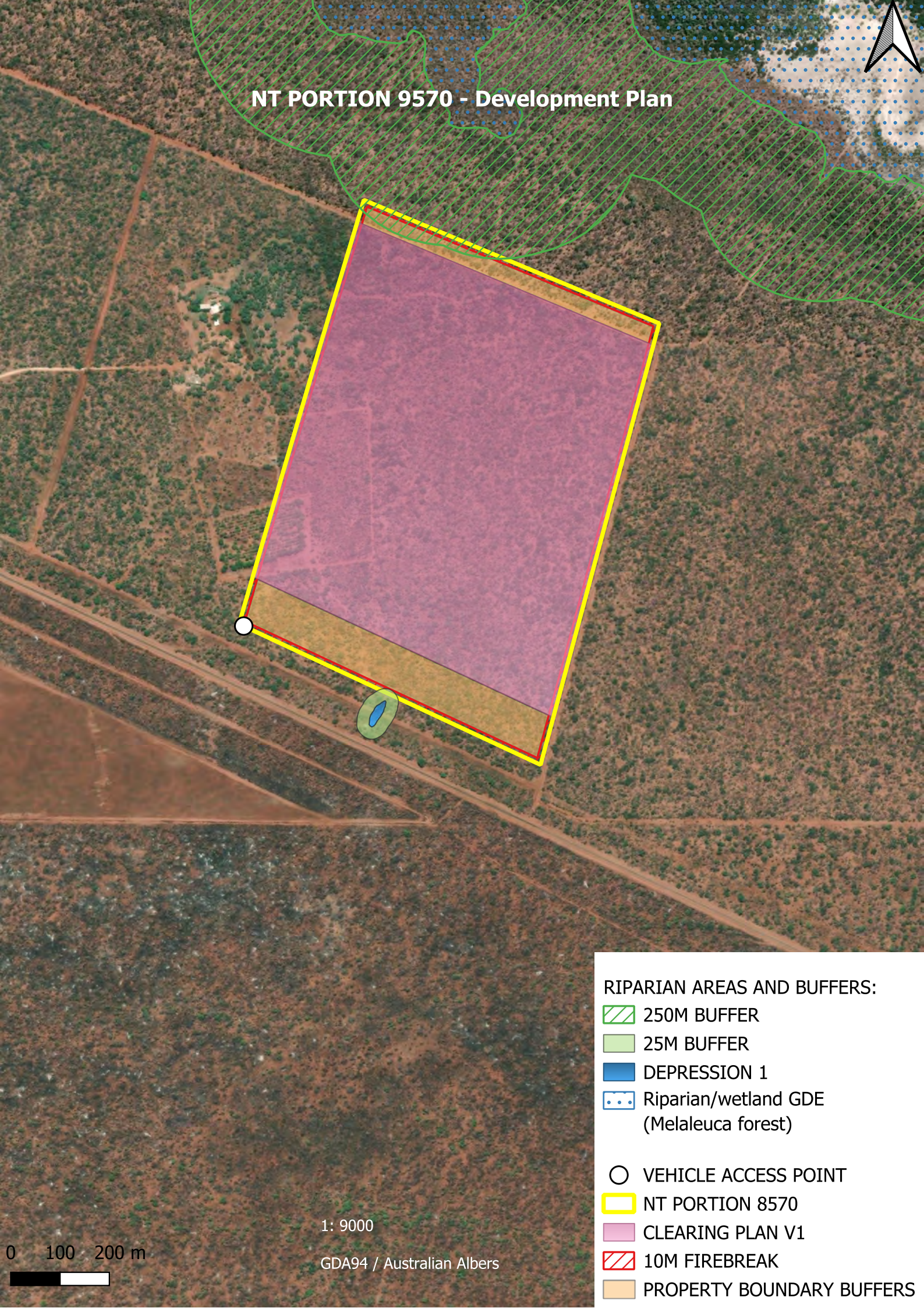
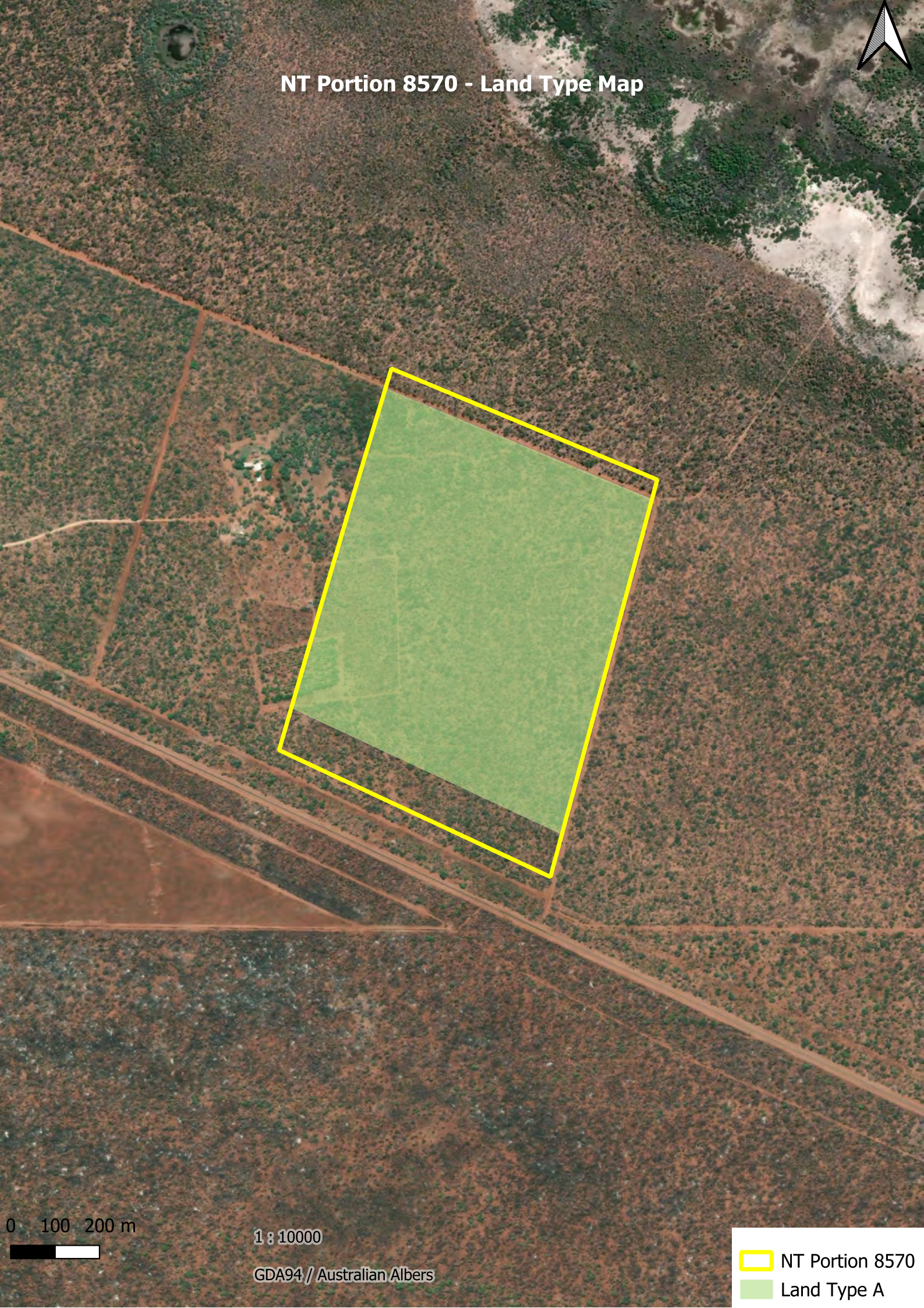

NT PORTION 9570 - Development Plan
RIPARIAN AREAS AND BUFFERS:
250M BUFFER
25M BUFFER
DEPRESSION 1
Riparian/wetland GDE
(Melaleuca forest)
VEHICLE ACCESS POINT
NT PORTION 8570
CLEARING PLAN V1
10M FIREBREAK
PROPERTY BOUNDARY BUFFERS
1: 9000
GDA94 / Australian Albers
0 100 200 m


NT Portion 8570 - Land Type Map
0 100 200 m
1 : 10000
GDA94 / Australian Albers
NT Portion 8570
Land Type A

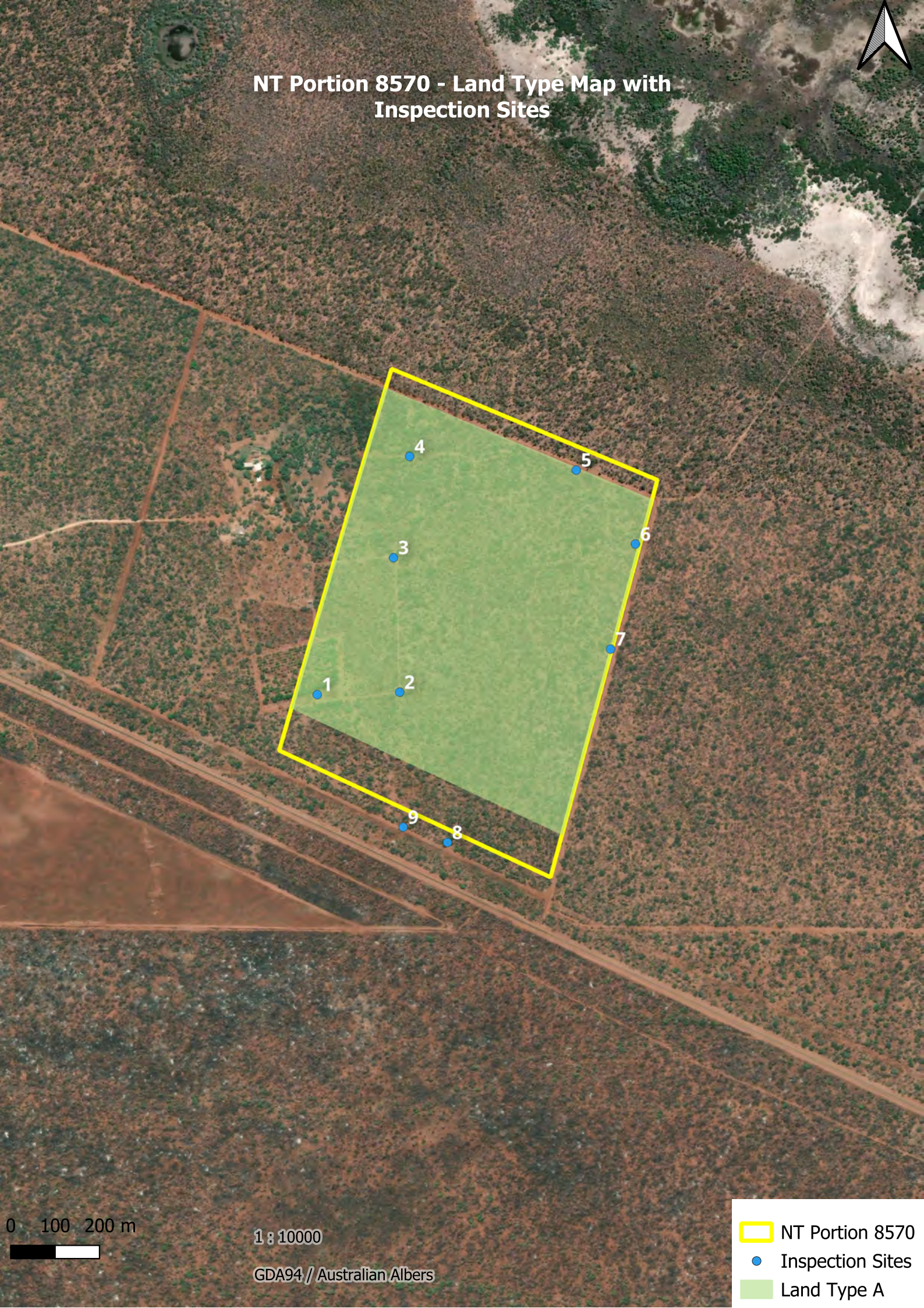
NT Portion 8570 – Land Type description

☒ Attach map and spatial data showing site inspection track, site locations, photo points and Land Types.

Attachment No: 6A

Attribute	Description
Land Type	*E.g. Use a letter or number to distinguish each Land Type.* A
Landform	*E.g. Describe the landform, slope range, extent of surface rock. Refer to NTPS LCG Section 4.2.4.* Flat to very gently sloping plain with low local relief. Field-measured slopes range from 0–0.5% at Sites 1–5. DEM analysis indicates slopes generally below 1%, with approximately 99% of the proposed clearing footprint below 2% and localised steeper areas. No surface gravel was recorded at inspection Sites 1–7. A localised drainage depression occurs south of the property boundary, outside the proposed clearing footprint.
Soil	*E.g. Describe the dominant soil in this Land Type highlighting features such as soil texture, depth, colour, occurrence of surface gravel or cracking, Wet season drainage. Refer to NTPS LCG Section 4.2.4.* Deep, well-drained red to reddish-brown Chromosols with sandy loam to loamy sand surface horizons over heavier clayey subsoil. Field observations recorded predominantly red or reddish-brown sandy loam and loamy sand, with no surface gravel or cracking observed and generally rapid to well-drained conditions. SALI profiles 554829 and 554830 within NT Portion 8570 confirm a texture-contrast soil profile, with loamy sand extending to approximately 0.45–0.60 m, underlain by sandy clay loam and/or light clay to at least 1.5 m depth. Seasonal moisture increases occur during the wet season, but the available NDMI, NDWI and TCW90 evidence does not indicate widespread persistent waterlogging or surface inundation across the land type.

Vegetation	*E.g. Describe the average height and cover of the upper-storey (e.g. individual tree canopies generally overlapping, partially separated, clearly separated or very sparse) and the dominant trees, shrubs, grasses and weeds. Refer to Section 4.2.5 (NVIS level 5).* Mid woodland, generally generally 13.5–21.5 m high at inspected sites, with one site recording an upper-storey height of approximately 27 m. Upper-storey canopy cover of approximately 20–50% and tree canopies predominantly partially separated. The upper stratum comprises a mixed Corymbia–Erythrophleum woodland. Commonly recorded tree species include *Corymbia confertiflora* and *Erythrophleum chlorostachys*, with *Corymbia bella*, *Corymbia greeniana*, *Terminalia platyphylla*, *Gyrocarpus americanus*, *Atalaya hemiglauca* and *Brachychiton paradoxus* occurring locally. The mid-storey is variable and includes species such as *Croton arnhemicus*, *Alphitonia excelsa*, *Flueggea virosa*, *Hakea arborescens*, *Acacia* spp. and *Grewia savannicola*. The ground layer is predominantly tussock grassland, with *Heteropogon contortus* the most consistently recorded grass species. Other recorded grasses include *Chrysopogon fallax*, *Schizachyrium fragile*, *Setaria surgens*, *Aristida inaequiglumis*, *Eragrostis cumingii* and *Sorghum stipoideum*. Introduced species recorded locally include *Hyptis suaveolens* and *Sida cordifolia*.
Photo No.	*E.g. Insert numbered photo (representative of Land Type) and show location on map.* See photos for Sites 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.


NT Portion 8570 - Land Type Map with Inspection Sites
1
2
3
4
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6
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8
9
0 100 200 m
1 : 10000
GDA94 / Australian Albers
NT Portion 8570
Inspection Sites
Land Type A

NT Portion 8570

Site 1

Date and time taken

02 July 2026 11:19 am ACST

Location (decimal degrees)

Latitude -15.011544
Longitude 133.169329

NT Portion 8570

Site 2

Date and time taken

02 July 2026 11:29 am ACST

Location (decimal degrees)

Latitude -15.011478
Longitude 133.171056

NT Portion 8570

Site 3

Date and time taken

02 July 2026 11:39 am ACST

Location (decimal degrees)

Latitude -15.008695
Longitude 133.170901

NT Portion 8570

Site 4

Date and time taken

02 July 2026 11:52 am ACST

Location (decimal degrees)

Latitude -15.006594
Longitude 133.171220

NT Portion 8570

Site 5

Date and time taken

02 July 2026 12:04 pm ACST

Location (decimal degrees)

Latitude -15.006846
Longitude 133.174711

NT Portion 8570

Site 6

Date and time taken

02 July 2026 12:13 pm ACST

Location (decimal degrees)

Latitude -15.008365
Longitude 133.175966

NT Portion 8570

Site 7

Date and time taken

02 July 2026 12:21 pm ACST

Location (decimal degrees)

Latitude -15.010546
Longitude 133.175466

NT Portion 8570

Site 8

Date and time taken

02 July 2026 12:39 pm ACST

Location (decimal degrees)

Latitude -15.014580
Longitude 133.172085

NT Portion 8570

Site 9

Date and time taken

02 July 2026 12:41 pm ACST

Location (decimal degrees)

Latitude -15.014272
Longitude 133.171156

Land Type Mapping Methodology

NT Portion 8570, Mataranka

Purpose

This methodology statement describes how the land type mapping for NT Portion 8570 was developed and validated. The mapping is a property-scale interpretation based primarily on field observations, plant identification and soil information. Regional vegetation mapping and remote-sensing products were used to provide context and to test whether separate land type boundaries were supported by the available evidence.

Information used

- Field inspection data collected on 2 July 2026 at nine MATA survey sites, including landform, slope, soil texture and colour, drainage, vegetation structure and site notes.
- Ground-truthed plant identification data for the nine field inspection sites.
- SALI soil profile data, including profiles 554829 and 554830 within NT Portion 8570.
- SREBA Broad Vegetation Group mapping and associated vegetation, soil, landform, significant vegetation and groundwater-dependent ecosystem information.
- NVIS vegetation mapping, mapped streams, springs and SREBA aquatic ecosystem/refugia data.
- Sentinel-2 Level-2A imagery and indices for 5 April 2024 and 2 September 2024, including analytical NDMI and rendered NDWI products.
- The 2024 TCW90 wetness product and aerial/satellite imagery.

Method

The regional SREBA and NVIS vegetation layers were used as a starting point only. Their mapped boundaries were not assumed to represent property-scale land type boundaries. The mapped units were checked against field observations of vegetation, soils, drainage and landform, together with the SALI soil profiles and seasonal moisture patterns.

Sites 2 to 7 occur within NT Portion 8570 and were used as the primary native vegetation and soil validation sites. Site 1 confirmed an African mahogany plantation and was treated as modified land. Sites 8 and 9 occur immediately south of the cadastral boundary and were used as local contextual observations only.

The on-property native sites consistently recorded flat to very gently sloping terrain, red to reddish-brown sandy loam or loamy sand surface soils, generally rapid to well-drained conditions, and mid woodland with 20–50% canopy cover. The plant identifications showed a recurring mixed woodland assemblage including *Corymbia confertiflora, Erythrophleum chlorostachys* and *Heteropogon contortus*, with *Corymbia bella, Terminalia platyphylla, Gyrocarpus americanus, Atalaya hemiglauca, Croton arnhemicus, Alphitonia excelsa, Flueggea virosa* and *Brachychiton* species occurring locally.

The shallow field soil observations were checked against SALI profiles 554829 and 554830. Both profiles are well-drained red Chromosols with loamy-sand surface horizons over heavier subsoil, including sandy clay loam and light clay at depth. This supported a consistent texture-contrast soil interpretation across the portion.

Esri World Imagery accessed via ArcGIS REST Services was used as the primary high-resolution satellite imagery for visual interpretation of vegetation patterns, disturbance, landform and drainage features.

Seasonal moisture behaviour was assessed using Sentinel-2 NDMI for 5 April 2024 and 2 September 2024. The April image represented late wet-season conditions following the very large 2024 wet season, while the September image provided a dry-season comparison. The seasonal NDMI response varied across the property but did not reproduce the mapped SREBA BVG 2/BVG 3 boundary. NDWI, TCW90, mapped streams and aquatic ecosystem information were also checked for evidence of coherent surface-water or wetland features.

A separate land type was only considered where there was a repeatable and spatially coherent difference in landform, soil, drainage and/or vegetation supported by more than one line of evidence. Regional vegetation boundaries or isolated moisture anomalies were not used on their own to define land types.

Land type interpretation

Land Type A – Mixed Corymbia–Erythrophleum woodland on well-drained red Chromosols was adopted as the single broad native land type across NT Portion 8570. The unit represents a flat to very gently sloping red-earth plain with sandy loam to loamy sand surface horizons over clayey subsoil and mixed *Corymbia–Erythrophleum* woodland.

The confirmed African mahogany plantation is mapped separately as modified land rather than as a natural land type. The SREBA BVG 2, BVG 3 and small BVG 6 polygons are retained as regional/context layers but were not adopted as land type boundaries because the site-specific evidence did not demonstrate a consistent corresponding change in vegetation, soil, drainage or seasonal moisture response.

References and supporting data

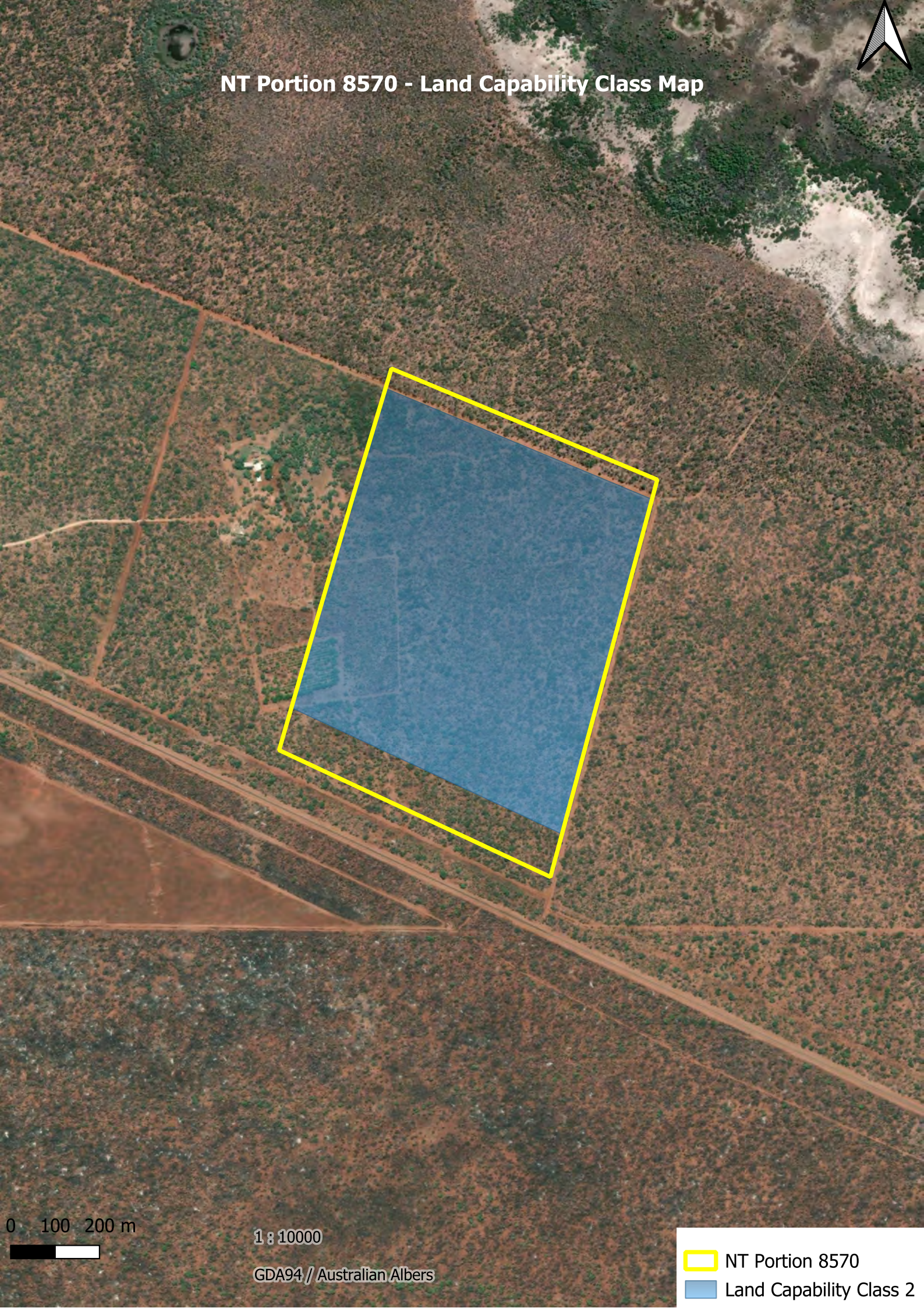
- Young, L., Patykowski, J., Leiper, I., Nano, C., Fisher, A., Gillespie, G., Barnett, G., Buckley, K., Hanrahan, N., McDonald, P., Miller, A., Ribot, R., Ruykys, L., Stewart, A. and Zimny, A. (2022), *Terrestrial Ecosystems Baseline Report: Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessment for the Beetaloo Sub-basin – Chapter 3: Flora and vegetation communities, Appendices 3E*, DEPWS Technical Report 36/2022, Northern Territory Government.
- *Combined Survey Data – Mataranka*, field inspection records collected 2 July 2026.
- *Plant ID – Mataranka*, September 2026, ground-truthed plant identifications for the Mataranka field inspection sites.
- Northern Territory Government, SALI soil profile data, including profiles UFI 554829 and UFI 554830, Elsey Agricultural Trial Plot 1977 Soil Investigation (ELSEY_PLOT), described 6 May 1977.
- Northern Territory Government, SREBA Beetaloo Vegetation Map (SREBA_VEG_100), including Broad Vegetation Group, significant vegetation and groundwater-dependent ecosystem attributes.
- Northern Territory Government, NVIS 2007 vegetation mapping, Version 3.1, NT Compilation, including mapped vegetation units and source mapping attributes.
- Geoscience Australia / Northern Territory Government, Mapped Stream / Watercourse Lines spatial data, source feature class WatercourseLines, product MappedStream.
- Northern Territory Government, SREBA Aquatic Ecosystems / Aquatic Refugia mapping (SREBA_AECO_100), incorporating Landsat Water Observations Statistics Collection 3 (April–October 1986–2021) and Beetaloo SREBA field survey information.
- Northern Territory Government, Northern Territory Springs spatial dataset (NTSPR), including spring-location information sourced from D. Karp and HYDSTRA.
- Copernicus Data Space Ecosystem, Sentinel-2 Level-2A Moisture Index (NDMI) imagery for 5 April 2024 and 2 September 2024, including analytical 32-bit single-band NDMI exports used for wet-season/dry-season comparison.
- Copernicus Data Space Ecosystem, Sentinel-2 Level-2A NDWI imagery for 5 April 2024 and 2 September 2024.
- TCW90 2024 imagery supplied for the project and used as supporting evidence of wet-season landscape wetness.
- Esri World Imagery, accessed via ArcGIS REST Services, used for visual interpretation of vegetation patters, disturbance, landform and drainage features within and surrounding NT Portion 8570.

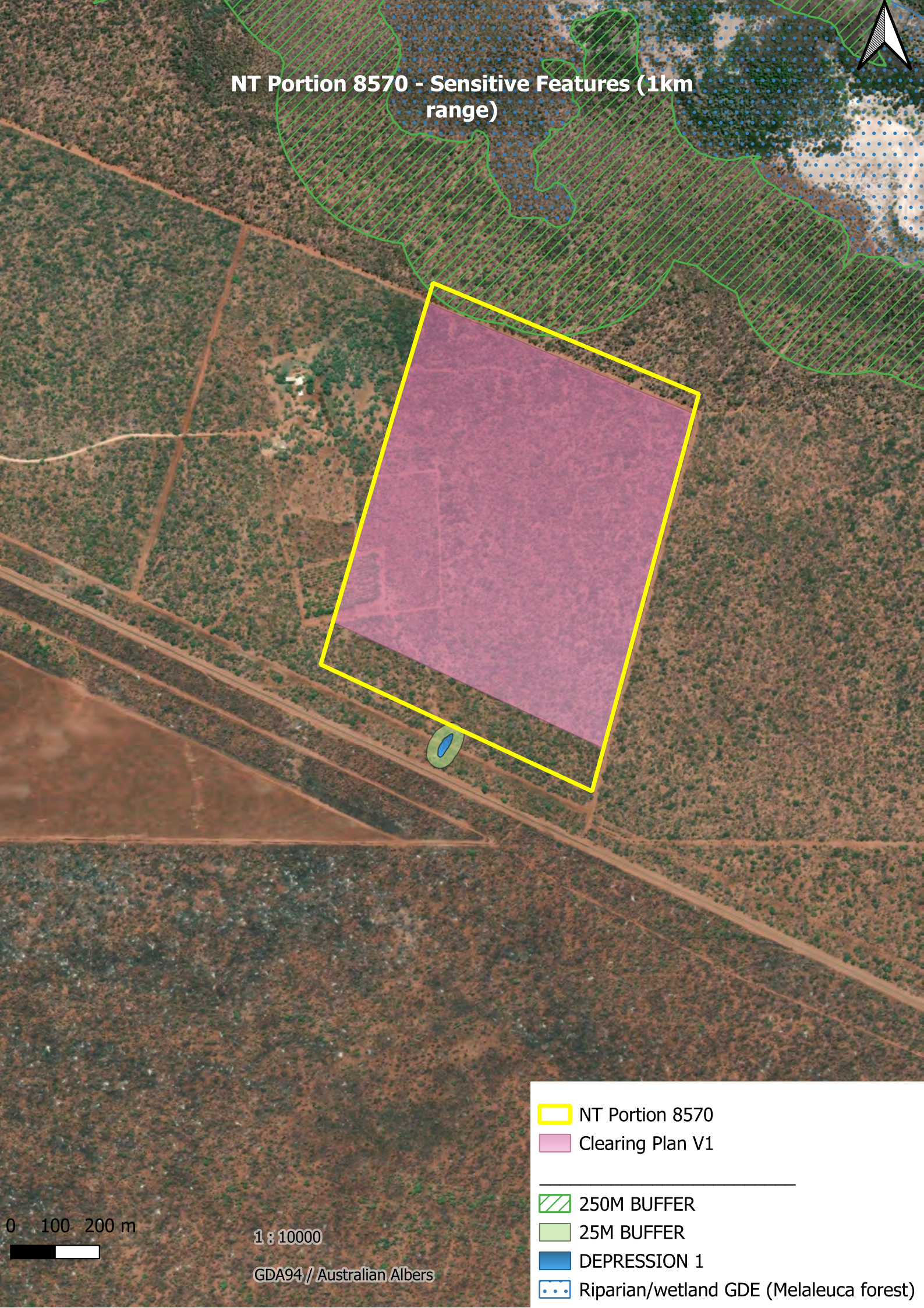
NT Portion 8570 – Land Capability Assessment table

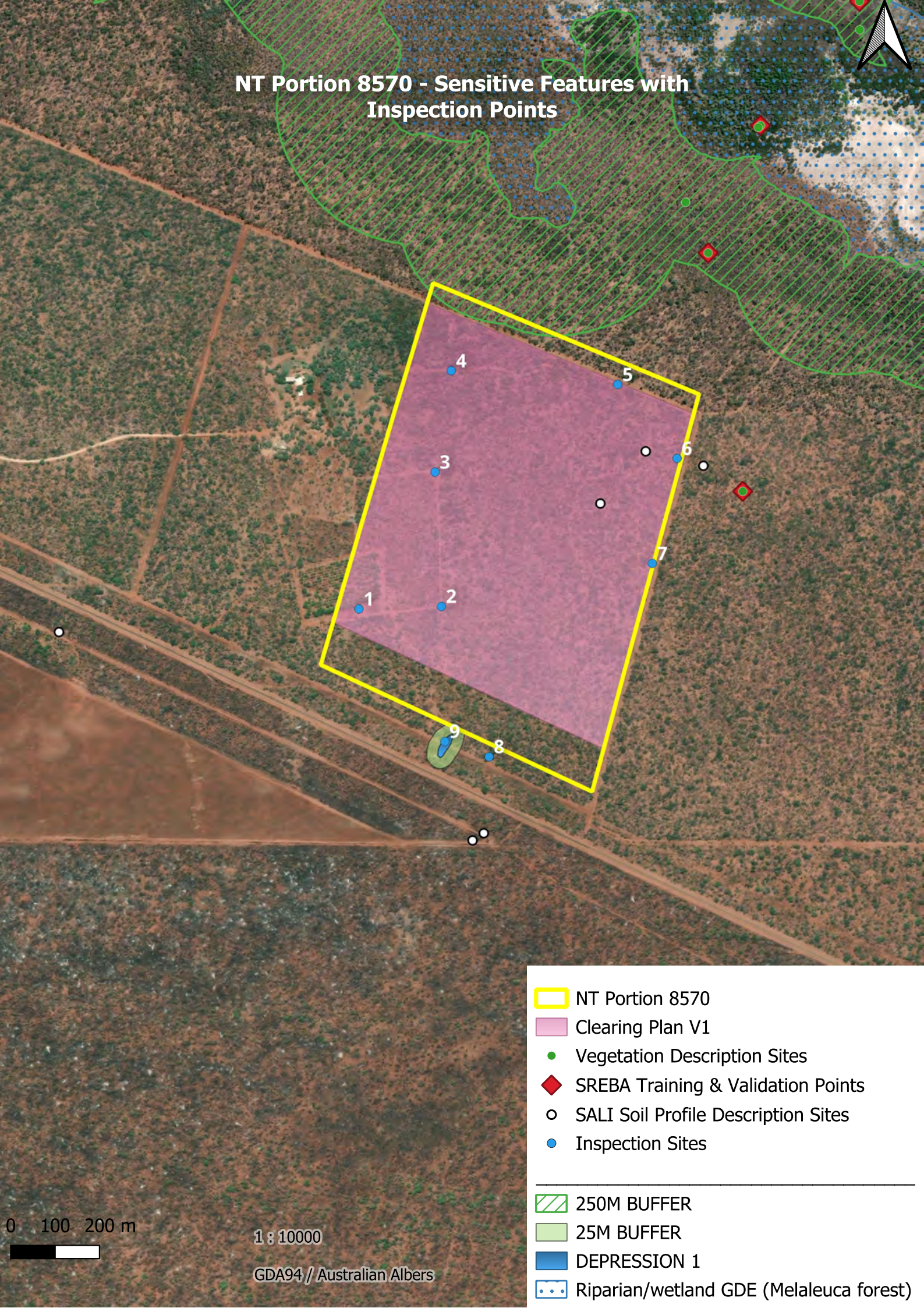
Land Type	Acid Sulfate Soils	Flooding	Microrelief	Salinity	Sodicity	Slope	Soil depth	Drainage	Surface Rock	Wind erosion	Initial capability class	Overall capability class
A	1 Acid sulfate soils are not expected. No mapped acid sulfate soil risk overlaps NT Portion 8570 in NR Maps, consistent with its inland location and generally well-drained red Chromosols.	2 Flooding assessed as extremely rare, based on well-drained soils, landform and wet-season imagery. Assigning "never floods" would be an assumption, as flood frequency has not been confirmed.	1 No gilgai or shrink–swell cracking present, and negligible microrelief observed.	1 Regional dryland salinity mapping identifies a very low hazard, indicating salinisation is unlikely following clearing. Supported by generally well-drained soils.	1 No dispersive soil properties or erosion were observed during inspection, indicating a low apparent sodicity constraint.	4 Field-measured slopes at Sites 1–5 range from 0–0.5%. DEM analysis indicates slopes predominantly below 1%, with approximately 99% of the clearing footprint below 2%. Localised DEM-derived slopes exceed 2%, including values above 3%,	1 The supplied land type description reports SALI profiles 554829 and 554830 extending to at least 1.5 m.	2 Predominantly rapid to well-drained conditions, with moderately well-drained conditions at Site 1 within the plantation.	1 No surface rock observed.	2 Sandy surface soils, very low June–September rainfall (0.6–3.7 mm/month) and mean afternoon winds of 9.3–10.3 km/h recorded at Larrimah indicate seasonal susceptibility to wind erosion following clearing. No erosion was observed during inspection under existing vegetation cover.	3	2

Land Type A is assessed as overall Class 2 for non-irrigated improved pasture for grazing (Sabi grass). DEM-derived slopes comprise approximately 89.90% of the area at 0–1%, 8.59% at 1–2%, 1.34% at 2–3% and 0.17% above 3%. The initial Class 4 rating reflects these isolated steeper areas. Slope is amended to Class 2 for the intended use, recognising that approximately 98.5% of the area has slopes below 2%, field measurements range from 0–0.5%, and the limited steeper terrain is assessed as a minor management constraint under established pasture.

Flooding, drainage and wind erosion are amended to Class 1 for the intended use, reflecting the low apparent flooding hazard, predominantly well-drained soils and protective cover expected under established pasture. The flooding adjustment does not imply that flooding never occurs. These amendments assume successful pasture establishment and grazing management that maintains ground cover. Slope remains the limiting attribute determining the overall Class 2 rating.


NT Portion 8570 - Land Capability Class Map
0 100 200 m
1 : 10000
GDA94 / Australian Albers
NT Portion 8570
Land Capability Class 2


NT Portion 8570 - Sensitive Features (1km range)
NT Portion 8570
Clearing Plan V1
250M BUFFER
25M BUFFER
DEPRESSION 1
Riparian/wetland GDE (Melaleuca forest)
0 100 200 m
1 : 10000
GDA94 / Australian Albers


NT Portion 8570 - Sensitive Features with Inspection Points
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NT Portion 8570
Clearing Plan V1
Vegetation Description Sites
SREBA Training & Validation Points
SALI Soil Profile Description Sites
Inspection Sites
250M BUFFER
25M BUFFER
DEPRESSION 1
Riparian/wetland GDE (Melaleuca forest)
0 100 200 m
1 : 10000
GDA94 / Australian Albers

NT Portion 8570 - Conservation areas and natural features
0 100 200 m
1 : 10000
GDA94 / Australian Albers
NT Portion 8570
Clearing Plan V1
Elsey National Park
SoCS - Mataranka thermal pools

NT Portion 8570 – Establishment Plan

Refer to question 12.1

Activity	Timing (month & year)	Methods/Details
Demolition of vegetation	Late 2026 onwards	Field verify and mark out approved clearing area, using blue paint or flagging tape on pickets or 'leave trees'. Ensure property boundary buffer is clearly marked out prior to felling of vegetation. Wheel dozer to push vegetation over working along contours and not with direction of overland flow. Leave felled timber in situ until the dry season (April/May 2027). Clearing to take place once adequate soil moisture is present to ensure a 'clean pull', expected to be late wet season (e.g. January 2027 onwards).
Removal of debris	Dry season 2027	Commence May 2027 – Felled timber to be pushed into wind rows perpendicular to contours. Burn wind rows and stick-pick any debris from the clearing areas.
Site preparation	Early wet season 2027/2028	Spray broadspectrum herbicide (Glyphosate) to the area once adequate germination of existing seed bank has occurred (late November/early December 2027). Follow with cultivation for ground preparation prior to sowing (2 x disc plough and 1 x scarifier). Second Glyphosate application prior to sowing in late December 2027.
Planting	Late December 2027 or early January 2028	Sow all areas to Sabi Grass (coated seed) @ 8kg/ha with 100kg/ha of a suitable NPK+trace compound fertiliser. Plant with a minimum till disc planter.
Weed management	2028 onwards	Application of a broadleaf selective herbicide (to mature plants) such as 2,4-D Amine prior to canopy closure to actively growing weeds during the wet season. Spot spraying of isolated weeds or regrowth as required.
Regrowth management	2028 onwards	(As above)
Grazing management (if applicable)	2028 onwards	Areas will not be grazed during the 2027 dry season to avoid damage to plant stand during the first year of establishment.
Crop management (if applicable)		*Not applicable.*

NT Portion 8570 – Staging Plan

Refer to question 12.1

Requested Permit Base Period

Clearing of native vegetation development permits allow for a base period of two years to comply with the conditions. Where the works permitted under the permit are substantially commenced within two years the permit is automatically extended by a further two years. Applicants may request a longer base period that is appropriate to the proposed clearing program if appropriate justification is provided.

Requested Base Period:

☒ 2 years

☐ Other (please specify): _____

Justification for the Requested Base Period
Please explain why the requested base period is appropriate for the proposed clearing activities. The proposed clearing area is not a large proposed area. Accessibility is not constrained, and the proposed land use is not complex.

Staging

Year	Site ID (e.g. polygon / paddock)
2026	Clearing Plan V1

NT Portion 8570 – Land Management Plan

Refer to question 12.1

Note: The following Land Management Plan should be developed with reference to the proposed Establishment and Staging Plan. It is not an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP). For large or complex clearing areas, preparation and implementation of an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) can be an effective way of managing erosion risk – however it is not an alternative to retaining native vegetation which should otherwise be retained in accordance with the NTPS LCG, or used as a "catch-all" means of mitigating other risks the clearing may pose (see NTPS LCG section 4.3.2.5).

Whether a formal ESCP is required as a condition of a land clearing permit will be at the discretion of the consent authority based on the advice of the Land Management Unit, DLPE and will depend on the level of detail provided in this Land Management Plan and the erosion risk associated with the proposal. For further information, contact the Land Management Unit, DLPE on (08) 8999 4404.

1. Provide a general description of the soil loss factors for the proposed clearing extent.

Note: Refer to Section 4.3.2 of the NTPS LCG.

Factor	Description
Rainfall Consider the climatic zone, seasonal outlook and proposed timing of works	The proposed clearing area is located within the tropical savanna climatic zone, characterised by a distinct wet season (generally November to April) and dry season (May to October). The nearest Bureau of Meteorology station at Larrimah (014612) records mean annual rainfall of 866.3 mm, with approximately 83% falling between December and March. January and February are the wettest months, averaging 207.2 mm and 210.1 mm respectively. Initial vegetation clearing is proposed during the 2026/2027 wet season, once adequate soil moisture is available to facilitate clean removal of vegetation. Felled timber will remain in situ until removal during the 2027 dry season. Ground preparation and establishment of Sabi Grass are scheduled for the commencement of the 2027/2028 wet season. The principal rainfall-related erosion risk will occur during periods when soil is disturbed or vegetation cover is reduced, particularly following cultivation and before establishment of the sown pasture. Clearing and subsequent establishment activities will be managed according to prevailing soil moisture and rainfall conditions to minimise exposure to intense wet-season rainfall.

Soil Consider the erodibility of soil types present based on soil type texture and structure. Note whether soils are dispersive or sodic.	The proposed clearing area comprises Land Type A, characterised by deep, well-drained red to reddish-brown Chromosols with sandy loam to loamy sand surface horizons over heavier clayey subsoils. SALI soil profiles 554829 and 554830 confirm loamy sand extending to approximately 0.45–0.60 m depth, underlain by sandy clay loam and/or light clay to at least 1.5 m. No surface gravel, cracking or significant microrelief was recorded during field inspections. The predominantly sandy surface soils are susceptible to erosion when vegetation cover is removed, particularly through sheet erosion associated with wet-season rainfall and wind erosion during the dry season. However, the generally gentle terrain, well-drained soil profiles and absence of observed existing erosion indicate a relatively low inherent erosion risk under established vegetation cover. No evidence of dispersive soil properties or sodicity was observed during field inspections, and the Land Capability Assessment identifies a low apparent sodicity constraint. Regional mapping also indicates very low salinity hazard, with no identified acid sulfate soil risk. Overall, the soils are considered suitable for the proposed non-irrigated improved pasture development, provided soil disturbance is appropriately managed and protective groundcover is established and maintained. The principal erosion risk will occur during clearing and cultivation, before successful establishment of Sabi Grass.
Length of slope Indicate the average length of slope within the proposed clearing extent and areas that exceed this.	Analysis of the 1-second smoothed Digital Elevation Model (DEM) within the proposed clearing extent indicates generally short to moderate downslope flow lengths across gently sloping terrain. The mean modelled downslope flow length is approximately 305m, with a median of 277m. Longer flow paths occur locally, with a maximum modelled length of approximately 742m. The generally gentle terrain limits erosion potential, although longer flow paths may increase the opportunity for surface runoff accumulation and sediment transport where groundcover is disturbed.
Slope gradient (%) Indicate the range of slope within the proposed clearing extent (e.g. 0-2%) and areas that exceed 2%.	The 1-second smoothed DEM indicates that the proposed clearing area comprises predominantly flat to very gently sloping terrain. Field-measured slopes at inspection Sites 1–5 range from 0–0.5%. DEM analysis of the proposed clearing footprint indicates that approximately 89.90% of the area has slopes of 0–1%, 8.59% has slopes of 1–2%, 1.34% has slopes of 2–3%, and 0.17% has slopes exceeding 3%. Overall, approximately 98.5% of the proposed clearing area has slopes below 2%. The predominantly gentle slopes present a relatively low risk of water erosion. Localised steeper areas may be more susceptible to erosion where vegetation cover is removed or surface runoff becomes concentrated. Clearing operations will be undertaken along contours rather than in the direction of overland flow to minimise erosion risk.

Groundcover Consider the timing, duration and frequency of soil exposure.	The proposed clearing will involve removal of existing vegetation and temporary disturbance of groundcover prior to establishment of improved pasture. Vegetation will initially be pushed over during the 2026/2027 wet season, with felled timber retained in situ until the 2027 dry season. Timber will then be windrowed and burnt, with remaining debris removed by stick-picking. Ground preparation is scheduled for November–December 2027, followed by sowing of Sabi Grass in late December 2027 or early January 2028. The period of greatest soil exposure is expected to occur between debris removal and successful establishment of the pasture. Following establishment, the perennial pasture will provide protective groundcover, reducing raindrop impact, slowing surface runoff and limiting soil erosion. Grazing will be managed to prevent damage to the developing pasture and maintain adequate groundcover.
Management Consider the level of soil disturbance associated with the proposed method of clearing and land use.	The proposed development involves mechanical clearing of native vegetation for the establishment of improved pasture. Initial clearing will be undertaken using a wheel dozer to push over vegetation, working along contours rather than in the direction of overland flow. Clearing will occur when adequate soil moisture is present to facilitate clean removal and minimise unnecessary soil disturbance. Felled timber will be retained until the dry season, when it will be windrowed perpendicular to contours and burnt. Subsequent site preparation will involve herbicide application and cultivation using two passes with a disc plough and one pass with a scarifier, followed by planting with a minimum-till disc planter. Sabi Grass will be established at a sowing rate of 8 kg/ha, with 100 kg/ha of suitable NPK and trace-element fertiliser. Weed and regrowth management will be undertaken as required to support pasture establishment. Erosion risk will be managed through contour-aligned clearing, minimisation of unnecessary soil disturbance, retention of designated vegetation buffers, management of surface runoff and establishment of permanent pasture groundcover. Grazing will be controlled to allow successful pasture establishment and maintain protective groundcover over the longer term.

2. Describe where rainfall runoff flows within the proposed clearing extent.

Polygon	Direction of runoff	Receiving environment
CLEARING PLAN V1	Predominantly north to northwest, with localised westerly flow along the western portion of the clearing area.	Mostly adjacent native vegetation located north and west of the proposed clearing area.

☒ Attach map showing slope gradient, direction of runoff and field verified slope points within the proposed clearing extent.

3. *Identify whether property boundary buffers will be retained in accordance with the NTPS LCG and provide reasons for discretion (if required).*

Note: Valid reasons must be provided for instances where no property boundary buffers or buffers less than the NTPS LCG recommendations are proposed to be retained. Refer to section 4.3.3 of the NTPS LCG.

Note: Property boundary buffers must exclude firebreaks – refer to section 4.3.6 of the NTPS LCG.

Supporting Justification: NT Portion 8570 comprises approximately 60.81 ha, with a proposed clearing extent of 50.98 ha for the establishment of non-irrigated improved pasture. Section 4.3.3 of the NT Planning Scheme Land Clearing Guidelines recommends a minimum 100 m native vegetation boundary buffer for properties of this size, exclusive of firebreaks.

The relatively small area and dimensions of NT Portion 8570 significantly constrain the practical application of the recommended buffers. Spatial analysis indicates that applying a 10 m firebreak and 100 m native vegetation buffer along all property boundaries would reduce the proposed clearing area from 50.98 ha to approximately 30.81 ha, representing a loss of 20.16 ha, or 39.6%, of the proposed development footprint. This substantial reduction would compromise the efficient utilisation of the property for its intended purpose.

The proposed buffer configuration has therefore been developed having regard to the property's dimensions, intended agricultural land use, adjoining vegetation and land uses, proximity to sensitive receptors, and the environmental characteristics of the site.

A substantial 90 m native vegetation buffer will be retained along the southern boundary, with a further 36–37 m retained along the northern boundary. The northern and eastern boundaries adjoin extensive native vegetation at a regional scale, while the western boundary adjoins a mixture of intact native vegetation, historical regrowth and established mahogany plantation. These surrounding vegetation communities provide landscape context and contribute to regional habitat connectivity, although they are not relied upon as permanent substitutes for on-property native vegetation buffers.

The potential risks associated with reduced or absent buffers include soil erosion, sediment movement, dust, herbicide spray drift, impacts on adjoining vegetation and amenity impacts, particularly in relation to the residence approximately 200 m west of the property boundary. These risks are considered generally low to moderate during clearing and establishment, reducing to low following successful establishment of permanent pasture groundcover, subject to effective implementation of the proposed management measures.

The proposed development occurs on predominantly flat to very gently sloping terrain, with well-drained soils and a low apparent sodicity constraint. Risks will be managed through contour-aligned clearing, minimisation of soil disturbance, appropriate timing of works, careful herbicide application, retention of nominated native vegetation buffers and establishment and ongoing management of Sabi Grass pasture.

Discretion is requested on the basis that the proposed buffer configuration represents a balance between the substantial reduction in developable area associated with full compliance with the recommended boundary buffers and the management of environmental and amenity risks. The proposed 10 m firebreak will be maintained separately and excluded from the nominated native vegetation buffer widths, consistent with Section 4.3.6 of the Guidelines.

Property Boundary	Proposed buffer width (m)	Reasons for discretion
Southern boundary	90 m	Discretion is requested for a minor reduction from the recommended 100 m boundary buffer to 90 m. The proposed buffer retains a substantial area of native vegetation along the southern property boundary, while allowing more effective utilisation of the relatively small land parcel for improved pasture development. The Roper Highway is located approximately 100 m south of the cadastral boundary, providing additional physical separation between the proposed clearing and the road. The retained vegetation will maintain visual screening, assist in controlling dust and spray drift, and provide protection against sediment movement. The likelihood and severity of adverse impacts associated with the 10 m reduction are considered low, given the substantial retained vegetation, separation from the highway and predominantly gentle terrain. The proposed 10 m firebreak will be maintained separately from the native vegetation buffer in accordance with Section 4.3.6.
Northern boundary	36 to 37 m	Discretion is requested to reduce the recommended 100 m boundary buffer to approximately 36–37 m to enable practical development of the proposed improved pasture area within the limited dimensions of NT Portion 8570. The northern boundary adjoins extensive native vegetation retained at a regional scale. The proposed on-property buffer will maintain a vegetated transition between the development and adjoining native vegetation, contributing to habitat connectivity, landscape continuity and the interception of sediment and surface runoff. DEM analysis indicates that overland flow is generally directed towards the northern and northwestern portions of the clearing area. Accordingly, the potential for sediment transport beyond the clearing boundary is recognised, particularly during establishment when groundcover is temporarily reduced. The likelihood of significant erosion is considered low to moderate during establishment and low following successful pasture establishment, reflecting the gentle terrain and predominantly well-drained soils. Risks will be mitigated through contour-aligned clearing, minimisation of soil disturbance, retention of the proposed native vegetation buffer and establishment of permanent Sabi Grass pasture. Grazing will be managed to maintain protective groundcover.

Western boundary	0 m	Discretion is requested to omit the recommended 100 m native vegetation boundary buffer along the western boundary to enable the proposed improved pasture development within the limited area and dimensions of NT Portion 8570. Retention of the full recommended buffer would substantially constrain the development footprint. The adjoining landscape comprises a mixture of intact native vegetation, regrowth associated with historical clearing and an extension of the existing mahogany plantation. A residence is located approximately 200 m west of the property boundary. The absence of an on-property native vegetation buffer increases the potential for off-site dust, spray drift and sediment movement, particularly during clearing and establishment. Potential impacts on residential amenity are also recognised. The likelihood of these impacts is assessed as low to moderate during establishment, reducing to low once permanent pasture cover is established and maintained. The existing separation from the residence provides some reduction in exposure, although adjoining vegetation is not relied upon as a permanent substitute for an on-property buffer. Mitigation will include contour-aligned clearing, minimisation of exposed soil, management of works during unfavourable wind or rainfall conditions, and careful application of herbicides to prevent off-target drift. Groundcover will be established as soon as practicable and maintained through appropriate grazing management. Runoff and erosion will be monitored, particularly along the western clearing boundary, with corrective measures implemented where required.

Eastern boundary	0 m	Discretion is requested to omit the recommended 100 m native vegetation boundary buffer along the eastern boundary to facilitate the proposed improved pasture development within the limited dimensions of NT Portion 8570. Retention of the recommended buffer would substantially reduce the area available for development. The eastern boundary adjoins extensive intact native vegetation retained at a regional scale, providing habitat continuity within the surrounding landscape. Although this vegetation contributes to regional connectivity, it is recognised that its presence does not replace the functions of an on-property native vegetation boundary buffer. The absence of a retained buffer presents potential risks associated with edge effects, dust, spray drift and localised sediment movement. However, the proposed non-irrigated pasture development is situated on predominantly flat to very gently sloping land, with well-drained soils and low apparent dispersibility. The likelihood of significant off-site erosion and sediment impacts is therefore considered low under established pasture conditions, with a temporary increase in risk during clearing and establishment. Mitigation will include contour-aligned clearing, minimisation of soil disturbance, control of herbicide spray drift and timely establishment of permanent Sabi Grass pasture. Appropriate grazing management will maintain protective groundcover and reduce the potential for erosion and sediment transport.

4. Describe any land management buffers to be retained within proximity of the proposed clearing extent.

Note: A land management buffer is different to a wildlife corridor or property boundary buffer – refer to section 4.3.4 of the NTPS LCG.

Buffer ID	Location	Width (m)	Purpose and design justification
(None)			

5. Describe any existing erosion within the proposed clearing extent.

Note: Erosion types include: wind, sheet, rill, gully or tunnel erosion.

Erosion Site	Location	Cause	Erosion type & description	Mitigation
(None)				

6. *Considering all information provided above; describe the potential risk, likelihood and impact of erosion associated with the proposed development.*

Source of risk	Likelihood of occurring	Potential impacts
Water erosion during initial vegetation clearing	Low to Moderate. Clearing is proposed during the wet season when sufficient soil moisture is available for clean removal of vegetation. Although the predominantly gentle slopes limit erosion potential, exposed or disturbed soils may be susceptible to erosion during intense rainfall events.	Localised sheet erosion and sediment movement, particularly where machinery disturbs the soil surface or runoff becomes concentrated.
Water erosion during debris removal and cultivation	Moderate. Removal of felled timber, windrowing, burning and subsequent cultivation will temporarily reduce protective groundcover. The risk is greatest during the 2027/2028 wet season before successful establishment of Sabi Grass.	Sheet and localised rill erosion, loss of nutrient-rich topsoil and sediment transport towards lower-lying areas and adjoining vegetation.
Concentrated overland runoff	Low to Moderate. DEM analysis indicates predominantly gentle slopes, although modelled downslope flow lengths reach approximately 742 m. Runoff generally flows north to northwest, with localised westerly flow.	Localised scour, development of rills and sediment transport towards northern and western property boundaries, particularly where runoff becomes concentrated along machinery tracks or disturbed ground.
Wind erosion of exposed sandy surface soils	Moderate during dry-season establishment works; Low following pasture establishment. The sandy loam to loamy sand surface soils may be susceptible to wind erosion where vegetation and surface cover have been removed, particularly during dry and windy conditions.	Loss of fine soil particles and topsoil, localised dust generation, reduced soil productivity and potential dust movement onto adjoining land.

Reduced or absent native vegetation boundary buffers	Low to Moderate during establishment; Low under established pasture conditions. Reduced buffers along the northern boundary and the absence of native vegetation buffers along the western and eastern boundaries limit the capacity to intercept sediment moving beyond the clearing extent.	Increased potential for localised sediment movement onto adjoining land, particularly towards the northern and western boundaries. Impacts are expected to be limited by the gentle terrain and management of soil disturbance and groundcover.
Inadequate pasture establishment or excessive grazing pressure	Low to Moderate, depending on establishment success and ongoing management. Poor germination, prolonged dry conditions or excessive grazing could result in insufficient protective groundcover.	Increased susceptibility to sheet and wind erosion, loss of topsoil, reduced pasture productivity and localised degradation of the soil surface.

Additional note: The overall risk of erosion associated with the proposed development is assessed as Low to Moderate during clearing and establishment, reducing to Low following successful establishment of permanent pasture groundcover.

This assessment reflects the predominantly flat to very gently sloping terrain, with approximately 98.5% of the clearing area having slopes below 2%, deep and generally well-drained soils, low apparent sodicity constraint and absence of observed existing erosion.

The principal erosion risks relate to temporary exposure of sandy surface soils during clearing, debris removal and cultivation, particularly during periods of intense wet-season rainfall or dry-season winds. Localised risks may be greater along longer downslope flow paths and near the northern and western clearing boundaries where runoff is directed.

These risks are considered manageable through contour-aligned clearing, minimisation of soil disturbance, retention of nominated native vegetation buffers, appropriate timing of establishment activities and maintenance of protective Sabi Grass groundcover.

7. *Considering all information provided above; describe the proposed erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures to be implemented during the clearing and establishment phase of the development.*

ESC measure	Location	Temporary/ Permanent	Description
Best management practices during clearing and pasture establishment	Entire proposed clearing area	Temporary	Clearing will be undertaken along contours when adequate soil moisture is present to minimise soil disturbance. Felled vegetation will remain in situ until dry-season removal, with windrowing undertaken to avoid concentrating or obstructing natural runoff. Cultivation will be timed as close as practicable to sowing to minimise soil exposure. Natural drainage patterns will be maintained, and disturbed areas monitored for erosion, particularly following significant rainfall, with corrective measures implemented where required.
Retention of native vegetation buffers and establishment of permanent pasture groundcover	Entire proposed clearing area and designated northern and southern boundary buffers	Permanent	Retain and protect the nominated native vegetation boundary buffers throughout clearing and establishment. Establish Sabi Grass pasture to provide permanent protective groundcover, reduce runoff velocity and minimise sheet and wind erosion. Grazing will be managed to allow successful pasture establishment and maintain adequate groundcover over the longer term.

8. *Considering all the information provided above; describe the proposed erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures to be implemented during the operational phase of the development.*

ESC measure	Location	Temporary/ Permanent	Description
Pasture and grazing management	Entire developed pasture area	Permanent	Maintain adequate Sabi Grass groundcover through appropriate stocking rates and grazing management. Avoid overgrazing, particularly during dry periods, and allow pasture recovery where groundcover becomes depleted. Undertake weed and regrowth management as required to maintain productive pasture and protect soil stability.
Maintenance of native vegetation buffers	Northern and southern boundary buffers	Permanent	Retain and protect the designated native vegetation buffers from clearing, grazing-related degradation and unnecessary disturbance. Maintain the buffers separately from firebreaks to preserve their function in reducing runoff velocity, intercepting sediment and protecting adjoining land.

9. *Provide an erosion and sediment control (ESC) map showing the location of the following information.*

☒ Attach an ESC map showing the location of the following within the proposed clearing extent:

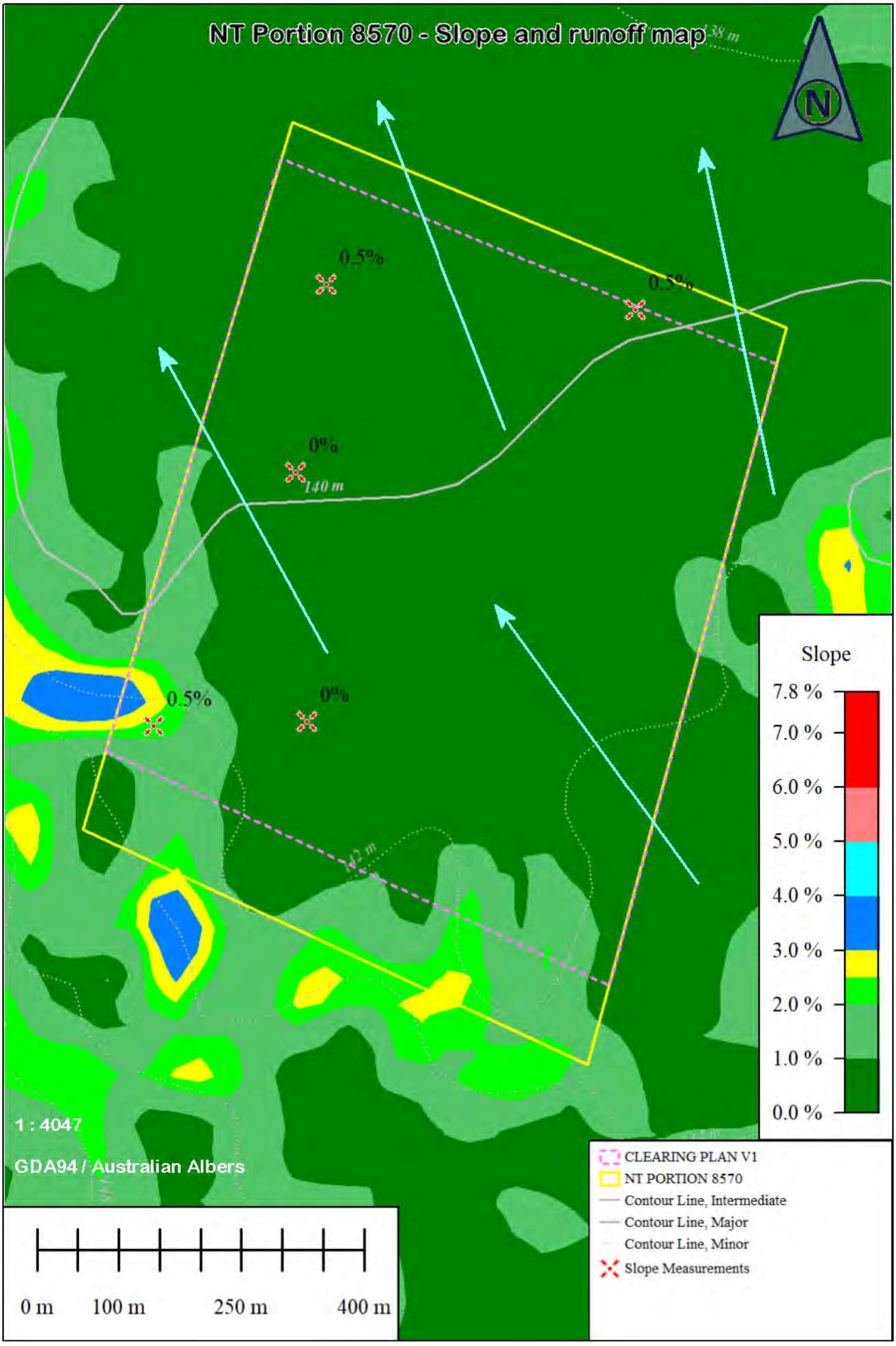
- Land management buffers (Question 4)
- Existing erosion (Question 5)
- Temporary ESC measures to be installed (Question 7 & 8)
- Permanent ESC measures to be installed (Question 7 & 8)
- Firebreaks, tracks and fences.

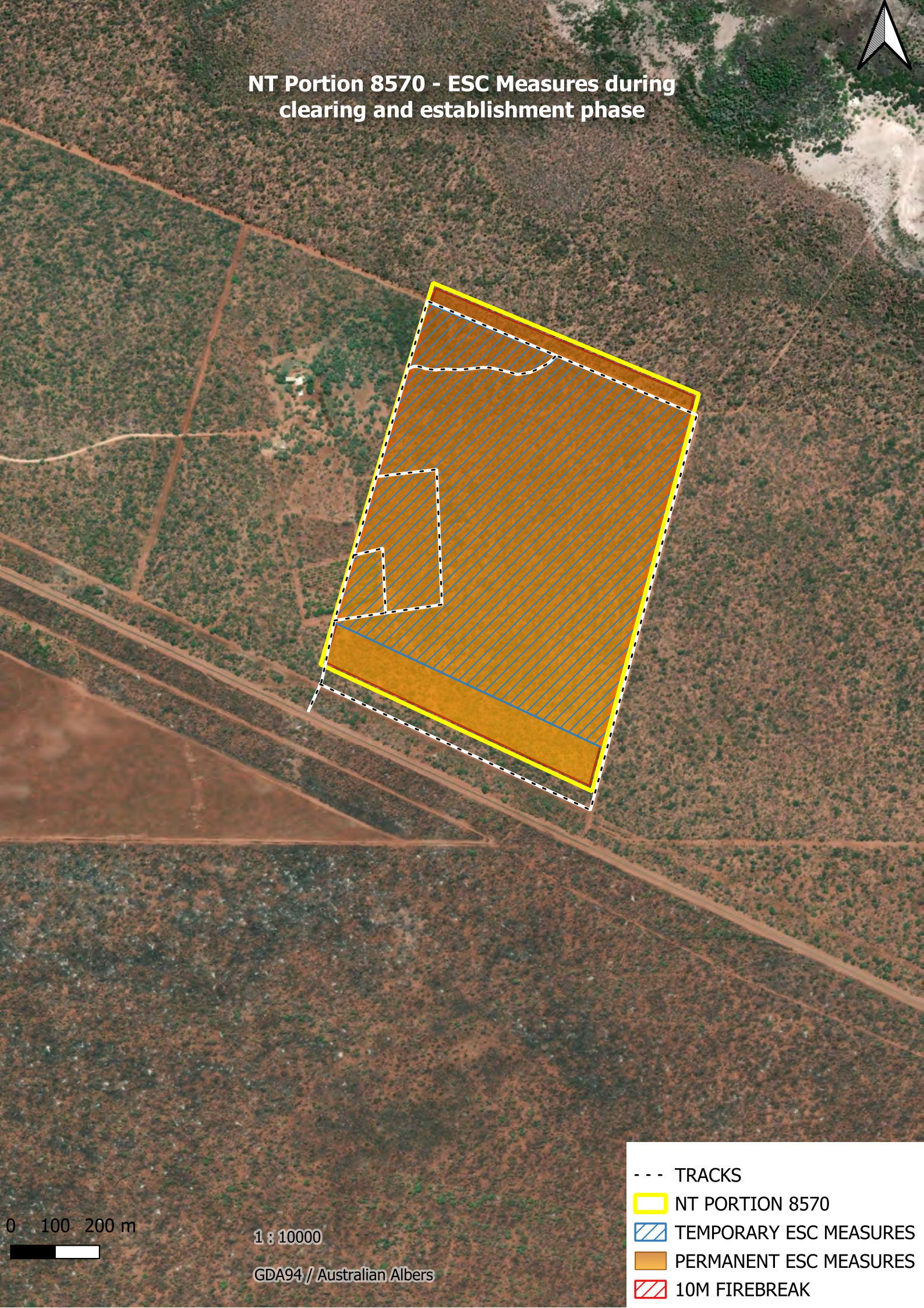
Attachment No: 16A & 16B

10. Provide any ESC standard drawings or design details.

Note: The level of information required will depend on the complexity of the proposed measures. Information is available at Soil, land and vegetation | NT.GOV.AU.

☐ Attach ESC standard drawings / design details Attachment No: N/A


NT Portion 8570 - Slope and runoff map
N
0.5%
0.5%
0%
140 m
0.5%
0%
Slope
7.8 %
7.0 %
6.0 %
5.0 %
4.0 %
3.0 %
2.0 %
1.0 %
0.0 %
1 : 4047
GDA94 / Australian Albers
CLEARING PLAN V1
NT PORTION 8570
Contour Line, Intermediate
Contour Line, Major
Contour Line, Minor
Slope Measurements
0 m
100 m
250 m
400 m


NT Portion 8570 - ESC Measures during clearing and establishment phase
TRACKS
NT PORTION 8570
TEMPORARY ESC MEASURES
PERMANENT ESC MEASURES
10M FIREBREAK
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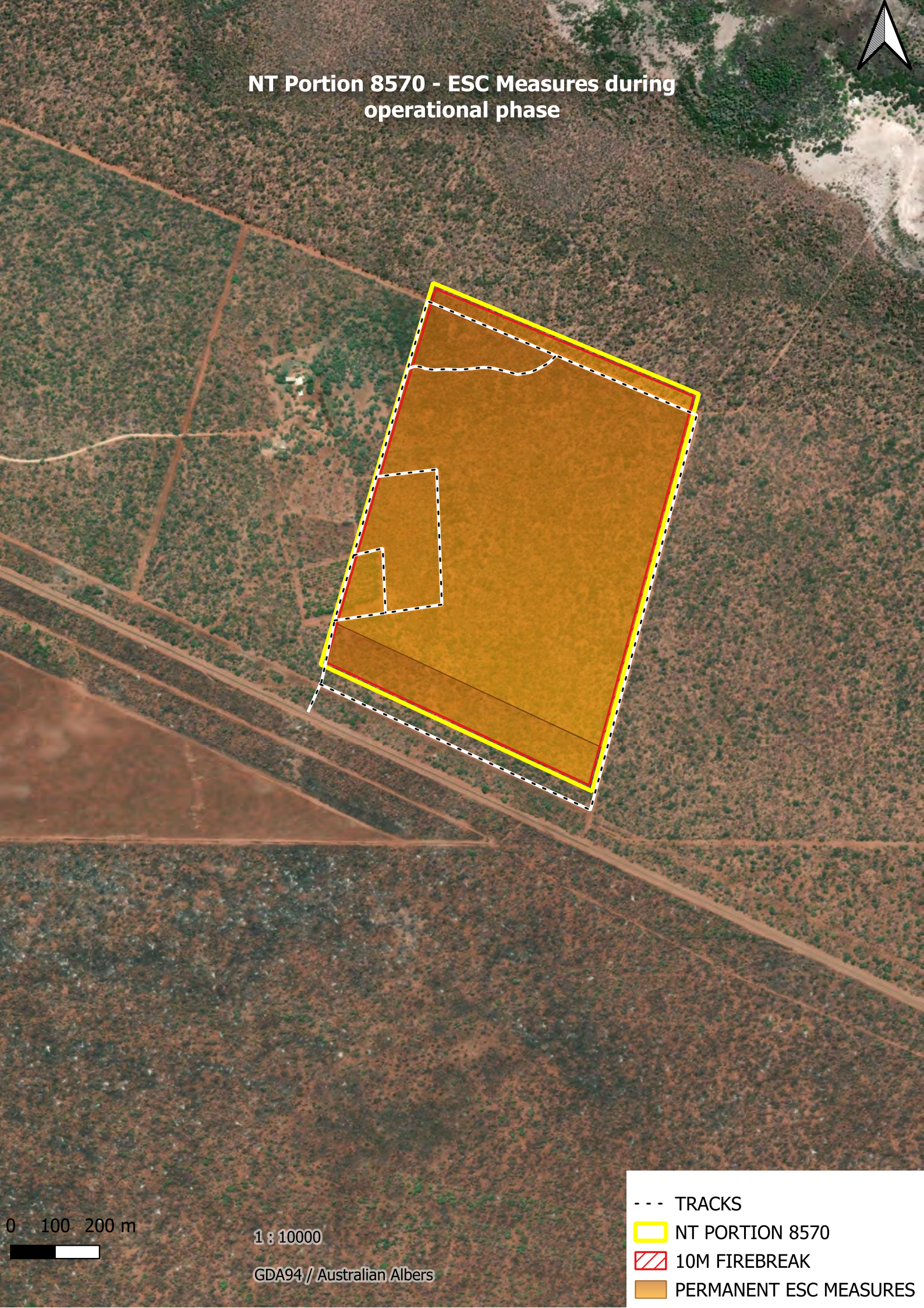
1 : 10000
GDA94 / Australian Albers


NT Portion 8570 - ESC Measures during operational phase
TRACKS
NT PORTION 8570
10M FIREBREAK
PERMANENT ESC MEASURES
0 100 200 m
1 : 10000
GDA94 / Australian Albers

Outlook

RE: Service agency feedback request - NT Portion 8570

From Deven Crawford <Deven.Crawford@nt.gov.au>
on behalf of
Heritage Branch <Heritage.Branch@nt.gov.au>
Date Fri 9/10/2026 4:34 PM
To Helen Groves <helen@magnat.com.au>

Good afternoon, Helen,

Thank you for your heritage inquiry. Please see the heritage response below regarding the proposed works on NT Portion 8570.

This advice is provided following a request for information from the Heritage Branch. This advice is for proponents carrying out legal due diligence inquiries or requests for information. It **cannot** be used for advice relating to work as defined in the *Heritage Act 2011*. The Heritage Branch administers the *Heritage Act 2011* which protects all Aboriginal and Macassan archaeological sites and declared and provisionally declared heritage places. For requests related to sacred sites, contact the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority https://www.aapant.org.au.

Request details

Name of proponent	MAGNAT Agri Services
Contact person	Helen Groves
Email address	helen@magnat.com.au
Date enquiry received	06.10.2026
Location	NT Portion 8570
Brief description of request	Heritage inquiry associated with proposed land clearing application on NT Portion 8570 near Mataranka, of approximately 51 hectares for the establishment of non-irrigated improved pasture (Sabi Grass) for grazing purposes.
Date of Heritage Branch response	09.10.26
Your reference	
Our reference	33-F26-41

Advice for Declared or provisionally declared heritage places and objects
The search has found that there are no nominated, provisionally declared or declared heritage places or objects within the subject area.

Advice for Aboriginal archaeological places and objects
The search has found that there are no known Aboriginal archaeological places within the subject site. In a preliminary assessment the likelihood of unrecorded Aboriginal archaeological places existing is considered possible. Future works or activities may be required to identify and mitigate impact on potential Aboriginal archaeological sites. Once the project and project area have been more fully defined, please contact the Heritage Branch at heritage.branch@nt.gov.au for further advice.

The context of Heritage Branch advice
The Northern Territory Government's Heritage Branch administers the *Heritage Act 2011* and provides authoritative advice about the presence of nominated, provisionally declared, or declared heritage places or objects in a subject area.
The Heritage Branch also provides advice about the presence of Aboriginal or Macassan archaeological sites in the subject area or the likelihood of the presence of Aboriginal Macassan archaeological sites in the subject area.

Relevant parts of the Northern Territory's *Heritage Act 2011*
Under the Northern Territory's *Heritage Act 2011* (the *Act*):

1. All provisionally declared and declared heritage places and objects are protected under the *Act*;
2. All Aboriginal or Macassan archaeological places and objects are automatically protected – this includes places and objects not previously recorded;

Conditions of advice

1. This advice is based on the description provided to the Heritage Branch. **This advice is not to be used for mitigation of impact of any proposed works or activities.**

2. In preparing this advice, the Heritage Branch has referred to the Northern Territory Heritage Register and the Heritage Branch archaeological database which includes known information about Aboriginal and Macassan archaeological places and objects in the Northern Territory. The fact that there are no known Aboriginal or Macassan archaeological places recorded may be because no archaeological surveys have been conducted in that particular area and is not necessarily an indication, they do not exist.

Actions
The following actions have been taken in relation to your enquiry.

- A search of the Northern Territory Heritage Register
- A search for known Aboriginal or Macassan archaeological places located within the subject site on the Heritage Branch archaeological database;
- A search for known Aboriginal or Macassan archaeological places located within the proximity of the subject site on the Heritage Branch archaeological database;
- A preliminary assessment of the likelihood of unrecorded Aboriginal or Macassan archaeological places existing within the subject site **pending any work proposal or activities**

Further comments
Further information can also be found on our website:
https://nt.gov.au/property/building/heritage-properties/heritage-properties-building-works-and-development
Aboriginal heritage information | NT.GOV.AU

Kind Regards

Deven Crawford
Heritage Officer
Heritage Branch
Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
Northern Territory Government

Ground floor, Arnhemica House,
16 Parap Road Parap
PO Box 3675, Darwin, NT 0801

P: **+61 8 8999 5051**
E: deven.crawford@nt.gov.au

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Helen Groves <helen@magnat.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 6 October 2026 9:42 AM
To: Heritage Branch <Heritage.Branch@nt.gov.au>
Subject: Service agency feedback request - NT Portion 8570

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Heritage Branch,

I am preparing an application to clear native vegetation at NT Portion 8570, near Mataranka. The application proposes that approximately 51 hectares is cleared for the purpose of non-irrigated improved pasture for grazing (Sabi Grass). The spatial file for the proposed area is attached, and some site photos.

We would appreciate Heritage Branch reviewing the proposed development and advising whether there are any known heritage places or archaeological values relevant to the proposal, whether further archaeological or heritage investigation is recommended, and whether there are any particular avoidance or management measures that should be incorporated into the application.

Kind regards,
Helen Groves

Helen Groves
M 0439 937 802
E helen@magnat.com.au
P 508 Pilton Valley Rd, Pilton QLD 4361

MAGNAT
AGRI SERVICES

This email and any attachments may contain confidential or legally privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender.

Disclaimer

This Abstract of Records has been provided by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority to Magnat Livestock Pty Ltd for the sole purpose of inclusion in land clearing applications. If it is required by law to publish the application then the Authority consents to the publication as required. It is an offence under s 38 of the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989 (NT) to permit further access to this information without the prior written consent of the Authority. For the identified subject land, the Abstract of Records identifies:

- *Any registered or recorded sacred sites known to the Authority; and*
- *Any Restricted Work Areas (RWAs) established by the Authority in previously issued Authority Certificate(s).*

The Abstract may show no sacred sites in the subject land, or part thereof, but this may be a function of the fact that the Authority has not yet undertaken work in the region, or that the work required to register a sacred site has not yet been completed. ***It does not mean there are no sites in the area****. Where RWAs have been identified in the Abstract, Magnat Livestock Pty Ltd cannot rely on this information as it only applies to those prior works and prior proponent to which the relevant Authority Certificate was issued.*

Accordingly, the Abstract of Records is ***not*** *evidence of whether or not a sacred site exists in the subject land and whether they are protected. Given this significant limitation, the Abstract may be used for information purposes only and not as a basis for proceeding with works or use. Further, an Abstract does not provide a defence against prosecution under the Sacred Sites Act, only an Authority Certificate issued by the Authority can do these things.*

Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
protecting sacred sites across the territory

Our File: RI2026/961
In Reply Please Quote: 202613284

Magnat Livestock Pty Ltd
508 Pilton Valley Road
PILTON, QLD, 4361

ATTENTION: Helen Groves

RE: Abstract of Records - 1035 Roper Highway, Mataranka (NT Portion 8570) - 202613284

On 7th October 2026 the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (the Authority) received your application for an abstract of records under regulation 7 of the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Regulations 2004* (NT) (the Regulations).

The contents of this letter and the enclosed map comprise the abstract which is hereby provided to you for the purposes of regulation 7(3). I advise, in accordance with regulation 7(3)(a), that for the parcel of land the subject of this abstract:

i. there are currently no registered sacred sites located on the parcel of land;
ii. there are currently no recorded sacred sites located on the parcel of land;
iii. there are currently no restricted work areas in the parcel of land which are provided for in Authority Certificate;

The map enclosed provides an overview of any registered or recorded sacred sites and restricted work areas described above. The information provided to you in this abstract is for information purposes only and cannot be relied upon as an exhaustive list of sacred sites in the area. There may be other sacred sites in the parcel of land of which the Authority is not yet aware.

A person is only permitted to enter and remain on a sacred site, carry out works on a sacred site, or make use of a sacred site in accordance with an Authority Certificate granted by the Authority (refer ss22 and 25 of the Act, also see ss34 and 35). Should you desire to do any of these things please make an application for an Authority Certificate. Further information about this process can be found here – https://www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/aapa-online/auth/login. Undertaking any of these acts without an Authority Certificate puts you at risk of prosecution under the Act (refer ss33-35). This abstract does not protect you in any way for your acts and is not an Authority Certificate.

The current Act and Regulations can be found online here - https://legislation.nt.gov.au/. Please ensure you are familiar with the legislation, particularly the offences in relation to sacred sites and the processes involved for obtaining an Authority Certificate if and when you require one.

Further information concerning abstracts and requests for information from the Authority can be found in the frequently asked questions (FAQs) which can be found online here– https://www.aapant.org.au/faq.

The cost of providing the information set out in this letter and the attached map is $34 (GST inclusive if applicable), payable by credit card.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Registrar via email through enquiries.aapa@aapant.org.au or (08) 8999 4356.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Forscutt
REGISTRAR
7th October 2026

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All mail to Darwin GPO

Abstract of Authority's Records - Regulation 7(3)(b) - 202613284

Provided to:
Magnat Livestock Pty Ltd

ASSESSED AT 07/10/2026

This Abstract of Records is not an Authority Certificate. It is not for works, publication or distribution.

It is an offence under s.38 to publish or distribute this Abstract of Records without permission of the Authority.

To seek an Authority Certificate from the Authority apply online at www.aapant.org.au/our-services

N.B. The Sacred Site point is indicative of the general sacred site location and does not necessarily represent the location of any specific feature of the sacred site or the site extent and is not an exhaustive record as unrecorded site may exist in the area

J2026-1002

0 300
metres
Scale 1:5,000

KEY

- Subject Land
- Authority Certificate Records available for Public Inspection
- No Records available for Public Inspection

8569
8570
C2014/121
C2016/068
C2006/136
C1994/199
C1992/013

Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
protecting sacred sites across the territory

Prepared and produced by Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA), Darwin, Northern Territory of Australia

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List of Records available for Inspection

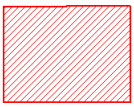
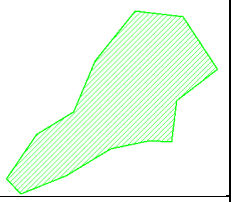
Authority Certificates

Cert No	With RWA	Superseded_by
C2016/068	No	
C2014/121	No	C2016/068
C2006/136	No	
C1994/199	No	
C1992/013	No	

Frequently Asked Questions

In these FAQs, a reference to:

- "the Act" is a reference to the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* (NT); and
- "the Regulations" is a reference to the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Regulations 2004* (NT).
  The Act and Regulations can be found here - https://legislation.nt.gov.au/.

Question	Answer
What is a sacred site?	The term "sacred site" is defined in s3 of the Act by reference to its meaning in the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) which provides a sacred site is "a site that is sacred to Aboriginals or is otherwise of significance according to Aboriginal tradition, and includes any land that, under a law of the Northern Territory, is declared to be sacred to Aboriginals or of significance according to Aboriginal tradition".
What is a registered sacred site?	A registered sacred site is indicated on the map by this symbol: The site number is indicated on the map by a number in the following format XXXX-XX. A registered sacred site is a site that has been added to the Register of Sacred Sites maintained by the Authority following the process set out in Part III Division 2 of the Act. The effect of registering a sacred site is set out in s45 of the Act. The extent of a registered site is the red hatched area: 
What is a recorded sacred site?	A recorded sacred site is a site that is known to the Authority but has not been registered and includes recorded sacred burial sites. The Authority may hold the information required to register the site should this become the wishes of the custodians. Alternatively, a recorded sacred site may still require further research in order to obtain all necessary information. The recorded coordinate point for a sacred site is a reference point only and does not necessarily indicate the location or extent of any specific site feature. A recorded sacred site point is indicated on the map by this symbol: A recorded sacred burial site is indicated on the map by this symbol: Note that recorded sites have not gone through the registration process set out in s28 of the Act. As such, the full extent of the sacred site may change upon registration. The extent of a recorded sacred site is the green hatched area. 
The map shows that there are no registered or recorded sites in the area of interest. Does this mean I can proceed with my works?	Whether you proceed with your works is a decision for you however you should carefully consider the area concerned and the provisions of the Act (particularly those that address the protections an Authority Certificate provides and the punishments prescribed for the offences set out in Part IV of the Act). If there is no record of an Authority Certificate being issued over the area concerned, it is possible that there may be sacred sites that are not currently known to the Authority.
How long does it take to get an Authority Certificate?	The Authority takes an average of three months to produce an Authority Certificate. The timeframe will vary depending on various factors including the complexity of the proposed works, availability of custodians, remoteness, and access to land.

Question	Answer
How much does an Authority Certificate cost?	Division 1A and Division 1 of Part III of the Act set out the procedures for applications for Authority Certificates. The cost of an Authority Certificate differs depending on whether it is a "standard application" or a "non-standard application". The classification of an application is determined by the Authority in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by Regulation 3 and set out at Schedule 1 to the Regulations. Standard applications will incur a fee in accordance with Schedule 4 of the Regulations. Non-standard applications are subject to charges which will depend on the nature of the application and the work required by the Authority. These charges are calculated by the Authority in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations. If you submit an application that is determined to be a non-standard application, the Authority will provide you with an estimate of charges for your consideration and approval.
What information is on the Register of Sacred Sites?	The information on the Register of Sacred Sites differs due to the information available and the information permitted by the custodians of the sacred site to be recorded. Please refer to section 29 of the Act for further information. However, generally the Register of Sacred Sites may include the following types of information in relation to a sacred site: • the coordinate point of the site (NB: the coordinate point for a sacred site is a reference point only and does not necessarily indicate the location or extent of any specific site feature); • features of the site; • geographic description; • custodian group details; and • Aboriginal traditions associated with the site.
How do I inspect the Register of Sacred Sites?	Section 48 of the Act allows a person to apply to the Authority to inspect the Register of Sacred Sites. The viewing will take place in the Authority's offices, which are located in Darwin and Alice Springs. No hard or soft copies of the Register will be provided and photographs of the Register are prohibited. Information that is of a sensitive commercial nature or relates to matters required to be kept secret according to Aboriginal tradition will not be provided. To view the Register of Sacred Sites please apply online. You must specify the sites or certificates that you would like to view (see the map for the relevant numbers). A staff member will then contact you to organise an inspection time in either our Darwin or Alice Springs office. In accordance with regulation 8 and with reference to item 2 of Schedule 4 to the Regulations, the fee payable to inspect the Register of Sacred Sites is 23 revenue units per sacred site.
Authority Certificate Records are available for Public Inspection in the area of interest. What does this mean?	Areas over which the Authority has previously issued an Authority Certificate are indicated on the map by this hatching: In an abstract provided by the Authority pursuant to regulation 7(3) of the Regulations, areas over which the Authority has previously issued an Authority Certificate are indicated on the map. For these areas, the Authority has consulted custodians for the area in the past about prior works. There may be conditions in the Authority Certificate. These conditions will relate to the works covered by that certificate only. You cannot rely on an Authority Certificate that was issued to another person. If there is a record of an Authority Certificate being issued over the area concerned, that certificate only applies to those prior works and will not provide any protection for your works.

Question	Answer
There was an Authority Certificate refused in the area of interest. What does this mean?	Areas over which the Authority has refused to issue an Authority Certificate are indicated on the map by this hatching: Applications for Authority Certificates that have been refused can be viewed on the Authority's Register.
There are restricted work areas in the area of interest. What does this mean?	In an abstract provided by the Authority pursuant to regulation 7(3) of the Regulations, a restricted work area will be indicated on the map by this hatching: A restricted work area relates to an area identified in an issued Authority Certificate. It is an area that had restrictions on the kind of activities that were permitted (or not permitted) in the area.
Can I see the Authority Certificate records that are available for public inspection over the area of interest?	Yes. The Authority will provide access to information on prior Authority Certificates that have been issued in the area of interest. An application may be made pursuant to section 48. You will be provided with a list of Authority Certificates granted or refused over the area of interest, including the conditions for any works that may have been proposed for that area. The conditions listed in a prior Authority Certificate are for the works stated in that particular Certificate. Restrictions on works can vary. Sometimes an Authority Certificate will prohibit any work in the area or will prevent certain activities, such as ground disturbing work, damage to trees, or the removal of sand or gravel. The conditions in a certificate are specific to each application and depend on the works proposed. The viewing will take place in the Authority's offices, which are located in Darwin and Alice Springs. No hard or soft copies of the Register will be provided and photographs of the Register are prohibited. Information that is of a sensitive commercial nature or relates to matters required to be kept secret according to Aboriginal tradition will not be provided. To view Authority Certificates that have been previously issued or refused in your area of interest, please apply online. You must specify the sites or certificates that you would like to view. The map contained in this letter will contain relevant record reference numbers. A staff member will then contact you to organise an inspection time in either our Darwin or Alice Springs office. In accordance with regulation 8 and with reference to item 3 of Schedule 4 to the Regulations, the fee payable to inspect the Register of Sacred Sites is 23 revenue units per inspection of Authority Certificate application and related Certificate or refusal.
No Authority Certificates have been issued in the area of interest. What does this mean?	Areas where the Authority has not issued an Authority Certificate are indicated on the map by this shading: In an abstract provided by the Authority pursuant to regulation 7(3) of the Regulations, areas where the Authority has not issued an Authority Certificate are indicated on the map. These are areas where the Authority has not undertaken anthropological research. The Authority may not have records of the sacred sites in this area. It means that there may be sites in the area and work should only proceed with an Authority Certificate, which will be issued after the Authority has spoken with custodians in the area.
There are "other sites" in the area of interest. What does this mean?	Other sites are shown on the map by this symbol: In an abstract provided by the Authority pursuant to regulation 7(3) of the Regulations, other sites (where known) are shown on the map. Other sites include archaeological places or sacred objects. These places and objects are protected under the *Heritage Act 2011* (NT). The extent of an "other site" is the diagonal blue hatched area.

Question	Answer
There is a burial site in the area of interest. What does this mean?	Burial sites are shown on the map by this symbol: In an abstract provided by the Authority pursuant to regulation 7(3) of the Regulations, burial sites (where known) are shown on the map. Under the *Criminal Code Act 1983* (NT) it in an offence to interfere with remains of a deceased person. It is also an offence contrary to the *Heritage Act 2011* to interfere with the remains of a deceased Aboriginal person without authorisation under that Act. In the event that any skeletal remains are unearthed, it is your responsibility to stop works and immediately report such disturbance to the NT Police and the Director Heritage Branch, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities. For further information, please contact the Director Heritage Branch, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities on (08) 8999 5051 or email heritage.branch@nt.gov.au.
I know the custodians of the sites in the area of interest. Do I still need an Authority Certificate?	Yes. An Authority Certificate provides a defence against prosecution under the Act as long as the conditions of the Certificate are adhered to. The Authority can only issue an Authority Certificate if it is satisfied of the matters set out in s22 of the Act.
I own the land that is the area of interest. Do I still need an Authority Certificate?	The rights of land owners are preserved under s44(1) of the Act. Ownership of the land, however, will not defend you against a prosecution under the Act in the event a sacred site is damaged. Only an Authority Certificate can do this. Owners of land that may include sacred sites should ensure they consider the Act and whether they may require an Authority Certificate for their use of the land.
Can I share my abstract of records with other people?	No. It is an offence under s38 of the Act to permit access to, or furnish a document produced for a purpose of the Act without permission of the Authority. The abstract of records has been provided to you by the Authority for the limited purpose of your consideration. Should you wish to share the abstract, you should write to the Authority seeking permission under s38(1) of the Act. You should detail the purpose of sharing the abstract of records.
Can I publish the abstract of records?	No. It is an offence under s38 of the Act to permit access to, or furnish a document produced for a purpose of the Act without permission of the Authority. The abstract of records has been provided to you by the Authority for the limited purpose of your consideration. Should you wish to publish the abstract, you should write to the Authority seeking permission under s38(1) of the Act. You should detail the purpose of publishing the abstract of records.

Outlook

RE: conditions of use - abstract of records - 1035 Roper Highway, Mataranka (NT Portion 8570).

From Wendy Forscutt <Wendy.Forscutt@aapant.org.au>
on behalf of
Technical AAPA <Technical.AAPA@aapant.org.au>
Date Wed 7/10/2026 9:03 AM
To Helen Groves <helen@magnat.com.au>

Thanks Helen

I'll process the application now.

Kind regards

Wendy Forscutt
Registrar | Technical Section
Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
Telephone: 08 8999 4356
Website: www.aapant.org.au

RCG Centre, Level 4
47 Mitchell Street Darwin | GPO Box 1890, DARWIN NT 0801

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From: Helen Groves <helen@magnat.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 7 October 2026 8:20 AM
To: Technical AAPA <Technical.AAPA@aapant.org.au>
Subject: Re: conditions of use - abstract of records - 1035 Roper Highway, Mataranka (NT Portion 8570).

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Wendy,

I acknowledge and confirm agreement to the terms outlined below.

Best regards,

Helen Groves

From: Wendy Forscutt <Wendy.Forscutt@aapant.org.au> on behalf of Technical AAPA <Technical.AAPA@aapant.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 7 October 2026 8:14 AM
To: Helen Groves <helen@magnat.com.au>
Subject: conditions of use - abstract of records - 1035 Roper Highway, Mataranka (NT Portion 8570).

Hi Helen

Conditions of Use

The Authority has received your request to use an Abstract of Records produced by the Authority for the purpose of inclusion in your land clearing applications. The Authority has determined that it will provide conditional consent to the use of the Abstract for the requested purpose upon written acceptance, and continued adherence to, the acknowledgements and conditions outlined below.

Conditions
Magnat Livestock Pty Ltd agrees:

- that the Abstract of Records, and all information provided by the Authority, is not to be published in part or cropped. For the avoidance of doubt, the Abstract and accompanying disclaimer must be published in full; and
- the accompanying disclaimer must be published in the application immediately before or after the Abstract of Records:
-

Disclaimer
This Abstract of Records has been provided by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority to Magnat Livestock Pty Ltd for the sole purpose of inclusion in land clearing applications. If it is required by law to publish the application then the Authority consents to the publication as required. It is an offence under s 38 of the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989 (NT) to permit further access to this information without the prior written consent of the Authority. For the identified subject land, the Abstract of Records identifies:

- *Any registered or recorded sacred sites known to the Authority; and*
- *Any Restricted Work Areas (RWAs) established by the Authority in previously issued Authority Certificate(s).*

The Abstract may show no sacred sites in the subject land, or part thereof, but this may be a function of the fact that the Authority has not yet undertaken work in the region, or that the work required to register a sacred site has not yet been completed. ***It does not mean there are no sites in the area****. Where RWAs have been identified in the Abstract, Magnat Livestock Pty Ltd cannot rely on this information as it only applies to those prior works and prior proponent to which the relevant Authority Certificate was issued.*

Accordingly, the Abstract of Records is ***not*** *evidence of whether or not a sacred site exists in the subject land and whether they are protected. Given this significant limitation, the Abstract may be used for information purposes only and not as a basis for proceeding with works or use. Further, an Abstract does not provide a defence against prosecution under the Sacred Sites Act, only an Authority Certificate issued by the Authority can do these things.*

Acknowledgements
Magnat Livestock Pty Ltd acknowledges:

- the Abstract of Records does not provide a defence against prosecution for any entry, use or work under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989* (NT) (Sacred Sites Act);
- it is an offence under s38 of the Sacred Sites Act to permit access to, or furnish a document produced for a purpose of the Act without the written permission of the Authority;
- the Abstract of Records has been provided to you by the Authority for the limited Purpose outlined above and cannot be used for any other purpose;
- the Authority can, in its absolute discretion, revoke its consent for use at any time;
- the Abstract of Records is not a definitive record of the existence or not, of sacred sites in the area, there may be sacred sites where there are none shown and the Authority does not guarantee the accuracy of the information provided for any purpose; and

- the Authority has the right to access sacred sites on the land under s47(1)(b) of the Sacred Sites Act to ensure they are being protected.

Please confirm via email that you acknowledge and agree to the above terms. Upon receipt of that email the Authority will provide its conditional consent to the use of the Abstract for the abovementioned purpose. You are not permitted to use the Abstract until receipt of such confirmation in writing.

Please contact the Technical team on technical.aapa@aapant.org.au should you have any questions regarding the above.

Kind regards

Wendy Forscutt
Registrar | Technical Section
Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
Telephone: 08 8999 4356
Website: www.aapant.org.au

RCG Centre, Level 4
47 Mitchell Street Darwin | GPO Box 1890, DARWIN NT 0801

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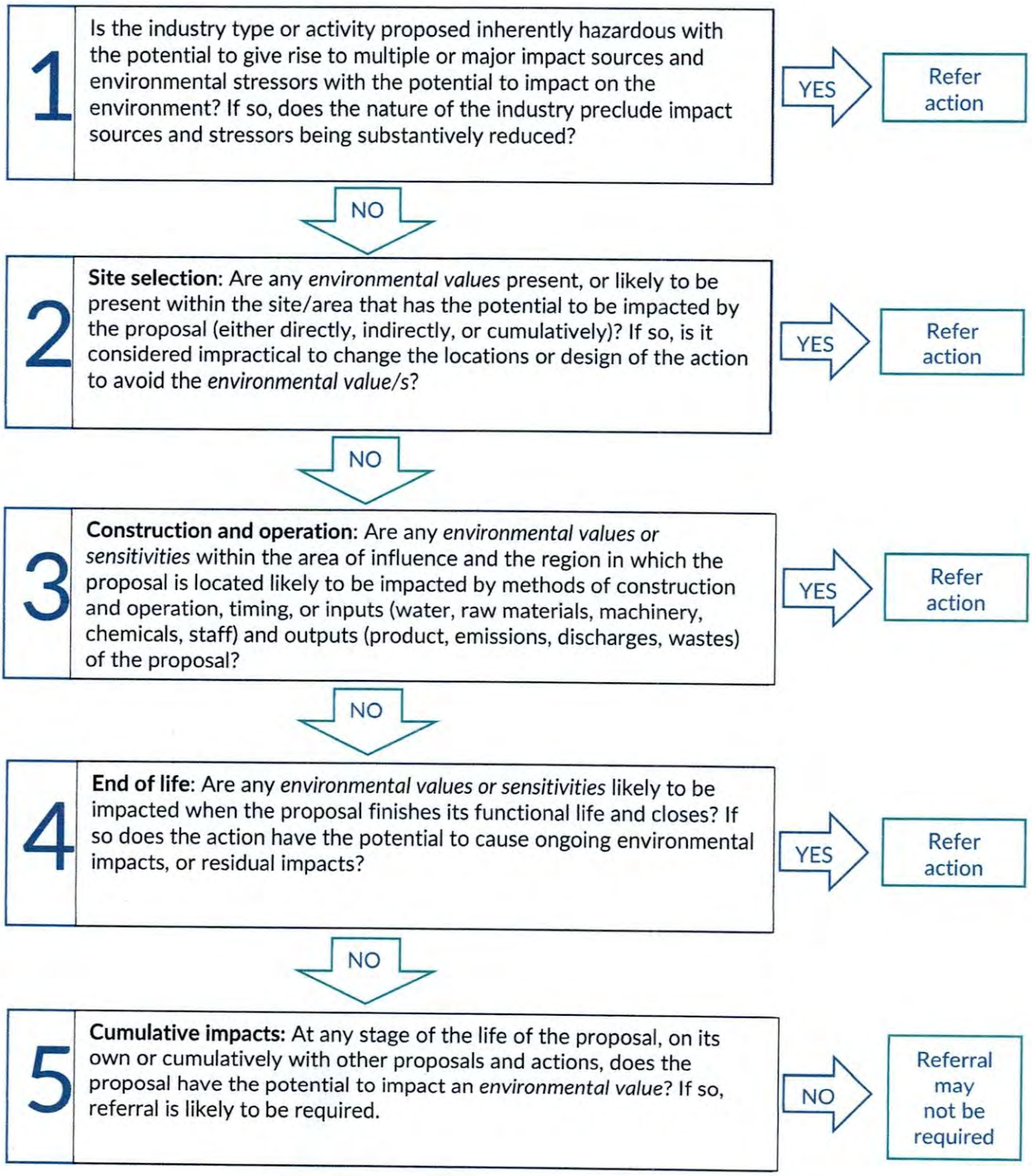
Appendix 1: Pre-referral screening tool

This appendix provides the tools to assist proponents in conducting a pre-referral screening of a new proposal and should be completed after reading all information in the referral guidance.

Part 1 – General screening questions



Guidance for answering screening questions:

Environmental values and sensitivities

While a proponent may exercise a degree of judgement about whether a proposal has the potential to have a significant impact on the environment, **it is for the NT EPA to decide an impact's significance.** Therefore, the screening tool requires the identification of whether the proposal activity/industry type inherently has the potential to impact the environment and has the potential to impact aspects of the environment that are rare, sensitive to stress or important (environmental values and sensitivities). The premise for this approach is that any impacts (including impacts perceived to be minor) to environmental values and sensitivities, have the potential to be significant.

Question 1 – inherent hazardous nature of proposal

If the proposal could be considered inherently hazardous (checkbox = yes), it must be referred to the NT EPA.

Examples of inherently hazardous developments or activities could include (but are not limited to) a uranium mine, aluminium smelter, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant or gas processing facility. As this question is about the proposal or activity without reference to the receiving environment or environmental values, check boxes for this question, corresponding to environmental factors, have been removed from the checklist at Part B.

Question 2 – site selection

Appropriate site selection is used to avoid environmental impacts by not locating a proposal where environmental values (such as sensitive environments) are present or can be impacted.

The checklist at Appendix 1 – Part 2 indicates the potential environmental values and sensitivities that are associated with each environmental factor to encourage consideration of whether an environmental value or sensitivity is present or absent within the footprint or surrounding environment of the proposal.

If present, a proponent must consider whether the proposal could have a direct, indirect or cumulative impact on it. If an impact to an environmental value or sensitivity has the potential to occur (checkbox = yes or uncertain), the proponent should consider, justify, and/or assess the significance of the impact. If there is potential for significant impact the proponent must refer the proposal to the NT EPA. Alternatively, the proponent could change the location or design of the proposal to avoid the impact (if this occurs, checkbox = no and provide a brief justification for the changes made and residual impact).

Question 3 – construction and operation

The methods of construction and operation may give rise to impact sources and pathways for impacts to environmental values and sensitivities outside the development footprint, in the surrounding environment.

For example, constructing an earthen barge landing or dredging a shipping channel in coastal waters could lead to poor water quality and impacts to marine ecosystems distant from the development; a polymetallic mine that includes processing and therefore a tailings stream, may pose a risk to beneficial uses downstream of the mine through seepage of contaminants to groundwater aquifers.

If the method of construction or operation of a proposal is likely to create impact sources and pathways to environmental values and sensitivities within the area of influence outside the development footprint (checkbox = yes or uncertain), the proponent must refer the proposal to the NT EPA. Alternatively, the proponent may alter the method to avoid the impact (if this occurs, checkbox = no and provide a brief justification for the changes made and residual impact).

Question 4 – residual or ongoing impacts

The state of the impacted area at the end of life of the proposal may give rise to ongoing impacts (legacy issues) that may not be possible to manage actively or effectively.

For example, in the mining industry where resources are finite and physical disturbance of the site is difficult and/or prohibitively expensive to repair.

If at the end of the proposal's life, the proposal footprint is unlikely to be restored, or adverse impacts to environmental values and sensitivities are likely to occur and be ongoing into the longer term (checkbox = yes or uncertain), the proponent must refer the proposal to the NT EPA. Alternatively, the proponent could demonstrate that adverse impacts would be avoided at the end of life of the proposal and into the future (if this occurs, checkbox = no and provide a brief justification for the changes made and residual impact).

Question 5 – cumulative impacts

It is a requirement to consider how the proposal could contribute to impacts to environmental values and sensitivities as a result of a combination of smaller impacts arising from the proposal, and/or that accumulate in conjunction with other developments, or natural events.

If cumulatively, the activities associated with a single proposal, and/or in combination with other proposals or actions or events in the region, impacts to environmental values and sensitivities are likely (checkbox = yes or uncertain), the proponent should consider, justify, and/or assess the significance of the impact, which may lead to referral of the proposal to the NT EPA. Alternatively, the proponent could demonstrate that cumulative impacts resulting from the proposal can be avoided (if this occurs, checkbox = no and provide a brief justification for the changes made and residual impact).

Part 2 – Answer checklist

How to complete the answer checklist: Use questions 1-5 from Part 1 of the screening tool. Indicate answer to questions 1-5 in corresponding checkbox.

The table below gives an indication of possible *environmental values* and sensitivities for each environmental factor that should be addressed when considering each question. If the answer to a question is 'yes' or 'uncertain', it is possible that the proposal may have the potential to have a significant impact on the environment and the proposal should be referred to the NT EPA. If you answer 'no' to any question, provide a justification why there is no likely impact to that factor.

Theme	Environmental factor and objective	Indicative environmental values and sensitivities relevant to each environmental factor	Proponent's answer to screening questions 1-5				
				Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
Is the industry type or activity proposed inherently hazardous with the potential to give rise to multiple or major impact sources and environmental stressors with the potential to impact on the environment? If so, does the nature of the industry preclude impact sources and stressors being substantively reduced?			No ☑ Yes ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ NA				
LAND	1) Landforms Objective: Conserve the variety and integrity of distinctive physical landforms.	○ distinctive features in the landscape, either geological or anthropogenic ○ subterranean karstic terrain and faults ○ craters, gorges, ranges, caves, massifs, escarpments, plateaus ○ monuments ○ tourism related to landforms	Yes No Uncertain Not Applicable	☐ ☑ ☐ ☐	☐ ☑ ☐ ☐	☐ ☑ ☐ ☐	☐ ☑ ☐ ☐
If you answered No to any screening questions for Landforms, provide justification here: There are no distinctive physical landforms within or in close proximity to the proposed clearing area (see Section 9 of application).							
	2) Terrestrial environmental quality Objective: Protect the quality and integrity of land and soils so that environmental values are supported and maintained.	○ high quality soils, including chemical, physical, biological, and aesthetic qualities that support life ○ the biological processes that depend on soil quality	Yes No Uncertain Not Applicable	☐ ☑ ☐ ☐	☐ ☑ ☐ ☐	☐ ☑ ☐ ☐	☐ ☑ ☐ ☐

Theme	Environmental factor and objective	Indicative environmental values and sensitivities relevant to each environmental factor	Proponent's answer to screening questions 1-5				
				Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
	If you answered No to any screening questions for Terrestrial environmental quality, provide justification here: There are no foreseen adverse affects or impacts to the quality and integrity of land and soils from the proposed works (Section 9 and 12)						
	3) Terrestrial ecosystems Objective: Protect terrestrial habitats to maintain environmental values including biodiversity, ecological integrity, and ecological functioning.	○ 'sensitive or significant' vegetation or buffers (as defined in the NT Land Clearing Guidelines) ○ listed threatened species and their habitat (NT and Commonwealth) ○ listed migratory species and their habitat (Commonwealth) ○ listed threatened ecological communities (Commonwealth) ○ locally endemic or restricted species and their habitat ○ species that are data deficient with unknown protection status ○ protected area or reserve, including Indigenous Protected Area ○ biosecurity ○ high quality biological and functional diversity, integrity, and services	Yes No Uncertain Not Applicable	☐ ☑ ☐ ☐	☐ ☑ ☐ ☐	☐ ☑ ☐ ☐	☐ ☑ ☐ ☐
	If you answered No to any screening questions for Terrestrial ecosystems, provide justification here: The proposed works pose a low to medium risk to terrestrial ecosystems present (See Section 10).						
WATER	1) Hydrological processes Objective: Protect the hydrological regimes of groundwater and surface water so that environmental values including ecological health, land uses and the welfare and amenity of people are maintained.	○ the supply and quantity of water in surface water features including rivers, lakes, wetlands, swamps, creeks, billabongs, intermittent streams, floodplains, mangroves, and drainage lines ○ the supply and quantity of water in groundwater features including aquifers, aquitards, water tables and the ecosystems they support (stygofauna, vegetation, and groundwater dependent ecosystems) ○ declared beneficial uses ○ present and future uses, and users of water ○ current or potential water supplies, including regional scale aquifers ○ culturally important water features or other features affected by water level	Yes No Uncertain Not Applicable	☐ ☑ ☐ ☐	☐ ☑ ☐ ☐	☐ ☑ ☐ ☐	☐ ☑ ☐ ☐
	If you answered No to any screening questions for Hydrological processes, provide justification here: No foreseen adverse affects or impacts to hydrological processes from the proposed works (Section 10).						
	2) Inland water environmental quality	○ the quality of water in surface water features including rivers, lakes, wetlands, swamps, creeks, billabongs, intermittent streams, floodplains, mangroves, and drainage lines	Yes No	☐ ☑	☐ ☑	☐ ☑	☐ ☑

Theme	Environmental factor and objective	Indicative environmental values and sensitivities relevant to each environmental factor	Proponent's answer to screening questions 1-5				
				Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
	Objective: Protect the quality of groundwater and surface water so that environmental values including ecological health, land uses and the welfare and amenity of people are maintained.	○ the quality of water in groundwater features including aquifers and water tables ○ declared beneficial uses ○ present and future uses and users of water ○ current or potential water supplies, including regional scale aquifers ○ potability / drinkability ○ culturally important water features	Uncertain Not Applicable	☐ ☐	☐ ☐	☐ ☐	☐ ☐
	If you answered No to any screening questions for Inland water environmental quality, provide justification here: The proposed works pose a low risk to inland water environmental quality (Section 10).						
	3) Aquatic ecosystems Objective: Protect aquatic habitats to maintain environmental values including biodiversity, ecological integrity, and ecological functioning.	○ threatened species ○ the health of the biota in inland waterways ○ the habitats that support the lifecycle of aquatic biota ○ groundwater dependent ecosystems ○ Ramsar wetlands ○ high quality biological and functional diversity, integrity, and services	Yes No Uncertain Not Applicable	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
	If you answered No to any screening questions for Aquatic ecosystems, provide justification here: The proposed works pose a low risk to aquatic ecosystems in the region (Section 10).						
SEA	1) Coastal processes Objective: Protect the geophysical and hydrological processes that shape coastal morphology so that the environmental values of the coast are maintained.	○ processes that support marine ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves ○ processes that support coastal morphology such as beaches, rock bars, and sandbars ○ tidal creeks, deltas, and river mouths ○ storm surge protection ○ unique coastal landforms	Yes No Uncertain Not Applicable	☐ ☐ ☐ ☑	☐ ☐ ☐ ☑	☐ ☐ ☐ ☑	☐ ☐ ☐ ☑
	If you answered No to any screening questions for Coastal processes, provide justification here: The application area is not in or adjacent to coastal or tidal areas.						
	2) Marine environmental quality	○ quality of the water, sediment, and biota ○ physical parameters that support fishing and aquaculture ○ physical parameters that support recreation and aesthetics	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐

Theme	Environmental factor and objective	Indicative environmental values and sensitivities relevant to each environmental factor	Proponent's answer to screening questions 1-5	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
	Objective: Protect the quality and productivity of water, sediment, and biota so that environmental values are maintained.	○ industrial water supply ○ cultural and spiritual values	No	☐	☐	☐	☐
			Uncertain	☐	☐	☐	☐
			Not Applicable	☑	☑	☑	☑
	If you answered No to any screening questions for Marine environmental quality, provide justification here: The application area is not in or adjacent to coastal or tidal areas.						
	3) Marine ecosystems Objective: Protect marine habitats to maintain environmental values including biodiversity, ecological integrity, and ecological functioning.	○ conservation significant marine and coastal fauna and critical habitat such as nesting, breeding or foraging habitat ○ conservation significant marine and coastal benthos (seagrass meadows, sponge gardens, coral reefs, mangrove communities and salt marshes) ○ groups of species (species richness and assemblages of species) ○ ecological functions and processes ○ high quality biological and functional diversity, integrity and services	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐
			No	☐	☐	☐	☐
			Uncertain	☐	☐	☐	☐
			Not Applicable	☑	☑	☑	☑
	If you answered No to any screening questions for Marine ecosystems, provide justification here: The application area is not in or adjacent to coastal or tidal areas.						
AIR	1) Air quality Objective: Protect air quality and minimise emissions and their impact so that environmental values are maintained.	○ ambient air quality in the local airshed ○ the chemical, physical and biological characteristics of quality air ○ the biological processes that depend on the air quality	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐
			No	☑	☑	☑	☑
			Uncertain	☐	☐	☐	☐
			Not Applicable	☐	☐	☐	☐
	If you answered No to any screening questions for Air quality, provide justification here: No foreseen adverse affects or impacts to air quality from the proposed works.						
	2) Atmospheric processes Objective: Minimise greenhouse gas emissions so as to contribute to the	○ a contribution to the NT's greenhouse gas emissions through nearing or reaching emission thresholds for: ○ industrial projects of 100 000 $tCO_{2\text{-}e}$ scope 1 emissions per financial year (not counting emissions generated from land clearing)	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐
			No	☑	☑	☑	☑

Theme	Environmental factor and objective	Indicative environmental values and sensitivities relevant to each environmental factor	Proponent's answer to screening questions 1-5	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
	NT Government's goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.	○ land use project/s of 500 000 $tCO_{2\text{-}e}$ scope 1 emissions from single or cumulative land clearing actions.	Uncertain	☐	☐	☐	☐
			Not Applicable	☐	☐	☐	☐
	If you answered No to any screening questions for Atmospheric processes, provide justification here: Total calculated Scope 1 emissions from the proposed clearing = 6,027.93 tCO_2-e						
PEOPLE	1) Community and economy Objective: Enhance communities and the economy for the welfare, amenity and benefit of current and future generations of Territorians.	○ communities, towns and suburbs where people live ○ community aspirations for liveable environment and healthy lifestyles, ○ affordable access to food, water, electricity, transport and communication networks. ○ good amenity – air quality, noise, aesthetics ○ access to social infrastructure and services including transport and logistics ○ access to natural resources including bush food ○ recreational use of the natural or built environment (for example fishing, cycling, sports, picnics) ○ species of social, , livelihood and or economic importance (terrestrial, aquatic and marine biota) ○ participation in jobs, businesses and education ○ existing industries such as agriculture, pastoralism, tourism, fisheries ○ vulnerable sectors of the community.	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐
			No	☑	☑	☑	☑
			Uncertain	☐	☐	☐	☐
			Not Applicable	☐	☐	☐	☐
	If you answered No to any screening questions for Community and economy, provide justification here: No foreseen adverse affects or impacts to amenity, industry, welfare, social values or infrastructure from the proposed works (Section 11).						
	2) Culture and heritage Objective: Protect culture and heritage.	○ Aboriginal cultural values ○ sacred sites ○ the Territory's natural and built heritage ○ declared heritage places and objects protected under the *Heritage Act 2011* (NT) such as: ○ any Aboriginal or Macassan archaeological place or object (coastal mounds and middens, rock art, stone arrangements, quarries, artefacts, graves, burial sites and ancestral remains)	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐
			No	☑	☑	☑	☑
			Uncertain	☐	☐	☐	☐
			Not Applicable	☐	☐	☐	☐

Theme	Environmental factor and objective	Indicative environmental values and sensitivities relevant to each environmental factor	Proponent's answer to screening questions 1-5				
				Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
		○ underwater cultural heritage (isolated objects, shipwrecks, plane wrecks, underwater cables and evidence of Aboriginal occupation prior to sea level rise) ○ built heritage (colonial buildings and other historic buildings) ○ defence structures (defensive positions and airfields) ○ natural features (meteorite impact sites, palaeontological sites, springs, trees) ○ world heritage ○ heritage protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) ○ underwater cultural heritage protected under the *Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018* (Cth) ○ Aboriginal rights and interests, including right of access					
If you answered No to any screening questions for Culture and heritage, provide justification here: No registered or recorded heritage or cultural sites within the proposed development area (Section 14).							
3) Human health Objective: Protect the health of the Northern Territory population.		○ drinking water ○ air quality ○ bush foods ○ radiological limits (associated with electromagnetic and particulate radiation) ○ biting insects	Yes	☐	☐	☐	☐
			No	☑	☑	☑	☑
			Uncertain	☐	☐	☐	☐
			Not Applicable	☐	☐	☐	☐
If you answered No to any screening questions for Human health, provide justification here: No foreseen adverse affects or impacts to human health from the proposed works.							

Where the screening has been undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced person and all responses in the checklist are 'no', a referral to the NT EPA is not likely required. The NT EPA and DLPE does not require the completed checklist to be submitted in this case. However, the checklist and its justifications for no likely impact should be retained by the proponent to demonstrate the screening has been conducted. The proponent should also retain the scope of the proposal that was considered in conducting the screening, the name, qualifications and contact details of the suitably qualified and experienced person(s) who conducted the screening using the table below.

The NT EPA retains to power to "call-in" a proposal under section 53 of the EP Act.

Recommended record keeping: Where a proponent intends to retain this checklist to demonstrate it has given consideration to whether a referral is required, it is recommended that the following details are recorded.

	Details
Proponent name	Clayton Leigh Dehne & Zoe Lee Dehne.
Propose action name	Referring a proposal to the NT EPA - clearing of native vegetation at NT Portion 8570.
Description of proposed action	Non-referral.

Pre-referral screening has been conducted by: names, qualifications and date of works by suitably qualified and experienced persons[6] engaged by the proponent.

Environmental factor	Name	Qualification / Experience	Signature	Date

Proponent's declaration that the pre-referral screening has been conducted.

Screening declaration by proponent:

I, Helen Groves *(full name)* declare that I am authorised to verify the pre-referral screening of this proposed action/strategic proposal on behalf of (above) name of legal entity organisation....., and further declare that:

- the attached environmental impact assessment documents (including attachments) are true; and
- the attached environmental impact assessment documents do not provide false or misleading information and I know it is an offence to provide false and misleading information, noting the penalties under section 260 of the EP Act, and section 119 of the *Criminal Code Act 1983*.

[6] Section 4 of the EP Act provides the meaning of a qualified person. Experience may be provided in years and/or a description of relevant experience.

EPBC Act Protected Matters Report

This report provides general guidance on matters of national environmental significance and other matters protected by the EPBC Act in the area you have selected. Please see the caveat for interpretation of information provided here.

Report created: 30-Sep-2026

Summary
Details
- Matters of NES
- Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act
- Extra Information

Caveat
Acknowledgements

Summary

Matters of National Environment Significance

This part of the report summarises the matters of national environmental significance that may occur in, or may relate to, the area you nominated. Further information is available in the detail part of the report, which can be accessed by scrolling or following the links below. If you are proposing to undertake an activity that may have a significant impact on one or more matters of national environmental significance then you should consider the Administrative Guidelines on Significance.

World Heritage Properties:	None
National Heritage Places:	None
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar	None
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park:	None
Commonwealth Marine Area:	None
Listed Threatened Ecological Communities:	1
Listed Threatened Species:	18
Listed Migratory Species:	15

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

This part of the report summarises other matters protected under the Act that may relate to the area you nominated. Approval may be required for a proposed activity that significantly affects the environment on Commonwealth land, when the action is outside the Commonwealth land, or the environment anywhere when the action is taken on Commonwealth land. Approval may also be required for the Commonwealth or Commonwealth agencies proposing to take an action that is likely to have a significant impact on the environment anywhere.

The EPBC Act protects the environment on Commonwealth land, the environment from the actions taken on Commonwealth land, and the environment from actions taken by Commonwealth agencies. As heritage values of a place are part of the 'environment', these aspects of the EPBC Act protect the Commonwealth Heritage values of a Commonwealth Heritage place. Information on the new heritage laws can be found at https://www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/heritage

A permit may be required for activities in or on a Commonwealth area that may affect a member of a listed threatened species or ecological community, a member of a listed migratory species, whales and other cetaceans, or a member of a listed marine species.

Commonwealth Lands:	None
Commonwealth Heritage Places:	None
Listed Marine Species:	20
Whales and Other Cetaceans:	None
Critical Habitats:	None
Commonwealth Reserves Terrestrial:	None
Australian Marine Parks:	None
Habitat Critical to the Survival of Marine Turtles:	None

Extra Information

This part of the report provides information that may also be relevant to the area you have

State and Territory Reserves:	1
Regional Forest Agreements:	None
Nationally Important Wetlands:	1
EPBC Act Referrals:	2
Key Ecological Features (Marine):	None
Biologically Important Areas:	None
Bioregional Assessments:	None
Geological and Bioregional Assessments:	None

Details

Matters of National Environmental Significance

Listed Threatened Ecological Communities [Resource Information]

For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are derived from recovery plans, State vegetation maps, remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps.
Status of Vulnerable, Disallowed and Ineligible are not MNES under the EPBC Act.

Community Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Arnhem Plateau Sandstone Shrubland Complex	Endangered	Community may occur within area	In buffer area only

Listed Threatened Species [Resource Information]

Status of Conservation Dependent and Extinct are not MNES under the EPBC Act.
Number is the current name ID.

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
BIRD			
Calidris acuminata Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Chloebia gouldiae listed as Erythrura gouldiae Gouldian Finch [90091]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Erythrotriorchis radiatus Red Goshawk [942]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Falco hypoleucos Grey Falcon [929]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Falcunculus frontatus whitei Crested Shrike-tit (northern), Northern Shrike-tit [26013]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
[Rostratula australis](#) Australian Painted Snipe [77037]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
[Tyto novaehollandiae kimberli](#) Masked Owl (northern) [26048]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
MAMMAL			
[Dasyurus hallucatus](#) Northern Quoll, Digul [Gogo-Yimidir], Wijingadda [Dambimangari], Wiminji [Martu] [331]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
[Macroderma gigas](#) Ghost Bat [174]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
[Phascogale pirata](#) Northern Brush-tailed Phascogale [82954]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
[Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus](#) Bare-rumped Sheath-tailed Bat, Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat [66889]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
[Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis](#) Northern Brushtail Possum [83091]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
REPTILE			
[Elseya lavarackorum](#) Gulf Snapping Turtle [67197]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
[Tiliqua scincoides intermedia](#) Northern Blue-tongued Skink [89838]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
[Varanus mertensi](#) Mertens' Water Monitor [1568]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
[Varanus mitchelli](#) Mitchell's Water Monitor [1569]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
SHARK			
Pristis pristis			
Largetooth Sawfish, Freshwater Sawfish, River Sawfish, Leichhardt's Sawfish, Northern Sawfish [60756]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area

Listed Migratory Species [Resource Information]

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Migratory Marine Birds			
Apus pacificus			
Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Migratory Marine Species			
Crocodylus porosus			
Salt-water Crocodile, Estuarine Crocodile [1774]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Pristis pristis			
Largetooth Sawfish, Freshwater Sawfish, River Sawfish, Leichhardt's Sawfish, Northern Sawfish [60756]	Endangered	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Migratory Terrestrial Species			
Cecropis daurica			
Red-rumped Swallow [80610]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Cuculus optatus			
Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo [86651]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Hirundo rustica			
Barn Swallow [662]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Motacilla cinerea			
Grey Wagtail [642]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Motacilla flava			
Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Migratory Wetlands Species			
Actitis hypoleucos			
Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Calidris acuminata Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Calidris melanotos Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Charadrius veredus Oriental Plover, Oriental Dotterel [882]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Glareola maldivarum Oriental Pratincole [840]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Pandion haliaetus Osprey [952]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area

Other Matters Protected by the EPBC Act

Listed Marine Species			[Resource Information]
Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Bird			
Actitis hypoleucos Common Sandpiper [59309]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Anseranas semipalmata Magpie Goose [978]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Apus pacificus Fork-tailed Swift [678]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Bubulcus ibis as Ardea ibis Cattle Egret [66521]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Calidris acuminata Sharp-tailed Sandpiper [874]	Vulnerable	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Calidris ferruginea Curlew Sandpiper [856]	Critically Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Calidris melanotos Pectoral Sandpiper [858]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Cecropis daurica as Hirundo daurica Red-rumped Swallow [80610]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Chalcites osculans as Chrysococcyx osculans Black-eared Cuckoo [83425]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Charadrius veredus Oriental Plover, Oriental Dotterel [882]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Glareola maldivarum Oriental Pratincole [840]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Haliaeetus leucogaster White-bellied Sea-Eagle [943]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Hirundo rustica Barn Swallow [662]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Merops ornatus Rainbow Bee-eater [670]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area

Scientific Name	Threatened Category	Presence Text	Buffer Status
Motacilla cinerea			
Grey Wagtail [642]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Motacilla flava			
Yellow Wagtail [644]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Pandion haliaetus			
Osprey [952]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area
Rostratula australis as Rostratula benghalensis (sensu lato)			
Australian Painted Snipe [77037]	Endangered	Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Reptile			
Crocodylus johnstoni			
Freshwater Crocodile, Johnston's Crocodile, Johnstone's Crocodile [1773]		Species or species habitat may occur within area	In feature area
Crocodylus porosus			
Salt-water Crocodile, Estuarine Crocodile [1774]		Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	In feature area

Extra Information

State and Territory Reserves			[Resource Information]
Protected Area Name	Reserve Type	State	Buffer Status
Elsey	National Park	NT	In feature area

Nationally Important Wetlands		[Resource Information]
Wetland Name	State	Buffer Status
Mataranka Thermal Pools	NT	In buffer area only

EPBC Act Referrals				[Resource Information]
Title of referral	Reference	Referral Outcome	Assessment Status	Buffer Status
Controlled action				
Construction of an iron ore mine and associated infrastructure	2013/6726	Controlled Action	Post-Approval	In buffer area only
Not controlled action				
Improving rabbit biocontrol: releasing another strain of RHDV, sthrn two thirds of Australia	2015/7522	Not Controlled Action	Completed	In buffer area only

Caveat

1 PURPOSE

This report is designed to assist in identifying the location of matters of national environmental significance (MNES) and other matters protected by the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act) which may be relevant in determining obligations and requirements under the EPBC Act.

The report contains the mapped locations of:

- World and National Heritage properties;
- Wetlands of International and National Importance;
- Commonwealth and State/Territory reserves;
- distribution of listed threatened, migratory and marine species;
- listed threatened ecological communities; and
- other information that may be useful as an indicator of potential habitat value.

2 DISCLAIMER

This report is not intended to be exhaustive and should only be relied upon as a general guide as mapped data is not available for all species or ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act (see below). Persons seeking to use the information contained in this report to inform the referral of a proposed action under the EPBC Act should consider the limitations noted below and whether additional information is required to determine the existence and location of MNES and other protected matters.

Where data is available to inform the mapping of protected species, the presence type (e.g. known, likely or may occur) that can be determined from the data is indicated in general terms. It is the responsibility of any person using or relying on the information in this report to ensure that it is suitable for the circumstances of any proposed use. The Commonwealth cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of any use of the report or any part thereof. To the maximum extent allowed under governing law, the Commonwealth will not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the use of, or reliance on the contents of this report.

3 DATA SOURCES

Threatened ecological communities

For threatened ecological communities where the distribution is well known, maps are generated based on information contained in recovery plans, State vegetation maps and remote sensing imagery and other sources. Where threatened ecological community distributions are less well known, existing vegetation maps and point location data are used to produce indicative distribution maps.

Threatened, migratory and marine species

Threatened, migratory and marine species distributions have been discerned through a variety of methods. Where distributions are well known and if time permits, distributions are inferred from either thematic spatial data (i.e. vegetation, soils, geology, elevation, aspect, terrain, etc.) together with point locations and described habitat; or modelled (MAXENT or BIOCLIM habitat modelling) using point locations and environmental data layers.

Where little information is available for a species or large number of maps are required in a short time-frame, maps are derived either from 0.04 or 0.02 decimal degree cells; by an automated process using polygon capture techniques (static two kilometre grid cells, alpha-hull and convex hull); or captured manually or by using topographic features (national park boundaries, islands, etc.).

In the early stages of the distribution mapping process (1999-early 2000s) distributions were defined by degree blocks, 100K or 250K map sheets to rapidly create distribution maps. More detailed distribution mapping methods are used to update these distributions when time permits.

4 LIMITATIONS

The following species and ecological communities have not been mapped and do not appear in this report:

- threatened species listed as extinct or considered vagrants;
- some recently listed species and ecological communities;
- some listed migratory and listed marine species, which are not listed as threatened species; and
- migratory species that are very widespread, vagrant, or only occur in Australia in small numbers.

The following groups have been mapped, but may not cover the complete distribution of the species:

- listed migratory and/or listed marine seabirds, which are not listed as threatened, have only been mapped for recorded breeding sites; and
- seals which have only been mapped for breeding sites near the Australian continent

The breeding sites may be important for the protection of the Commonwealth Marine environment.

Refer to the metadata for the feature group (using the Resource Information link) for the currency of the information.

Acknowledgements

This database has been compiled from a range of data sources. The department acknowledges the following custodians who have contributed valuable data and advice:

-Office of Environment and Heritage, New South Wales
-Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Victoria
-Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania
-Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia
-Department of Land and Resource Management, Northern Territory
-Department of Environmental and Heritage Protection, Queensland
-Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
-Environment and Planning Directorate, ACT
-Birdlife Australia
-Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme
-Australian National Wildlife Collection
-Natural history museums of Australia
-Museum Victoria
-Australian Museum
-South Australian Museum
-Queensland Museum
-Online Zoological Collections of Australian Museums
-Queensland Herbarium
-National Herbarium of NSW
-Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium of Victoria
-Tasmanian Herbarium
-State Herbarium of South Australia
-Northern Territory Herbarium
-Western Australian Herbarium
-Australian National Herbarium, Canberra
-University of New England
-Ocean Biogeographic Information System
-Australian Government, Department of Defence
Forestry Corporation, NSW
-Geoscience Australia
-CSIRO
-Australian Tropical Herbarium, Cairns
-eBird Australia
-Australian Government – Australian Antarctic Data Centre
-Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
-Australian Government National Environmental Science Program
-Australian Institute of Marine Science
-Reef Life Survey Australia
-American Museum of Natural History
-Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Inveresk, Tasmania
-Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, Tasmania
-Other groups and individuals

The Department is extremely grateful to the many organisations and individuals who provided expert advice and information on numerous draft distributions.

Please feel free to provide feedback via the Contact us page.

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Mataranka thermal pools

Location and Description

The Mataranka thermal pools are a lush oasis located 110 km south-east of Katherine, in the transition zone between the tropical and drier savanna regions of northern Australia. Significant perennial springs in the upper reaches of the Roper River feed the permanent dry season flow in the river. The Mataranka pools are the best known of the springs, with large volumes of warm water rising from groundwater reserves and held in pools fringed by paperbark and palm forest. The thermal pools contrast starkly with the surrounding dry landscape and provide a permanent source of water in a seasonally dry environment.

Tenure and Land Use

The majority of this site is Crown leasehold land (Elsey National Park and Cave Creek Station) and other smaller portions are freehold land, some of which are part of the Mangarrayi Aboriginal Land Trust. Approximately 66% of this site is managed as a conservation reserve where the main land uses are recreation, tourism and conservation, and other uses within the site include Indigenous and pastoral activities.

Significance Rating

National Significance

Ecological Values

The Roper River represents the southern boundary for a large number of species, marking this area as an important boundary between different biogeographic and climatic regions.

Management Issues

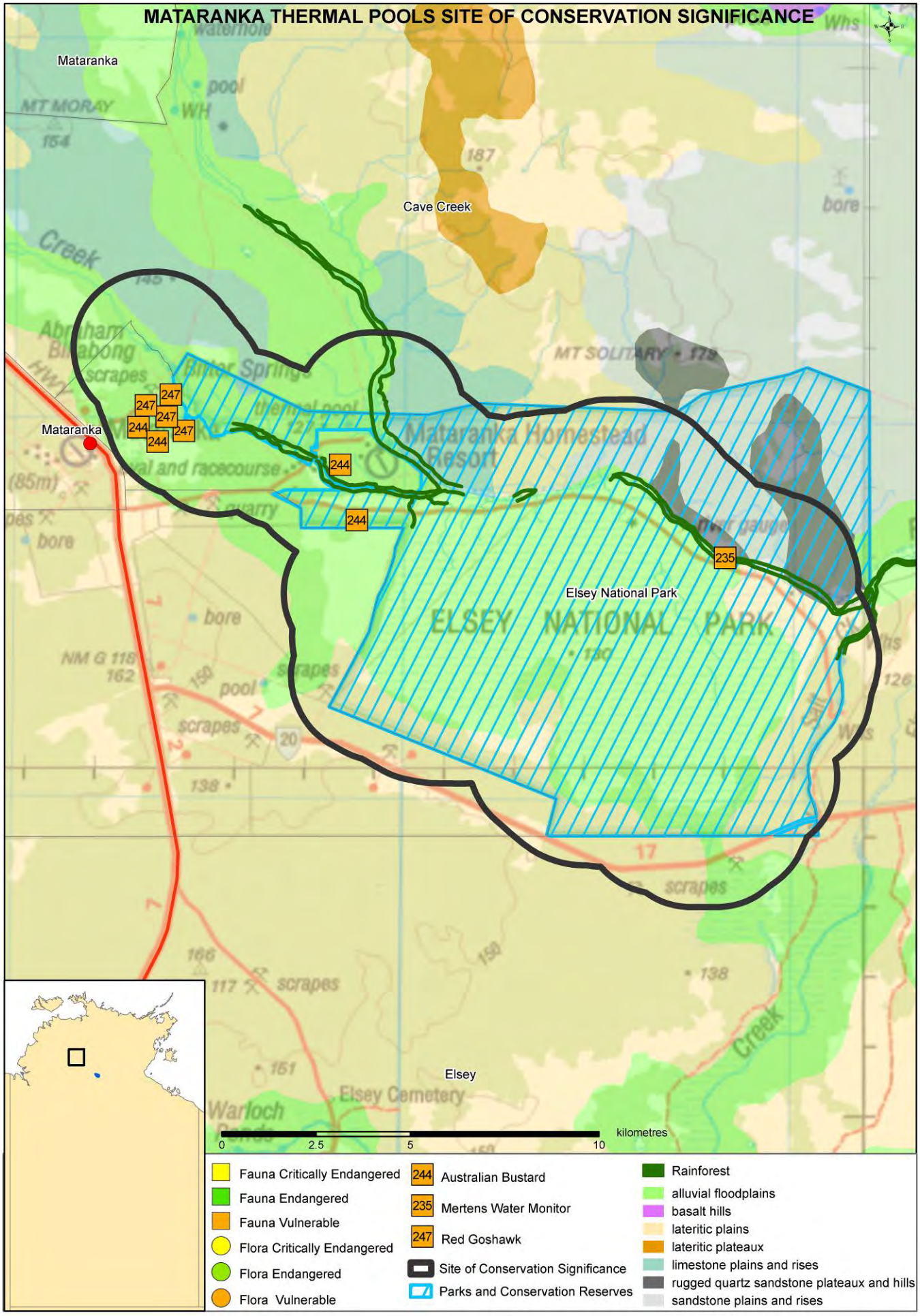
The thermal pools and parts of the upper Roper River are heavily used by tourists in the dry season. Provision and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure to minimise the impacts of tourists is an important management issue in the area. Other important impacts include those by weeds and feral animals, particularly donkey, on wetland and riparian areas.

Condition

The Mataranka thermal pools are surrounded by infrastructure to control access by tourists, but are in a generally good condition. Some of the wetland and riparian areas are degraded by feral animals and weeds. Riparian areas are subject to considerable natural disturbance from periodic wet-season floods.

Current Conservation Initiatives

A natural resource management plan for the Roper River Catchment was developed in 2004 and identifies management responses to a range of priority issues. A new plan of management is currently in preparation for Elsey National Park.


MATARANKA THERMAL POOLS SITE OF CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE
Mataranka
Cave Creek
Elsey National Park
ELSEY NATIONAL PARK
Elsey
Elsey Cemetery
MT MORAY
MT SOLITARY
Mataranka Homestead Resort
247
244
235
kilometres
0
2.5
5
10
Fauna Critically Endangered
Fauna Endangered
Fauna Vulnerable
Flora Critically Endangered
Flora Endangered
Flora Vulnerable
Australian Bustard
Mertens Water Monitor
Red Goshawk
Site of Conservation Significance
Parks and Conservation Reserves
Rainforest
alluvial floodplains
basalt hills
lateritic plains
lateritic plateaux
limestone plains and rises
rugged quartz sandstone plateaux and hills
sandstone plains and rises

LOCATION	**SOCS Number**	31 (NT Parks and Conservation Masterplan Map Number 26)
	Latitude/Longitude	14º 57´ South, 133º 10´ East (at centre)
	Bioregion	Sturt Plateau (69%), Gulf Fall and Uplands (31%)
	Description	This site includes parts of the headwaters of the Roper River (to the junction with Salt Creek), the numerous thermal spring-fed pools and connecting channels (Roper Creek and the Waterhouse River), and the calcrete plain in the southern part of the site. The site is bounded by the Stuart Highway on the west and the Roper Highway on the south; it covers an area of about 190 km² and is dominated by alluvial floodplains (116 km²).
THREATENED SPECIES	**Significance Rating**	**Regional Significance**
	Threatened plants and animals (Listings at National/NT level **CR** - Critically Endangered, **EN** - Endangered, **VU** - Vulnerable, **NT** - Near Threatened, **LC** - Least Concern, **DD** - Data Deficient)	Three threatened species are reported from this site. **Vertebrates** ▪ Australian Bustard *Ardeotis australis* (-/VU) ▪ Red Goshawk *Erythrotriorchis radiatus* (VU/VU) ▪ Merten's Water Monitor *Varanus mertensi* (-/VU) The site is a well-known locality for nesting Red Goshawk that is regularly visited by bird-watchers.
ENDEMIC SPECIES	**Significance Rating**	**Not Significant**
	Notes	**Endemic to the NT:** Ten plant species and one bird (Hooded Parrot) recorded in this site are endemic to the NT.
WILDLIFE AGGREGATIONS	**Significance Rating**	**Regional Significance**
	Marine turtles	
	Seabirds	
	Waterbirds	The thermal springs and associated river system provides important habitat for local populations of waterbirds and transient waterbirds and shorebirds, but there are no major aggregations or breeding colonies reported for the site.
	Shorebirds	
	Other aggregations	A large population of Little Red Flying-fox (*Pteropus scapulatus*) roosts and breeds in vegetation around the Mataranka thermal springs each year. In April 1995 the population was estimated to exceed 200 000 individuals (Vardon *et al.* 1997).
WETLANDS	**Significance Rating**	**National Significance**
	Ramsar criteria met	Not assessed
	DIWA criteria met	This site is listed as a wetland of national significance in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (DIWA: NT003 Mataranka Thermal Pools). The site meets criteria 1, 6, comprises an area of less than 100 ha, and includes DIWA wetland type B17.
	Notes	The Mataranka thermal pools are good examples of tropical springs and associated permanent pools, and the system is one of the best known in the NT (DIWA). The pools are maintained by permanent thermal springs and drain into Roper Creek and the Waterhouse River.
	Rivers	The Mataranka thermal pools feed the Waterhouse River and Roper Creek, the two main tributaries of the Roper River. The Roper River is one of the largest NT rivers and is an important permanent water source for the south western Gulf of Carpentaria.
FLORA	**Significance Rating**	**Not significant**
	Notes	**Rainforest:** Approximately 138 ha of rainforest occur in riparian areas in this site (Russell-Smith 1991).

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES		The Mataranka Thermal Pools and a section of the Roper River (Roper River and Sections of the Banks) are listed on the Register of the National Estate for their natural values (Australian Heritage Council). 13 species recorded from this site are listed under international conventions or bilateral agreements protecting migratory animals. The Roper River represents the southern boundary for a large number of species, marking this area as an important boundary between different biogeographic and climatic regions (Griffiths 1997).
MANAGEMENT ISSUES		**Fire:** In the period 1993-2004, 78% of the site was burnt in fewer than three years, and 2% was burnt in more than six years. **Feral animals:** Donkeys are abundant in Elsey National Park and there is evidence of disturbance from them in a range of habitats (Griffiths 1997). Black Rat and House Mouse are recorded from native bushland in the Park and this is of concern because of the distance from extensive human settlement (Griffiths 1997). **Weeds:** One Weed of National Significance (*Parkinsonia aculeate),* eight declared Category A and B weeds (*Acanthospermum hispidum, Calotropis procera, Cenchrus echinatus, Jatropha gossypiifolia, Martynia annua, Senna occidentalis, Sida acuta, Sida cordifolia*), and one undeclared but problematic environmental weed (*Clitoria ternatea*; high priority weed: Smith 2001) are recorded from this site. Numerous weed species are present in Elsey National Park, especially in better watered areas where disturbance by donkeys encourages their spread (CCNT 1995). Other weeds of concern present in the site include devil's claw *Martynia annua* and rubber bush *Calotropis procera* (Griffiths 1997). **Other:** Visitor numbers to the thermal pools have increased substantially in recent years and excessive use could damage fringing vegetation. Vardon *et al.* (1997) notes damage to vegetation around the thermal springs caused by a large colony of Little Red Flying Fox, and their conflict with human use of the area. Non-destructive techniques have been used unsuccessfully to try and move the animals (Vardon *et al.* 1997).
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION	**NRM groups**	No information located.
	Protected areas	Elsey National Park (125 km²/ 66% of site).
	Current management plans	**Site-specific plans:** Elsey National Park Plan of Management (CCNT 1995), Roper River Catchment Natural Resource Management Plan (Kraatz 2004). **National recovery plans for threatened species:** Red Goshawk (Baker-Gabb in prep.). **Other management plans:** Australian Weeds Strategy (NRMMC 2007); FIREPLAN: Fire management for the savanna community (Russell-Smith *et al.* in prep.).
	Monitoring programs and research projects	Rangers in Elsey NP monitor traps for crocodiles in the Roper River section of the site. Fire in the tropical savannas is mapped continuously under the North Australia Fire Information Project http://www.firenorth.org.au/nafi/app/init.jsp
	Management recommendations	Prepare Plan of Management for Elsey National Park including the Mataranka thermal pools in conjunction with stakeholders (NRETA 2005). Continue efforts to control donkey populations and noxious weeds and manage and monitor fire regimes in the Park (Griffiths 1997). Undertake sampling of fish and turtle species in the Roper and Waterhouse Rivers and Little Roper Creek (Griffiths 1997).
KEY REFERENCES	**Papers and reports**	DIWA (A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia). *Australian Wetlands Database*. Department of Environment, Water, Heritage & the Arts, Canberra ACT (accessed May 2008). Griffiths, A.D. (1997). *Biological Survey of Elsey National Park.* Technical Report No. 63. Parks and Wildlife Commission NT, Palmerston.
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