



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PUBLIC ENVIRONMENT REPORT

AUGUST 2026

NEW LENTON COAL PTY LTD

NEW LENTON COAL PROJECT

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Project Overview and Proponent

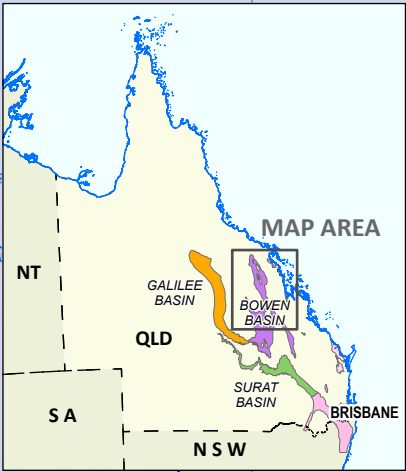
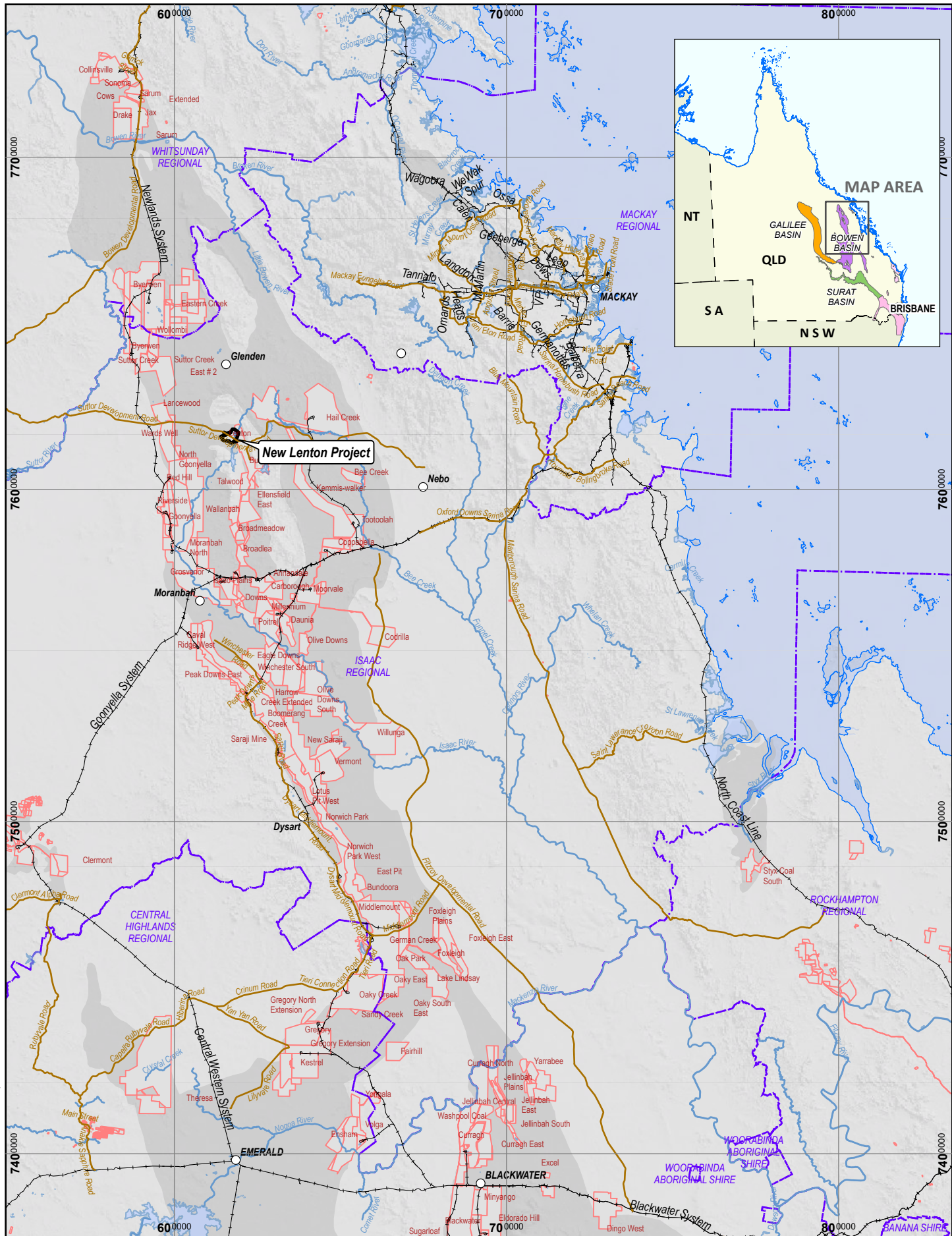
New Lenton Coal Pty Ltd (NLC) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bowen Coking Coal Ltd (BCC). BCC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Argo Holdings Qld Pty Ltd (Argo). Argo acquired BCC in July 2026, at which point BCC became an unlisted public entity. BCC originally acquired NLC from the New Hope Corporation (New Hope) in July 2022. The Lenton Joint Venture (LJV) is an unincorporated joint venture between New Lenton Coal Pty Ltd (ACN 095 390 079) and MPC Lenton Pty Ltd (MPC) (ACN 149 618 904). NLC and MPC own the LJV assets as tenants in common in the participating interests of 90% and 10% respectively. The designated proponent for the Project is NLC.

LJV is the holder of mining lease (ML) 70337, ML 700053 and ML 700054 (referred to as the New Lenton MLs or the Project area), on which the New Lenton Coal Project (the Project) is proposed. The New Lenton MLs are subject to an existing State approved environmental authority (EA) for all mining leases. The New Lenton MLs are located in the Bowen Basin of central Queensland, approximately 120 km south west of Mackay and 50 km north of Moranbah (refer to Figure ES1-1).

LJV is also the holder of ML 70109 and ML 70260, referred to as the Burton Mine MLs, which adjoin the New Lenton MLs, and which is subject to an existing State approved EA. Burton Mine commenced operations around 1996 (refer to Figure ES1-2).

NLC is proposing to develop two open cut coal mining pits on the New Lenton MLs, with supporting infrastructure (refer to Figure ES1-3). Approximately 1.9 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of metallurgical run of mine (ROM) coal¹ will be mined over a period of 18 years. Overburden will be placed in in-pit and out of pit waste rock dumps, with a final void remaining at the end of mine life. Supporting infrastructure includes a mine infrastructure area (MIA), haul roads, realignment of a public road and water management infrastructure (refer to Figure ES1-3). ROM coal will be hauled to Burton Mine for washing in Burton Mine's coal handling and processing plant (CHPP). Product coal will be hauled to Burton Mine's train load out (TLO) facility (refer to Figure ES1-2) and railed to Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal (DBCT). Rejects from washing of Project ROM coal will be stored within Burton Mine's existing co-disposal areas within old mine voids.

¹ Metallurgical coal is used in the manufacture of steel.

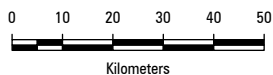


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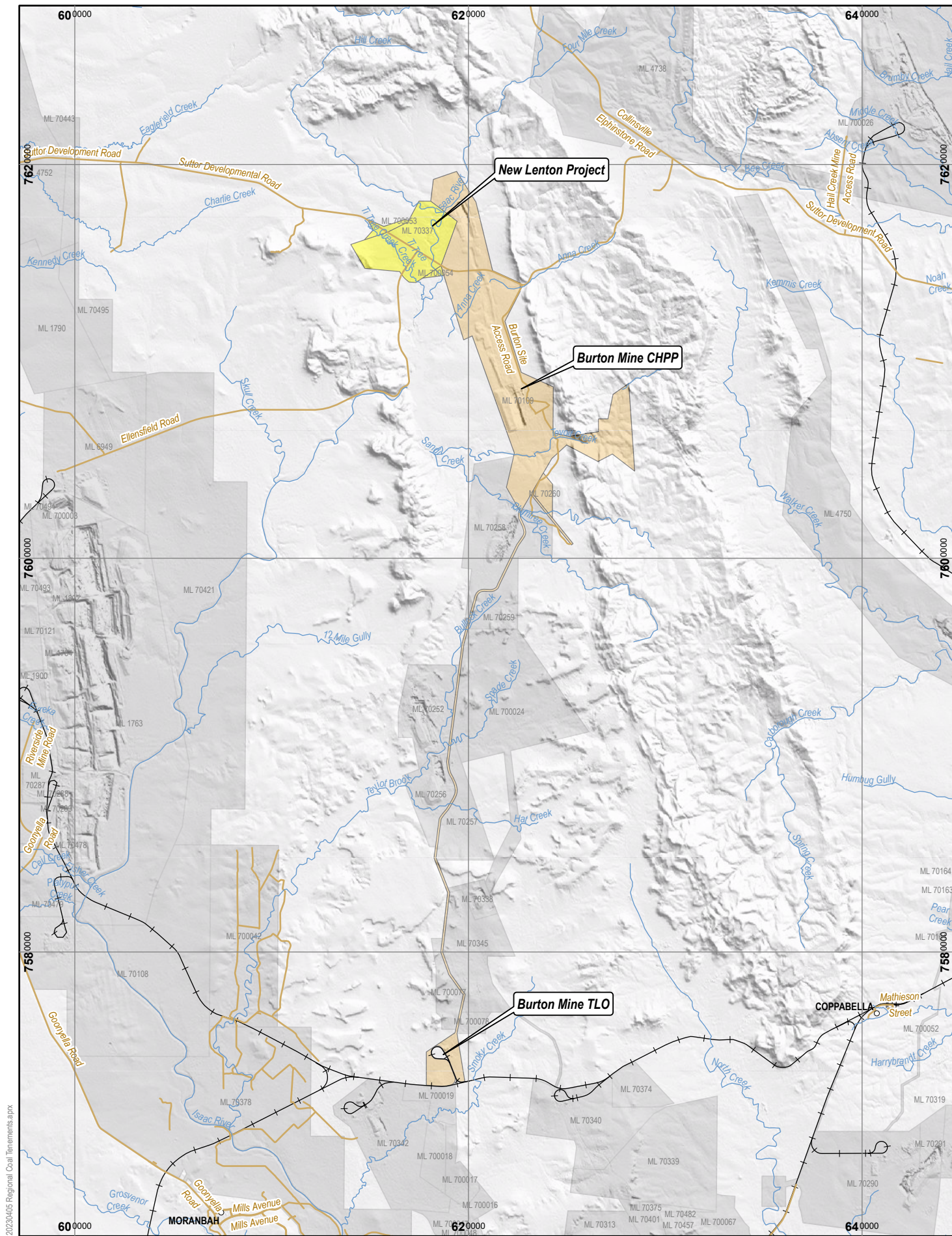


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Regional Location

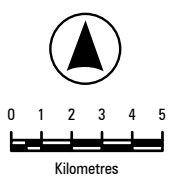
Figure | ES1-1



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- LEGEND**
- New Lenton Project
 - Burton Mine MLs
 - ML
 - Town Symbols
 - Waterway
 - Roads
 - Railway



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New Lenton MLs and Burton Mine MLs

1.2 Statutory Context

1.2.1 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

A Referral for the Project, under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) was lodged on 23/09/2020 (EPBC 2020/8778). On 22/10/2020, the delegate for the Minister for the Environment determined that the Project was a controlled action and would be assessed by public environment report (PER), subject to the following controlling provisions for matters of national environmental significance (MNES):

- Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)
- A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development (sections 24D & 24E).

The Referral was supported by assessments of impacts to the relevant controlling provisions. At the time of the Referral the holding company for the proponent (NLC) was New Hope. Argo and BCC, the subsequent holding companies of the proponent (NLC) are independent of New Hope.

Guidelines for a draft PER for the Project ('the PER guidelines') were issued by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) on 19/12/2022.

The draft PER was submitted on 29/04/2025, with DCCEEW deciding to approve the publication of the draft PER under section 98(1)(b) of the EPBC Act on 14/05/2025.

The draft PER was published in early June 2025 on a website, in national and regional newspapers, and at local and regional libraries and State authorities for a period of 20 business days ending on 04/07/2025, with anyone able to provide written comments.

DCCEEW requested advice on the Project from the Independent Expert Scientific Committee (IESC) on 29/02/2024, with the IESC providing advice on relevant matters on 16/04/2024. The proponent updated the draft PER in response to the advice from the IESC, as reflected in the draft PER that was submitted on 29/04/2025 and published in June 2025.

This document is the final PER, following responses to public submissions on the draft PER.

1.2.2 Environmental Protection Act 1994

The proposed Project activities on the New Lenton MLs are subject to an existing State EA (EPML00475513), granted in January 2021 under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) and a progressive rehabilitation and closure plan (PRCP) schedule granted in November 2023 under the EP Act. The grant of the EA followed a major EA amendment application assessing the impacts of the Project. The Referral in September 2020 utilised the information prepared for the major EA amendment application. The Project information and the assessment of impacts provided in the major EA amendment application and the Referral continues to provide the basis for the assessment of impacts, further supplemented by additional information presented in this PER.

1.2.3 Mineral Resources Act 1989

All MLs for the Project are granted under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (MR Act). There are no new MLs required for the Project. Therefore the Project does not require any new approvals under the MR Act. All granted MLs occur on land where native title under the *Native Title Act 1993* (NT Act) has been extinguished.

1.2.4 Water Act 2000

The LJV was granted an associated water licence (AWL) in May 2021 under the *Water Act 2000* (Water Act) for the taking of, and interfering with, associated water from the Rangal Coal Measures and adjacent

formations with the point of take on or under the area of ML 70337. The purpose of the AWL is for dewatering during the course of, or resulting from, the carrying out of an authorised activity for the ML.

1.3 Purpose of the Public Environment Report

This final PER addresses the requirements of the PER guidelines and has been informed by studies undertaken for the Referral, additional studies designed to meet the requirements of the PER guidelines, advice from the IESC and public submissions.

1.4 Project Description

The mine plan for the Project is to mine the coal resources at rate of approximately 1.9 Mtpa over 18 years, with a total of approximately 30 million tonnes (Mt) over the life of the mine. Some years, including during ramp up phases, will mine less than 1.9 Mtpa ROM coal. Mining will target the Burton Rider, Leichhardt and Vermont coal seams of the Rangal Coal Measures.

The Project open cut mining will involve the following activities:

- clearing of vegetation
- stripping and stockpiling of topsoil
- drilling and blasting of pre-strip overburden
- removing the pre-strip overburden using truck and shovel fleets and/or dozers
- drilling and blasting of overburden
- overburden removal by truck and shovel fleets
- coal mining using excavators
- progressive rehabilitation of overburden dump areas.

The proposed Project activities and layout are shown in Figure ES1-3, and comprise:

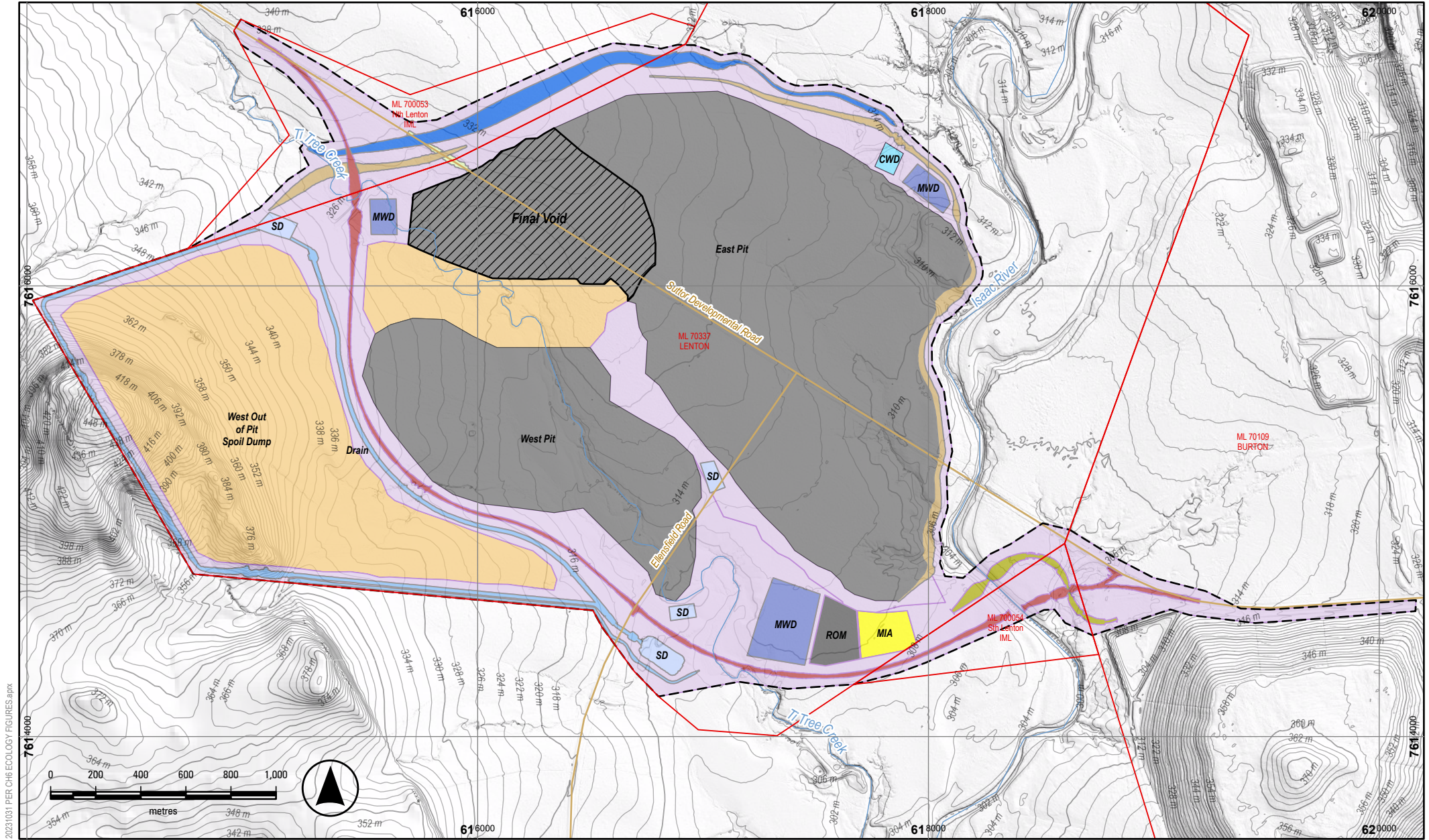
- 2 mining pits, East Pit and West Pit
- in-pit and out of pit overburden dumps
- MIA
- haul roads, including haul road connection with the Burton Mine haul roads and a bed level crossing of the Isaac River
- Suttor Developmental Road (a public road) realignment, with a new bridge over the Isaac River
- mine affected water dams
- sediment dams
- clean water diversion drains
- mine affected water pipeline connecting with pipelines at Burton Mine
- diversion of Ti-Tree Creek
- levee along the diversion of Ti-Tree Creek
- levee along the Isaac River
- general infrastructure and construction working area.

The Project's proposed disturbance area, as shown in Figure ES1-3, totals 886 ha, and includes sufficient area for construction working room for infrastructure and general mining activities. The proposed disturbance area is a portion of the New Lenton MLs / Project area.

Mining operations will occur on a continuous 24 hour, seven day a week cycle. Approximately 18 Mt of product coal will be produced from the Project's ROM coal at the Burton Mine CHPP, with approximately 12 Mt of tailings and rejects (collectively referred to as co-disposal). Burton Mine has sufficient capacity in existing voids to store, manage and rehabilitate the predicted life of mine co-disposal volumes from the Project and Burton Mine.

The Project will not result in any changes to Burton Mine's CHPP infrastructure for washing coal, transporting coal from the CHPP to the TLO, or railing of coal from the TLO to DBCT. These aspects do not form part of the Project. The new infrastructure required for the Project on Burton Mine, which form part of the Project within the proposed disturbance area, will include:

- Approximately 1.5 km of connecting haul road to the existing haul road network
- Approximately 1.5 km of pipeline to connect with existing water management infrastructure at Burton Mine.



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Legend

- Mining Lease
- Proposed Disturbance Area
- Waterway
- Roads
- Contour Line, Intermediate
- Contour Line, Major
- Final Void

- Mine Infrastructure Area
- ROM
- Dump Footprint
- Sutor Developmental Road Realignment
- Haul Road
- Infrastructure and Construction Working Area
- Pit Footprint

- Temp Road Diversion
- Operational Levee
- Drain
- Ti Tree Creek Diversion
- Mine Water Dam
- Clean Water Dam
- Sediment Dam

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Project Layout

1.5 Project Location

1.5.1 Regional Location

The regional location of the New Lenton MLs is shown in Figure ES1-1. The New Lenton MLs are located in the Isaac Regional Council (IRC) local government area.

The Burton Mine MLs and TLO, and other regional mining projects are shown in Figure ES1-2 as granted MLs. These projects have been considered in the assessment of cumulative impacts where there is potential for cumulative impacts, relevant to the particular environmental value being assessed (e.g. groundwater, ecology), with the Project. In particular, mining activities at Burton Mine to the immediate east and south have the potential for cumulative impacts with the Project.

The nearest mining activities to the west and the east are approximately 15 km to 25 km from the Project area and separated by intervening ranges. Other smaller mines are located between 5 km and 30 km south of Burton Mine.

1.5.2 Properties

The majority of land on which Project activities are proposed is operated as a single pastoral station, Burton Downs. Other land parcels comprise State and local roads. The proponent has in place compensation agreements with landowners for undertaking mining activities on the land for the Project.

The land in the New Lenton MLs is used for grazing with parts cleared for cattle grazing, and other areas containing remnant vegetation, particularly along or adjacent watercourses and drainage lines.

1.5.3 Topography, Catchments and Watercourses

The area of the New Lenton MLs is relatively flat and encompasses a section of the Isaac River. The New Lenton MLs are located at an elevation of approximately 300 m to 340 m Australian Height Datum (AHD). The southern and western boundary of the Project area are generally between 300 and 315 m AHD with the highest point along the eastern boundary (refer to Figure ES1-4).

The Project area is located within the headwaters of the Isaac River Catchment. The Isaac River Catchment is part of the Isaac-Connors sub-catchment which is part of the Fitzroy River Basin (see Figure ES1-5). The Isaac Conner's sub catchment is approximately 22,000 km² and the Fitzroy Basin catchment area is approximately 140,000 km².

The Isaac River is the main watercourse within the Project area, and runs along the eastern boundary of the New Lenton MLs. In addition, there are two other watercourses / drainage features passing through the MLs, Hill Creek (a designated watercourse) and Ti-Tree Creek (a non-designated watercourse or drainage feature²) (see Figure ES1-4 and Figure ES1-6). Both are tributaries of the Isaac River. Hill Creek traverses the north-eastern portion of the New Lenton MLs, until its confluence with Isaac River. There are no direct impacts from the Project on Hill Creek.

The catchment of the Isaac River to the downstream boundary of the New Lenton MLs is about 200 km², which represents about 0.9% of the Isaac-Connors sub-catchment and 0.1% of the Fitzroy River catchment.

Ti-Tree Creek crosses ML 70337 diagonally further south, where it joins the Isaac River approximately 2 km downstream of the New Lenton MLs. It is proposed to divert Ti-Tree Creek around the open cut mine pit workings, where it will flow into an unnamed tributary of the Isaac River.

² The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) determined that Ti-Tree Creek is not a designated watercourse under the *Water Act 2000*.

The Isaac River and its tributaries exhibit highly ephemeral surface water flows that are typically restricted to short periods following rainfall in the wet season (i.e. November to April). Surface waters typically exhibit low to moderate salinity, high to very high turbidity, and with some naturally elevated levels of some metals. After dry periods, a significant rainfall event is typically required in order to restore flows in the waterways.

1.5.4 Geology

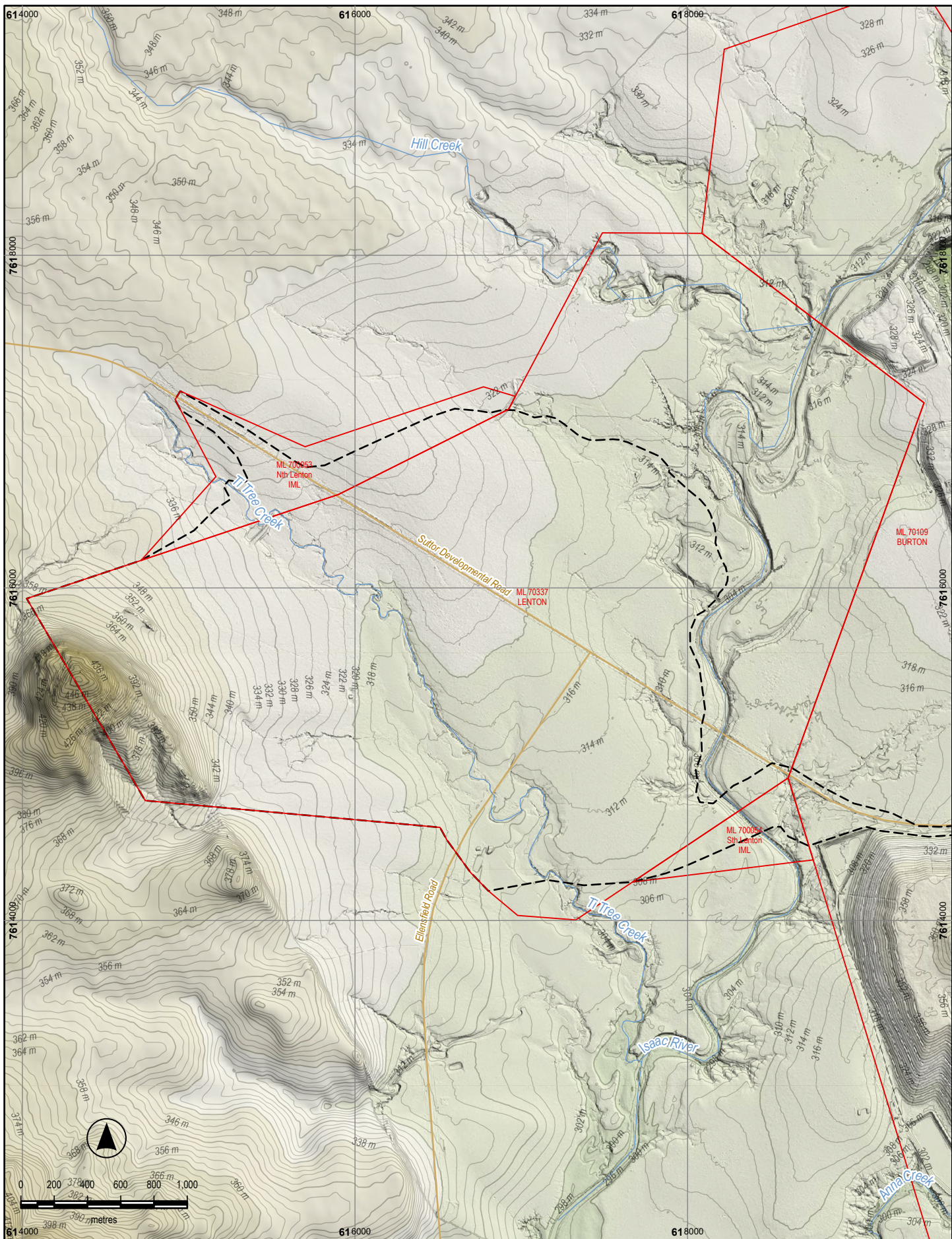
The Project area and surrounds are located in the northern part of the Bowen Basin. The main structural feature of the Project area is the Burton Range Fault, which is marked by the eastern boundary of the Burton Range.

The local geology (and hydrogeology) can be divided into three main units:

- the Quaternary to Tertiary sediments (including alluvium) and weathered horizons (regolith);
- Rewan group; and
- the Permian coal measures bedrock.

Regional geological mapping and local site investigations shows that alluvium is localised along the Isaac River channel.

The Rangal Coal Measures are the uppermost unit of coal-bearing strata in the Bowen Basin and the primary resource target within the Project area. Mining target seams within the Rangal Coal Measures include the Burton Rider seam and the Leichhardt / Vermont coal sequence. The two sequences are separated by an average of 20 to 25 m of non-coal interburden comprised of sandstone, siltstone and minor mudstone.



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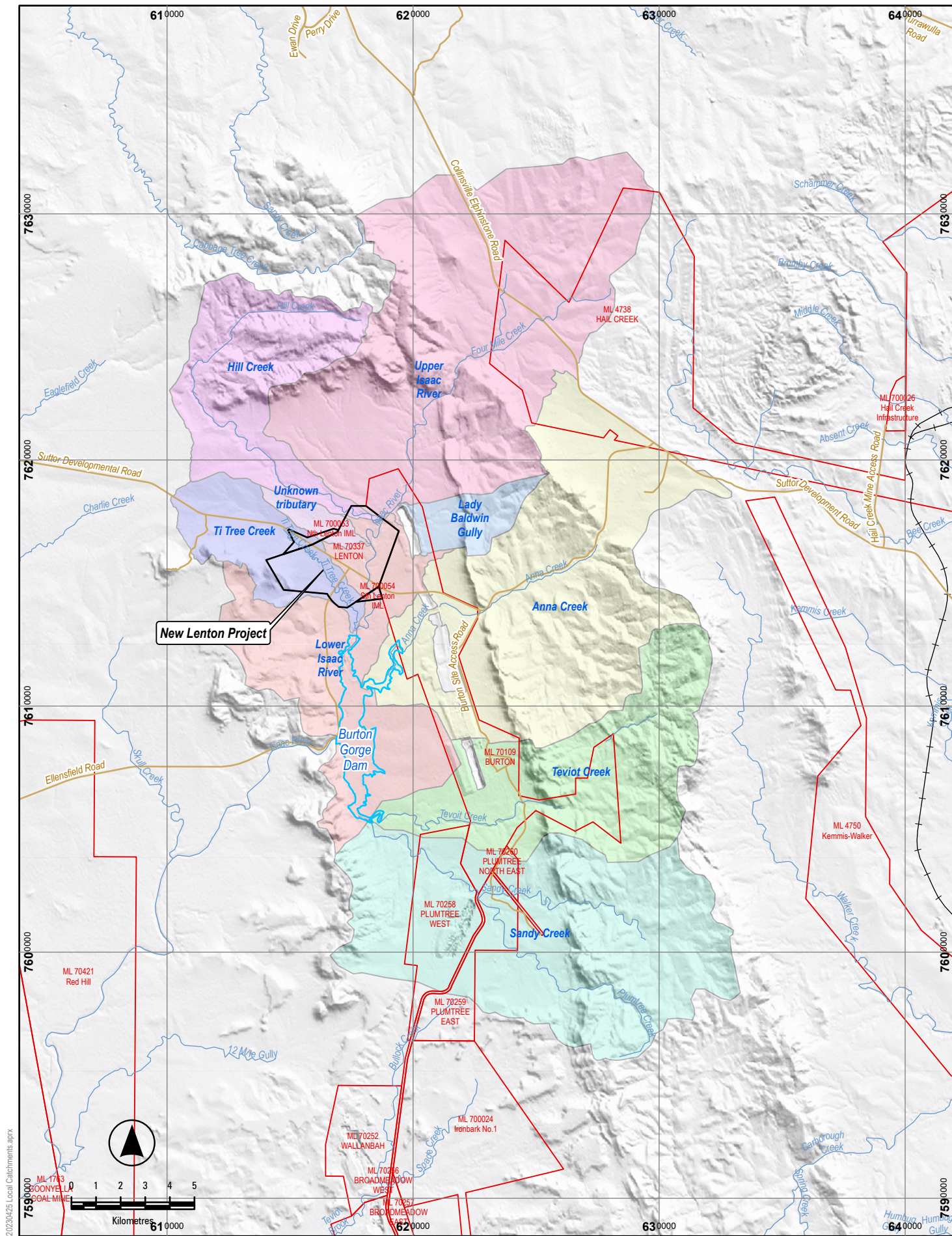
- Legend**
- Mining Lease
 - Proposed Disturbance Area
 - Waterway
 - Roads
 - Contour Line, Intermediate
 - Contour Line, Major

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Topography

Figure | ES1-4



2023/04/25 Local Catchments.aprx

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LEGEND

- New Lenton Project
- ML
- Waterway
- Roads
- Railway

Local Catchment

- Anna Creek
- Hill Creek
- Lady Baldwin Gully
- Lower Isaac River
- Sandy Creek
- Teviot Creek
- Ti Tree Creek
- Unknown tributary
- Upper Isaac River
- Burton Gorge Dam

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Local Catchments

Figure | **ES1-6**

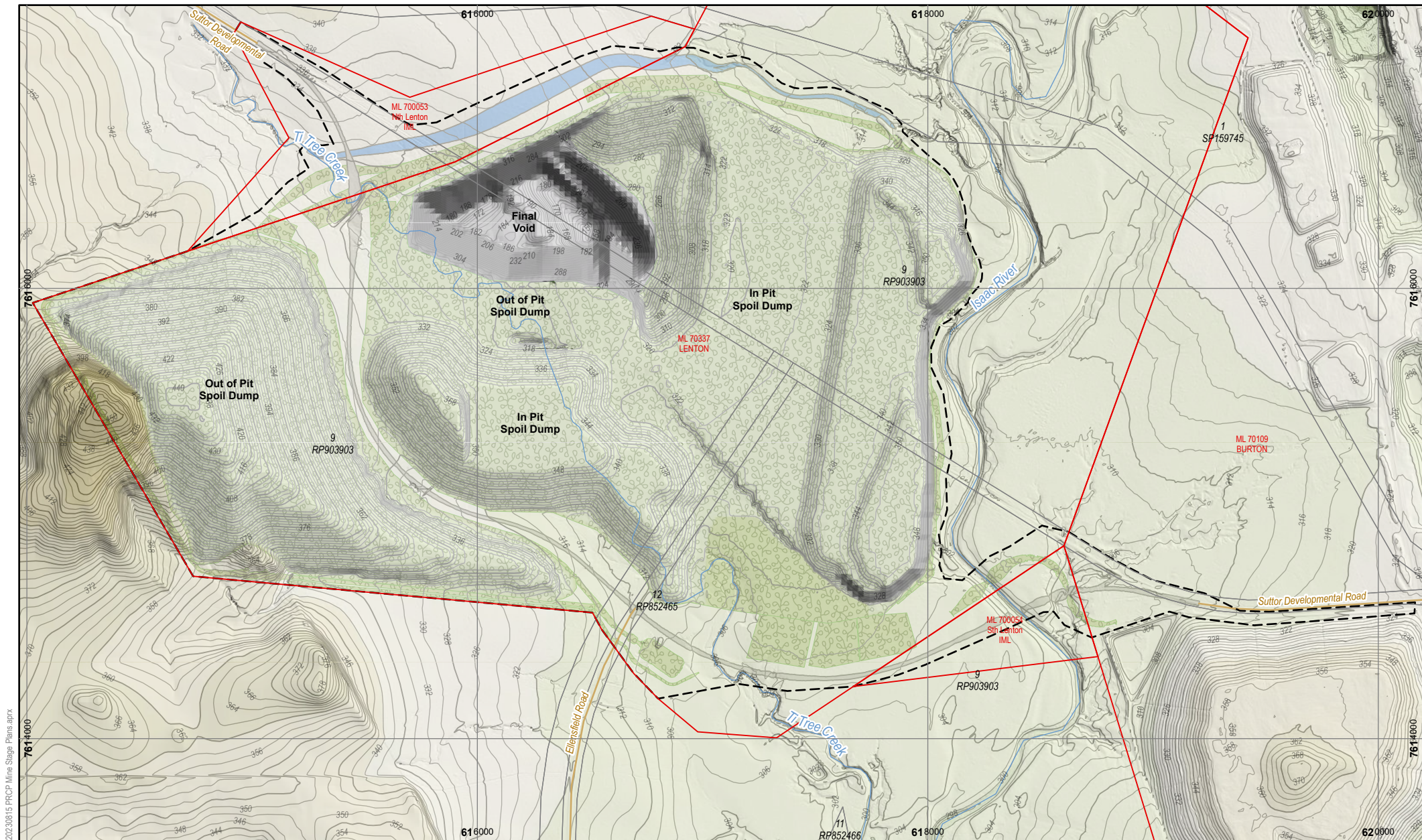
1.6 Rehabilitation and Decommissioning

The State approved PRCP schedule includes areas with a post mining land use (PMLU) and non-use management areas (NUMAs) (e.g. a residual void). Rehabilitation milestones apply to areas with a PMLU and management milestones apply to areas with a NUMA. PMLUs must be safe, stable, not cause environmental harm and be able to sustain a post mining land use such as grazing. NUMAs must be safe, structurally stable and minimise the release of contaminants. To ensure NUMA structural stability, the PRCP includes criteria for maximum slope angles for high walls and low walls, geotechnical factors of safety, and a geotechnical factor of safety assessment by a suitably qualified person.

The PRCP schedule consists of the following:

- rehabilitation and management milestones
- milestone criteria
- identification of PMLUs or NUMAs
- when land becomes available for rehabilitation and available for improvement
- rehabilitation areas and improvement areas
- milestone completion dates.

Rehabilitation and closure of the Project's activities will be undertaken in accordance with the approved PRCP schedule. The proposed final, rehabilitated landform is shown in Figure ES1-7.

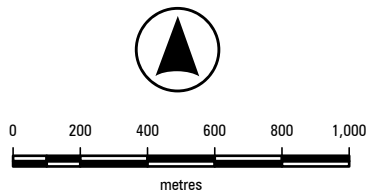


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- LEGEND**
- Mining Lease
 - Cadastral Boundary
 - Proposed Disturbance Boundary
 - Pit Highwall
 - Pit Floor and Low Wall
 - Rehabilitation
 - Permanent Road Diversion
 - Diversion

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Final Landform

Figure | **ES1-7**

1.7 Surface Water and Water Management

Ti-Tree Creek and the unnamed tributary of the Isaac River have small catchments upstream of the Project disturbance area, are highly ephemeral, and are degraded due to historical pastoral activities. Ti-Tree Creek has a narrow base width with steep banks which are heavily eroded. The upper sections lack riparian vegetation or ground cover on the bed and banks. The unnamed tributary has significant gully erosion over its entire length. Ti-Tree Creek exhibits low to moderate salinity and turbidity, with some naturally elevated levels of some metals.

There is currently minimal use of surface water in the upper Isaac River and Ti-Tree Creek. Burton Gorge Dam, which is located approximately 3.5 km downstream of the New Lenton MLs, was constructed to supply water for mining operations in the region. No licensed surface water users were identified within a 20 km radius of the Project area.

The EA for the New Lenton MLs, inclusive of Project activities, includes conditions of approval relevant to water management. The water quality objectives (WQOs) to protect the environmental values of the Project have been developed as part of the EA. The PRCP schedule for the Project includes rehabilitation milestones and criteria designed to protect surface water environmental values following mine closure and rehabilitation.

For water management system purposes, the water generated at the Project is divided into six types:

- Raw water: sourced external to the mine operations (i.e. from Teviot Dam at Burton Mine).
- Clean water: surface runoff from undisturbed areas.
- Mine affected water: including pit water, processing plant water, groundwater seepage or runoff from areas disturbed by mining activities, and groundwater from dewatering activities.
- Sediment water: rainfall runoff from catchments which discharge through release points associated with erosion and sediment control (ESC) structures.
- Water from the MIA: water potentially contaminated with hydrocarbons or other chemicals (e.g. through run-off from the fuel storage area, that is managed locally at infrastructure areas).
- Potable water: treated water suitable for human consumption (as supplied to Burton Mine accommodation camp).

The water management system for the Project has been integrated with the existing water management system at Burton Mine. It is not practical, desirable or effective to have separate water management systems for the Project and Burton Mine, as overall balance of water supply and demand can be better managed with an integrated system. Burton Mine contains mine pits / voids where water can be stored. Mine affected water will be transferred to and from Burton Mine depending on supply and demand at the Project. Mine affected water will be stored in three dams at the Project. There is no change to mine affected water storages at Burton Mine. The Project will have no impact on regional water availability, with any water requirements supplied by Burton Mine's storages.

Sediment dams will be constructed as part of the Project to capture sediment water runoff, primarily from the overburden dumps. The proposed sediment dams have been sized in accordance with the Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines (IECA, 2008). Runoff collected in the dams will be released to the downstream environment in accordance with the erosion and sediment control plan (ESCP) or pumped back into the mine water system to maintain capacity.

Water collected on the site will be used as first priority to satisfy site demands, such as dust suppression, and to supplement the Burton Mine's CHPP water requirements.

The key components of the Project's flood protection infrastructure (see Figure ES1-3) are:

- a constructed channel to divert Ti-Tree Creek
- a levee to protect mine operations from flooding of Ti-Tree Creek diversion

- a levee to protect mine operations from Isaac River flooding.

The Ti-Tree Creek flood levee will be constructed to prevent the ingress of water into the pit from flows that exceed the capacity of the Ti-Tree Creek diversion channel. The levee is designed to protect the pits from the 0.1% (1:1,000) annual exceedance probability (AEP) flood event. The Ti-Tree Creek diversion design aims to control flood velocities to mimic the existing channel and thereby minimise subsequent impacts on Ti-Tree Creek and the Isaac River. The diversion will release through an engineered structure to control water flows and velocity, into a natural drainage channel of the unnamed tributary approximately 400 m before the Isaac River.

The Isaac River levee will merge with the Ti-Tree Creek levee and is designed to protect the pits from the 0.1% AEP flood event. All levees will be regulated structures and hence will require design, construction and operation in accordance with Schedule I of the EA conditions for regulated structures.

Upon completion of mining the Ti-Tree Creek diversion is proposed to remain in its diverted state with final landforms established to protect the residual void from a probable maximum precipitation design event. The Isaac River levee will be incorporated into the adjoining rehabilitated overburden dump which will form the final landform structure providing flood immunity post closure.

A mine water management system and water balance has been developed for the Project and Burton Mine, over the life of Project activities. The performance of the mine water management system has been investigated using a site water balance operational simulation model. The model simulated water inflows and outflows through the various stages of mine development under different climatic sequences.

The water balance model has been used to assess the performance of the water management system for pit inundation characteristics, mine affected water inventory, interaction (transfers to/from) Burton Mine, controlled releases and uncontrolled releases.

The water balance model demonstrates that the Project's mine affected water dams have sufficient capacity, even under very wet climatic conditions (1st percentile). Excess mine affected water will either be transferred to Burton Mine or stored in the Project's mined pits. Even under very wet climatic conditions less than 5% of the capacity of the Project's mined pits is required to store excess mine water.

The water balance model demonstrates that import volumes from Burton Mine are typically greater than the export volumes to Burton Mine. Hence, the Project is generally a net importer of water from Burton Mine. Burton Mine would have sufficient inventory to supplement all the Project's water demands. The results show that water in Burton Mine's pits would not empty during any climatic conditions assessed. Any surplus water requirements during dry climatic conditions will be sourced from Burton Mine's Teviot Dam.

The water balance model demonstrates that controlled releases are not required as part of the water management strategy due to the balancing of mine affected water with Burton Mine. Furthermore, there were no modelled uncontrolled releases from the Project's mine affected water dams during any of the model realisations over the life of the Project.

Consistent with the IECA design standard, the Project's sediment dams do not provide 100% containment for captured runoff. Hence overflows will occur from sediment dams when rainfall exceeds the design standard. An assessment of the predicted salinity of overflows from the sediment dams to the receiving environment showed that mixed downstream electrical conductivity (EC) would generally be similar to background levels, with 99.3% of the modelled values below the median EC recorded at the Isaac River (Burton Gorge) gauge.

The final steady-state pit void water level elevation in the Project's residual void was modelled as part of the groundwater assessment (refer to Section 1.8). This demonstrates that long term void water levels will remain below the groundwater source sink level and well below the surface spill level. Long term salinity modelling indicates that the void will become highly saline after approximately 50 – 500 years. However the water will be contained in the residual void as it acts as a groundwater sink. Residual void

water levels were modelled under various climate change scenarios. The water balance modelling results show that the residual void water levels will be lower than, or similar to, baseline climatic conditions. This is expected given the significant decrease in rainfall and increase in evapotranspiration for climate change scenarios.

A flood model was developed to assess the impact of the Project on flood extents, depths and velocities for the 50% (1 in 2 year), 10% (1 in 10 year), 2% (1 in 50 year), 1% (1 in 100 year), and 0.1% (1 in 1,000 year) AEP design flood events for the Isaac River and Ti-Tree Creek. Flood models were developed for three scenarios:

- existing conditions (i.e. prior to the Project)
- developed conditions (i.e. maximum impact during Project operations)
- post-closure conditions (i.e. maximum impact for the post mining closure landform).

The results of the flood modelling show that the impacts of the Project (e.g. levees and Isaac River crossings) on the hydraulic characteristics (such as levels, extents, velocity, bed shear stress and stream power) of the Isaac River are insignificant to minor. Examples showing the change in flood depth and velocity for a 1:100 year (1% AEP) flood event are shown in Figure ES1-8 and Figure ES1-9 respectively. The new bridge for the realigned Suttor Developmental Road and the bed level crossing of the Isaac River for the haul road are predicted to have negligible to minor impacts on flood behaviour. The Project results in negligible changes to flood duration which, for both existing and developed conditions, demonstrates that flood events in the region around the Project have a very short duration (i.e. less than 24 hours) for minor to extreme rainfall events.

A geomorphic assessment was completed for the Isaac River and Ti-Tree Creek diversion. The results for velocity, shear stress and stream power in the Isaac River show insignificant to minor change between existing and developed conditions. On this basis, the Project is not expected to have adverse impacts on the geomorphology of the Isaac River. The Ti-Tree Creek assessment demonstrated that hydraulic parameters are generally within the range of existing (i.e. pre-mining) values and industry benchmark (ACARP) guideline values for operational and post-mining conditions.

The post mining landform is similar to the operational landform and hence the post-closure conditions flood model results were predicted to be the same as the developed conditions flood model (i.e. insignificant to minor impacts). The loss of catchment flows in the Isaac River, from collection of mine affected water and sediment water during and post mine life, is predicted to be negligible.

The water management system is the primary mitigation for impacts to surface water resources. The system has been designed to protect water quality and the waterways potentially affected by the Project. The Project's water management system, provides the key elements of the water management plan and ESCP required by the EA.

The EA for the Project conditions the management of mine affected water, through release limits, release trigger investigation levels, environment contaminant trigger levels, monitoring requirements for flows and water quality, notifications and investigations. These EA conditions have been established in accordance with Department of Environment and Sciences' Model water conditions for coal mines in the Fitzroy basin, designed to protect regional environmental values and WQOs from all mines in the Fitzroy basin.

Sediment water containment will be managed in accordance with the Project's ESCP, as required under the EA. The proposed sediment dams will form a key component of the ESCP.

The Project involves the construction of a new bridge across the Isaac River for the realignment of the Suttor Developmental Road, and a bed level haul road crossing of the Isaac River. Design and construction methodologies will be adopted to reduce sedimentation and erosion from construction activities. The bed level crossing will allow for low flows and hence fish passage.

The diversion will be rehabilitated with vegetation similar to that within the existing local waterways, which will reduce the potential for scour and erosion. Ongoing monitoring of the performance of the diversion (e.g. changes to channel levels and channel form resulting from erosion) will be undertaken and, if necessary, mitigation measures will be implemented to prevent excessive erosion or sediment deposition. In accordance with the approved PRCP schedule for the Project, the diversion must achieve a set of criteria to be geomorphically stable in the long term (i.e. post mining).

Systems and procedures will be implemented to prevent release, and / or manage any accidental release, of contaminants.

Monitoring of surface water quality both within and external to the Project disturbance area will form a key component of the surface water management system. Monitoring will be undertaken at upstream and downstream monitoring locations in the Isaac River and Ti-Tree Creek. This allows for the characterisation of background water quality, as well as the assessment of potential impacts of the Project on these waterways downstream of the mine. These sites will be monitored in accordance with the requirements in the EA for water quality and flows.

Potential impacts of the Project on surface water resources were assessed with reference to *Significant impact guidelines 1.3: Coal seam gas and large coal mining developments – impacts on water resources*. The assessment demonstrates that residual impacts of the Project on surface water resource values are either very low, low or medium; and hence are not likely to result in a significant impact to surface water resources.

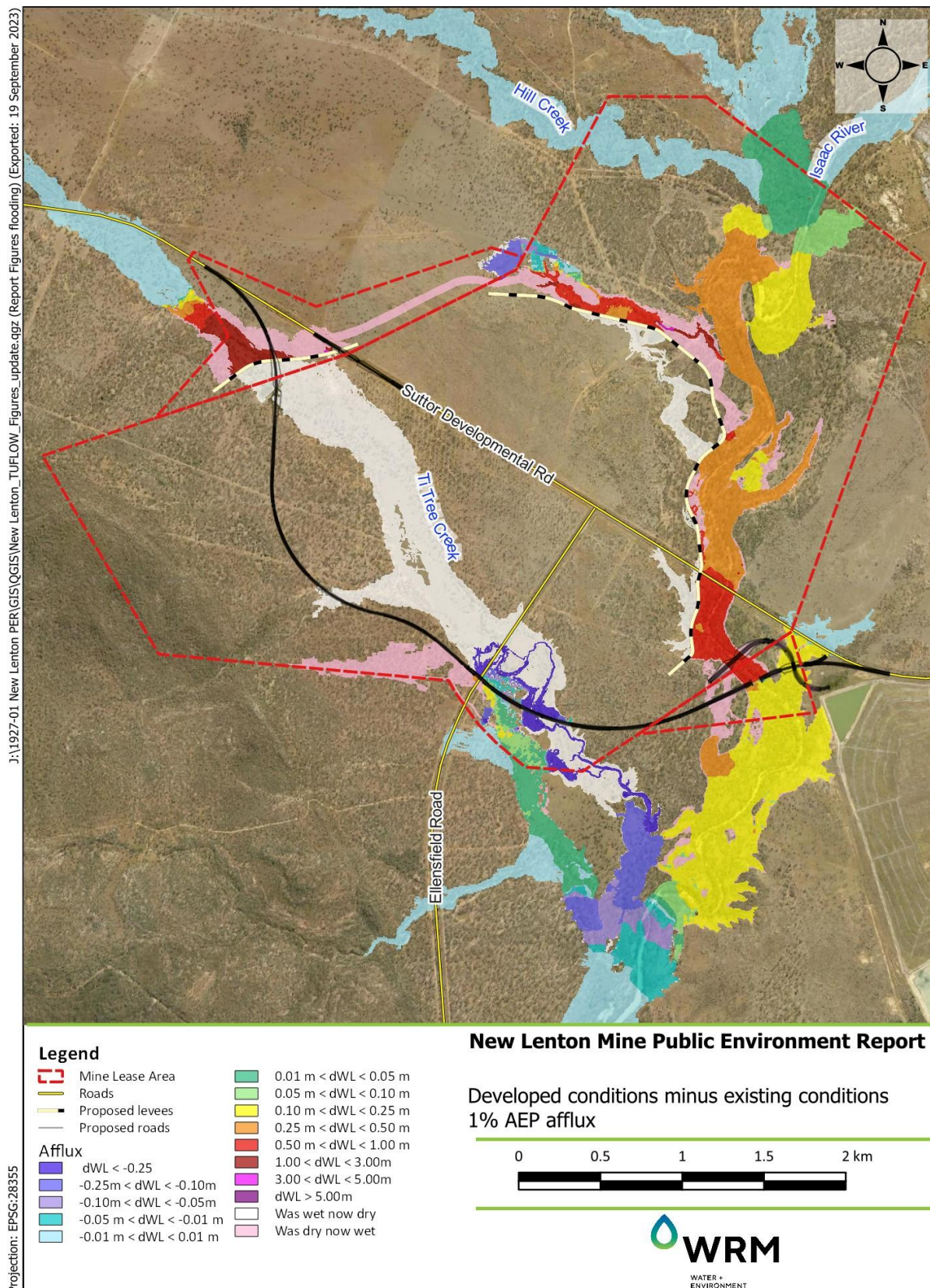


Figure ES1-8 Afflux 1% AEP (Developed Minus Existing Conditions)

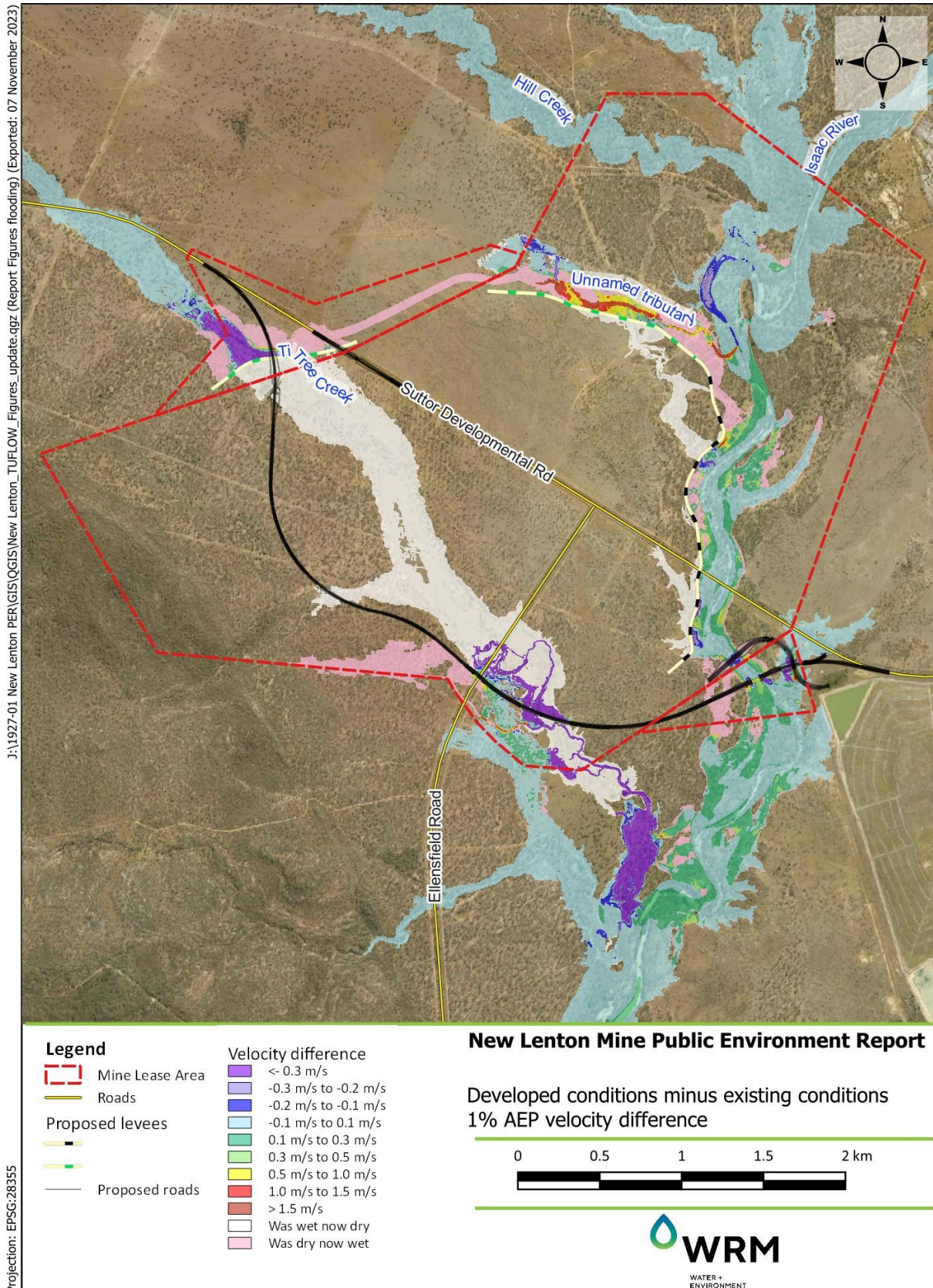


Figure ES1-9 Velocity Difference 1% AEP (Developed Minus Existing Conditions)

1.8 Groundwater

Numerous field programs have been conducted to understand the hydrogeology of the Project area and surrounds. The main aquifers identified within and surrounding the Project area are:

- Quaternary alluvium, where saturated, associated with the creeks and Isaac River (basal alluvium)
- Regolith where saturated (mainly comprised of weathered bedrock)
- Permian fractured rock aquifers.

A conceptual hydrogeological model of the groundwater regime has been developed based on the review of the hydrogeological information for the Project area.

Groundwater presence in the alluvium is variable, with field investigations showing that the alluvium is only saturated in immediate proximity to the Isaac River channel. Field investigations for the groundwater dependent ecosystem (GDE) assessment identified that the basal alluvium (10 – 14 m depth) is separated from shallow perched (likely seasonally variable) groundwater system resting on relatively shallow alluvial clays close to the existing Isaac River channel at approximately 4 m depth. That is, a dual natured groundwater system within the alluvium is interpreted. Water quality in the basal alluvium is mildly acidic to moderately alkaline pH (6.3 to 8.4, averaging near neutral at 7.1) and fresh to saline (517 to 16,500 $\mu\text{S/cm}$ EC, averaging 5,604 $\mu\text{S/cm}$ EC). A conceptual cross section through the Isaac River alluvium demonstrating its stratigraphy and perched and basal groundwater presence is shown in Figure ES1-10.

The regolith, comprising of shallow weathered Triassic and Permian strata overlying fresh bedrock, has been identified as hosting groundwater at various locations across the Project area and surrounds. Water quality in the regolith is acidic to mildly alkaline, and mildly brackish to saline (averaging 9,902 $\mu\text{S/cm}$).

The Rewan Formation, overlying the Permian age Rangal Coal Measures, dominates a significant outcrop area within the Project area. The Rewan Formation is generally considered a major regional scale aquitard within the Bowen Basin.

Groundwater was identified within the coal seams of the Rangal Coal Measures and the Fort Cooper Coal Measures. Due to the limited vertical hydraulic connection between the individual coal seams, the Permian age Coal Measures are conceptualised to comprise multiple confined aquifers (coal seams) that are interbedded with aquitards (overburden, interburden, and underburden). Water quality in the Permian coal seams is acidic to moderately alkaline, and mildly brackish to saline (averaging 9,921 $\mu\text{S/cm}$).

Baseline groundwater system characterisation indicates that where it occurs, groundwater within the basal alluvium is recorded at depths of around 8 to 11 mBGL, typically significantly disconnected from the streambed elevation. A natural hydraulic gradient exists between the Isaac River and the associated alluvium that results in seepage from the Isaac River to the alluvium (i.e. a losing system). Watercourses within the Project area are highly ephemeral where surface water flow is only sustained for hours to several days following rainfall events. Overall these factors indicate a distinct lack of groundwater discharge to these watercourses such that there is no groundwater baseflow and therefore no potential for groundwater drawdown to manifest as a decrease in surface water flow.

The large offset (>700 m throw) Burton Range Fault on the western side of the Project area is predicted to act as a barrier to east-west groundwater flow with the juxtaposition of the Triassic strata on the west to the Permian Coal Measures on the east.

Registered and unregistered landholder bores within 10 km of the Project area were identified. Only one bore is currently in use.

Site specific hydrogeological information, ecological information and desktop data on potential GDEs was used to inform the location for GDE field surveys. Surveys were undertaken along the Isaac River, Ti-Tree Creek, Hill Creek and other northern tributary streams and older residual landforms. Field surveys and subsequent laboratory analysis comprised an assessment of leaf water potential from trees, soil moisture potential from auger holes and comparison of stable isotope signatures in leaves, soil moisture and

groundwater. This data was complemented by data on site-specific geology, geomorphology, soil physical properties, depth to water table and historical aerial imagery of riparian vegetation. The information was analysed to determine if GDEs were present. Data from the Isaac River GDE survey sites demonstrate that riparian vegetation was utilising groundwater from a shallow, seasonally variable, perched water table. The results of GDE data analysis indicate that the riparian vegetation associated with the Isaac River presents the only GDE (see Figure ES1-11), and was utilising groundwater from the perched water table. Groundwater usage by vegetation away from the river margins decreases with distance; and away from well-developed alluvial sediments, groundwater usage is restricted by the shallow rooting depth of vegetation, depth to the groundwater table (particularly in the regolith), and groundwater salinity levels. The dominant species that are a potential GDE are forest red gum and river red gum. Red gum species have a number of traits that enable the species to be relatively resilient to all but the most extreme ecological change.

Fifteen bores within and surrounding the Project area were surveyed for stygofauna. A total of five stygofauna taxa were recorded, with one stygobite and four stygoxene taxa. The results of stygofauna survey and assessment of relevant hydrogeological information indicates that shallow groundwater within alluvial and regolith lithologies, in close proximity to the Isaac River, provides suitable habitat for stygobitic fauna.

Significant numerical groundwater modelling simulation work has previously been completed for the Project to inform State approvals processes (i.e. the approved EA and AWL). The numerical groundwater model was revised and updated, in accordance with the latest guidelines and standards, to inform this PER. The model was developed to enable predictions of the incremental impacts of the Project and cumulative impacts from the Project and the adjacent Burton Mine.

The updated model was developed based on the conceptual groundwater model. Numerical modelling was undertaken using MODFLOW-USG, which is considered an industry standard. The updated numerical model includes a steady state and a transient calibration. A Type 3 Monte Carlo uncertainty analysis was undertaken in accordance with Independent Expert Scientific Committee (IESC) Guidelines to estimate the uncertainty in the future impacts predicted by the model. Overall, the model is considered fit for purpose.

An independent peer review of the numerical groundwater model was undertaken which concluded that the model was fit for purpose and that stakeholders can have confidence that the model is a reasonable predictor of future mining impacts.

The model was used to predict incremental and cumulative drawdown in the groundwater system, predict water take from the groundwater system, incremental and cumulative change in groundwater levels at identified groundwater users (e.g. landholder bores or GDEs), incremental changes in baseflow along the Isaac River, incremental changes in alluvial water resources and groundwater inflows to the mining voids.

Maximum incremental drawdown predicted within the Isaac River basal alluvium due to proposed mining at the Project (see Figure ES1-12) reaches up to 12 m in magnitude along the south-eastern edge of East Pit, where the Isaac River is within 150 m of the mine pit crest. Predicted drawdown of approximately 2 m in the basal alluvium extends 2 km downstream and 1 km upstream of East Pit at the Project.

Any impacts to the seasonally variable perched table would be contingent on hydraulic connection with the regional water table represented in the model (i.e. the basal alluvium), with evidence suggesting any such connection is limited.

In the area of predicted incremental drawdown in the alluvium, the predicted cumulative drawdown map (see Figure ES1-13) shows negligible increase in drawdown magnitude between the incremental and cumulative predictions (i.e. Burton Mine doesn't exacerbate the Project predicted drawdown), although Burton Mine contributes its own drawdown to the north in the Isaac River.

The predicted maximum incremental water table drawdown extends approximately 2 km to the north and south of the Project mine pits and 1 km to the east and west. This drawdown does not represent any particular aquifer unit but the shallowest saturated unit (e.g. Regolith or coal seam) at any particular location.

Cumulative impacts are predicted for the coal seams. However, the extent of depressurisation in the coal seams is limited to the west of the Project by the sub-crop of the Permian coal seams.

The model does not predict that the average rate of seepage from the Isaac River to the alluvium will increase over the life of the Project and therefore there are no predicted groundwater-related impacts to surface drainage as a result of the Project.

Post mining, the residual void will accumulate water over time due to direct rainfall, surface water runoff and groundwater inflow from both overburden and natural rock as groundwater levels recover. The model was used to simulate groundwater responses following the cessation of all mining operations. A number of iterative steps were run for the groundwater model and void water balance model, such that models reached agreement on predicted groundwater inflows. The model demonstrates that at all times post-mining, groundwater levels in each aquifer unit surrounding the residual void remain above the predicted void lake level, meaning no potential for outflow from the void lake to the groundwater system and permanent inflow only (sink) conditions are maintained post-mining. Furthermore, the model hydrographs show void lake levels remain below the base of the shallow groundwater system (regolith) at all times, further suggesting no potential for void lake outflow to that unit.

Particle tracking was undertaken to illustrate the simulated post-mining groundwater flow field in the vicinity of the mined pits. No particle leaves a void lake after entering the lake. No particles are shown to enter the shallow groundwater system adjacent the Project area (i.e. along alluvium). Therefore, the model indicates no potential for offsite discharge to the alluvium from the residual void.

During mining, the inward hydraulic flow gradients from the waste rock dumps to the open cut voids would inhibit the potential for any seepage outflow. Post-mining, model particle tracking results indicate that the residual void continues to form a hydraulic sink for water emanating within waste rock dumps such that there is no discharge offsite to the surrounding environment.

There is nil to minimal additional (i.e. beyond those that could occur during operations) drawdown of the water table at landholder bores predicted to occur over the post-mining period. There are no known landholder water supply bores within the unconsolidated (alluvium and Regolith) or consolidated (Permian coal measures) aquifers that lie within the predicted extent of Project related drawdown greater than 1 m.

Conceptual models demonstrate that the seasonally variable perched groundwater system that was supporting GDEs at the time of the assessment is disconnected from the deeper basal alluvial / regolith aquifer system during drier climatic periods (see Figure ES1-10). The integrity of the perching layer will not be affected by development of mining pits, although groundwater drawdown will occur in the basal alluvial groundwater system. The impact of this drawdown on the seasonally variable perched groundwater system is predicted to be subtle, and no impact is predicted if clay layers are sufficiently tight to limit infiltration. During wet season surface flows, there may be enhanced hydraulic connection between the perched and basal groundwater systems, driven through lateral penetration of surface flows into riverbanks and increased downward leakage. As recharge of both the perched and basal groundwater systems is driven by surface flows, there is unlikely to be any significant change in groundwater regimes while recharge is occurring. Furthermore The dominant riparian species (red gums) is adaptable to ecological change.

Despite the conceptual models showing a lack of connection between the perched groundwater system and basal alluvium, a groundwater dependent ecosystem monitoring and management plan (GDEMMP) and groundwater dependent ecosystem habitat quality monitoring program (GDEHQMP) have been developed to allow for detection of potential impacts to GDEs. The GDEMMP will include setting of

thresholds to determine changes in vegetation health and habitat quality, monitoring of a range of parameters to establish baseline conditions and determine whether changes are a result of mining activities, development of mitigation measures if required, and the requirement for biodiversity offsets if there are significant residual impacts to GDEs.

A groundwater monitoring and management plan (GMMP) has been prepared for the Project consistent with the relevant requirements of the Project's EA and AWL. The GMMP has been developed for the Project to detect any changes to groundwater quantity or quality due to mining activities. The monitoring network contains sufficient monitoring bores in terms of spatial spread in all formations of interest to develop sufficient pre-mining groundwater conditions and to detect changes in groundwater once mining commences. The EA sets water level triggers and water quality limits, which if exceeded, require investigation and potentially mitigation measures. All requirements of the Project's AWL will be complied with, including any additional make good obligations and groundwater monitoring requirements.

Potential impacts of the Project on groundwater resources were assessed with reference to *Significant impact guidelines 1.3: Coal seam gas and large coal mining developments – impacts on water resources*. The assessment demonstrates that residual impacts of the Project on groundwater resource values are either very low or low; and hence are not likely to result in a significant impact to the water quality or hydrology of groundwater resources.

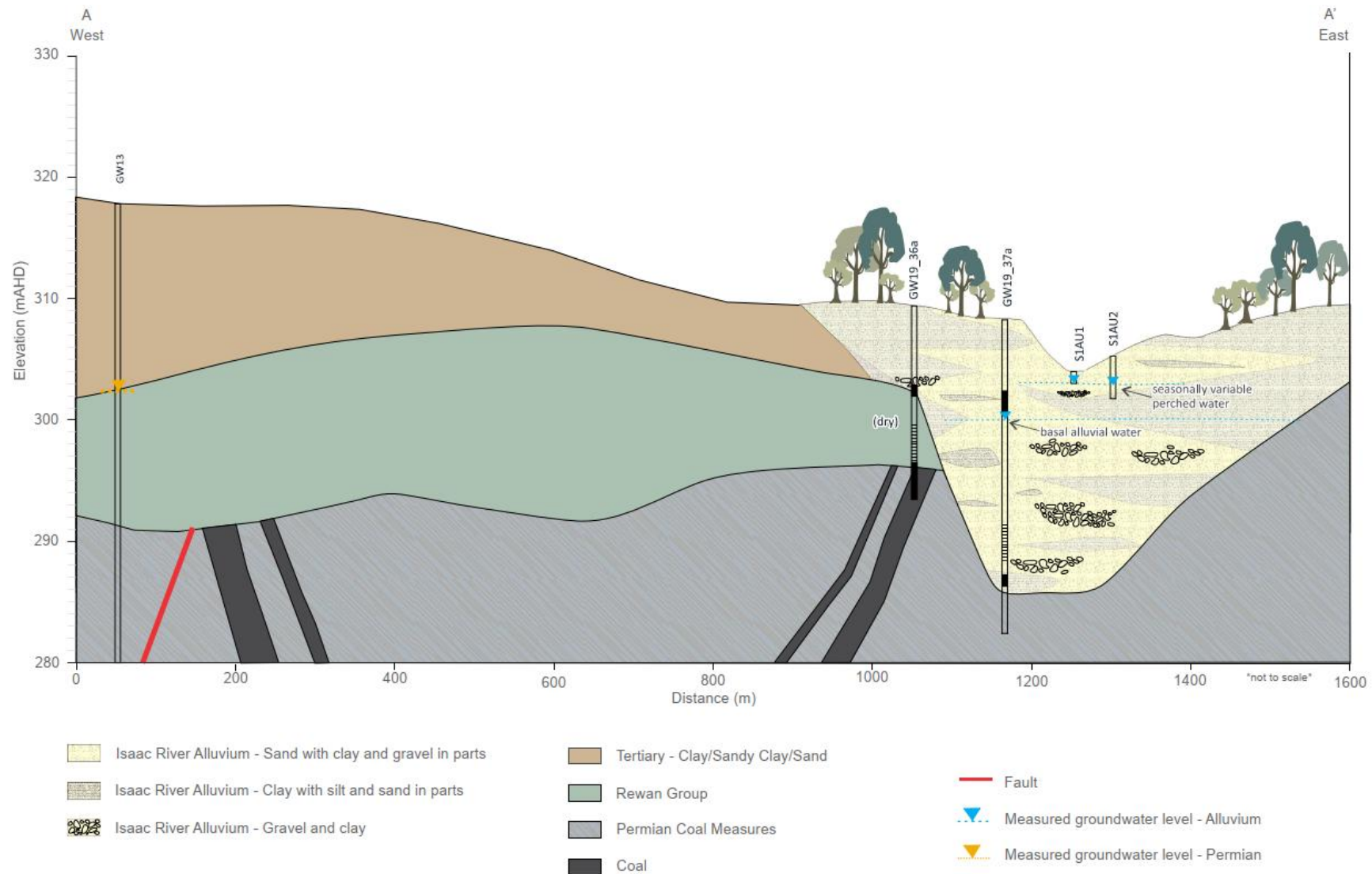


Figure ES1-10 Conceptual Cross Section – Isaac River Alluvium

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Scale: See Scale Bar (A4)
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LEGEND

- Mining Lease
- Roads
- Watercourse
- Proposed Disturbance Area
- Project Layout
- Known / Likely GDE Areas

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Known or Likely GDE Areas

Figure | **ES1-11**

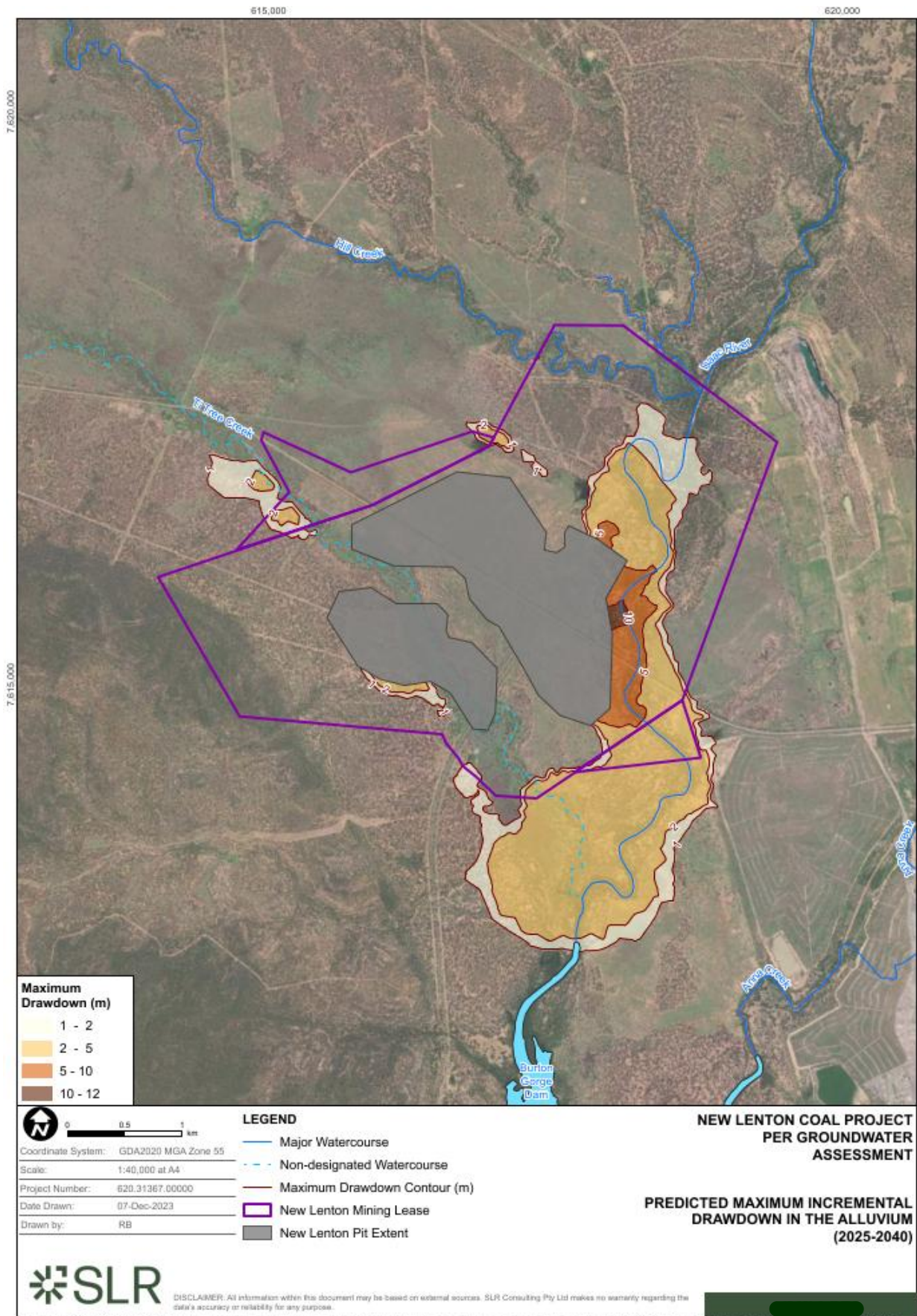


Figure ES1-12 Predicted Maximum Incremental Drawdown in the Alluvium (2025-2040)

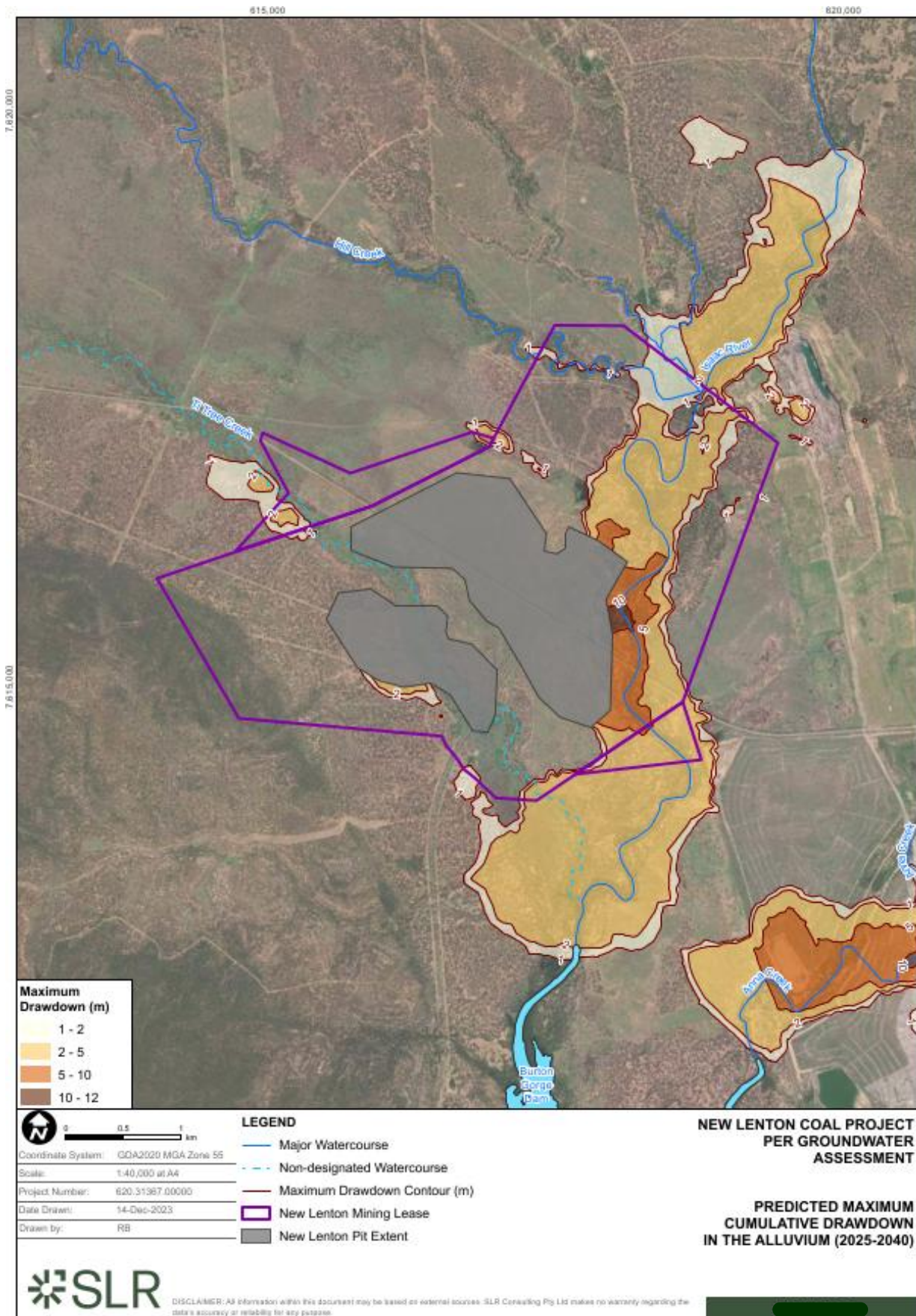


Figure ES1-13 Predicted Maximum Cumulative Drawdown in the Alluvium (2025-2040)

1.9 Listed Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

Terrestrial and aquatic ecological values were assessed in accordance with the PER guidelines. The ecological assessments were based on desktop analysis and field surveys undertaken within and surrounding the Project area over a number of years and seasons. Field surveys were undertaken in accordance with Commonwealth and State survey guidelines. Desktop data was used to identify historical records and the status of any listed species and ecosystems, including any changes in the listing status since the time of the controlled action decision.

Terrestrial ecology surveys were completed in the wet season and dry season as part of the assessment for the Project and included targeted habitat assessments for threatened listed species and threatened ecological communities (TECs). These surveys provide a comprehensive assessment of the terrestrial ecological values within and surrounding the Project area. Aquatic ecology surveys have been undertaken as part of the assessment for the Project's State approvals.

Fourteen vegetation communities have been identified across the survey area during the field surveys based on field results and State government vegetation mapping. Nine of these vegetation communities occur in the proposed disturbance area. The vegetation communities within the survey area and the proposed disturbance area are shown in Figure ES1-14. Field surveys identified five habitat types for fauna within the survey area, as shown in Figure ES1-15.

The field surveys and desktop data were used to inform the likelihood of occurrence for all potential EPBC Act listed TECs and threatened species. Those TECs or species that were known or were likely to occur were considered for assessment of significance of impacts from the Project, being the Poplar Box Grassy Woodland on Alluvial Plains TEC, Greater Glider, Koala, Squatter Pigeon and White-throated Needletail. Mapping of TECs and habitat for listed species was undertaken in accordance with the habitat definitions described in the PER guidelines, as informed by field surveys.

Aquatic ecology surveys identified that there were no EPBC Act listed aquatic species that are likely to occur within or surrounding the Project area with the nearest likely population of listed aquatic species approximately 230 – 260 km downstream of the Project.

Direct and indirect impacts on the TEC and habitat for listed species was assessed. The Project will result in the clearing of approximately 342.6 ha of remnant and 54.4 ha of regrowth vegetation, whilst 489.2 ha (55.2 %) of the disturbance area will be located in cleared pastureland.

Impacts have been avoided by locating infrastructure within existing cleared areas as far as practical. Mining activities have remained outside of riparian vegetation zone along Isaac River, other than linear infrastructure crossings.

Mitigation measures are proposed to reduce impacts on terrestrial and aquatic ecological values. These include vegetation clearing protocols, weed and pest management plans, erosion and sediment control and rehabilitation of disturbed areas.

Impacts to aquatic ecology values will be mitigated through the construction methods and design of crossings, limiting potential impacts on flows and implementation of the receiving environment monitoring program (REMP). Based on the lack of listed aquatic species present in the vicinity of the Project, and implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, the Project will not have a significant residual impacts on aquatic MNES.

The significance of impacts on identified EPBC Act listed TECs and habitat for listed species was undertaken in accordance with the Commonwealth Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1: Matters of National Environmental Significance. Significant residual impacts to MNES were identified for approximately:

- 112.2 ha of Poplar Box Grassy Woodland on Alluvial Plains TEC, as shown in Figure ES1-16
- 293 ha of Greater Glider habitat, as shown in Figure ES1-17
- 327 ha of important and suitable Koala habitat, as shown in Figure ES1-18

- 192.3 ha of Squatter Pigeon (Southern) habitat, as shown in Figure ES1-19.

The total areas of impact cannot be added together as, in some instances, these areas overlap, or an area of land may support multiple MNES.

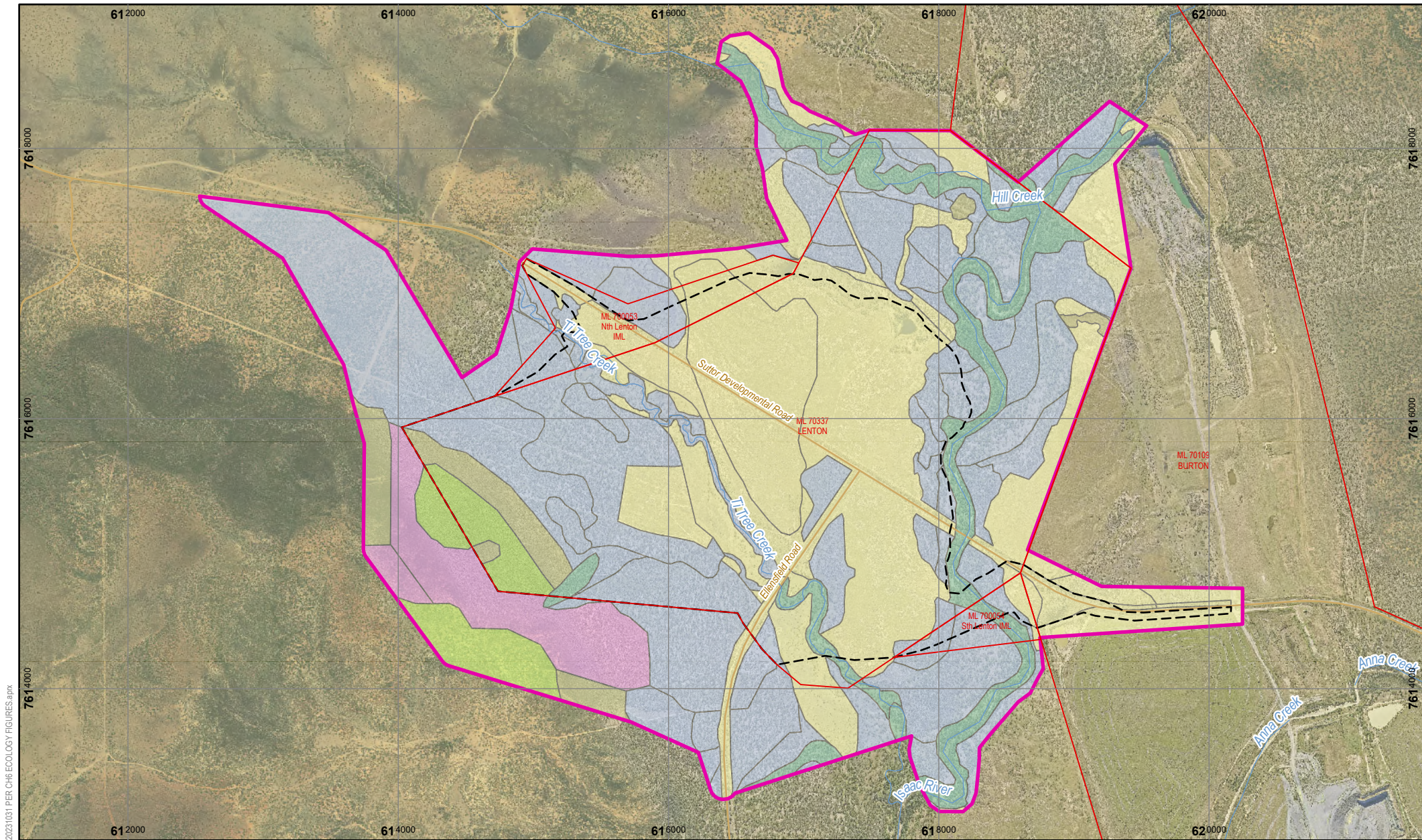
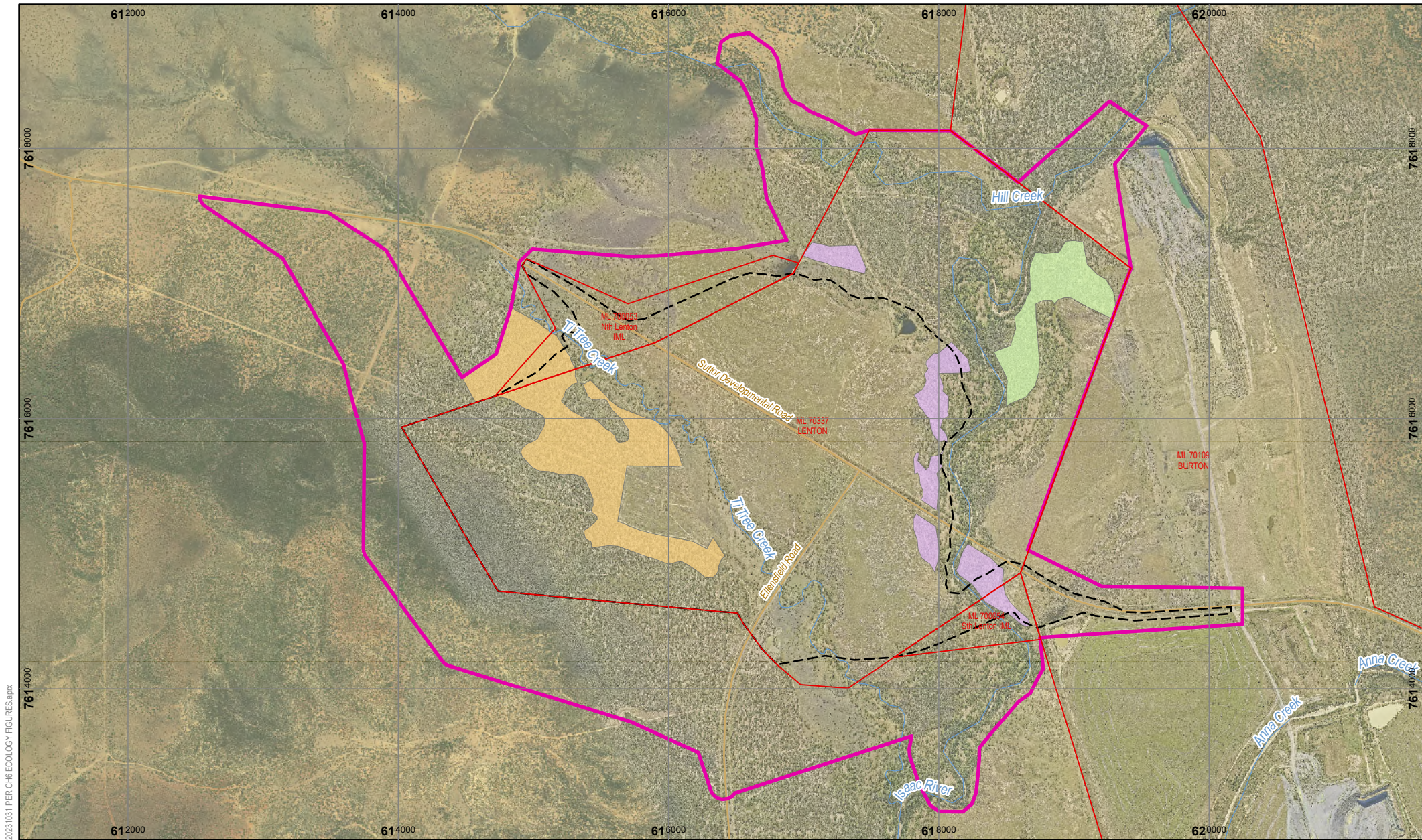


Figure | ES1-15

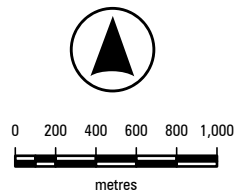


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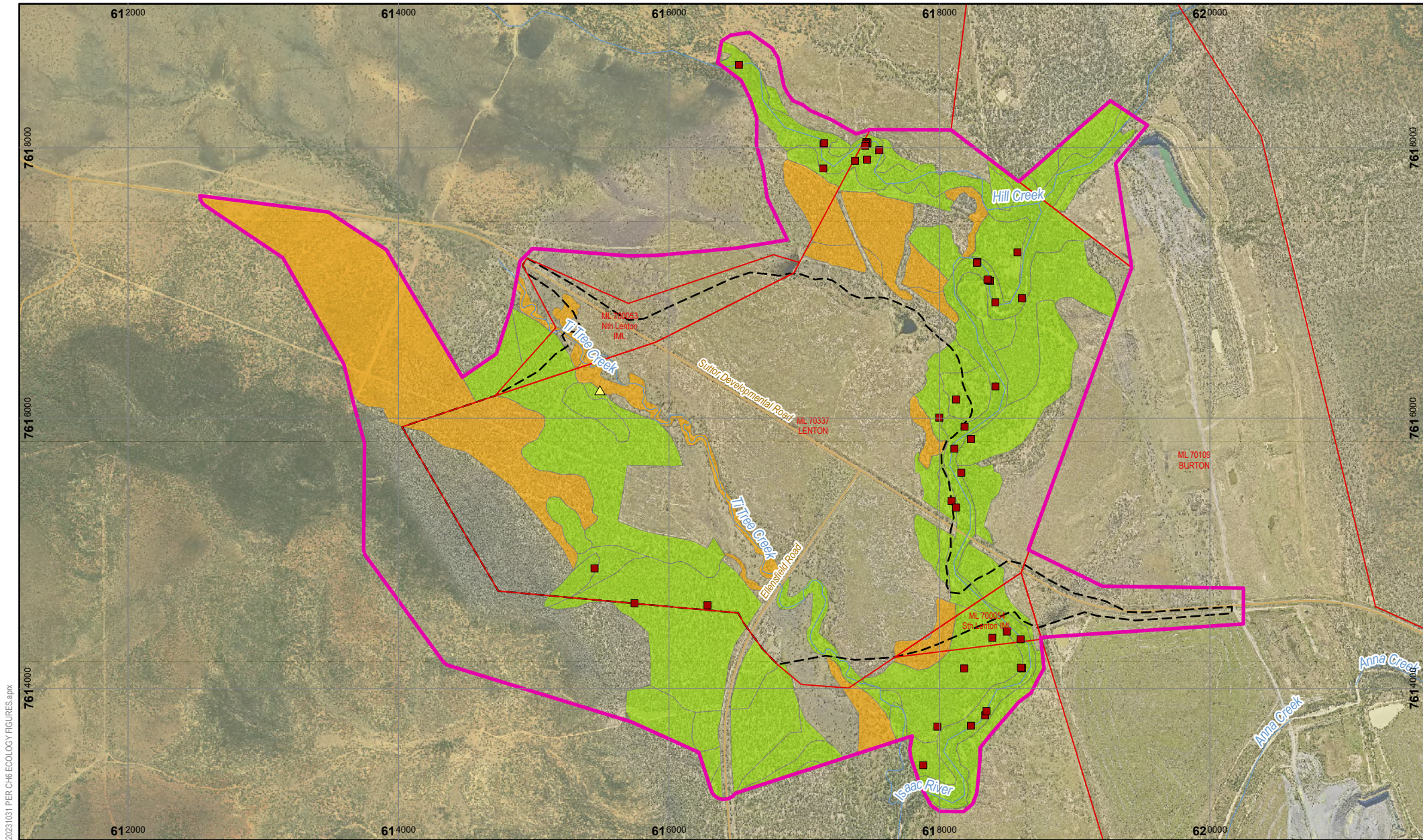
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|---|--|
| <p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining Lease Proposed Disturbance Boundary Survey Area Waterway Roads | <p>Poplar Box TEC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category A2 Category B Category C |
|---|--|

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Poplar Box Grassy Woodland on
 Alluvial Plains within the Survey Area

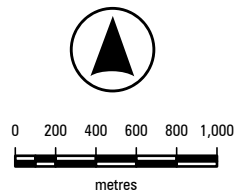


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- Legend**
- Mining Lease
 - Proposed Disturbance Boundary
 - Survey Area
 - Waterway
 - Roads

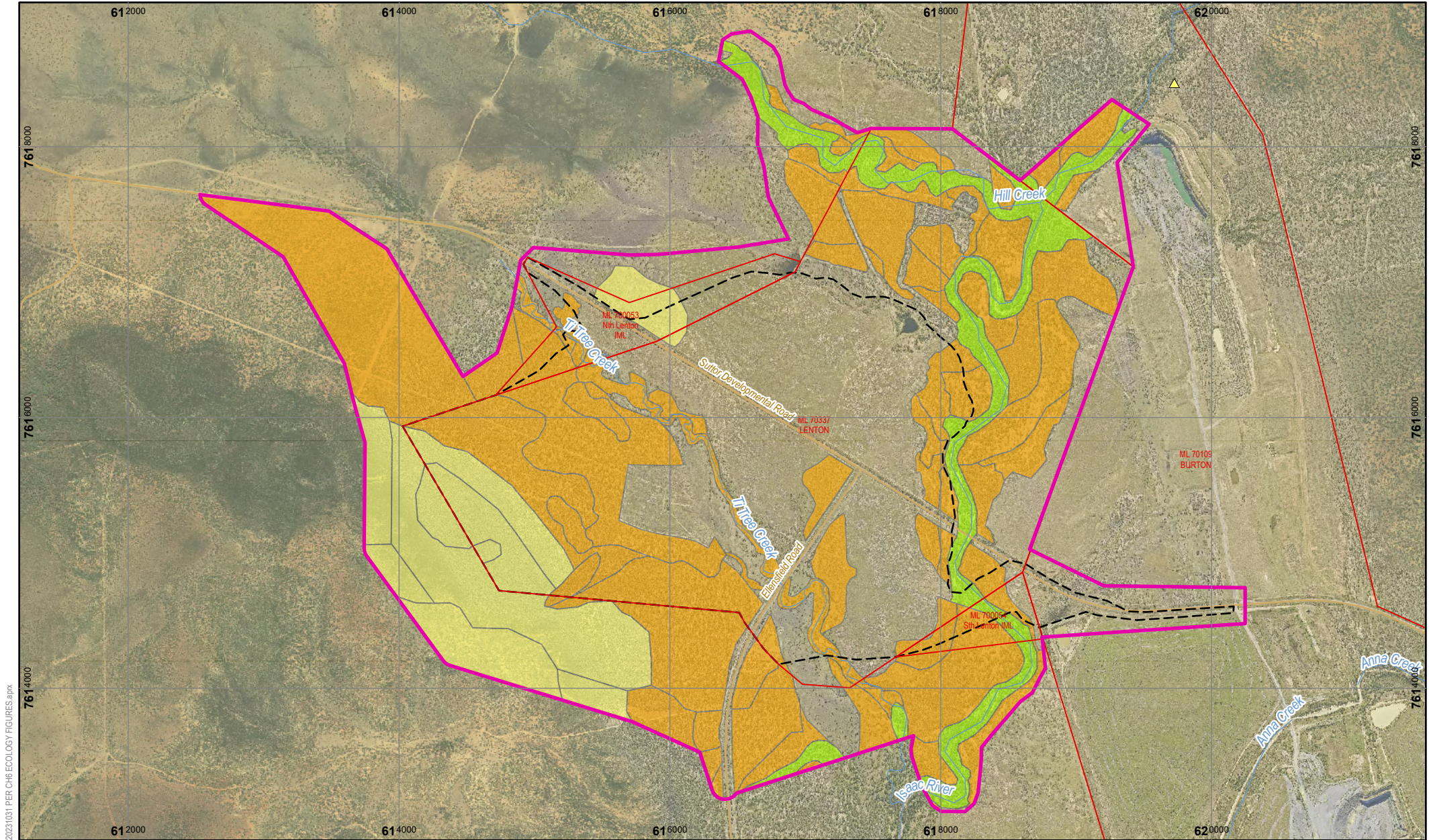
- Greater Glider Habitat**
- Preferred
 - Suitable
- Desktop Searches**
- Greater Glider Observations
 - ▲ Greater Glider Observations

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Greater Glider Habitat

Figure | ES1-17

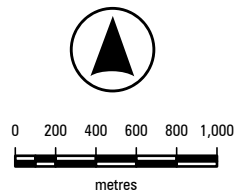


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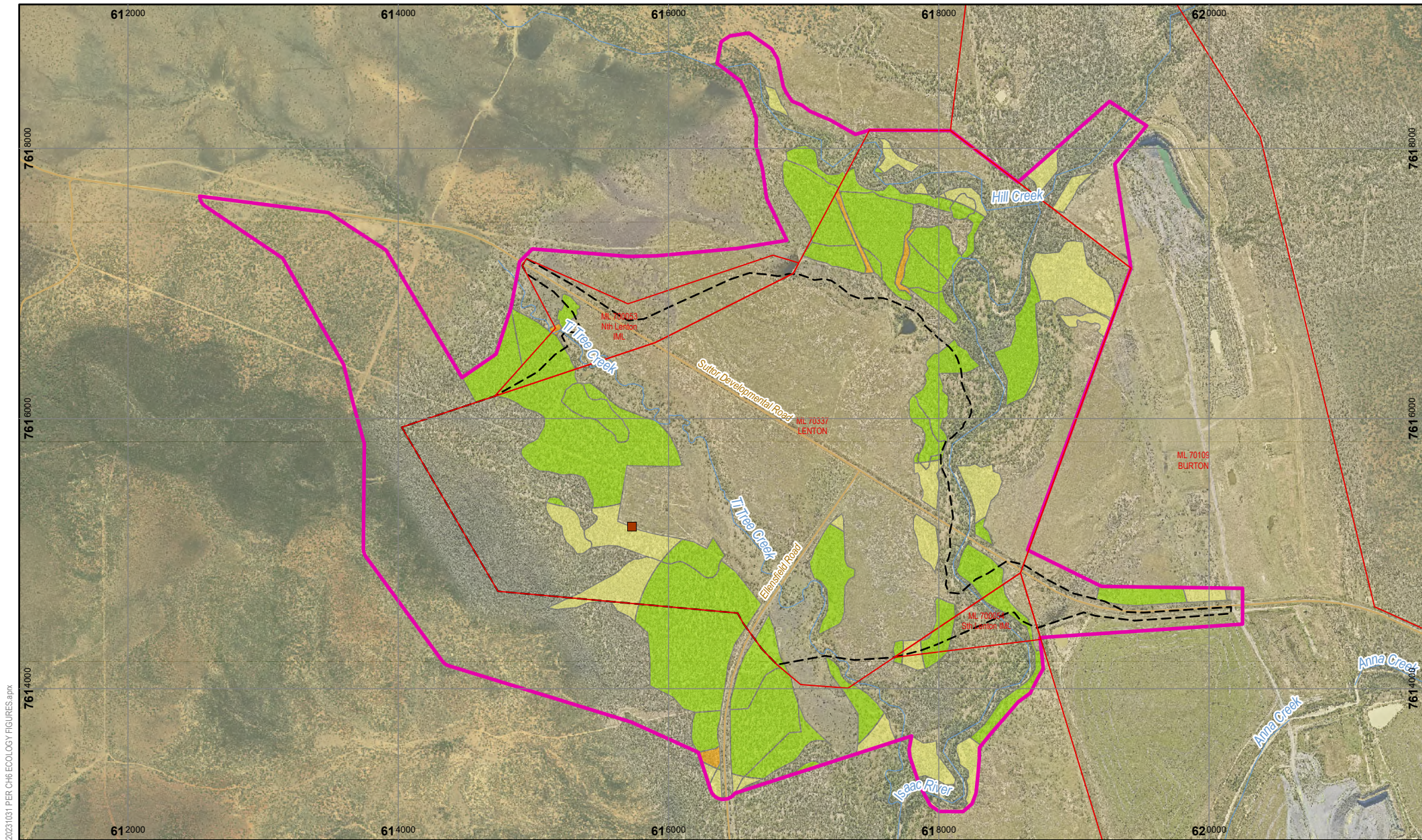


- | | |
|---|---|
| Legend | Koala Habitat |
| Mining Lease | Critical - Important |
| Proposed Disturbance Boundary | Critical - Suitable |
| Survey Area | Not Critical - Other |
| — Waterway | Desktop Searches |
| — Roads | ▲ Koala Observations |

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Koala Habitat

Figure | ES1-18

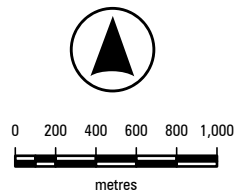


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| <p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining Lease Proposed Disturbance Boundary Survey Area Waterway Roads | <p>Squatter Pigeon Habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breeding Dispersal Foraging Squatter Pigeon Observation |
|---|--|

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Squatter Pigeon Habitat

1.10 Biodiversity Offsets

A Biodiversity Offset Area Management Plan (OAMP) has been developed in accordance with the PER guidelines to offset significant residual impacts for the Poplar Box Grassy Woodland on Alluvial Plains TEC and habitat for the Koala, Greater Glider and Squatter Pigeon. Offsets will be provided in accordance with the EPBC Act *Environmental Offsets Policy* (2012). Habitat quality assessments have been completed for the Project impact area, and the proposed offset area, with these assessments used to inform the calculation of required offsets in accordance with the Offsets Assessment Guide (OAG).

The OAMP identifies Kemmis Creek (Lot 12 SP303309) as the preferred property to acquit the Project's offset requirements, with an investigation area, and preferred and alternate offset areas identified on Kemmis Creek. Based on field surveys and desktop analysis, the offset investigation area on Kemmis Creek contains suitable habitat for Poplar Box Grassy Woodland on Alluvial Plains TEC and the Koala, Greater Glider and Squatter Pigeon. Detailed field surveys of the proposed offset investigation area have been undertaken to confirm the presence of Koala, Greater Glider and Squatter Pigeon, and to assess the habitat suitability for offsets.

The OAMP describes the proposed management actions that are intended to achieve the interim performance targets and completion criteria to acquit the offset requirements. There are a number of mechanisms for providing legal security of an offset site, although it is likely that a Voluntary Declaration under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VM Act) will be the preferred option.

1.11 Economic and Social Benefits

Community consultation and stakeholder engagement forms an integral component of Argo's activities for the Project and the neighbouring Burton Mine. The proponent has and will continue to build strong, lasting relationships with stakeholders, with the objective of providing accurate and timely environmental, social and economic information about the Project. Argo will continue to build on the solid relationships with local stakeholders and the broader community that were developed by BCC when it was the operator of the Burton Mine. Consultation has occurred as part of statutory processes including the EA amendment application and PRCP schedule application for the Project.

Argo consults with landholders on all Project matters including the interaction of exploration activities with day to day pastoral activities, fencing, water supply, environmental monitoring, land access, and proposed Project mining activities. The proponent has entered into compensation agreements with all landholders with properties that overlap the New Lenton MLs. This was a fundamental step in the securing the grant of the MLs. Native title has been extinguished on the New Lenton MLs and therefore a native title agreement was not required prior to the grant of the MLs. However; Indigenous cultural heritage is managed under a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) and Cultural Heritage Management Agreement (CHMA) executed with relevant Aboriginal Parties, or any other subsequent management plan agreed with the relevant Aboriginal Parties.

BCC made a valuable contribution to the local community during its period of operating at Burton Mine and seeking to commence operations at the Project. Argo will continue to contribute to the local community through recommencement of Burton Mine and by investing in the Project. The Project will make a positive contribution to the local economy by bringing additional jobs and capital investment; in combination with recommencing mining operations at Burton Mine. The Project will contribute to a stable and increasing workforce in the local area with the approximate 150 workers during operations. This will contribute positively to the health and community well-being as a result of additional certainty of employment.

Due to the remote location of the Project, the workforce will utilise the accommodation camp at Burton Mine. Workers that live locally and regionally will continue to form a key component of the workforce.

The proponent is committed to providing businesses in the local and regional area with access to supply chain opportunities. Argo is investigating opportunities for the employment of Indigenous people and provision of services from Indigenous businesses.

The Project will require approximately \$60M of capital expenditure. The Project will provide substantial economic benefits to the local region, Queensland and Australia. Approximately 150 jobs will be generated during operations, with 100 jobs during various stages of staggered construction. The Project will generate additional indirect employment in the region and throughout Queensland. The Australian Government is predicted to receive significant direct and indirect tax revenue from the Project, and the Queensland Government is expected to earn substantial royalties from the Project (forecast \$800M for the Project). Without the Project approval the associated employment and economic benefits will not be realised.

The design, planning and assessment of the Project have been carried out applying the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD), through:

- incorporation of risk assessment and analysis at various stages in the Project design, environmental assessment and decision-making
- adoption of high standards for environmental, health and safety performance
- consultation with regulatory and community stakeholders
- optimisation of the social and economic benefits to the community arising from the development of the Project.

In addition, it has been demonstrated that the Project can be undertaken in accordance with ESD principles through the application of measures to avoid, mitigate and offset the potential environmental impacts of the Project.

By following the requirements of Commonwealth legislation on managing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the Project will not impact the GHG emissions targets set at national level.

1.12 Conclusion

This final PER has been prepared in accordance with the PER guidelines issued by DCCEE. The EPBC Act controlling provisions for the relevant MNES to be assessed for the Project are:

- Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A); and
- A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development (sections 24D & 24E).

The potential impacts of the Project on the relevant MNES have been assessed in this PER. Assessments comprised desktop research and field based surveys, either undertaken specifically to inform the PER or undertaken within and surrounding the Project area as part of previous environment investigations for the Project, and modelling utilising that latest standards. The Project's impacts on the relevant MNES were assessed by experienced professionals in each relevant environmental discipline. Impacts were assessed for the Project and cumulatively with other regional resource projects, including Burton Mine. Mitigation and management measures have been proposed to avoid or reduce impacts on MNES, through a combination of mine planning, maximising the use of existing Burton Mine infrastructure, site environmental management, and integration with existing environmental management systems at Burton Mine. Assessments of the significance of impacts on MNES have been undertaken in accordance with the relevant Commonwealth significant impact guidelines, which concluded that the Project:

- would have significant residual impacts on the Poplar Box on alluvial floodplains TEC and habitat for the Koala, Greater Glider and Squatter Pigeon
- would not have significant impacts on surface water resources

- would not have significant impacts on groundwater resources, including groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and stygofauna.

A biodiversity offset area management plan has been developed to offset significant residual impacts to MNES.

As the future operator of Burton Mine, Argo will continue to build solid relationships with local and regional communities. The Project is predicted to provide substantial economic benefits to the local region, Queensland and Australia. Approximately 150 people will be employed during operations with additional indirect employment created in the region and throughout Queensland. The Australian Government will receive significant direct and indirect tax revenue from the Project, and the Queensland Government will obtain substantial royalties from the Project (a forecast \$800M for the Project).

The Project will mine an additional 30 Mt metallurgical (steel making) coal over 18 years (approximately 1.9 Mtpa) thereby providing medium to long term employment and economic benefits. The Project will require approximately \$60M of capital expenditure.

The proponent will implement workforce management measures for the Project which, in conjunction with the recommencement of mining operations and Burton Mine and proposed Project activities, will provide social and economic benefits to the community. Argo actively seeks to engage local and regional contractors and suppliers for mining related services and this will continue for the Project.

The Project's social and economic benefits, as a proposed metallurgical coal producer within the Bowen Basin mining region, outweigh the mitigated social and environmental impacts of the Project.

This PER demonstrates that the Project can be undertaken in an environmentally acceptable manner, subject to the proposed management and monitoring measures. The State of Queensland has approved the Project activities, subject to conditions of approval, further demonstrating that these regulatory agencies consider that the Project can be undertaken in an environmentally acceptable manner. The Project can be undertaken in accordance with the principles of ESD and the objects of the EPBC Act.