KATANNING GOLD PROJECT

PRELIMINARY MINE CLOSURE AND REHABILITATION STRATEGY

09 May 2025

PREPARED FOR AUSGOLD LIMITED
BY PRESTON CONSULTING PTY LTD

Document prepared for:

AUSGOLD LIMITED

Contact: Troy Collie – Manager Environment and Approvals
Email: tcollie@ausgoldlimited.com
Website: www.ausgoldlimited.com
Phone: (08) 9220-9890
Address: Level 1, 307 Murray St Perth WA 6000
Postal Address: PO Box 7654, Cloisters Square, Perth WA 6850

Document developed by:

PRESTON CONSULTING PTY LTD

Contact Person: Phil Scott- Director
Email: pscott@prestonconsulting.com.au
Website: https://prestonconsulting.com.au/
Phone: 0488 737 273
Street Address: Level 1/226 Adelaide Terrace, Perth WA 6000
Postal Address: PO Box 3093, East Perth WA 6892

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Southern Noongar people and we extend our respect to the Elders past, present and emerging of the Wagyl Kaip and Koreng People on whose lands the Project would be implemented.

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Authorisation	Troy Collie – Manager Environment and Approvals, Ausgold Limited	Signature	9/05/2025

CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF TABLES

1 INTRODUCTION

Ausgold Limited (Ausgold) plans to develop the Katanning Gold Project (Project), targeting significant gold mineralisation located 275 kilometres (km) south-east of Perth and approximately 40 km north-east of the town of Katanning in southwest Western Australia (WA) (Figure 1). Granted tenements cover over 4,000 km^2 of the Katanning Greenstone Belt in the south-west corner of the Yilgarn Craton, which hosts some of Australia's largest gold deposits.

The Project is located on a 17 km long mineralised trend with significant resource potential across three key zones, Northern Zone (Datatine), Central Zone (Jackson, Olympia, Jinkas and Jinkas South) and the Southern Zone (Rifle Range, Dingo and Lukin). The zones are illustrated in Figure 2, with current mine plans focused on the Central and Southern zones (see Figure 4).

This report summarises available information, information gaps, high level Post Mining Land Use (PMLU) considerations (such as existing land use - see Figure 5) and options, key steps to develop a Mine Closure Plan (MCP).

1.1 HISTORY

The gold mineralisation was first identified in 1979 by Otter Exploration NL leading to the Badgebup Gold Project which was acquired by a number of different entities until being developed by International Mineral Resources NL (IMR). IMR commenced mining in December 1995 focusing on Jinkas Hill with a plant designed for a throughput of 200,000 tonnes per year. Between February 1996 and July 1997 approximately 317,000 tonnes of mostly oxide ore, at an average grade of 2.54 grams per tonne gold was processed, producing some 20,000 ounces of gold.

Ausgold now has a 100% interest in Mining Leases 70/210 and 70/211, which encompass the Jinkas and Dingo deposits respectively.

1.2 SCOPE

This Strategy covers the extent of the Project as it is being defined for environmental approval. It considers the receiving environment, proposed mine design and key drivers for consideration in closure and rehabilitation. The Project will include open pit mining, disposal of waste rock and tailings based on conventional gold processing.

The environmental setting for the Project is within a landscape extensively cleared for agriculture and within a farming community (Figure 6). Existing remnant native vegetation is of high conservation value and as some clearing will be required is a key component of the scope.

Imagery: Landgate, Parks: DBCA

Drawn: CAD Resources ~ Tel 9246 3242 ~ URL www.cadresources.com.au ~ February 2018 ~ A4 ~ Rev: A ~ CAD Ref: a2561_Fa_F010

Figure 1: Regional Location of the Project

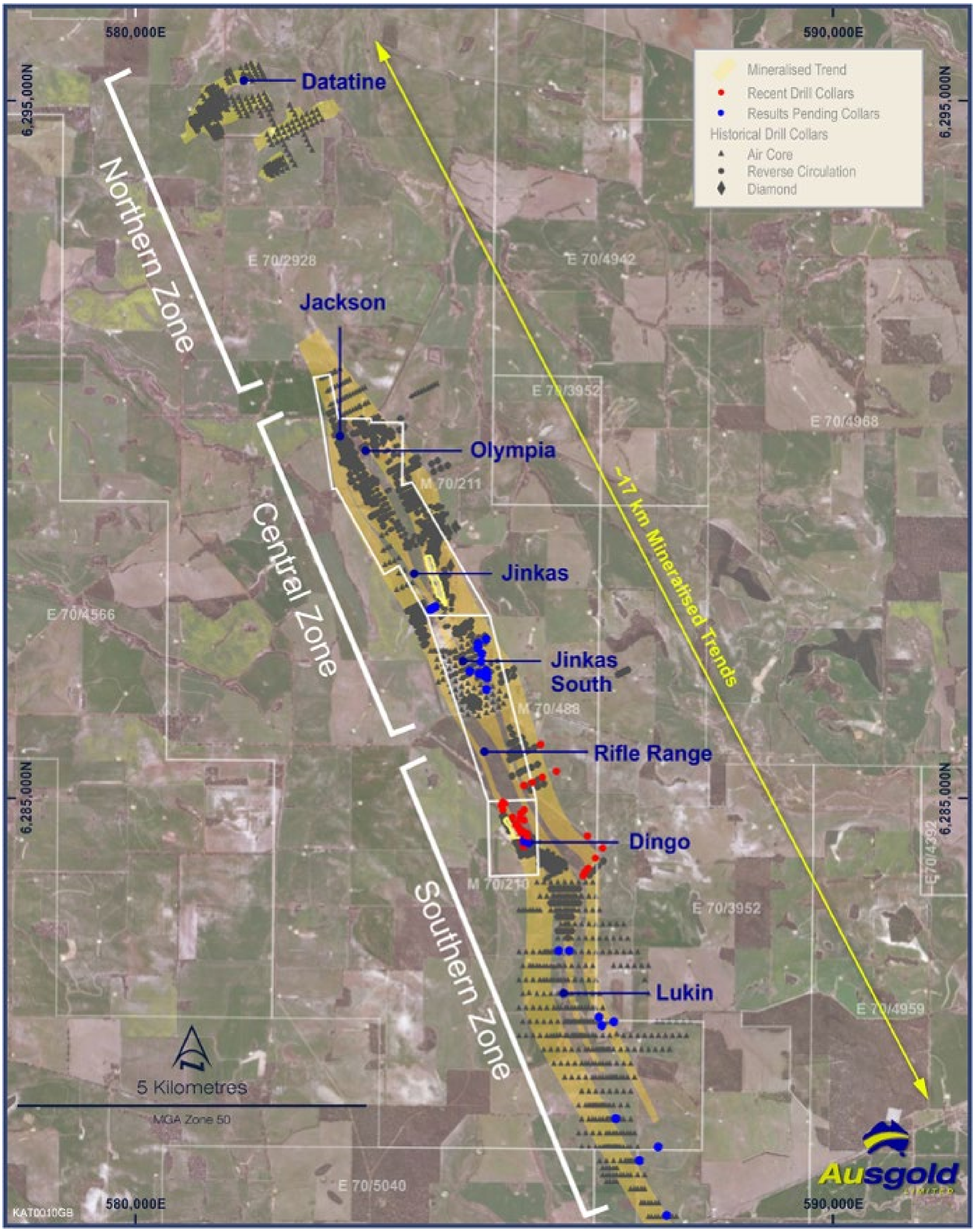


Figure 2: Project arrangement and zones

1.3 PURPOSE

This preliminary mine closure and rehabilitation strategy (Strategy; this document) has been prepared to identify mine closure and rehabilitation options at a strategic level whilst the Project is being planned and consultation with local communities and regulators commence. It identifies some potential PMLUs, how they may be further developed and consequent closure and rehabilitation options for the Project. Development of PMLUs and data relevant to closure and rehabilitation will enable Ausgold to select options to progress into feasibility studies and ultimately onsite trials.

1.3.1 BACKGROUND

Mine closure planning should be considered across all life of mine phases, starting before environmental approvals are sought (Figure 3). Ultimately, if the resources are entirely depleted, mining will not be considered as a land use going forward and a PMLU will need to be implemented to enable the mining company to relinquish its *Mining Act 1978* (WA) (Mining Act) tenure. To enable effective mine closure planning, early identification PMLU and closure objectives is essential to successful closure and rehabilitation.

Relinquishment of tenure has rarely been achieved in WA and requires the development of a sect of completion criteria that are used to gauge whether or not all of the obligations for rehabilitation and closure have been met. Development of completion criteria is a key aspect of mine closure planning (Young et al., 2019).

This Strategy considers preliminary background information relating to the Project and explores potential PMLU options and opportunities for closure. Key considerations, risks and benefits for each potential PMLU and opportunity are identified. The Strategy aims to support further consultation with the local community and relevant stakeholders required to refine mine closure.

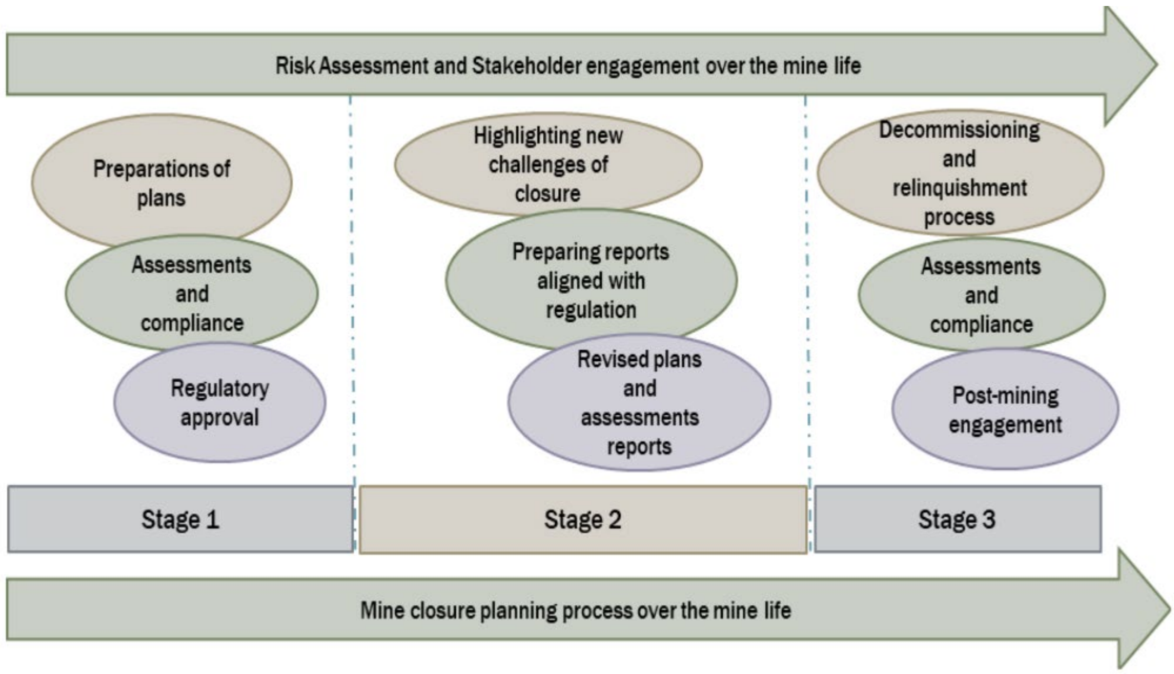


Figure 3: Mine closure planning process (Dzakpata et al., 2021)

1.4 Mine Plan

The mine plan is preliminary in nature and shows a development footprint stretching north-south based around the orebody as it is currently known. The footprint excludes the native vegetation associated with the rifle range reserve and associated area of native vegetation. Whilst there are known resources located along strike further north and south, they are excluded from the mine plan as they will require more resource definition before any mine planning can be conducted.

1.4.1 Pits

Pit designs have resulted in a near-continuous pit over a 4.5 km strike length with only a few breaks between the Olympia and Jinkas deposits. Designs have been completed to include pit staging to allow access to early higher grades around the main Jinkas deposit, then cutbacks to access the deeper ores later in the mine life. The pit design also allows for multiple mining areas, which is favourable for managing ore blending and timing of development activities.

1.4.2 Waste Rock Landforms

Waste rock landforms (WRL) will be created in close proximity to the pits to enable cost-effective haulage and storage of waste rock. In some cases, backfill of completed mine pits may be feasible – these opportunities can sometimes be identified early in the mine life.

The proposed WRL are located adjacent to the pit, on both sides. The volume of waste removed from the pit will be optimised and the layout may change. The locations for waste rock placement also take into consideration the:

- Constraints imposed by the boundaries of Mining Act tenure;
- Requirements to supply waste rock for construction of the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) embankments and capping at closure;
- Preserve the remnant native bushland; and
- 25% swell factor that arises from blasting and transporting the waste rock.

Specifications of maximum slope angles, berm widths and slopes, materials and thicknesses for external surfaces will be developed further as planning proceeds.

The production plan was generated around the mining inventory which targeted 3 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of ore processing and a mining rate limitation of 33 Mtpa. These targets can be achieved for a mine life in excess of 10 years.

The mine plan general arrangement is provided in Figure 4. At this early stage, consideration of topsoil storage volumes and locations has not been completed.

1.4.3 Tailings Storage Facility

The TSF was designed to store a total of 30 million tonnes of tailings at an average rate of 3.0 Mtpa, with capacity to contain all supernatant and runoff from all rainfall events and storm events. The embankment is planned to have a minimum 10 metre (m) crest width and an upstream slope of 1V:3H, a downstream slope of 1V:3H for Stages 1 and 2 and 1V:3H with 5 m benches at every 10 m height interval thereafter and at closure.

A detailed TSF design will be required for approval consideration under the Mining Act. Ausgold is continuing with options assessments for the TSF.

1.4.4 Process Plant and Ancillaries

Figure 4 shows the preliminary location for the process plant, located between the main pit and the TSF. Ancillaries such as roads, powerlines, pipelines, topsoil stockpiles etc. have not yet been planned in detail.

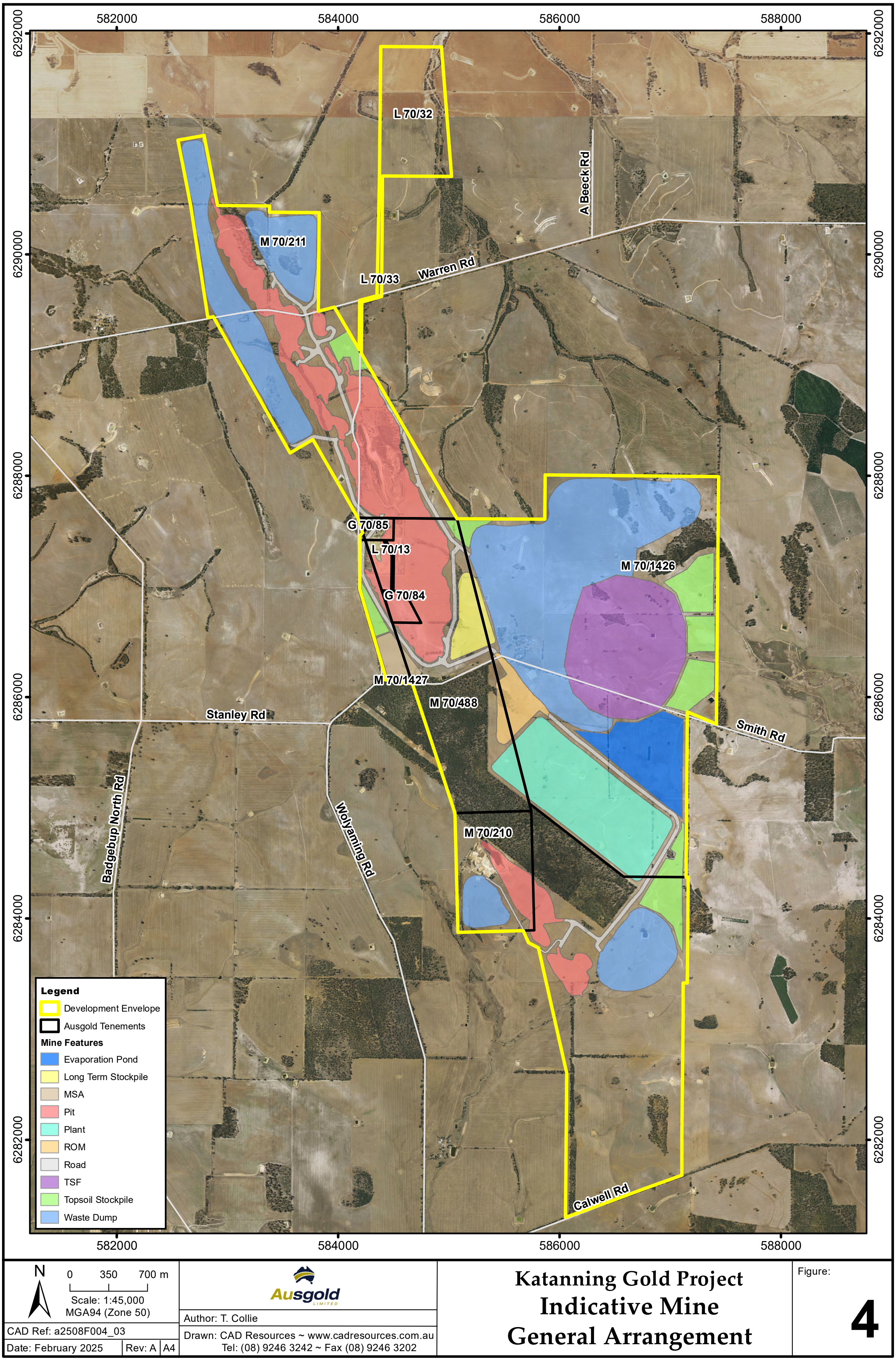


Figure 4: Indicative Mine General Arrangement

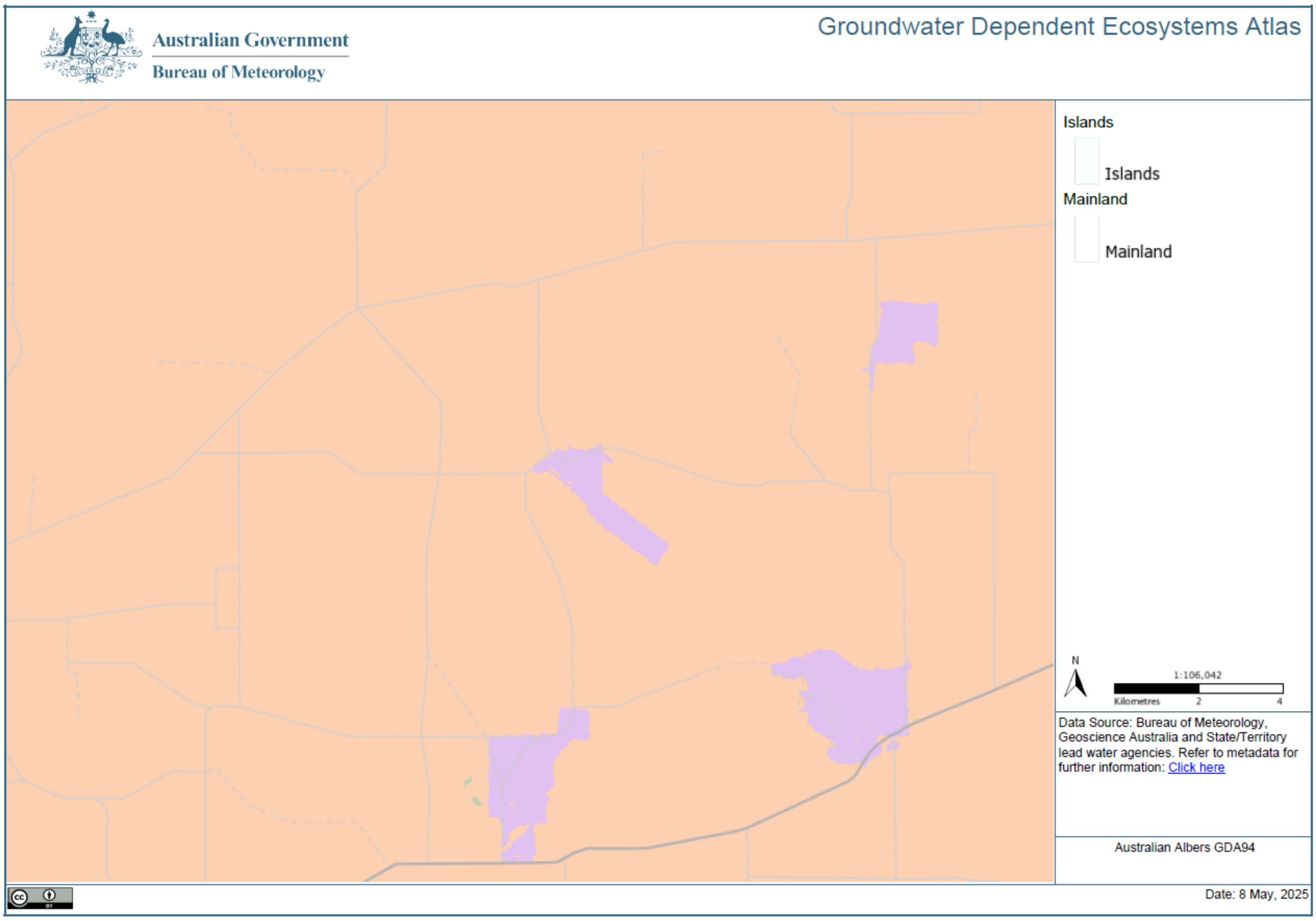
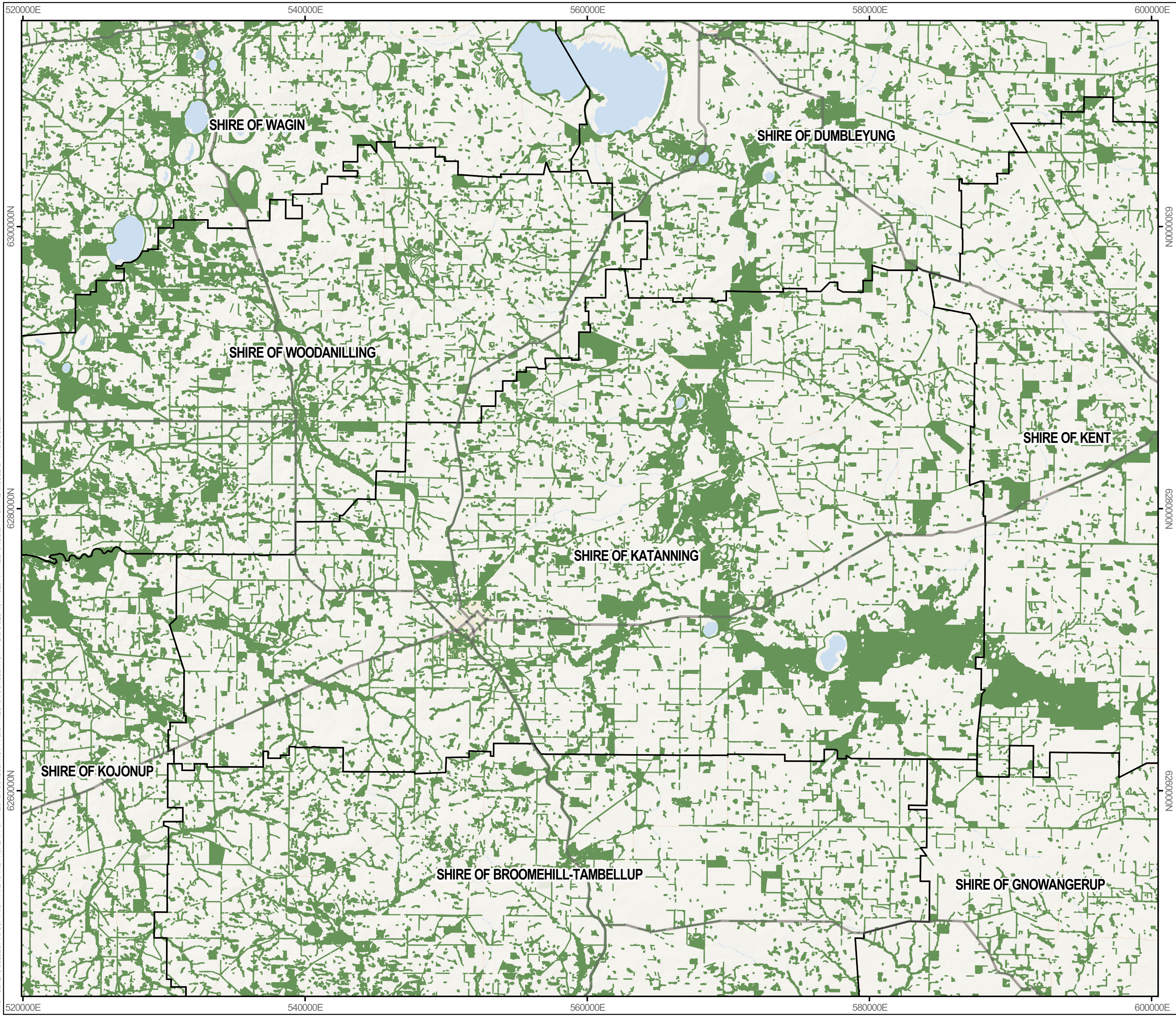


Figure 5: Land use (SRK Consulting, 2022)



Legend

Local Government Authority Boundaries (LGATE-233)

Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)

Main Roads (LGATE-195)

Imagery: ESRI Ocean

0 6 12 km

GDA2020 / MGA zone 50

1:350,000

Project: AUS_0554_001
Date: 28/02/2025
Size: A4
Author: ASmithers (Preston Consulting Pty Ltd)

Figure 6: Remnant Native vegetation Extent

Ausgold LIMITED

Preston Consulting

1.5 Key Considerations

1.5.1 Current Land Use

The Project is situated within established farming country, with reliable rainfall and numerous options for cropping and grazing in dryland farming operations. There is little irrigation with groundwater naturally often brackish or saline. The Project is generally located on elevated land with shallow groundwater unlikely to be encountered.

The population is sparse, with small aggregations of population in the regional centres of Katanning, Dumbleyung and Nyabing – all located more than 30 km from the Project footprint. Roads connecting the regional centres and providing access to individual farms and paddock are a crucial component of the agricultural land use. There is no rail infrastructure that would be directly impacted by the Project footprint.

With the exception of the Rifle Range Reserve, existing mine pits and infrastructure, current land use is dominated by broad scale dryland agriculture, with extensive areas used for cropping and grazing (Figure 5). The majority of the land is cleared of native vegetation (Figure 6), is held in freehold title and is actively managed for agriculture. Historically the region has been a reliable and profitable area to farm.

1.5.2 Key Regulatory Objectives

In considering objectives for closure of a mine site it is critical to identify the objectives of key regulatory agencies and to understand the environmental context and mining process planned for the Project.

The key agencies responsible for management of environmental impact assessment (Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)) and environmental management of mines (Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS)) and their rehabilitation and mine closure objectives are as follows:

> *"The EPA's objective for Rehabilitation and Decommissioning is to ensure that premises are decommissioned and rehabilitated in an ecologically sustainable manner."*

and

> *"…for rehabilitated mines to be (physically) safe to humans and animals, (geo-technically) stable, (geo-chemically) non-polluting/ non-contaminating, and capable of sustaining an agreed post-mining land use."*

The EPA, and the Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) will also require significant residual impacts of the Project on significant ecological vales to be offset. Environmental offsets are typically achieved through the creation, restoration and or rehabilitation of habitat or ecological community to a certain standard and extent suitable to offset the significant residual impact. Based on the current mine planning, the Project will require clearing of native vegetation and it is likely that offsets will be required. However, it is not a specific consideration for closure and rehabilitation, as offsets will begin in their delivery well before the Project approaches closure.

1.5.3 Post-mining Land Use

It is necessary to consider the PMLU, as the target PMLU(s) will be influential in mine closure planning. This guiding principle for rehabilitation and closure is recognised in most mine closure planning guidance documents.

The WA Biodiversity Science Institute released a framework for developing mine-site completion criteria in WA (Young et al., 2019) that has been endorsed by DEMIRS. Young et al., (2019) considers PMLU descriptions and recommends the use of the Australian Land Use and Management (ALUM) classification (Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, 2016). The ALUM classifications are provided in Table 1 and have been used in scoping potential PMLU's for the Project.

Table 1: Summary of ALUM classification (Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics, 2016)

Primary class	Definition	Secondary classes
1. Conservation and natural environments	Conservation purposes based on maintaining the essentially natural ecosystems present.	Nature conservation; Managed resource protection; Other minimal use.
2. Production from relatively natural environments	Primary production with limited change to the native vegetation.	Grazing native vegetation; Production native forests.
3. Production from dryland agriculture and plantations	Primary production based on dryland farming systems.	Plantation forests; grazing modified pastures; cropping; perennial horticulture; seasonal horticulture; land in transition.
4. Production from irrigated agriculture and plantations	Primary production based on irrigated farming.	Irrigated plantation forests; grazing irrigated modified pastures; irrigated cropping; irrigated perennial horticulture; irrigated seasonal horticulture; irrigated land in transition.
5. Intensive uses	Land subject to extensive modification, generally in association with closer residential settlement, commercial or industrial uses.	Intensive horticulture; intensive animal production; manufacturing and industrial; residential and farm infrastructure; services; utilities; transport and communication; mining; waste treatment and disposal.
6. Water	Water features.	Lake; reservoir; river; channel/aqueduct; marsh/wetland; estuary/coastal waters.

In determining PMLU, it is important to consider a range of factors (see Table 2 modified from Young et al., 2019). PMLU selection will be strongly influenced by the infrastructure or specific use of that land within the overall mining area. For example, PMLU for WRL, TSF, mine pits are likely to present different opportunities and limitations. The considerations made in relation to the Project are identified in Table 2. Potential PMLU's identified for the Project are discussed in Section 3.2.

Table 2: PMLU considerations (Young et al., 2019)

Primary class	Definition	Secondary classes
Land tenure	Existing land tenure that specifies what the PMLUs will be.	Proposal tenure expected to remain or be modified as agreed to be managed by Wagyl Kaip & Southern Noongar Indigenous Land Use Agreement (WI2017/014).
Strategic planning	Local and regional land planning schemes by relevant authorities such as Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD); Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage; Mid-West Development Commission.	The development envelope lies within the land use category: 'Rural', 'Local Road' and 'Public Purposes', under the Shire of Katanning Local Planning Scheme No. 5. The Dingo deposit, overlaps with the File Notion Area (FNA 9798) which encompasses the Wurgabup Rifle Range.
Pre-mining conditions	Conditions of the area prior to mining.	Native vegetation is rehabilitated for use in agriculture. A range of significant fauna habitat and Eucalypt Woodlands of the WA Wheatbelt Threatened Ecological Community (EWTEC) have the potential to occur in the mining areas.
Acceptability to key stakeholders	Feedback received through continuous stakeholder engagement.	Ongoing discussions with key stakeholders.
Heritage (natural, cultural or historical)	Impact associated with the PMLUs on heritage and agreement with relevant government departments and stakeholders.	A single Registered Aboriginal Heritage Site, Jinker/Jinka Hill (ACH-5353) is located within the tenement boundaries. No other historic or cultural significance have been recorded during revision of publicly available spatial data.
Physical, chemical and biological hazards (anthropogenic and naturally occurring)	Hazardous materials, unsafe facilities, contaminated sites, radioactive materials, among others.	Heat stress, ticks.
Consistency with other mines in the area	PMLUs proposed by other nearby mines where applicable and justified as the most acceptable approach.	'Mining of gypsum from Chinocup A Class Nature Reserve, Pingrup' is the only mining project present within 50 km of the Project. Due to its location within a Class A Nature reserve, a differing approach is assumed.
Compatibility with surrounding area	Integration of the PMLUs with the surrounding landscape in terms of aesthetics, land capability, etc. taking into account the changes occurred over the life of mine.	PMLU assumes same management will apply as for surrounding Freehold Regional Land.
Feasibility/viability	PMLUs should be achievable in the context of post-mining land capability.	Considered feasible.
Added value	Value generated as a result of the PMLUs.	Potential for additional significant species habitat in rehabilitation

The PMLU for the abandoned Badgebup mining operation is proposed as "managed agriculture, enabling agricultural activities such as cropping or grazing to be possible in a manner which is managed to prevent unacceptable land degradation." Noting that the waste dumps and TSF may not be suitable for cropping activities but could potentially be vegetated to enable grazing of livestock (akin to hilltops on farms throughout the Wheatbelt). Similar to current agricultural practice, the positioning of fences was noted to be critical to achieving the PMLU by enabling agricultural activities to be managed according to land capability.

It must be noted that the mined land is also owned as freehold by the proponent. After successful relinquishment of all mining tenure, the land would continue to be owned under freehold title (by the current or another future owner). Unlike many other mine sites, none of the land reverts to the Crown/State. Any perceived or actual residual burden would reside with the freehold owner.

1.6 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Since exploration commenced, Ausgold has been conscientious and successful in its engagement with the local landowners. There was considerable effort put into 'building a bridge' with relationships that had evolved after previous resources company tenement holder and operators left behind some legacy issues with stakeholders.

The key Project stakeholders that Ausgold has built relationships with so far are largely the landowners and certain neighbouring properties to the Project, based on land access agreements.

As of 2024, Ausgold invited members of the public to join a Community Reference Group (CRG) to advise on key matters including environmental management, post closure and land rehabilitation. The inaugural CRG met in February 2025 (https://ausgoldlimited.com/projects/katanning-gold-project/community/).

Also, Ausgold meets routinely via the Three-Shires Forum to engage with Shires of Katanning, Kent and Dumbleyung on pivotal matters such as water, gravel and power, as well as resolving to manage community assets (social infrastructure and accommodation).

1.7 REHABILITATION OBLIGATIONS

At the time of lodgement of a Mining Development and Closure Proposal, the obligations for rehabilitation will be documented in the MCP. The MCP will capture all closure and rehabilitation obligations, not just those generated under the Mining Act. Key obligations such as tenement conditions are published in the MCP and are available on the DEMIRS data bases. They are legally enforceable.

The process of tenement relinquishment is required to enable a proponent to "give up" their responsibility for the tenement(s) and hence abdicate or pass on any legal responsibility and liability for the land. The process of relinquishment must be satisfied, and all conditions are met before legal responsibility is able to be transferred. DEMIRS is responsible for managing this process. Very few tenements have been relinquished in WA to date.

The key tenement conditions relating to rehabilitation and closure usually include:

- On completion of operations or progressively, when possible, all waste dumps, TSF, stockpiles or other mining related landforms must be rehabilitated to form safe, stable, non-polluting structures which are integrated with the surrounding landscape & support self-sustaining, functional ecosystems comprising suitable, local provenance species or alternative agreed outcome to the satisfaction of the Executive Director, Environment Division, Department of Mines and Petroleum.
- Management of mine closure to be undertaken in accordance with the latest, relevant, approved MCP.

- Prior to the completion of operations and/or rehabilitation of the tailings facility a review by a geotechnical/engineering specialist of the tailings facility being submitted to the State Mining Engineer for assessment & is required to include: status of the structure & it's contained tailings; an examination of the implications of the physical and chemical characteristics of the materials; the results of all environmental monitoring; & a discussion of any stabilisation and on-going remedial works.

1.7.1 Restore, Rehabilitate, Revegetate or Repurpose

Restoration by its definition is about restoring an ecological system to restore all of its values and characteristics. It must therefore commence with establishing a substrate and hydrological conditions that are able to support those values.

Rehabilitating a mine site focuses on transitioning the land to a stable and safe condition, prioritising environmental recovery and the mitigation of discernible effects caused by mining activities. The intent of rehabilitation is not always clear – as the rehabilitation of the land may be just to support a particular vegetation (for example, non-native species of plants). Generally, rehabilitation in nearby mined locations such as the Jarrah Forest has had intent to restore ecological balance and biodiversity. Rehabilitation uses various methods to replace soil (particularly topsoil) layers and attempts to stabilise landforms by design, and revegetation using local native species. Rehabilitation is necessary to prevent soil erosion, disease infection and water contamination which can pose risks to users of the land and downslope areas.

Few mines in WA are rehabilitated to agriculture. Mineral sands mines on the Swan Coastal Plain have rehabilitated to both agriculture and native vegetation. Some small-scale bauxite and coal mining areas have also been rehabilitated to agriculture.

Repurposing a mine site involves transforming the land for a new use that differs from its original or current land use or purpose. Repurposing is often trying to create new economic opportunities for the local community. This can include converting old mining infrastructure into facilities such as renewable energy sites, recreational areas or alternative industry. By finding innovative uses for the land, repurposing can also generate economic benefits and job creation that help the community to adjust to the loss of the mining operation as a local economic stimulus. The process may help to leverage existing infrastructure, which can reduce costs and facilitate quicker transitions to new uses.

It should be noted that mined out pits are not inherently safe places for people to visit and therefore will probably not support a PMLU that requires people to be in or near the pits themselves. If recreation is identified as a PMLU for a mine pit, it would likely need to be mined very differently than if you are just trying to extract the ore as efficiently as possible.

1.7.2 Rehabilitation

The primary goal of rehabilitation is to return mined areas to a condition that closely resembles their pre-mining state, or to a new, agreed PMLU with attached conditions. The conditions to be met are known as Completion Criteria and are generally developed and modified as rehabilitation is undertaken and there is confirmation of what can be achieved.

To achieve effective rehabilitation, several critical actions must be undertaken:

- **Safe, Stable, Non-Polluting:** The site will be left in a safe, stable, non-polluting and tidy condition with no remaining plant or infrastructure that is not required for post-mining use or agreed use by other stakeholders;
- **Soil Structure**: It is essential to develop a soil profile that can adequately support establishment, growth and ultimately subsequent generations of the vegetation being established;
- **Vegetation Cover Identification**: Understanding the species and their requirements to create the vegetation is vital. This includes selecting native species that are characteristic of the original Jarrah Forest ecosystem; and
- **Monitoring and Assessment**: Monitoring is necessary to confirm the success of the rehabilitation efforts. This process involves tracking plant growth and health, as well as assessing soil and water quality to ensure that the rehabilitation objectives are being met.

Material Characteristics

Effective rehabilitation of mining areas necessitates a comprehensive understanding of pre-mining conditions, and the characteristics of the materials required to rehabilitate the land. By focusing on the growth medium requirements for the appropriate vegetation cover the process is more likely to deliver the rehabilitation outcomes. The required materials can then be selected and salvaged during clearing operations, stored appropriately and re-used to rehabilitate the assigned area.

Rehabilitation Research and Trials

The integration of research and ongoing monitoring will play a critical role in shaping the future PMLUs that promote sustainable land use and environmental recovery in the region.

1.7.3 Repurposing

Stakeholder engagement will help to ensure that the PMLU selected is sustainable, able to be met given tenure and other considerations, and meets the needs of the community.

A Community Perception survey may be used to reveal community preferences around recreation, tourism, eco-tourism, and the establishment of nature reserves or rehabilitation areas. These insights highlight the community's desire for a repurposed land use option to serve both ecological and social functions.

1.7.4 Closure Planning

Closure planning will be in accordance with legal obligations including considerations of tenure, environmental approvals and tenement conditions. The MCP is required to be prepared in accordance with the Statutory Guidelines (DEMIRS, 2023).

1.8 Tenure

1.8.1 Mining Act

Mining operations can only be conducted on tenure granted under the Mining Act. Mining requires a Mining Lease, whilst exploration can be conducted on Exploration Licences. Ancillary infrastructure can be located on General Purpose Leases or Miscellaneous Licences. The Mining Act tenure package will also form a key part of the regulatory framework for mining activities, closure and rehabilitation. Ultimately the Mining Act tenure can be withdrawn if the proponent is repeatedly in default but can only be surrendered when the proponent has demonstrated that it has extinguished its liability and responsibility, or that any residual liability or responsibility is passed to a responsible third party. This process is referred to as tenement relinquishment and DEMIRS uses a set of criteria, referred to as completion criteria, to determine whether the proponent has fully discharged its responsibilities on the Mining Act tenure.

In some cases, mining ceases at a point when it is uneconomic to mine any deeper, but as there is known ore deeper in the profile, the Mining Act tenure will be retained so as to retain the rights to access that ore should economic circumstances change. Backfilling of pits on Mining Leases requires the proponent to demonstrate to DEMIRS that there is no prospect of sterilising a future mine resource at depth.

1.8.2 Freehold Land

Most of the land on which the Project will be constructed and operated is freehold land that was alienated by the Crown to support agricultural development. Its zoning and management remains consistent with freehold land in a rural setting (except where previous mining operations have occurred). Suitable rehabilitation of freehold land potentially enables the landowner to generate an ongoing income from the land.

1.8.3 Reserved Land

The Government reserves land for different purposes such as roads, water supply and conservation. Small areas of land in and around the Project Footprint are reserved, such as road carriageways in gazetted reserves. Project planning needs to consider this and determine any disturbance and gain approval if required. PMLU may need to be different for areas of reserved land.

2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The environmental setting for the Project provides an important framework for guiding the selection of PMLU and the strategy for rehabilitation and closure of the Project. This section of the strategy provides information based on:

- The historic mining operations which provide some data that is useful to consider in mine planning for this new phase;
- Observations of how the various materials have behaved under local weathering conditions; and
- Investigations and reports completed as part of the planning for the Project.

Table 3 provides a summary of current information sources. Further detail on the environmental setting is provided in the rest of Section 2.

Table 3: List of studies and investigations

Survey / Study	Document	Document Date	Purpose	Summary and Consideration for Closure
Soil	Baseline Soil Assessment (Landloch Pty Ltd (Landloch)	October 2024	Characterisation of surface soils. Conduct baseline soil sampling for heavy metals, pH, salinity, nutrients, and other contaminants.	Two soil mapping units dominate the site; sodic duplex and acidic soils. The sodic duplex soil has a highly sodic subsoil that is not recommended as growth media. The acidic soils also have a subsoil layer that is not recommended for use as growth media (Landloch, 2024).
Sulphur Assay	Katanning Gold Project (KGP) Sulphur Analysis (internal KGP presentation report)	October 2024	Characterisation of ore from Jackson, Jinkas, Jinkas South, White Dam and Dingo deposits using sulphur assays from drill cores across the site.	Pockets of 3-6% sulphur in Jackson with most being 1-2m in thickness. Further investigation of differences between PXRF vs lab assay now a priority with additional lab test work at Jackson North.
Acid Base Accounting and multi-element analysis	Geochemical Characterisation of Waste Rock (Knight Piésold Consulting Engineers (Knight Piésold)	September 2022	Identify the broad geology, orebody, and preliminary characterisation of waste rocks from the deposits.	32 samples were selected from a mix of lithologies from the Jinkas, Jinkas South, Jackson, Olympia, White Dam and Datatine deposits. Based on the geological description provided by Ausgold, sulfide minerals were only noted within the mafic granulite with both pyrite and pyrrhotite noted as being associated with the gold mineralisation. Sulfide grade increases with increasing gold grade. The average sulfur content was found to be 0.2%, lower than the 0.3% cutoff sometimes used in preliminary screening. Acid Neutralising Capacity (ANC) was measured from 13 to 177 kg H_2SO_4/t at an average of 30 kg H_2SO_4/t with the majority of the ANC attributable to the carbonate minerals. The analysis of potentially acid forming material was: • 1 sample (3%) classified and Acid Consuming. • 30 samples (88%) classified as Non-Acid Forming (NAF). • 1 sample (3%) classified as Potentially Acid Forming (PAF) – Low Content. • 2 samples (6%) classified as PAF. Elements with some level of enrichment in 1-3 samples were Arsenic, Bismuth, Carbon, Cadmium, Cobalt, Chromium, Molybdenum and Nickel. The study used a limited number of samples and noted that further testwork should be completed. Preliminary assessment was that the "risk of major acid generation from the deposit is low and specific

Survey / Study	Document	Document Date	Purpose	Summary and Consideration for Closure
				measures required to selectively handle or manage potential acid generation at the Project will be limited to a small percentage of the waste, if required at all.”
Materials Characterisation	Materials Characterisation Study (Landloch)	July 2023	Outline the suitability of wastes for rehabilitation including their potential use as growth media and suitability as surface material, with a view to inform the design of waste landforms. Provide advice on management of each of the different wastes for use in rehabilitation.	Landloch (2023) provides recommendations for material type placement in final landforms to reduce impacts from PAF. Co-disposal of PAF and NAF waste rock together is considered to be a viable option for managing the risk of acid generation. Further sampling and analysis required to target current mine plan.
Materials Characterisation	Supplementary sub-surface materials characterisation – Phase 1 geochemical characterisation results summary (SRK Consulting)	March 2025	Provides a preliminary summary of the Phase 1 geochemical characterisation results for waste rock and ore samples being assessed as part of the DFS materials characterisation program.	Sulfur contents of the waste rock samples were typically low (median 0.0474% S), however, approximately one-third of the samples had a sulfur content above 0.1% S (up to a maximum of 3.4%). A threshold of 0.1% S is typically used to indicate materials may be PAF. NAC of waste rock was typically low. Most waste rock samples classed as NAF (137 of 161) or uncertain NAF (8) based on acid base accounting using total sulfur and total ANC measurements. Sixteen (10%) waste rock samples had higher S contents and were classified as PAF or uncertain PAF. Ore samples had higher S contents (median 0.68%) than waste rock samples and low ANC values therefore they were predominantly classed as PAF. A subset of samples will be subject to Phase 2 geochemical analysis.
TSF	Basis of TSF Scoping Study for Alternative Tailings Management Approaches (WSP Australia Pty Ltd (WSP))	30 October 2024	Present the basis of scoping study and propose preliminary parameters and criteria adopted by WSP for the Pre-Feasibility Study design of the TSFs.	A detailed basis of scoping study was provided which includes the following considerations for closure: • Long term stability of TSF under varying environmental conditions; • Post closure land use options including rehabilitation; • Options for geometry to ensure integrity of the surface for embankment structures; • Prevention of compaction; • Climatic conditions and cover design; and

Survey / Study	Document	Document Date	Purpose	Summary and Consideration for Closure
				• Store and release covers.
	TSF Multiple Criteria Analysis	20 November 2024	Evaluate tailings management strategies that ensure tailings storage for a ~15-year mine life.	Explore options for: • Conventional downstream raised TSF, storing thickened tailings; • Filtered tailings dry stack storage facility; and • Integrated waste landform facility, storing thickened tailings. A conventional thickened tailings deposited within a waste rock landform is considered the preferred option.
	Tailings Storage Facility Design Presentation (WSP)	7 February 2025	Present and decide on staged development options for TSF design.	An integrated waste landform is identified as the preferred TSF option. The TSF design includes: • A two cell arrangement for starter TSF. • Merged cells at Raise 1. • Embankment height ~51 m (~401 mRL). • Embankment Fill volume ~13.7 Mm^3. • Storage 40.6 Mm^3.
	Basis of design for tailings storage facility	24 February 2025	To provide the basis of design for the DFS design of the TFS.	Includes an updated basis of design (revision B) that supersedes revision A. Parameters considered include: • Tailings production and characteristics; • Freeboard; • Embankment geometry; • Decant access causeway; • Seismic and stability assessments; and • Liners and construction material.
Groundwater and hydrogeology	Katanning Hydrogeological Assessment (SRK Consulting)	March 2022	Groundwater monitoring to understand the quality, flow regime, and any potential contaminants from waste or tailings seepage.	The PMLU needs to consider groundwater conditions (including quality and flows); need to consider what is acceptable to the community given the dominant surrounding land use is agricultural and that baseline groundwater quality tends to have high total dissolved solids levels. Strategy may include details of pit lakes, catch basins for TSF runoff and diverted surface water flows in accordance with DEMIRS closure requirements for safe and stable landforms.
	Conceptual hydrogeological model development (SRK Consulting)	September 2024	Part of H3 Hydrogeological Study and involves development of a numerical groundwater model to evaluate the sustainability of groundwater supply bores and to assess the potential	

Survey / Study	Document	Document Date	Purpose	Summary and Consideration for Closure
			groundwater impact assessment on groundwater-dependent ecosystems.	
Black Cockatoo	Level 1 Vertebrate Fauna Survey and Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Habitat Survey	February 2018	Flora and fauna surveys to identify species present in the area, including any threatened or sensitive species. Vegetation mapping to assess the types of vegetation and biodiversity. Assessment of surrounding ecosystems to understand the impact of the mine and its rehabilitation potential.	If revegetating, stipulate the local vegetation types to aim for. Similarly with local native fauna habitats. The dominant nearby regional vegetation communities are eucalypt woodlands and heathlands (banksia; grevillea). Reference plot information is held for areas of existing vegetation to enable planning and actions for seed collection and implementation of a nursery (if required).
Rehabilitation	MCP	August 2021	MCP is a statutory requirement. It documents the current status of disturbance, closure and rehabilitation plans and knowledge gaps for the abandoned historic mining operations.	PMLU for the historic abandoned operations is noted to be "managed agriculture". Implications for closure are considered. Small scale trials provide some confidence that the exposed materials can be rehabilitated.

2.1 Environment

2.1.1 Climate

Beard (1990) and Beecham (2001) describe the climate of the Avon Botanical District as having a warm dry Mediterranean climate, with winter precipitation of 300-650 millimetres (mm) and 7-8 dry months per year. The winter conditions represent the commencement of the growing season for farmers.

The mean annual rainfall is approximately 443 mm for Katanning, rainfall typically peaks in the winter months as shown in Figure 7. Temperatures fluctuate between mean monthly maximum temperatures of 15 to 30°C and mean monthly minimum temperatures of 5 to 13°C.

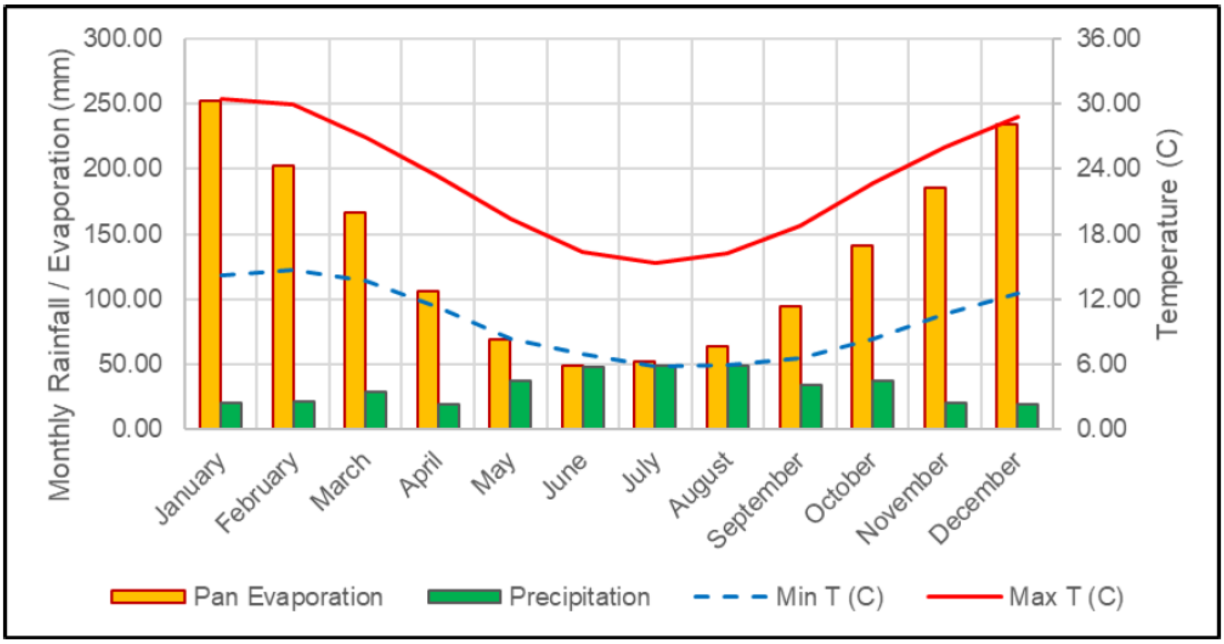


Figure 7: Average climate data

Knight Piésold (2022) has evaluated the storm event data for the Project area and identified the 24 and 72 hr duration 100-year Average Recurrence Interval (ARI), 1000-year ARI and Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP). Storm event data is provided in Table 4.

Table 4: Storm events (Knight Piésold, 2022)

Event Duration (hours)	100-year ARI (mm rain)	1,000-year ARI (mm rain)	PMP
24	156	292	560
72	166	311	1,010

2.1.2 Cleared Land

The Project is situated in an extensive area of land cleared for dryland agriculture. Several patches of native vegetation are located in close proximity to the Project footprint with the most significant being the Rifle Range Reserve and Woorgabup Nature Reserve which comprises 127 hectares (ha) of native vegetation (Figure 8). Small stands of eucalypt vegetation types occur within the arrangement of the mine footprint.

The region has long been affected by dryland salinity caused by clearing deep rooted perennial native vegetation and replacing it with shallow rooted annual agricultural species that allow more water to infiltrate to groundwater and greater evaporative draw from the land's surface. This additional "recharge" to groundwater results in rising and higher water tables in the valley floors and when it is close enough to the surface the water evaporates and leaves behind the salts that concentrate in the upper soil profiles and collect in seasonal lakes. Salinity has limited the productivity of significant areas of the valley floors.

Local responses to some of the implications of extensive land clearing have included the development of local Land Conservation District Committees (LCDC) and led to revegetation initiatives that include conservation corridors, saltland plantings and planting of trees in catchments (including native species such as oil mallees, and non-native species).

2.1.3 Land Use and Population

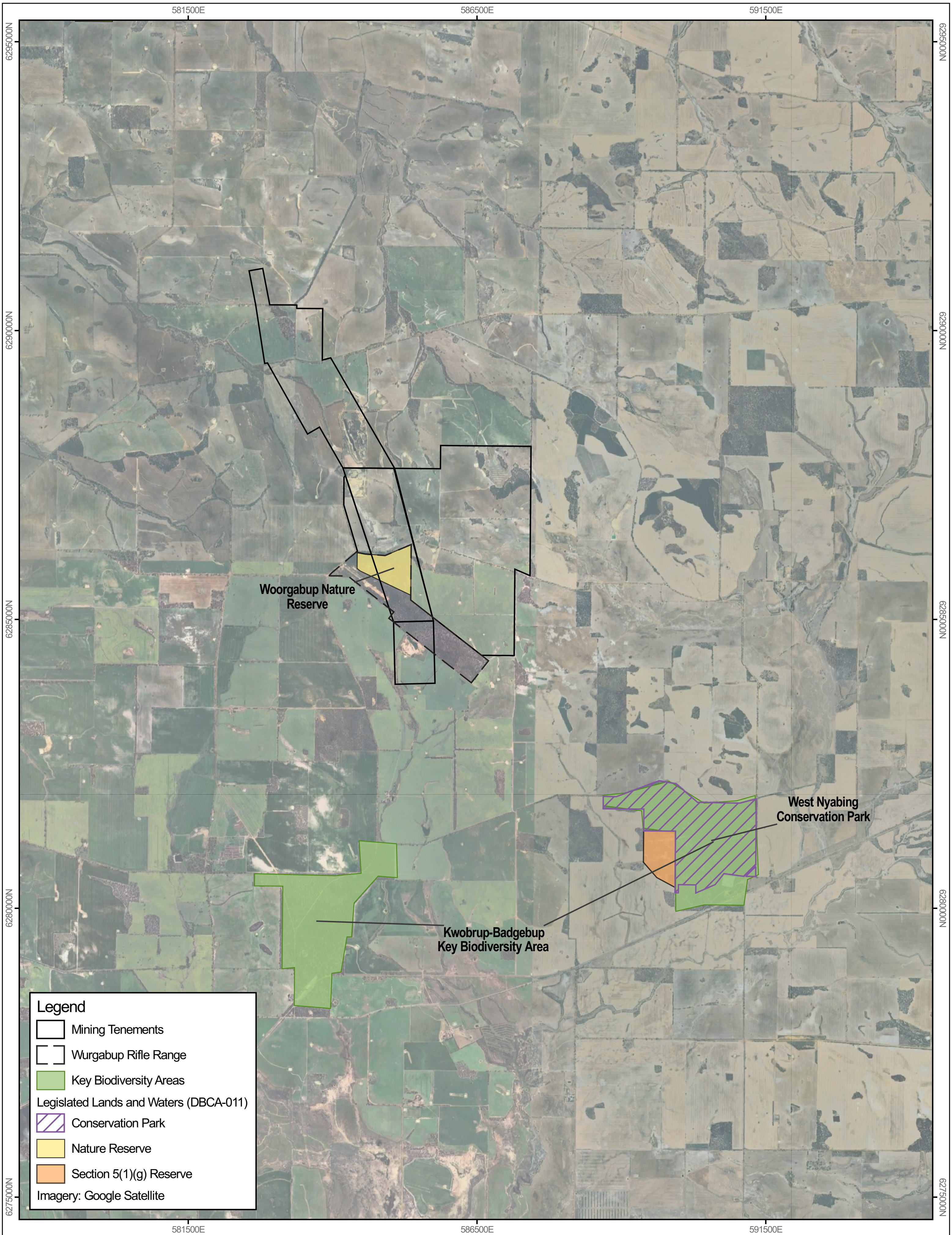
The Project is located within the Great Southern Region which is lightly populated with dryland agriculture (cropping, sheep and cattle production) the main land use. The towns of Katanning, Nyabing and Dumbleyung have developed to service the agricultural industry. Each of these towns has its own local government area and shire council and hence may be influential in land use decisions. Katanning is the largest regional centre with significant locally available services. With a local abattoir, a well-developed local services industry, nearby tourist attractions such as the Stirling Range, Katanning already has a diversified economy.

The population of the wider regional area (which includes six neighbouring Shires of Broomehill-Tambellup, Dumbleyung, Kent, Kojonup, Wagin and Woodanilling) is currently 12,500. The Shire of Katanning has a town population of 3,700 people and is the most ethnically diverse regional centre in WA (https://www.katanning.wa.gov.au/explore/about-us/facts-and-figures.aspx).

2.1.4 Native vegetation

The Project lies within the Avon Botanical District in the South-West Province (Beard, 1990). Typical vegetation of the Avon Botanical District includes Eucalyptus woodlands comprising *Eucalyptus loxophleba, E. salmonophloia* and *E. wandoo* on loams, scrub-health on sandplains, Acacia-Casuarina thickets on ironstone and halophytes on saline soils (Beard, 1990).

The Project Area is located in the southern section of the WA Wheatbelt which has been almost entirely cleared for agriculture. Prior to clearing, the area formerly supported extensive eucalypt woodlands. In 2015, the EWTEC was listed under the Federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). EWTEC is listed as Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act (Department of the Environment and Energy, 2016).



0 1 2 km

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Project: AUS_0544_003
Date: 06/03/2025
Size: A4
Author: ASmithers (Preston Consulting Pty Ltd)

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Figure 8: Native vegetation near the Project

2.1.5 Water

Surface Water

The Project is located at elevations between 400 m and 433 m above sea level (mRL), which represent the highest points within the area of hydrogeological conceptualisation. The elevation progressively decreases towards the creek and river (from east to west), reaching a minimum of 219 mRL south of the Project site and well outside the tenement boundary (Figure 9).

The Project area falls within the upper reaches of the Blackwood River drainage basin. The basin encompasses a network of rivers and streams that contribute to the Blackwood River, which flows southward towards the Ocean. The Blackwood River basin supplies regional water resources, influencing soil moisture and water availability for agriculture, supports local biodiversity, and affects land management practices in the area (SRK Consulting, 2024).

There are three identified wetlands in the vicinity of the Project, all located a substantial distance from any proposed mining activities:

- Coyrecup Lake – located approximately 15 km southwest;
- Dumbleyung Lake – Located approximately 25 km northwest; and
- Lake Grace System – located approximately 40 km east.

Groundwater

A study on the hydrogeology of the Blackwood River catchment, conducted by De Silva et al., (2000), categorised the aquifers in the region into four distinct groups:

- Surficial (alluvial and colluvial deposits);
- Sedimentary (Tertiary sediments and sands);
- Weathered rock (saprolite); and
- Fractured bedrock.

Groundwater flow direction aligns with the topographic gradient and corresponds with the direction of surface water flow, moving from higher elevations to lower ones. Near the Central pit, at an elevation of 356 mRL, groundwater flows from the pit lake towards discharge zones in the creek areas to the south, north and west of the Project site. The lowest recorded water level of 265 mRL was observed to the north of the Project area.

Groundwater systems in the region are primarily recharged through direct infiltration from rainfall, with a secondary contribution from surface water bodies.

A simplified schematic conceptual hydrogeological cross section for the Project area, oriented in the north-south direction, is illustrated in Figure 11.

HydroBiology WA (2025) conducted an assessment of groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) within the Project area. Numerous potential aquatic and terrestrial GDEs are present within the Project tenements and nearby (Figure 12 and Figure 13). However, no dewatering is expected to occur within the Project, so impacts to GDEs will be negligible or non-existent and will not require specific closure outcomes.

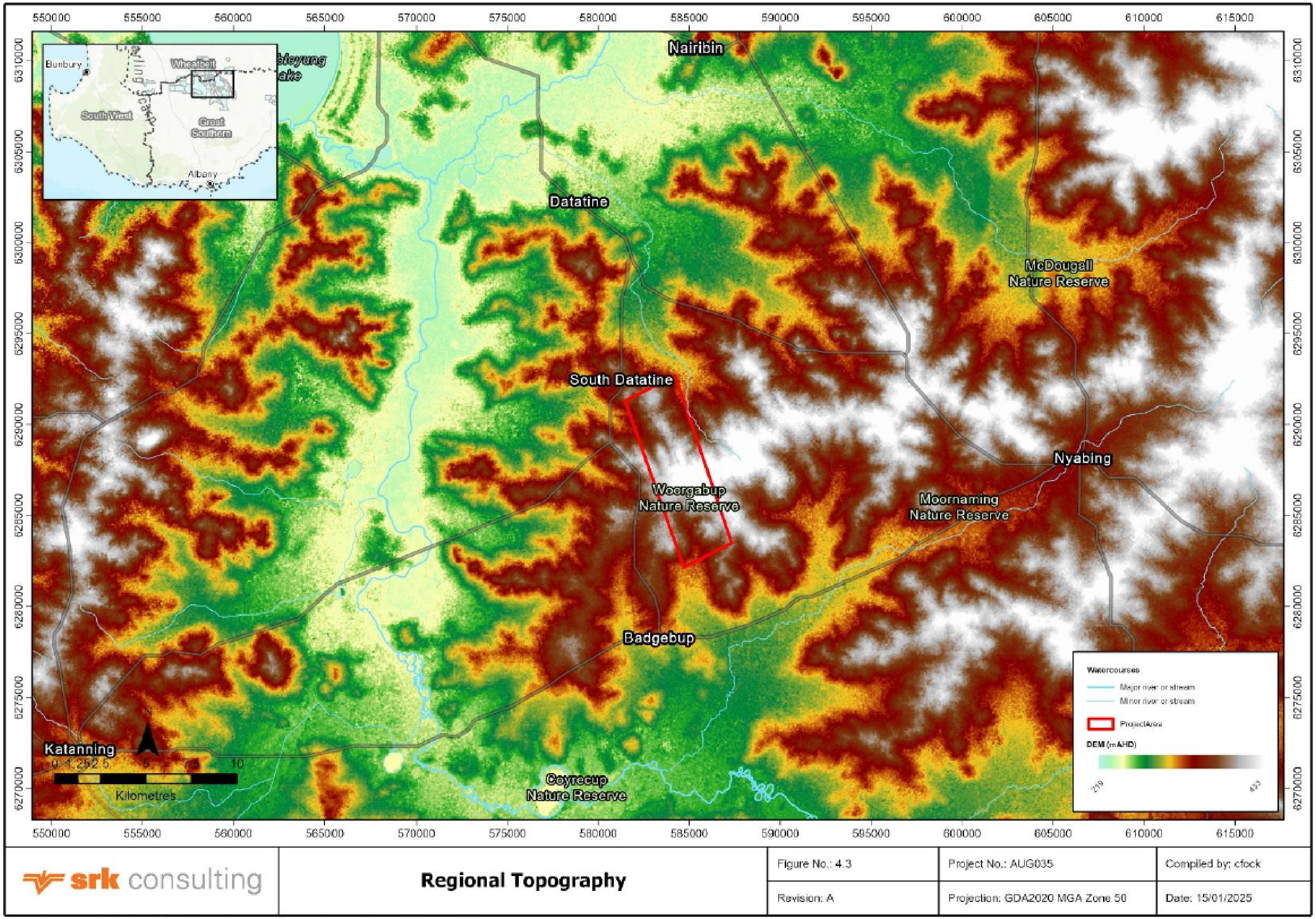
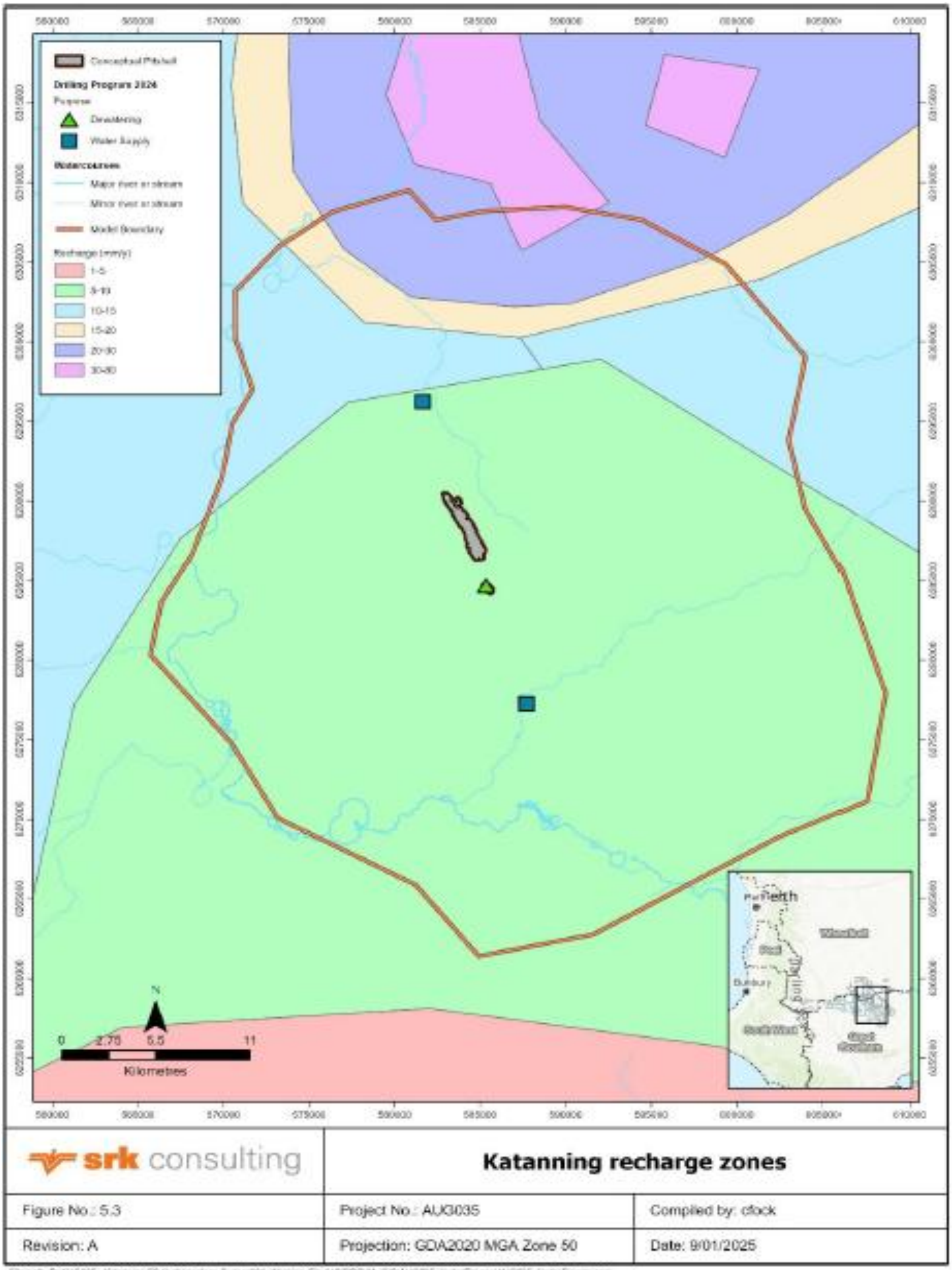


Figure 9: Catchment area (SRK Consulting, 2025)



Source: Lee (2024)

Figure 10 Groundwater Recharge areas (SRK Consulting, 2025)

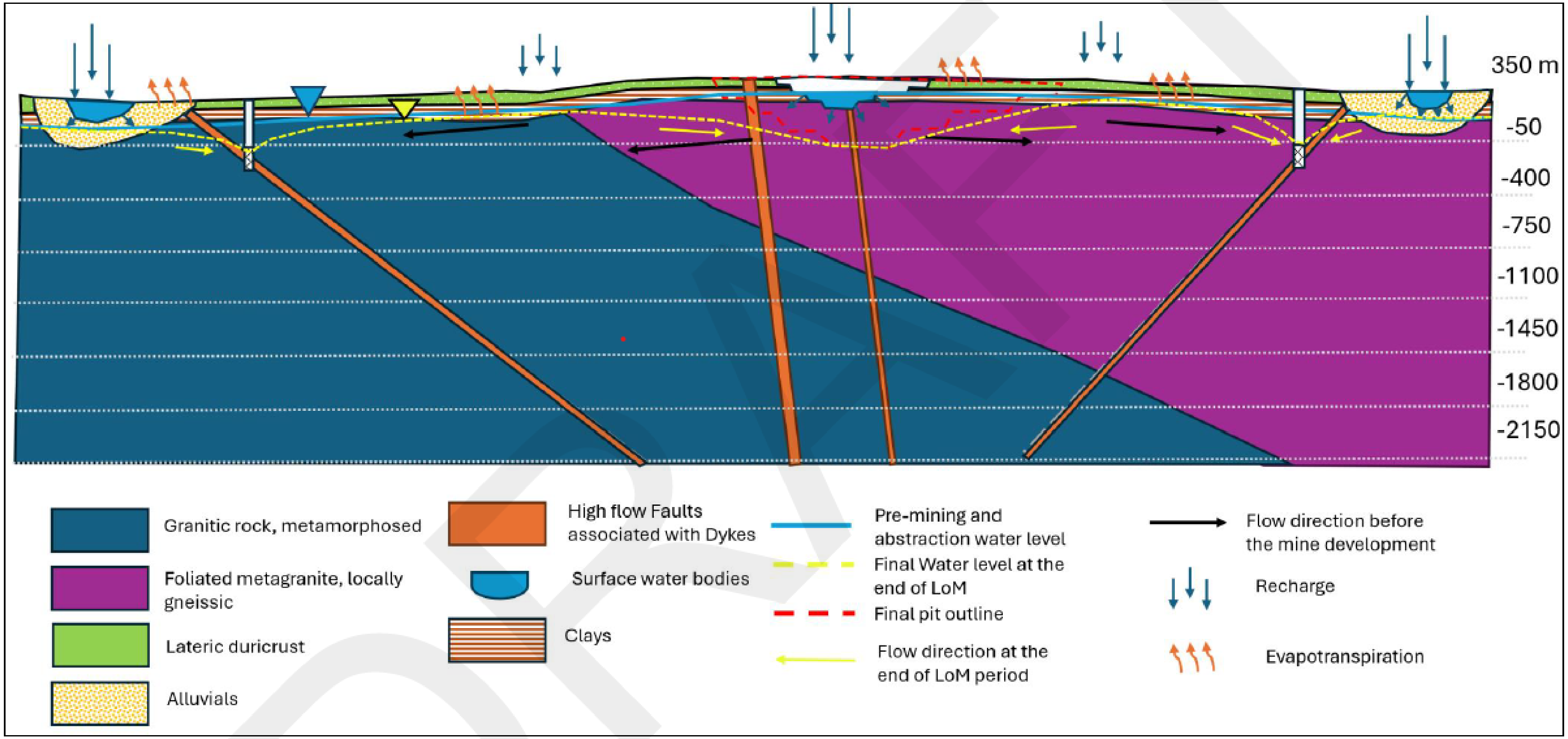


Figure 11: Groundwater conceptual model

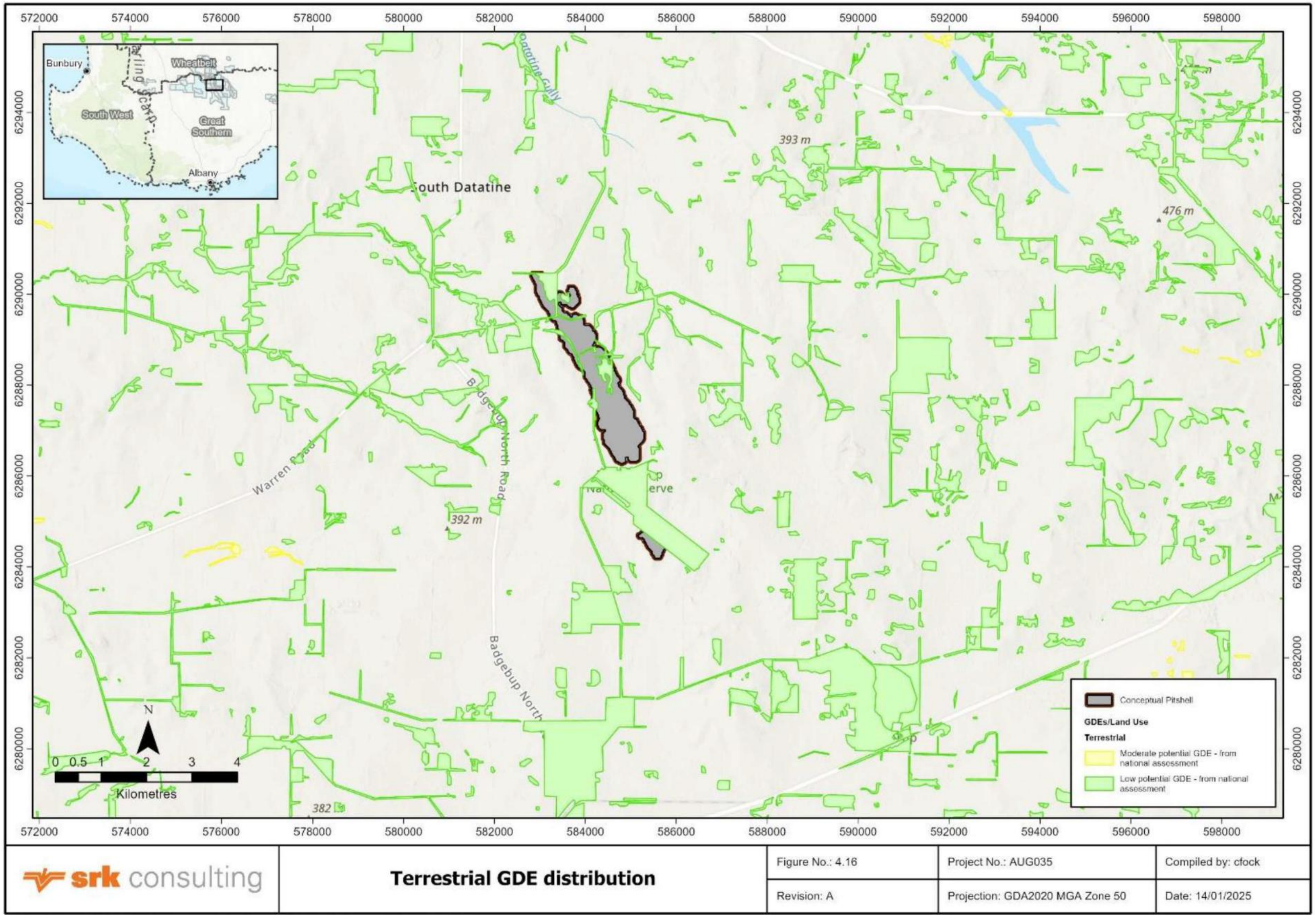


Figure 12 Terrestrial GDEs (SRK Consulting, 2025)

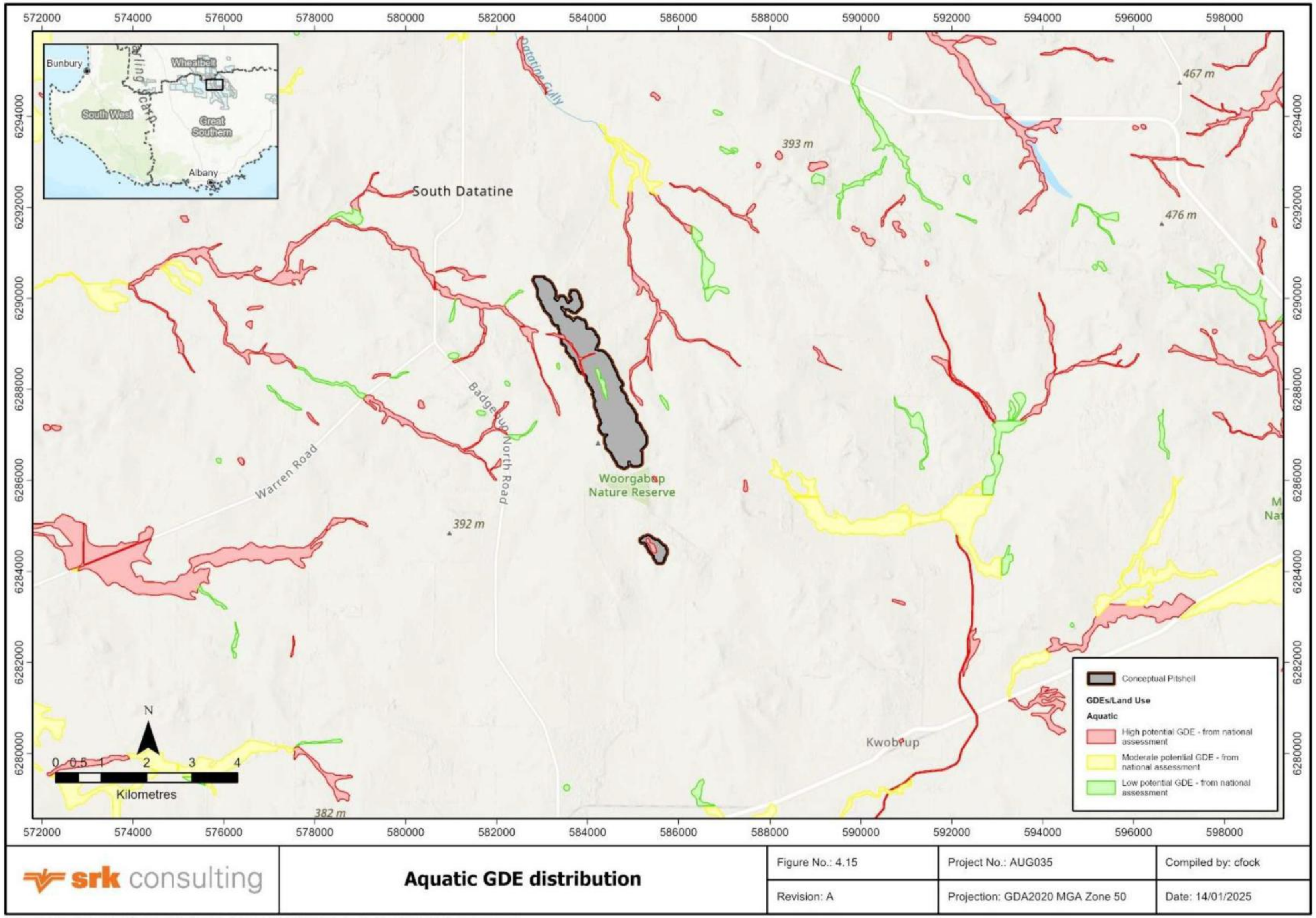


Figure 13 Aquatic GDEs (SRK Consulting, 2025)

2.1.6 Key Conservation issues

Review of the receiving environment in the above sections has identified the following key conservation issues and biophysical risks:

- Low levels of native vegetation and lack of connectivity (corridors) between them in the region;
- Vegetation is identified as:
    - EWTEC;
    - Red tail phascogale habitat;
    - Carnaby's Cockatoo habitat;
    - General fauna habitat;
- Ongoing loss of paddock trees;
- Shallow groundwater leading to waterlogging and salinity; and
- Some soils are PAF, sodic and may be dispersive.

2.2 Geology

2.2.1 Regional Geology

The Project is situated in the Katanning Greenstone Belt, along the eastern margin of the Southwest Terrone within the Archean Yilgarn Craton. Bands of greenstone were formed when intra-plate rifts were filled by sediments and volcanic rocks and extensively metamorphosed by ongoing plate collision (Sawkins, 2011). The greenstone belt is predominantly composed of ultramafic-mafic and felsic volcanic rocks in variable proportions, with interbedded volcaniclastic, elastic, and chemical sedimentary rocks (e.g., cherts and banded iron formations).

2.2.2 Local Geology

The Project's lithological sequence consists primarily of a series of complex folded upper amphibolite to granulite facies that can be further classed into mafic granulites, intermediate granulites and felsic granulites.

The majority of mineralisation at the Project is hosted within the mafic granulite. A granitic gneiss forms the footwall of mineralisation at the Jackson and Dingo mining areas. A quartz monzonite sill forms the hanging wall to the Jinkas mining area. Some of the mining areas are crosscut by a dolerite dyke. Where this occurs, there may also be a greater presence of speckled mafic granulite (gabbro or dolerite dependant on minerology percentage of plagioclase).

2.2.3 Surficial Geology and Land Systems

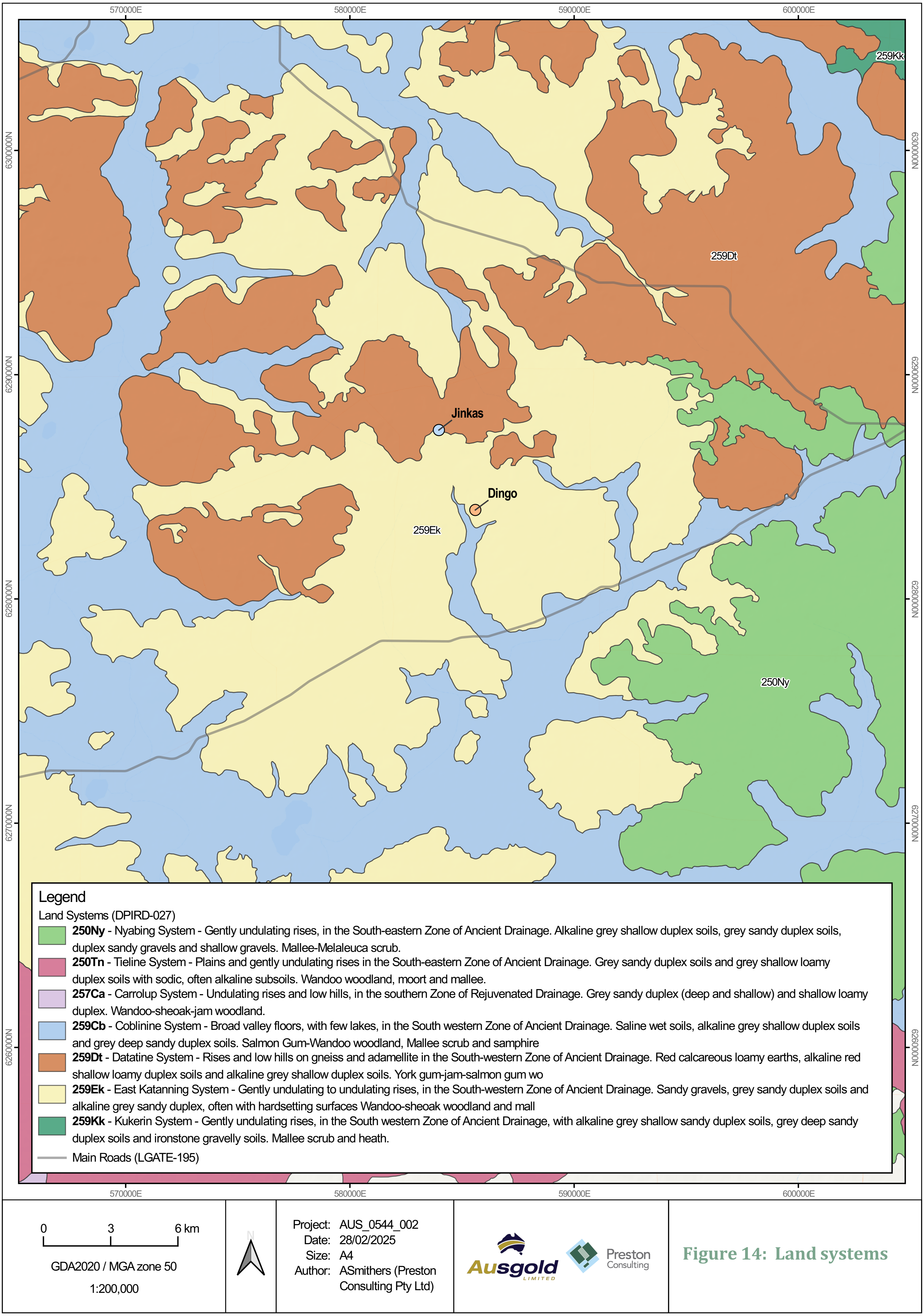
Surface materials according to the regional and local investigations are divided into five geological units overlying weathered bedrock, based on literature and drilling log data (SRK Consulting, 2024). The approximate thickness of the geological units is presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Regolith layering

Geological Class	Thickness (m)	Reference
Sandy soil	1 - 3	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) (2000)
Iron oxide rich duricrust	1 - 18	SRK Consulting (2024)
Pallid zone	10 - 14	CSIRO (2000)
Saprolite	2.5 - 5.6	CSIRO (2000)
Alluvial	3 - 10	SRK Consulting (2024)

Land systems classification provides a framework for types of land that characterise landscapes and soil systems. The Project is located on upland areas between Katanning, Nyabing and Dumbleyung as shown in Figure 14 with relevant land systems described as:

- Datatine System - Rises and low hills on gneiss and adamellite in the South-western Zone of Ancient Drainage. Red calcareous loamy earths, alkaline red shallow loamy duplex soils and alkaline grey shallow duplex soils. York gum-jam salmon gum woodland; and
- East Katanning System - Gently undulating to undulating rises, in the South-western Zone of Ancient Drainage. Sandy gravels, grey sandy duplex soils and alkaline grey sandy duplex, often with hardsetting surfaces Wandoo sheoak woodland and mallee.



Project: AUS_0544_002
Date: 28/02/2025
Size: A4
Author: ASmithers (Preston Consulting Pty Ltd)

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Figure 14: Land systems

2.3 Materials Characterisation

Landloch (2023) and Knight Piésold (2022) have both undertaken materials characterisation studies for the Project including characterisation of soils, waste rock and tailings. Summaries of test work results are provided in the following sections. Further characterisation work is currently being undertaken, the results of which may influence mine and mine closure planning.

2.3.1 pH

The majority of waste rock and ore samples tested typically exhibited pH levels that fell outside of those exhibited in natural surface soils. pH_w values ranged between 7.1 – 9.7, with median pH of 9.4. At this range, the waste and ore are considered to be slightly alkaline (Landloch, 2023).

At the higher end of the pH range, the materials exposed at or below surface may have an adverse effect on the growth and establishment of vegetation.

2.3.2 Electrical Conductivity ($EC_{1:5}$)

The majority of waste and ore materials exhibited salinity levels that were below the adopted thresholds for salinity. The materials are considered suitable for use as growth media, based on their salinity values (Landloch, 2023).

2.3.3 Acid – Base Accounting

Knight Piésold (2022) reported that 88% of samples tested were classified as NAF. The average Sulfur content was found to be low at 0.2%. The maximum potential acidity average was low, and the acid neutralising capacity moderate to high. The Acid neutralising capacity/Maximum potential acidity ratios were typically moderately high, with 53% of samples recording ratios greater than 10 - indicating a significant factor of safety against acid generation in most samples.

Landloch (2023) completed a more targeted set of sample assays and reported that out of 111 waste and ore samples tested, 100 samples (90%) recorded total Sulphur (S) <0.3%. These samples were considered to have low availability of acid producing forms of sulphur and were therefore classified as NAF.

Eleven of the 111 samples tested recorded total S ≥ 0.3%. Based on the results of the ABA, the following classifications were assigned to the samples:

- One fresh mafic granulite waste sample was classified as PAF;
- Three samples were classified as Uncertain. Further assessment showed that these samples are likely to be PAF-Low Capacity; and
- The remaining seven samples returning total S ≥ 0.3% were classified as NAF.

Notably, both ore samples (2 samples) tested were classified as NAF. Subsequent mine planning will mean that some of these samples will not be within the mining envelope.

2.3.4 Multi-Elemental Enrichment

Strong enrichment of any particular element can indicate that there may be a risk of leaching of that element from the rock under certain geochemical conditions.

Knight Piésold (2022) looked at enrichment in relation to relevant guidelines and concluded that all samples met Human Health guidelines with most samples also meeting Remediation guidelines (enrichments specified to be reached for remediation of contaminated sites). Chromium levels exceeded the Ecological Levels in almost all of the samples. Ecological levels are usually the lowest (i.e., most stringent) as they are set to ensure no implications for key biological effects in natural ecosystem. Exceedances of Ecological levels were also noted for Sulfur and Zinc in more than half of the samples. This data provides a guide for further investigations into potential leachates to investigate or monitor and the storage and use of particular materials in closure.

2.3.5 Asbestiform Materials

No fibrous minerals were identified in the mafic granulite or speckled granulite samples. Unknown mineral fibres were detected in one fresh dolerite sample (Landloch, 2023).

2.3.6 Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials

All samples were tested for naturally occurring radioactive materials. None of the samples were found to give rise to enhanced exposure of radioactivity when assessed against screening criteria.

2.3.7 Suitability of Rock for Rehabilitation

Landloch (2023) identified key waste rock types and management recommendations to apply to rehabilitation. Overall:

- Oxidised granulite comprised approximately 12% of waste materials;
- Transitional granulite comprised approximately 17% of waste materials; and
- Fresh granulite comprised approximately 71% of waste material.

Table 6 presents a summary of the suitability of materials for rehabilitation based on their chemical and physical properties. The means and measures by which rock materials can be covered by soils is detailed in the next section.

Table 6: Characterisation of materials for general use (from Landloch 2023)

Material Type	Suitability for Rehabilitation	Management Recommendations
Oxidised granulite, quartz monzonite and mafic dolerite (approximately 12% of material brought to surface)	• Not suitable for use as a surface material based on pH, durability risk and low structural stability.	• These wastes should not be placed at the surface of the final landform.
Transitional granulite, quartz monzonite and mafic dolerite (17% of material brought to surface)	• Not suitable for rehabilitation based on pH, durability and low structural stability. • A small portion of mafic granulite may have potential to generate low loadings of acidity when placed at surface.	• These wastes should not be placed at the surface of the final landform. • Given the limited volume of PAF-Low Capacity expected to be encountered, and the relatively high abundance of NAF in other materials, co-mingling of the mafic granulite

Material Type	Suitability for Rehabilitation	Management Recommendations
		with other materials is a viable option for managing the risk of acid generation.
Fresh granulite, quartz monzonite and mafic dolerite (approximately 71% of material brought to surface)	• Suitable for use in rehabilitation as a rock armour provided it is confirmed as NAF and free of respirable fibres prior to placement at or just below the surface. • A small portion of mafic granulite (<51% of material brought to surface) and mafic dolerite (2% of material brought to surface) may generate acidity when placed at surface.	• Given the limited volume of PAF expected to be encountered, and the relatively high abundance of NAF in other materials, co-mingling of the mafic granulite and mafic dolerite with other materials is a viable option for managing the risk of acid generation. • There is potential to incorporate NAF fresh material into the outer surface layer of final landforms to improve erosion resistance where stable better configurations are unable to be achieved with the use of soil only.

2.3.8 Use of Soils for Rehabilitation

Landloch's (2024) Baseline Soil Assessment provides recommendations for site-specific soil management from initial clearing during construction and operations to final placement during closure to ensure soils can be used in both post-mining cropping and native vegetation rehabilitation. Local farmers will have a more intimate knowledge of the local soils.

Three Soil Mapping Units were defined within the Study Area (Figure 15):

- **Sodic Duplex:** Soils characterised by the contrast between sandy topsoils and well-structured and highly sodic subsoils. Topsoils are typically dominated by loamy sands but does include loams. Clay content typically increases significantly and abruptly with depth. The subsoils are highly sodic and prone to structural instability.
- **Acidic Soils:** Soils where both the topsoils and subsoils are typically strongly acidic. Topsoils are sand dominated but can include loams. The subsoils have an increased clay content compared to the topsoils, ranging from loams to medium heavy clays.
- **Shallow Sands:** Sandy soils that are restricted to a single area within the Study Area, with shallow structureless sands laying atop a cemented lateritic layer. The limitations, opportunities, growth media potential, erosion potential, and recommendations for use as rehabilitation materials for the soils found within each Soil Mapping Unit is summarised in Table 7.

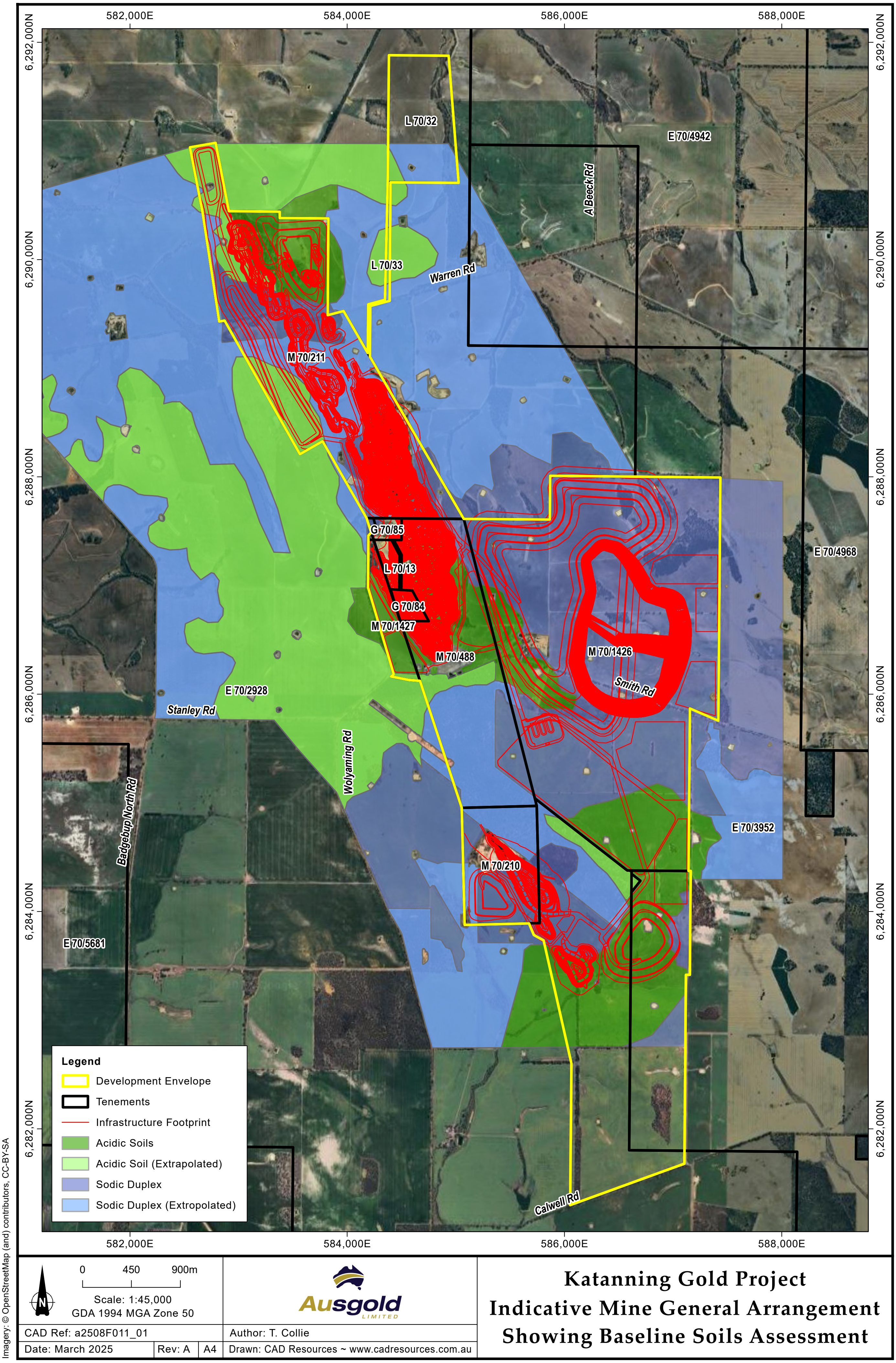

Figure 15: Soil Mapping Unit distribution within the Study Area (Landloch, 2024)

Table 7: Soil mapping units (Landloch, 2024)

Material		Limitation	Opportunities	Suitability for Rehabilitation
Sodic Duplex	Topsoil	• Potentially at risk of structural instability due to the Electrochemical Stability Index (ESI). • Potentially susceptible to wind erosion.	• Non-saline. • Topsoil pH values that support agricultural cropping. • High fertility values that support agricultural crops. • Potentially well suited for placement on low gradient areas as a growth medium.	• Stripping of topsoils is recommended to a depth of 0.15 m. • Topsoils are a potentially suitable growth media for rehabilitation. • The erodibility characteristics of this material should be tested if intended for use on batter slopes.
	Subsoil	• At risk of structural instability due to Exchangeable Sodium Percentage (ESP), Exchangeable Magnesium Percentage (EMP), ESI and particle-size distribution. • May be prone to erosion if placed on sloping surface as a surface cover (e.g., batter slopes). • Highly sodic, prone to hardsetting. • Low fertility values.	• Non-saline. • pH values that support vegetation. • Not likely to be susceptible to wind erosion	• Stripping of the Sodic Duplex subsoils is not recommended. • Not suitable for use as a growth media. • Potential sub-surface rehabilitation material below a growth media. • If the subsoils are to be stripped and stockpiled, an erodibility assessment is recommended.
Acidic Soils	Topsoil	• Potential at risk of structural instability due to ESI. • Potentially susceptible to wind erosion.	• Non-saline. • Topsoil pH values that support agricultural cropping. • High fertility values that support agricultural crops. • Potentially well suited for placement on low gradient areas as a growth medium.	• Stripping of the Acidic Soils topsoils is recommended to a depth of 0.15 m. • Topsoils are a potentially suitable growth medium. • The erodibility characteristics of this material should be tested if intended for use on batter slopes.
	Subsoil	• At risk of structural instability due to ESP, EMP and ESI. • May be prone to erosion if placed on sloping surfaces as a surface cover (e.g., batter slopes). • Potentially sodic, increased risk of hardsetting. • Low fertility values.	• Non-saline. • Not likely to be susceptible to wind erosion.	• Stripping of the Acidic Soils subsoils is not recommended. • Not suitable for use as a growth media. • Potential sub-surface rehabilitation material below a growth media. • If the subsoils are to be stripped and stockpiled, an erodibility assessment is recommended.
Shallow Sands	Topsoil	• At risk of wind erosion. • Low fertility values. • Low abundance of coarse material.	• Not prone to structural instability.	• Stripping of the Shallow Sands topsoils is not recommended. • Not suitable for use as a growth media.
	Subsoil	• At risk of wind erosion. • Low fertility values. • Low abundance of coarse material.	• Not prone to structural instability.	• Stripping of the Shallow Sands subsoils is not recommended. • Not suitable for use as a growth media.

2.3.9 Tailings

WSP (2024) prepared a basis of scoping study and proposed preliminary parameters and criteria adopted by WSP for the Pre-Feasibility Study design. In doing so, they reviewed existing information on tailings storage and management and noted several key aspects regarding closure and reclamation to be considered (WSP, 2024):

- Further geochemical test work is recommended;
- The long-term stability of the TSF landform under flooding and earthquake loading needs to be ensured;
- The post-closure land use needs to be agreed, and the design of the TSF tailored to achieving this;
- The engineered geometry of the embankment structures might better be replaced by a more natural concave slope profile, without benches and drains; and
- Climatic conditions are paramount for cover design. Store/release cover design is more reliable than barrier type covers but requires significant characterisation and modelling to ensure performance requirements can be met.

2.3.10 Past Rehabilitation

The previous mining operations at the Project were small scale, and little full rehabilitation was completed. Similarly, rehabilitation trials at the Project have been restricted to small scale revegetation on the TSF and some tree trials on a WRL.

The TSF trials included Preliminary conclusions from the seedling screening trial were:

- Acacia species are able to grow in tailings and in particular *Acacia saligna* which was in much better condition than *Acacia accuminata*;
- Eucalyptus and Allocasuarina/Casuarina species are also able to grow in tailings;
- *Melaleuca raphiophylla* can survive in tailings but its survivorship is patchy; and
- Salt tolerant species *Atriplex cinerea* and *Carpobrotus virescens* have not performed well on tailings.

A small-scale trial of cropping on the TSF was also completed, but data collection was limited to qualitative observations. Note that the gold processing and water supply used for the planned operation may result in significant differences in the bulk materials (i.e., the majority of rock being fresh) and their growth potential. The following observations were made from the cropping trial:

- With topsoil over the (oxide/transition zone) tailings, it is possible to grow agricultural crop species (wheat, barley, oats, lupins, canola) directly onto the TSF containing oxide materials; and
- The thickness of topsoil application and the sustainability of conducting a cropping and grazing rotation required is uncertain.

A trial of tree seedlings was conducted on the Dingo Waste Dump was aborted as livestock accessed the area and grazed out the seedlings.

2.4 Existing Mine Disturbance

The previous abandoned disturbed areas comprise two open pits (Jinkas and Dingo); a small (9.8 ha) hill side TSF and a partially removed small carbon-in-pulp process plant. The Jinkas pit, process plant and TSF are in close proximity, with the Dingo pit being 3 km south of the process plant. Sheds and office buildings have been re-tasked to support exploration, with a new administration building to accommodate the site caretaker, exploration personnel and corporate visitors.

The Project footprint stands at 45 ha as summarised in Table 8.

Table 8: Disturbance footprint of the Project

Disturbance Activity	Disturbance on M70/210 (ha)	Disturbance on M70/211 (ha)	Disturbance on M70/488 (ha)	Disturbance on G70/85 (ha)
Open Pit	2.078	6.26		
Waste Dump	4.011	5.031		
Laydown/Hardstand	3.755	2.73	0.985	
Class 2 Ore Stockpile	0.699		0.207	
Topsoil Stockpiles	2.500	0.70	0.588	
Roads		1.464	0.634	0.311
Borefield		0.0025		
TSF			9.821	
ROM			1.307	
Process Plant			1.17	
Buildings			0.755	
Total	**13.043**	**16.188**	**15.467**	**0.311**

3 CLOSURE AND REHABILITATION STRATEGY

A strategy for mine closure and rehabilitation requires understanding and identification of key strategic elements. Table 9 provides a summary of the key elements and targeted outcomes. The environmental setting has been presented in the previous section of this report.

Table 9: Strategic elements

Strategic Element	Targeted Outcome
Proposed mining operations and likely post-mining landforms	Landforms constructed during mining that are acceptable or able to be made acceptable within suitable cost settings (recognising that the mine must be profitable).
Environmental setting	Provides many opportunities and constraints for what can be delivered in the post-mining phase. These need to be understood, planned for and built into the mining and rehabilitation plans to ensure the outcome of closure and rehabilitation "fits" within its environmental setting.
Key issues	Key issues for local and regional community are considered so that there are no ongoing liabilities from post-mining land that are unacceptable to the Government and nearby neighbours and community.
Stakeholder engagement	Key stakeholders are consulted and able to be influential in developing and considering acceptable PMLUs for the post-mining landscape.
Risk management	Post-mining risks are acceptable to the Company, regulators and the community.

As part of the closure and rehabilitation strategy, Ausgold has explored the key issues and potential PMLU's for the Project. A pre-emptive list for consideration in the development of more detailed mine closure and rehabilitation plans for the Project is presented in Table 10. Other issues and potential PMLU's may be identified through consultation with key stakeholders and will be considered in the detailed plans.

Key issues and potential PMLU's are discussed in the following sections.

Table 10: Overview of key issues and opportunities

Aspect	Infrastructure/Area						
	WRLs	Pit Voids	TSF	Mining Areas	Waste Dump	Plant	Pond
Key Issues							
Stability		Pit walls	Embankments				Embankment
Contamination	Geochemistry	Geochemistry	Containment		Containment		
Surface and cover	Erosion and scour	N/A	Containment		Containment	Erosion	
Legal/tenure/ ownership/ responsibility							
Potential PMLUs							
Green energy	Solar	Pumped hydroelectricity	Solar	Solar	Solar	Solar	Pumped hydroelectricity
Agriculture	Grazing	N/A	Crops and grazing	Crops and grazing	Grazing	Crops and grazing	Crops and grazing

Aspect	Infrastructure/Area						
	WRLs	Pit Voids	TSF	Mining Areas	Waste Dump	Plant	Pond
Revegetation and habitat restoration	Native vegetation	N/A	Native vegetation	Native vegetation	Native vegetation	Native vegetation	Native vegetation / wetland
Pit Lakes /Water	N/A	Lowered saline groundwater	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Lowered saline groundwater

Shading
Green: Issues are well known and low risk, solutions are likely readily available
Yellow: Issues exist and are of moderate risk, solutions require investigation identify the best option
Orange: Issues are high risk or unknown, solutions require careful consideration and may be limited.

3.1 Key Issues

3.1.1 Stability

TSFs are a key piece of infrastructure for storing tailings – which consist of ground rock, water and any residual additives from the gold extraction process (which uses cyanide). By nature, geotechnical and geochemical aspects of the tailings as well as the TSF structure itself must be considered. The TSF must remain stable, non-erodible and non-polluting under all circumstances – including the post-closure period – and requires thorough regulatory review and approval. The stability of the surface and any cover materials used needs to also be considered and shown to be able to support the planned PMLU.

Similarly, the pits and WRL have important geotechnical aspects to consider in planning for rehabilitation and closure.

3.1.2 Contamination

Operations can lead to contamination via the spillage or leakage of hydrocarbons (diesel, oil, etc.), chemicals (cyanide, sodium hydroxide etc.) and other poorly managed land use activities. Ausgold must comply with the *Contaminated Sites Act* 2003 – which ensures that the cost of remediation rests with the Company that caused it. Ausgold will maintain a register of environmental incidents that includes spillage and leakage and will apply a continuous improvement process to prevent future occurrences to limit the potential to cause contamination that would be left until mine closure.

Tailings materials in the TSF may produce leachate that, if uncontained, would move slowly away from the structure and potentially off-site, but may still represent a local area of contamination risk that could restrict the application of a new PMLU. Similarly, some of the waste rock and subsoil materials as they are placed in landforms may exhibit hostile characteristics that limit plant growth (see Section 2.3 Materials Characterisation).

Careful consideration of the materials, their potential to migrate and the implication of their availability is required. Ausgold is planning for engineered lining and groundwater monitoring of the TSF to manage the risks of seepage and will develop detailed plans to tailor the cover system on the TSF.

3.1.3 Surface and Cover

The characteristics of topsoils and substrate materials will determine what can be successfully grown on them. Topsoil is clearly the most valuable resource for re-growing vegetation following mining. The definition of topsoil may vary marginally over different soil types, but can generally be assumed to be the top 10-20 cm. Subsoil materials can be hostile to seed germination and plant growth and may not be used a surface material.

Many mines rehabilitate to local native species, which provides a perennial cover of plants. There are not many hard rock mines located in farmland, and rehabilitation back to agriculture has been limited largely to mineral sands mines and some small examples in bauxite and coal mining in WA. The Boddington Gold Mine is a nearby example of hard rock mining that will likely consider a similar range of PMLUs as the Project.

3.1.4 Legal/Tenure/Ownership/Responsibility

It is a requirement of the Mining Act that any equipment or facilities left on site must have a new owner/responsible person to ensure appropriate management. With the development of re-purposing options of PMLUs, consideration needs to be given to tenure, legal obligations and rights, responsibilities with respect to the repurposed land. For example, how would an arrangement be structured for a PMLU that included renewable energy generation using solar panels or wind towers? What guarantees would the proponent have to provide and how would they set up a future user/landowner for success?

3.1.5 Abandoned Mine Voids

Abandoned mine voids may be left open – particularly if there is a deeper or larger mineral resource potentially able to be mined in the future, but not at the current price and technology settings.

Where orebodies are completely exhausted it may not be possible to completely backfill the void and it may be left as “abandoned”. It is standard practice for the mining industry to design operational mine pits to be geotechnically stable for the period during which safe mining is to occur. Beyond that, mine pit walls may become unstable and represent a safety hazard as the weather causes oxidation and erosion by natural processes of wind, rain and heat. Regulatory requirements include ensuring safety around abandoned mine voids by constructing an abandonment bund - placed at a suitable distance back from the pit wall - controlling the risk of inadvertent vehicle access.

As it may not be safe to enter the pit void, it can be difficult to establish a new PMLU within the void domain itself unless the safety threshold can be passed. In rare cases, it may be possible to mine or to cut back the pit slopes to achieve safe and stable long-term slopes that enable safe access to the bottom of the pit (potentially becoming a water body).

3.2 Potential PMLUs

Ausgold has considered the mine plan, background information and preliminary potential PMLU's identified for the Project include:

- Restoration by revegetation for conservation of the natural environment;
- Production from dryland agriculture or native vegetation plantations (including carbon capture);
- Green energy projects such as solar, wind and/or small-scale pumped hydro (using remnant pit lake); and
- Water resource management including supply for irrigation and livestock.

These PMLUs can be adopted in various rehabilitated mine precincts, with some best applied to low gradient or flat land. Existing land use provides a widely known and accepted potential PMLU, but the landform and soil changes associated with mining will affect the potential to re-establish the pre-mine land use. Several PMLU's may ultimately apply to the Project footprint as different components of the mine offer different options and limitations on PMLU. In some cases, there is a local demand for a particular PMLU that can be delivered post-mining that may be a unique or novel opportunity that has value.

Potential PMLU options are discussed in the following sections.

Agriculture Implementing agricultural PMLUs such as cropping can benefits the local economy, provides jobs, and can complement solar energy projects. Reinstating suitable agricultural land requires ongoing management to restore soil productivity, and there is a risk of reduced agricultural output due to past mining impacts. The replaced soils need to be as resilient as current soil profiles such that their management can be integrated into the general farm paddocks of the property.

3.2.1 Green Energy

WRLs, the TSF, and backfilled pits as well as areas disturbed for ancillary infrastructure can potentially be repurposed for large-scale solar power or wind generation. This promotes green energy and sustainability, especially in higher-risk areas where agricultural land uses are not suitable. Constructed landforms repurposed for green energy projects require long-term management to ensure land is safe and stable before commencing construction of any projects.

Pumped hydro schemes may be considered as an alternative to battery storage to provide load to the electricity grid. Mine voids or water storage areas at different topographic heights may provide the opportunity to use solar energy to pump water uphill (from the final pit lake) during the day and allow it flow downhill (back into the lake) and generate electricity on the return.

3.2.2 Revegetation and Habitat Restoration

Revegetation of local species can enhance biodiversity, create wildlife corridors, and improve habitat for endangered species in the region. This approach promotes carbon sequestration, erosion control, and local ecological health. To achieve successful revegetation, ongoing monitoring and management is required, such as weed treatment and implementing feral animal controls. Successful revegetation would be measured against comparable areas of existing native vegetation. Shrubland and heathlands may be best targeted for constructed landforms as deep-rooted woodland species would be best sited on flatter topography with deeper soils.

There is little native vegetation around Katanning and establishing native vegetation corridors to connect isolated nature reserves would likely be an attractive and valuable concept.

3.2.3 Agriculture

Return of land use to pre-mining may be feasible on some areas of the mine – most likely where there is minimum disturbance of soil profiles and on areas with flat surfaces. Laydown areas, plant sites, and the top surfaces of waste rock and tailings storage facilities are potential locations where soil profiles are either largely retained or able to be re-instated on suitable landform locations. Pit voids are not suitable, and steep slopes are better configured for erosion resistance rather than production. Any re-establishment of dryland agriculture on the mine footprint needs to consider the future farm plan, fence and water locations etc.

3.2.4 Pit Lakes / Water

The final voided, deep pits would intersect groundwater, and initial projections are that a permanent lake would develop as the groundwater would rebound after years of mined drawdown. Deep groundwater is slightly salty and because of its depth, the lake would increase in its total dissolved solid content as evaporation would exceed freshwater inputs.

In some cases, freshwater streams are nearby and diversion structures can be used to direct flows of freshwater into the pit. This is not the case for the Project location, meaning it is unlikely that the pit lake may be repurposed as a water source for agricultural, recreational and/or municipal/industrial use. Without freshwater input, the pit lake could still supply a large bulk water supply, it would require some form of ongoing treatment for agricultural or domestic (potable) uses. Such treatment could be built to operate in concert with the Green Energy options above. Any treatment would also need to have a suitable plan for the waste products (salts).

The pit walls will need to be configured to be safe and stable if people are to access the lake shoreline. Proper water treatment and ongoing management of water treatment infrastructure may also be required to implement this PMLU. Such options would only apply to the voided pit domains.

3.3 Opportunities

3.3.1 Existing Organisations

The local community already has existing organisations (such as LCDCs and catchment groups) that consider conservation related issues in the context of the landscape. These organisations not only capture capable and concerned individuals that want to see environmental improvements but also muster local participation in initiatives and may receive Government support. These organisations are logical entities for Ausgold to engage with to generate feedback on the development and closure of the mine.

Local Shire councils also may have views to potential post-mining options for municipal benefit including using:

- Flat land for laydown/storage;
- Parts of WRL to quarry geotechnically suitable and geochemically inert road bases; and/or
- Shallower parts of voided pits as a licensed landfill.

Mineral sterilisation effects on mining tenure would also need to be considered.

Ausgold welcomes the interests and views of the Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) in the district and the Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation (WKSN) in the region and looks forward to collaboration. Aboriginal Site ID5353 (Jinka Hill) would be disturbed upon implementation of the mine plan, and a Section 18 consent under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* (WA) is held in relation to the site. Ausgold has liaised with the Wagyl Kaip and Koreng People and, because of the prospective removal of the heritage site, acknowledges the sadness of Aboriginal people.

Discussions to date indicate that there is a willingness to create a Cultural Heritage Management Plan in the near future, which could be collaboratively implemented, including right through to the completion and beyond closure of the mine. This could include features such as re-instated access and interpretive material recognising the Jinka Hill heritage record, its story and cultural value in the regional context. Additionally, the proponent is investigating the feasibility of a 'lookout' on the western WRL overlooking the Jinka Hill site that will include explanations of the importance of the site.

BAC and WKSN will be consulted regarding mine closure plans and post mining land use.

3.3.2 New Organisations

Ausgold has already commenced creating a reference group with strong local representation to provide feedback on mine design, community participation and mine closure. Reference Groups will be consulted specifically on mine closure and rehabilitation to generate feedback.

3.3.3 Ownership

Ownership facilitates management, and proposed uses need to align with regulatory expectations for project closure. Renewable energy and other repurposing options present opportunities for communities to utilise the land into the future and need to be properly planned to ensure that the opportunities and risks are fully understood and managed. The idea of creating a "unique" asset for the community that can generate different jobs and opportunities rather than duplicating existing land uses already available in the area may be appealing to the community. Ausgold as the owner of the freehold title would be held to the post mining outcomes because of Mining Act obligations; however, it may transact ownership of the land to a new venturer should there be a commercial post mining venture.

3.3.4 Native Vegetation

The standard mining practice of revegetating with local native species provides flexibility to convert to other options in the future. Although the rehabilitation is not likely to achieve the same conservation values as undisturbed native vegetation in less than ten years, it will have a range of values and may deliver options for immediate beneficial uses such as:

- Native species seed production (for mine rehabilitation and nursery industries);
- Places for recreational walks and passive enjoyment;
- Integration with surrounding reserve management and tourism opportunities (especially if connected via corridors); and
- Habitat value for native fauna, especially ground-dwelling species.

3.3.5 Power Generation Infrastructure

Power for the Project will be sourced from the local power grid or a dedicated on-site power plant (likely to be supplied by an independent power provider).

A new power line and substation is expected to be required for operation of the Project. Ausgold will consider the potential to retain the power line and substation post closure for use by the local community, especially those to the east and north of the site. Green energy post mining opportunities may be enhanced by retention of available infrastructure.

Other opportunities that may be considered could include:

- Telecommunications infrastructure;
- Roads (re-instatement/alternate); and
- Recreational facilities (bike/motocross/4WD tracks).

3.4 Stakeholder Input

Stakeholder consultation is a key component to arriving at acceptable PMLUs. Identifying key stakeholders and arranging suitable means of engagement are critical to effective consultation. Stakeholders will range from locals (that are directly or indirectly affected by the land use and social changes associated with the mine), regulators (responsible for enforcing regulatory standards and requirements), and interested individuals or organisations. All of these stakeholder groups potentially have a view on what PMLUs should be pursued, what would be a suitable soil media and vegetative cover and what completion criteria should be adopted to ensure that the proponent's closure and rehabilitation obligations are clear and can be met.

Ausgold has commenced consultation for development and approval of the Project. Consultation has commenced with directly affected landholders, Shire officials and community representatives. A stakeholder engagement register has been developed so there is a record of all engagements, action items and feedback for Ausgold. A community reference group has been established and will begin to identify and collate key issues and feedback for both planning the mining operations and closure/rehabilitation.

3.4.1 Initial Input

The items below include repeated themes that often arise in stakeholder engagement about mine development, operation and closure:

- **Environmental Impact assessment**: identification and management of key environmental impacts associated with the development, operation and closure of a mine;
- **Community Engagement**: consultation should guide the development of any repurposing or multi-use PMLUs, ensuring that the repurposed land aligns with local interests;
- **Economic viability**: Potential uses such as eco-tourism and recreational facilities could generate economic opportunities for the local community. Economic opportunities currently active within proximity include existing agricultural and other municipal enterprises;
- **Infrastructure assessment**: It will be important to identify and cost any additional facilities or services needed to support the proposed mine and any other new land uses;
- **History and Culture**: Considering the cultural and historical significance and potential future use of the Project area should help with the sustainability and usability of the land for future generations so that it adds value for the community. Consideration of social and cultural values will enhance community engagement and educational opportunities; and
- **Risk Assessment**: Identification of potential risks associated with achieving the transition to new land uses is necessary as these risks must be manageable and ultimately potentially transferrable to the next landowner or user. Safety concerns and environmental hazards need to be considered for effective risk management.

By addressing these key considerations and incorporating community preferences, effective and sustainable plans can be developed to guide planning for mine operation and closure. The preliminary consultation completed by Ausgold with local community and regulators has provided preliminary feedback. This initial input will help to guide the next stages of planning for closure and rehabilitation of the Project – to take the strategic planning initiatives and develop the knowledge base to develop more detailed and specific MCPs for all of the elements of the proposed mine.

Key Issues Raised

Issues likely to be of interest or concern to the community and stakeholders at closure include:

- Re-instatement of agriculture – *what parts of the mined land might allow a return to dryland farming*?
- Potential to work with local community to build a sustainable tourism industry - including tours of the former mine (like the Kalgoorlie super pit tours) - that could maintain livelihoods after closure. *What community-based initiatives should Ausgold support to minimise the disruption to the community when the mine closes?*
- Potential to develop a social investment strategy: Investing in upgrades and facilities that will leave a positive legacy; creating a social investment fund with ongoing dividends that can be used to maintain facilities. *What infrastructure is valuable after mining ceases?*
- Visual impacts – *what is this going to look like after you leave?*
- Residual water supply – *what potential is there for water supply infrastructure be left for community or agricultural benefit? What water management structures should be designed to be permanent and retained at closure?*

- Residual power supply – *can site be re-purposed to provide renewable energy/energy storage?*
- Re-purpose parts of site for Municipal usage – *can site yield land or rock for use as residual gravel supply? Are there any sites that could be made suitable for other municipal usage – waste management, water supply etc.?*

3.4.2 Consultation Plan

Effective stakeholder engagement for closure may require navigation of competing interests and conflicting sentiments between and amongst stakeholders. In recognition of this complexity, Ausgold should work towards achieving balanced, realistic and fundable closure outcomes that acknowledge and, as much as possible over time, support relevant parties. While the process of engagement with internal and external stakeholders may not result in full consensus on closure outcomes, the intention is that the engagement practice leads to informed and transparent decisions.

Ausgold has an established stakeholder engagement process incorporating ongoing and evolving dialogue on life of mine. The overarching objectives of the stakeholder engagement process are:

1. Identify stakeholders, including marginalised groups, and manage the relationships in a consistent way;
2. Provide sufficient information to interested stakeholders such that they are able to make informed decisions, raise issues and concerns, and obtain feedback as part of the life of mine planning process;
3. Establish relationships with key stakeholders that enable ongoing dialogue through the development and implementation of the MCP; and
4. Ensure effective monitoring, measurement and tracking processes for all stakeholder interactions.

Community preferences and concerns can be identified and addressed so that the selected PMLU reflects a degree of community "ownership" that can result in benefit to both the local environment and the local economy. As the continuing landowner, Ausgold or the freehold title owner, must be willing and able to fund the post closure costs (within reason) to maintain the required outcomes.

4 NEXT STEPS

Ausgold is consulting with the key stakeholders as part of the Project planning phase and to support the environmental approval process. The Project will require approvals under both state and federal environmental legislation (*Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA) (EP Act) and EPBC Act) as well as Mining Act and Local Government. Consultation about the Project is inclusive of the closure and rehabilitation phase and early community input is being actively sought by Ausgold.

- Continue with Project general Stakeholder Engagement Plan - including;
  - Further progress and develop the Community Reference Group vies to engage on mine closure and PMLUs;
  - Engage with local Stakeholders on PMLUs especially the Shires, DPIRD and Landcare;
  - Develop plans for individual landform elements of the post-mining landscape;
- Complete the required technical studies for approvals and mine closure planning;
- Prepare an initial MCP for the Project;
- Undertake and complete the approvals processes (which include public comment periods); and
- Assess and incorporate feedback.

The proponent will observe with the requirements under the Mining Act for ongoing consultation regarding PMLUs and closure planning over the life of the Project. These requirements include risk assessment and management, development of completion criteria and regular updates on mine closure planning knowledge gaps and issues. These processes are designed to enable feedback on risks and liabilities and enable the proponent to plan and cost what will be required to close and rehabilitate the mine to acceptable standards.

GLOSSARY

Term	Meaning
°C	Degrees Celsius
ALUM	Australian Land Use and Management
ANC	Acid Neutralising Capacity
ARI	Average Recurrence Interval
Ausgold	Ausgold Limited; the Proponent or the Company
BAC	Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation
Batter	Artificially created outer slopes designed for specific engineering purposes.
CRG	Community Reference Group
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (formerly Department of the Environment and Energy) responsible for the EPBC Act.
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
EMP	Exchangeable Magnesium Percentage
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act* 1986 (WA)
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 (Federal)
ESI	Electrochemical Stability Index
ESP	Exchangeable Sodium Percentage
EWTEC	Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt – a nationally protected ecological community under the EPBC Act. See: https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/guide-eucalypt-woodlands-wa-wheatbelt.pdf
GDE	Groundwater dependent ecosystem
ha	Hectare
IMR	International Mineral Resources NL
KGP	Katanning Gold Project
km	Kilometres
LCDC	Land Conservation District Committees
m	metre
MCP	Mine Closure Plan
Mining Act	*Mining Act 1978* (WA)
mm	Millimetres
mRL	Metres Relative Level (metres above sea level)
Mtpa	Million tonnes per annum
NAF	Non-Acid Forming

Term	Meaning
PAF	Potentially Acid Forming
PMLU	Post Mining Land Use. Term used to describe a land use that occurs after the cessation of mining operations (as defined in Young et al., 2019).
PMP	Probable Maximum Precipitation
Preston Consulting	Preston Consulting Pty Ltd
Project	Katanning Gold Project
Rehabilitation	The return of disturbed land to a safe, stable, non-polluting/non-contaminating landform in an ecologically sustainable manner that is productive and/or self-sustaining consistent with the agreed post-mine land use (as defined in Young et al., 2019).
Relinquishment (as applied to mining tenements)	When agreed completion criteria have been met, government "sign-off" achieved, all obligations under the Mining Act 1978 removed and the proponent has been released from all forms of security, and responsibility has been accepted by the next land user or manager (as defined in Young et al., 2019).
Repurposing	In the case of mine sites, changing the PMLU to a new purpose rather than returning it to a previous land use or purpose.
Restoration (definitions from Young et al., 2022)	Ecological Restoration: The process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. Ecosystem Restoration: The process of halting and reversing degradation, resulting in improved ecosystem services and recovered biodiversity.
Revegetation	Establishment of self-sustaining vegetation cover after earthworks have been completed, consistent with the post-mining land use (as defined in Young et al., 2019).
S	Sulphur
Strategy	This preliminary mine closure and rehabilitation strategy (this document)
Study Area	Each Study usually defines the boundaries of it's scope – referred to as the Study Area. The Study Area may not be the same as the Development Envelope or other areas identified in study reports.
TSF	Tailings Storage Facility
WA	Western Australia
WKSN	Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar
WRL	Waste Rock Landform
WSP	WSP Australia Pty Ltd

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