



Offsets Strategy

Katanning Gold Project



Prepared for Ausgold Exploration Pty Ltd

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Executive Summary

Ausgold Exploration Proprietary Limited (Ausgold, The Proponent) proposes to develop the Katanning Gold Project (KGP) (The Proposal), located in the Shire of Katanning, approximately 275 kilometres (km) southeast of Perth in the Great Southern Region of Western Australia (WA). The Proposal is located 37 km northeast of the Katanning township within the Shire of Katanning.

The scope of the Project includes the development of above and below water table open cut pits, several waste rock landforms, on-site processing of ore and the construction of a tailing's storage facility at the Project. The Proposal was determined a Controlled Action under *the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on the 8th August 2025 due to potential significant impacts on matters protected by the relevant controlling provision and is currently being assessed by preliminary documentation. The Proposal was referred under Part IV of the *WA Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) in November 2025.

The Proposal is likely to have significant impacts on the following matters protected by the EPBC Act:

- Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) (EWTEC) - Critically Endangered: Clearing of up to 5.98 hectares (ha) of an existing patch of EWTEC with a residual impact (Quantum) of 1.79 ha (the quantum of residual impact is based off the EPBC offset calculator. This factors in a quality of 3 for EWTEC being cleared);
- Carnaby's black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) – Endangered: Clearing of up to 61.62 ha of supporting habitat (including native and planted vegetation), with a residual impact of 68 potential breeding trees being cleared; and
- Red-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale calura*) – Vulnerable: Clearing of up to 61.62 ha of foraging and potential breeding habitat with a residual impact (Quantum) of 43.13 ha. The Red-tailed phascogale shares the same habitat as Carnaby's black cockatoo.

Note: clearing of 61.62 ha of MNES species habitat includes EWTEC

The actual impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) is expected to be less than the amounts listed above. Opportunities will be continually investigated to further minimise disturbance to the EWTEC, Carnaby's cockatoo and Red-tailed phascogale habitat throughout the design and construction phases. Key measures implemented by Ausgold at the current stage, include exclusion zones around remnant vegetation on the boundary of the Mine Development Envelope (MDE) discussed in section 18.4 to avoid clearing of TECs. The site layout has also been strategically designed to avoid clearing of TEC, prioritising areas of lower ecological significance for ancillary infrastructure.

The Proponent owns freehold lands which provide options for designated Biodiversity Offset Areas (BOA) within one kilometre of the MDE which is in close proximity to known locations of the EWTEC elsewhere near the MDE and in the Badgebup district. It is proposed that the selected BOAs will meet the requirements for Offset and will counterbalance the impacts of the Proposal in accordance with Commonwealth and State environmental offset policies. Impact calculations account for the permanent loss of habitat and acknowledge that the Project Area will be permanently altered.

The objective of this Offset Strategy is to describe the offset actions that will be undertaken to achieve a net environmental gain.

Acronyms / Abbreviations

Acronym / Abbreviation	Definition
agl	above ground level
AHD	Australian Height Datum
ASS	Acid Sulphate Soils
ASRIS	Australian Soil Resource Information System
avg.	average
BAM Act	<i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>
BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>
bgl	Below Ground Level
BOA	Biodiversity Offset Area
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology
BOS	Biodiversity Offset Strategy
BRMP	Bushfire Risk Management Plan
CBC	Carnaby's Black Cockatoo
Cd	Conservation dependent
Cr	Critically Endangered
DAWE	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DEWHA	Department of the Environment Heritage and the Arts
DMPE	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration
DoE	Department of the Environment
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
DSEWPC	Department of Sustainability Environment Water Population and Communities
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
En	Endangered
ERT	Emergency Response Team
EWTEC	Eucalyptus Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt Threatened Ecological Community
GDP	Ground Disturbance Permit

Acronym / Abbreviation	Definition
GoWA	Government of Western Australia
GSWA	Geological Survey of Western Australia
ha	Hectare
HQS	Habitat Quality Standards
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
KGP	Katanning Gold Project
km	Kilometre
LoM	Life of Mine
Mi	Migratory
mm	Millimetres
MCA	Multi-criteria Analysis
MDCP	Mining Proposal and Closure Plan
MDE	Mine Development Envelope
MEZ	Mine Exclusion Zone
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
OBRM	Office of Bushfire Risk Management
OMP	Offset Management Plan
PEC	Priority Ecological Community
Proponent	Ausgold Exploration Pty Limited
RAC	Restoration Activity Classes
spp.	Species (plural)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
TSSC	Threatened Species Scientific Committee
Vu	Vulnerable
WA	Western Australia
WABSI	The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute
Wheatbelt NRM	Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management
WoNS	Weeds of National Significance

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1 Proposal Overview

Ausgold Exploration Pty Ltd (Ausgold) is the Proponent for the Katanning Gold Project (The Proposal), located in the Shire of Katanning, approximately 275 kilometres (km) southeast of Perth in the Great Southern Region of Western Australia. The Proposal is located 36 km northeast of the Katanning township within the Shire of Katanning (Figure 1-1). The mine site was originally developed and operated in the 1980s and 90s and ceased its last operation in 1997, since then the mine has been held in care and maintenance.

The Proposal involves open cut pits that extend below water table, run-of-mine pad, a processing plant, tailings storage facility (keyed into the integrated waste rock landform), as well as providing capacity for waste rock storage elsewhere through the creation of several waste rock landforms. Supporting infrastructure will also be constructed at the KGP site, including a mine services area, balancing water storage pond and hybrid power plant and storage of topsoil in stockpiles. These elements collectively form Ausgold's mining operation.

Ausgold's proposal was referred under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) in July 2025. On the 8th of August the KGP was deemed a controlled action by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and is being assessed on preliminary documentation.

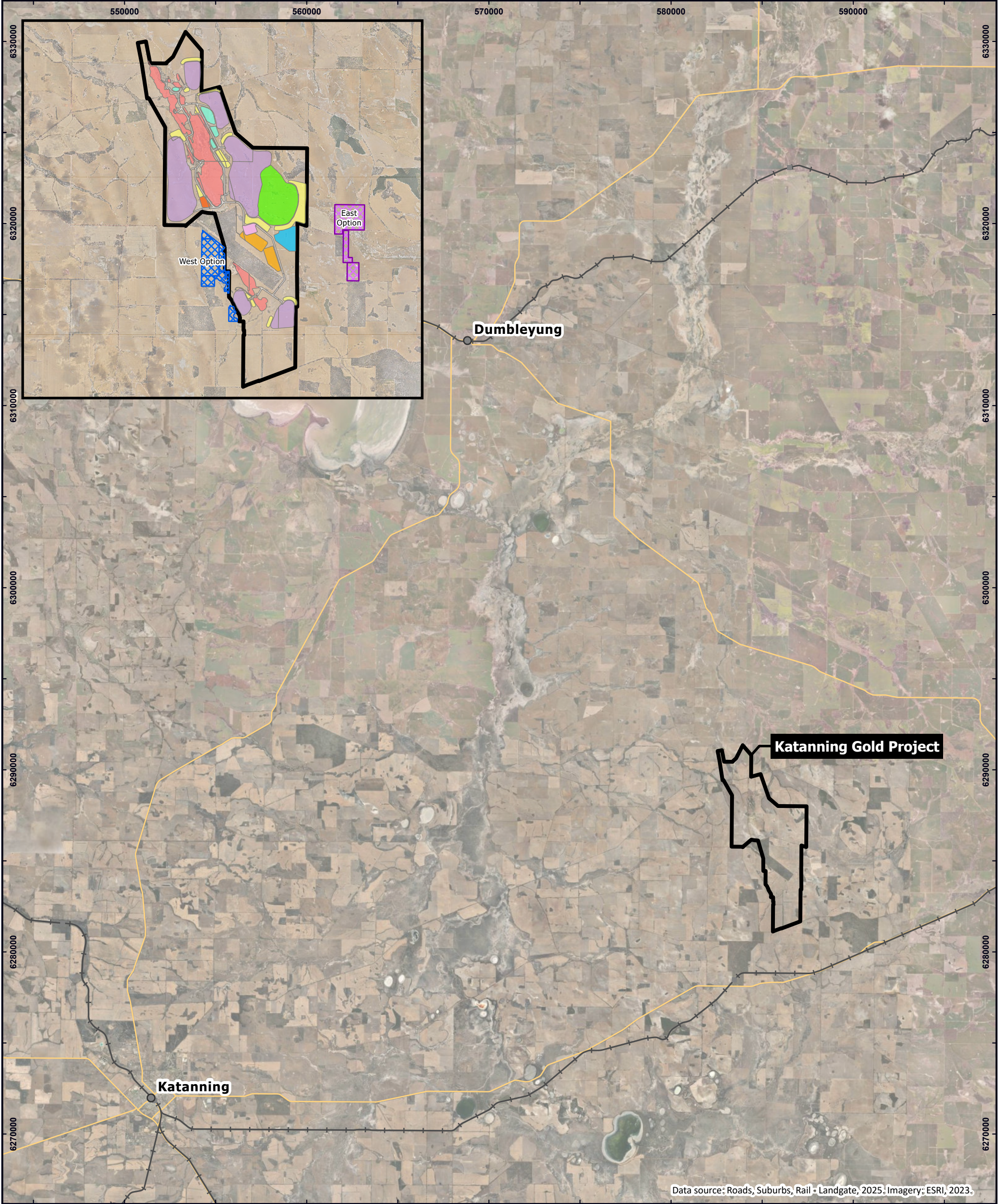
The Proposal requires clearing of 61.62 ha of vegetation including 49.97 ha of native vegetation and 11.65 of planted vegetation within the Mine Development Envelope (MDE). Despite the best available approach of avoidance, the implementation of the KGP will have some significant residual impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES):

- Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*);
- Red tailed phascogale (*Phascogale calura*); and
- Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt Threatened Ecological Community (EWTEC).

1.1 Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this Offset Strategy is to support the assessment of the KGP by DCCEEW under the EPBC Act and the WA Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under Part IV of the EP Act. This document should be read in conjunction with the EPBC referral and Section 38 (s38) referral under the EP Act to ensure alignment with statutory requirements.

This Offset Strategy outlines the proposed Environmental Offset, its regional context, and the intended aims and outcomes. It demonstrates compliance with the WA Environmental Offsets Policy, WA Environmental Offset Guidelines, and the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy, including how offsets are additional to existing management actions. Furthermore, it details how delivery of the Strategy will support objectives in regional management plans, species recovery plans, approved conservation advice, and threat abatement plans, ensuring a coordinated approach to biodiversity conservation.



LEGEND

Mine Development Envelope	Mine Service Area	Transport or service infrastructure corridor
Proposed Offset Blocks	Other Stockpile	Rail Network
East Option	Water Diversion or Management Structures	Railway Stations
West Option	Tailings storage facility	Railway Lines
Proposed Site Layout	Other Mine Disturbance	Western Australian Roads
Plant site	Topsoil stockpile (TS)	Main Road
Run-of-mine (ROM) Pad	Waste Rock Landform	
Mining void (with a depth of at least 5 metres)		

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LOCALITY

0 100 200 300 km

SITE LOCALITY

Katanning Gold Project

Offsets Strategy

Ausgold Limited

0 2 4 6 8 km

Scale @ A3: 1:200,000 Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 50

Prepared:	EJ/PA
Reviewed:	RM
Project:	TE25093
Revision:	A Figure 1-1
Date:	21/04/2026

2 Environmental Offset Policy & Guidance

The application and assessment of offset requirements for the KGP have been undertaken with consideration of the principles of the EPBC Act (1999), Environmental Offsets Policy (Department of Sustainability Environment Water Population and Communities (DSEWPC), 2012), the principles of the WA Environmental Offsets Policy (Government of Western Australia (GoWA), 2011) and the WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines 2014 (GoWA, 2014).

2.1 WA Environmental Offsets

In WA, offsets are only required where the residual impacts of a Proposal are determined to be significant, after avoidance, minimisation and rehabilitation measures have been applied (GoWA, 2014). Consideration of the WA Environmental Offsets Policy (GoWA, 2011) for a Proposal includes consideration of the following principles, which the Proponent has applied during development of this Offset Strategy:

- Environmental offsets will only be considered after avoidance and mitigation options have been pursued;
- Environmental offsets are not appropriate for all projects;
- Environmental offsets will be cost-effective, as well as relevant and proportionate to the significance of the environmental value being impacted;
- Environmental offsets will be based on sound environmental information and knowledge;
- Environmental offsets will be applied within a framework of adaptive management; and
- Environmental offsets will be focused on longer term strategic outcomes.

2.2 Commonwealth Offsets Guidance

The EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy (Australian Government, 2012), including the Offsets Assessment Guide calculator (Australian Government, 2012) will be used to assist the determination of the quantum of offset for the Proposal. Additionally, the Proponent understands its obligations to take into consideration the principles of the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy, including:

- Suitable offsets must deliver an overall conservation outcome that improves or maintains the viability of the aspect of the environment that is protected by national environment law and affected by the Proposed Action;
- Suitable offsets must be built around direct offsets but may include other compensatory measures;
- Suitable offsets must be in proportion to the level of statutory protection that applies to the protected matter;
- Suitable offsets must be of a size and scale proportionate to the residual impacts on the protected matter;
- Suitable offsets must effectively account for and manage the risks of the offset not succeeding;
- Suitable offsets must be additional to what is already required, determined by law or planning regulations or agreed to under other schemes or programs (this does not preclude the recognition of state or territory offsets that may be suitable as offsets under the EPBC Act for the same action);

- Suitable offsets must be efficient, effective, timely, transparent, scientifically robust and reasonable; and
- Suitable offsets must have transparent governance arrangements including being able to be readily measured, monitored, audited and enforced.

As the KGP has been determined to be a Controlled Action in accordance with the EPBC Act, consideration of the EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy (Australian Government 2012) is required for MNES, specifically, listed threatened species and communities (section 8 and section 18A of the EPBC Act). These listed threatened species are provided in Section 2.3.

2.3 Consideration of Relevant MNES

The MNES and significant species (WA *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act)) identified as relevant to the KGP assessment are listed below in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1 MNES identified in Katanning Gold Project Referral

Matter of National Environmental Significance	EPBC Act Status	BC Act Status	Flora, Fauna or Vegetation Community	Impact
Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC	Cr	P3	Vegetation Community	Direct
Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (<i>Zanda latirostris</i> listed as <i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>) (CBC)	En	En	Fauna	Direct/ Indirect
Red tailed phascogale (<i>Phascogale calura</i>)	Vu	Cd	Fauna	Direct/ Indirect
Southern whiteface (<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>)	Vu	Vu	Fauna	None
Sharp-tailed sandpiper (<i>Calidris acuminata</i>)	V, MI	MI	Fauna	None
Curlew Sandpiper (<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>)	Cr, MI	Cr	Fauna	None
Grey falcon (<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>)	Vu	Vu	Fauna	None
Malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>)	Vu	Vu	Fauna	None
Chuditch (<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>)	Vu	Vu	Fauna	None
Numbat (<i>Myrmecobius fasciatus</i>)	En	En	Fauna	None
<i>Acacia grisea</i> S. Moore	-	P4	Flora	None

Matter of National Environmental Significance	EPBC Act Status	BC Act Status	Flora, Fauna or Vegetation Community	Impact
<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> x <i>wandoo</i>	-	P4	Flora	Direct/ Indirect
Woolly Wattle (<i>Acacia lanuginophylla</i>)	En	-	Flora	None
Spikey Adenanthos (<i>Adenanthos pungens</i> subsp. <i>pungens</i>)	En	-	Flora	None
Saltmat (<i>Roycea pycnophylloides</i>)	En	-	Flora	None

Where relevant, the offset requirements considered for the MNES in this Offset Strategy have considered the information contained within the following Approved Conservation Advice and National Recovery Plans:

- Approved Conservation Advice for Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC (DoE, 2015);
- Referral Guideline for 3 WA Threatened Black Cockatoo Species: Carnaby's Cockatoo, Baudin's Cockatoo and the Forest Red-tailed Black cockatoo (DAWE, 2022);
- Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) Recovery Plan (DPaW, 2013); and
- Approved Conservation Advice for *Phascogale calura* (Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC), 2016a).

3 Summary of Impacts

Significant residual impacts of the KGP have been identified per the framework provided by the WA Environmental Offsets Policy (GoWA, 2011) and the WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines 2014 (GoWA, 2014). The significant residual impacts resulting from the KGP are those that remain following the application of the mitigation hierarchy (avoidance, minimisation and rehabilitation of impacts) for all environmental values.

Western Australian government policy recognises that offsets required under the EPBC Act may duplicate those required by State processes. Where values overlap, Western Australian government agencies will work cooperatively with the Commonwealth Government to align offsets and avoid duplication to the fullest extent where practicable (GoWA, 2014).

As the significant residual impacts all relate to MNES, the EPBC Act Offset Assessment Guide (DSEWPC, 2012) has been used to determine an offset proposal proportionate to the identified significant residual impacts. Using the Guide, this section summarises the predicted significant residual environmental impacts associated with the KGP and also describes the assumptions and calculations used to determine the quantum of offsets required.

3.1 Direct Impact to MNES

The residual direct impacts to MNES resulting from the implementation of the KGP may be summarised as:

- EWTEC - Critically Endangered: Clearing of up to 5.98 ha and indirect impacts to 6.46 ha of an existing patch of EWTEC in degraded condition, with a residual impact (Quantum) of 1.79 ha;
- Carnaby's black cockatoo (*Calyptrorhynchus latirostris*) – Endangered: Clearing of up to 61.62 ha of supporting habitat, with a residual impact (Quantum) of 68 potential breeding trees; and
- Red-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale calura*) – Vulnerable: Clearing of up to 61.62 ha of foraging and potential breeding habitat. A residual impact (Quantum) of 43.13 ha remains.

The spatial extent of these MNES in the region is shown on Figure 3-1.

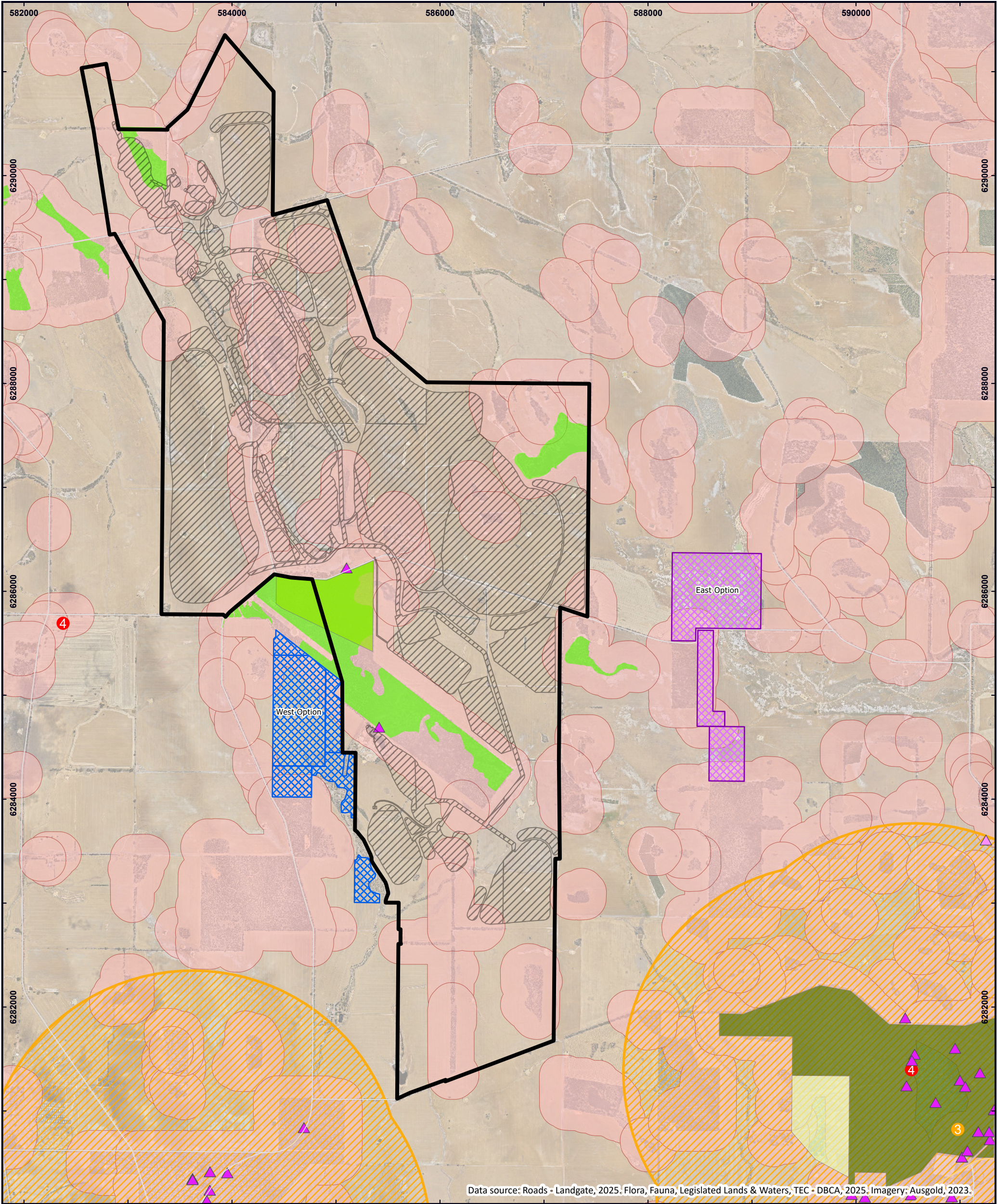
3.2 Indirect Impacts

Proposed activities within the Project Area may result in several indirect environmental impacts. These impacts will be mitigated through implementation of the Ausgold Environmental Management Plans (EMPs), which will include targeted measures for dust suppression, traffic management, weed hygiene protocols, and habitat protection. With these controls in place, no significant residual indirect impacts are anticipated.

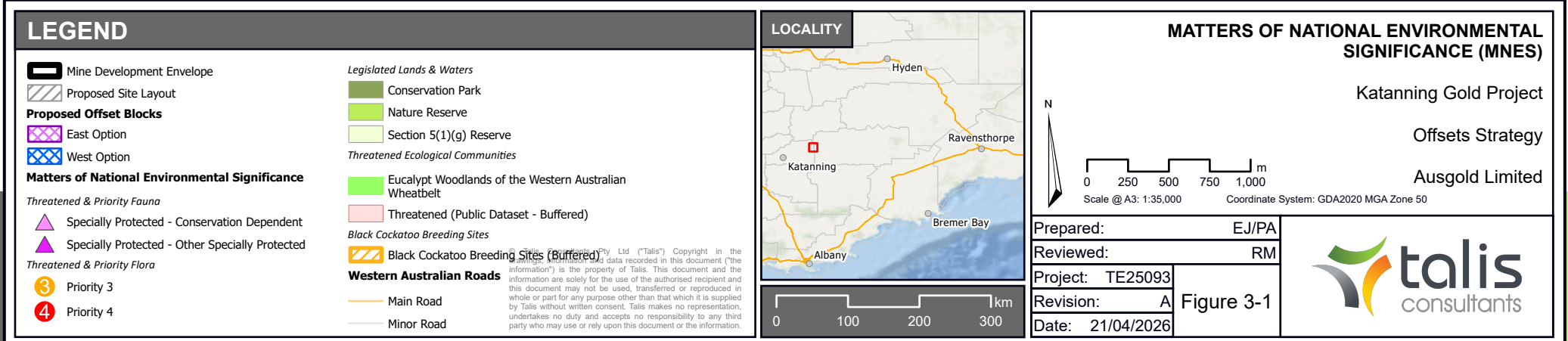
Potential indirect impacts include:

- Spread of existing or introduction of new weed species, reducing vegetation condition and rehabilitation success;
- Potential for introduction of plant pathogens (including *Phytophthora* spp.), infecting remnant vegetation patches;

- Dust deposition from construction and mining activities, including vehicle movements and blasting, affecting vegetation health;
- Microclimate changes due to fragmentation;
- Altered hydrological regimes;
- Modified fire regimes, resulting in fragmentation or loss or reduced health of native vegetation;
- Elevated noise and dust emissions from site operations;
- Increased traffic, with associated risk of wildlife-vehicle collisions;
- Temporary vegetation reduction, contributing to habitat fragmentation;
- Attraction of fauna to restoration areas, potentially increasing mortality risk post-project depending on restoration success; and
- Soil disturbance and vehicle movement, increasing the likelihood of weed proliferation, erosion, and the spread of Phytophthora dieback.



Data source: Roads - Landgate, 2025. Flora, Fauna, Legislated Lands & Waters, TEC - DBCA, 2025. Imagery: Ausgold, 2023.



4 MNES Values

To achieve conservation objectives and establish appropriate rehabilitation targets, it is essential to understand the critical habitats and vegetation structures of the MNES that this Offset Strategy seeks to address.

4.1 Carnaby's Black Cockatoo

The Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (Carnaby's cockatoo) is endemic to the south-west of WA, with a widespread distribution, including the Avon Wheatbelt. Carnaby cockatoos are a highly mobile species and displays a seasonal migration pattern that is linked to breeding. Breeding takes place between late July and December, and most breeding occurs in the inland parts of its distribution, in areas receiving between 300 and 750 millimetres (mm) of annual average rainfall. During the non-breeding season (January to July) the majority of birds move to the higher rainfall coastal regions of their range including the Midwest coast, Swan Coastal Plain and south coast (DPaW, 2013).

The breeding habitat of Carnaby's cockatoo is made up of the Eucalypt woodlands that provide breeding hollows, together with feeding areas and watering sites within foraging distance of breeding sites. The long-term survival of a robust population of Carnaby cockatoos depends on the availability of suitable woodland breeding habitat and tree hollows, and foraging habitat capable of providing enough food to sustain the population. More recently, night roost sites have been recognised as important components of the non-breeding habitat (DPaW, 2013). Success in breeding is dependent on the quality and proximity of feeding habitat within 12 km of nesting sites (DPaW, 2013).

In the breeding areas, Carnaby's cockatoos are highly dependent on seeds of native vegetation, primarily proteaceous scrubs and heath and Marri, and between December and July birds congregate in large feeding flocks with many moving south-west to the Swan coastal plain feeding on remnant heath communities or where cleared, in the pine plantations that have become the species' main food source (Weerheim, 2008).

The importance of connectivity has been demonstrated clearly for a population of Carnaby's cockatoos breeding in the Wheatbelt. As their habitat became increasingly reduced and fragmented, the population eventually was unable to "connect the pieces" and disappeared from the area (Weerheim, 2008).

Carnaby's cockatoos nest in the hollows of live or dead Eucalypts, primarily the smooth-barked Salmon Gum and Wandoo, though breeding has been reported in other Eucalypt tree species on the Coastal Plain and within the Jarrah forest. Along with the trees that provide nest hollows, the protection, management and increase of this feeding habitat that supports the breeding of Carnaby's cockatoo is a critical requirement for the conservation of the species (DPaW, 2013).

In 1998, Saunders and Ingram considered that there were sufficient hollow-bearing Eucalypts for Carnaby cockatoos in the Wheatbelt; however, the senescence and loss of ageing hollows, and competition for hollows is likely to be an issue for the conservation of the species. One of the indirect effects of broad-scale clearing for agriculture in WA is that there is a lack of recruitment of nesting trees. As a consequence, there may be a shortage of suitable nesting hollows in some areas in the future, regardless of whether there is sufficient suitable foraging habitat present within close proximity to those breeding sites (DPaW, 2013).

Habitat critical to survival for Carnaby's cockatoos can be summarised as (DPaW, 2013):

- The Eucalypt woodlands that provide nest hollows used for breeding, together with nearby vegetation that provides feeding, roosting and watering habitat that supports successful breeding;
- Woodland sites known to have supported breeding in the past and which could be used in the future, provided adequate nearby food and/or water resources are available or are re-established; and
- In the non-breeding season, the vegetation that provides food resources as well as the sites for nearby watering and night roosting that enable the cockatoos to effectively utilise the available food resources.

Carnaby's cockatoos are dependent on water being available in the vicinity of roosting sites. Important watering points include natural water bodies and artificial water sources such as public fountains, bird baths, artificial dams, stock watering troughs and sprinklers (DPaW, 2013).

Observations of Carnaby's cockatoo roosting sites revealed greater roost counts at sites within close proximity to known food and water sources. Energy expenditure could be reduced where they are able to feed and drink close to (within a 6 km radius around) a roost site [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) (Le Roux, 2017). A greater area of Banksia and pine vegetation was associated with roost sites that had high cockatoo counts. This highlights the importance of Banksia and pine to large numbers of Carnaby's cockatoos utilising these sites. The importance of Banksia and pine as significant food source has been established in a number of Carnaby's cockatoo related studies (Le Roux, 2017).

The roost trees used by Carnaby's cockatoos as identified by Le Roux (2017) on average were tall with a single, thick trunk and proximity to human activities did not appear to be of significance. A foraging site is considered more attractive if there were large trees within close proximity for roosting, noting that Carnaby's cockatoos appeared to favour areas where they could fly into and out of trees that they could sit in before and after foraging (Le Roux, 2017).

The Southern region of WA supports Jarrah-Marri forest, as well as Karri (*E. diversicolor*), and areas of low heath, including *Banksia* spp., and scrub. This region provides foraging resources for all black cockatoo species, as well as some critical breeding habitat for Carnaby's and Baudin's cockatoos. Some foraging species are associated with the Eastern Stirling Range Montane Heath and Thicket ecological community and the EWTEC, both of which are listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act. Black cockatoos rely on this region to provide a range of foraging resources, including those in association with breeding habitat (DAWE, 2022).

Habitats used by Carnaby's cockatoos as described by DAWE (2022):

- Breeding: Generally, in woodland or forest, but also breeds in partially cleared woodland or forest, including isolated trees. Nest in hollows in live or dead trees (many Eucalypt species may provide suitable hollows), particularly Salmon Gum, Wandoo, Tuart, Jarrah, Flooded Gum (*E. rudis*), York Gum, Powderbark (*E. accedens*), Karri and Marri;
- Night roosting: Generally, in or near riparian environments or natural and artificial permanent water sources. Any tall trees may provide roosting habitat, but particularly Flat-topped Yate (*E. occidentalis*), Salmon Gum, Wandoo, Marri, Karri, Blackbutt, Tuart, introduced Eucalypts and introduced pines; and
- Foraging and common food items: Native shrubland, Kwongan heathland and woodland on seeds, flowers and nectar of native proteaceous plant species (*Banksia* spp., *Hakea* spp. and *Grevillea* spp.), as well as *Callistemon* spp. and Marri. Also seeds of introduced species including *Pinus* spp., *Erodium* spp., wild radish, canola, almonds, macadamia and pecan nuts; insects and insect larvae; occasionally apples and persimmons; and liquidambar.

Artificial nest hollows provide a short-term solution to a larger problem of loss of native woodlands but will only serve that purpose if current and future artificial nest hollows are monitored and repaired on a regular basis, and that adequate funds are provided to ensure that those nest hollows remain serviceable. Provision and maintenance of large numbers of artificial hollows in association with restoration/replanting of woodlands in breeding areas is the only long-term solution to loss of breeding habitat (Saunders *et al.*, 2023).

Carnaby's cockatoos are known to breed in the vicinity of the KGP area, consistent with regional use of Wandoo hollows for nesting. Breeding has also been recorded in Red Morrel and York Gum, both of which also occur in the Proposal area. The KGP area may also provide roosting habitat for Carnaby's cockatoos.

This species is dependent on the use of hollows in large trees (significant trees) for breeding, 68 of which are located within the KGP disturbance footprint. The KGP may also impinge on foraging for this species, and indirect impacts may include changes to population distribution resulting from light and noise emitted from the project. Indirect impacts may include reduction in habitat health as a result of alterations to fire regimes; or further spread of weeds.

4.2 Red-tailed phascogale

The Red-tailed phascogale occurs in remnant vegetation in the southern Wheatbelt of WA, less than one percent of its former range, where annual mean rainfall is 400–500 mm (Short & Hide, 2012). Most of the records are concentrated in an area approximately 150 km long in a north-south direction from Brookton to Katanning, and about 80 km wide from Williams to Dumbleyung (Short & Hide, 2012). Sparse records extend to the west to the margin of the Jarrah Forest and to the east to Hyden and Newdegate and to the south to Bremer Bay (Short & Hide, 2012). There are outlying records along the east of the species range, at Marvel Loch (south of Southern Cross) and at Dwellingup in the Jarrah Forest region. It occurs within the Avon Wheatbelt, Jarrah Forest, Mallee and Esperance Plains IBRA Bioregions and the Avon, Northern Agricultural, Rangelands, South Coast, Southwest and Swan Natural Resource Management Regions (TSSC, 2016b).

The Red-tailed phascogale is largely confined to woodlands with old-growth hollow-producing Eucalypts, particularly Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) and York gum (*E. loxophleba*), often with associated rock sheoak (*Allocasuarina huegeliana*), but has also been recorded in shrublands and various mosaics of woodland, shrubland and scrub-heath (Short & Hide, 2012). It does not appear to extend into unfragmented habitat in either the Jarrah Forest to the west or the Mallee Bioregion to the east (Short & Hide, 2012); at the same time, it avoids relatively open areas and rocky ridges which are devoid of vegetation. The species prefers long unburnt (more than 50 years) patches (TSSC, 2016b).

The species is mainly nocturnal and largely arboreal and can leap across gaps of up to two metres in the canopy, but also feeds extensively on the ground. Home ranges vary from 1.5 ha to 8 ha, depending upon the breeding season. Recorded nesting sites include hollow logs, tree hollows, and the skirts and stumps of grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea* spp.). It is an opportunistic feeder, taking a wide range of insects and spiders as well as small birds and mammals. The best habitat has numerous tree hollows for shelter and a semi-continuous canopy – this probably provides some protection against predation by feral cats and foxes (TSSC, 2016b).

Red-tailed phascogales were recorded in the bushlands at the Woorgabup Nature Reserve and Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve, and other smaller bushland fragments on Ausgold's mining tenements M70/1426 and E70/3952. In the Woorgabup Reserves, the Red-tailed phascogales were recorded in or very near Wandoo and Banksia woodland as they could be using a variety of vegetated areas where

trees contain suitable-sized retreats and nesting hollows. This species is dependent on the use of hollows in trees for breeding habitat. The KGP may also impinge on foraging habitat for this species, and indirect impacts may include changes to population distribution resulting from light and noise emitted from the KGP. Indirect impacts may also be realised through changes in weed dispersal in the KGP Project Area.

4.3 Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC

This ecological community is highly dynamic and exists as a complex mosaic of species determined partly by low nutrients, water availability and past fire regimes. The condition thresholds acknowledge that the ecological community does not always occur in an ideal state. Patches that are more species rich and less disturbed are likely to provide greater biodiversity value. Additionally, patches that provide corridors or linkages within a largely modified landscape are particularly important as wildlife habitat and to the viability of those patches of the ecological community into the future (DoE, 2015).

The EWTEC also relates to 14 WA Priority Ecological Communities (PECs), a list of ecological communities that are either provisionally identified as threatened or require further survey effort (DoE, 2015). At the time of listing in 2014, 54 flora and 18 fauna species listed nationally, or within WA, were known to occur in the ecological community. They include 45 nationally listed Threatened plant species and 15 nationally listed Threatened animal species (DoE, 2015). The protected extent of the EWTEC in WA is estimated at 4.96%, with its protected extent within the Avon Wheatbelt (AW2) IBRA region estimated at 1.67% (Stantec, 2025).

An estimate of 5.98 ha of the EWTEC in Degraded condition at the Jackson Bushland within the MDE is proposed to be cleared (direct impact). Potential indirect impacts from the implementation of the KGP on the remaining EWTEC at Jackson Bushland and other adjacent EWTEC patches within the MDE could include the introduction/spread of weeds, dust emissions or altered fire regimes; however, with appropriate management measures the risks of potential indirect impacts can be mitigated.

5 Offset Quantum

Ausgold has investigated several options for a Biodiversity Offset Area (BOA) which will be restored and protected under a conservation covenant, as a direct offset to meet the required habitat values for the impacted MNES.

In developing this Offset Strategy, the Proponent has aligned, where appropriate, with the Offset Assessment Guide Calculator. This guide provides an appropriate basis for calculating the offset quantum for the Proposal and aligns with the EPBC Offsets Principles.

The residual direct impacts to significant species and ecological communities resulting from implementation of the Proposal may be summarised as follows:

- Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt Threatened Ecological Community – Critically Endangered under the EPBC Act and Priority 3 under State listing: clearing of up to 5.98 ha of EWTEC in degraded condition, resulting in a residual impact (quantum) of 1.79 ha.
- Carnaby’s black cockatoo (*Calyptrorhynchus latirostris*) – Endangered: Clearing of up to 61.62 ha of potential breeding habitat resulting in a residual impact (quantum) of 68 potential breeding trees.
- Red-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale calura*) – Vulnerable: clearing of up to 61.62 ha of foraging and potential breeding habitat, resulting in a residual impact (quantum) of 43.13 ha

5.1 DCCEE Offset Policy

The Environmental Offsets Policy provides guidance on how the Australian Government considers environmental offsets under the EPBC Act 1999. The policy clarifies the purpose of offsets, the circumstances in which they should be applied, and the ten key principles that underpin offset decision-making. Principles 1–8 describe the requirements that an offset must satisfy to be deemed suitable, while Principles 9–10 outline how the Minister will evaluate offset proposals.

Where a proposed action is likely to have a significant impact on MNES including listed species, ecological communities, or heritage places—the proponent must first avoid or mitigate impacts to the greatest extent practicable. Any impact that cannot be fully avoided or mitigated is considered a residual significant impact, and such impacts must be offset.

Principle 1: Offsets must deliver an overall conservation outcome that maintains or improves the viability of the affected protected matter. Where a significant residual impact occurs, the offset must fully compensate for that impact and ensure that the protected matter remains in a condition at least equivalent to, or better than, the scenario in which the action had not occurred. Offsets should relate to the specific environmental attributes impacted and demonstrate that the protected matter can continue to persist despite the action.

Principle 2: Offsets should be predominantly comprised of direct offsets, which provide tangible, on-ground benefits to the protected matter (e.g., land protection and restoration, threat-abatement programs, or captive breeding and release initiatives). In most cases, at least 90% of the total offset requirement must be delivered through direct offsets, although supplementary compensatory measures may also be considered.

Principle 3: Offsets must be proportionate to the level of statutory protection afforded to the protected matter. Matters at greater risk of extinction, or with higher conservation significance, generally require more substantial offsets to account for the elevated risk associated with impacts.

Principle 4: Offsets must be of sufficient size and scale to address the residual impacts. In determining the required scale of an offset, the Minister will consider factors including:

- The statutory protection status of the matter,
- The specific attributes affected,
- Existing threats to the offset site,
- The timeframe for delivering the conservation gain, and
- The potential for ecological improvement at the offset site.

Principle 5: Offsets must adequately address and manage the risks associated with their potential failure. One risk is that the impact itself is too significant to be feasibly offset; this is addressed during the EPBC Act assessment process. The second risk relates to whether the proposed offset is likely to succeed—for example, whether habitat restoration will produce suitable long-term habitat for the species. Offset proposals must include mechanisms, typically detailed in an Offset Management Plan, to manage these risks and ensure the intended conservation gains are realised.

Principle 6: Offsets must be additional to any obligations already required under legislation, planning conditions, or other environmental programs. An offset must demonstrate a conservation gain that would not have occurred in the absence of the offset activity. State or Federal offsets may be recognised if they meet EPBC Act requirements for the same action.

Principle 7: Suitable offsets must be efficient, effective, timely, transparent, scientifically robust, and reasonable. An offset proposal must clearly demonstrate that the proposed activities—such as securing, managing, and improving land—will effectively compensate for the residual impact on the protected matter. It is essential that offsets can be implemented in a timely manner to ensure that conservation gains are delivered as early as possible and are sustained over the long term.

Offset proposals must also be underpinned by scientifically robust and transparent information. Proponents may be required to undertake desktop assessments, ecological modelling, and targeted field surveys to demonstrate that the proposed offset is feasible, reasonable, and capable of achieving the intended conservation outcomes. All data collected, as well as the information used to design, justify, and evaluate the offset, must be documented and reported transparently. This includes both baseline information used to identify an appropriate offset and subsequent monitoring data used to assess its performance and effectiveness.

Principle 8: Suitable offsets must have transparent governance arrangements and must be capable of being readily measured, monitored, audited, and enforced. Proponents are required to report on how the offset is being managed, and all costs associated with establishing, implementing, and maintaining the offset—for as long as it is required—remain the responsibility of the proponent.

Where offset delivery or management is undertaken by a third party, clear and comprehensive contractual arrangements must be established and submitted as part of the offset proposal. Offset proposals must also clearly define the metrics and criteria by which success will be measured, and proponents will be required to provide regular progress reports demonstrating movement toward these objectives.

Failure to achieve the stated outcomes may constitute a breach of approval conditions and may result in compliance action. To ensure transparency in the delivery of offsets, the Minister will generally

require proponents to submit annual reports detailing progress, performance against success criteria, and any corrective actions taken to address shortfalls.

Principle 9: In assessing the suitability of an offset, government decision-making must be informed by scientifically robust information and must apply the precautionary principle where scientific uncertainty exists. Decisions are made using the best available evidence to ensure that offsets are capable of delivering the intended conservation outcomes and that risks to protected matters are appropriately managed.

Key sources of information that inform the Minister's decision-making include:

- Approved recovery plans;
- Threat abatement plans;
- Conservation advices;
- Ecological character descriptions; and
- Management plans.

These documents provide authoritative, science-based guidance on species, ecological communities, and ecological processes and form a critical foundation for evaluating the appropriateness and likely effectiveness of proposed offset measures.

Principle 10: In assessing the suitability of an offset, government decision-making will be undertaken in a consistent and transparent manner. The Minister evaluates each proposal on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the proposed offset is appropriate for the protected matter(s) subject to significant residual impact. This assessment is guided by the Environmental Offsets Policy, including all offset principles, and is supported by the use of the Offsets Assessment Guide, which assists in calculating the scale of offsets required for threatened species and ecological communities.

5.1.1 Relevant Matters of MNES

EWTEC, habitat for the Carnaby's cockatoo (breeding) and breeding/foraging habitat for Red-tailed phascogale is detailed below in Table 5-1. These calculations are informed by the information collected during baseline biological surveys (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026 and Mattiske, 2026) applied to the direct impacts of the Project. Quality scores may differ to those presented in the baseline reports as the baseline reports cover areas beyond the disturbance footprint and mine development envelope. Scores presented in Table 5-1 have been obtained by following the EPBC offset calculator, relevant guidelines and the baseline survey results.

The restoration offset calculation is provided in Table 5-2.

Table 5-1: Residual Impact Areas

Attributes and Inputs	Residual Impact Calculation			Total Native Vegetation Clearing
	EWTEC (ha)	Carnaby's cockatoo Breeding (ha)	MNES Habitat (ha) (Red tailed phascogale, supporting CBC habitat and EWTEC)	
Area of Impact	5.98	55.64 ^a	55.64 ^a	61.62 ha (inclusive of 5.98 ha of EWTEC, 68 hollow bearing potential CBC nesting trees and Red-tailed phascogale habitat), 49.97 ha of which represents native vegetation and 11.65 ha planted vegetation
Quality scale ^b	3	7	7	
Quantum of Impact (Adjusted Hectares)	1.79 ha	68 hollow bearing trees	43.13 ha	

a: Carnaby's cockatoo breeding, and Red-tailed phascogale breeding and foraging habitat

b: quality based on Terrestrial Ecosystems (2026) Basic and Targeted Vertebrate Fauna Survey and Risk Assessment - Katanning Gold Project. June and EPBC Referral Att 12 - Mapped Vegetation Types (Mattiske 2026).

Table 5-2: Restoration Offset Calculation

Offset Scenario	
Attributes and Inputs	100% Restoration
EWTEC (community)	
Risk related time horizon (Years)	20
Time until ecological benefit (Years)	15
Start quality (0-10)	1
Future quality without offset (0-10)	1
Future quality with offset (1-10)	7
Risk of loss without offset (%)	10
Risk of loss with offset (%)	0
Confidence in result (avg %)	80
Proposed Offset area (ha)*	10 ha
% of impact offset (minimum required is 90%)	98.14
MNES critical habitat for RTPHAS and CBC	
Risk related time horizon (Years)	20
Time until ecological benefit (Years)	15
Start quality (0-10)	1

Offset Scenario	
Future quality without offset (0-10)	1
Future quality with offset (1-10)	7
Risk of loss without offset (%)	10
Risk of loss with offset (%)	1
Confidence in result (avg %)	80
Proposed Offset area (ha)*	85 ha
% of impact offset (minimum required is 90%)	102.06
CBC breeding	
Number of potential breeding trees impacted	68
Time horizon	20
Start value (0-10)	0
Future value without offset (0-10)	0
Future value with offset (1-10)	8
Risk of loss with offset	1%
Confidence in result (avg)	80%
Proposed Offset	206 nesting hollows – 3:1 ratio
Ausgold proposes to restore 95 hectares of freehold agricultural land, with the inclusion of 206 cockatubes in State reserves and, if required, remnant vegetation on private land protected by conservation covenants.	

5.1.1.1 Quality

The quality score for *area of habitat* or *area of community* is a measure of how well a particular site supports a particular threatened species or ecological community and contributes to its ongoing viability. There are three components that contribute to the calculation of habitat quality: site condition, site context, and species stocking rates.

With reference to the BOA, the start quality of one represents the current status of cleared/degraded land. The site context with reference to pre-European vegetation assemblage and soil type is representative of the habitat values to be offset.

5.1.1.2 Time over which loss is averted

The time over which loss is averted is the foreseeable timeframe (in years) over which changes in the level of risk to a proposed offset site can be considered and quantified. That is, it is the time that any measures for securing a site for conservation purposes, such as conservation covenants on title, are intended to last. Longer time frames are valued more highly than shorter time frames. The number (of years) should be the duration of the risk mitigation actions to be taken, or 20 years, whichever is shorter.

This component is connected to the risk of loss (%) with, and without the proposed offset as it defines the time over which these risks are estimated.

The time over which loss is averted by the BOA has been conservatively considered to be 20 years, given the restoration objectives of the BOA.

5.1.1.3 Time until ecological benefit

The *time until ecological benefit* is the estimated time (in years) that it will take for the habitat quality improvement of the proposed offset to be realised.

With respect to the BOA, 15 years has been indicatively assumed as the time until ecological benefit for restoration of EWTEC and 5 years for establishment and colonisation of cockatubes.

5.1.1.4 Risk of loss (%)

The *risk of loss* is a percentage figure that describes the chance that the habitat on the proposed offset site will be completely lost (i.e. no longer hold any value for the protected matter) over the foreseeable future (either the life of the offset or 20 years, whichever is shorter).

There are a number of factors that could influence the *risk of loss* of a site, including:

- Presence and strength of formal protection mechanisms currently in place on the proposed;
- Site (e.g. zoning, restrictive covenants or state vegetation clearing laws);
- Presence of pending development applications, mining leases or other activities on the proposed offset site that indicate development intent and likelihood; and
- Average risk of loss for similar sites.

The current zoning of the offset property is Rural. The BOA is proposed to be placed under a conservation covenant, representing formal legal protection of the offset into the future.

5.1.1.5 Confidence in result (%)

The *confidence in result* is a percentage figure that describes the level of certainty about the success of the proposed offset. Proposed offset actions that are designed to have a lower risk of failure should have a higher confidence in result score.

6 Offset Strategy

6.1 Objective

The restoration objectives of the BOA form the foundation of this Biodiversity Offset Strategy (BOS). The proposed management and rehabilitation strategies are designed to achieve these objectives restoring and enhancing key habitat values. Upon in principal agreement with this BOS, performance indicators and completion criteria will be further delineated within an Offset Management Plan. These will be used to evaluate the success of the BOA in delivering measurable conservation outcomes.

The offset strategy aims to maintain and improve habitat values within the BOA through the following objectives:

- Restore and enhance native vegetation and habitat for conservation-significant species and ecological communities across the BOA;
- Improve habitat quality and ecological connectivity within remnant native vegetation in the BOA;
- Revegetate cleared areas to meet defined vegetation structure and species composition criteria that support habitat functionality;
- Facilitate landscape-scale connectivity between BOA vegetation and adjacent areas within the Woorgabup, Rifle Range Nature Reserve and private property to the south; and
- Cede the BOA to the conservation covenanted freehold tenure, ensuring long-term protection of habitat values and ecological integrity.

The following habitat types and associated species/ecological communities have been identified as significant under the EP Act and/or the EPBC Act, and are the focus of this offset strategy:

- Carnaby's black cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*) – Foraging and nesting habitat (*Endangered* EPBC Act and BC Act);
- Red-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale calura*) – Nesting and foraging habitat (*Vulnerable* EPBC Act and BC Act); and
- Eucalyptus Wheatbelt Woodland TEC – *Endangered* (EPBC Act); *Priority 3* (BC Act).

These values are summarised in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1: MNES Identified in Katanning Gold Project s38 Referral

Matter of National Environmental Significance	EPBC Act Status	Flora, Fauna or Vegetation Community	Likelihood
Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt	En	Vegetation Community	Known
Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (<i>Zanda latirostris</i> listed as <i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>)	En	Fauna	Known
Curlew Sandpiper (<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>)	Cr	Fauna	May

Matter of National Environmental Significance	EPBC Act Status	Flora, Fauna or Vegetation Community	Likelihood
Malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>)	Vu	Fauna	Likely
Southern Whiteface (<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>)	Vu	Fauna	May
Grey Falcon (<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>)	Vu	Fauna	May
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (<i>Calidris acuminata</i>)	Vu	Fauna	May
Chuditch, Western Quoll (<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>)	Vu	Fauna	May
Numbat (<i>Myrmecobius fasciatus</i>)	En	Fauna	May
Red-tailed Phascogale (<i>Phascogale calura</i>)	Vu	Fauna	Known
Woolly Wattle (<i>Acacia lanuginophylla</i>)	En	Fauna	May
Spiky Adenanthos (<i>Adenanthos pungens</i> subsp. <i>pungens</i>)	Vu	Fauna	May
Saltmat (<i>Roycea pycnophylloides</i>)	En	Fauna	Likely

7 Biodiversity Offset Options Desktop Assessment

The Proponent owns several hundred hectares of freehold property adjacent to the KGP, which is predominantly comprised of cleared farmland, with some remnant vegetation. The freehold lots which could provide BOAs are located in two separate locations, one being west of the KGP and one to the east. The western area adjoins the Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve R12423 to the north and is in close proximity to other known patches of EWTEC, including Woorgabup Nature Reserve R24072. A desktop assessment of these potential Biodiversity Offset Areas (BOAs) is undertaken in this Section, including an options analysis (Section 8).

The prospective offset options are comprised of the following Lots; they are divided into an Eastern and Western option:

Eastern Option

- Lot 7628 on Deposited Plan 145952;
- Lot 2322 on Deposited Plan 113648; and
- Lot 1337 on Deposited Plan 104415.

Western Option

- Lot 7525 on Deposited Plan 145572;
- Lot 7533 on Deposited Plan 145687;
- Lot 1347 on Deposited Plan 104560;
- Lot 5324 on Deposited Plan 130276;
- Lot 1348 on Deposited Plan 104688; and
- Lot 1349 on Deposited Plan 104561;

7.1 IBRA Region

The Katanning Subregion (AVW02) forms part of the Avon Wheatbelt Bioregion in WA, covering approximately 2,992,929 ha. This landscape is characterized by higher rainfall and greater population density compared to other Avon Wheatbelt areas, with a rapidly increasing population and town economies strongly influenced by service industries. Land use is dominated by agriculture. The location of the BOA options within the IBRA subregion is illustrated on Figure 7-1.

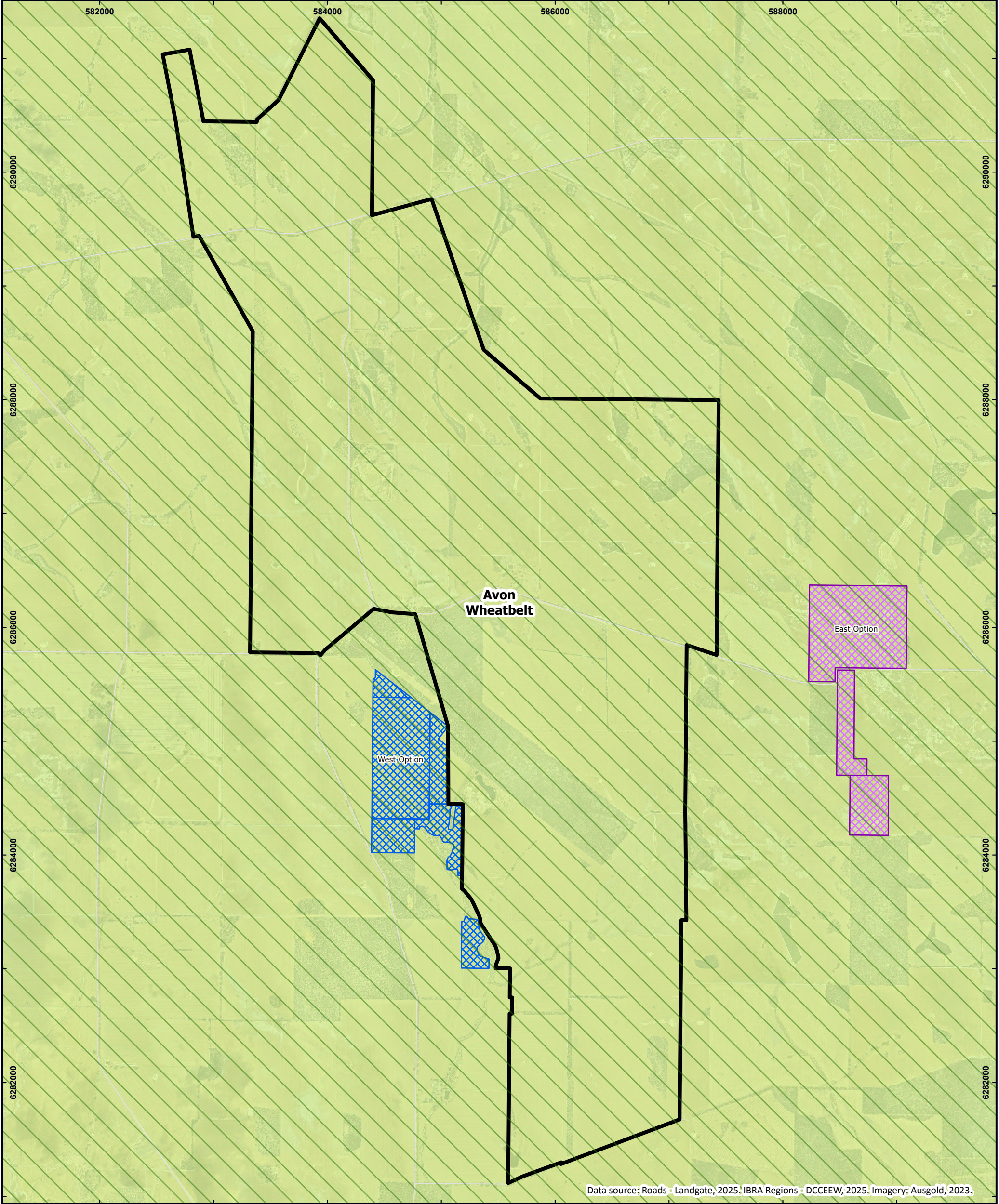
Ecologically, the Katanning subregion has undergone extensive historical clearing, leaving only 9% native vegetation and 9% of remnant patches >10 ha. Salinity affects approximately 4% of the area, though largely stabilized except in eastern marginal catchments. The Katanning subregion has ongoing challenges including soil acidity, and water quality (Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management (Wheatbelt NRM), 2015).

Key Pressures and Trends:

- Ongoing water quality issues affecting downstream river systems;
- Soil acidity and nutrient management remain critical challenges; and
- Salinity stabilization achieved in most areas, but vigilance required in marginal catchments.

Management Priorities

- Maintain and improve land use planning to manage urban expansion;
- Address soil acidity and nutrient runoff to protect water quality;
- Enhance biodiversity conservation in remaining native vegetation patches; and
- Support alternative industries to diversify economic base (Wheatbelt NRM, 2015).



LEGEND

- Mine Development Envelope
- Proposed Offset Blocks**
 - East Option
 - West Option
- IBRA Regions**
 - Avon Wheatbelt
- IBRA Sub-Regions**
 - Katanning
- Western Australian Roads**
 - Minor Road

LOCALITY

0 100 200 300 km

IBRA REGIONS

Katanning Gold Project
Offsets Strategy
Ausgold Limited

Prepared: EJ/PA
Reviewed: RM
Project: TE25093
Revision: A
Date: 21/04/2026

Figure 7-1

© Talis Consultants Pty Ltd ("Talis"). Copyright in the drawings, information and data recorded in this document ("the information") is the property of Talis. This document and the information are solely for the use of the authorised recipient and this document may not be used, transferred or reproduced in whole or part for any purpose other than that which it is supplied by Talis without written consent. Talis makes no representation, undertakes no duty and accepts no responsibility to any third party who may use or rely upon this document or the information.

7.2 Pre-European vegetation

There is only one pre-European vegetation system mapped by DPIRD (2019), which comprises Eucalypt woodland (Table 7-1 and Figure 7-2).

Table 7-1: Pre-European Vegetation System

Pre-European Vegetation	
System	DUMBLEYUNG
System Association	DUMBLEYUNG_1092
System Assoc. Code	1092
Map Unit ID	80101466
Beard Veg. Association	1092
Structure Description	Woodland other
Floristic Description	Wheatbelt; York gum, Salmon gum etc. <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> , <i>E. salmonophloia</i> .

7.2.1 Beard Floristic Description

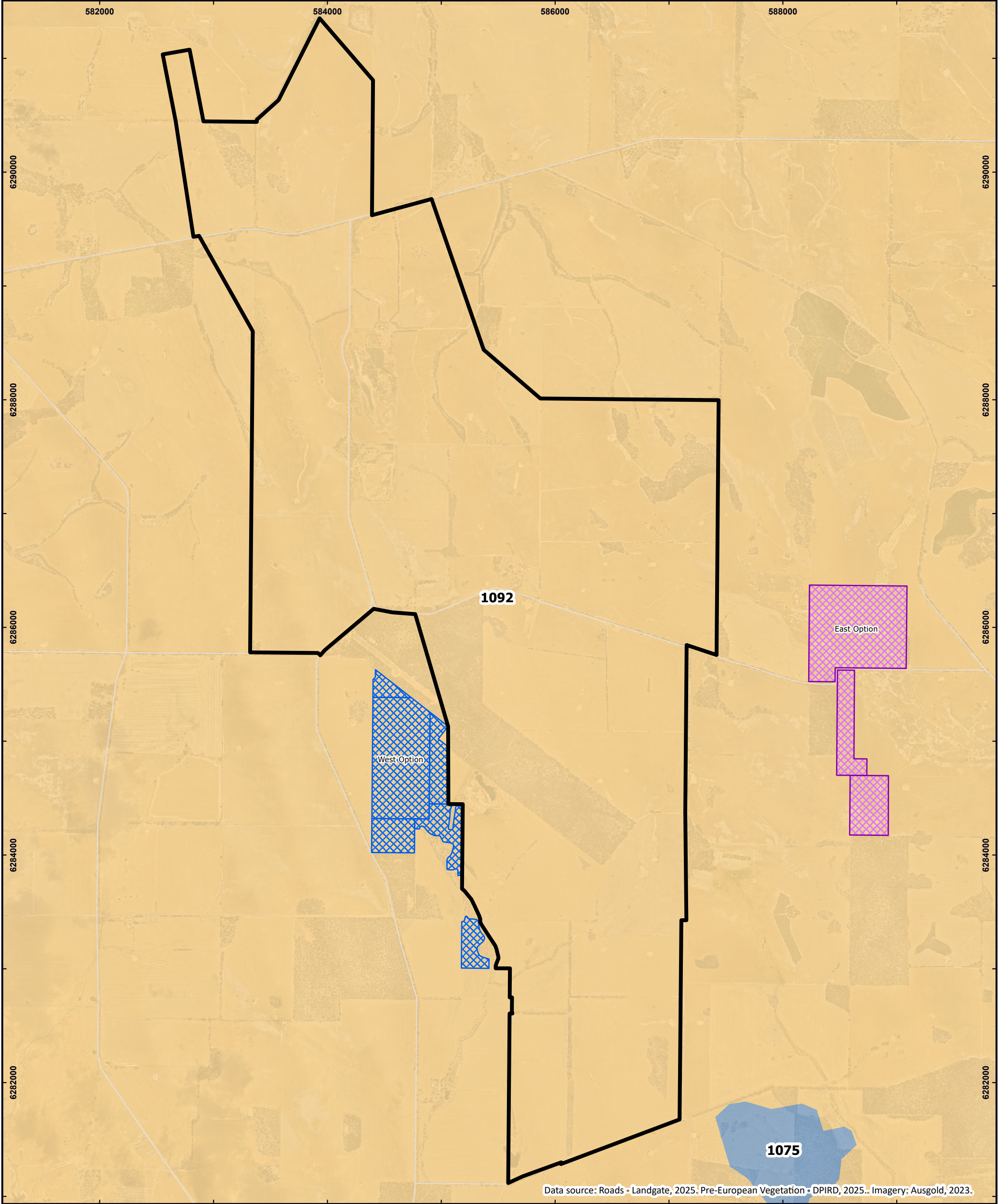
The Broomehill Vegetation System is the most prominent vegetation system within the Shire of Katanning, extending east from Katanning to Lake Ewlyamartup and south to Peringillup. This system occupies a plateau forming an almost flat to gently undulating plain with heavy soils prone to seasonal inundation. Historically, the area was entirely covered by woodland vegetation, which has since been largely cleared for agriculture (BMJ Hussey *et al.*, n.d.).

The original vegetation was dominated by blue mallet (*Eucalyptus gardneri*), often associated with wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*), forming the bulk of the woodland population. Brown mallet (*Eucalyptus astringens*) becomes abundant alongside blue mallet on lateritic rises, while York gum (*Eucalyptus loxophleba*) replaces blue mallet in more dissected and undulating terrain. Other species include swamp yate (*Eucalyptus occidentalis*), Red Morrel (*Eucalyptus longicornis*), and less commonly Salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*). Smaller trees and shrubs typical of the system include jam (*Acacia acuminata*), manna wattle (*Acacia microbotrya*), rock sheoak (*Allocasuarina huegeliana*), needle tree (*Hakea preissii*), and skirted grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea reflexa*) (Beard, 1980b).

The Broomehill Vegetation System is characterised by a mosaic of woodland types, including:

- Wandoo woodland on laterite residuals;
- York gum and wandoo woodland on undulating country; and
- York gum and flat-topped yate woodland on sandy patches.

Although extensively cleared for farming, remnants of these communities persist, particularly along sections of the Carrolup River, where sandy deposits support diverse plant assemblages. These remnants are ecologically significant for maintaining biodiversity and habitat connectivity within the Wheatbelt landscape (Shaun B. Grein, 1994).



Data source: Roads - Landgate, 2025. Pre-European Vegetation - DPIRD, 2025.. Imagery: Ausgold, 2023.

LEGEND

Mine Development Envelope

Proposed Offset Blocks

East Option

West Option

Pre-European Vegetation

1075: Mallee

1092: Woodland other

Western Australian Roads

Minor Road

LOCALITY

0100200300

km

PRE-EUROPEAN VEGETATION

Katanning Gold Project

Offsets Strategy

Ausgold Limited

02505007501,000

m

Scale @ A3: 1:32,000

Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 50

Prepared: EJ/PA

Reviewed: RM

Project: TE25093

Revision: A

Date: 21/04/2026

Figure 7-2

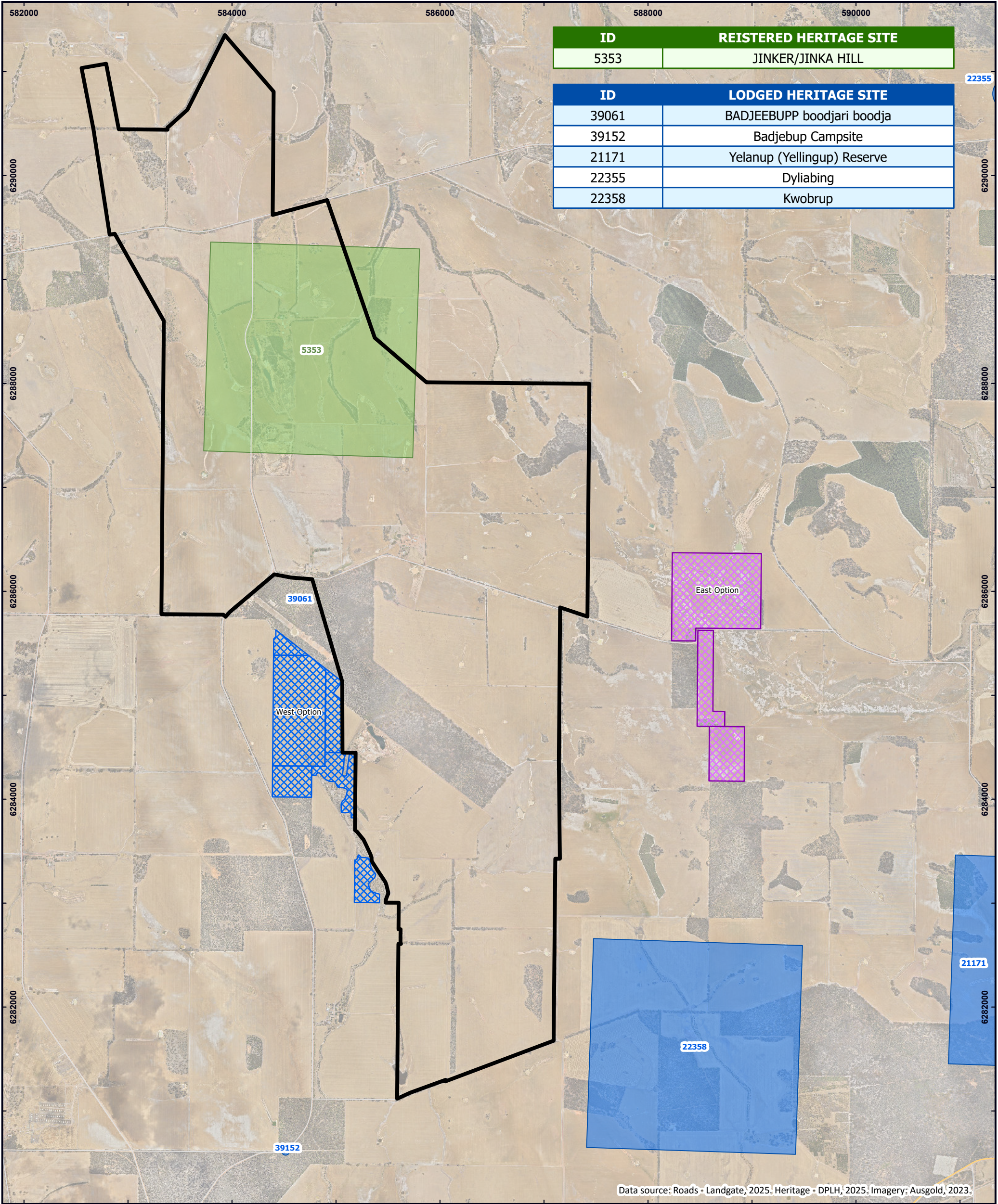
Document Path: \\server\\talis\\SECTIONS\\Environment\\Projects\\TE2025\\TE25093 - Ausgold Offsets Strategy\\GIS\\Maps\\TE25093 - Ausgold Offset Strategy.aprx

7.3 Aboriginal Heritage

A search conducted on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System showed there are no aboriginal heritage sites known to occur within the proposed BOA Options. The results of this search are shown on Figure 7-3.

7.4 Heritage

A search of the InHerit Database identified multiple heritage sites in the Shire of Katanning; however, none of these sites are seen to be in close proximity to the proposed BOA options.



LEGEND

Mine Development Envelope

Proposed Offset Blocks

East Option

West Option

Aboriginal Heritage

Lodged Places

Registered Places

Western Australian Roads

Main Road

Minor Road

LOCALITY

0 100 200 300 km

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

Katanning Gold Project

Offsets Strategy

Ausgold Limited

Prepared: EJ/PA

Reviewed: RM

Project: TE25093

Revision: A

Date: 21/04/2026

Figure 7-3

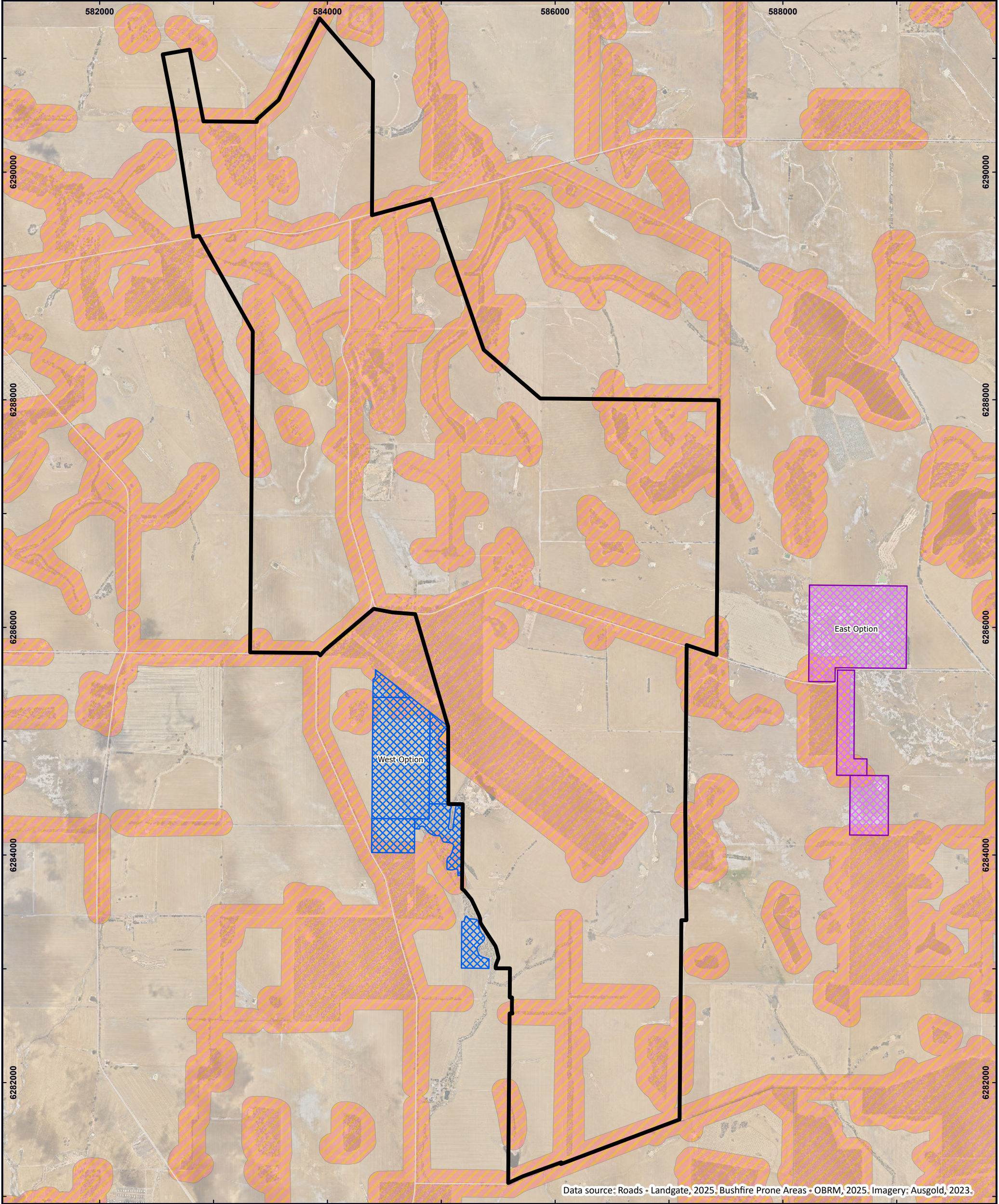
Document Path: \\server\\talis\\SECTIONS\\Environment\\Projects\\TE2025\\TE25093 - Ausgold Offsets Strategy\\GIS\\Maps\\TE25093 - Ausgold Offset Strategy.aprx

7.5 Bushfire

The Great Southern region of WA is characterised by intense bushfire seasons, and the prevailing land use in Katanning creates conditions conducive to fast-spreading grass fires. Bushfire-prone mapping for the area is shown in Figure 7-4. Consequently, Katanning has experienced multiple bushfire events since its establishment. Despite this, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) bushfire history data indicate that the Wurgubup Rifle range and Woorgabup Nature Reserves remain long unburnt. The DBCA fire history for the area is shown in Figure 7-5. This contributes directly to their current ecological condition and their capacity to provide breeding habitat for species such as the Carnaby's cockatoo and Red-tailed phascogale. This context underscores the importance of comprehensive fire management planning and preparedness measures within the Project Area to mitigate risks to biodiversity, infrastructure, and community safety.

Traditional ecological knowledge also informs fire management practices. For example, the Ngadju people in the Great Western Woodland did not burn old-growth woodlands of Gimlet or Salmon gum, as these species can take centuries to fully recover (DCCEEW, 2021). Certain plant species, such as chenopod shrubs, act as natural fire retardants due to their high salt content, slowing fire spread where they are abundant. Additional factors contributing to low flammability in the Wheatbelt include slow litter accumulation, patchy litter distribution, and sandy substrate bare spaces (DCCEEW, 2021).

Conversely, conditions that promote fire occur in degraded areas, or areas heavily impacted by anthropogenic influences causing weed invasion, particularly the establishment of dense swards of exotic grasses, can significantly increase fuel loads, enabling fire to spread rapidly through patches and into tree canopies (Wheatbelt NRM, 2014a). Fire frequency is a critical consideration alongside intensity and seasonality. Excessively frequent fires can eliminate sensitive species; obligate seeders that rely on fire to stimulate germination may fail to regenerate if recurrent fires kill plants before seed maturation. Fauna such as the Malleefowl and Red-tailed phascogale may also decline due to the loss of food and shelter resources following frequent fires. Furthermore, several Wheatbelt woodland tree species with smooth bark—such as Salmon gum, Gimlet, Wandoo, and members of the mallet group—are highly fire-sensitive and can be killed even by low-intensity scorch fires (DCCEEW, 2021).



Data source: Roads - Landgate, 2025. Bushfire Prone Areas - OBRM, 2025. Imagery: Ausgold, 2023.

LEGEND

- Mine Development Envelope
- Bushfire Prone Areas (Current)
- Proposed Offset Blocks**
 - East Option
 - West Option
- Western Australian Roads**
 - Minor Road

LOCALITY

0 100 200 300 km

BUSHFIRE PRONE AREAS

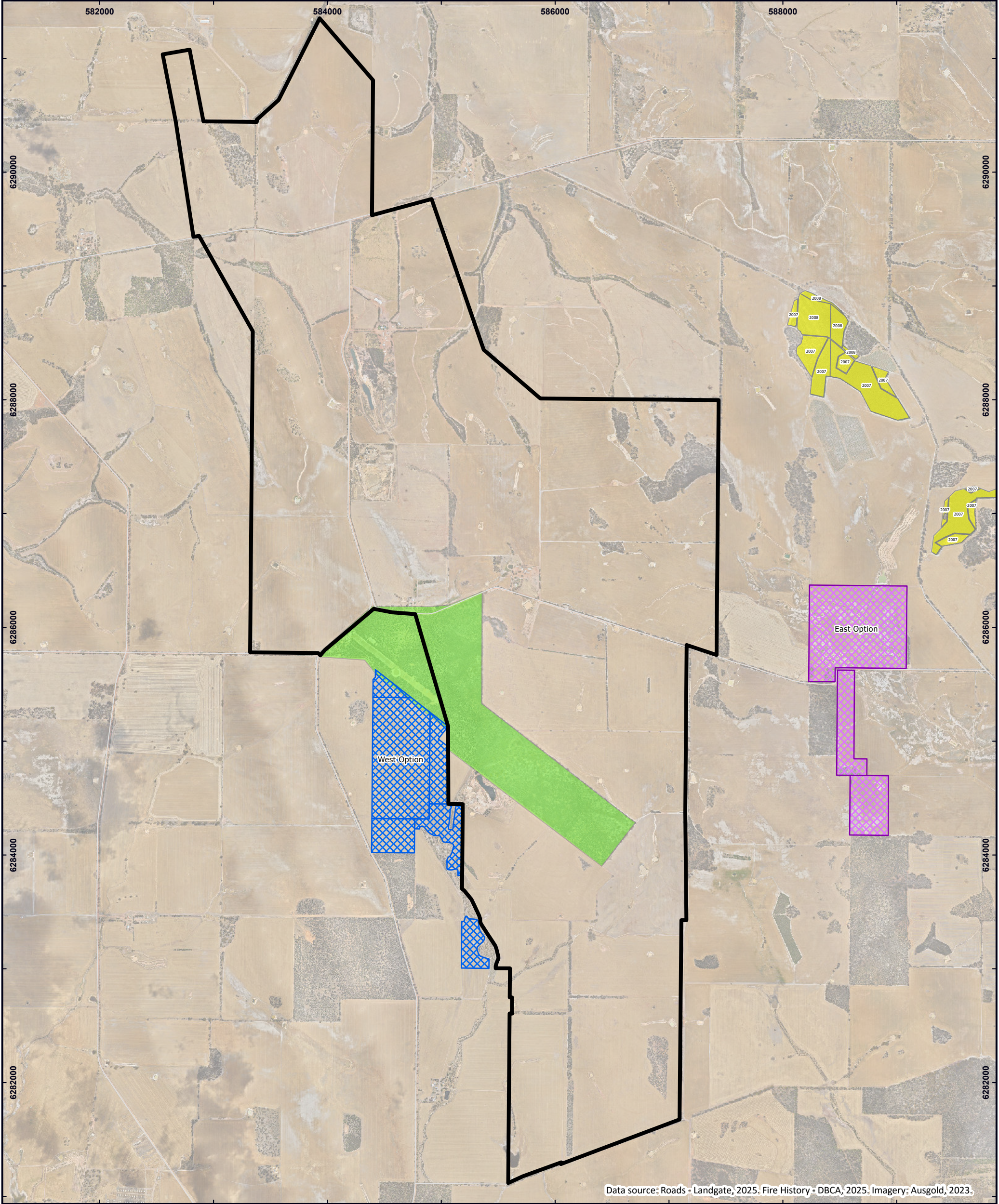
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Reviewed: RM
Project: TE25093
Revision: A
Date: 21/04/2026

Figure 7-4

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LEGEND

Mine Development Envelope

Proposed Offset Blocks

East Option

West Option

Rifle Range & Woorgabup Nature Reserve

DBCA Fire History

Prescribed Burn

Western Australian Roads

Minor Road

LOCALITY



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BUSHFIRE HISTORY

Katanning Gold Project

Offsets Strategy

Ausgold Limited



Scale @ A3: 1:32,000
Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 50

Prepared: EJ/PA

Reviewed: RM

Project: TE25093

Revision: A Figure 7-5

Date: 21/04/2026



7.6 Acid Sulphate Soils

A desktop assessment conducted using the Australian Soil Resource Information System (ASRIS) indicates that the majority of the offset area is classified as B4 Low Probability/Very Low Confidence of Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS). This classification suggests minimal risk of acid sulphate soil-related impacts across the site. The lithologies and regoliths at and around the site are well studied by Ausgold.

7.7 Hydrology

The proposed BOA options lie within Hydrological Zone HZ11_SWAD, known as the South-western Zone of Ancient Drainage. This zone is characterised by an ancient plain of low relief formed on weathered granites, with sluggish drainage systems and lateritic uplands dominated by grey sandy gravel plains. Vegetation is primarily Proteaceous species, adapted to nutrient-poor soils.

The subregion falls within the Blackwood River Basin (part of the South-West Division, and includes the Hardy Estuary – Coblinine River catchment. Sub catchment management is divided between Upper Blackwood and Outer Blackwood/Coblinine areas. The hydrological setting for the BOA is shown on Figure 7-6.

Hydrological processes are influenced by low-gradient terrain, resulting in slow water movement and vulnerability to nutrient accumulation, which contributes to water quality problems in downstream systems such as the Avon and Swan Rivers. Effective management requires integrated approaches addressing land use planning, salinity stabilization, and nutrient load reduction to protect riverine and estuarine ecosystems.

7.8 Hydrogeology

Groundwater within the Proposal area occurs in a multi-layered system that reflects the underlying geological profile. Three principal aquifer units are recognised:

- Superficial aquifers; comprising colluvial and alluvial deposits within the regolith. These host shallow groundwater that is variably connected to surface drainage and are generally unconfined to semi-confined.
- Weathered rock aquifers; corresponding to the saprolitic and lateritic zones developed at the top of the bedrock. Groundwater is stored within fine-grained pore spaces and minor secondary fractures, typically forming low-permeability, semi-confined systems.
- Fractured rock aquifers; comprising fractured gneiss and greenstone units that provide the main transmissive pathways for groundwater flow and potential dewatering inflows. Hydraulic conductivity is controlled primarily by the density and orientation of faults, joints, and dykes.
- Groundwater levels across the project area range from about 19 m below ground level (bgl) to up to ground level (agl), with elevations between 265 m and 360 m AHD. Levels are highest near Jinkas Pit on a topographic high and lowest near the surface-water tributaries draining toward Lake Dumbleyung; and
- The regional groundwater flow is radial and outward from the higher topography of the project area toward these lower-lying discharge zones (Rockwater, 2025).

The regional hydrological setting is shown on Figure 7-7.

Data source: Roads - Landgate, 2025. Hydrogeology - Geoscience Australia, 2025. Imagery: Augold, 2023.

Prepared:	EJ/PA
Reviewed:	RM
Project:	TE25093
Revision:	A
Date:	21/04/2026

7.9 Geology

7.9.1 Regional Geology

The proposed BOA options are situated within the Yilgarn Craton, specifically in the Youanmi Terrane, near the boundary of the South-West Terrane (formerly Western Gneiss Terrane). Following the Southwest Accelerated Geoscience Program (2021), the Geological Survey of Western Australia (GSWA) subdivided this region into crustal domains, with the tenement falling within the Corrigin Tectonic Zone (CTZ). The CTZ is bounded to the west by a reinterpreted terrane-bounding fault and is characterized by granulite facies metasedimentary rocks, high-grade granitic gneisses, and interlayered ortho- and paragneisses, enclosed within extensive migmatite and granitoid complexes (Heseldell *et al.*, 2025).

Structural features include moderately to steeply northeast-dipping foliations, abundant tight to isoclinal folds (predominantly west-verging), and regional-scale asymmetric boudins indicating sinistral shear sense. Deformation is interpreted as partitioned into northeast-dipping thrusts and northwest-striking sinistral shear zones, formed between 2665–2635 Ma (Ausgold, 2023).

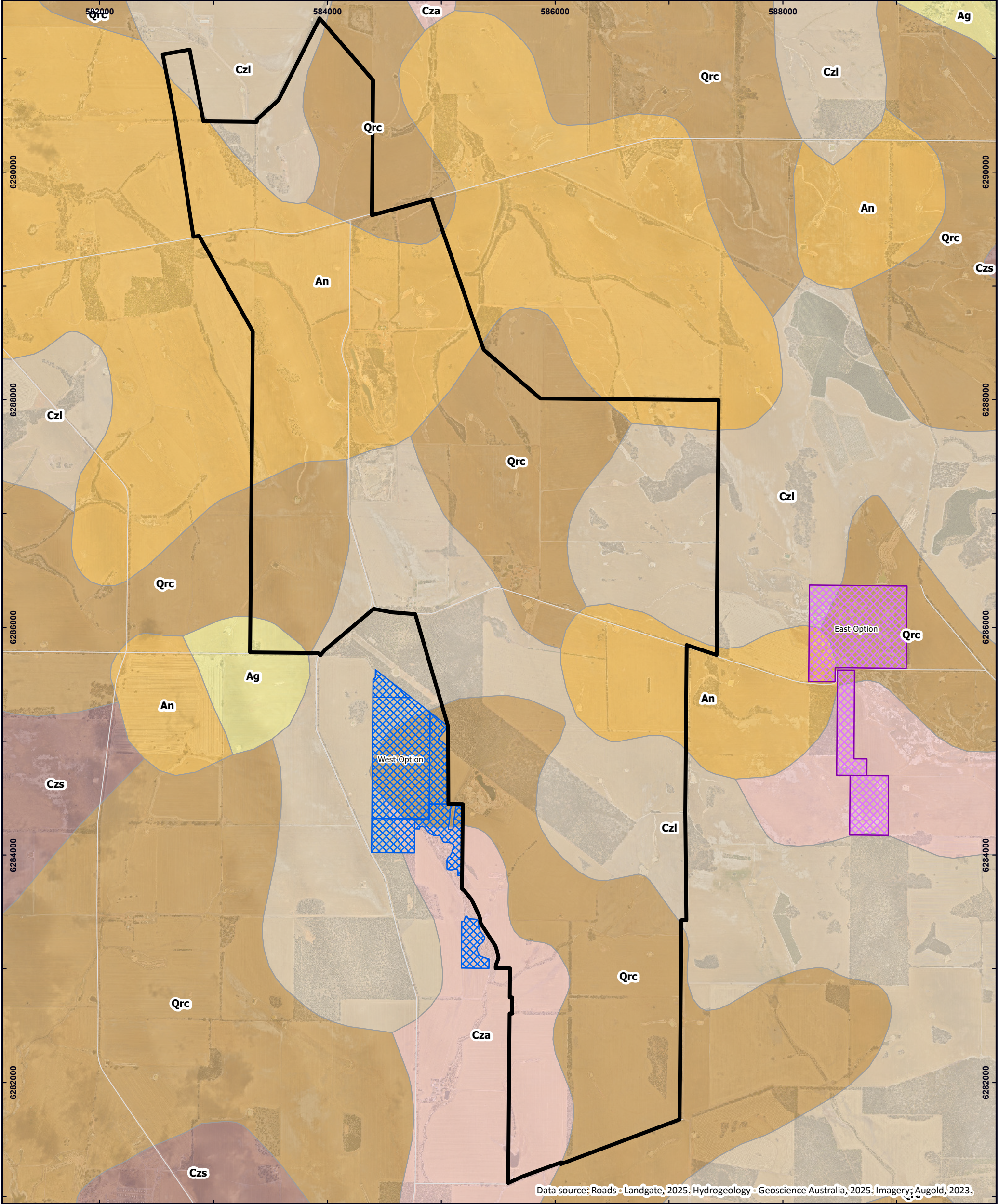
GSWA mapping (1985) indicates the BOA is largely covered by regolith units, including:

- Residual laterite (Czl);
- Reworked sandplain (Czs);
- Colluvium (Qrc); and
- Alluvium (Cza, Qa) in broad valleys.

The underlying geology, based on GSWA Pre-Mesozoic interpretation, comprises Youanmi Greenstones, likely consisting of quartz–garnet and biotite gneissic lithologies, hosting large granite intrusions, and cut by multiple stages of dolerite dykes. The regional geological setting is shown on Figure 7-8.

7.9.2 Local Geology

The ground below the Shire of Katanning, located on the Yilgarn Block, is composed of ancient granites and gneisses. External drainage consists of low-gradient salt lake channels, active only during periods of above-average rainfall. Hilltops are capped with Tertiary laterite (ironstone gravel). The main drainage feature, Katanning Creek, forms part of an ancient drainage system where sand, silt, and clay were deposited in broad valley flats and later reworked by present drainage. Colluvial material dominates the catchment, with minor alluvial deposits along drainage lines. Dolerite dykes are present and mapped in the western and southwestern catchment areas (Shaun B. Grein, 1994).



Data source: Roads - Landgate, 2025. Hydrogeology - Geoscience Australia, 2025. Imagery: Augold, 2023.

LEGEND

— Mine Development Envelope

Proposed Offset Blocks

East Option

West Option

Surface Geology (GA)

Ag: Undifferentiated felsic intrusive rocks, including monzogranite, granodiorite, granite, tonalite, quartz monzonite, syenogranite, diorite, monzodiorite, pegmatite. Locally metamorphosed, foliated, gneissic. Local abundant mafic and ultramafic inclusions

An: Banded granitic gneiss (monzogranitic to granodioritic), quartzofeldspathic gneiss with mafic bands, migmatite, granofels, mafic and felsic granulites, hypersthene-plagioclase-quartz granulite; schist, pelitic or mafic granofels

Czl: Ferruginous duricrust, laterite; pisolitic, nodular, vuggy; may include massive to pisolitic ferruginous subsoil, mottled clays, magnesite, reworked products of ferruginous and siliceous duricrusts, calcrete, gossan; residual ferruginous saprolite

Czs: Sand or gravel plains; may include some residual alluvium; quartz sand sheets commonly with ferruginous pisoliths or pebbles; local clay, calcrete, laterite, silcrete, silt, colluvium

Cza: Reworked or incised alluvium in older stream channels; alluvial terraces above younger alluvium; alluvial and colluvial outwash deposits not in defined channel systems; lateritised alluvium; sand, silt, gravel, clay, evaporites

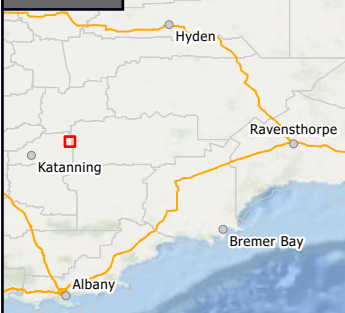
Qrc: Colluvium and/or residual deposits, sheetwash, talus, scree; boulder, gravel, sand; may include minor alluvial or sand plain deposits, local calcrete and reworked laterite

Western Australian Roads

Minor Road

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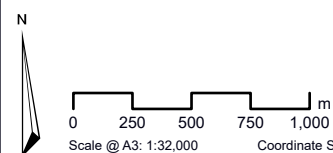


GEOLOGY

Katanning Gold Project

Offsets Strategy

Ausgold Limited



Prepared:	EJ/PA
Reviewed:	RM
Project:	TE25093
Revision:	A Figure 7-8
Date:	21/04/2026



7.10 Soils

Baseline soil sampling is yet to be undertaken and will occur once an offset block location has been formally selected. A desktop analysis of the proposed BOA options indicates that they occur across two primary soil landscape systems:

- East Katanning System; and
- Cobline System.

These systems are further divided into four subsystems:

- East Katanning 1 and East Katanning 2; and
- Cobline 1 and Cobline 2.

The soil landscape systems occurring across the BOA options are shown on Figure 7-9.

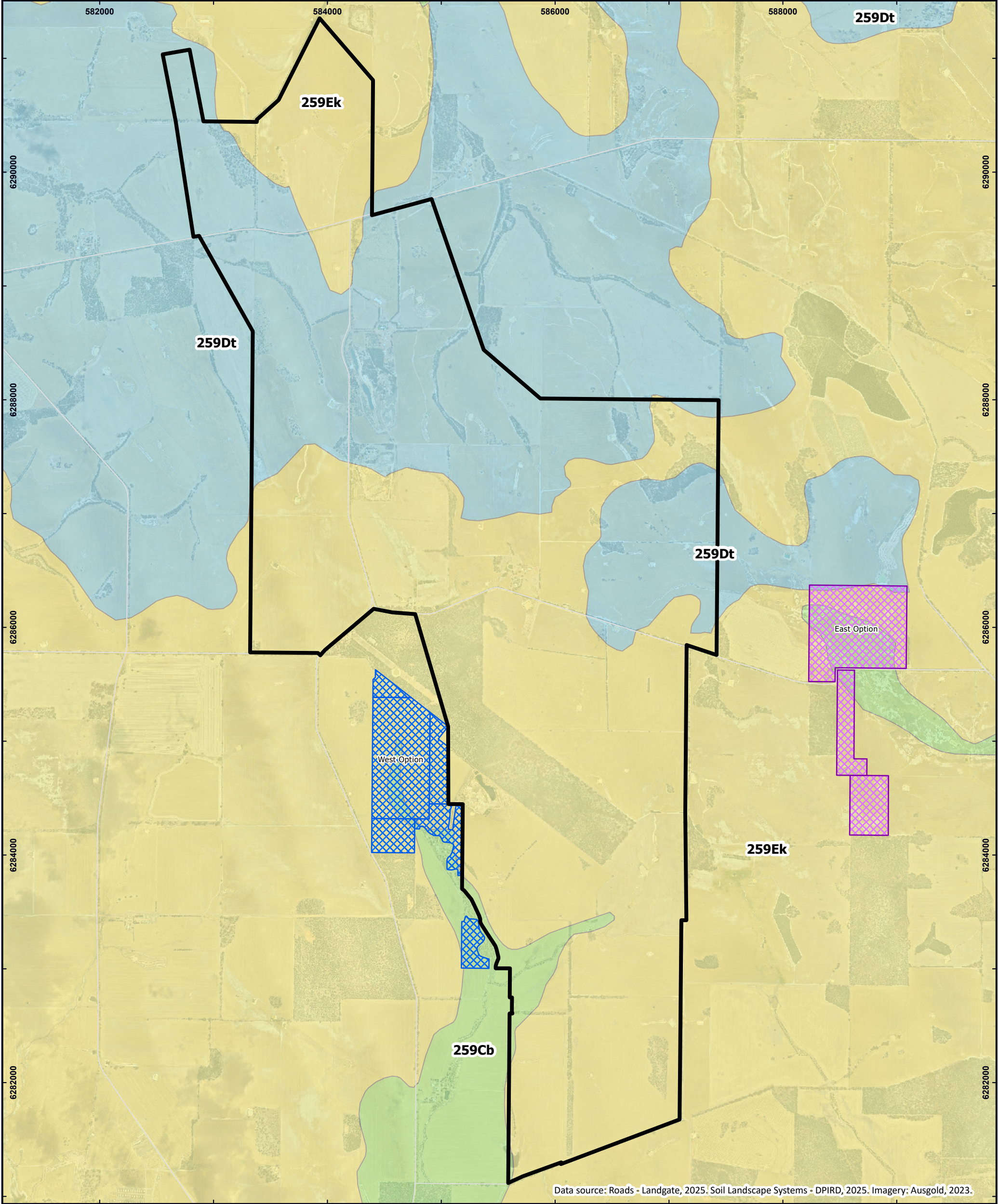
Detailed descriptions of these soil systems and subsystems are provided in Table 7-2 site inspections and baseline sampling will be required to confirm soil characteristics and suitability for restoration activities.

Table 7-2: Soil systems and subsystems

Soil Types & Descriptions		
Lot no.	Soil Zone	
All	Soil-landscape Zone	259
	Unit Name	South-western Zone of Ancient Drainage.
	Summary Description	An ancient plain of low relief on weathered granites with sluggish drainage systems and uplands dominated by sands and gravels. Lateritic uplands dominated by grey sandy gravel plain predominately with Proteaceous species.
17525; 1347; 5324; 7533; 1348; 1349; and 1337.	Soil-landscape Symbol	259Ek
	Unit Name	East Katanning System.
	Summary Description	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 hard setting surfaces Wandoo-sheoak woodland and mallee.
	Soil-landscape Symbol	259Ek_1
	Unit Name	East Katanning 1 subsystem
	Summary Description	Gravelly crests and mid to upper slopes. Mainly deep sandy gravels and shallow gravels with minor areas of duplex sandy gravels, loamy gravels and gravelly pale deep sands
	Soil-landscape Symbol	259Ek_2

Soil Types & Descriptions		
Lot no.	Soil Zone	
	Unit Name	East Katanning 2 subsystem
	Summary Description	Lower to upper slopes and broad hill crests with grey shallow and deep sandy duplex soils, alkaline grey shallow sandy duplex soils and duplex sandy gravels
	Soil-landscape Symbol	259Cb
	Unit Name	Cobline System
	Summary Description	Broad valley floors, with few lakes, in the South-western Zone of Ancient Drainage. Saline wet soils, alkaline grey shallow duplex soils and grey deep sandy duplex soils. Salmon Gum-Wandoo woodland, Mallee scrub and samphire flats.
	Soil-landscape Symbol	259Cb_2
	Unit Name	Cobline 2 subsystem
	Summary Description	Broad valley floors and alluvial plains with significant areas of saline wet soils (30-40%) as well as alkaline grey shallow sandy duplex soils and grey deep sandy duplex soils
7628	Soil-landscape Symbol	259Ek
	Unit Name	East Katanning System
	Summary Description	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 hard setting surfaces Wandoo-sheoak woodland and mallee.
	Soil-landscape Symbol	259Ek_1
	Unit Name	East Katanning 1 subsystem
	Summary Description	Gravelly crests and mid to upper slopes. Mainly deep sandy gravels and shallow gravels with minor areas of duplex sandy gravels, loamy gravels and gravelly pale deep sands
	Soil-landscape Symbol	259Ek_2
	Unit Name	East Katanning 2 subsystem
	Summary Description	Lower to upper slopes and broad hill crests with grey shallow and deep sandy duplex soils, alkaline grey shallow sandy duplex soils and duplex sandy gravels
2322	Soil-landscape Symbol	259Ek

Soil Types & Descriptions		
Lot no.	Soil Zone	
	Unit Name	East Katanning System
	Summary Description	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 hard setting surfaces Wandoo-sheoak woodland and mallee.
	Soil-landscape Symbol	259Cb
	Unit Name	Cobline System
	Summary Description	Broad valley floors, with few lakes, in the South-western Zone of Ancient Drainage. Saline wet soils, alkaline grey shallow duplex soils and grey deep sandy duplex soils. Salmon Gum-Wandoo woodland, Mallee scrub and samphire flats.
2322	Soil-landscape Symbol	259Dt
	Unit Name	Datatine System
	Summary Description	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.



LEGEND

Mine Development Envelope

Proposed Offset Blocks

East Option

West Option

Soil Landscape Mapping

Cobline System (259Cb): Broad valley floors, with few lakes, in the South western Zone of Ancient Drainage. Saline wet soils, alkaline grey shallow duplex soils and grey deep sandy duplex soils. Salmon Gum-Wandoo woodland, Mallee scrub and sapphire flats.

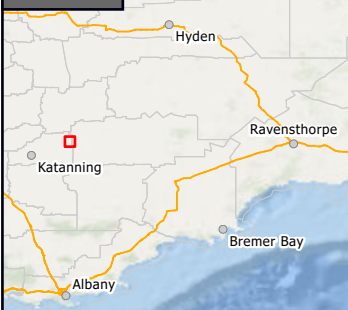
Datatine System (259Dt): Rises and low hills on gneiss and adamellite in the South-western Zone of Ancient Drainage. Red calcareous loamy earths, alkaline red shallow loamy duplex soils and alkaline grey shallow duplex soils. York gum-jam-salmon gum woodland.

East Katanning System (259Ek): 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.

Western Australian Roads

Minor Road

LOCALITY

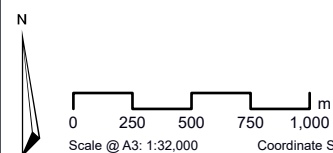


SOIL LANDSCAPE SYSTEMS

Katanning Gold Project

Offsets Strategy

Ausgold Limited



Prepared:	EJ/PA
Reviewed:	RM
Project:	TE25093
Revision:	A
Date:	21/04/2026

Figure 7-9



7.11 Climatic Information

The Katanning area has a Mediterranean-type climate with cool winters and warm to hot summers (Rockwater, 2018). Mean monthly minimum temperatures at the Katanning Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Station (Station 10633) range from 6.7 °C in July and August, to 14.7 °C in February; and mean monthly maximum temperatures range from 16.4 °C in July, to 28.9 °C in January. Average annual rainfall at Katanning is 426.4 mm, with monthly averages ranging from a minimum of 23.3 mm in December to 46.4 mm in July. The monthly and annual averages for temperature and rainfall at the Katanning BOM Station are shown in Table 7-3.

Table 7-3: Climate data for Katanning (BOM Station 10633 – Data retrieved October 2025)

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Annual
Mean Max Temp (°C)	28.9	28.4	26.6	23.7	20.1	17.3	16.4	17.4	19.7	22.5	24.9	27.3	22.8
Mean Min Temp (°C)	14.1	14.7	13.7	11.9	9.6	7.9	6.8	6.7	7.5	9.1	11.0	12.8	10.5
Mean Rainfall (mm)	24.0	26.1	32.5	32.1	43.3	43.2	46.4	45.6	41.3	38.2	30.5	23.3	426.4

7.12 Introduced species

Introduced flora and fauna species as recorded within the Shire of Katanning are shown in Table 7-4. Red Foxes, rabbits and feral cats have been seen on camera traps during fauna surveys (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026). Some of the flora species are inferred as potentially occurring, based off a desktop assessment.

Table 7-4: Introduced Species recorded at KGP

Common Name	Scientific Name
Introduced Fauna Species	
House mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>
Black Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>
Feral Cat	<i>Felis catus</i>
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Introduced Flora Species	
Bridal Creeper	* <i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>
Tagasaste	* <i>Chamaecytisus palmensis</i>
Wild Radish	* <i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>
Wild Turnip	* <i>Brassica tournefortii</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Perennial Veldt Grass	<i>*Ehrharta calycina</i>
Cape Tulip	<i>*Moraea flaccida and Moraea miniata</i>
African Lovegrass	<i>*Eragrostis curvula</i>
Silver Hair-Grass	<i>*Aira caryophyllea</i>
Capeweed	<i>*Arctotheca calendula</i>
-	<i>*Avellinia festucoides</i>
Slender Oat	<i>*Avena barbata</i>
-	<i>*Avena sp.</i>
Quaking Grass	<i>*Briza maxima</i>
Great Brome	<i>*Bromus diandrus</i>
Italian Thistle	<i>*Carduus pycnocephalus</i>
South African Orchid	<i>*Disa bracteata</i>
Annual Veld Grass	<i>*Ehrharta longiflora</i>
Big Herons Bill	<i>*Erodium botrys</i>
Red River Gum	<i>*Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>
Sugar Gum	<i>*Eucalyptus cladocalyx</i>
-	<i>*Frankenia pulverulenta</i>
-	<i>*Hordeum hystrix</i>
Salt Barley Grass	<i>*Hordeum marinum</i>
Flatweed	<i>*Hypochaeris glabra</i>
Flatweed	<i>*Hypochaeris radicata</i>
-	<i>*Lepidium africanum</i>
Perennial Ryegrass	<i>*Lolium perenne</i>
-	<i>*Lolium sp.</i>
Blue Pimpernel	<i>*Lysimachia arvensis</i>
California Burclover	<i>*Medicago polymorpha</i>
-	<i>*Medicago sp.</i>
Angled Ice Plant	<i>*Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum</i>
Evening Primrose	<i>*Oenothera stricta</i>
-	<i>*Orobancha minor</i>
Creeping Oxalis	<i>*Oxalis corniculata</i>
Velvety Pink	<i>*Petrorhagia dubia</i>
-	<i>*Pinus sp.</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Puccinellia	* <i>Puccinellia ciliata</i>
Onion grass	* <i>Romulea rosea</i>
California Peppertree	* <i>Schinus molle</i>
Sowthistle	* <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>
-	* <i>Trifolium angustifolium</i>
Common Wheat	* <i>Triticum aestivum</i>
Marigold	* <i>Ursinia anthemoides</i>
-	* <i>Vulpia muralis</i>
-	* <i>Vulpia myuros</i>
~ was classified as a Weed of National Significance (WONS) by the DoEE (2012) and is also a Declared Pest by the DPIRD <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i> (BAM Act) and is categorised as C3 (Management) (DAFWA, 2016).	
(Roadside Conservation Committee, 2008)	

7.13 Threatened Species

The bushland surrounding Woorgabup Nature Reserve (R24072) and Rifle Range Reserve (R2423, R2425), along with the large remnant vegetation block on M70/1426, provides habitat critical for several conservation-significant species. A previously active Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) nest was recorded, in the Rifle range reserve (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026). and the area supports foraging and roosting sites for this species. These reserves also sustain populations of the Red-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale calura*), listed as Conservation Dependent at the State level and Vulnerable nationally. Occasional observations of the inland form of the Western Rosella (*Platycercus icterotis*) suggest foraging activity and potential breeding in tree hollows.

Surveys conducted by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2026) in Woorgabup Nature and Rifle Range Reserves recorded, 8,396 significant trees, with 740 trees containing hollows suitable for Black Cockatoo nesting. Within a 12 km radius, there is >6,700 ha of high-quality nesting habitat and 360 ha of foraging habitat. These habitats also support Western grey kangaroos (*Macropus fuliginosus*) and Common brush-tailed possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), which would be negatively impacted by vegetation loss (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026).

There are eight mammals of conservation significance that may occur in the study area around the KGP, as listed and discussed below. Historically, species such as Quenda, Woylie, Tammar Wallaby, Numbat, Western mouse and Western ringtail possum occurred in the Avon Wheatbelt Bioregion but are now locally extinct, except where managed populations persist in reserves (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026).

A fauna habitat assessment identified four key habitat types:

- Wandoo woodland;
- York Gum woodland;
- Mallet woodland; and
- Banksia heath.

Seventeen bird species of conservation significance may occur in the study area, excluding species that are locally extinct or outside their current distribution. Two reptiles of local conservation significance—the Reticulated velvet gecko (*Hesperoedura reticulata*) and Carpet python (*Morelia spilota imbricata*)—are also likely to occur, both requiring large, undisturbed bushland patches for survival. No frogs of conservation significance are expected (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026).

A desktop assessment on priority and threatened species was carried out on the Dandjoo database search results and identified the following species outlined in Table 7-5 as possibly occurring in the study area.

Table 7-5: Threatened Species Desktop Assessment Results.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Organism	Listing
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	Bird	Cr
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Bird	En
Hooded Plover	<i>Charadrius cucullatus</i>	Bird	Vu
Carnaby's Black Cockatoo	<i>Zanda latirostris</i>	Bird	En
Fork-tailed Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>	Bird	Mi
Western Rosella (inland form)	<i>Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys</i>	-	P4
Chuditch, Western Quoll	<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>	Mammal	Vu
Numbat	<i>Myrmecobius fasciatus</i>	Mammal	En
Western Ringtail Possum	<i>Pseudocheirus occidentalis</i>	Mammal	En
Red-tailed Phascogale	<i>Phascogale calura</i>	Mammal	Vu
Bluebell	<i>Calectasia obtuse</i>	Plant	En
Gray Acacia	<i>Acacia grisea</i>	Plant	En
-	<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba x wandoo</i>	Plant	En
-	<i>Verticordia coronata</i>	Plant	Vu
-	<i>Banksia parva</i>	Plant	En
-	<i>Grevillea newbeyi</i>	Plant	En

8 BOA Suitability Assessment

An assessment was undertaken to evaluate the suitability of the BOA options against the seven DCCEEW offset principles:

1. Value of restoration;
2. Regional scale management;
3. Building resilience;
4. Expanding research and knowledge;
5. Like-for-like or better replacement;
6. Connectivity; and
7. Co-benefits.

All proposed lots have potential for vegetation restoration works, with several on the west offering opportunities to create ecological linkages with the Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve which adjoins the Woorgabup Nature Reserve. Previous flora and vegetation assessments confirm that these reserves contain large parcels of mapped EWTEC. Revegetation of west option Lots 7525, 1347, 7533 (part), and 5324 provides an area that could reinstate up to approximately 99.24 ha of Threatened species habitat and EWTEC, adjoining existing native vegetation south-west of the MDE. Desktop analysis indicates these lots share similar soil types with adjacent reserves; however, site inspections and baseline sampling are being conducted to confirm suitability. Inclusion of lots (1348 and 1349) also could enhance a local creek and riparian zone, extending the ecological corridor by 34.1 ha, although these narrow parcels don't currently support EWTEC vegetation.

Lots 2322, 1337 and 7628, located east of the development envelope offers a revegetation area of 98.14 ha of restoration potential on Ausgold land (approximately 340 ha ownership) with some connectivity to a DPLH State reserve (bushland; mixed land use) which is unlikely to host EWTEC but is known to contain trees potentially suitable for fauna nesting (like Wurgubup Reserves). Mattiske (2026) mapped patches of degraded - completely degraded native vegetation within these lots, with the vegetation mapped as a combination of Chenopod Shrublands on the lower saline flats within the Ausgold land and Eucalypt Woodlands on clays and sandy loams on slopes and ridges (Mattiske Consulting, 2026). Desktop imagery suggests possible soil salinity which is common on low lying agricultural land around Katanning, however, this will require field verification. The east option, which would salinised land, directs southwards towards and abuts privately-owned bushland on Lot 8313 which hosts remnant native vegetation.

All offset blocks proposed have been summarised in Table 8-1 and both options have been scored against and Multi-criteria Analysis (MCA) rating in Section 8.1.

The availability and suitability of BOA options, each in excess of 100 ha, means that the 95 ha area projected in Table 5-2 to be required for offsets can be exceeded. As a result, we propose that the action with the preferred BOA would be 95ha of biodiverse revegetation.

Table 8-1: BOA Suitability Comparison

Lot No.	Option	Size (ha)	Location	Values
7628	East	17.73	- Shire of Kent 2.8 km from the south east corner of the rifle range reserve; 1.4km from MDE boundary	- Contains a dam that could be enhanced for habitat; - Will adjoin remnant patch to the south-East; - Similar soil system to Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve; and - Provides connectivity to a State reserve on Smith Road.
2322	East	64.85	- Shire of Kent; 880 m from the MDE; 2.3 km from the Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve.	- Signs of erosion and salt scarring on low terrain surfaces; - Does not contain a water source; - Does provide connectivity adjacent to Smith Road State Reserve; - Similar soil system to Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve ; and - Does not contain native vegetation.
1137	East	15.56	- Shire of Kent 2.8 km from the south east corner of the rifle range reserve; 1.3km from MDE boundary	- Will be adjacent to a privately owned naturally vegetated 70ha bushland site to the south east (Lot 8313); - Abutting Lot 8313 would create a long extra linear corridor in the district. - Similar soil system to Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve ; and - Provides connectivity adjacent to Smith Road State Reserve
7533	West	11.36	- Shire of Katanning; - Directly adjacent south of the Wurgubup Rifle Range and Woorgabup Nature Reserve; - On the development envelope boundary, bordering an exclusion zone.	- Extends connectivity of bushland within Wurgubup Reserve Rifle Range and Woorgabup Nature Reserve to the South making a larger habitat polygon; - Similar soil system to Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve; - Can achieve habitat connectivity with blocks to the south and east; and - Does not contain a water source.

Lot No.	Option	Size (ha)	Location	Values
7525	West	4.2	- Shire of Katanning; - Directly adjacent south of the Wurgubup Rifle Range and Woorgabup Nature Reserve; - On the MDE boundary, bordering an exclusion zone.	- Extends connectivity of bushland within Wurgubup Reserve to the South making a larger habitat polygon; - Similar soil system to Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve; - Small size, blocks to the south and East would need to be utilised in addition to achieve connectivity; and - Does not contain a water source.
5324	West	11.26	- Shire of Katanning; 430 m from the development envelope; 1.2 km from the Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve.	- Will create connectivity when combined with lots 7525 and 1347, and extends connectivity of bushland within Wurgubup Reserve to another existing block of native vegetation and a riparian zone comprised of fragmented native vegetation; - Similar soil system to Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve; and - Does not contain a water source.
1349	West	7.73	- Shire of Katanning; 1.3 km from the Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve and the MDE.	- Contains small riparian zone with native vegetation; - Similar soil system to Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve; and - Has potential for connectivity when combined with lots 1348 and 7533.
1348	West	12.18	- Shire of Katanning; 460 m from the MDE and the Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve.	- Contains small riparian zone with native vegetation; - Similar soil system to Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve; - Has a dam that can be enhanced for habitat; - Signs of erosion; and - Has potential for connectivity when combined with lot 7533 and/or 1347.
1347	West	52.52	- Shire of Katanning; - Directly adjacent to the Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve and the MDE.	- Contains a small patch of native vegetation; - Similar soil system to Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve; - Has a dam that can be enhanced for habitat; - Potential to extend bushland adjacent to Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve.

8.1 BOA Options Multi Criteria Analysis

The KGP offset options were assessed against the DCCEEW criteria through an evaluation of the relevant attributes and subsequent scoring using a multi-criteria analysis (MCA). This analysis incorporated consideration of the relative merits of the eastern and western options to identify the option that best satisfies the DCCEEW offset principal requirements and is most feasible for successful implementation of a restoration offset.

The numerical ratings for each DCCEEW principle were assigned through a qualitative MCA framework and then translated into a simple scoring scale to allow comparison between the East and West options. the three-tier scoring system works as follows:

- 2 = Low/below preferred performance: Meets minimum requirement only with constraints, uncertainty, or elevated risk
- 4 = Moderate/adequate performance: Meets policy requirements comfortably but without strong additionality or clear advantage
- 6 = High/strong performance: Exceeds minimum requirements, demonstrates clear additionality, resilience, or strategic benefit

This is a standard MCA approach where qualitative judgments are normalised into evenly spaced scores to allow aggregation (DBCA, 2019 and Infrastructure Australia, 2021)

Table 8-2: MCA Score of BOA options for KGP

DCCEEW Principle	East Rating	Justification – East	West Rating	Justification – West
Principle 1	<i>Suitable offsets must deliver an overall conservation outcome that improves or maintains the viability of the aspect of the environment that is protected by national environment law and affected by the Proposed Action</i>			
Overall conservation outcome	4	Located within a suitable land system and capable of supporting MNES, but ecological connectivity is uncertain due to reliance on privately owned and variably managed adjacent land. Increased erosion and salinity risks reduce likelihood of long-term viability. Requires aggregation with other LOTs to reliably meet outcomes.	6	Appropriately located, capable of supporting MNES, and creates a strong, enduring ecological link to existing conservation estate (Woorgabup and Riffle Range Reserves managed by the state). Lower degradation and stronger landscape context provide clear additionality beyond minimum requirements.
Principle 2	<i>Suitable offsets must be built around direct offsets but may include other compensatory measures</i>			
Direct offsets and compensatory measures	4	Capable of delivering direct offsets only. Opportunities for complementary measures (e.g. water sources) are limited and may require substantial remediation due	6	Delivers direct offsets and provides scope for additional compensatory measures (riparian restoration, dam enhancement) that align

DCCEW Principle	East Rating	Justification – East	West Rating	Justification – West
		to salinity, reducing effectiveness.		with natural hydrology, improving ecological function and resilience.
Principle 3	<i>Suitable offsets must be in proportion to the level of statutory protection that applies to the protected matter</i>			
Proportional to statutory protection	4	Meets proportionality requirements when delineated as a standalone offset area. No clear additionality demonstrated.	4	Meets proportionality requirements as a standalone offset area. Protection outcome aligns well with MNES significance.
Principle 4	<i>Suitable offsets must be of a size and scale proportionate to the residual impacts on the protected matter</i>			
Size and scale proportionate to residual impact	4	Adequate size and scale to address residual impacts, but without surplus capacity or landscape-scale benefit on its own.	4	Adequate size and scale to address residual impacts; benefits are primarily qualitative rather than based on area surplus.
Principle 5	<i>Suitable offsets must effectively account for and manage the risks of the offset not succeeding</i>			
Risk of offset failure	2	Elevated risk profile due to erosion, salinity, and uncertainty around adjoining land tenure and future land use. Success likely dependent on additional land parcels and active management.	6	Lower risk of failure due to better existing condition, proximity to protected land, stronger connectivity, and reduced abiotic constraints. Additionality buffers against partial failure.
Principle 6	<i>Suitable offsets must be additional to what is already required, determined by law or planning regulations or agreed to under other schemes or programs (this does not preclude the recognition of state or territory offsets that may be suitable as offsets under the EPBC Act for the same action)</i>			
Additional to existing requirements	4	Represents a conservation outcome additional to existing legal or planning obligations, but does not clearly exceed minimum expectations.	4	Also, clearly additional to existing requirements; while strong, additionality is accounted for under connectivity rather than legal status.
Principle 7	<i>Suitable offsets must be efficient, effective, timely, transparent, scientifically robust and reasonable</i>			
Efficient, effective, scientifically robust	4	More degraded condition, erosion and sand soil risks, and reduced availability of supporting ecological data; increased cost, time, and	6	Supported by stronger scientific context, proximity to protected EWTEC, and generally better land condition, enabling efficient,

DCCEW Principle	East Rating	Justification – East	West Rating	Justification – West
		uncertainty in achieving offset outcomes.		robust, and defensible offset delivery.
Principle 8	<i>Suitable offsets must have transparent governance arrangements including being able to be readily measured, monitored, audited and enforced.</i>			
Transparent governance	4	Can be measured, monitored, audited, and enforced over the project life if secured appropriately.	4	Equally capable of transparent governance, monitoring, and enforcement mechanisms.
Principle 9	<i>In assessing the suitability of an offset, government decision-making will be informed by scientifically robust information and incorporate the precautionary principle in the absence of scientific certainty.</i>			
Science-based and precautionary	4	Baseline surveys and scientifically sound management can be applied, but precautionary concerns remain due to landscape uncertainty.	4	Baseline surveys and precautionary decision-making equally applicable; landscape context reduces uncertainty rather than increases score.
Principle 10	<i>In assessing the suitability of an offset, government decision-making will be conducted in a consistent and transparent manner.</i>			
Consistent and transparent decision-making	4	Assessment can be undertaken in a consistent and transparent manner.	4	Assessment can be undertaken in a consistent and transparent manner.

Table 8-3: Total MCA Score

Option	Total Score	Overall Suitability
East Option	38 / 60	Meets minimum requirements but largely dependent on aggregation and carries higher implementation risk. Fire risk to KGP and State Reserves is lower than “West”
West Option	48 / 60	Strongly exceeds minimum requirements and provides meaningful landscape-scale additionality. Fire risk to KGP and State Reserves is higher than “East”
Preferred Offset Option	—	West Option

Based on the multi-criteria analysis undertaken against the DCCEE offset principles, both the East and West KGP offset options are capable of meeting minimum policy requirements. However, the West Option demonstrably outperforms the East Option across the majority of principles, achieving a higher overall score. In particular, the West Option provides a stronger and more enduring conservation outcome through its strategic location adjacent to existing State reserves inhabited by mapped TEC, lower inherent risk of offset failure, improved landscape connectivity, and superior ultimate ecological condition. These attributes collectively enhance additionality, robustness, and long-term viability beyond the minimum offset requirements. Conversely, while the East Option meets baseline criteria, its effectiveness is constrained by higher degradation, landscape uncertainty, and reliance on aggregation with additional land parcels to achieve comparable outcomes. Its value is enhanced by direct connectivity into the privately owned bushland (70 ha) on freehold Lot 8313.

In the future, there may be opportunity to be settled with adjoining private landholders with adjoining bushland (either west or east options) to acquire and/or covert those parcels to conservation covenants.

Accordingly, the West Option with an area of 95 hectares is identified as the preferred suitable and adequate offset option, as it best satisfies departmental requirements and represents the most feasible, efficient, and defensible option for successful implementation by the proponent.

9 Habitat Values

9.1 Project Area

The proposed changes from the cleared site at the KGP will result in the clearing of approximately 5.98 ha of EWTEC, listed as Critically Endangered under the EPBC and as Priority 3 in WA. The values of the portion of land to be cleared at the KGP are discussed in Section 4. This Offset Strategy has been developed to appropriately counterbalance significant residual impacts in accordance with Commonwealth and State environmental offset policies.

The primary residual impacts associated with the proposed change relate to the permanent loss of native vegetation and fauna habitat within the Project DF. While rehabilitation will be undertaken at closure to achieve a safe, stable, and vegetated landform consistent with pre-mining conditions where practicable, the landscape will be permanently altered. Offset calculations presented in this strategy account for this permanent loss.

9.2 Preferred Offset Site - West

The Woorgabup Nature Reserve and Wurgubup Rifle Range Nature Reserve contains habitat critical for the Carnaby's black cockatoo and Red-tailed phascogale in addition to being comprised of EWTEC, linking with the six proposed offset blocks and supporting the continuity of biological processes such as floral and faunal succession, movement of less mobile species, and maintenance of genetic diversity. The long-term sustainability of this corridor depends on preserving vegetation in good to excellent condition and ensuring high-quality restoration and protection of proposed offset areas. The location and extent of the proposed offset areas are shown on Figure 9-1 Woorgabup Nature Reserve is recognised as a state managed reserve that provides ecological and biodiversity benefits and contains EWTEC (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026).

The proposed BOA sites are located near mapped listed TEC. The extent of mapped TEC within and surrounding the BOA is shown on Figure 9-2, this includes the EWTEC mapped by Ausgold between 2022 and 2026 (Mattiske Consulting, 2026).

The WA EPA acknowledges restoration offsets as an effective mechanism for achieving nature-positive outcomes, enhancing the resilience of high-value remnants such as the EWTEC. Southwestern WA is an internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot, renowned for its unique flora and fauna, many of which occur nowhere else in the world.

9.3 MNES Specific Activities

9.3.1 Carnaby's Black Cockatoo

To align with DPaW (2013), strategies to provide critical habitat (breeding and foraging) for Carnaby's cockatoos at the BOA will include:

- Implement management to protect and improve the condition of breeding habitat and associated feeding habitat, including activities that:
 - Prevent clearing and loss of breeding and associated feeding habitat;
 - Control grazing (e.g. fencing to exclude stock and control rabbits);
 - Manage fire regimes, salinity, weeds and dieback;

- Promote regeneration and revegetate areas within and adjacent to breeding habitat and associated feeding habitat;
- Prevent further degradation of habitat; and
- Maintain natural and artificial water sources used by cockatoos.
- Replace any loss of feeding habitat and increase the area of feeding habitat near known breeding sites (within 12 km) by regeneration and revegetation with cockatoo feed species;
- Increase hollow availability by reducing the impact of nest competitors (e.g. feral European honeybees, galahs and corellas) and repairing damaged and suboptimal hollows;
- Supplement hollow availability at breeding sites by installing and maintaining artificial nest hollows; and
- Improve the protection of breeding habitat and associated feeding habitat through purchase and transfer of vesting, conservation covenants, or other appropriate means.

9.3.2 Red-tailed Phascogale

The Red-tailed phascogale is listed as Endangered under the EPBC Act, having previously been listed under Schedule 1 of the Endangered Species Protection Act 1992. This species occurs in remnant vegetation within the southern Wheatbelt of WA, from Brookton in the north to Katanning in the south, with sparse records extending west to the Jarrah Forest margin, east to Hyden and Newdegate, and south to Bremer Bay (TSSC, 2016b).

The species persists in landscapes where vegetation has been extensively cleared for agriculture, leaving highly fragmented bushland (TSSC, 2016b).

Major Threats Include:

- Habitat loss and fragmentation due to clearing and salinity;
- Incremental loss of roadside vegetation;
- Inappropriate fire regimes;
- Predation by European Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*);
- Loss of tree hollows, including old-growth paddock trees;
- Drought impacts;
- Regional Priority Actions;
- Habitat protection and restoration;
- Control of introduced predators;
- Fire management; and
- Conservation research and monitoring.

Local Priority Actions:

- Maintain and restore habitat connectivity;
- Predator control programs; and
- Implement appropriate fire regimes.

Relevant Management Plans:

- Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats (DEWHA, 2008a);
- Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by European Red Foxes (DEWHA, 2008b); and
- Red-tailed phascogale Conservation Plan for Wheatbelt Populations (DEC, 2009).

To align with conservation strategies and advice to provide critical habitat (breeding and foraging) for the Red-Tailed phascogale at the BOA will include Implement management to protect and improve the condition of breeding habitat and associated feeding habitat, including activities that:

- Prevent clearing and loss of breeding and associated feeding habitat;
- Control grazing (e.g. fencing to exclude stock and control rabbits);
- Manage threats such as fire regimes, salinity, weeds and dieback;
- Promote regeneration and revegetate areas within and adjacent to breeding habitat and associated feeding habitat;
- Mitigate and reduce habitat fragmentation; and
- Prevent further degradation of habitat.

9.3.3 Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC

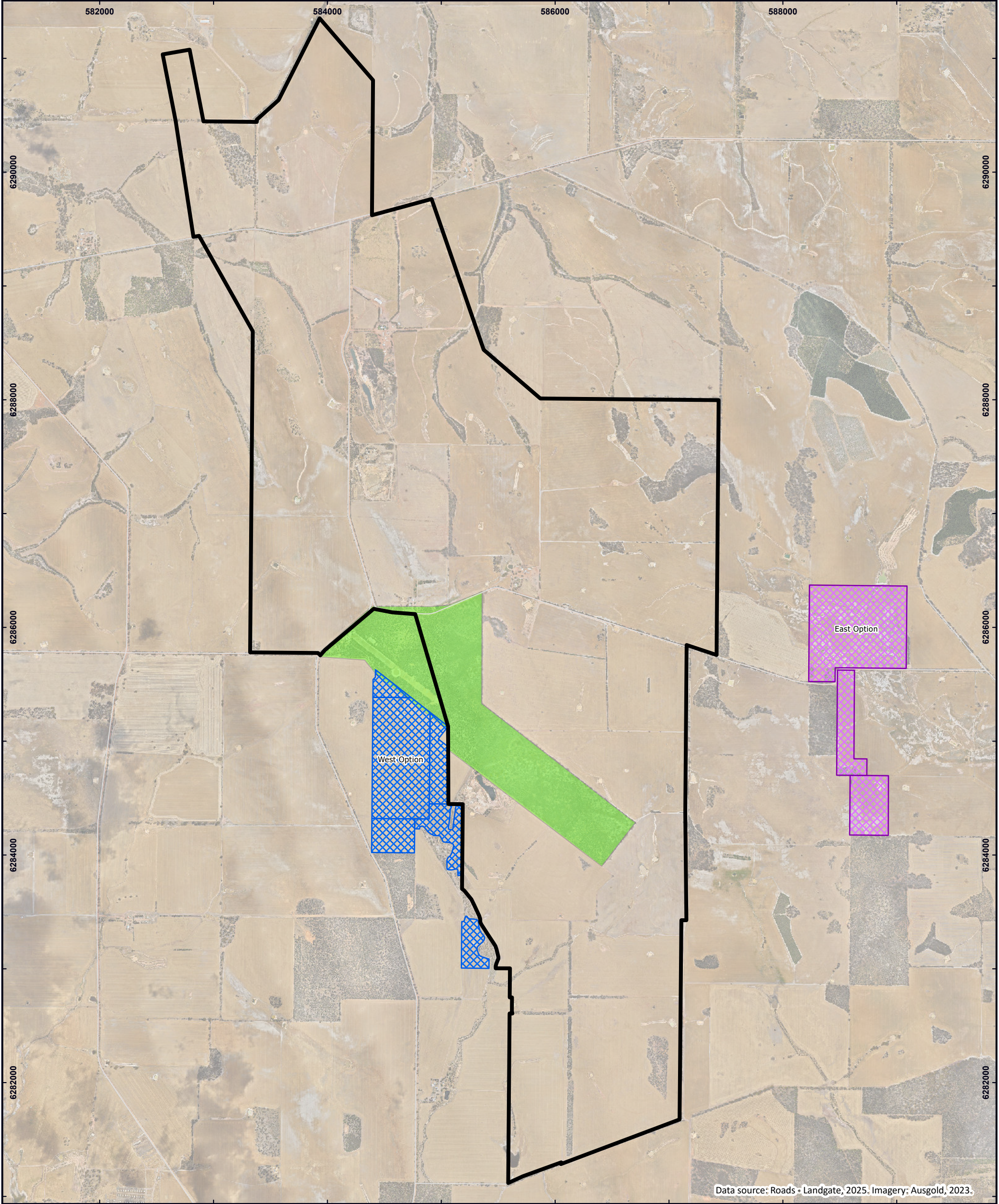
The EWTEC was listed as a nationally Critically Endangered TEC under the EPBC Act in December 2015, following a scientific assessment that recommended its classification as Critically Endangered and Priority 3 under WA's conservation codes. This listing provides protection for woodland patches that are reasonably intact, retaining native understorey vegetation or key habitat features such as large hollow-bearing trees.

These woodlands occur primarily on flatter landscapes and lower rises of the Wheatbelt and are dominated by single-trunk eucalypts forming a complex mosaic of approximately 30 species, including iconic Wheatbelt trees. Understorey composition is highly variable, ranging from bare ground to grassy layers, herbs and wildflowers, or dense shrublands. Highly variable understorey composition has been surveyed at and around the KGP with floral assemblages mapped by Mattiske (2026). In many cases, low quality condition scores exist because of the apparent effects of weed invasion, livestock grazing and changed fire regimes.

Woodlands in largely undisturbed condition are now rare, particularly outside nature reserves, due to extensive historical clearing. Southwestern WA, where these woodlands occur, is recognised as an international biodiversity hotspot, supporting a unique assemblage of flora and fauna, many of which are endemic to the region.

To align with conservation strategies and advice to protect and restore EWTEC at the BOA, actions will include the implementation of management to protect and improve the condition EWTEC associated vegetation, these activities will include:

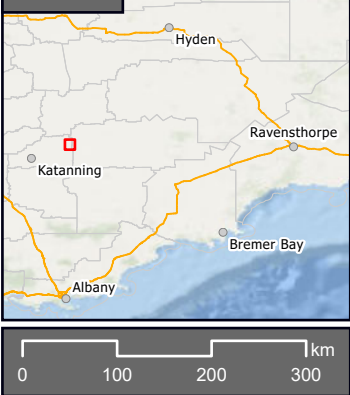
- Prevent and avoid clearing habitat;
- Manage threats such as fire regimes, salinity, weeds, grazing and dieback;
- Promote regeneration and revegetate areas within and adjacent to the TEC site;
- Mitigate and reduce habitat fragmentation; and
- Prevent further degradation of existing TEC.



LEGEND

- Mine Development Envelope
- Rifle Range & Woorgabup Nature Reserve
- Option Number**
- East Option
- West Option
- Western Australian Roads**
- Minor Road

LOCALITY



PROPOSED BIODIVERSITY OFFSET AREAS

Katanning Gold Project

Offsets Strategy

Ausgold Limited

Prepared: EJ/PA

Reviewed: RM

Project: TE25093

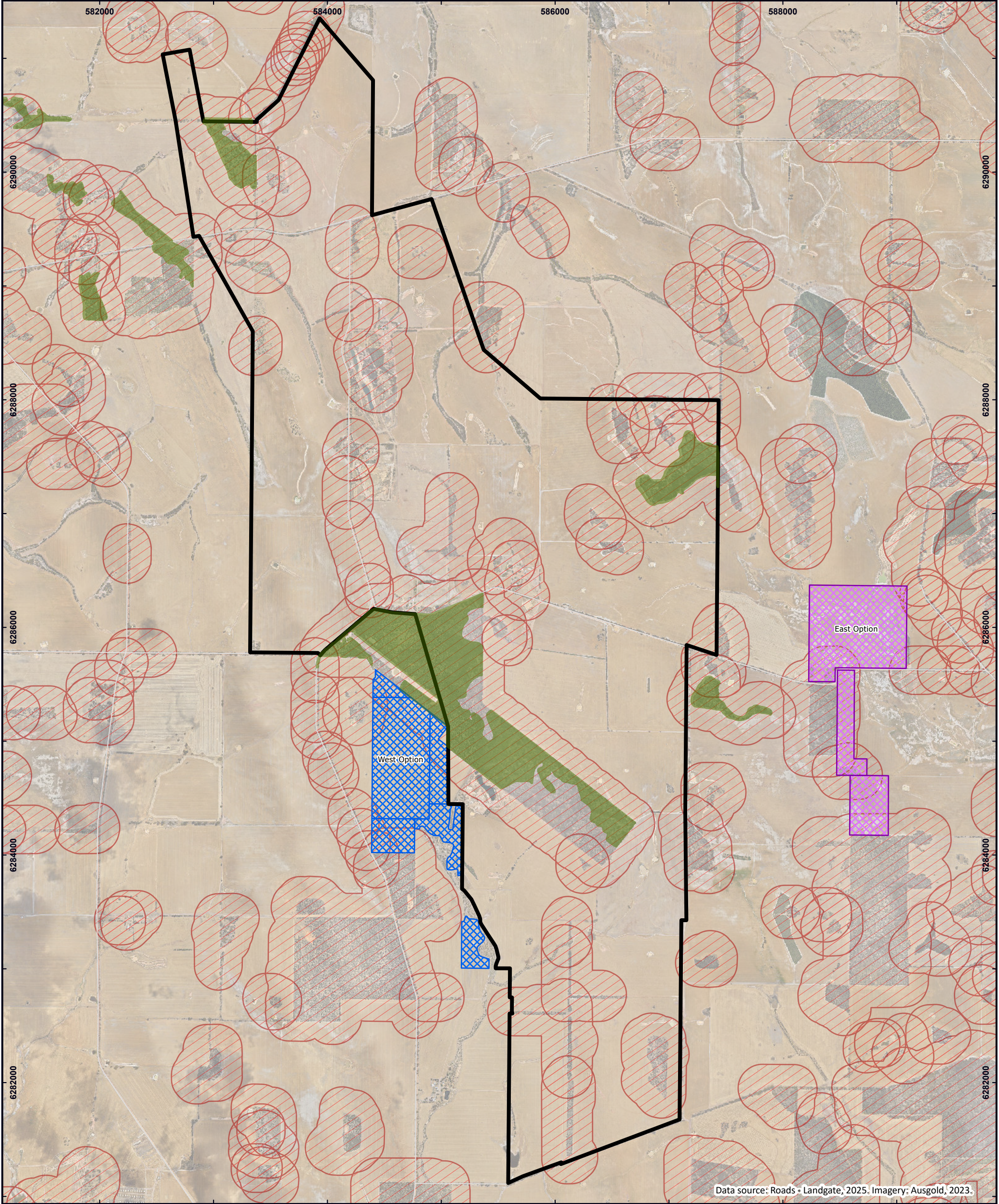
Revision: A

Date: 21/04/2026

Figure 8-1

Scale @ A3: 1:32,000

Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 50



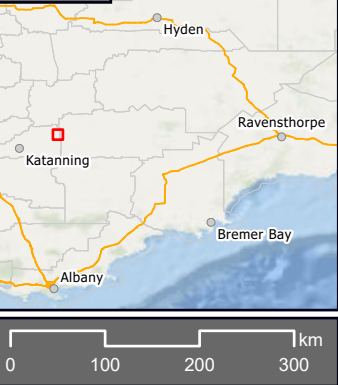
LEGEND

- Mine Development Envelope
- Confirmend Threatened Ecological Community (Mattiske, 2025)
- Priority
- Proposed Offset Blocks**
 - East Option
 - West Option

Western Australian Roads

Minor Road

LOCALITY



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THREATENED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

Katanning Gold Project
Offsets Strategy
Ausgold Limited

Prepared:	EJ/PA
Reviewed:	RM
Project:	TE25093
Revision:	A
Date:	21/04/2026

Figure 8-2



10 Avoidance

The Proponent has adopted a proactive avoidance strategy to minimise environmental disturbance and protect the EWTEC within the Project Area. Although the Proposal requires clearing of up to 61.62 ha of vegetation, including 49.97 ha of native vegetation within the MDE, two significant Mine Exclusion Zones (MEZs) have been incorporated into the project design:

- Woorgabup Nature Reserve and Woorgabup Rifle Range Reserve (89 ha coincident with Ausgold mining tenure); and
- A 20-ha parcel of intact vegetation on Ausgold's freehold land (M70/1426), which will be entirely avoided.

Ground disturbance will be strictly managed to remain within approved MDE boundaries, with staggered clearing, prescribed limits, and clearly marked exclusion zones on mine plans. Where avoidance is not possible, clearing of significant habitat and habitat critical to Threatened Fauna will be minimised through an internal Ground Disturbance Permit (GDP) system and an internal KGP Terrestrial Fauna Monitoring and Management Plan.

Monitoring programs will track species presence, habitat quality, and feral predator activity, enabling adaptive management in response to early signs of change. Secondary impacts will be mitigated through introduced species control, bushfire preparedness, and effective management of noise, dust, and waste throughout the life of the Proposal.

11 Mitigation

Mitigation measures following the avoid, minimise and rehabilitate hierarchy have, and will continue to be implemented to protect flora, vegetation and fauna habitat values and have been considered in the design of the project. The Proponent proposes to establish two MEZs as described in Table 11-1 to protect values of significance within the MDE and the local region. The Proponent is also committed to implementing and updating as required the *Ausgold Katanning Gold Project Flora and Vegetation Management and Monitoring Plan – Indirect Impacts* (Stantec, 2025a) to be in line with compliance and learnings throughout the life of the project.

Table 11-1: Proposed Mine Exclusion Zones

Mine Exclusion Zone	Area (ha)	Proportion of MDE (%)	Flora and Vegetation Significance
Wurgubup Rifle Range (Reserve 12423) and Woorgabup Nature Reserve (Reserve 24072)	143.56	8.87	The majority of this area is in Very Good vegetation condition and representative of the conservation significant <i>Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt ecological community</i> .
Parcel of native vegetation on Ausgold's freehold land (M70/1426)	18.99	1.17	The majority of this area is in Very Good vegetation condition and representative of the conservation significant <i>Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt ecological community</i> .

The Proponent has applied the mitigation hierarchy to the Proposal to meet the EPA objective in relation to flora and vegetation. Mitigation measures proposed during the development of the Proposal are outlined in Table 11-2.

Table 11-2: Predicted Impacts and Mitigation Strategies for Flora and Vegetation

Predicted Impacts from the Proposal	Mitigation Hierarchy	Mitigation
Clearing of native vegetation	Avoid	- When considering the Proposal layout, the Proponent has and will continue to avoid, as far as practicable, disturbance to significant vegetation and vegetation of highest condition rating. - Ground disturbance will be kept to the minimum necessary for development of the Project. - Two MEZs have been included as part of the design and layout of the Proposal. Wurgubup Rifle Range (Reserve 12423) and Woorgabup Nature Reserve (Reserve 24072) and a parcel of vegetation on Ausgold's freehold land (M70/1426) vegetation has been entirely avoided.

Predicted Impacts from the Proposal	Mitigation Hierarchy	Mitigation
	Avoid/minimise	- Develop and implement a GDP System prior to the commencement of construction. - Following best practice methodology for topsoil recovery and stockpiling.
	Minimise	- Ground disturbance will be managed to ensure the Proposal is developed in accordance with any regulatory approvals and to ensure ground disturbance is minimised. This will include (but is not limited to) ensuring: - All areas subject to disturbance are within the approved boundaries of the MDE; - Clearing does not exceed prescribed clearing limits; and - Exclusion zones are clearly noted on mine plans. - Minimise clearing of conservation significant ecological community. - Clearing to be conducted in accordance with the GDP system. - Vegetation will be progressively cleared to prevent soil erosion, dust generation and weed introduction/colonization. - Topsoil clearing will not be undertaken during periods of excessive wind, storms or rainfall. - Ongoing monitoring of vegetation health. - Dust, including use of water carts on access roads, to be used during construction, operation and closure activities. - Vehicles and mining equipment access limited to designated roads/access tracks and cleared areas.
	Rehabilitate	- The Proponent will prepare and implement a Closure Plan, in accordance with the <i>DMPE Guideline for preparing Mining Development and Closure Proposals May 2025</i> for the Proposal; - Rehabilitation activities will be undertaken progressively over the life of the mine as opportunities arise; - Supplement plant recruitment from topsoil with locally collected seeds; - Rehabilitation to link up corridors of native vegetation within and outside of the MDE; and - Rehabilitate all disturbances to safe, stable and non-polluting landforms in accordance with the Mining Development and Closure Plan (MDCP).

Predicted Impacts from the Proposal	Mitigation Hierarchy	Mitigation
Introduction/spread of weeds	Minimise	- Significant weeds controlled by implementing biannual weed monitoring and a targeted spraying program following completion of land clearing activities, during operations and closure activities; - Preparation and implementation of a weed management plan; and - Vegetation health monitoring.
Introduction of plant diseases (including <i>Phytophthora</i> sp.)	Avoid/minimise	- Vehicle and machinery inspections and cleaning procedures; - Restriction of vehicles/machinery to designated tracks/areas; and - Careful sourcing of health rehabilitation material.
Other potential impacts	Avoid/minimise	- Fire prevention mechanisms i.e. hot work permit system, fire emergency response plan and equipment, training of personnel (fire prevention and management), availability of firefighting equipment at main buildings and in machinery and maintenance of fire breaks; and - Disturbances to watercourses will be minimised to that required to achieve safe mine design and asset protection.

The Proponent commits to the following:

- Protection of flora and vegetation within the MEZs;
- Total vegetation clearing of no more than 61.62 ha for the DF over the Life of Mine (LoM);
- Development and implementation of the vegetation health monitoring program outlined in the Flora and Vegetation Management and Monitoring Plan – Indirect Impacts (Stantec, 2025a); and
- Integrate heritage protection requirements with environmental safeguards, ensuring compliance with legislative obligations and minimizing risks to cultural and ecological values.

The Proponent commits to the following:

- Protection of flora and vegetation within the MEZs;
- Total vegetation clearing of no more than 61.62 ha for the DF over the Life of Mine (LoM); and
- Development and implementation of the vegetation health monitoring program outlined in the Flora and Vegetation Management and Monitoring Plan.

12 Restoration

Restoration aims to return vegetation and ecosystem function to its original state, whereas rehabilitation acknowledges permanent or long-term alterations to landforms, soils, and hydrology, focusing instead on establishing a self-sustaining native plant community that closely resembles the original. Full restoration is rarely achievable due to irreversible changes and limited monitoring timeframes.

Effective restoration planning should commence during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) stage and incorporate:

- Baseline surveys of flora, vegetation, and fauna;
- Assessment of predicted permanent changes to landforms, soils, and hydrology;
- Evaluation of long-term impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem structure;
- Realistic rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria;
- Consideration of soil properties and seed recruitment potential;
- Adoption of life-of-mine approaches for financial and logistical preparedness; and
- Implementation of robust stakeholder consultation and communication strategies.

These steps ensure restoration objectives are achievable within realistic timeframes and aligned with industry best practice and regional standards. Several strategies and reference documents have been developed to guide restoration of the EWTEC including:

- Native Vegetation Handbook for the Shire of Katanning (DPIRD);
- Approved Conservation Advice – Eucalypt Woodlands of the WA Wheatbelt (DBCA);
- Restoration Standards for the Western Australian Wheatbelt (WA Biodiversity Science Institute); and
- Regional Natural Resource Management Strategy for the Avon River Basin (Wheatbelt NRM).

Farmers increasingly recognise that replanting native trees and shrubs that existed prior to clearing is one of the most effective strategies for reversing land degradation. Historically, a lack of practical information on species selection, timing, and planting locations has been a major constraint. The Revegetation Guide to the Central Wheatbelt addresses these challenges by providing species lists matched to local soil types, supporting targeted and successful revegetation efforts (Lefroy E.C *et al.*, 1991).

12.1 Key Legislation

Land management and restoration actions are required to meet certain criteria under legislation, the key legislations that may impact works across the offset project are listed in Table 12-1 below.

Table 12-1: Key Legislation Considered for Works on the BOA.

Activity	Key Legislation
Managing declared weeds	• <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>
Prescribed burns/Bushfire	• <i>Bushfires Act 1954</i> • <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>

Activity	Key Legislation
Application of herbicides	• <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>
Managing and draining saline land to downstream wetlands	• <i>Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945</i>
Managing non-native animals	• <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i> • <i>Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act 1976</i> • <i>Animal Welfare Act 2002</i>
Wetland restoration	• <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>
Heritage	• <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i> • <i>Heritage Act 2018</i>

12.2 Restoration Guidelines and Principles

The restoration guidelines provide a linear framework of tools to guide on-ground ecosystem restoration practices during the first seven years of a project. This timeframe assumes that an assessment of ecosystem recovery after seven years will be informative for determining whether the trajectory toward a reference state is on track. However, the timeframe may be adjusted based on site-specific conditions and project objectives. These guidelines were developed collaboratively by multiple stakeholders to identify gaps and address strategic priorities where possible, ensuring a structured approach to planning, implementation, and monitoring of restoration activities (Bishop & Young, 2025) .

Overview

- Indicative timeframe: 7 years, with flexibility for site-specific goals;
- Non-linear process: Steps may occur earlier or concurrently;
- Restorative continuum: Intervention ranges from natural regeneration to full reconstruction, proportional to restoration goals and feasibility (Chazdon *et al.*, 2021 and Hobbs, 2007);
- Realistic targets: Partial recovery may be more achievable than full recovery, reducing risk of wasted resources; and
- Restoration Activity Classes (RACs): Define intervention levels projects.

Stages of Restoration

1. Scope: Define goals, establish reference ecosystem, select site, engage stakeholders;
2. Design: Develop restoration plan using considering recovery and social benefits;
3. Finance: Assess costs using TAS cost model and CF-LRP calculator;
4. Implementation: Site assessment, threat abatement, seeding, planting, maintenance; and
5. Monitoring & Adaptive Management: Ongoing evaluation, adaptive strategies, completion/handover.

Guiding Principles (UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, adapted for WRS):

- Align with global sustainability goals;
- Promote inclusive governance and equity;

- Apply a continuum of restorative activities;
- Aim for maximum biodiversity and ecosystem health;
- Address direct and indirect degradation drivers;
- Integrate diverse knowledge systems;
- Set clear, measurable objectives;
- Tailor to local ecological and cultural contexts;
- Implement monitoring and adaptive management; and
- Enable scaling through supportive policies.

Revegetation and restoration activities within the BOA will be guided by the following principles, where relevant.

12.3 Management Areas & Revegetation Strategies

To achieve the biodiversity objectives for the BOA, planning, implementation, and monitoring will be tailored to specific management zones, with performance and completion targets relevant to each zone. These zones will be further refined as baseline studies are completed:

- Habitat Enhancement: Management of remnant vegetation and existing environmental assets according to habitat and vegetation objective;
- Habitat Replacement: Revegetation of cleared or arable agricultural land to restore ecological function and to benchmark vegetation targets;
- Rehabilitation: Remediation of areas affected by erosion, acidity or salinity prior to revegetation, ensuring site stability and soil health;
- Water Quality: Management of surface water to mitigate on and off-site impacts; and
- Assets & Infrastructure: Installation and maintenance of fencing, gates, and firebreaks to protect restoration areas and manage access.

The revegetation strategy aims to restore ecological function, improve habitat connectivity, and meet benchmark vegetation community and habitat targets within the BOA. The approach integrates site preparation, structural diversity, and ongoing management to ensure long-term success.

Key Actions

- Land preparation: Undertake deep ripping to alleviate soil compaction and improve water infiltration, apply targeted chemical sprays for weed control, and remove rubbish and debris;
- Fencing: Install fencing to exclude herbivores and section off restoration areas for protection and controlled access;
- Planting and direct seeding: Use a mix of canopy-forming and understorey species, prioritizing those with proven establishment success and species-specific requirements;
- Wetland and stream restoration: Stabilise banks, reintroduce native riparian vegetation, and manage hydrology to support aquatic ecosystems;
- Regular weed management: Implement systematic weed control before and after planting to reduce competition and maintain restoration integrity; and
- Enhance water bodies: Improve dams to encourage habitat use and through vegetation buffers and erosion control.

Implementation Principles

- Timely establishment: All revegetation and regeneration will commence as soon as possible following weed management and soil amelioration to minimize lag time in habitat compensation and connectivity;
- Structural and floristic diversity: Planting designs will reflect benchmark vegetation communities, promoting habitat complexity;
- Local provenance seed: All revegetation will use locally sourced seed for direct seeding or tubestock propagation;
- Ongoing management: Regular maintenance will include weed control, replacement of failed plantings, and bushfire prevention measures;
- Monitoring and adaptive management: Success will be assessed through floristic and ecological monitoring, with feedback loops for continual improvement; and
- Protection measures: Restoration areas will be safeguarded from unauthorized access and grazing through fencing, signage, and exclusion zones.

12.4 Proposed Vegetation and Habitat Values

As outlined in Section 8.1 the BOA encompasses a distinct landscape that supports the EWTEC. In response, the proponent is implementing a restoration strategy strictly comprising of EWTEC. This will optimise habitat suitability across the site, maximise ecological function, and promote high-quality habitat replacement.

This strategy aligns with the MNES requirements identified in the EPA s38 Referral and is expected to deliver broader environmental benefits, including enhanced biodiversity values and improved landscape connectivity. Notably, the BOA will contribute to the establishment of an ecological corridor between the Woorgabup Nature Reserve and the Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve, supporting habitat for a range of conservation-significant fauna and strengthening regional ecological resilience.

12.5 Soils

The soil systems within the BOA are described in Section 7.10. This assessment indicates that restoration within the BOA will likely be successful as the soil systems seen to be on site are considered suitable for supporting EWTEC. Vegetation observed by Matiske (2026) in the Woorgabup and Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserves was indicative of Eucalyptus woodland. Based on soil characteristics and vegetation patterns, within the proposed BOA sites, they all have been identified as having potential to support the MNES value associated with the EWTEC (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026).

13 Threat Abatement

Since European settlement in the south-west of WA, extensive clearing and replacement of native vegetation with crops and pastures have resulted in significant environmental challenges for both agricultural productivity and native vegetation conservation. Key issues include altered hydrology, such as rising water tables leading to salinity and waterlogging, as well as wind and water erosion on exposed soils (Shaun B. Grein, 1994).

Within the Shire of Katanning, major forms of land degradation include:

- Salinity;
- Waterlogging;
- Wind and water erosion;
- Soil acidification; and
- Subsoil compaction.

An integrated approach to addressing these issues involves:

- Farm planning to reorient paddock boundaries;
- Revegetation and fencing of drainage lines;
- Protection and connection of existing vegetation;
- Establishment of windbreaks;
- Replanting on recharge and degraded areas; and
- Adoption of minimum or zero tillage practices, benefiting both agricultural production and wildlife conservation.

The Proponent is committed to implementing threat abatement and management activities within the enhanced restoration area on its freehold lands and operational KGP mining tenements. These actions aim to achieve landscape-scale conservation outcomes, improving protection for proposed offset areas and enhancing the ecological integrity of surrounding native vegetation corridors.

Management actions will target key threats identified in MNES-specific Recovery Plans, conservation advice, and Commonwealth-approved management plans, including:

- Phytophthora dieback;
- Bushfire risk;
- Nutrient management;
- Weed invasion;
- Herbivory; and
- Invasive fauna.

13.1 Weeds

The Proponent is committed to implementing weed management throughout the BOA. The Proponent will engage suitably qualified contractors that will undertake the management following commencement of the offset project until otherwise advised. The management activities will include targeted control of Weeds of National Significance (WoNS), Declared Pests under the *Biosecurity and*

Agricultural Management (BAM) Act 2007 and species identified as posing a threat to relevant MNEs in addition to;

- Broad-scale control of all other weed species through manual-removal methods and application of appropriate herbicides;
- Implementation of weed hygiene controls, including setting up clean-on entry and potential clean-down points and implementing the Weed and Pest Management Plan; and
- Undertaking regular monitoring of areas of ongoing operation, disturbance and previously treated areas.

All possible care will be taken to avoid surrounding native vegetation being impacted by overspray of herbicides during these activities. Herbicides will be used as per the manufacturer's instructions and minimised in areas deemed as TEC.

13.2 Herbivory

The Proponent is committed to implementing herbivory management measures throughout the BOA to protect restoration outcomes. A suitably qualified contractor will undertake management actions from the commencement of works until completion criteria are met. Activities will include targeted control of European rabbits, listed as Declared Pests under the BAM Act, and management of access for kangaroos and other species identified as posing a threat to relevant MNEs. These measures aim to reduce grazing pressure, promote native vegetation establishment, and ensure compliance with legislative requirements.

13.3 Feral Species

The Proponent is committed to implementing weed management throughout the BOA. The Proponent will engage suitably qualified contractors that will undertake the management following commencement of the offset project until otherwise advised. The management activities will include Targeted control of feral animals of National Significance, Declared Pests BAM Act and species identified as posing a threat to relevant MNE. Fauna surveys have identified the presence of five introduced species within the survey area:

- European red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*);
- Feral cat (*Felis catus*);
- European rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*);
- Black rat (*Rattus rattus*); and
- House mouse (*Mus musculus*).

These species were recorded across multiple survey locations (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2026). Historical clearing for agriculture and associated land uses have significantly altered the landscape, creating open habitats that facilitate the spread and persistence of these introduced mammals. Records from government agencies and fauna camera records collected as baseline monitoring confirm the presence of these species throughout the region.

Although no broad-scale clearing projects are currently proposed within the locality, the Proposal provides an opportunity to address the risks posed by introduced species. The Proponent will implement an environmental monitoring and predator control program targeting significant species and habitat quality, including feral predator management. This program will enable early detection of changes in species presence or abundance and allow for adaptive management responses.

Management actions aligned with project approval, site development, and mine operations are expected to reduce local feral species abundance, thereby delivering a positive outcome for native fauna. Through the Proponent's Terrestrial Fauna Monitoring and Management Plan, controls will be actively applied to feral fauna on tenements and within the project's Development Envelope. Given the current proliferation of foxes and cats, it is clear that additional active control measures by Ausgold will alleviate catchment-wide pressures on native fauna by these predators.

13.4 Dieback

Dieback is not particularly known to occur in the eastern parts of the Shire of Katanning. The Proponent will implement Dieback Management procedures across the BOA to reduce the risk of the introduction of *Phytophthora Dieback* into the proposed offset areas, a site inspection and revision of site related Dieback management will be required once the BOA has been selected.

The key management actions for the BOA outlined in this plan include:

- Green card training for key onsite staff and contractors;
- Vegetation and topsoil removed from areas of known Dieback infestation will only ever be relocated/used in other areas of known Dieback infestation;
- All vehicles and machinery may undergo cleaning processes before entering areas of vegetation;
- In wet conditions all vehicles and machinery will be cleaned at established wash-down stations immediately upon and departing and arriving back to site;
- Known dieback areas will be avoided where possible during wet conditions; and
- The Proponent will continue to engage a DBCA-accredited 'Dieback Interpreter' annually to monitor native vegetation within the BOA for Dieback infestation. The monitoring program is based upon recommendations made by the accredited 'Dieback Interpreter' and may be subject to change.

13.5 Bushfire

Bushfire risk to and by the BOA, will continue to be managed by the Proponent through amended application of their current control measures, the adaptations should aim to include appropriate fire regime strategy for the described MNES values and protection on environmentally sensitive assets.

The current controls include:

- Adherence to existing Hot Work Permit protocols;
- Adherence to Total Fire Ban days;
- Adherence to Harvest Vehicle Movement Bans;
- Maintenance of fire breaks around the MEZs;
- Maintenance of existing fire breaks to protect environmentally sensitive areas, protect private property and the proposed development;
- Restricting smoking;
- Restricting third-party access; and
- Vehicles and machinery are to be equipped with fire extinguishers or and firefighting equipment.

Additional measures to protect the works occurring on the BOA will include:

- Investigate prescribed burns occurring in or near the area;
- Creation and implementation of a Bushfire Risk Management Plan encompassing environmental impacts and assets;
- Engagement with Shire of Katanning and Shire of Kent Chief Bushfire Control Officer and Community Earth System Model;
- Engagement with local bushfire brigades and Indigenous rangers; and
- Ausgold will employ and Emergency Response Team (ERT) with a brigade and trained firefighters for rapid response and suppression.

13.6 Nutrient Management

The Proponent is committed to implementing nutrient management measures within the BOA, considering the land-use history in the surrounding area. A suitably qualified contractor will undertake sampling and management actions as required, following commencement of works and analysis of baseline data, continuing until completion criteria are met. Management activities will be tailored to address issues identified as posing a threat to relevant MNES and will comply with the *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* and the EP Act. These actions aim to maintain soil health, prevent nutrient imbalance, and reduce risks to biodiversity and ecosystem function.

The Proponent is committed to implementing nutrient management measures within the BOA, considering the land-use history in the surrounding area. Soil sampling and management actions will be undertaken as required, following commencement of works and analysis of baseline data, continuing until completion criteria are met. Management activities will be tailored to address issues identified as posing a threat to relevant MNES and will comply with the *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* and the EP Act. These actions aim to maintain soil health, understand nutrient imbalance, and reduce risks to biodiversity and ecosystem function.

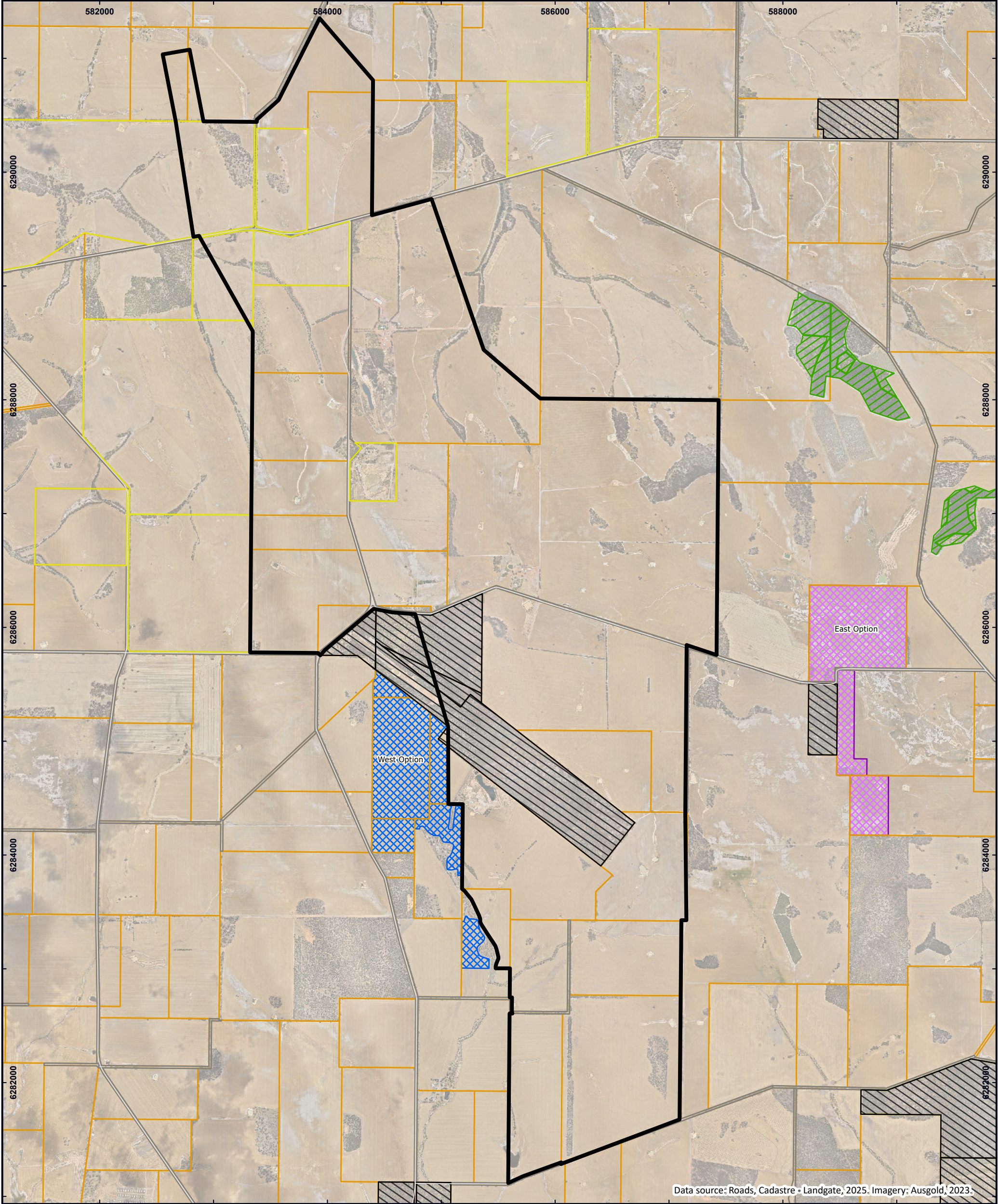
13.7 Site access

The Proponent will restrict third-party access to the enhanced restoration area and the operational KGP mining tenements by installing appropriate signage informing the public that the land is privately owned, and by constructing gates along private access tracks, if required. This will reduce the potential for species to interact with vehicles/machinery and for weeds or other vectors to be introduced.

14 Security of Tenure

The proposed enhanced restoration area within all lots discussed in the Offset Strategy will continue to be managed by the Proponent until the former meets the agreed completion criteria and, where it applies, the mining tenements have been relinquished and exempt from mining activities.

The Proponent intends to restore the BOA selected and have them placed under suitable Conservation Covenants that ensures security of tenure for conservation purposes in perpetuity on the freehold title. The cadastral boundaries of the BOA properties are shown in Figure 14-1.



Data source: Roads, Cadastre - Landgate, 2025. Imagery: Ausgold, 2023.

LEGEND

Mine Development Envelope

Proposed Offset Blocks

East Option

West Option

Cadastre

Easement

Reserve

Crown Allotment

Western Australian Roads

Minor Road

LOCALITY

0 100 200 300 km

CADASTRE

Katanning Gold Project

Offsets Strategy

Ausgold Limited

talis
consultants

Prepared: EJ/PA

Reviewed: RM

Project: TE25093

Revision: A

Date: 21/04/2026

Figure 13-1

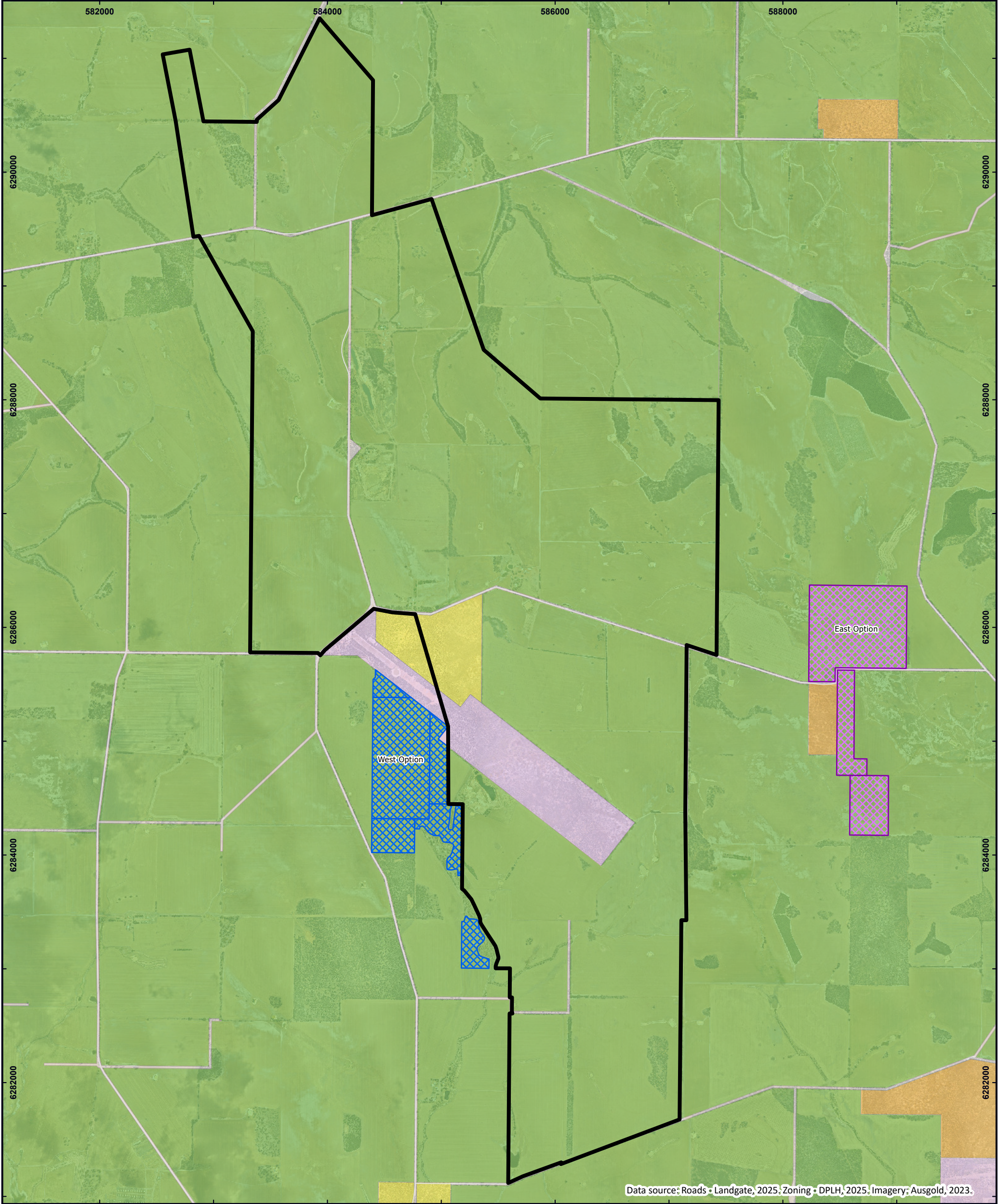
0 250 500 750 1,000 m

Scale @ A3: 1:32,000

Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 50

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Document Path: \\server\\talis\\SECTIONS\\Environment\\Projects\\TE2025\\TE25093 - Ausgold Offsets Strategy\\GIS\\Maps\\TE25093 - Ausgold Offset Strategy.aprx



LEGEND

Mine Development Envelope

Proposed Offset Blocks

East Option

West Option

Local Planning Scheme

Public open space

Public purposes

Environmental Conservation

Rural

Roads

Western Australian Roads

Minor Road

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LOCALITY

0 100 200 300 km

ZONING

Katanning Gold Project

Offsets Strategy

Ausgold Limited

Prepared: EJ/PA

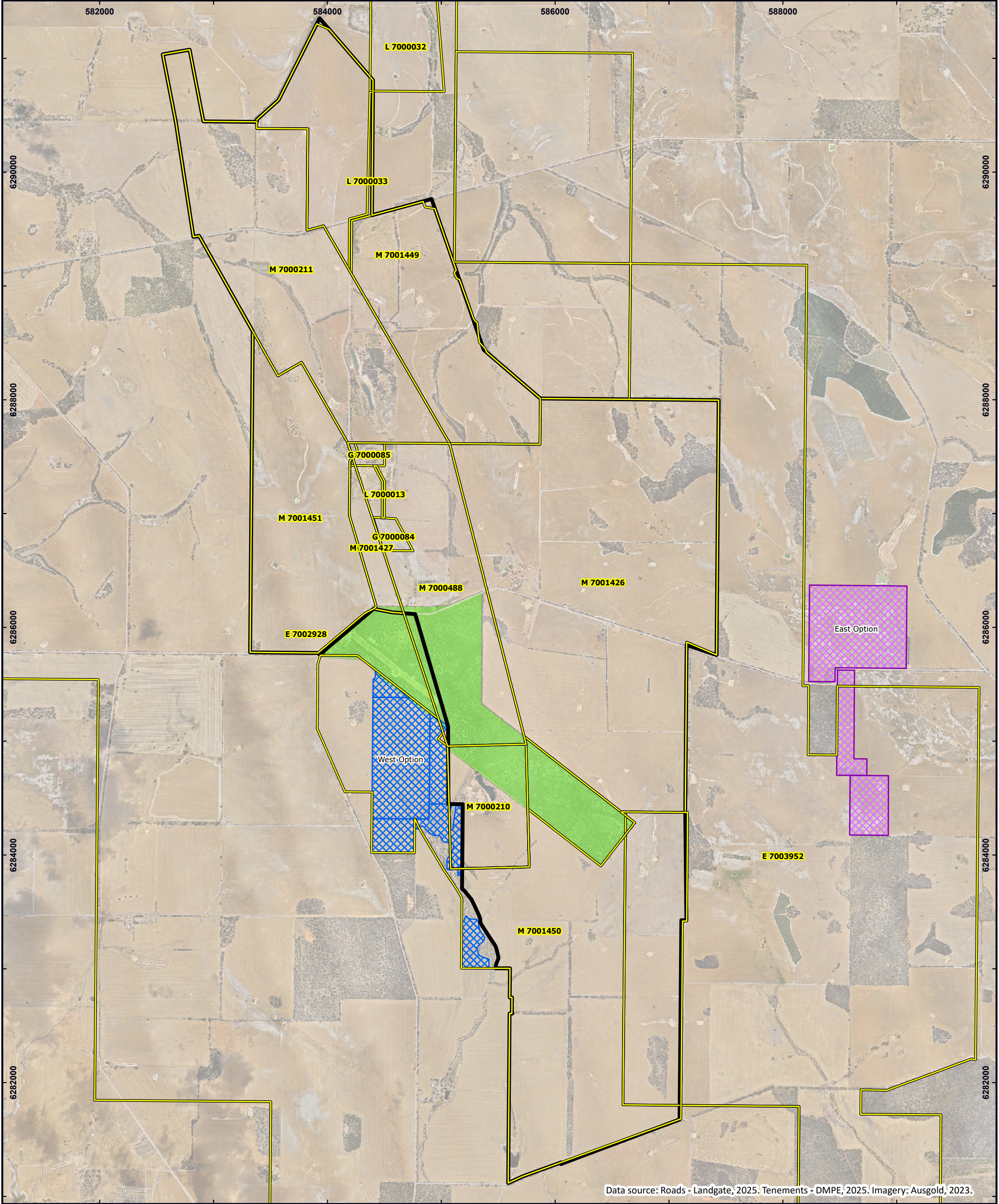
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Project: TE25093

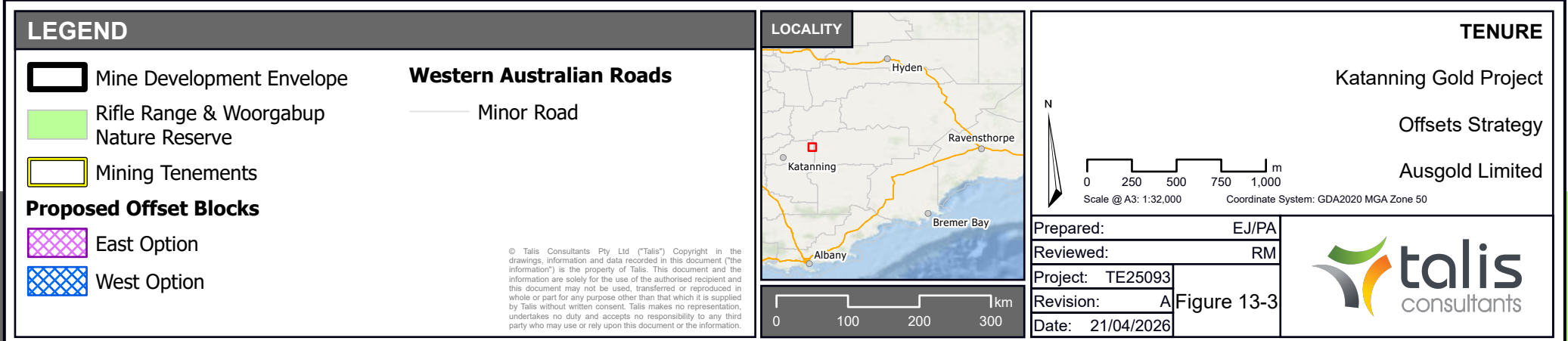
Revision: A

Date: 21/04/2026

Figure 13-2



Data source: Roads - Landgate, 2025. Tenements - DMPE, 2025. Imagery: Ausgold, 2023.



15 Funding Agreement

The Proponent will fully fund the relevant actions proposed under this Offset Strategy including on-ground management measures/actions to maintain the environmental values being offset until:

- The completion criteria are achieved, and the relevant areas have been entered into the State's conservation tenure; or
- conservation covenant on Ausgold Freehold title.

16 Regional Restoration Examples

Since 1979, Trillion Trees Australia has engaged volunteers to regenerate landscapes and strengthen communities through large-scale tree planting and ecological restoration projects across Western Australia. The organization delivers its mission through on-ground restoration, locally focused education programs, and community engagement, and has inspired numerous successful environmental initiatives, including Perth City Farm, Native Plants WA, Carbon Neutral (WA's first carbon offset program), and the award-winning Farm Tree Help Scheme (Trillion Trees Australia, n.d.).

In collaboration with landholders, Trillion Trees has worked extensively in the Wheatbelt region since its inception, focusing on restoring threatened Wheatbelt woodlands to improve habitat connectivity, reduce salinity, and reintroduce biodiversity. Current restoration projects include:

- Wurak Woodland Restoration Project (Nembudding, Wheatbelt): This site contains a rare remnant of native bushland, buffering mature stands of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* (Salmon gum) and *Eucalyptus loxophleba* (York gum);
- Yandee Woodland Restoration Project (Lake Magic, Hyden): Targeting restoration of York gum woodlands to enhance ecological resilience; and
- Wandoo Woodland Restoration Project (Westdale): Wandoo woodlands, once widespread, have been heavily cleared and logged. This project aims to restore a diverse mix of trees and shrubs that flower year-round, providing continuous nectar sources for birds and insects. These resources are critical for insectivorous birds such as the Western yellow robin, Golden whistler, and Rufous treecreeper.

Ausgold is implementing a Revegetation program in 2026.

17 Stakeholder Engagement

The Proponent is committed to comprehensive stakeholder consultation so that all parties potentially affected by the Offset Strategy can provide input on concerns, issues, and recommendations. This approach aligns with Ausgold company values, which emphasises building long-term, mutually beneficial relationships with local communities and stakeholders to support social well-being and economic opportunities. The consultation process aims to identify and prioritise stakeholders, provide accurate and accessible project information, enable informed participation, while incorporating feedback early in project planning to minimise misunderstandings and exclusion from the environmental assessment process.

Ongoing engagement will continue throughout the assessment and implementation phases, providing opportunities for stakeholders to influence design and management decisions. Key matters of communications, meetings, and feedback will be documented in a stakeholder engagement register, which records actionable outcomes and discussions. This enables transparency, facilitates monitoring of potential issues or risks, and supports adaptive planning for future consultation activities. To date, the Proponent has consulted with a wide range of stakeholders from the earliest stages of the strategy and plans to continue to engage with relevant landholders and community groups, as appropriate, throughout this process. The external stakeholders of the BOA have been outlined in Table 17-1.

Table 17-1: External Stakeholders of the BOA.

Stakeholder	Key interest
Katanning Landcare	On ground works
Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation	On ground works
Badgebup Aboriginal Corporation	On ground works
Trillion Trees Australia	Restoration planning and on ground works
Landowners	Project success, land access and bushfire risk
Wheatbelt NRM	Restoration and collaboration
Western Shield	Fauna presence absence
DBCA	Project success and nearby land holder
Shire of Katanning	Project success and bushfire risk
Shire of Kent	Project success and bushfire risk

18 Discussion & Recommendations

18.1 Bushfire

As the land use of the BOA will transition to conservation and merge with the adjacent Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve and Woorgabup Nature Reserve, with restoration aimed at establishing remnant native vegetation of EWTEC, the site will be classified as bushfire prone under the Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) (Landgate, 2025). Consequently, the BOA will be subject to the requirements of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, and a Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) will be to safeguard both environmental, private and community assets.

The BRMP will be developed to protect Ausgold's infrastructure, support community safety, and maintain the integrity of the offset site. Importantly, the plan will incorporate cultural burning practices, implemented in collaboration with Indigenous rangers and the Shire of Katanning, to ensure fire is applied in a manner that is ecologically appropriate once vegetation is sufficiently established. Maintaining the correct fire intervals is imperative for protecting the MNES values related to the KGP and its BOA. Note that as part of its mine site establishment and operations, an Emergency Response Team with firefighting units (brigade and fast attack) will be sited near the BOA during the life of mine. Alternate fire management actions will be relevant upon site closure, and during the ongoing time Ausgold continues to manage its freehold land.

Although WA's flora and fauna have evolved under pre-European fire regimes, these natural patterns are largely absent today. Fire inevitably alters native vegetation, with the extent of change influenced by factors such as species composition, fire intensity, frequency, and seasonality (Roadside Conservation Committee, 2008).

Premature or overly frequent fire events pose a significant risk to the success of the offset strategy. They may:

- Compromise restoration outcomes, particularly for fire-sensitive species and communities;
- Degrade adjacent TEC;
- Destroy conservation listed species habitat; and
- Threaten community assets and reduce long-term conservation value.

Fire management will therefore be carefully staged, with protective measures in place until the ecosystem is resilient enough to benefit from culturally and environmentally informed fire regimes.

To achieve this, it is recommended that Ausgold create and maintain a working relationship and rapport with the Badgebup rural bush fire brigade and other relevant stakeholders, in order to determine fire history of land managed by Ausgold in addition to the adjacent areas and continue to log any fire incidents and prescribed burns that could impact future implications related to bushfire management. Ausgold is developing a Bushfire Management Plan examining risks from planned operations at the KGP on native vegetation i.e. where fire is used as a management tool, only partial burning of a site should occur to retain habitat for fauna and preserve scenic values. Fire can also damage heritage sites, both Aboriginal and European, and its use must consider all environmental and cultural values.

Chemical fire suppressants are not recommended in environmentally sensitive areas, as their composition can degrade soil health, inhibit native vegetation recovery, and create conditions conducive to future fires. According to DBCA, the Woorgabup Nature Reserve has remained long unburnt, contributing to its current ecological integrity. Such habitats are considered highly suitable

for threatened species, including black cockatoos and Red-tailed phascogales, which depend on mature vegetation and hollow-bearing trees.

18.2 Dieback

No information about dieback is currently known, and ongoing control measures are essential to prevent the spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and other pathogens that threaten native vegetation and habitat values. It is not known to be present in the Shire of Katanning, particularly in its eastern drier area.

It is recommended that Ausgold implement a dieback risk management protocol as part of standard operational procedures for all site visits and activities, including those undertaken by staff, contractors, and visitors. This should include:

- Greencard training for specified personnel to ensure awareness of dieback risks and hygiene practices;
- Adoption of the “arrive clean, leave clean” principle for all vehicles, equipment, and footwear;
- Use of Federal Government guidelines in conjunction with local best practice standards; and
- Ad hoc dieback investigations and treatments to monitor and respond to emerging risks.

These measures are particularly important to protect:

- Adjacent TEC patches; and
- Restoration areas within the BOA that are vulnerable to pathogen-related degradation.

Effective dieback management will also support broader fire management objectives by maintaining healthy vegetation structure and reducing fuel loads during the bushfire season. Integration of dieback control with fire planning and cultural burning practices will help ensure the ecological and cultural integrity of the offset site is preserved (DoE, 2015).

18.3 On Site Dams

The proposed BOA sites contain multiple manmade dams that retain surface water runoff for the majority of the year. These water bodies have the potential to provide ecological value as important hydration sources and habitat features within the landscape.

To enhance their ecological function, it is proposed that these dams be rehabilitated and converted into constructed wetlands. This would involve the strategic planting of native reeds and rushes along the dam margins to:

- Improve water quality through natural filtration;
- Reduce nutrient loads and sedimentation;
- Provide habitat for amphibians, reptiles, and aquatic invertebrates; and
- Support biodiversity and ecological resilience within the BOA.

Katanning is a region prone to seasonal drought, and maintaining the dams in good ecological condition may also provide a valuable water source for bushfire suppression if needed. This dual

function—supporting both biodiversity and emergency preparedness—further reinforces the importance of integrating dam management into the broader offset strategy.

18.4 Woorgabup Nature Reserve

Woorgabup Nature Reserve (Reserve No. C24072) encompasses approximately 49 ha and is designated for the conservation of native flora and fauna (DBCA, 2025). The reserve serves as an important ecological asset, preserving remnant vegetation and providing habitat for a range of local species within a predominantly agricultural landscape. Its protected status contributes to regional biodiversity conservation by maintaining ecological connectivity, supporting native plant assemblages, and offering refuge for wildlife. The Woorgabup Nature Reserve and Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve ('the Reserves') are contiguous parcels of bushland comprised of mixed bushland, heathland understorey in patches and mapped areas of EWTEC.

Surveys conducted by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2026) confirmed the presence of Red-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale calura*) within the reserve, along with Western Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus fuliginosus*) and Australasian Ravens (*Corvus coronoides*). The Reserve is considered ecologically significant due to its size and habitat quality within a largely cleared landscape.

Monitoring programs will be implemented throughout the life of mine to assess potential impacts within this exclusion zone. These programs will include trigger thresholds to assess the ensure protection of flora and fauna. Four broad habitat types were identified within the reserve:

- Wandoo Woodland;
- York Gum Woodland;
- Mallet Woodland; and
- Banksia Heath

Overall, these habitats are in very good condition and support the faunal assemblages reported by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2026). Disturbance is minimal, limited to areas cleared for the rifle range and is in close proximity to the dam that will become the Dingo Mine open pit. The reserve represents a comparatively large patch of native vegetation in the local area, providing habitat critical for fauna and functioning as an ecological linkage within a fragmented landscape where remnant vegetation persists mostly along roadside verges and fencelines.

It is proposed that the following restoration measures be implemented to preserve the ecological values of Woorgabup Nature Reserve and extend them throughout the proposed BOA:

- Targeted weed removal to reduce competition with native species; and
- Direct seeding of suitable endemic species (with the permission of the State landholder);

Maintaining the value and qualities of the Reserves is a critical component of the offset strategy, contributing to biodiversity outcomes within the landscape.

18.5 Herbivory

Rabbits were identified on the surrounding MDE and reserves areas. Rabbits are a well-documented cause of land degradation across Australia, contributing to soil erosion, vegetation loss, and competition with native fauna. Additionally, evidence of kangaroo activity has been observed across the site.

The planned removal of wheat and other crops on the BOA and replacement with native seedlings and endemic seed mixes poses a high risk of herbivory pressure, particularly during early establishment phases. To ensure the success of the restoration program, the following measures are recommended:

- Pre-commencement pest control targeting rabbits, with follow-up actions conducted on an ad hoc basis to manage reinfestation;
- Installation of temporary kangaroo-proof fencing along the property boundary to protect revegetation areas during the critical establishment period;
- Removal of attractants (e.g. crop residues) and implementation of passive deterrents where appropriate; and
- Create and implement a Weed and Pest Management Plan.

The fencing should be designed to be removable once the vegetation has matured and the ecosystem is sufficiently resilient to withstand natural grazing pressures. These actions will help safeguard the ecological integrity of the offset site and support the long-term success of the restoration objectives.

18.6 Biodiversity Offset Management Plan

The Proponent will develop an Offset Management Plan (OMP) to guide all activities within the BOA. The OMP will be completed in Q4 2026 in order that, upon socialisation and feedback on the preferred BOA option, the OMP can be adopted upon approval aiming for the end of 2026.

The Environmental Management Plan Guidelines issued by DCCEEW provide direction on key principles, risk assessment, and required content. This includes a detailed project description, identification of potential impacts, proposed management strategies, monitoring requirements, and adaptive management measures.

Within the OMP, plans will be developed for specific environmental risks and operational needs. These may include elements relating to:

- Bushfire Risk Management,
- Weed and Pest Management,
- Dieback Risk Management, and
- Water Quality Management.

The OMP will provide a robust framework for environmental protection and planning within the BOA.

19 Monitoring and Evaluation

Following commencement of management actions, the Proponent will undertake annual on-ground monitoring during spring (September–November) for the first seven years, after which monitoring frequency will be reviewed against completion and success criteria (Section 20). Monitoring will be conducted by a suitably qualified consultant or trained member of the Ausgold Environmental Team.

At least three reference and enhanced restoration quadrats will be established within each MNES habitat (i.e. the Wurgubup Reserves), permanently marked and georeferenced. Each monitoring event will record:

- Native species density, richness, and composition;
- Weed presence and cover;
- Evidence of native species plant richness and maturity (flowering, fruiting, seeding);
- Vegetation cover, condition and fauna habitat indicators; and
- Quadrat photographs.

If baseline soil or water data indicates concern, biannual sampling will be triggered to address water quality and soil health risks. Monitoring data and trend analysis will be assessed against success criteria to evaluate progress toward offset objectives (Section 6.1) and reported annually in the Annual Compliance Report (Section 22). Where performance targets are unlikely to be met, contingency measures outlined in Section 6 will be implemented, guided by performance triggers and corrective actions detailed in Table 19-1.

A monitoring and evaluation program will be incorporated into an adaptive management framework. This approach enables the systematic collection of ecological data to assess progress against restoration objectives, including vegetation establishment, species recruitment, and habitat functionality. Monitoring results will inform periodic evaluations, allowing for the identification of emerging issues or deviations from expected outcomes. Through adaptive management, restoration strategies can be refined in response to monitoring feedback, ensuring continuous improvement and alignment with MNES requirements. This iterative process supports evidence-based decision-making and enhances the resilience and effectiveness of restoration efforts over time.

Table 19-1: Performance Triggers and contingency actions

Trigger	Action	Responsibility
Seed/seedling mix contains insufficient black cockatoo foraging and hollow-producing tree species	• Source more appropriate seed/seedlings. • If already installed supplement seeding with additional planting or seed.	Ausgold Environment Department
Seed/seedling mix contains insufficient Kwongan TEC species	• Source more appropriate seed/seedlings. • If already installed supplement seeding with additional planting or seed.	Ausgold Environment Department
Seed/seedling mix contains insufficient MNES Fauna habitat species	• Source more appropriate seed/seedlings. • If already installed supplement seeding with additional planting or seed.	Ausgold Environment Department

Trigger	Action	Responsibility
Poor seedling emergence/growth in rehabilitation	- Investigate cause. - Change procedure if necessary. - Supplement with additional seed or planting.	Ausgold Environment Department
Numbers of black cockatoos detected during monitoring decreases significantly	- Investigate cause. - Undertake research if necessary.	Ausgold Environment Department
Evidence of decline in health of vegetation within the BOA	- Undertake investigation to identify the cause of plant decline - Implement appropriate corrective actions, including remediation as required.	Ausgold Environment Department
Breach of Dieback management commitments	- Investigate cause and assess risk to uninfested areas. - Review procedures (hygiene measures, training, signage etc). - Monitor the effectiveness of remedial actions taken.	Ausgold Environment Department
Phytophthora Dieback detected in BOA	- Determine the extent of the infected area, cause and vector agent. - Take action to prevent any further spread of the infection (quarantine and vector control). - Consider planting dieback indicator species around the infected area to aid in boundary demarcation and provide a warning system for further spread.	Site Supervisors Environmental Manager Site Environmental Personnel
Increase of numbers of feral animals within the BOA	- Record incidents and report as appropriate. - Review inspection records. - Conduct investigation and implement process improvements as required. - Undertake targeted pest management programs	Ausgold Environment Department
An increase in general weed populations within the BOA	- Conduct a weed hygiene inspection on ground engaging equipment prior arriving to site - Implement targeted weed inspection/monitoring and spraying program	Ausgold Environment Department
The introduction of weed species previously unrecorded within the BOA		

Trigger	Action	Responsibility
Monitoring indicates decline in surface water quality at BOA	• Review monitoring records. • Review management controls and procedures. • Investigate source/cause of exceedance. • Determine and implement appropriate management measures. • Report as required.	Ausgold Environment Department

20 Completion and Success Criteria

The following success criteria aim to achieve outcomes within 20 years of the activities within the enhanced restoration area commencing:

- The density and richness of native flora species within the enhanced restoration area are >70% of that within reference sites trending towards a similar composition;
- No WoNS, Declared Pests or species identified as posing a significant threat to relevant MNES (Section 7.12) are present within the enhanced restoration area;
- The percentage coverage of all other weeds is no greater than the reference sites;
- Dieback is not introduced into enhanced restoration area as a result of management actions;
- Ninety-five hectares (95ha) of land under revegetation including:
 - Greater than 70% of the native flora species within the enhanced restoration area are recorded as fruiting, flowering or seeding;
- At least 10 ha of vegetation within the enhanced restoration area is classified as suitable EWTEC (community) and Red-tailed phascogale breeding and foraging habitat, including the presence of suitable refuge areas;
- At least 85 ha of vegetation within the enhanced restoration area classified as providing 'Moderate' Carnaby's cockatoo breeding and Red-tailed phascogale breeding and foraging habitat;
- At least 206 as replacement of potential nesting hollows (3:1) to meet the diagnostic requirements for Carnaby's cockatoo breeding;
- The occurrence of feral fauna species within the enhanced restoration area is no greater than the reference sites;
- The mean vegetation condition within the enhanced restoration area is at least equal to the reference sites;
- The mean habitat quality score of the enhanced restoration area is at least equal to the reference sites; and
- Fire frequency is managed appropriately to allow successful restoration long term.

In this circumstance, the nearest reference sites will include the Wurgubup State reserves (R12423 and R24072) and the Badgebup State reserves (comprised of many Lots) to the south. The monitoring and evaluation process at the BOA will be supported by a contingency process detailed in the proposed Management Plan, that will be developed for the selected BOA. The contingency process will address timeframes for execution, milestones for each MNES Offset, including milestones for Habitat Quality Standards (HQS) development. The Offset Project will also be supported by a process of adaptive management whereby progressive review and evaluation will inform actions and management as the project progresses.

21 Roles & Responsibilities

Accountability for implementing and reporting on the Offset Strategy rests with the Proponent until completion criteria have been achieved and approval conditions met. The responsibility for the day-to-day implementation of the Offset Strategy will be delegated to the Environmental Specialist employed by the Proponent.

The enhanced restoration will be implemented with the support of experienced contractors, including site preparation and direct seeding or supplementary planting. After initial phases of approval, the Proponent may partner with a local community group to oversee the ongoing management of the site once approvals received for project commencement.

Table 21-1: Stakeholder engagement for initiation of project planning on the BOA.

Stakeholder	Role	Responsibility
Ausgold	Fund and project manage the offset project	Financially support and provide on ground project management through the life of the project until land tenure changes of hands
Consultant	Contractor works and consultation	Provide advice and documentation when required this can occur in forms of management plans, strategies or reporting to state or federal government as required
DBCA	Consultation	Provide information on works occurring on adjacent nature reserves including prescribed burns, weed control, pest control or fauna monitoring
Shire of Katanning/Shire of Kent	Consultation	Provide information of works occurring on adjacent land, inform on local government legislation changes that may impact the works occurring on the BOA

22 Reporting

Throughout the life of the Revised Proposal, the Proponent will undertake external reporting to key regulatory agencies to demonstrate compliance with environmental approvals. Any potential non-compliance or significant findings will be documented and reported as required. Annual Compliance Reports will detail internal compliance results and performance against approval conditions and management commitments. These reports will include:

- Documentation of monitoring undertaken;
- Comparison of monitoring results to trigger values;
- Records of contingency actions implemented; and
- Evaluation of the Environmental Management Plan and associated programs.

The Offset Strategy and supporting documents will be subject to regular review and revision throughout the implementation period and until land tenure changes, particularly in response to audit findings and monitoring outcomes.

23 Limitations

23.1 Bushfire

Bushfire behaviour is strongly influenced by topography, with fire spreading more rapidly uphill, increasing in speed with every 10-degree rise in slope, this presents risk to the Woorgabup and Riffle Range Nature Reserve as it resides on the steeper portion of the MDE above the proposed BOA site. The site's current degraded condition further elevates bushfire risk, as unbalanced ecosystems dominated by grass fuels are highly flammable and difficult to control, particularly under prolonged drought conditions. These factors necessitate integrated fire management planning to safeguard restoration efforts and adjacent assets (Geoscience Australia, 2025).

23.2 Topography

The topography of the proposed BOA areas presents challenges for restoration activities (Figure 23-1). Direct seeding can be less effective on sloping terrain, as seeds are prone to displacement by rain and wind, reducing establishment success and impacting project outcomes. Due to the natural gradient and existing erosion along embankments on the proposed BOA lots, if not properly mitigated, may worsen during project works. Additionally, steep slopes increase bushfire risk and pose safety hazards for contractors, particularly when operating machinery during site preparation and revegetation. These factors necessitate tailored restoration techniques, erosion control measures, and strict safety protocols to ensure effective implementation and long-term ecological stability.

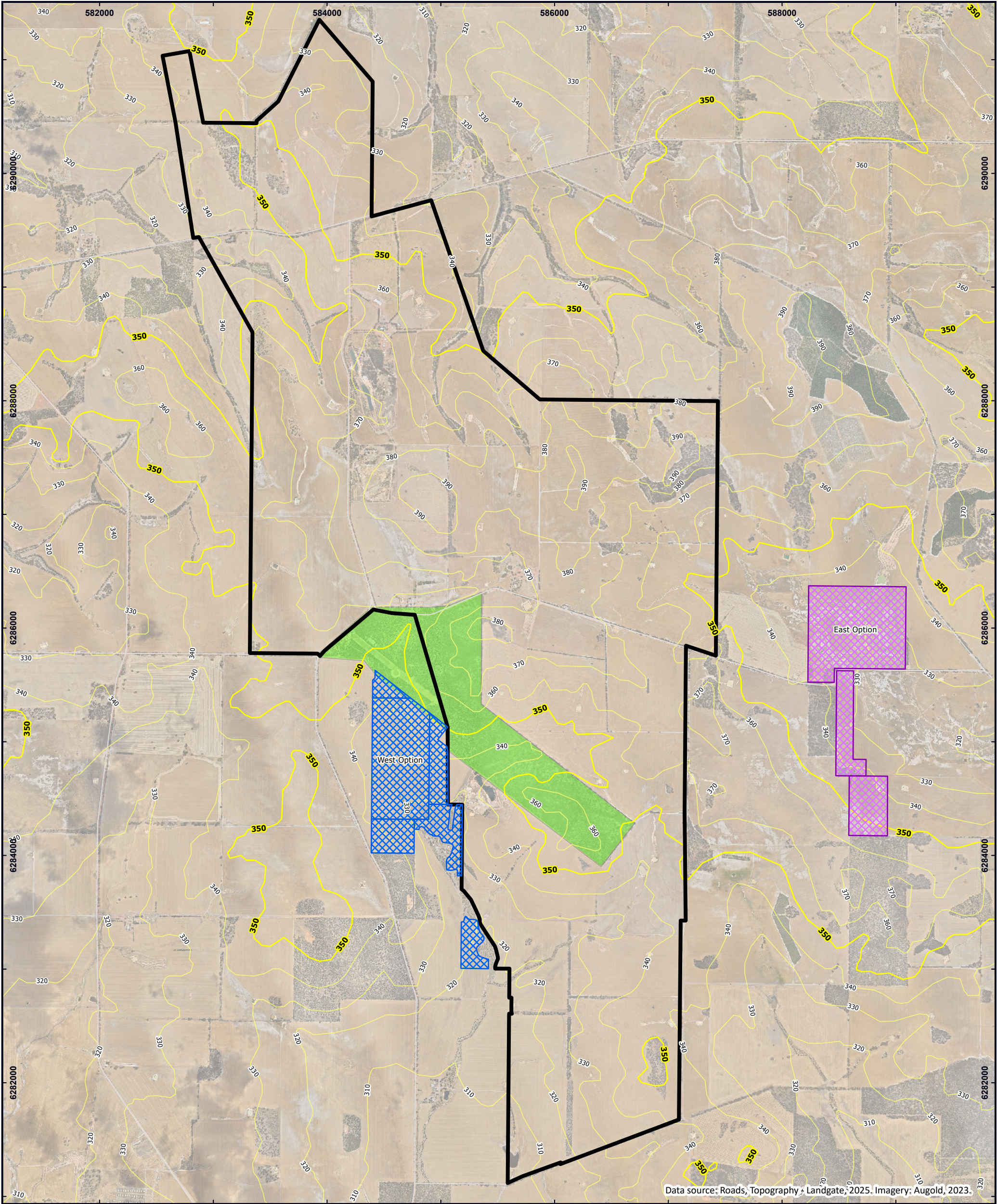
23.3 Project extent

Due to the size of the proposed BOA project, the scope and stages of restoration will need to be implemented progressively over multiple years to enable the transition of land use towards a final conservation covenant. This phased approach ensures that site preparation, revegetation, and monitoring can be conducted effectively while meeting compliance and ecological objectives. As a result, it may take several years before fauna begin to utilise the BOA as functional habitat and for flora communities to establish structural and floristic diversity representative of the benchmark vegetation type. Achieving a self-sustaining ecosystem will require ongoing management, adaptive strategies, and long-term monitoring to confirm success criteria.

23.4 Data Gaps

DCCEEW require baseline data on details within the offset area for each MNES, including starting values and habitat condition and habitat targeted for restoration, including species richness, structural composition, and identifying end-quality values, these should be compared to The Department's HQS or a comparable habitat value scoring method.

Ausgold plan on conducting baseline assessments on the BOA in 2026, once an appropriate decision is made on the preferred BOA and approved by stakeholders.



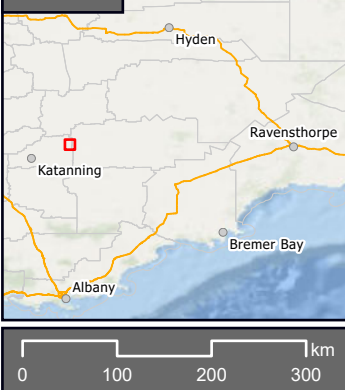
LEGEND

- Mine Development Envelope
- Rifle Range & Woorgabup Nature Reserve
- Proposed Offset Blocks**
 - East Option
 - West Option
- Ground Surface Topography**
 - Major Contour

- Minor Contour
- Western Australian Roads**
 - Minor Road

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LOCALITY



TOPOGRAPHY	
Katanning Gold Project	
Offsets Strategy	
Ausgold Limited	
Prepared: EJ/PA	
Reviewed: RM	
Project: TE25093	
Revision: A	
Date: 21/04/2026	Figure 22-1

Scale @ A3: 1:32,000
Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 50

24 Conclusion

Providing a BOA of ninety-five hectares (95 ha); Ausgold is able to make biodiverse restoration on the quantum of its own privately-owned freehold land outside of the mine site Development Envelope. It would be controlled for a conservation purpose in perpetuity by placing a conservation covenant on the title. Future mechanisms for management and maintenance will be determined in consultation with key stakeholders

The location of the preferred “Western BOA” option currently presents a strategic opportunity to restore valuable habitat and establish additional ecological corridor between the Woorgabup Nature Reserve, the Wurgubup Rifle Range Reserve and across the west BOA and into adjacent to other bushland on private land to the south. The site has the potential to support habitat for several conservation-significant species associated with MNES, including foraging and roosting habitat for Carnaby’s black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), and suitable habitat for the Red-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale calura*).

The BOA also provides an opportunity to replace 10 hectares of EWTEC directly contributing to the MNES offset requirements for the Ausgold Project. Additionally, the restoration of approximately 85 hectares of Critical MNES habitat for Carnaby’s black cockatoo and Red-tailed phascogale, and placement of 206 cockatoo breeding tubes (in State owned land nearby at Badgebup) will enhance broader ecological values by increasing habitat connectivity and supporting regional biodiversity.

The achievement of these outcomes is dependent on the successful implementation and long-term effectiveness of restoration activities within the BOA. Ongoing monitoring, adaptive management, and community engagement will be critical to ensuring the ecological integrity and sustainability of the offset area.

25 Proposed Additional Works

Upon endorsement of Ausgold's Offset Strategy, the proponent will continue its program of environmental investigations at the selected Biodiversity Offset area (BOA). This program will include additional soil and water sampling, as well as a continued detailed site inspection to monitor vegetation condition, and ecological values. These baseline data will inform the selection of appropriate management actions and guide the planning and commencement of on-ground works at the offset site.

In addition, the proponent will prepare or amend all relevant supporting documentation and management plans to incorporate the BOA. This will ensure that governance, monitoring, reporting, and long-term management requirements for the offset site are fully integrated into the project's environmental management framework.

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