

Permit

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Environmental authority EPPR00561513

This environmental authority is issued by the administering authority under Chapter 5 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

Environmental authority number: EPPR00561513

Environmental authority takes effect on 17 April 2025.

The anniversary date of this environmental authority is 23 May each year.

Environmental authority holder(s)

Name(s)	Registered address
TNC MINING PTY LTD	Great Australia Mine, Round Oak Road CLONCURRY QLD 4824

Environmentally relevant activity and location details

Environmentally relevant activity/activities	Location(s)
Schedule 3 - 09 - A mining activity involving drilling, costeaning, pitting or carrying out geological surveys causing significant disturbance Ancillary 63 - Sewage Treatment - 1(b-i) - Operating sewage treatment works, other than no-release works, with a total daily peak design capacity of more than 100 but not more than 1500EP if treated effluent is discharged from the works to an infiltration trench or through an irrigation scheme	EPM10313

Additional information for applicants

Environmentally relevant activities

The description of any environmentally relevant activity (ERA) for which an environmental authority (EA) is issued is a restatement of the ERA as defined by legislation at the time the EA is issued. Where there is any inconsistency between that description of an ERA and the conditions stated by an EA as to the scale, intensity or manner of carrying out an ERA, the conditions prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

An EA authorises the carrying out of an ERA and does not authorise any environmental harm unless a condition stated by the EA specifically authorises environmental harm.

A person carrying out an ERA must also be a registered suitable operator under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act).

Contaminated land

It is a requirement of the EP Act that an owner or occupier of land give written notice to the administering authority if they become aware of the following:

- the presence of, or happening of an event involving, a hazardous contaminant on the land that is causing, or is reasonably likely to cause, serious or material environmental harm (notice must be given within 24 hours); or
- if the land is contaminated land – a change in the condition of the land that is causing, or is reasonably likely to cause, serious or material environmental harm (notice must be given within 24 hours); or
- a notifiable activity (as defined in Schedule 3) having been carried out, or is being carried out, on the land (notice must be given within 20 business days).

For further information, including the form for giving written notice, refer to the Queensland Government website www.qld.gov.au, using the search term 'duty to notify'.

Take effect

Please note that, in accordance with section 200 of the EP Act, an EA has effect:

- a) if the authority is for a prescribed ERA and it states that it takes effect on the day nominated by the holder of the authority in a written notice given to the administering authority – on the nominated day; or
- b) if the authority states a day or an event for it to take effect – on the stated day or when the stated event happens; or
- c) otherwise – on the day the authority is issued.

However, if the EA is authorising an activity that requires an additional authorisation (a relevant tenure for a resource activity, a development permit under the *Planning Act 2016* or an SDA Approval under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*), this EA will not take effect until the additional authorisation has taken effect.

If this EA takes effect when the additional authorisation takes effect, you must provide the administering authority written notice within 5 business days of receiving notification of the related additional authorisation taking effect.

If you have incorrectly claimed that an additional authorisation is not required, carrying out the ERA without the additional authorisation is not legal and could result in your prosecution for providing false or misleading information or operating without a valid environmental authority.



Signature

17 April 2025

Date

Forough Ghasemi
Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation
Delegate of the administering authority
Environmental Protection Act 1994

Enquiries:
Minerals Business Centre
PO Box 7230, Cairns QLD 4870
Phone: (07) 4222 5352
Email: ESCairns@des.qld.gov.au

Obligations under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

In addition to the requirements found in the conditions of this environmental authority, the holder must also meet their obligations under the EP Act, and the regulations made under the EP Act. For example, the holder must comply with the following provisions of the Act:

- general environmental duty (section 319)
- duty to notify environmental harm (section 320-320G)
- offence of causing serious or material environmental harm (sections 437-439)
- offence of causing environmental nuisance (section 440)
- offence of depositing prescribed water contaminants in waters and related matters (section 440ZG)
- offence to place contaminant where environmental harm or nuisance may be caused (section 443)

Other permits required

This permit only provides an approval under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. In order to lawfully operate you may also require permits / approvals from your local government authority, other business units within the department and other State Government agencies prior to commencing any activity at the site. For example, this may include permits / approvals with your local Council (for planning approval), the Department of Transport and Main Roads (to access State controlled roads), the Department of Resources (to clear vegetation), and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (to clear marine plants or to obtain a quarry material allocation).

Conditions of environmental authority**Agency Interest: General**

- G1 The Environmental Authority holder must comply with each of the Standard Environmental Conditions contained in the Eligibility criteria and standard conditions for exploration and mineral development projects (Version 2 (ESR/2016/1985)).

Agency Interest: Air

- A1 The release of noxious or offensive odours or any other noxious or offensive airborne contaminants resulting from the activity must not cause a nuisance at any nuisance sensitive or commercial place.
- A2 The release of dust and or particulate matter resulting from the activity must not cause a nuisance at any nuisance sensitive or commercial place.

Agency Interest: Land

- L1 A minimum area of 7,000 square meters of land, excluding any necessary buffer zones, must be utilised for the irrigation of treated effluent at a maximum rate of 3mm/day.
- L2 The holder of the Environmental Authority must ensure that contaminated wastewater, and mine waste is contained to the drill pad in Cave Creek.
- L3 The holder of the Environmental Authority must use existing tracks where reasonable and practicable.
- L4 Regular harvesting of the land irrigation area is to be conducted as required with clippings disposed of outside the land application area.
- L5 Notwithstanding Condition B14 of the Eligibility criteria and standard conditions for exploration and mineral development projects, the holder of this Environmental Authority is authorised to carry out exploration activities in one location in Cave Creek, three locations in Oxide Creek, two locations in Caves Creek A and two locations in Caves Creek B as shown in the attached Maps 1 and 3 to 5.
- L6 Disturbance to the riparian vegetation along Cave Creek, Oxide Creek, Caves Creek A and Caves Creek B must be limited during exploration activities where reasonable and practicable.
- L7 Clearing of trees with a diameter breast height (dbh) equal to or greater than 15cm must be avoided where reasonable and practicable.
- L8 Clearing required for access tracks must be conducted using a 'blade-up' method. Where this method is not practical, disturbance to groundcover must be minimised.
- L9 Drilling must only occur at the locations defined in Map 1 and 3 to 5 during the dry season between the months of April and October.

Important Note:

The relevant Eligibility criteria and standard conditions for exploration and mineral development projects (ERA Standard) imposes certain restrictions on mining activities within or adjacent to Category A, B or C Environmentally Sensitive Areas, watercourses, wetlands and lakes. Ensure that the relevant provisions of the ERA Standard are complied with.

- L10 Notwithstanding Condition B24 of the Eligibility criteria and standard conditions for exploration and mineral development projects, land disturbed by exploration activities that is no longer required must be rehabilitated within six (6) months and prior to the onset of the wet season.
- L11 Notwithstanding standard condition A13 of the Eligibility criteria and standard conditions for exploration and mineral development projects, the holder of this environmental authority is authorised to carry out exploration activities within a distance that is not less than 5 metres of category B environmentally sensitive area, identified as endangered regional ecosystem, provided that no environmental harm occurs.
- L12 Significant residual impacts to prescribed environmental matters are not authorised under this environmental authority or the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*.
- L13 Records demonstrating that each impact to a prescribed environmental matter did not, or is not likely to, result in a significant residual impact to that matter must be:
- Completed by an appropriately qualified person; and
 - Kept for the life of the environmental authority.

Agency Interest: Waste

- WA1 All regulated waste removed of the site must be removed by a person who holds a current approval to transport such waste under the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

Agency Interest: Water

- W1 All effluent released from the treatment plant must be monitored at the frequency and for the parameters specified in the Table 1:

Table 1- Sewage effluent targets and monitoring frequency.

Quality Characteristics	Units	Limit	Limit Type	Monitoring frequency
pH	Ph Units	6 - 8.5	Minimum to maximum	Monthly
5-Day Biochemical Oxygen Demand	Mg/L	<20	80 th percentile ¹	Monthly
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	Mg/L	<30	80 th percentile ¹	Monthly
Free Chlorine Residual	Mg/L	<2.0	Maximum	Monthly
E coli	Units/100ml	<100	Maximum	Monthly
Total Nitrogen	Mg/L	10	Maximum	Monthly
Total Phosphorus	Mg/L	5	Maximum	Monthly

¹ The 80th percentile must be determined based on no more than ten (10) consecutive samples.

- W2 Subject to Condition W1, release of treated effluent is permitted via irrigation to the fenced designated area identified in Map 2. Alternatively, such effluent can be used for dust suppression on roads located within EPM 10313.
- W3 Record, compile and keep all monitoring results required by this approval and present this information to the administering authority when requested. The irrigation of effluent must be carried out in a manner such that:
- a) vegetation is not damaged;
 - b) soil erosion and soil structure damage is avoided;
 - c) there is no surface ponding of effluent;
 - d) percolation of effluent beyond the plant root zone is minimised;
 - e) the capacity of the land to assimilate nitrogen, phosphorus, salts, organic matter as measured by oxygen demand and water is not exceeded; and
 - f) the quality of ground water is not adversely affected.
- W4 Notices must be prominently displayed on areas undergoing effluent irrigation, warning the public that the area is irrigated with effluent and not to use or drink the effluent. These notices must be maintained in a visible and legible condition.
- W5 When conditions prevent the irrigation of treated effluent to land (such as during rain events), alternative measures must be taken to store/dispose of effluent (such as wet weather storage or tankering off site).
- W6 The operator of the ERA must record the following details for all complaints received in relation to the ERA and provide this information to the administering authority on request:
- a) time, date, name and contact details of the complainant;
 - b) reasons for the complaint;
 - c) any investigations undertaken;
 - d) conclusions formed; and
 - e) any actions taken.
- W7 The Environmental Authority Holder must investigate the soil geology of the irrigation area at the Mount Oxide camp including but not limited to the absorption capacity of the soil for nitrogen and phosphorus. The report into the investigation of the soil geology must be submitted to the administering authority before the 11 June 2008.
- W7 Based on the investigation report of the soil geology into the irrigation area at the Mount oxide camp, the administering authority may amend the environmental authority to further protect environmental values.
- W9 The holder of this environmental authority must not release contaminants to waters.

Definitions

Key terms and/or phrases used in this document are defined in this section. Where a term is not defined, the definition in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, its regulations or environmental protection policies must be used. If a word remains undefined it has its ordinary meaning.

‘appropriately qualified person’ means a person who has professional qualifications, training, skills or experience relevant to the nominated subject matter and can give authoritative assessment, advice and analysis on performance relating to the subject matter using the relevant protocols, standards, methods or literature.

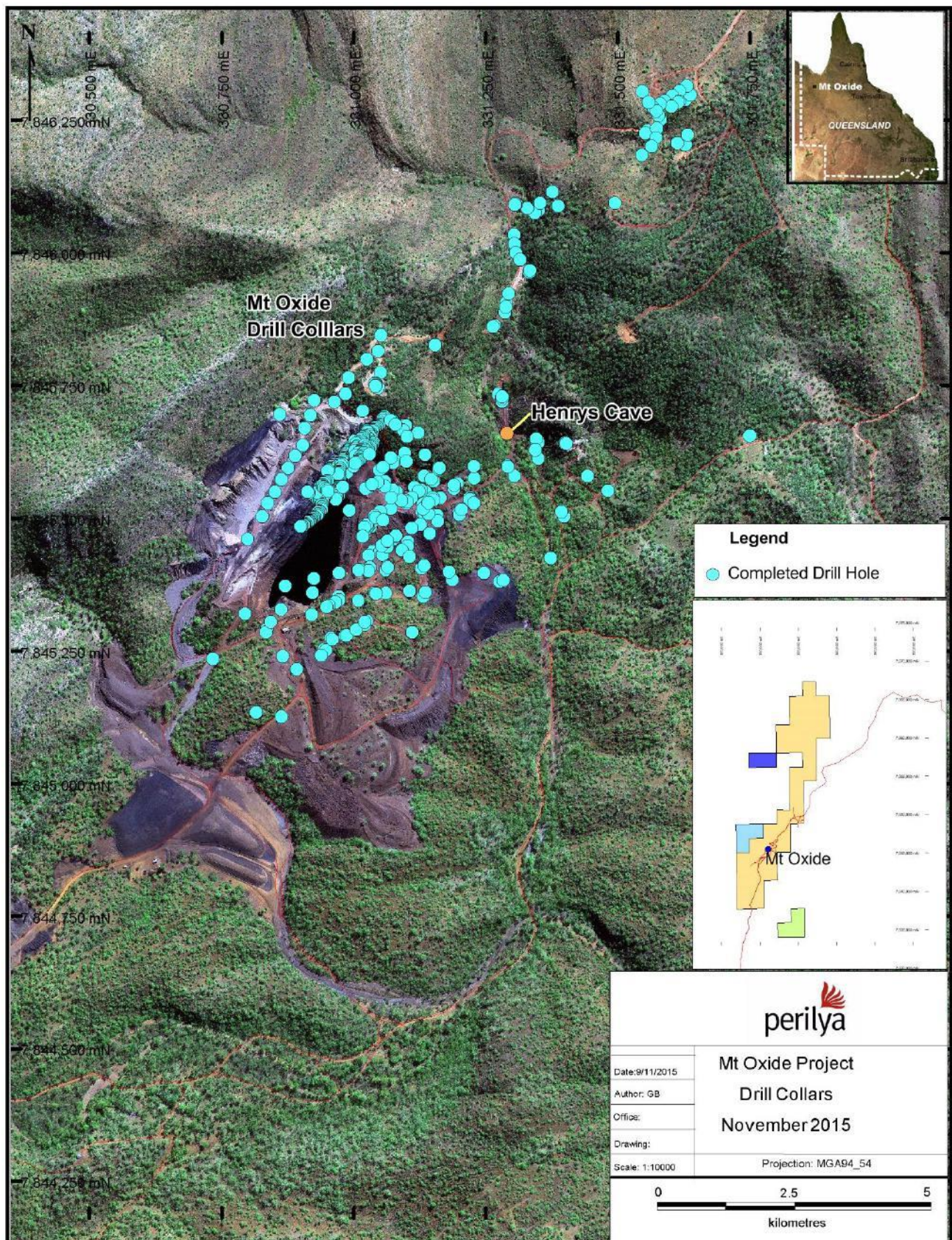
‘blade-up’ method means the clearing of vegetation by a grader or dozer blade that is tilted back to prevent it from cutting the ground surface and in a way which keeps the rootstock, topsoil and seedbank in-tact.

‘dbh’ means a diameter of a tree at breast height.

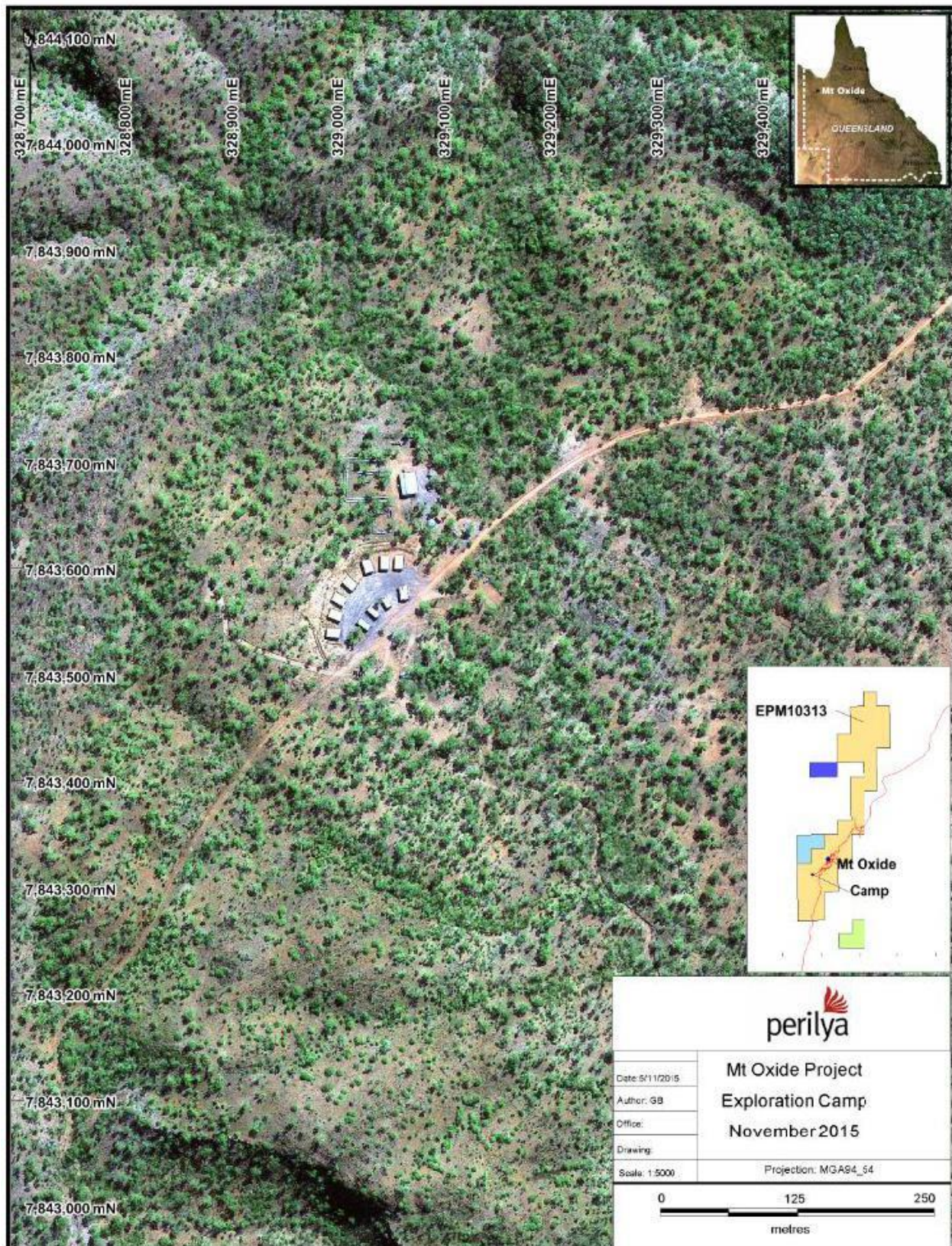
‘prescribed environmental matters’ has the meaning in section 10 of the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*, limited to the matters of state environmental significance listed in schedule 2 of the *Environmental Offsets Regulation 2014*.

‘significant residual impact’ is defined in section 8 of the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*.

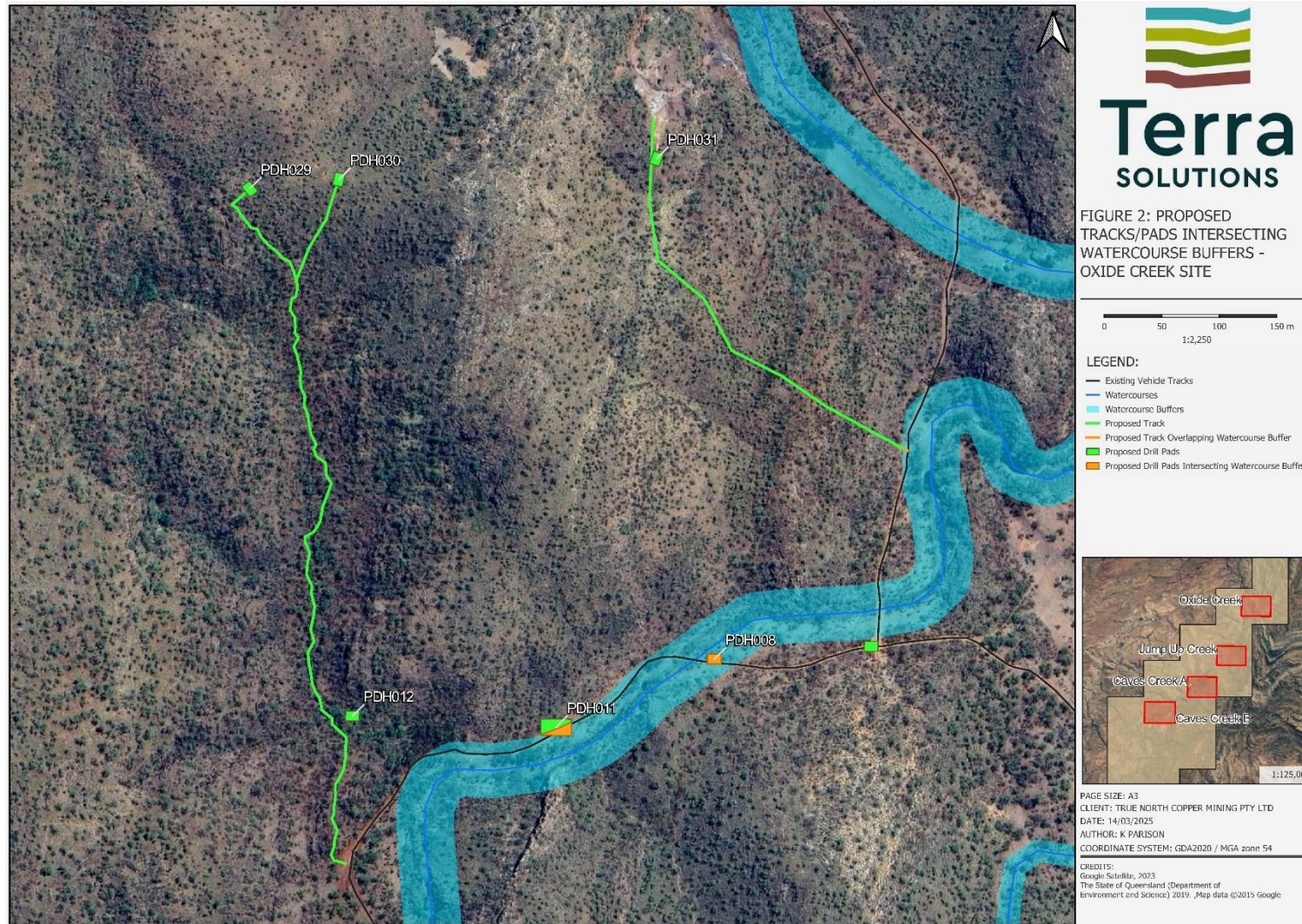
Map 1



Map 2



Map 3



Map 4



Map 5



Attachments

- Eligibility criteria and standard conditions for exploration and mineral development projects – Version 2 (ESR/2016/1985)

END OF PERMIT