

Permit

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Environmental authority P-EA-100601742

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

Environmental authority number: P-EA-100601742

Environmental authority takes effect on 17 December 2024.

The first annual fee is payable within 20 business days of the take effect date.

The anniversary date of this environmental authority is the same day each year as the take effect date. The payment of the annual fee will be due each year on this day.

Transfers of this environmental authority are not authorised.

Environmental authority holder(s)

Name(s)	Registered address
Austral Resources Operations Pty Ltd	Level 9, 60 Edward Street BRISBANE CITY QLD 4000

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	Exploration Permit Minerals (EPM) 28325

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).



Mobile and temporary activities

If you operate a mobile and temporary environmentally relevant activity (ERA), other than regulated waste transport, you are required to maintain a work diary. You must:

- use the approved form for a work diary (ESR/2015/1696);
- keep the work diary records for 2 years after the last entry;
- inform the administering authority within 7 days of the work diary being lost or stolen;
- record the information required in the work diary for each location within 1 day of leaving the location.

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.

The anniversary day of this environmental authority is the same day each year. The payment of the annual fee will be due each year on this day. An annual return will be due each year on 01 April.

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 December 2024

Date

Rebecca McAuley
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 Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development (to clear vegetation), and the Department of Primary Industries (to clear marine plants or to obtain a quarry material allocation).

Obligations under the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999*

If you are operating a quarry, other than a sand and gravel quarry where there is no crushing capability, you will be required to comply with the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999*. For more information on your obligations under this legislation contact Mine Safety and Health at www.resources.qld.gov.au, or phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or your local Mines Inspectorate Office.

Development Approval

This permit is not a development approval under the *Planning Act 2016*. The conditions of this environmental authority are separate, and in addition to, any conditions that may be on the development approval. If a copy of this environmental authority is attached to a development approval, it is for information only, and may not be current. Please contact the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation to ensure that you have the most current version of the environmental authority relating to this site.

Conditions of environmental authority

The environmentally relevant activities conducted at the locations as described above must be conducted in accordance with the following site-specific conditions of approval. This environmental authority consists of the following Schedules:

Schedule A	General
Schedule B	Air
Schedule C	Land
Schedule D	Definitions and Attachments
Schedule E	Figures

Schedule A - General

- A1 This environmental authority authorises harm referred to in the conditions. Where there is no condition or this environmental authority is silent on this matter, the lack of a condition or silence does not authorise environmental harm.
- A2 With the exception of any variations, the conditions of approval for this environmental authority are the eligibility criteria and standard conditions contained within the *Eligibility criteria and standard conditions for exploration and mineral development projects – Version 2 (ESR/2016/1985)*.
- A3 All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure the activity complies with the eligibility criteria.
- A4 The holder of this environmental authority must:
- (a) Install all measures, plant and equipment necessary to ensure compliance with the conditions of this environmental authority;
 - (b) Maintain such measures, plant and equipment in a proper and efficient condition;
 - (c) Operate such measures, plant and equipment in a proper and efficient manner; and
 - (d) Ensure all instruments and devices used for the measurement or monitoring of any parameter under any condition of this environmental authority are properly calibrated.
- A5 The holder of the environmental authority must record and notify the administering authority of any emergency or incident which demonstrates non-compliance with conditions of this environmental authority.

END OF SCHEDULE A

Schedule B – Air

- B1 Odours or airborne contaminants must not cause environmental harm to any sensitive place or commercial place.

END OF SCHEDULE B

Schedule C – Land

- C1 With the exception of the mining activities authorised under condition C2, the holder of the environmental authority must not carry out activities in a category A environmentally sensitive area or a category B environmentally sensitive area.
- C2 Mining activities are authorised to be carried out in, and within 500 metres of, a category B environmentally sensitive area at the locations described in **Schedule C – Table 1 (Category B ESA and associated buffer permitted disturbance)** and depicted in **Schedule E – Figure 1 (Authorised disturbance in Category B ESA)** and **Schedule E – Figure 2 (Authorised disturbance in Category B ESA buffer)**, provided that no environmental harm occurs within the environmentally sensitive area.

Schedule C – Table 1 (Category B ESA and associated buffer permitted disturbance)

Description	Easting (GDA94)	Northing (GDA94)	Disturbance
EPM28325			
Category B ESA locations			Drill pad no greater than 20 metres by 20 metres. Access road no greater than 1600 metres long by 3 metres wide
pLM_23001	302400	7788230	
pLM_23002	302430	7788254	
pLM_23003	302440	7788200	
pLM_23004	302480	7788170	
pLM_23006	302450	7788130	
pLM_23007	302582	7788097	
pLM_23008	302660	7788066	
pLM_23009	302275	7788325	
pLM_23012	302668	7788161	
pLM_23013	302625	7788210	
pLM_23014	302511	7788252	
pLM_23015	302460	7788310	
pLM_23016	302360	7788180	
pLM_23017	302307	7788245	
pLM_23018	302159	7788307	
pLM_23019	302231	7788099	
pLM_23020	302750	7788060	
pLM_23021	302534	7788321	
Category B ESA 500m buffer locations			
pLM_23005	302125	7788460	
pLM_23010	301830	7788690	
pLM_23011	301160	7789395	

- C3 Mining activities carried out at the locations described in **Schedule C – Table 1 (Category B ESA and associated buffer permitted disturbance)** and depicted in **Schedule E – Figure 2 (Authorised disturbance in Category B ESA)** and **Schedule E – Figure 2 (Authorised disturbance in Category B ESA buffer)** must not:
- (a) exceed a total disturbance area of 5.7 hectares; and
 - (b) damage or destroy any mature trees with a trunk diameter of greater than 25 centimetres.
- C4 The holder of the environmental authority must not carry out exploration activities in, or within 500 metres of, a category B environmentally sensitive area during the wet season.
- C5 Exploration activities requiring vegetation clearing within a category B environmentally sensitive area must be inspected prior to clearing by an appropriately qualified person (e.g. ecologist) to identify potential flora and fauna values within the target area. The final positioning of drilling and access track locations must consider the outcomes of the ecological inspection and be located to avoid impacts to sensitive vegetation or significant fauna habitat.
- C6 Records of the ecological inspection required by condition C5 must be maintained for the life of the environmental authority.
- C7 The holder of the environmental authority must conduct annual monitoring of the rehabilitation of activities within environmentally sensitive areas for three (3) years from commencement of rehabilitation.
- C8 The annual monitoring required by condition C7 must include an assessment using the attributes and weightings described in **Schedule C – Table 2 (The assessable attributes and weightings for deriving the final BioCondition score)**.

Schedule C – Table 2 (The assessable attributes and weightings for deriving the final BioCondition score¹)

	Attribute	Weighting (%)
Site-based condition attributes	Large trees	15
	Tree canopy height	5
	Recruitment of canopy species	5
	Tree canopy cover (%)	5
	Shrub layer cover (%)	5
	Course woody debris	5
	Native plant species richness for four lifeforms	20
	Non-native plant cover	10
	Native perennial grass cover (%)	5
	Litter cover	5
Landscape attributes (fragmented subregions ²)	Size of patch	10
	Context	5
	Connectivity	5
OR		
Landscape attributes		

(intact subregions)	Distance to permanent water	20
TOTAL		100

¹ Assessable attributes and weightings derived from Table 2 of the *BioCondition Assessment Manual, Queensland Herbarium, Science Delivery, Version 2.2, February 2015*.

² Refer to definitions and locality map of bioregions in section 6 of the *BioCondition Assessment Manual, Queensland Herbarium, Science Delivery, Version 2.2, February 2015*.

C9 An appropriately qualified person must:

- (a) assess and compare the results of the annual monitoring required by condition C7 with the outcomes of the ecological inspection required by condition C5;
- (b) record the status of rehabilitation of disturbed areas; and
- (c) propose and implement actions required to achieve rehabilitation of disturbed areas.

C10 Significant residual impacts to prescribed environmental matters are not authorised under this environmental authority or the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*.

C11 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:

- (a) completed by an appropriately qualified person; and
- (b) kept for the life of the environmental authority.

C12 Records of disturbance from the mining activities must be kept and made available to the administering authority upon request in the format requested. These records must be kept for the life of the environmental authority and include, at a minimum:

- (a) the type, location and area of disturbance from mining activities;
- (b) the date of the disturbance from mining activities; and
- (c) the commencement and completion dates for rehabilitation of the disturbance.

END OF SCHEDULE C

Schedule D - 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.

'administering authority' is the agency that administers the environmental authority provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

'appropriately qualified person' means a person who has professional qualifications, training, skills or experience relevant to the EA requirements and can give authoritative assessment, advice and analysis in relation to the EA requirements using the relevant protocols, standards, methods or literature.

'banks' means the feature which confines major flows within a watercourse. They are steeper than a terrace and are generally of a slope greater than 1:1 on outer bends.

'category A environmentally sensitive area' has the same meaning as defined in Schedule 19, Part 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2019*, as reproduced below –

A **category A environmentally sensitive area** means any of the following –

- (a) any of the following under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* –
 - (i) a national park (scientific);
 - (ii) a national park;
 - (iii) a national park (Aboriginal land);
 - (iv) a national park (Torres Strait Islander land);
 - (v) a national park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land);
 - (vi) a conservation park;
 - (vii) a special wildlife reserve;
 - (viii) a forest reserve;
- (b) the wet tropics area under the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*;
- (c) the Great Barrier Reef Region under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975* (Cwlth);
- (d) a marine park under the *Marine Parks Act 2004*, other than a part of the park that is a general use zone under that Act.

'category B environmentally sensitive area' has the same meaning as defined in Schedule 19, Part 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2019*, as reproduced below –

A **category B environmentally sensitive area** means any of the following –

- (a) any of the following areas under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* –
 - (i) a coordinated conservation area;
 - (ii) an area of critical habitat or major interest identified under a conservation plan;
 - (iii) an area subject to an interim conservation order;
- (b) an area subject to the following conventions to which Australia is a signatory –
 - (i) the 'Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals' (Bonn, 23 June 1979);
 - (ii) the 'Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat' (Ramsar, Iran, 2 February 1971);
 - (iii) the 'Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage' (Paris, 23 November 1972);

- (c) a zone of a marine park under the *Marine Parks Act 2004* that is within a general use zone of the marine park under that Act;
- (d) an area to the seaward side of the highest astronomical tide;
- (e) the following under the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* –
 - (i) a place of cultural heritage significance;
 - (ii) a Queensland heritage place, unless there is an exemption certificate issued under that Act;
- (f) an area recorded in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register established under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, section 46, other than the area known as the 'Stanbroke Pastoral Development Holding', leased under the *Land Act 1994* by lease number PH 13/5398;
- (g) a feature protection area, State forest park or scientific area under the *Forestry Act 1959*;
- (h) a declared fish habitat area under the *Fisheries Act 1994*;
- (i) a place in which a marine plant under the *Fisheries Act 1994* is situated;
- (j) an endangered regional ecosystem identified in the database known as the 'Regional ecosystem description database' published on the department's website.

Note – The Regional ecosystem description database is also available for inspection during office hours, at the Queensland Herbarium and each regional office of the department.

'commercial place' means a workplace used as an office or for business or commercial purposes, which is not part of the mining activity and does not include employees' accommodation or public roads.

'disturbed' means any area that has had its natural state altered by the action or interference of carrying out an activity associated with the exploration project.

'dry season' means the period from May to October each year.

'historic disturbance' means disturbance caused by mining activities on tenure EPM28325 prior to the date that tenure was granted.

'holder', for a mining tenement, means a holder of the tenement under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, and the holder of the associated environmental authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

'land' in the **'land schedule'** of this document means land excluding waters and the atmosphere, that is, the term has a different meaning from the term as defined in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. For the purposes of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, it is expressly noted that the term 'land' in this environmental authority relates to physical land and not to interests in land.

'minimise' is to reduce to the smallest possible amount or degree.

'rehabilitation' the process of reshaping and revegetating land to restore it to a stable landform.

'revegetation' is the re-establishment of vegetation of a species and density of cover similar to surrounding undisturbed areas or the landform that existed before mining activities on soil surfaces associated with the construction or rehabilitation of a watercourse diversion.

'riverine area' refers to the land adjoining and associated with watercourses, including the bed, banks, adjoining terraced land and riparian vegetation.

'sensitive place' means:

- (a) a dwelling, residential allotment, mobile home or caravan park, residential marina or other residential premises, or
- (b) a motel, hotel or hostel, or
- (c) an educational institution, or
- (d) a medical centre or hospital, or

- (e) a protected area under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, the *Marine Parks Act 1992*, or
- (f) a World Heritage Area, or
- (g) a public park or gardens.

Note: The definition of 'sensitive place' and 'commercial place' is based on Schedule 1 of EPP Noise. That is, a sensitive place is inside or outside on a dwelling, library and educational institution, childcare or kindergarten, school or playground, hospital, surgery or other medical institution, commercial & retail activity, protected area or an area identified under a conservation plan under *Nature Conservation Act 1992* as a critical habitat or an area of major interest, marine park under *Marine Parks Act 2004*, park or garden that is outside of the mining lease and open to the public for the use other than for sport or organised entertainment. A commercial place is inside or outside a commercial or retail activity.

A mining camp (i.e., accommodation and ancillary facilities for mine employees or contractors or both, associated with the mine the subject of the environmental authority) is not a sensitive place for that mine or mining project, whether or not the mining camp is located within a mining tenement that is part of the mining project the subject of the environmental authority. For example, the mining camp might be located on neighbouring land owned or leased by the same company as one of the holders of the environmental authority for the mining project, or a related company. Accommodation for mine employees or contractors is a sensitive place if the land is held by a mining company or related company, and if occupation is restricted to the employees, contractors and their families for the particular mine or mines which are held by the same company or a related company.

For example, a township (occupied by the mine employees, contractors and their families for multiple mines that are held by different companies) would be a sensitive place, even if part or all of the township is constructed on land owned by one or more of the companies.

'significant residual impact' has the meaning in section 8 of the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*.

'water' is defined under Schedule 4 of the *Water Act 2000*.

'watercourse' has the same meaning given in the *Water Act 2000*.

'waters' has the same meaning as defined in the *Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Policy 2019*, as reproduced below:

waters—

- (a) includes the bed and banks of waters; and
- (b) without limiting the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, schedule 1, definition Queensland waters, includes—
 - (i) surface water; and
 - (ii) groundwater.

'wetland' areas of permanent or periodic/intermittent inundation, whether natural or artificial, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed 6m. Wetlands typically include areas such as lakes, swamps, marshes, estuaries or mudflats.

'wet season' means the period from November to April each year.

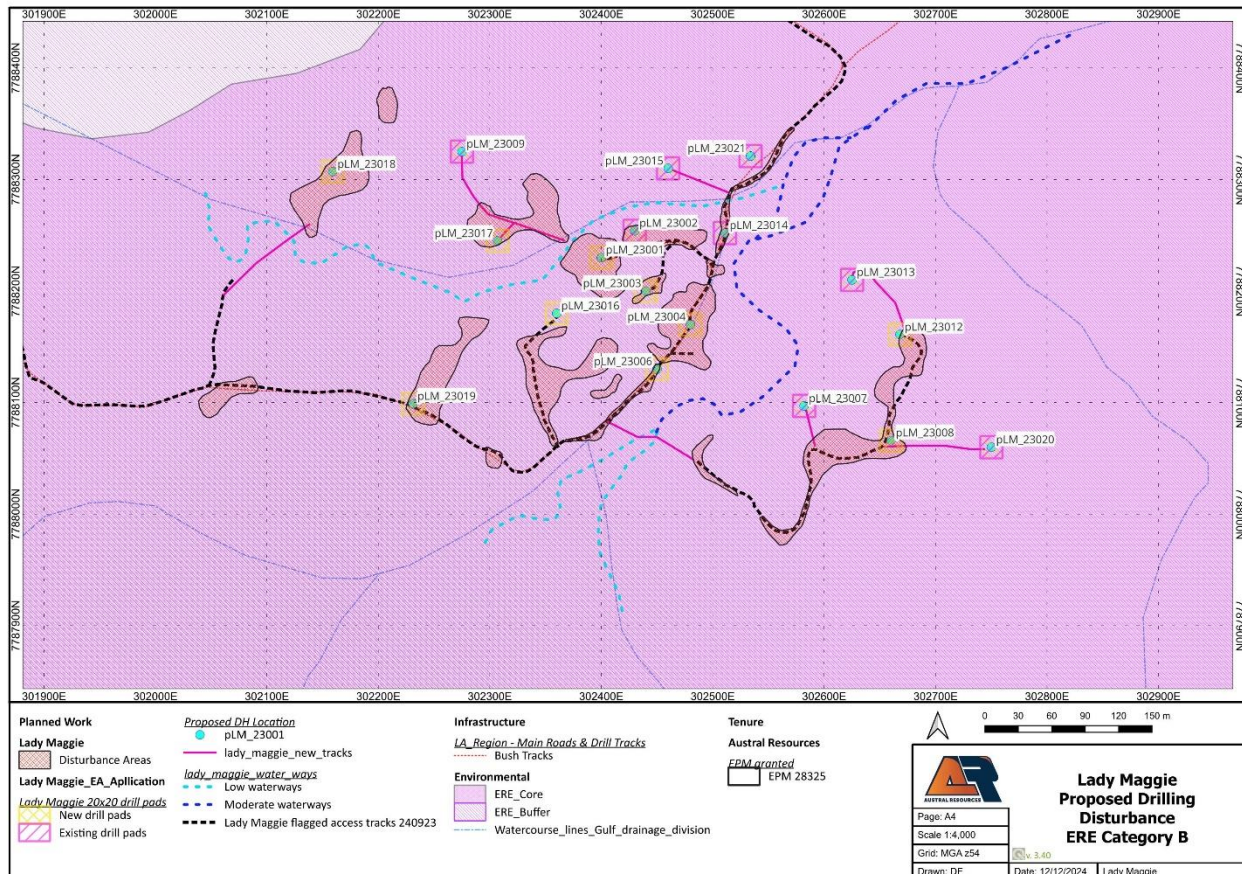
Attachments

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

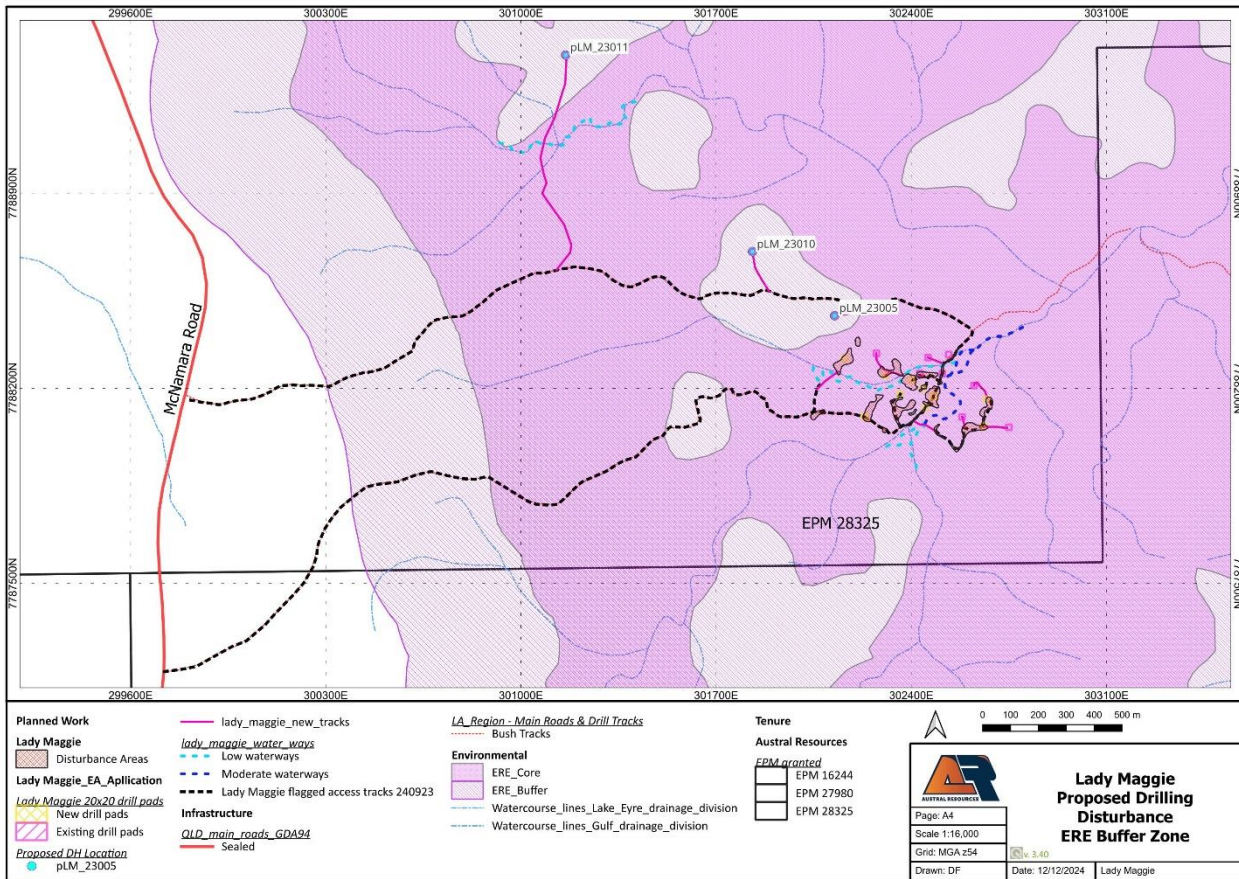
END OF SCHEDULE D

Schedule E – Figures

Schedule E – Figure 3 (Authorised disturbance in Category B ESA)



Schedule E – Figure 2 (Authorised disturbance in Category B ESA buffer)



END OF SCHEDULE E

END OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY