

Middlemount Coal Mine

Compliance Report –

Western Extension (EPBC 2017/8130)

Reporting Period -

1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

March 2026

Project Name	Middlemount Coal Mine, Western Extension, Bowen Basin, QLD
Approval Holder	Middlemount Coal Pty Ltd
ACN	122 348 412
Address	Level 17, 444 Queen Street, Brisbane City, QLD 4001
EPBC Reference	EPBC 2016/7717
Approved Action	To construct, operate and decommission the western extension of the Middlemount Coal Mine, including an open cut mine and associated infrastructure at Middlemount Coal Mine, 2.4 km west of Middlemount, Queensland
Approval Date of Action	8 October 2019
Commencement Date of Action	1 November 2019
Reporting Period	1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025
Expiry Date of Action	1 November 2049
Document Version	1.0
Declaration of Accuracy In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.	
Signature of authorised reporting officer	
Name of authorised reporting officer	Henning Boshoff
Title of authorised reporting officer	Environment, Community & Approvals Manager
Date	27 March 2026
Organisation Name	Middlemount Coal Pty Ltd
Organisation ACN	122 348 412

Revision Summary		
Author	Version	Date
Environment – Middlemount Coal Pty Ltd	1.0	27 March 2025

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	3
1. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	4
2. COMPLIANCE TABLE	8
Appendix 1: Letter to DotEE regarding commencement date of action	15

Figure 1: Regional Location of Middlemount Coal mine	5
Figure 2: General arrangement of Middlemount Coal mine	6
Figure 3: General arrangement of the Middlemount Coal mine incorporating the action	7

1. INTRODUCTION

The Middlemount Coal Mine is in the central Bowen Basin approximately 270 kilometres (km) north-west of Rockhampton and approximately 6 km south-west of Middlemount in central Queensland (Qld) (Figure 1).

On 22 December 2017, Middlemount Coal Pty Ltd (MCPL) an incorporated joint venture between Peabody Energy Australia Pty Ltd, and Yancoal Australia Ltd, lodged a referral with the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy (DotEE) for the Western extension project for the actions include the following:

- extension of the open cut pit within Mining Lease (ML) 70379 to the north-west (Figure 3);
- placement of waste rock in existing emplacements, expanded emplacements (including an extension of the Eastern Dump to the east - Figure 3) and within the mined out void;
- progressive development of sediment dams, pipelines and other water management equipment and structures (including levees and realignment of existing diversion structures);
- progressive development of new haul roads and internal roads;
- continued development of soil stockpiles, laydown areas and borrow areas;

The Western Extension Project (the Project) provides for the continuation of open cut coal mining operations at the Middlemount Coal Mine (Figure 2 and 3).

On 8 February 2018, a delegate for the Commonwealth Minister declared the Action to be a controlled action for the purposes of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act, 1999* (EPBC Act) due to likely impacts on listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A).

Middlemount Coal Pty Ltd was subsequently granted approval for the Middlemount Coal Western Extension Project under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act, 1990* (EPBC Act) on 8 October 2019 (Commonwealth Approval [EPBC Act (EPBC 2017/8130)]). Middlemount Coal notified DoEE on the 5 November 2019, that the referred action (Middlemount Coal Mine [Western Extension]) was to commence on the 30 October 2019.

The approval is subject to seventeen (17) conditions and has effect until 1 November 2049. This compliance report is required by Condition 9 of the approval and has been prepared for Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), formally the Commonwealth of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, the Department of the Environment and Energy (DotEE) & the Department of the Environment (DotE). The *Annual Compliance Report Guidelines* (DotE 2014) were referenced during the compilation of this report.

The approved action is as follows:

Approved action:

To construct, operate and decommission the western extension of the existing Middlemount Coal mine pit and associated infrastructure at Middlemount Coal Mine, 2.4 km west of Middlemount, Queensland

The EPBC Act approval decision encompasses the following controlling provisions:

Controlling Provision	Decision
Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A)	Approve

This report details activities and compliance with EPBC 2017/8130 for the period 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

2. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Middlemount Coal Pty Ltd operates the Middlemount Coal Mine (MCM), located 6km west of Middlemount township. The MCM is an open cut coal mine producing Pulverized Coal Injection (PCI) and Coking Coal for the export market. MCM is an incorporated joint venture between Peabody Energy Australia Pty Ltd (50%) and Yancoal (50%).

The MCM is permitted to extract up to 5.7 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of run-of-mine (ROM) coal to produce approximately 4.2 Mtpa of combined PCI and Coking coal. PCI and Coking coal is metallurgical coal used for the manufacturing of steel. MCM has contracted rail and port capacity through Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal (DBCT) and Abbot Point Port (APCT).

Three primary seams of the Rangal coal measures are targeted for mining. The Middlemount and Pisces seams both have an average thickness of between 4.5m and 5m with the Tralee seam slated for extraction when it exceeds 0.3m in thickness.

Mining operations consist primarily of excavator and truck strip mining augmented by cast and doze. Beneficiation is performed in a 700tph single stage two product coal handling and preparation plant.

Marketing of the coal is conducted by Yancoal on MCM's behalf.

The operations at MCM occur 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

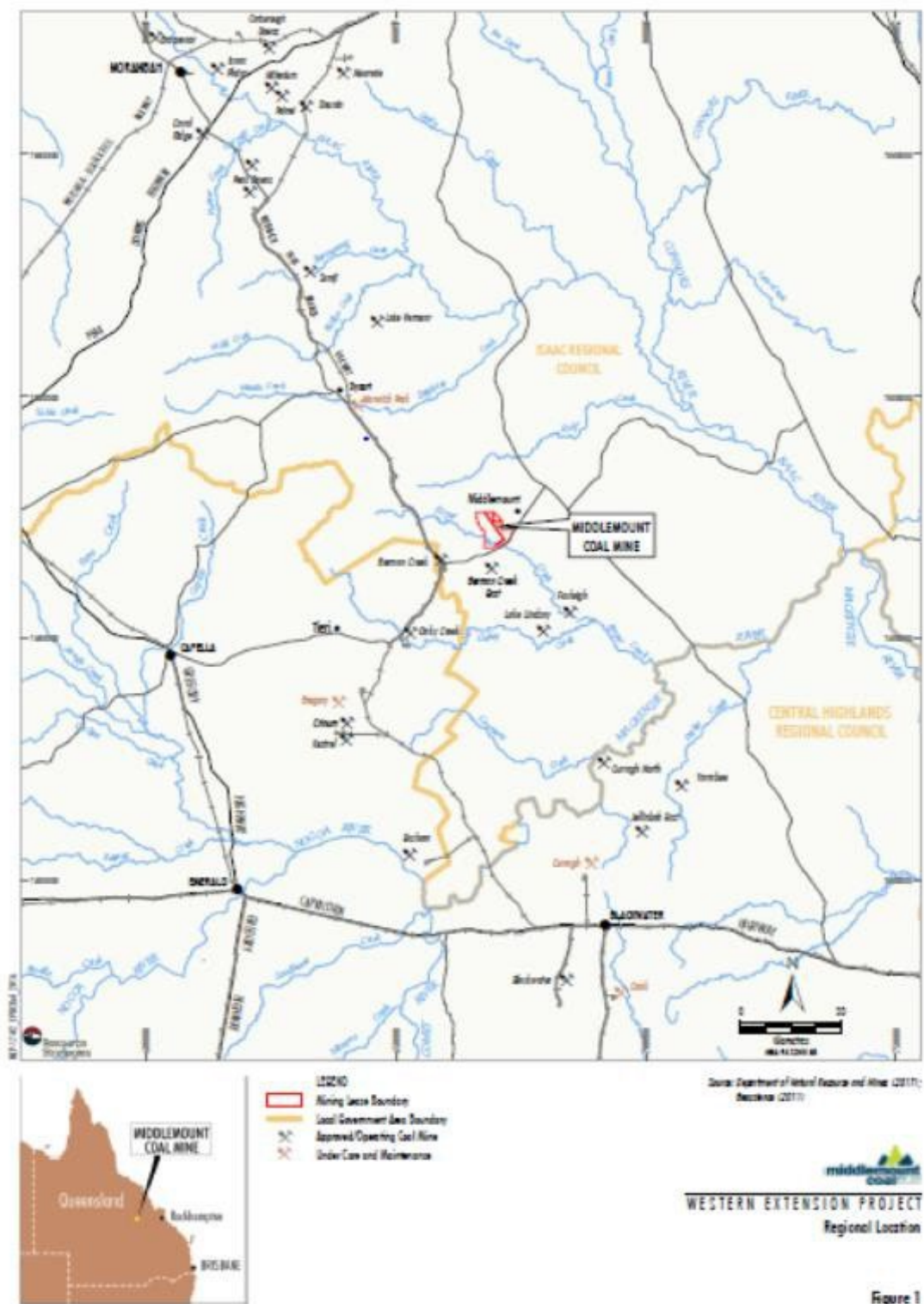


Figure 1

Figure 1: Regional Location of Middlemount Coal Mine

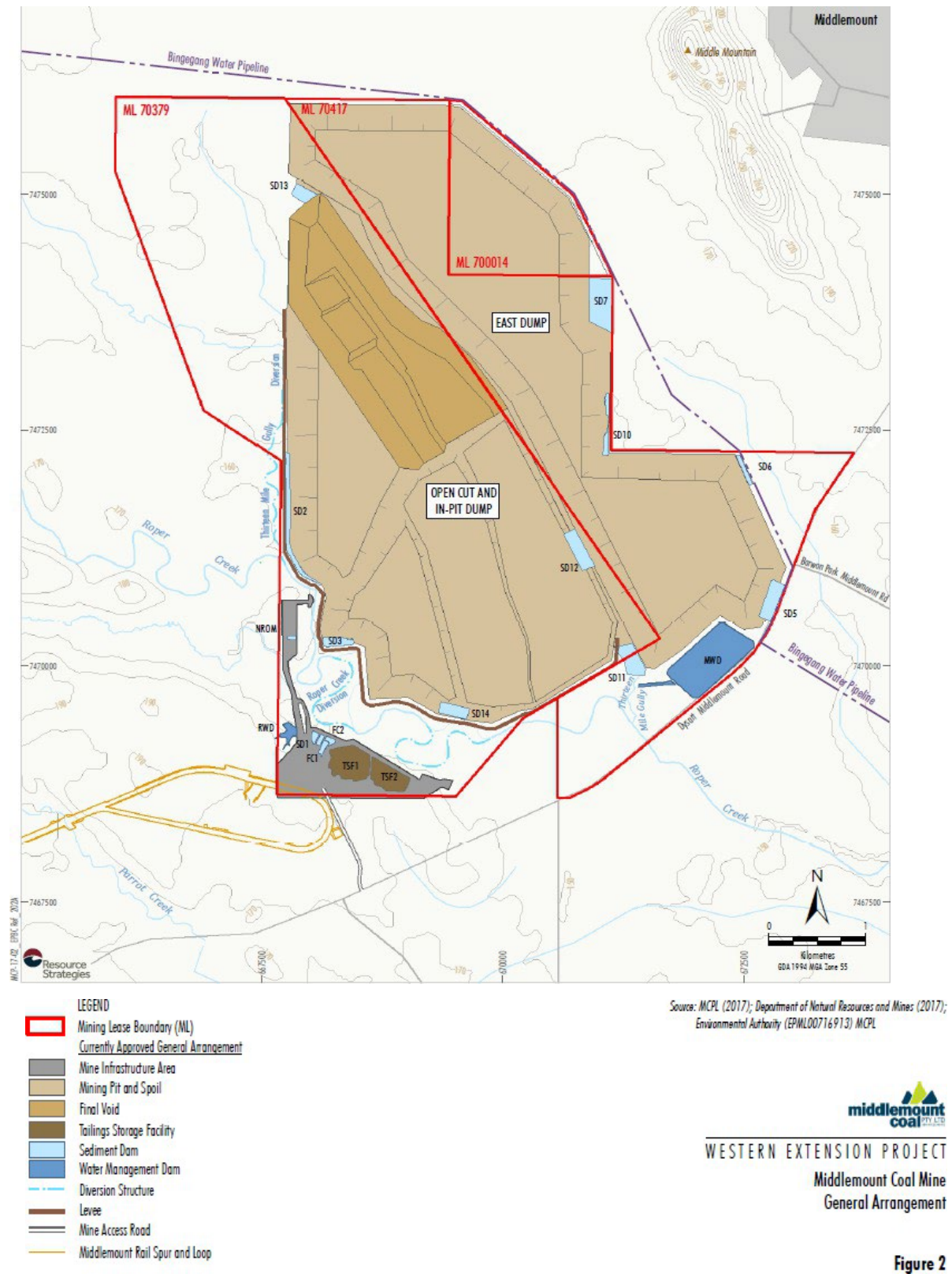


Figure 2

Figure 2: General arrangement of Middlemount Coal mine

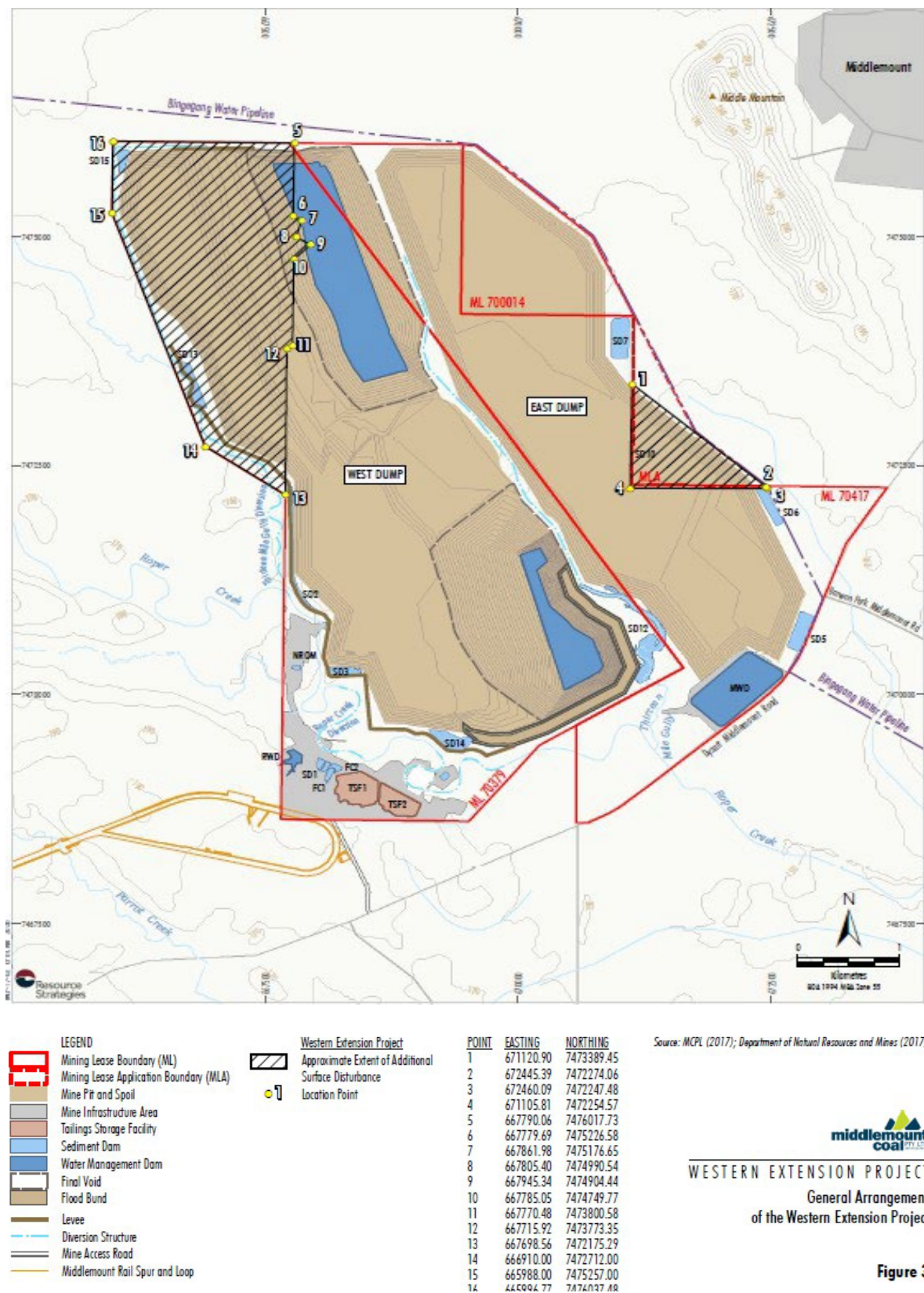


Figure 3: General arrangement of the Middlemount Coal mine incorporating the action

3. COMPLIANCE TABLE

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant/Non Compliant/Not applicable ¹	Evidence/Comments
1	Project Site For the period for which the approval has effect, the approval holder must not disturb more than: a) 22 ha of the Brigalow threatened ecological community at the approved action site b) 15.5 ha of Ornamental Snake habitat at the approved action site c) 388.5 ha of Squatter Pigeon breeding habitat at the approved action site d) 175 ha of Greater Glider habitat at the approved action site e) 175 ha of Koala habitat at the approved action site	Compliant	The extent of approximate clearing to 31 December 2024. 18.4 ha of Brigalow area 15.2 ha of Ornamental Snake habitat 249.59 ha of Squatter pigeon habitat 110.13 ha of Greater Glider habitat 110.13 ha of Koala habitat
2	Offsets From the date of commencement of the action the approval holder must provide the following offsets to compensate for residual significant impacts to listed threatened species, as identified in the Middlemount Coal Mine Western Extension Project (EPBC 2017/8130) EPBC Act Preliminary Assessment Documentation March 2019: a) Brigalow threatened ecological community-106 ha, comprised of i. 76 ha of Brigalow and ii. 30 ha of vegetation in the early stage of regrowing from past clearance. b) Ornamental Snake habitat: 106 ha, comprised of i) 76 ha of established Ornamental Snake habitat and	Compliant	VDEC certification issued on 17 October 2019. See Appendix 2.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant/Non Compliant/Not applicable ¹	Evidence/Comments
	ii) 30 ha of vegetation in the early stage of regrowing from past clearance. c) Squatter Pigeon habitat: 1155 ha, comprised of: i) 749.5 ha of established known Squatter Pigeon habitat and ii) 405.5 ha of vegetation in the early stage of regrowing from past clearance d) Greater Glider habitat: 975 ha, comprised of: i) 575 ha of established known Greater Glider habitat and ii) 400 ha of vegetation in the early stage of regrowing from past clearance e) Koala habitat: 1064.5 ha, comprised of: i) 664.5 ha of established, known Koala habitat and ii) 400 ha of vegetation in the early stage of regrowing from past clearance.		
3	The approval holder must implement the Middlemount Coal Mine Offset Management Plan/ Vegetation Management Plan (dated March 2019) for the offsets in Condition 2.	Compliant	Provisions of the Offset Management Plan 2019 are being implemented as required
4	The approval holder must legally secure the offset area in Condition 2 within 12 months of the commencement of the action. a) The legal security must include the approved offset completion criteria for the offset area.	Compliant	VDEC certification issued on 17 October 2019.
5	Notification of date of commencement of the action The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of the date of commencement of the action within 10 business days after the date of commencement of the action.	Compliant	No non-compliant matters have occurred. Notification emailed on 5/11/2019 See Appendix 1.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant/Non Compliant/Not applicable ¹	Evidence/Comments
6	Compliance records The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records.	Compliant	Noted
7	If the Department makes a request in writing, the approval holder must provide electronic copies of compliance records to the Department within the timeframe specified in the request.	Compliant	Noted
8	Preparation and publication of plans The approval holder must: a) publish the plan referred to in these conditions on the website within 20 business days of the date of approval of the action or of the date a revised plan is approved by the Minister, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister; b) exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from plans published on the website or provided to a member of the public; and c) keep the plan referred to in these conditions published on the website until the end date of this approval.	Compliant	Western Extension Project- EPBC – Offset Management Plan – March 2019 https://www.middlemountcoal.com.au/sustainability/
9	Annual compliance reporting The approval holder must prepare an annual compliance report for each 12 month period. Submission of the annual compliance report may align with the submission of the annual compliance reporting for Middlemount projects, or as otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister. The approval holder must: a) publish each compliance report on the website within 60 business days following the relevant 12 month period; b) notify the Department by email that a compliance report has been published on the website within five business days of the date of	Compliant	2025 report submitted on 27/03/2026. Published on the Middlemount Coal website on 26/03/2026. DCCEEW notified on 27/03/2026.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant/Non Compliant/Not applicable ¹	Evidence/Comments
	publication-the notification email should contain a copy of the compliance report and a link to where it has been published online; c) keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until this approval expires; d) exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website; and e) where any sensitive ecological data has been excluded from the version published, submit the full compliance report to the Department within 5 business days of publication.		Noted Noted
10	Reporting non-compliance The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any: incident; or non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in plans. The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than two business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance. The notification must specify: a) the condition which is or may be in breach; b) a short description of the incident and/or non-compliance; and c) the location (including co-ordinates), date and time, to the extent that these can be determined, of the incident and/or non-compliance.	Compliant	Noted
11	The approval holder must provide to the Department the details of any incident or noncompliance with the conditions or commitments made in plans as soon as practicable and no later than 10 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance, specifying: a) any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future; b) the potential impacts of the incident or non-compliance; and	Compliant	Noted – no incidents to report of.

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant/Non Compliant/Not applicable ¹	Evidence/Comments
	c) the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the approval holder.		
12	Independent audit The approval holder must ensure that independent audits of compliance with the conditions are as requested in writing by the Minister.	N/A	Noted
13	For each independent audit, the approval holder must: a) provide the name and qualifications of the independent auditor and the draft audit criteria to the Department; b) only commence the independent audit once the audit criteria have been approved in writing by the Department; and c) submit an audit report to the Department within the timeframe specified in the approved audit criteria.	N/A	Noted
14	The approval holder must publish the audit report on the website within 10 business days of receiving the Department's approval of the audit report and keep the audit report published on the website until the end date of this approval	N/A	Noted
15	Revision of plans If the Minister believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of listed threatened species, the Minister may request the approval holder make specified revisions to the plan required by these conditions and submit the revised plan for the Minister's written approval. The approval holder must comply with any such request. The approved plan must be implemented. Until the Minister has approved a revised plan, the approval holder must	N/A	Noted

Condition Number	Condition	Compliant/Non Compliant/Not applicable ¹	Evidence/Comments
	continue to implement the previously approved plan, as specified in these conditions.		
16	If the approval holder wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with the plan specified in these conditions, the approval holder must submit to the Department for the Minister's written approval, a revised version of that plan. The varied activity must not commence until the Minister has approved the varied plan in writing. The Minister will not approve a varied plan unless the revised plan would result in an equivalent or improved environmental outcome for listed threatened species over time. If the Minister approves the revised plan, that plan must be implemented in place of the plan originally approved.	N/A	Noted
17	Completion of the action Within 30 days after the completion of the action, the approval holder must notify the Department in writing and provide completion data.	N/A	Noted

¹ Definitions

Compliant

'Compliance' is achieved when all the requirements of a condition have been met, including the implementation of management plans or other measures required by those conditions.

Non-compliant

Requirements of a condition or elements of a condition, including the implementation of management plans and other measures have not been met.

Not applicable

requirements of a condition or elements of a condition fall outside of the scope of the current reporting period. For example a condition which applies to an activity that has not yet commenced.

Appendix 1: Letter to DotEE regarding commencement date of action

Level 17, 444 Queen Street,
BRISBANE CITY, QLD 4000
GPO Box 241
BRISBANE, QLD 4001
P : (617) 3179 2000
E: info@middlemountcoal.com.au
W: www.middlemountcoal.com.au



5 November 2019

Department of Environment and Energy
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

PostApproval@environment.gov.au

To whom it may concern,

Re: Middlemount Coal North-eastern Extension (EPBC 2017/8130) Commencement Notification

The EPBC Act approval for the Western Extension (2017/8130) requires notification to the Department following commencement of the action. Condition 5 states:

5) Within 30 days after the commencement of the action, the approval holder must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of commencement of the action.

Accordingly, please note that the Western Extension action commenced on the Wednesday 30/10/2019.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned 0448 367 359.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Jones", is positioned above the printed name.

Digitally signed by Daniel Jones
DN: cn=Daniel Jones, o, ou,
email=djones@middlemountcoa
l.com.au, c=AU
Date: 2019.11.05 13:43:21
+10'00'

Daniel Jones
Environmental Superintendent

Appendix 2: Voluntary Declaration Notice

Voluntary Declaration Notice

ss19E – 19L of the Vegetation Management Act 1999

1. Details of request

- 1.1. Proponent's name: [REDACTED]
- 1.2. Date request received: 19 September 2019
- 1.3. Request:
 - An area containing a vegetation clump or corridor that contributes to the maintenance of biodiversity.
 - An area that makes a significant contribution to the conservation of biodiversity.
- 1.4. Property description: Lot 2SP248577 – Isaac Regional Council.
- 1.5. Land tenure: Freehold
- 1.6. Decision reference: 2019/004055

2. Declaration information

- 2.1. Declaration made:

The Chief Executive of the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy declares the area identified on Declared Area Map DAM 2019/004055 as an area of high nature conservation value in accordance with Section 19F of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

The chief executive considers the declared area to meet the following criteria under Section 19G of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*—

The declared area is an area of high nature conservation value under Section 19G(1)(b), as the area is one or more of the following:

 - o An area containing a vegetation clump or corridor that contributes to the maintenance of biodiversity.
 - o An area that makes a significant contribution to the conservation of biodiversity

The documents outlined in 2.2 form part of this declaration.
- 2.2. Voluntary declaration documents:

The following documents are part of this voluntary declaration, and must be read in conjunction with this notice:

 - ☒ Declared area map (DAM 2019/004055)
- 2.3. Property Map of Assessable Vegetation

In accordance with s20D of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, the following Property Map of Assessable Vegetation has been prepared for the declared area.

 - ☒ Declared area PMAV (DA PMAV 2019/004056)

Voluntary Declaration Notice

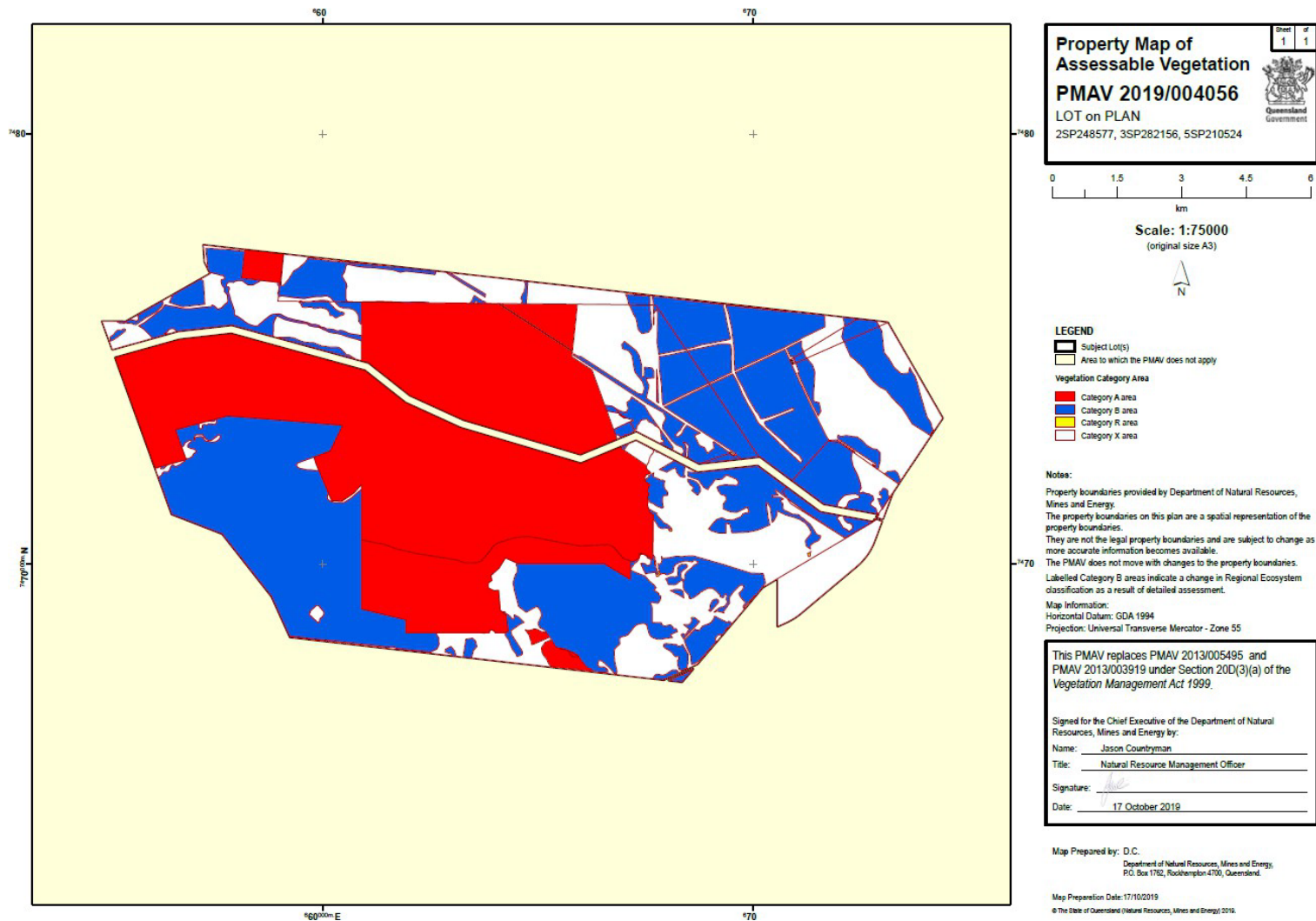
2.4. Date of declaration:

17 October 2019

3. Delegated officer's signature

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jason', is positioned above the printed name and title.

**Jason Countryman
Natural Resource Management Officer
Central Region**



LEADING THE WAY
IN ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT

**YEAR 13: ANNUAL
ECOLOGICAL OFFSET
COMPLIANCE REPORT**

MIDDLEMOUNT COAL WESTERN
EXTENSION OFFSET AREAS

October 2025

Contents

Document Control Page 3

1. Project Background 4

 1.1 Compliance Conditions 4

2. Compliance Results 4

3. Existing Management Actions 6

 3.1 Actions undertaken in 2024 / 2025 6

 3.2 Limitations..... 6

4. Site Specific Recommendations..... 7

5. Summary..... 12

6. References 12

List of Tables

Table 1. Performance criteria review - Western Extension Commonwealth Offset Area..... 4

Table 2. Performance criteria review - Western Extension State Offset Area..... 6

Table 3. Management recommendations for each permanent monitoring Site 8



Document Control Page

Version Control

Version	Purpose	Author	Reviewed / approved by	Date
Rev 0.1	Draft Report	Natalie May	Daniel Joyce	21/10/2025
Rev 0.1	Draft Report	Natalie May	Daniel Joyce	22/10/2025
Rev 1.0	Final Report	Natalie May	Laura Torre	23/10/2025
Rev 2.0	Amendment	Natalie May	Natalie May	25/03/2026

Distribution Control

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1	File Copy	Electronic/Email	Biodiversity Australia	Chantel Linnares	25/03/2026
2	Client Review	Electronic/Email	Middlemount Coal	Daniel Radovick	25/03/2026

Project Number: ESQ7143

Our Document Reference: ESQ7143-BEC-REP-MCPL-WEOffsetComplianceReport-rev2.0

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1. Project Background

Biodiversity Australia Pty Ltd (BA) was commissioned by Middlemount Coal Pty Ltd (MCPL) (the Client) to undertake an annual compliance assessment and provide a detailed report for a portion of the Middlemount Coal Mine Offset Area (Offset Area). The Offset Area has been established as part of the development Approvals for the Middlemount Coal Mine.

The Offset Area defined in this Annual Compliance Report is designated as Western Extension 'WE' and includes two (2) Offset Areas each: the State Offset Area and the Commonwealth Offset Area.

The objectives of this report are to assess the progress of habitat and ecological improvements within the Offset Areas in accordance with the Compliance approved Offset Management Plan (OMP) (MCPL, 2019a). The conditions are summarised below in Section 1.1.

1.1 Compliance Conditions

1.1.1 Western Extension (2017/8130)

The following condition have been extracted from the Approval for the Middlemount Coal Mine Western Extension Project (EPBC 2017 / 8130):

- 9) The approval holder must prepare an annual compliance report for each 12-month period. Submission of the annual compliance report may align with the submission of the annual compliance reporting for Middlemount projects, or as otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister.

2. Compliance Results

The progress towards the completion criteria for the Western Extension Offset Areas as per the OMP requirements are presented in Table 1 and

Table 2. In summary the assessment identified:

- Eight (8) Sites (WE-1, WE-3, WE-5, WE-6, WE-8, WE-9, WE-10, and WE-15) are at risk of not meeting planned conformance targets for December 2025 and 2026.
- Five (5) Sites (WE-1, WE-3, WE-5, WE-7, and WE-9) are unlikely to meet the December 2025 vegetation structure targets for Squatter Pigeon, Koala, and Greater Glider habitat.
- Six (6) Sites (WE-1, WE-2 WE-3, WE-5, WE-7, and WE-9) are unlikely to meet the December 2025 dominant canopy cover targets.

Immediate intervention is required for these Sites, refer to Table 1 and

Table 2 for performance criteria information.

Table 1. Performance criteria review - Western Extension Commonwealth Offset Area

Benchmark	Timeframe	Compliance	Comment
Existing Remnant Vegetation/Habitat - Weed Cover			
Existing remnant vegetation must have a weed cover of 50 percent (%) or less.	December 2021	Compliant	-
Existing remnant vegetation must have a weed cover of 40% or less.	December 2026	At Risk	Eight (8) Sites have increased weed coverage; Sites require immediate weed treatment intervention.
Existing remnant vegetation must have a weed cover of 30% or less.	December 2029	N/A	In progress



Benchmark	Timeframe	Compliance	Comment
Existing remnant vegetation must have a weed cover of 20% or less.	December 2032- December 2037	N/A	In progress-
Cleared Land likely to have been formerly Brigalow Woodland and Ornamental Snake Habitat			
Dominant canopy of the Brigalow Woodland and Ornamental Snake Habitat must have more than (>) 35% of the height and > 25% of the cover relative to the undisturbed height and cover of that stratum and is dominated by species characteristic of the vegetation's undisturbed canopy, where Acacia is the dominant canopy species	December 2025	At Risk	Five (5) Sites (WE-1, WE-3, WE-5, WE-7, and WE-9) have not yet met this requirement and are unlikely to meet the objective by the end of 2025.
The Brigalow Woodland and Ornamental Snake Habitat will be of a condition that is eligible to be mapped as a remnant woody regional ecosystem (dominant canopy must have > 70% of the height and > 50% of the cover relative to the undisturbed height and cover of that stratum and is dominated by species characteristic of the vegetation's undisturbed canopy), here Acacia is the dominant canopy species	December 2032- December 2037	N/A	In progress – seven (7) Sites (WE-1, WE-2 WE-3, WE-5, WE-7, and WE-9) will need immediate intervention to reach this objective.
Regrowth habitat for the Squatter Pigeon (southern)			
Dominant canopy of the regrowth habitat for the Squatter Pigeon (southern) must have > 35% of the height and > 25% of the cover relative to the undisturbed height and cover of that stratum and is dominated by species characteristic of the vegetation's undisturbed canopy, where Eucalyptus, Corymbia, Acacia or Callitris spp. are the dominant canopy species.	December 2025	At Risk	Five (5) Sites (WE-1, WE-3, WE-5, WE-7, and WE-9) have not yet met this requirement and are unlikely to meet the objective by the end of 2025.
Squatter Pigeon (southern) regrowth habitat will be of a condition that is eligible to be mapped as a remnant woody regional ecosystem (dominant canopy must have > 70% of the height and > 50% of the cover relative to the undisturbed height and cover of that stratum and is dominated by species characteristic of the vegetation's undisturbed canopy).	December 2032- December 2037	N/A	In progress – Seven (7) Sites (WE-1, WE-2 WE-3, WE-5, WE-7, and WE-9) will need immediate intervention to reach this objective.
Cleared Land likely to have been formerly Koala and Greater Glider Habitat			
Dominant canopy of the Koala and Greater Glider Habitat must have > 35% of the height and > 25% of the cover relative to the undisturbed height and cover of that stratum and is dominated by species characteristic of the vegetation's undisturbed canopy, where Eucalyptus, Corymbia, Acacia or Callitris spp. are the dominant canopy species.	December 2025	At Risk	Five (5) Sites (WE-1, WE-3, WE-5, WE-7, and WE-9) have not yet met this requirement and are unlikely to meet the objective by the end of 2025.
The Koala and Greater Glider Habitat will be of a condition that is eligible to be mapped as a remnant woody regional ecosystem (dominant canopy must have > 70% of the height and > 50% of the cover relative to the undisturbed height and cover of that stratum and is dominated by species characteristic of the vegetation's undisturbed canopy),	December 2032- December 2037	N/A	In progress – Seven (7) Sites (WE-1, WE-2 WE-3, WE-5, WE-7, and WE-9) will need immediate intervention to reach this objective.



Benchmark	Timeframe	Compliance	Comment
where Eucalyptus, Corymbia, Acacia or Callitris spp. are the dominant canopy species.			

Table 2. Performance criteria review - Western Extension State Offset Area

Benchmark	Timeframe	Compliance	Progress
Dominant canopy must have > 35% of the height and > 25% of the cover relative to the undisturbed height and cover of that stratum and is dominated by species characteristic of the vegetation's undisturbed canopy.	December 2025	At Risk	In progress – Six (6) Sites (WE-1, WE-2, WE-3, WE-5, WE-7, and WE-9) will need immediate intervention to reach this objective.
Non-remnant vegetation will be of a condition that is eligible to be mapped as a remnant woody regional ecosystem (dominant canopy must have > 70% of the height and > 50% of the cover relative to the undisturbed height and cover of that stratum and is dominated by species characteristic of the vegetation's undisturbed canopy) where Eucalyptus, Corymbia, Acacia or Callitris spp. are the dominant canopy species (refer to EPBC Act Approval 2016/7717).	December 2032	N/A	In progress – One (1) Site (WE-3) may need intervention to reach this objective.
Conservation outcomes met.	December 2037	N/A	In progress

3. Existing Management Actions

3.1 Actions undertaken in 2024 / 2025

Middlemount Coal Pty Ltd has undertaken actions throughout 2024/2025 to improve the Offset Sites in line with previous recommendations, including the following:

- A weed program has been undertaken, targeting dense patches of Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) and restricted weeds.
- Maintenance has been undertaken along fences, tracks, and existing firebreaks.
- A bushfire management plan has been developed and implemented.
- Soil testing has been conducted at all monitoring locations.
- Identified key trial Sites for initial projects to be conducted for the 2026 management year. This will be assessed in future years following the trial to assess effectiveness of removing undesired plants and establishing new growth.
- Additional watering points installed to assist in cattle management.
- Track and fence management continued throughout the year.
- Implementation of LiDAR into the monitoring program.
- Management of cattle numbers by conducting fuel load assessments.

These management actions taken by MCPL are working to continually improve the Offset Area.

3.2 Limitations

Improvements to Offset Sites has proven challenging due to the following limitations:



- Vehicle access to Offset Sites is not possible due to the density of trees and/or previous logging activities.
- Management actions that require additional fencing and/or track access require:
 - Additional clearing of vegetation and associated permits for the activities within a Class A regulated vegetation area. Any clearing will also reduce the area of vegetation Offset.
 - Cultural Heritage clearance for all designated work areas.
- Areas where safe cold-burning practices can be undertaken are limited.
- Widespread herbicide control of weeds throughout the Site is not feasible without risking re-incursion of problem weeds and potential erosion where vegetation is removed. The weed treatment throughout the Offset needs to be applied selectively and in a staged manner to allow secondary actions to occur such as seeding/ planting of native species to replace the vegetation, follow-up weed treatments etc.

4. Site Specific Recommendations

The details of Site-specific management recommendations to maximise opportunities to reach performance and completion criteria are outlined below in Table 3.



Table 3. Management recommendations for each permanent monitoring Site

Transect No.	Status	Recommendations for 2025 / 2026	Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 2026 / 2027	Ongoing Management Recommendations /	Constraints / Limitations
WE-1	Immediate intervention required	- Reduce weed cover (currently at 100% of ground cover - mostly Buffel Grass) - Cattle management, fencing off Brigalow TEC - Ratio of planting to seeding: 40/60 over 60% of the monitoring Site	- Reduce weed cover to below 40% - Brigalow TEC fenced off / cattle excluded from area through management 80% of seed plantation has sprouted. 100% success of planted vegetation.	- Weed control required prior to December 2026 to reduce cover below 40%. - Fence RE off from cattle or exclude cattle from area through management. - Poor canopy recruitment observed – planting / seeding may be required.	N/A
WE-2	Additional management needed	- Reduce weed cover (currently at 60%) - Ratio of planting to seeding: 40/60 over 35% of the monitoring Site	- Reduce weed cover to below 40% 80% of seed plantation has sprouted. 100% success of planted vegetation.	Weed control required prior to December 2026 to reduce cover below 40%.	Accessible but area is heavily covered by fallen timber and standing vegetation – management actions using machinery may be limited.
WE-3	Immediate intervention required	Reduce weed cover (currently at 80% - mostly Buffel Grass)	Reduce weed cover to below 40%	Immediate intervention required.	- Significant access issues due to high fallen timber load throughout area and high standing vegetation – limit to any machinery management actions. - Access pathway traverses brigalow and gilgai areas which may damage gulgais if not avoided.
WE-4	On track	Reduce weed cover (currently at 40% - mostly Buffel Grass)	KPI met	On track.	N/A
WE-5	Immediate intervention required	Reduce weed cover (currently at 100% of ground cover – mostly Buffel Grass)	- Reduce weed cover to below 40% 80% of seed plantation has sprouted. 100% success of planted vegetation.	- Weed control required prior to December 2026 to reduce cover below 40%. - Poor canopy recruitment observed – planting / seeding may be required.	- Accessible. - Machinery actions may have increased weed load (assessment required in 2025).



Transect No.	Status	Recommendations for 2025 / 2026	Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 2026 / 2027	Ongoing Management Recommendations /	Constraints / Limitations
		Ratio of planting to seeding: 40/60 over 50% of the monitoring Site			
WE-6	Immediate intervention required	Reduce weed cover (currently at 100% of ground cover – mostly Buffel Grass)	Reduce weed cover to below 40%	- Weed control required prior to December 2026 to reduce cover below 40%. - Soil assessment may be required – soil compaction observed.	N/A
WE-7	On track	Reduce weed cover (currently at 40%)	KPI met	Ongoing weed. management to reduce weed cover to 30% by 2030.	- Access issues for vehicles / machinery. - Pedestrian access possible from fence line - Transect has fallen timber
WE-8	Immediate intervention required	Reduce weed cover (currently at 80% - mostly Buffel Grass)	Reduce weed cover to below 40%	Weed control required prior to December 2026 to reduce cover below 40%.	N/A
WE-9	Immediate intervention required	- Reduce weed cover (currently at 100% - mostly Buffel Grass) - Ratio of planting to seeding: 40/60 over 60% of the monitoring Site	- Reduce weed cover to below 40% 80% of seed plantation has sprouted. 100% success of planted vegetation.	Weed control required prior to December 2026 to reduce cover below 40%. Poor canopy recruitment observed – planting / seeding may be required.	Site accessible -
WE-10	Immediate intervention required	Reduce weed cover (currently at 100% of ground cover - mostly Buffel Grass)	Reduce weed cover to below 40%	- Remnant status reached - assessment of status in wider area recommended - Continue monitoring. - Weed control required prior to December 2026 to reduce cover below 40%	N/A
WE-11	On track	Reduce weed cover (currently at 35% - mostly Buffel Grass)	KPI met	Remnant status reached - assessment of status in wider area recommended (via Lidar or field assessment).	N/A



Transect No.	Status	Recommendations for 2025 / 2026	Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 2026 / 2027	Ongoing Management Recommendations /	Constraints / Limitations
				- Continue monitoring. - Ongoing weed management to reduce weed cover to 30% by 2030.	
WE-12	On track	- Reduce weed cover (currently at 30%). - Assessment of larger vegetation patch to check for TEC status (dominance of Brigalow). - Cattle management, fencing off Brigalow TEC.	Brigalow TEC fenced off / cattle excluded from area through management.	- Remnant status reached - assessment of status in wider area recommended (via Lidar or field assessment). - Continue monitoring. - Ongoing weed management to reduce weed cover to 20% by final compliance. - Fence RE off from cattle or exclude cattle from area through management.	N/A
WE-13	On track	Continue maintenance and monitoring of weeds (currently 5% weeds).	KPI met	- Remnant status reached - assessment of status in wider area recommended (via Lidar or field assessment). - Continue monitoring. - Ongoing weed management to keep weeds below 20% for final compliance.	N/A
WE-14	On track	Continue maintenance and monitoring of weeds (currently 5% weeds).	KPI met	- Remnant status reached - assessment of status in wider area recommended (via Lidar or field assessment). - Continue monitoring. - Ongoing weed management to keep weeds below 20% for final compliance.	N/A
WE-15	On track however: Immediate intervention required for weed maintenance.	Reduce weed cover (currently at 40% - mostly Buffel Grass)	KPI met	- Remnant status reached - assessment of status in wider area recommended (via Lidar or field assessment). - Continue monitoring.	N/A



Transect No.	Status	Recommendations for 2025 / 2026	Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 2026 / 2027	Ongoing Management Recommendations /	Constraints / Limitations
				Ongoing weed Immediate weed control is required to bring cover below 40% for 2026 target.	



5. Summary

The 2025 annual monitoring for the Western Extension Offset Areas showed mixed results with eight (8) Sites now at risk of not meeting planned conformance targets for December 2025 and 2026.

For the Commonwealth Offset, five (5) Sites (WE-1, WE-3, WE-5, WE-7, and WE-9) are at risk for Squatter Pigeon, Koala, and Greater Glider habitat not meeting key performance indicators. For the State Offset, one Site (WE-3) is also at risk. While six (6) Sites (WE-1, WE-2, WE-3, WE-5, WE-7, and WE-9) are unlikely to meet the December 2025 dominant canopy cover targets. These Sites require immediate intervention, such as planting and seeding program and weed treatment, to meet compliance deadlines.

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