Impact Reconciliation Procedure (Offsets)

Hamersley HMS Pty Ltd

Hope Downs 2

June 2025

RTIO-0957953

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1 THE PROPOSAL AND CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

1.1 The Proposal

This Hope Downs 2 Impact Reconciliation Procedure (IRP) has been prepared in accordance with the Western Australian (WA) Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (DWER) requirements relating to offset reconciliation for the Hope Downs 2 Proposal (the Proposal). The Proposal was approved under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) (Ministerial Statement (MS) 1248) and is currently under assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) Assessment 2021/9035.

This Procedure addresses both State and Commonwealth offset requirements. Rio Tinto on behalf of Hamersley HMS Pty Ltd (the Proponent) intends to utilise the WA Pilbara Environmental Offset Fund (PEOF), as the nominated 'Conservation Offset Fund', to meet EPBC Act Decision Notice offset requirements.

1.2 Ministerial Statement and Commonwealth approval condition requirements

Conditions from Ministerial Statement 1248 (State) and pending Decision Notice 2021/9035 (Commonwealth) relevant to offsets for the Proposal are included in Table 1 below.

2 PROCEDURE

The methodology for determining the baseline and offset contributions to deliver an outcome that aligns with DWER's IRPs and Impact Reconciliation Reports (IRRs) is detailed below. Content of both IRPs and IRRs is outlined in Section 3.2.

2.1 Identification of environmental values requiring offsets

Ministerial Statement 1248 includes conditions that require the Proponent to offset the significant residual impact of the Proposal. This includes clearing of 'Good' to 'Excellent' condition native vegetation, riparian vegetation and various classifications of critical and supporting habitats. It is assumed that the pending Decision Notice 2021/9035 will also include these requirements.

Table 1 specifies the significant residual impacts to biodiversity values and associated offset rates as required under MS 1248 and pending Decision Notice 2021/9035.

Table 1: Environmental Values Requiring Offsets for the Proposal

Biodiversity Value		Offset rate ($/ha)[1] (excl. GST)
State (WA) Ministerial Statement 1248		
B7-1	The proponent must contribute funds to the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund calculated pursuant to condition B7-2, to achieve the objective of counterbalancing the significant residual impacts to: (1) 'Good' to 'Excellent' condition native vegetation; (2) Riparian vegetation (**vegetation units D4** and **D5**); (3) Critical habitat for northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), ghost bat (*Macroderma gigas*) and Pilbara olive python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*), subject to any reduction approved by the **CEO** under condition B7-9; and	

[1] Base rate provided in MS 1248and Decision Notice 2021/9035, to be adjusted annually in accordance with the average percentage change in the Perth Consumer Price Index (CPI) applicable for the calendar year that disturbance occurred.

Biodiversity Value		Offset rate ($/ha)[1] (excl. GST)
	(4) Supporting habitat for northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), ghost bat (*Macroderma gigas*), and Pilbara leaf-nosed bat (*Rhinonicteris aurantia*), subject to any reduction approved by the **CEO** under condition B7-9	
B7-3 (1)	'**Good' to 'Excellent' condition native vegetation** cleared as a result of the proposal within the Hamersley **IBRA** subregion;	$980
B7-3 (2)	Riparian vegetation and important vegetation types, including potentially restricted vegetation (unit P2), cleared as a result of the proposal within the Hamersley **IBRA** subregion;	$1,960
B7-3 (3)	Critical habitat for the following values cleared as a result of the proposal: (a) northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) critical habitat; (b) Pilbara olive python (*Liasis olivaceus barroni*) critical habitat; and (c) ghost bat (*Macroderma gigas*) critical habitat	$1,960
B7-3 (4)	Supporting habitat for the following values cleared as a result of the proposal: (a) northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) supporting habitat; (b) ghost bat (*Macroderma gigas*) supporting habitat; and (c) Pilbara leaf-nosed bat (*Rhinonicteris aurantia*).	$980
EPBC Decision Notice 2021/9035		
Currently under assessment. *The approval conditions under the EPBC approval are expected to require offsets to be paid to the PEOF for impacts to:* • *Critical Habitat.* • *Supporting habitat.*		

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition

Baseline flora and vegetation surveys identified native vegetation types and their condition within the proposed Development Envelope. Details of the surveys, including the time they were undertaken, are provided in Appendix 9. The 'CondDate' attribute in the data standard reflects the date that the vegetation survey occurred. Where vegetation surveys occurred over a period of time, the most recent date has been used.

At the time of surveys botanists recorded the condition of the vegetation based on Trudgen's (1991) Vegetation Condition Index[2]. This data was then digitised and logged in the Rio Tinto central GIS system. Note that all clearing conducted (at the time of the IRP submission) prior to the Proposal's approval has been assigned a

[2] Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation Condition Scale. In: National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy*. National Trust of Australia (WA). Wildflower Society of Western Australia (Inc.) and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth, Western Australia.

vegetation condition of 'Cleared' in the offset exempt footprints, completely degraded in vegetation condition data and has been removed from environmentally significant values area data. A reconciliation of offset exempt clearing conducted between submission of the IRP and commencement of the Proposal will be documented in the first IRR.

Where fire has occurred, the vegetation condition was extrapolated from surrounding unburnt vegetation assuming that the area will regenerate over time.

2.1.2 Footprint Attribution

Cleared areas are identified and digitised according to an internal data standard using Rio Tinto's GIS package. Digitised areas are based on most recently available aerial ortho or satellite imagery of the Development Envelope. The 'CondDate' attribute in the data standard reflects the end of the reporting period as the vegetation was cleared, up to the date of commencement of action under the current Ministerial Statement (MS) or, if a prior MS was superseded during the report period, the date the prior MS was superseded.

Footprints for each environmental value and EPBC protected matters will be created annually.

Ministerial Statement

Using the Company's Approvals Request Coordination System (ARCS) and/or Land Access Management System (LAMS), a clearing mechanism, amongst other metadata fields in the data standard, is assigned to each digitised cleared polygon based on the purpose, location and time of the land clearing.

This clearing mechanism is then used to determine offset exempt areas, including areas cleared under:

- A previous MS, for areas not subjected to offset or where offsets have already been paid. This will only be attributed to clearing that occurred prior to MS 1248 baseline;
- A current MS, where the previously approved clearing limits have not yet been exhausted, or where offsets are not applicable;
- An alternative clearing mechanism, such as a Native Vegetation Clearing Permit (NVCP), *Bush Fires Act 1954*, *Land Administration Act 1997* or activities prescribed as clearing under Regulation 5 of the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*;
- Clearing not conducted by the Proponent, e.g. pastoral station owners, government departments or other proponents;
- EPBC Act approval; since the EPBC Act Decision Notice approval offset rate is equal to or higher than the MS offset rate, disturbance within the EPBC Act approval areas, those specific to 'the Action', will be captured in the EPBC Act offset payable layer and will then be exempt from additional payments under the MS to avoid duplication of payments.

Where a Rio Tinto company has overlapping MS Development Envelopes, the ARCS or LAMS systems will be used to identify which clearing mechanism to attribute the clearing polygons based on the purpose, location and timing of the clearing.

Clearing conducted under an overlapping MS, where a Rio Tinto company is the proponent, will be supplied as a separate layer (indicated as offset exempt for current MS) in order to provide assurance that all clearing has been accounted for within the Proposal Development Envelope. Note that the area will also be included in the overlapping EP Act/EPBC Act approval IRP/IRR when required.

Clearing conducted by a Rio Tinto company attributed to an NVCP that is not prescribed in a MS condition or to another approval mechanism such as an exemption, will be included as a totalised NVCP or Other clearing mechanism layer, respectively. Clearing suspected to have been performed by proponents other than Rio Tinto, with overlapping Development Envelopes will be attributed in the 'Other clearing' mechanism layer by review of internal records and the apparent purpose and location of the clearing. Data sharing agreements may also be utilised where present and ground survey and truthing practices implemented if required; however, the Proponent cannot confirm the clearing mechanism applied by a third party. Where possible, information

will be added within the notes section of the data standard attribute table detailing the suspected cause of the impact. Refer to Section 3.2 for an outline of report content.

EPBC Act Decision Notice

All clearing conducted by the Proponent within the defined offset applicable areas and scope (the Action) that occurred from commencement of the Action is offset applicable for the purposes of the EPBC Act approval. The scope of the Action includes the Hope Downs 2 Proposal. Exemptions related to clearing mechanisms applied at the Western Australian (EP Act) level do not apply to the Commonwealth (EPBC Act) approval, except for clearing not conducted by the Proponent.

2.2 Method to determine impacts

2.2.1 Footprint attribution

Aerial ortho or satellite imagery encompassing the proposed Development Envelope is taken as close to the end of the reporting period as practicable and aligning with the Company's existing flyover schedules. Where available, ground survey and truthing practices may also be used to supplement the imagery.

Although IRR's are submitted biennially (refer to Table 4 for timing), footprints for each environmental value will be created annually.

The previous annual footprint, or baseline footprint if first reporting year, is overlaid on the report period image to identify new clearing and rehabilitation activities and/or changes in ground condition and land use. These areas are then digitised and attributed in a similar process to that outlined in Section 2.1.2 above, in the Rio Tinto's GIS package, to the relevant data standards.

2.2.2 Offset contribution determination

Once the cleared footprint has been updated and finalised, data from the Rio Tinto's internal data standard is consolidated and translated into the required DWER data standards.

For MS: Footprints attributed to the current MS are overlaid against baseline layers for vegetation condition, type and areas of significant environment value that have been identified as requiring offset. The offset contribution is determined where the footprint and offset applicable areas intersect.

For EPBC Act Decision Notice: Footprints attributed to the EPBC Act approval, after impacts commenced, will incur offset requirements (footprints prior to impacts commencing under the EPBC Act approval will be attributed to a MS or other clearing mechanism).

For areas that are offset applicable under both the State and Commonwealth approvals, the offset will be paid once only, at the highest applicable rate (i.e., no overlap between MS and EPBC Act approval offset payable layers). The Proponent is not proposing duplicative offsets per hectare cleared.

Data and supporting spatial files will be submitted biennially in the IRRs.

Where a previous and current MS (for the same Proposal) both have offset conditions over a common overlapping area, offset applicable clearing under both MS's will be subject to the requirements and rates of the newest MS, unless otherwise specified[3].

The increase in the amount to be paid per hectare cleared in respect of the year in which clearing occurred will be calculated by application of the Perth Consumer Price Index (CPI) and paid as specified in the approval conditions.

Following the determination of offset liability, the Proponent will source the appropriate funds annually, aligning with internal accounting processes. Following submission and approval of IRRs (biennial), DWER will issue an invoice, which the Proponent will pay by transferring the required funds into the prescribed fund. The

[3] Noting, the Proposal is not subject to a previously approved Ministerial Statement so this requirement is not applicable in this instance however, due to overlap other Ministerial Statements (MSs), relevant offset rates will apply in line with the scope approved under each Proposal's MS.

Proponent will submit evidence of each payment made to the prescribed fund to DCCEEW within 10 business days of the date of making the payment.

To meet the requirements of the EPBC Act Offsets Policy, an initial contribution of 10% of the total calculated offset contribution for matters of national environmental significance (MNES) values is required to be paid into the PEOF prior to the commencement of the Action. Since the initial payment is made prior to impacts commencing, this amount will be subtracted from the subsequent offsets payable prior to CPI adjustments being applied until the full 10% has been accounted for, with CPI then applied only to any remaining amount owing for that period.

Table 2: EP Act Offset - estimated contribution calculation into the PEOF

EP Act Environmental Value to be Offset	Amount of Area to be offset in ha(s)	Protected Matter Value Rating Category	Environmental Value Justification	IBRA Subregion	Estimated Offset Rate Documented ($/ha) [4]	Total to be Offset
'Good' to 'Excellent' condition native vegetation	1,387	'Good' to 'Excellent' condition native vegetation	Clearing of good to excellent condition native vegetation overlaps (other than riparian vegetation or significant EPBC fauna habitat detailed below)	Hamersley	$980	$1,359,260
Riparian vegetation	54	Riparian vegetation	Clearing of high local significance vegetation (D4 and D5)	Hamersley	$1,960	$105,840
Total amount for the Proposal into the PEOF (State requirement)						**$1,465,100**

[4] Offset rates calculated on the 2023 calendar year (excluding GST). Real value of contributions will be maintained through indexation to the Perth Consumer Price Index (CPI), with the first adjustment to be applied to the first contribution

Table 3: EPBC Act Offset - estimated contribution calculation into the PEOF

EPBC Act Protected Matter to be Offset	Amount of Area to be offset in ha(s)	Protected Matter Value Rating Category	Environmental Value Justification	IBRA Subregion	Estimated Offset Rate Documented ($/ha) [5]	Total to be Offset
Critical habitat (denning, roosting and breeding)	474	*Critical* habitat (denning, roosting and breeding) for MNES species: Northern Quoll, Ghost Bat and Pilbara Olive Python	Clearing of critical habitat (breeding, denning and roosting (high significance) habitat) comprising: • Breakaway; • Gorge/Gully; and • Rocky Hills	Hamersley	$3,306	$1,567,044
Supporting habitat (foraging and dispersal)	2,290	*Supporting* habitat (foraging and dispersal) for: • Northern Quoll – Minor Drainage (within 1 km of Northern Quoll record), • Ghost Bat – all habitat within 12 km of Category 1 and 2 roosts (other than Critical habitat) • Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat – all habitat within 20 m of Category 4 roosts (other than Critical habitat)	Clearing of supporting habitat (foraging and dispersal habitat) comprising: • Minor Drainage; • Alluvial Plain • Low Hills and Slopes • Mulga Woodland; and • Stony Plain	Hamersley	$1,653	$3,785,370

[5] Estimated offset rates calculated on the 2023 calendar year (excluding GST). Real value of contributions will be maintained through indexation to the Perth Consumer Price Index (CPI), with the first adjustment to be applied to the first contribution.

EPBC Act Protected Matter to be Offset	Amount of Area to be offset in ha(s)	Protected Matter Value Rating Category	Environmental Value Justification	IBRA Subregion	Estimated Offset Rate Documented ($/ha) [5]	Total to be Offset
Total amount for the Proposal into the PEOF (EPBC Act Requirement)						**$5,352,414**
Initial estimated contribution into the PEOF (Commonwealth requirement, 10% of the overall EPBC Act offset contribution)						**$535,241.40**

3 REPORTING

3.1 Frequency and timing

The reporting schedule for IRP and IRR submission for the first three periods is outlined below in Table 4. It will be extrapolated and implemented until the end of the period of effect of the approval or as otherwise agreed to by DWER and the Australian Government Minister for the Environment.

Table 4: Proposed reporting period and frequency of the Impact Reconciliation Reports

Biennial period	Action	Timing
	Ministerial Statement issued	12 June 2025
	Decision Notice issued	*Currently under assessment*
	Proposal implementation commenced	Year 1
	Initial EPBC Act payment	Within one (1) month of receipt of the DWER invoice
	Submit evidence of initial payment to the DCCEEW	Within 10 business days of receipt of payment
Period 1	First biennial reporting period	From ground disturbing activities of the environmental values listed in Table 1 to 31 December [Year 2]
	Aerial survey/ground-truthing	As close to 31 December as practicable
	IRR submission	30 April [Year 3]
	Submit evidence of payment into PEOF account to the DCCEEW	Within 10 business days of receipt of payment
Period 2	Second biennial reporting period	1 January [Year 3] – 31 December [Year 4]
	IRR submission	30 April [Year 5]
	Submit evidence of payment into PEOF account to the DCCEEW	Within 10 business days of receipt of payment
Period 3	Third biennial reporting period	1 January [Year 5] – 31 December [Year 6]
	IRR submission	30 April [Year 7]
	Submit evidence of payment into PEOF account to the DCCEEW	Within 10 business days of receipt of payment
Final Period	Final reporting period	1 January [Year X] – 31 December [Year X]
	Final IRR submission	30 April of Year after final reporting period
	Submit evidence of payment into PEOF account to the DCCEEW	Within 10 business days of receipt of payment

3.2 Content

Commercially sensitive information within spatial data and aerial imagery in both Baseline and IRRs will be considered when completing required metadata and licensing statements (provided separately).

3.2.1 Baseline

The Baseline package will contain three components:

1. IRP – this document.
2. Aerial imagery clipped to the proposed Development Envelope boundary and taken as close to the commencement of the approval as practicable, with an index providing date of capture for each image compiling the full composite.
3. Spatial data to support the above procedure. At a minimum, spatial data will meet the following:
    - be topographically accurate and georeferenced;
    - use GDA2020 (datum) co-ordinate system and projected into the appropriate Map Grid of Australia zone (i.e., 50);
    - include closed polygons and clipped to the relevant approval boundaries (any topology errors rectified);
    - be supplied in ESRI geodatabase format or shapefile;
    - be aligned with and attributed according to DWER's GIS Data Standards;
    - polygons of similar 'purpose' shall not overlap (i.e., clearing polygons shall not overlap, vegetation type and condition polygons shall not overlap, and exemption polygons shall not overlap);
    - all clearing data will be supplied to two decimal places in attributable tables.

    Spatial data and layers shall include:

    - Spatial boundaries including:
        - Development Envelopes *(Current and overlapping Proponent MSs only, previous MSs not to be included)*;
        - Areas of Significance *(Environment Matters specified in MS and EPBC Act Decision Notice, prescribed in offset conditions) with areas already cleared at the time of IRP submission removed;*
    - Vegetation condition and type (1 consolidated polygon per condition and type), by IBRA region;
    - Offset exempt areas. Exemptions may include clearing associated with:
        - previous MS (1 consolidated polygon per MS) *(where areas are not subject to offsets);*[6]
        - overlapping MS where the proponent is a Rio Tinto Company (1 consolidated polygon per MS), by IBRA region;
        - MS-prescribed NVCPs (1 consolidated polygon) *(where MS prescribes NVCPs which contribute to the total Proposal clearing allocation),* by IBRA region;
        - other NVCP (1 consolidated polygon), all clearing attributed to NVCPs within the Proposal's Development Envelope, not prescribed by the MS, by IBRA region;
        - other clearing mechanism (1 consolidated polygon, by IBRA region) – may include:
            - Clearing authorised under an alternative approval mechanism (e.g., *Bush Fires Act 1954*, *Land Administration Act 1997*, Prescribed clearing under Regulation 5 of the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*). Note NVCP has been separated;
            - Clearing conduction prior to clearing legislation commencement;
            - Clearing not completed by the Proponent (where possible, information will be added within the notes section of the attribution table detailing the suspected cause of the impact).
        - Note: Exemptions related to clearing mechanisms applied at the Western Australian level do not apply to the EPBC Act approval, except for clearing not conducted by the Proponent.

[6] Noting, the Proposal is not subject to a previously approved Ministerial Statement, so this requirement is not applicable in this instance. However, due to overlap other Ministerial Statements (MSs), relevant offset rates will apply in line with the scope approved under each Proposal's MS.

- Maps to support the above-mentioned spatial data.

3.2.2 Impact Reconciliation Reports

IRR's will contain three components:

1. A biennial report specifying the annual area cleared (in hectares), and base and CPI adjusted rates for each offset applicable requirement outlined in the MS and EPBC Act approval as well as estimates of projected clearing for subsequent biennial periods. The report structure and content will be in accordance with an internal template which will be reviewed biennially to ensure alignment and consistency with DWER issued templates and guidance material. A final IRR will be submitted in the year after the final reporting period that includes the offset attributable clearing footprint that has occurred over the life of the approval.
2. Aerial imagery clipped to the relevant approval boundaries and taken as close to the end of the annual reporting periods as practicable, with an index providing date of capture of each image compiling the full composite.
3. Spatial data to support the above report. Both IRR and Baseline spatial data shall be used to inform the overall requirement for offsets for the action. At a minimum, spatial data will meet the following:
    - be topographically accurate and georeferenced;
    - use GDA2020 (datum) co-ordinate system and projected into the appropriate Map Grid of Australia zone (i.e., 50);
    - include closed polygons and clipped to the relevant approval boundaries (any topology errors rectified);
    - be supplied in ESRI geodatabase format or shapefile;
    - be aligned with and attributed according to DWER's GIS Data Standards;
    - polygons of similar 'purpose' shall not overlap (i.e., clearing polygons shall not overlap, vegetation type and condition polygons shall not overlap, and exemption polygons shall not overlap);
    - all clearing data will be supplied to two decimal places in the attribute tables.

    Spatial data and layers for both the MS and EPBC Act approval shall include:

    - Clearing activity:
        - offset payable clearing undertaken for each calendar year of each biennial reporting period (1 polygon per year, per rate, per mechanism);
        - updates to offset exempt areas (1 polygon for each previously submitted layer indicating changes).
    - Maps to support the above-mentioned spatial data.
    - Updated spatial layers if a change is required (refer to Section 4).

4 MANAGEMENT OF CHANGE

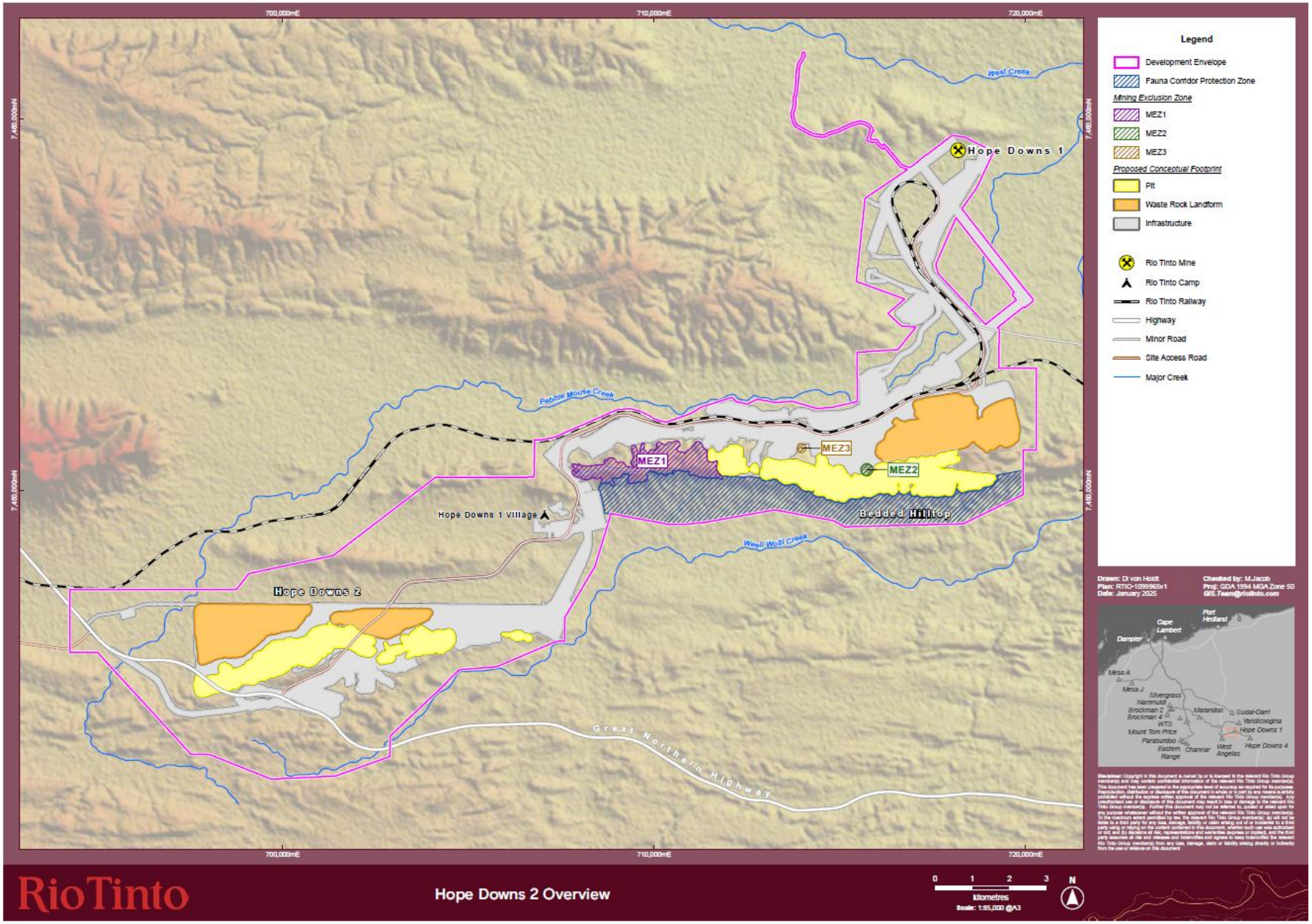
The Proponent recognises that due to the timing of new submissions, approval complexity and continued process and technology improvements, changes to submitted data may be required. For the below listed known changes, the Proponent will supply any updated data and support spatial files in the next IRR submission. Note that only the changed information will be provided, rather than the re-supply of the entire layer:

- offset exempt areas acknowledging that clearing will continue to occur between submission of baseline as part of pre-approval conditions (where required) and Proposal approval; and
- updated exempt areas as a result of continued clearing or until the previously approved offset-exempt clearing allocation has been exhausted.

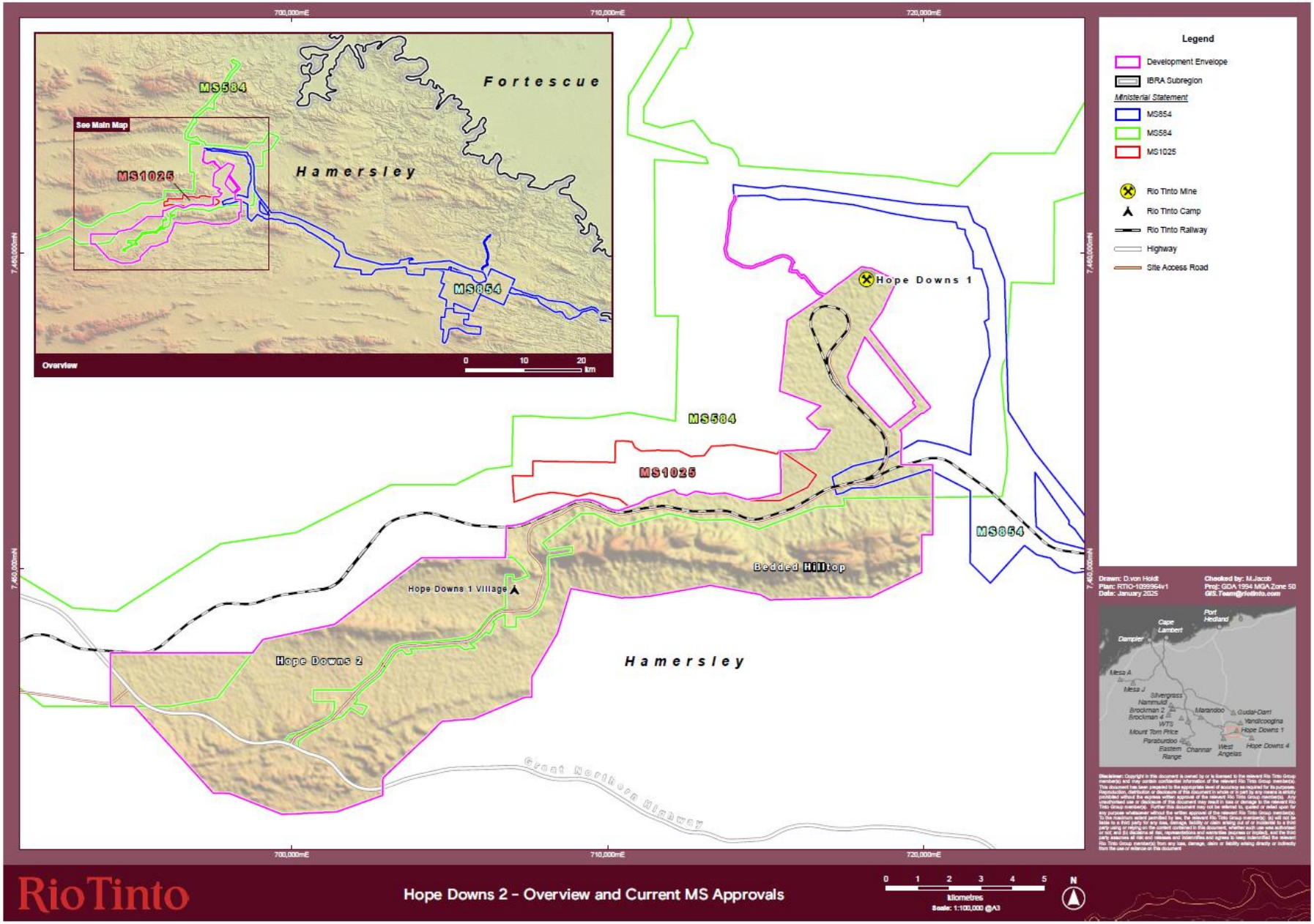
For unforeseen changes, the Proponent will conduct an assessment of materiality and will initiate discussions with DWER and DCCEEW to determine an appropriate resolution strategy.

5 APPENDICES

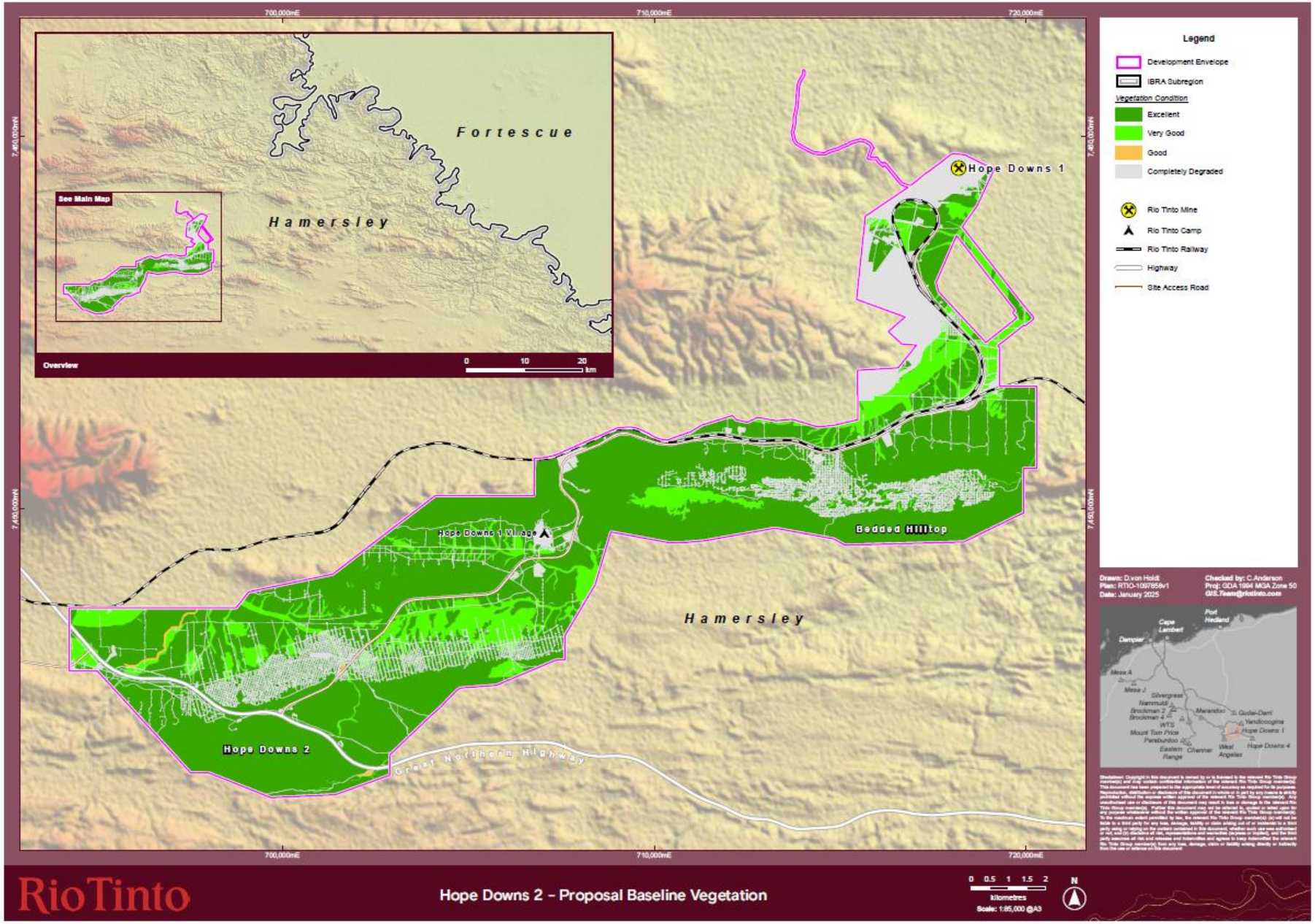
Appendix 1: Proposal Overview



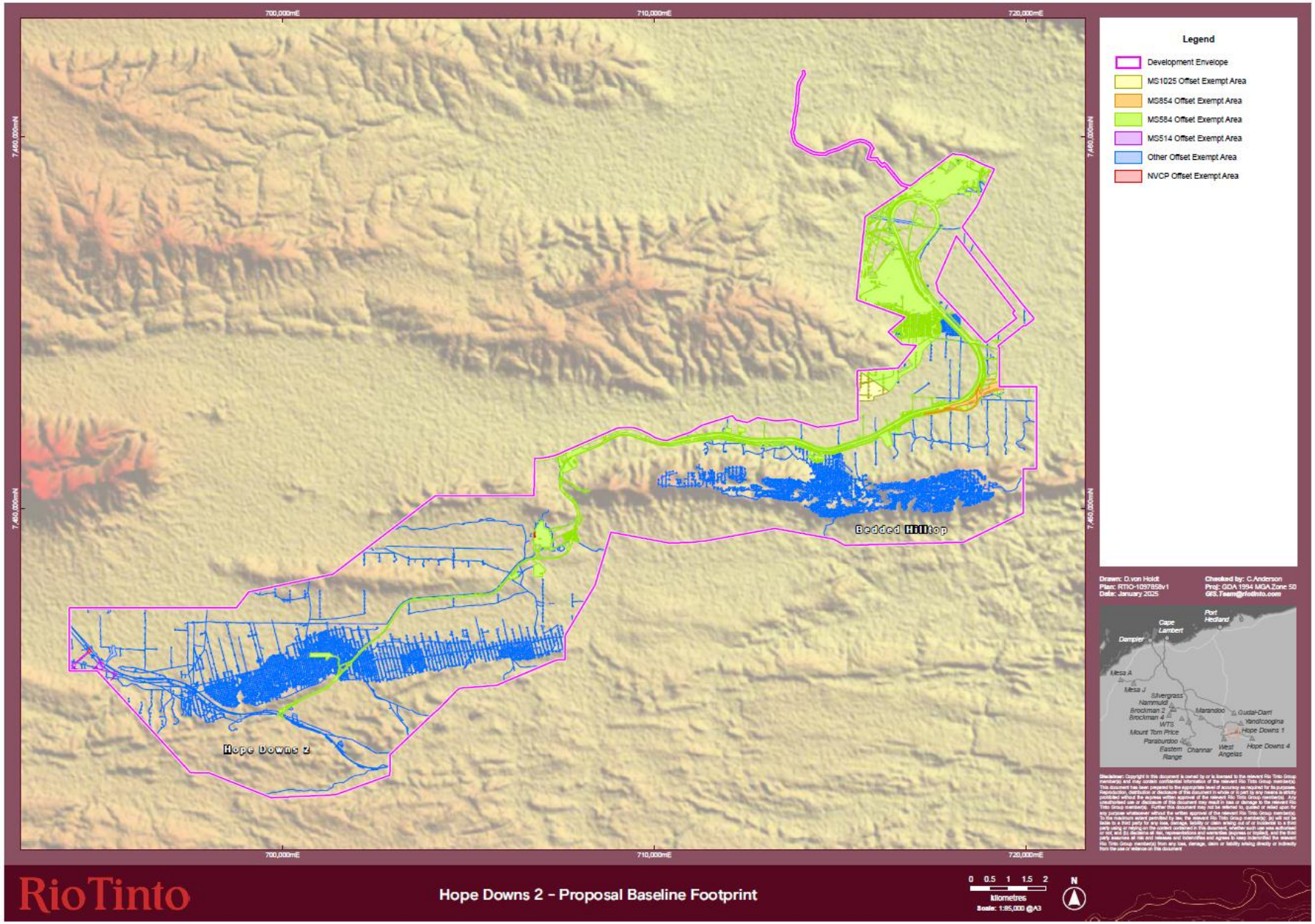
Appendix 2: Proposal Overview and Current Approvals



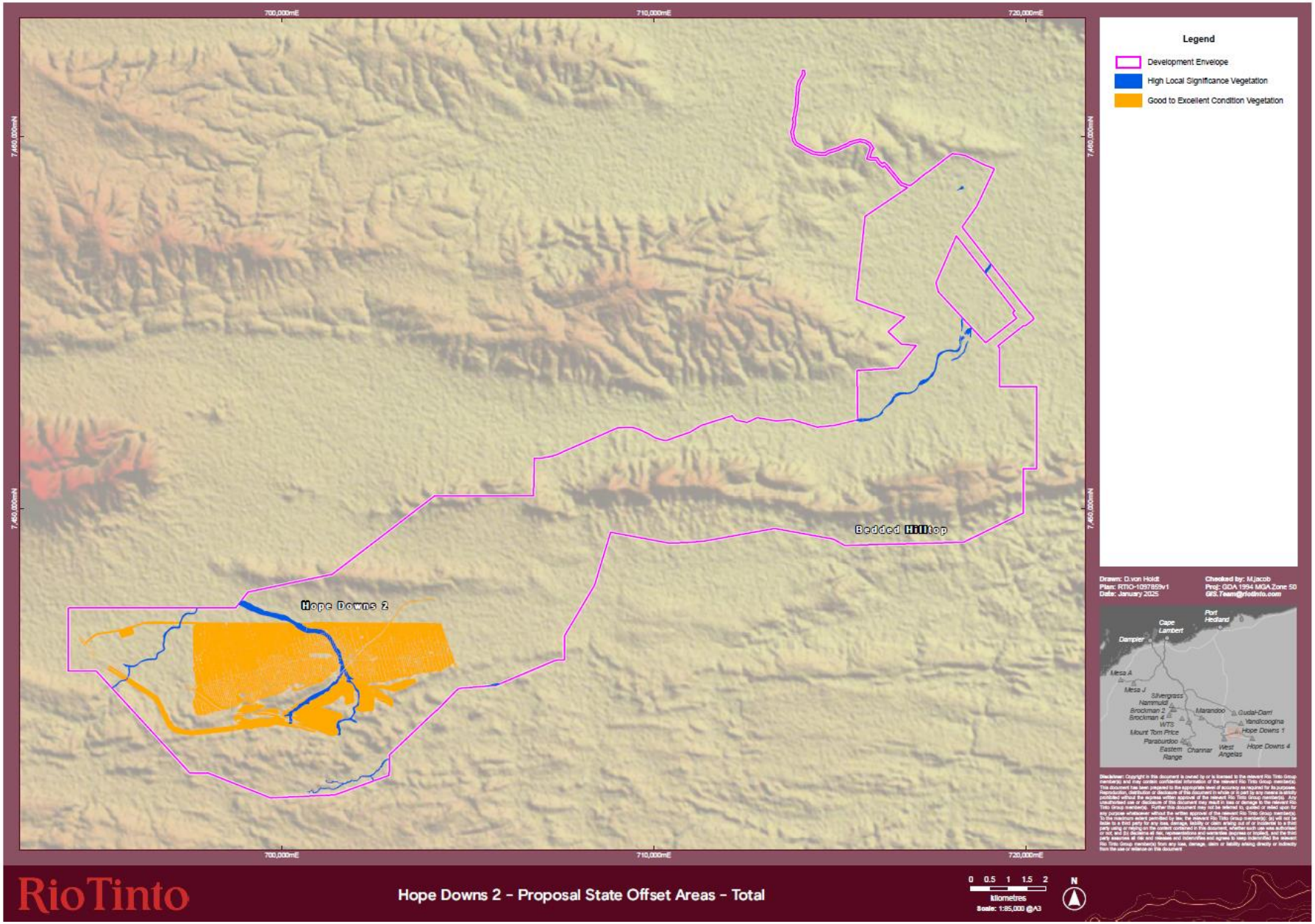
Appendix 3: Proposal Baseline Vegetation



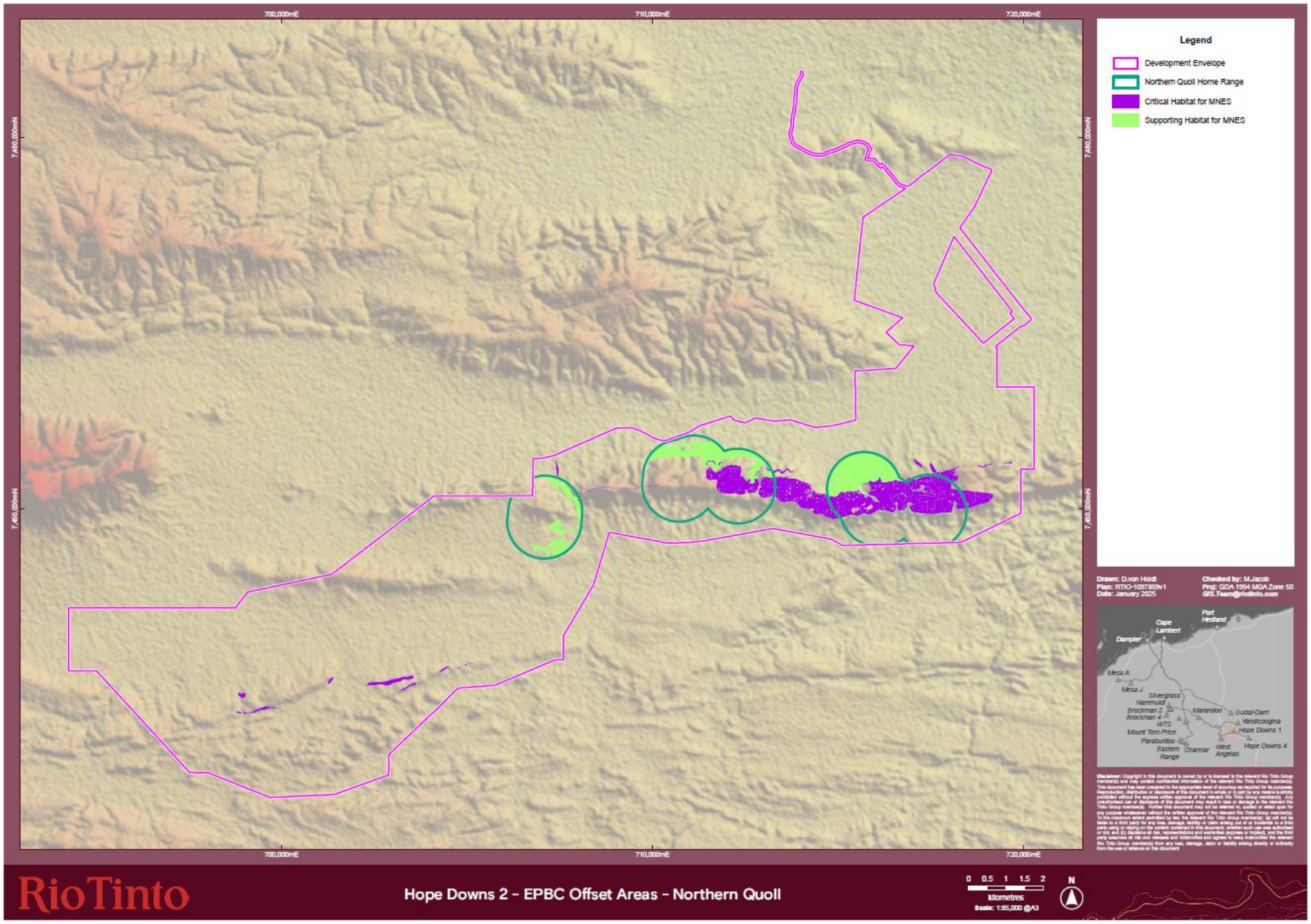
Appendix 4: Proposal Baseline Footprint



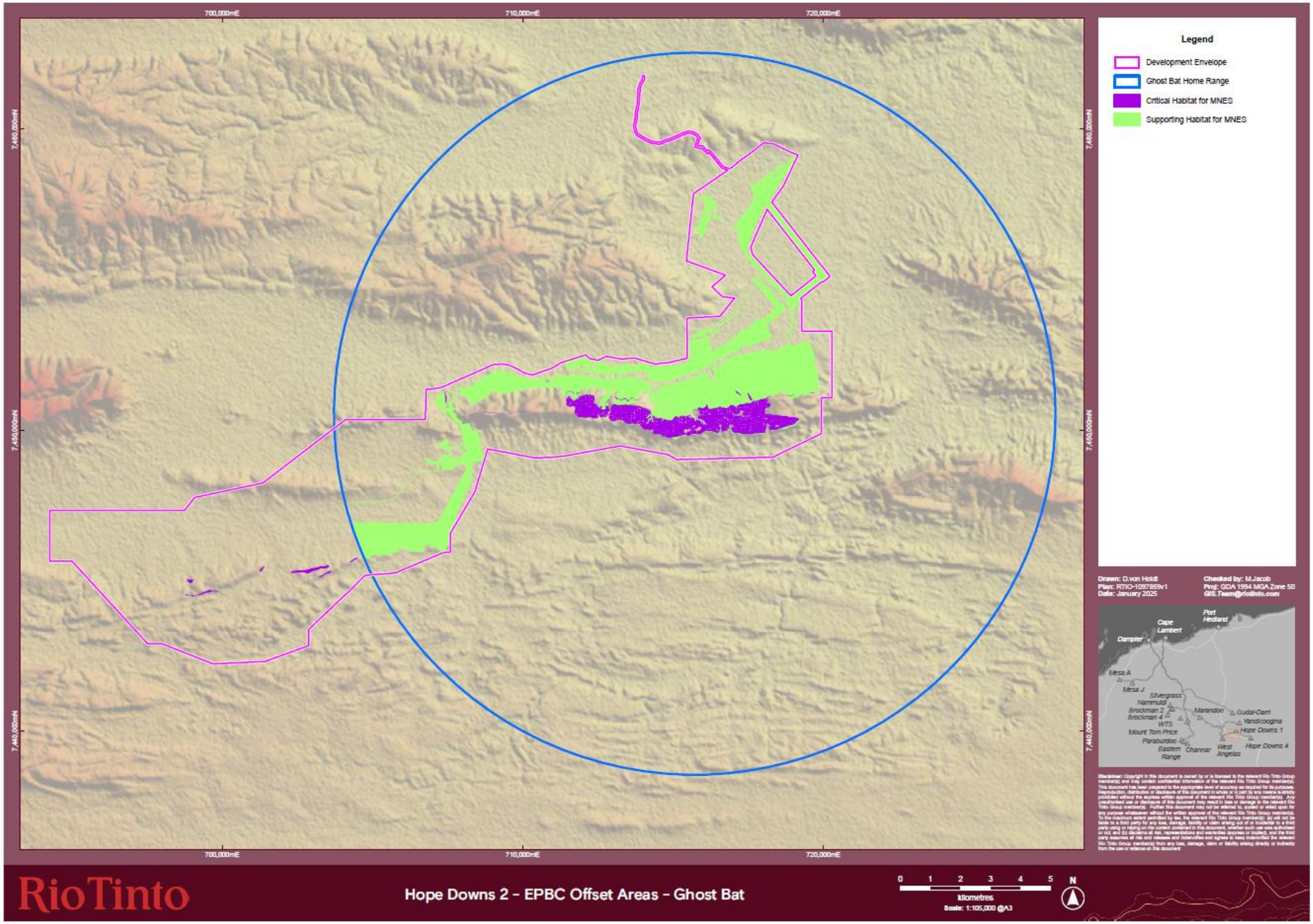
Appendix 5: Proposal State Offset Areas



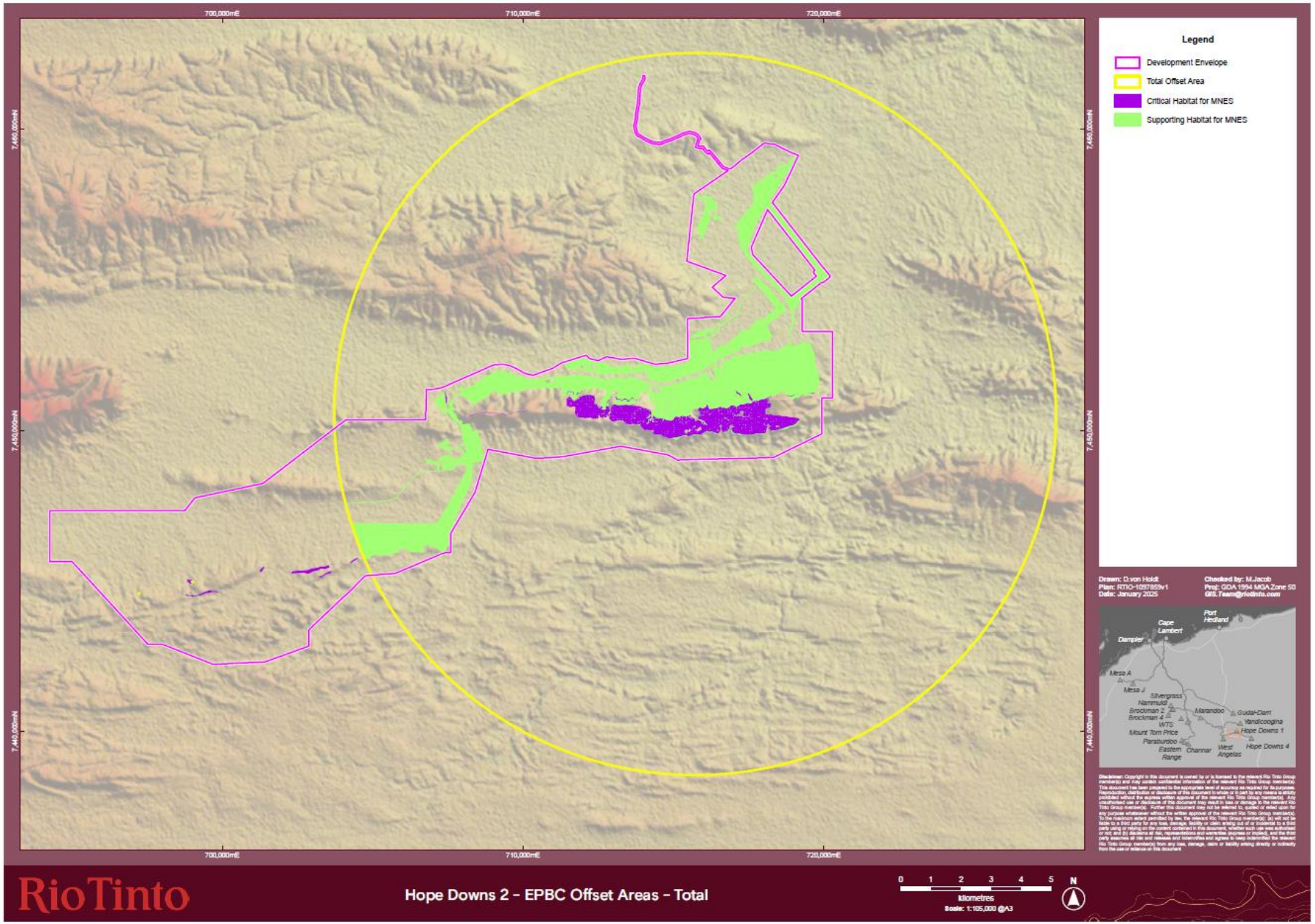
Appendix 6: Proposal EPBC Offset Areas – Northern Quoll



Appendix 7: Proposal EPBC Offset Areas – Ghost Bat



Appendix 8: Proposal EPBC Offset Areas – Total



Appendix 9: Vegetation Condition Mapping References

Report References
• Astron, 2019a. Hope Downs 2 Proposal Flora and Vegetation Survey • Astron, 2020a. Hope Downs Development Envelope – Vegetation Mapping • Astron, 2020d. Hope Downs Development Envelope – Fauna Habitat Mapping • Rio Tinto, 2022. Metadata Statement Vegetation Condition Mapping for Hope Downs 2

