Government of South Australia
Department for Energy and Mining

26 March 2026

Mr Graeme Drew
AusQuest Limited
8 Kearns Crescent
ARDROSS WA 6153

Via email: graeme@ausquest.com.au

Dear Mr Drew

Notification of Approved Exploration Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation (EPEPR)

In reference to your final submission dated 3 March 2026, the EPEPR has been approved pursuant to section 70B(5) of the *Mining Act 1971* (the Mining Act).

The approved EPEPR will be made publicly available on the Mining Register and the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) website. Details of the approved EPEPR are listed below.

Approval Granted to	**AusQuest Limited**
Tenement Type & Number	Exploration Licence EL 6798
Program Number	EP-04005
EPEPR Description	To conduct up to 20 RC drillholes designed to follow up positive indicators for IOCG type mineralization.

You are reminded that you must always implement and comply with this approved EPEPR.

This approval does not constitute endorsement of the systems that you have in place to manage the mining operations in compliance with the Mining Act. Whilst your capability to undertake this activity has been considered in this approval, the responsibility for compliance with the Mining Act always remains with the tenement holder.

The legislative requirements associated with the EPEPR are outlined below, and certain requirements must be actioned prior to commencement of operations authorised by the EPEPR.

1	**PEPR Conditions** In accordance with section 70B(7a)(b) of the Mining Act, the approved EPEPR is subject to the conditions listed in the Notice of Approval Conditions – EP-04005. (Appendix 1)
2	**Rehabilitation Bond** DEM has determined the rehabilitation liability estimate to be $25,000 based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, a bond of $25,000 be entered into with the

	Minister for Energy and Mining. This bond will be formally requested through separate correspondence. The bond must be entered into before authorised operations can commence.
3	**Public Liability Insurance** Pursuant to Regulation 81 of the *Mining Regulations 2020* (the Mining Regulations), you are required to provide a copy of a certificate evidencing the insurance coverage over the tenement(s).
4	**Compliance Reporting** You are required to submit an annual exploration compliance report. The report is required to be submitted **within 2 months** after the anniversary of the date the licence was granted, or in accordance with joint reporting requirements agreed to with the Minister. Please refer to the DEM website for more information on the reporting requirements. You are reminded that a separate compliance report is required **2 months after** the expiry or surrender of the EL.
5	**Work, Health and Safety Compliance** In accordance with Chapter 10 of the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012* (SA), you must meet the requirements for mine operators in South Australia, which include a notification for mining operations, the establishment of a Safety Management System, the identification of Principal Mining Hazards and development of a Principal Mining Hazard Management Plan. Further information on your responsibilities, including a guide to Chapter 10, and the Mine Operator Notification Form, is available on the SafeWork SA website.
6	**EPEPR Timeframe** The EPEPR is approved for a period of twelve months from the date of this letter. A further 3 months after expiry of the 12-month period is provided to complete all rehabilitation.

Please note, proposed changes to exploration operations stated in the approved EPEPR may require a EPEPR review to be submitted for assessment. Where a EPEPR review is required, implementation of the operational changes can only occur after the revised EPEPR is approved. Further information on when an exploration PEPR review is required can be found in Departmental guideline *MG22 Conducting mineral exploration.*

In addition to the requirements under the Mining Act, you are reminded that your operation will have other legislative requirements that you will need to comply with.

If you have any further queries, please contact DEM staff as below:

Government of South Australia
Department for Energy and Mining

General enquiries	Jason Perry Senior Assessment Officer, Exploration Regulation DEM.exploration@sa.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Simon Constable
DIRECTOR, MINERALS REGULATION
In accordance with delegated powers and functions

Att.:
1. Appendix 1

CC: Access Liaison Officer - Woomera Test Range Woomera.Enquiries@defence.gov.au
CC: Regional Manager, Coober Pedy office DEM.cooberpedyadministration@sa.gov.au

The Department's Regulatory Guidelines, Ministerial Determinations and Information Sheets are available at: https://energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/forms-legislation-and-guidance

Appendix 1

Notice of Approval Conditions - EP-04005

In accordance with section 70B(7a)(b) of the *Mining Act 1971*, EP-04005 is approved subject to the following conditions:

Notice of Approval Conditions – EP-04005	
1	Part or the entire proposed EPEPR falls within the Andamooka/Coober Pedy Precious Stones Field. For holes drilled in this area, a duplicate set of representative samples for the 0-50 m interval is to be bagged and submitted to: **Opal Fields – Coober Pedy** Regional Manager (08) 8672 5800 DEM.cooberpedyadministration@sa.gov.au

Exploration PEPR - EPEPR | 12 Month PEPR

Reference Number: **EP-04005** • Status: **Assessment**

Select Applicable PEPR

Is historical?

◉ No ○ Yes

Previous PEPR ID

—

Search PEPRs

—

Applicant and General Details

Applicant Details

James Potter

Full Name *

James Potter

Business Phone

Mobile Phone

0419961068

Email *

james@ausquest.com.au (mailto:james@ausquest.com.au)

Project Supervisor

James Potter, AusQuest Ltd Chief Operations Officer.

General Details

Tenement Details *

Tenement Type	Tenement Name	Tenement Holder
Exploration Licence	EL 6798	AusQuest Limited

Operating Company

AusQuest Limited

If there is another Operating Company, please provide

Account Name	Entity Type	Registered Address	Registered Email

There are no records to display.

Project/prospect name

Coober Pedy

Mineral Model

. The Coober Pedy project was pegged by AusQuest Ltd due to the positive indicators for IOCG type mineralisation based on the geochemistry of the Vale S.A. drilling, as well as the gravity and the magnetics response. The project is situated in the Mt Woods Domain, in the northern part of the Olympic Dam IOCG province, adjacent to the interpreted position of the Elizabeth Creek Fault.

Primary Commodities *

Commodity Name ↑	Commodity Group	Grade
Copper	Exploration	
Gold	Exploration	

Secondary Commodities

Commodity Name ↑	Commodity Group	Grade

There are no records to display.

Project Description

The purpose of the proposed exploration drilling program is to discover economic mineral reserves. The proposed exploration operations are designed to follow up historical drilling and recent geophysical survey results (gravity and induced polarisation IP). AusQuest has undertaken detailed ground gravity and a ground induced polarisation (MIMDAS IP) survey as well as completing a reinterpretation of the historical geochemical data from the drilling. From this drilling targets have been identified and AusQuest plans to conduct RC drilling to test these targets.

Proposed Project Schedule

Start Date

01/04/2026

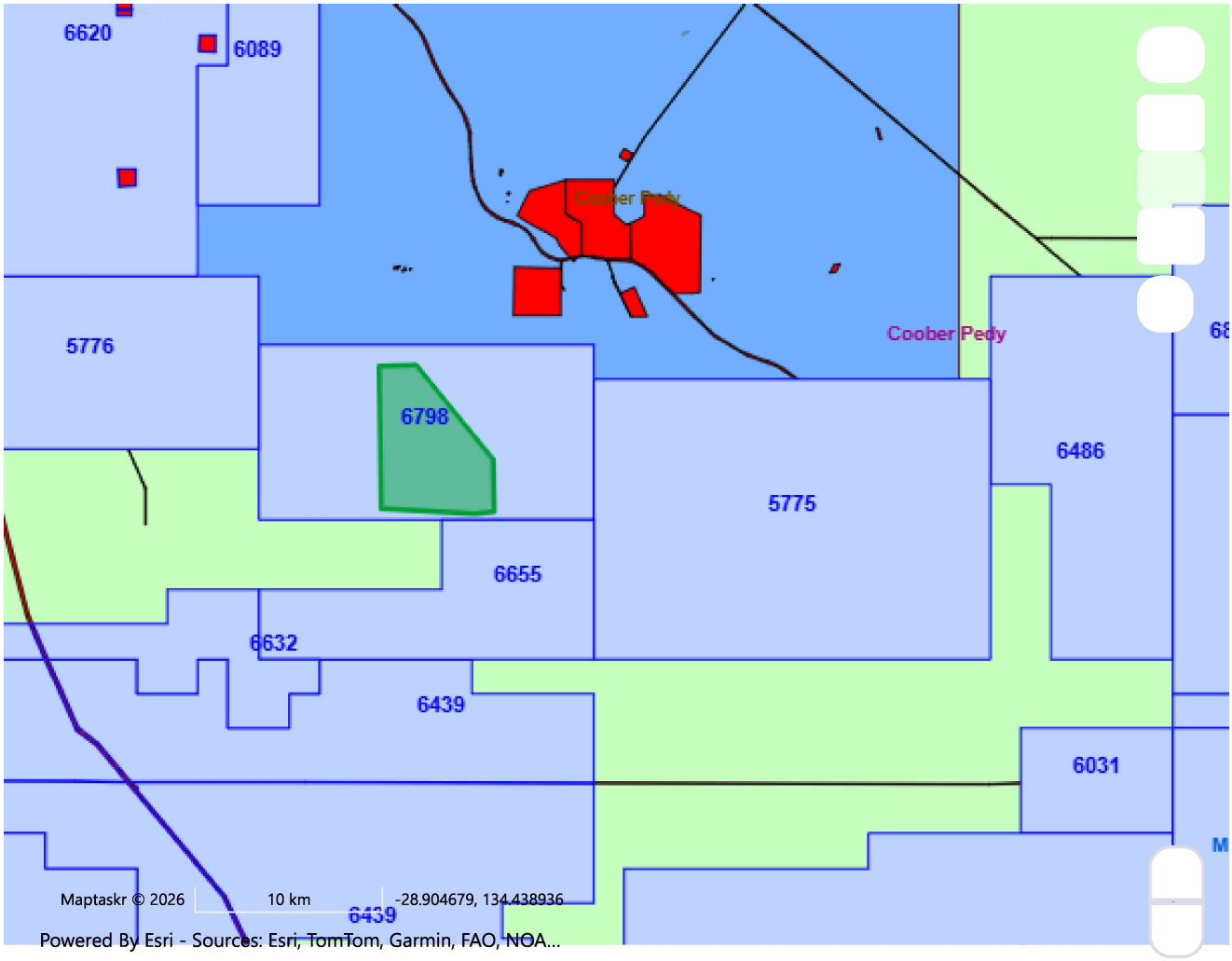
End date

30/09/2026

Clearly describe why a PEPR review is required, summarise all content changes made to the approved PEPR, and provide appropriate justification where a time extension is required.

—

Identify Application Area



Map Layer Intersects

Application Area Details

Location Description

Mount Clarence Station approximately 10km southwest of Coober Pedy.

Area (Sqkm)

36.48

Spatial Data Intersects - Summary Table

Show 10 entries Search:

Spatial Layer Name	Category	Referral	Intersect Count
1:250K mapsheets	Other		1
Cadastral Parcels	Other		2
Determinations of Native Title	Other		1
Exploration licences (mineral/opal)	No-Go Area		1
Pastoral Lease Boundaries	Other		2

Spatial Layer Name	Category	Referral	Intersect Count
Precious stones fields	Restricted Land		1
Prescribed Wells Area (Far North GAB)	Other		1
Prescribed Wells Areas	Other	Yes - Advice	1
Registered and Notified ILUAs	Other		3
Schedule of Native Title Claims	Other		1

Showing 1 to 10 of 11 entries Previous 1 2 Next

Spatial Data Intersects - Details Table

Show 10 entries Search:

Spatial Layer Name	Shape	Primary Attribute	All Attributes	Category
1:250K mapsheets	Shape 2	COOBER PEDY	View attributes	Other
Cadastral Parcels	Shape 2	D42426QP53	View attributes	Other
Cadastral Parcels	Shape 2	D42426AL51	View attributes	Other
Determinations of Native Title	Shape 2	Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara	View attributes	Other
Exploration licences (mineral/opal)	Shape 2	EL 6798	View attributes	No-Go Area
Pastoral Lease Boundaries	Shape 2		View attributes	Other
Pastoral Lease Boundaries	Shape 2	MT CLARENCE	View attributes	Other
Precious stones fields	Shape 2	Coober Pedy	View attributes	Restricted Land
Prescribed Wells Area (Far North GAB)	Shape 2	Far North	View attributes	Other
Prescribed Wells Areas	Shape 2	Far North	View attributes	Other

Showing 1 to 10 of 15 entries Previous 1 2 Next

Program Preparation

Work undertaken in preparing the proposal

AusQuest has completed the following work in preparing the proposal:
- Desktop technical geological review with internal consultants
- Field reconnaissance including geophysical data collection and identification of topographic and cultural features
- Heritage survey for the ground gravity
- Stakeholder engagement including native title and station management Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation (AMYAC).
- Flora and Fauna desktop review using Nature Base
- Desktop hydrology search using WaterConnect and Sarig
- Desktop heritage search via Taa wika SA

Operator Capability

AusQuest Ltd and engaged contractors working on the Coober Pedy project will operated within the bounds of AusQuests field operations manual 2023 and associated management, safe work, environmental and heritage policies and procedures. AusQuest staff have detailed knowledge of the procedures and will implement on site through inductions and direct supervision.
AusQuest encourages a active reporting of hazards, near misses and incidents and ensures rectifications are actioned as soon as practical. Ausquest also actively engages with stakeholders and will ensure compliance with heritage and station requirements.
AusQuest was listing on the ASX in 2003 and since then has conducted many exploration programs, often in very remote areas. We have a proven track record of maintaining our social licence to operate through strong stakeholder engagement and strict environmental compliance. We have policy and procedures in place but more importantly our staff and contractors are highly experienced and understand the importance of the specific requirements when working in different regions. The supervisors will be directly engaged to supervise on ground aspects of the program. This includes completing audits and reporting any incidents, and maintaining a safety system that adhere to South Australian and Western Australian Standards.

Lease Conditions

AusQuest acknowledges it has read the lease conditions and understands the obligations. AusQuest notes that while no previous drilling has not intersected any pressurised (artesian) conditions, this will be monitored and reported as per the conditions. The thickness of the cover sequence which is the host of the artesian basin is interpreted to be between less than 150m (generally 60-80m) and it is structurally complex suggesting there is a lower likelihood of confinement. There are no artesian bores or springs on the lease.

Land Access

Identify the Owners of Land and authority to access land

Land Title Reference	Plan Parcel Reference	Type of Land	Owner of Land ↑	Land Access Authorisation Method	Date of Form 21 or Agreement Signed	Instrument or Uploaded Document Id	Uncheck land not applicable to your application ar
CR 6183/414	D42426 QP53						Unchecked
CL 6183/278	D42426 AL51	Leasee	Mount Clarence Station	Service of Notice of Entry	29/01/2026		Checked

Is any of the application area over a road, street or highway

No

Woomera Prohibited Area (WPA)

Will activities be conducted within the WPA

Yes

In which zone will activities be conducted?

Name	Are you intending to undertake work?	Closure start date	Closure end date
Defence infrequent zone	Yes		

Does the tenement holder hold a valid and current Resource Exploration Permit under the WPA Rule?

Yes

Permit No.

REX062-23

What is the expiry date of the permit?

20/12/2028

Does the Exploration Permit allow the operator to conduct exploration operations in the WPA?

Yes

Other Land Owned or Controlled by the Commonwealth Department of Defence

Indicate if you are intending to undertake exploration operations within the identified defence land

No

Other Commonwealth defence land

Defence Land	Applicable

There are no records to display.

Do you have a Deed of Access with Defence?

—

Expiry date of the Deed of Access

—

Date the Range Control Officer granted permission to conduct the proposed exploration operations.

—

Describe the results of consultation and how any concerns raised were addressed

—

Native Title

Does 'Native Title land' exist within the application area?

Yes

Using the table below, describe how you have complied with the requirements of Part 9B of the Mining Act for each tenement.

Name of Determined / Claimant Group	Agreement Type	Instrument Number	Applicable
Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara			No
Antakirinja Area Minerals Exploration ILUA			No
Coober Pedy Precious Stones Field ILUA			No
Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Native Title	52446	Yes

Provide any additional relevant information

AusQuest signed a Native Title Mining and Land Access Agreement for Exploration with the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation (RNTBC) in February 2023. Mining register instrument number 52446.

Exempt Land

Exempt Land

Has Exempt land been identified?

No

If a "Waiver of Exemption" has been reached to waive the benefit of the exemption, a notice of the agreement must be given to the Mining Registrar, either within 21 days after the agreement was entered into or when an application for the mineral tenement is made under the Mining Act.

In the table below enter the relevant instrument numbers for any Form 23C - Notice of wavier of exemption provided to the Mining Registrar.*

Land Title	Plan Parcel	Owner of Land that has benefit of exemption ↑	Why is the land exempt land?	Waiver of exemption(s) been negotiated	Instrument Number or Uploaded Document Id
CL 6183/278	D42426 AL51	Mount Clarence Station			

Consultation

Consultation

Stakeholder ↑	Land Use	Matters raised	Stakeholder concerns raised and how addressed
DEM Coober Pedy Opal Fields	Other (e.g. historic mining)	Safety and operation issues raised as the opal mining community has access to the project due to it being within the Opal Field.	From a safety perspective the drilling team and AusQuest personnel will be made aware of the requirement for the opal miners to have access to the top 50m of drill spoil. Signage and safety exclusion zones will be established during drilling operations. The top 50m will be bagged and numbered to allow easy access to the samples.
Mount Clarence Station	Grazing	No Concerns of Matters Raised	No Concerns of Matters Raised
Mount Clarence Station	Other (e.g. historic mining)	Impact to heritage sites	Complete heritage survey prior to earthworks. Currently negotiating timing of the heritage survey.

If any individual or group of similar affected persons were not able to be consulted, what steps were taken to consult with them?

Opal Miners. Access is through areas of opal mining and its difficult to consult with operators. Care will be taken when traversing these areas and speed limits will be reduced in areas where visibility is limited due to opal tailings.

Provide any additional relevant information.

The drilling area is outside the area of opal mining, outside the Cooper Pedy town limits and the station is no longer managed on a commercial basis. However, the country is very open and drill rigs will be visible. Visitors to the rig will be delt with on a case by case basis.

Describe any council policies (or out of council) or development plans that may impact the program area and a description of any known plans for future land use changes by other parties.

While the project is close to Coober Pedy it is outside the town limits. The northern part of the lease (outside drilling area) has had a significant amount of historical opal exploration and grazing.

Description of Environment

Proximity to Infrastructure and Housing

Provide the following information:

There is minimal infrastructure in the project area that will be impacted by the exploration activities. There current tracks are predominantly used for accessing largely disused station infrastructure and the tracks proximal to the drilling are all part of the drill access tracks used during previous drilling campaigns. There are some fence lines which are in a state of disrepair or have been dropped to the ground but again these are not in the area where the drilling will take place.

Attach Files

Expand/Collapse

File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
SARIG_Map_Infrastructure.pdf	0.6 Mb	15-01-2026 11:40:50	Download (MERS/EP-04005/Proximity to infrastructure/SARIG_Map_Infrastructure_2026-01-15T01-10-51.237Z.pdf)

Landform, topography, soil and surface cover

Describe the topography and soil and surface cover (e.g. gibber) of the general area affected by the exploration program. Include details on the susceptibility to compaction, erosion, dust, runoff and visual attributes (steep or undulating slopes, plains, rocky outcrops, dunes, saltpans, claypans etc) any other characteristics (e.g. acid sulphate soils) that may require control strategies to reduce environmental impacts during operations or rehabilitation.

The landform within the proposed disturbance area is characterised by flat to gently undulating terrain. Surface cover is dominated by exposed stony gibber plains with sparse vegetation cover, which is largely confined to mapped ephemeral drainage lines. These drainage features are currently dry. Claypan features occur within the broader locality; however, no drilling or ground disturbance is proposed within claypan areas. No other significant or sensitive landforms are present within the area of proposed activities.

Drill collar locations will, where practicable, be positioned on flatter ground to minimise the requirement for drill pad construction and associated earthworks. The ability to relocate drill sites may be constrained by geological targeting requirements; however, landform disturbance will be minimised wherever feasible. Proposed collars which fall near drainage will be moved a minimum of 50m from the drainage. Alternative access has been allowed for if drainage is present in some locations.

The proposed disturbance areas occur on very low-gradient terrain and are therefore considered to have a low susceptibility to erosion. While short-duration, high-intensity rainfall events may result in minor sheetwash across the landscape, any erosion associated with drilling activities is expected to be localised and minor in nature, with no anticipated off-site impacts.

Attach Files

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
Topographic Features Map.pdf	3.74 Mb	15-01-2026 12:12:08	Download (MERS/EP-04005/Landform, topography/Topographic Features Map_2026-01-15T01-42-09.156Z.pdf)

Surface Water

Will the proposed program interfere with surface water bodies and natural drainage (e.g. drainage lines, creeks, floodplains, wetlands)?

Yes

Describe the potential interference and surface water bodies and natural drainage on maps.

There are some mapped "water courses" on the project area however, these are generally only localised topographic lows with very rare water flow. Care has been taken to design the program to avoid localised drainage unless there is already an existing track already in place. However, some tracks have been designed that may be close or intersect the topographic lows. These will be checked on the ground to determine if there is in fact a drainage course which will be avoided. A buffer of 50m will be imposed if any planned tracks or drill pads need to be moved away from claypand or water courses. Alternative access has been allowed for when completing heritage surveys.

Indicate how you will avoid disturbance

—

Is the program area located within water protection areas defined under the River Murray Act 2003?

No

Select the name(s) of protected water areas

Is the program area located within any prescribed watercourses or prescribed surface water areas under the Landscape?

No

Select the name(s) of the prescribed watercourses or prescribed surface water areas under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019.

Attach Files

Expand/Collapse

File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
Topographic Drainage Map.pdf	2.28 Mb	15-01-2026 12:19:08	Download (MERS/EP-04005/Surface water/Topographic Drainage Map_2026-01-15T01-49-08.819Z.pdf)

Name	Applicable
There are no records to display.	

Groundwater

Is groundwater likely to be intersected when conducting the exploration program?

Yes

Provide evidence or any supporting information demonstrating this.

—

Description of the localites/areas where different groundwater conditions may be encountered

The tenement is situated on the extreme edge of south-west margin of the Great Artesian Basin. The basin in this location is non-artesian and despite the limited rainfall (annual rainfall is less than 150mm) is still considered a recharge zone. The flow direction is towards the east and north east towards the deeper part of the basin located in south-west Queensland. The project is located on the "Coober Pedy Ridge" which is a regional basement high. The cover stratigraphy is shallow in the area and basement is likely to be intercepted at depths of less than 100m. This is supported publications on the Arckaringa Basin (DEWNR Technical report 2015/14). The sedimentary units encountered at the project are the Bulldog Shale which hosts the opal occurrences to a few km to the north and is likely to be thin, oxidised and unsaturated. A temporary perched water table on top is possible however; due to the oxidised nature of the unit and the low rainfall this is unlikely. The Cadna-owie formation consists of sandstones and is relatively thin in this location due to the basement high associated with the Coober Pedy Ridge. Regional mapping of the water table indicates a water table depth of 80metres which would generally place the watertable within the Proterozoic basement. Due to the Coober Pedy Ridge the area is a local recharge zone.
The SA EPA Water Quality Policy (2015) describes water by its suitability for different purposes as defined by its salinity. A review of the bores drilled within a 10km radius of the proposed drilling area has not returned any meaningful information due to the age of the drilling and the lack of information collected during the construction of the previously drilled bores. The Coober Pedy Ridge further complicates the issue as the groundwater is likely to have a significant component of the Proterozoic geology which is interpreted to be a sequence of gneissic sediments of the Coober Pedy Domain. Data from the region is highly variable with typical TDS values ranging between a few hundred to over 10,000. The average is typically 3000 to 5000mmg/L in both the basement and the overlying sediments. This is the first major drilling program for many years and AusQuest plan to closely monitor the salinity during the program. The Drilling Inspector will be contacted by email at DEWDrillingInspector@sa.gov.au or by telephone at 08 8463 6841 14 day prior to the commencement of the program plus following the program with the updated drilling information.

Add the different groundwater conditions for each localities/areas to the table below.

Name ↑	Formation age and/or stratigraphic unit	Stratigraphic intervals (depth range) (m)	Aquifer formation name	Aquifer Interval/thinkness (from-to) (m)	Aquifer Type	Aquifer salinity (TDS)	Depth to groundwater (m)	Comments
Mt Clarence	Bulldog Shale Cretaceous	50	GAB	20	Unknown	Unknown	0	Water quality and depth has not been noted in the logs for all the holes drilled in the area.
Mt Clarence	Proterozoic Crystaline Basement	250	NA	150	Unknown	Unknown	200	Limited is know about the ground water in the basement rocks. Its expected to be saline.

Name ↑	Formation age and/or stratigraphic unit	Stratigraphic intervals (depth range) (m)	Aquifer formation name	Aquifer Interval/thinkness (from-to) (m)	Aquifer Type	Aquifer salinity (TDS)	Depth to groundwater (m)	Comments
Mt Clarence	Cretaceous to Jurassic Cadna-owie Formation	80	Cadna-owie Formation	60-80	Unconfined	NA	200	There is minimal information available and the Vale data does not detail the water interc epts.

Provide the environmental value of each aquifer present determined according to the current Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy.

From the data available it seems likely there is minimal value for the ground water due to its low quality non-potable and the depth may be greater than 50m. It is likely to be saline and not under pressure. However, AusQuest will monitor this during the program and ensure any issues are reported to the drilling inspector.

Provide a description of the existence, location and value of all Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) within and immediately surrounding the project area

A review of the BoM Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) has identified there are some aquatic and potentially terrestrial GDE in the area. The aquatic GDE have been mapped as on dustpans and visual inspection shows these are low depression and at best ephemeral lakes. The drilling program will be conducted proximal to these claypans. They are vegetated suggesting they have been dry for some time.
In addition to the aquatic GDE there are some terrestrial GDE in the area to the north and west. These won't be impacted by the drilling and the lack of any vegetation taller than a few metres suggests there is minimal vegetation reliant on any perched shallow aquifers.
Given the poor quality of these ecosystems due to extremely low rainfall and high salinity the environmental value of these ecosystems is considered low.

Is the proposed program located within a prescribed wells area?

Yes

Select the prescribed wells

Far North Prescribed Wells Area

Is the proposed program located within a prescribed water resource area?

No

Select the prescribed water resource areas

Provide any additional information

The map shows there is some drilling on the lease however, it is all exploration drilling and there is no detailed information regarding the water present. The cover sequence is generally less than 100m thick and the water table has been noted in some holes to be below the cover (eg >100m).

Attach Files

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
Existing Drilling.pdf	2.4 Mb	15-01-2026 12:23:31	Download (MERS/EP-04005/Ground water/Existing Drilling_2026-01-15T01-53-32.013Z.pdf)
GDE Atlas Report-3924508796169940033.pdf	0.17 Mb	30-01-2026 18:40:20	Download (MERS/EP-04005/Ground water/GDE Atlas Report-3924508796169940033_2026-01-30T08-10-21.471Z.pdf)

Native Vegetation

Will you be working within areas of native vegetation?

Yes

Provide the following information:

Low open shrubland (chenopod shrubland).
Vegetation unit SD0013. Stony plains and Tablelands. SA Vegetation Description:(description of species and structure for each stratum for vegetation group)
Atriplex vesicaria ssp., Atriplex nummularia ssp. omissa, Maireana astrotricha, Maireana pyramidata, Rhagodia spinescens low open shrubland over Sclerolaena intricata, Eragrostis setifolia, Sclerolaena divaricata, Abutilon halophilum, Tecticornia medullosa

Indicate why you will not be working within areas of native vegetation?

—

Attach Files

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
NatureMap Units.pdf	0.96 Mb	15-01-2026 12:45:14	Download (MERS/EP-04005/Native Vegetation/NatureMap Units_2026-01-15T02-15-15.305Z.pdf)

Fauna

Describe the native and feral fauna that may be present in the application area, including feral species.

Observations from the area is typical for inland Australia with Kangaroos, Emu's and birds such as wedge tailed eagles. Introduced species includes cows and likely dogs, cats and foxes.

Significant Habitats, Flora & Fauna

Are there any significant habitats, flora and fauna within the project area?

Yes

Use the table below to list any significant habitats and any rare or endangered flora and fauna species located or reported to have been in the area that may be impacted by the proposed program. Include known sightings of listed species on a locality plan/map.

Species name/habitat	Common name	NPW Act Rating	EBPC Act Rating
Amytornis modestus	Thick-billed Grasswren	Vulnerable (VU)	Vulnerable

Attach Files

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
NatureBase_Observed Grasswren.pdf	1.42 Mb	15-01-2026 18:21:26	Download (MERS/EP-04005/Fauna/NatureBase_Observed Grasswren_2026-01-15T07-51-27.233Z.pdf)

Weeds and Pathogens

Provide information of the extent the area is affected or potentially affected by weeds and pathogens (e.g. phytophthora; buffel grass Cenchrus ciliaris).

Buffel Grass is present but typically restricted to major roads and populated areas. Prickly pear and other introduced cactaceae species are noted but generally confined to historical planting areas such as station homestead and outbuilding sites (Near Mabel Creek Station Homestead). No weed species have been noted on the lease, however, AusQuest will implement the following measures to minimise the spread of weeds:
• Conduct Weed and Seed inspections of all vehicles/machinery/equipment entering the drilling sites to ensure vehicles are clean
before entering a new site.
• Restrict vehicle movements to existing and identified proposed access tracks/drill pads.
• Avoid walking or driving over any buffel grass infestations.
• Inspect footwear and clothing to remove/dispose of any weed seed.
• Follow applicable advice in the SA Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) Fact Sheet – Buffel Grass Hygiene.

Attach Files

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
Weed Locations.pdf	1.33 Mb	15-01-2026 13:01:55	Download (MERS/EP-04005/Weeds and Pathogens/Weed Locations_2026-01-15T02-31-55.956Z.pdf)

Aboriginal Heritage

Describe the steps taken to identify Aboriginal heritage sites within the proposed area of exploration. Include a statement advising if an Aboriginal heritage survey has been conducted by the proponent and if so, the results of the survey.

A heritage survey was completed prior to the commencement of the ground gravity survey and no sites were identified. A additional heritage survey will be completed prior to drilling as per AusQuest's native title agreement with the AMYAC. A search via South Australian Register of Heritage sites was undertaken. A single site exists on the north-west corner of the lease well away from any of the proposed exploration activity.

Environmentally Sensitive Locations

Indicate if you are intending to undertake exploration operations within the environmentally sensitive locations listed.

No

Name	Applicable
There are no records to display.	

Are you likely to impact on the environmentally sensitive area?

No

Detail the likely effects the proposed program may have.

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Attach Files

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
No Files Uploaded			

Exploration Operations

Equipment and Personnel requirements

Using the table below, describe the maximum composition of field crews (operator, contractors, and geologists) and proposed working hours/days for each type of activity.

Type of Personnel	Number	Name of contractor company (if applicable)
Drilling Crew	4	Bullion Drilling Co Pty Ltd
Geologists	2	AusQuest Ltd
Site Preparation and rehabilitation	1	AusQuest Ltd
Land access/environmental	6	Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (AMYAC)
Field assistants/technicians	2	AusQuest Ltd

Shifts worked per day	Hours worked per day	Days worked per week
1	12	7

Using the table below, describe the equipment (size, number and contractor details) required to conduct the proposed operations.

Name	Owner/Operator	Description/capacity	Activity/purpose
Drill Rig	Bullion Drilling Company	Rig 4 - 2006 Schramm T685WS RC Drill Rig or RIG 5 – 2014 Schramm T685WS RC Drill Rig:	Drill RC holes
Loader	Earthworks Contractor	Wheel loader or backhoe.	Complete Earthworks (to clear vegetation, dig sumps and complete rehabilitation.
Support Truck	Drill Contractor	8x8 Support Truck or equivalent	Support drilling with water, fuel and other consumables.
Air Truck	Drill Contractor	6x6 Man Air Truck (22t) or equivalent with on board booster and auxiliary compressor.	Compressor and Booster truck for drill rig
Light Vehicle	Drill COntractor	LV (landcruser trayback) 4x4	Drilling crew transport.
Light Vehicle	AusQuest	4x4 trayback	AusQuest transport of personnel and samples.

Low impact exploration activities

Will low impact exploration operations be conducted that are not covered by the Generic program for environment protection and rehabilitation – low impact mineral exploration in South Australia, (generic PEPR)?

Yes

Describe each type of low impact operations proposed.

Heritage survey prior to drilling.

Drilling Operations

Will exploration drilling Operations be conducted?

Yes

Fill out the below table

Tenement	Drilling Types	Maximum number of drillholes	Maximum drillhole depth (m)	Number of drill pads	Maximum number of sumps required at each site	Maximum size of sumps (lenght x depth x width)	Average size of each drill pad	Number of sites requiring pad excavation	Average volume of material to be excavated
EL 6798	Reverse Circulation	20	250.00	20	2	20.00	700.00	0	0.00

Other Drilling Method(s)

—

Drillsite preparation

If exploration drilling activities are proposed, describe the methods used to prepare sites, including vegetation clearance requirements, site levelling and digging of sumps.

PRIOR TO CLEARING PADS:
• Drill pads and clearing will be sited before commencing; Including reviewing and determining locations of heritage exclusion zones within proximity of drill locations and delineating exclusions where required.
• No tracks or drill pads will be created in drainage lines or creeks, drill sites will be relocated 50 metres minimum from creeks or drainage line if no appropriate alternative can be located the hole and access track will not be cleared and drilled.
• Tracks and Drill pads will not be created within 200m of clay pans
• Tracks and pad locations will be sited to minimise vegetation removal and will pass around larger trees and isolated vegetation.
• Drill pads will be created alongside proposed access tracks.

DRILL PADS AND SUMPS
• Drill pads will be cleared to 25m x 25m (625m2) with 1 x sumps (2.5m x 5m x 2.5m) for water which maybe encountered. If large amounts of water are intercepted water will be diverted to adjacent sumps or an additional sump will be excavated if
needed,
• Drill pads will be cleared using raised blade clearing retaining the root stock
• The drill pad will be cleared to allow drill rig and compressor support truck to sit on adjacently on drill pad allowing access around the drill rig and compressor support truck.
• Vegetation will be stockpiled allowing re-spreading as mulch, soil protection and seed material for re-generation on completion of the drill program.
• Sumps will be sloped on one side to allow for Fauna to escape

Drillhole construction and decommissioning

Drillhole construction and decommissioning

A South Australian based minimum class 2 driller will be used for the program. Drilling activities and decommissioning will be conducted in accordance with the Mineral Exploration Drillholes Information Sheet M21: General specifications for construction and backfilling. While the it is unlikely a constrained aquifer will be intersected AusQuest will ensure the holes are collared (up to 6m of 150mm PVC) sufficiently to allow for pressure grouting 15m back from the confining layer. Casing will be class 9 or 12 casing.

Have the personnel responsible for implementing the proposed program read and understood the Earth Resources Information Sheet M21, Mineral exploration drillholes – general specifications for construction and backfilling?

Yes

Describe how drillholes will be constructed, including the casing material to be used, depth of casing, if the casing will be cemented, cementing intervals and the class of driller that will install the casing.

The specifics of the drill hole construction will be at the discretion of the drilling contractor who is experienced in drilling in these conditions. As a minimum 6m of 150mm x 8.5mm PVC casing will be inserted and set into the ground by the contractor. The specific depts for the plugging and grouting will be determined on a case by case basis depending on the aquifer and the geology intercepted. Its expected that any constraining units such as the Bull Dog Shale to be locally oxidised and degraded and will not be an impermeable layer.

When describing drillhole decommissioning requirements, include the materials to be used, stratigraphic intervals where cement plugs will be placed, if the casing will be removed and when decommissioning will occur after drilling is completed.

After completion of drilling, if no confined aquifers have been intersected, RC holes will be temporarily plugged/capped until such time it is decided the bulk drill cuttings
are no longer required for further geochemical analysis (typically 1-3 months), the drill hole will be backfilled with drill cuttings. Cement may be used in the upper portion of the hole to improve stability. A plastic plug will be inserted 0.5 – 2m below the surface and backfilled with native top soil. Surface casing will be removed after hole has been
backfilled with cuttings.
Open sumps may be used to dispose of excess drill cutting where they will not fit back down the drill hole of origin. Cuttings will be buried 1m below surface where required.
In the unlikely event that the hole is making water or standing water level becomes progressively closer to surface indicating a confined aquifer has been intersected AusQuest will grout the hole as per the M21 guidelines. The M21 guidelines state if is single confined aquifer is intersected, cement grouting is required to be used throughout the aquifer to at least 15m above where the top of the aquifer is located. If multiple confined aquifers are intersected then they needed to be grouted a minimum of 15m below and above the aquifer as well as within the aquifer. Refer to the attached diagrams from the M21 guideline (1 unconfined, 2, single confined, 3 multiple confined).

Attach Files

Expand/Collapse

File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
SA_Aquifer_Grouting1.jpg	0.03 Mb	03-03-2026 17:58:13	Download (MERS/EP-04005/Drillhole construction and decommissioning/SA_Aquifer_Grouting1_2026-03-03T07-28-13.509Z.jpg)

File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
SA_Aquifer_Grouting2.jpg	0.03 Mb	03-03-2026 17:58:13	Download (MERS/EP-04005/Drillhole construction and decommissioning/SA_Aquifer_Grouting2_2026-03-03T07-28-13.550Z.jpg)
SA_Aquifer_Grouting3.jpg	0.04 Mb	03-03-2026 17:58:13	Download (MERS/EP-04005/Drillhole construction and decommissioning/SA_Aquifer_Grouting3_2026-03-03T07-28-13.513Z.jpg)

Costeans and bulk sample disposal pits

Will costeans/bulk sample disposal pits be required for the proposed program?

No

Tenement	Number of costeans/pits	Size of costean (length x width) (m2)	Average depth (m)	Volume excavated (m3)	Total Volume Excavated (m3)	Total area of disturbance

There are no records to display.

Describe site preparation methods, vegetation clearance, and safety and maintenance requirements

NA

Sample management

Describe the size of samples collected (including drilling samples and bulk sampling), collection methods, materials used when collecting the sample, sample disposal methods (including removal of sample bags), safety management and any other sample management requirements at the exploration site (e.g. tarps or matting used to contain cuttings). Include requirements for on-site geological sample management (splitting of archive samples, bag farms, core processing and storage).

Sample Collection
• For RC drilling bulk drill cuttings will be collected in large plastic bags at 1m intervals downs the entire drill hole.
• From these bags, 2m composite samples will be collected in calico sample bags and submitted to a laboratory for geochemical analysis.
• surplus bulk drill cuttings will be left at each drill site until all geochemical results have been received from the laboratory to ensure no samples need to be resubmitted.
• The surplus bulk samples will then be used to backfill the holes followed by a non-degradable plug at 0.5 – 2m downhole and then topsoil backfilled to surface. The remaining bulk samples will be removed from the plastic sample bag and disposed of in a same sump as drilling.
• Plastic bags and surplus calico bags from 1m splits will be disposed of separately at a designated waste dump. All sample bags will be rehabilitated within the requested approval time monitoring for bag degradation.
• Sample material that cannot be returned downhole will be disposed in a sump.
• The top 50m of sample bags will be stockpiles separately and submitted to the DEM Coober Pedy for opaline assessment. These will also be clearly marked on the drill pad if inspection is required. Notification details are below.
All sample bags will be rehabilitated within 3 months following after drilling.

Opal Fields – Coober Pedy
Regional Manager
(08) 8672 5800
DEM.cooberpedyadministration@sa.gov.au

Access routes to work areas

Will existing tracks require upgrading and/or maintenance?

Yes

Detail the work required to upgrade/maintain existing tracks.

If the tracks become damaged through heavy vehicle movement a loader or grade will be used as required. These tracks will not be widened or have their paths adjusted.

Will access be required across adjoining tenements?

No

Detail the method(s) for gaining access, and if an agreement is in place with all stakeholders. Include the total area of disturbance required (i.e. length (km) and width (m) of tracks) and provide on a locality map.

NA

Will access off existing tracks be required?

Yes

Detail the method(s) for gaining access and if vegetation clearance is required. Details of the total area of disturbance (includes drill traverses and seismic lines) required off existing tracks (i.e. length (km) and width (m) of new tracks) must be provided in the program notification.

Depending on heritage and the presence of localised drainage a maximum of 14km of access tracks will be required (16km is in the plan however, there is some contingency). This includes tracks to access the drill lines and the drill lines themselves (total 4.2 hectares). This will be up to 3m wide and clearing will be done in the same way as the pads with blade up to remove vegetation only. Cleared material will be stockpiled and used for rehabilitation. Drainage will be avoided and if required tracks will be moved so they are more than 50m from drainage. Topographic lows with no evidence of flowing water will not be considered drainage. Note in the map alternative access has been planned in areas were drainage may occur as the mapping shows topographic lows.

Attach Files

Expand/Collapse

File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
Access tracks.pdf	2.28 Mb	15-01-2026 14:08:42	Download (MERS/EP-04005/Access routes to work areas/Access tracks_2026-01-15T03-38-42.989Z.pdf)

Campsites and equipment laydown areas

Indicate where staff and contractors will be accommodated during the exploration program.

AusQuest staff and contractors will stay in Coober Pedy.

What is the maximum number of personnel requiring accommodation?

6

Is a campsite required to be established?

No

Provide a description and justification of the camp location (e.g. previously cleared areas etc.), and any other relevant information.

NA

What will be the total area (ha) of the campsite(s)?

—

Will native vegetation clearance be required?

No

What will be the total area (ha) of vegetation clearance for the campsite?

—

Describe the methods used to prepare the campsite includuing vegetation requirements and site levelling.

—

Will any excavations be required?

No

Describe the purpose of the excavation

—

Describe the maximum volume (m3) of material to be excavated.

—

Provide confirmation that the proposed ablution facilities have been endorsed for use by the Department of Health or local council, where applicable.

No

Indicate why endorsement approval is not required by the Department of Health or local council.

Due to the relatively close proximity to town ablution facilities in Coober Pedy will be utilised. If required a short hole (<6m) will be drilled to be used as a pit toilet with a seat installed within a privacy tent.

Proposed infrastructure (includes caravans, tents, offices, hydrocarbon and water storage requirements etc)

Proposed infrastructure	Quantity	Description / capacity
Campsite	1	Camp to be in Coober Pedy at a commercial caravan park.

Will laydown areas be required?

No

Will the laydown area(s) be located at the same location as the campsite?

No

Provide a description and justification of the location (e.g. previously cleared areas), and any other relevant information if required.

Laydown will be in Coober Pedy. If laydown is required a lower priority drill pad will be used or the laydown will be moved from a undrilled pad to a drilled one during the program.

What will be the maximum area (ha) required for the laydown area(s)?

—

Will native vegetation clearance be required?

No

What will be the total area (ha) of vegetation clearance for the site?

—

Describe the methods used to prepare the laydown area includuing vegetation requirements and site levelling.

—

Will any excavations be required?

No

Describe the purpose of the excavation.

—

What will be the volume (m3) of material to be excavated.

—

Proposed infrastructure (includes hydrocarbon and water storage requirements)

Proposed infrastructure	Quantity	Description / capacity
Laydown	1	On an existing drill site. Any fluids and hydrocarbon will be stored on bunded pallets with black plastic laid down. Any spills to be cleaner up as per AusQuests hydrocarbon management procedure.

Attach Files

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
No Files Uploaded			

Other exploration methods and/or ancillary operations

Are any other proposed exploration methods (e.g. seismic) and/or ancillary exploration operations required?

No

Describe the activity(s), site preparation, vegetation clearance, and safety and maintenance requirements.

—

Water supply and management

Will camp and/or drilling water be required?

Yes

Describe how and where water will be sourced for drilling, track maintenance and camping purposes (e.g. groundwater, surface water, mains). Indicate how wastewater and/or runoff water will be managed.

Generally only a few 1000 ltrs of drilling water will be required and will be sourced from Coober Pedy.

Will surface water and/or mineral drillholes be used as a water source/supply?

No

Indicate if a licence for water extraction/usage is required (refer to relevant Natural Resources Management water allocation plan available on the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) website.

No

Attach a copy of the licence or include a statement confirming that a licence will be obtained before the extraction and/or usage of water.

—

Groundwater investigation and water affecting activities

Will any water investigation (e.g. pump testing, water monitoring sites, water storage, turkey nests/dams) and/or water affecting activities, be undertaken (refer to s. 127 of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019)?

No

Describe the water investigation and/or water affecting activities, including site preparation, vegetation clearance, and safety and maintenance requirements.

–

Indicate if water affecting activities permits (eg well and water extraction/discharge permits) have been obtained and in accordance with the Landscape South Australia Act 2019.

No

Attached Files

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
No Files Uploaded			

Management of hazardous materials

Will activities be conducted in areas of known uranium and thorium mineralisation?

No

Attach Files

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
No Files Uploaded			

Will any other hazardous material be encountered when exploring in the area?

No

List the types of hazardous materials and provide a management plan on how these materials will be managed.

low-level naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) may be encountered. If elevated it will be managed as per AusQuests hazardous material procedure.

Rehabilitation

Detail all the activities and strategies relating to the remediation of all impacts associated with the proposed exploration operations (includes exploration camps and laydown areas, tracks). Completion of rehabilitation must be achieved within 3 months after the expiry of each program notification.

Drill Pads and Samples
• For RC drilling, bulk drill cuttings will be collected in large plastic bags at 1m intervals downs the entire drill hole. From these bags, 2m composite samples will be collected in calico sample bags and submitted to a laboratory for geochemical analysis.
• The surplus bulk drill cuttings will be left at each drill site until all geochemical results have been received from the laboratory to ensure no samples need to be resubmitted. The surplus bulk samples will then be used to backfill the holes.
• A non-degradable plug at 0.5 – 2m downhole will be placed into the open hole and then topsoil backfilled to surface.
• The remaining bulk samples will be removed from the plastic sample bag and disposed of in existing sumps on the hole it was drilled.
• Plastic bags and surplus calico bags from 2m splits will be disposed of separately at a designated waste dump
• All sample bags and all exploration related activities will be rehabilitated within 3 months following drilling and ensuring monitoring of bag degradation.
• If drill pads have been compacted by machinery, the drill holes or track will be ripped along the contour to loosen the soil.
• Topsoil which has been stockpiled will be re-spread to facilitate growth.
• Sample material that cannot be returned downhole will be disposed in a sump.
Sump
• Drilling waters will be contained within sumps, with sumps back filled after water has evaporated.
• Bulk samples will be disposed of downhole with excess samples disposed of in the sump and covered with sub and topsoil in the correct order.
• excess sub-soil material will be added where possible to allowing for compaction.
• Topsoil which has been stockpiled will be re-spread to facilitate growth.
Tracks
• Will be rehabilitated to near original condition which facilitated revegetation after drilling.
• If tracks have been compacted by machinery, the drill holes or track will be ripped along the contour to loosen the soil.
• Topsoil will be respread and vegetation over the top to facilitate revegetation.
• Obstacles such as mounds, tree trucks and branches across will be used to restrict access along rehabilitated tracks off major roads and station tracks.
• Road windrow of the existing major road to be re-established and landowner to be notified tracks have been rehabilitated.
Rubbish
• All rubbish, contaminated soil or work debris will be removed after drilling and disposed of at Approved District council dump. As per sample above Sample bags will be removed after assaying has been completed, whilst monitoring for bag degradation. • Temporary markers (tapes and pegs) will be removed.

State the estimated budget required to rehabilitate all impacted sitesState the estimated budget required to rehabilitate all impacted sites. Include a breakdown of the cost associated with each rehabilitation component

The rehabilitation will take approximately 5 days to complete using a loader and manual labour. The cost of this will be $15,000 for the loader and operator, $4000 for flights, accommodation and equipment hire and $8000 for staff supervision. Total cost of rehabilitation $30,000 which includes a $3000 contingency.

Vegetation Clearance

Will any area of cleared native vegetation be unrehabilitated after the authorised period?

No

Provide a map and description of the vegetation present in the application area, the extent of any proposed vegetation clearance and the likelihood of the presence of threatened flora.

—

State the estimated quantum of significant environmental benefit (SEB) to be gained in exchange for the proposed native vegetation clearance and describe how the SEB will be provided.

–

System

Tenement Name ↑	Tenement Holder	Tenement Operators	Grant Date	Expiry Date	Tenement Type	Location Description	Tenement Area	Tenement Status	Shape Identifier
EL 6798	AusQuest Limited		07/07/2022	06/07/2028	Exploration Licence	Mount Clarence Station area approximately 10km southwest of Coober Pedy	165.00	Active	10013956-0000

Management of Environmental Impacts

Applicable environmental aspects and potential impacts

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Fauna	All fauna	Entrapment of fauna through open drillholes and excavations.	- plug holes immediately after drilling - sumps to be sloped to allow fauna to climb out - vehicles to drive to conditions and keep to 40km ph on access tracks	Low	No fauna traps created as a result of exploration activities.	Maintain before, during and after photographic evidence of all drillholes and/or excavations demonstrating that: • All drillholes were permanently or temporarily capped/plugged immediately upon completion. • No fauna and livestock became trapped in drillholes and/or excavations throughout the duration of the program. • All rehabilitation was completed within 3 months of expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. Representative photos are to be included within the annual exploration compliance report. Provide the information requested within the 'Rehabilitation' section of the annual exploration compliance report.
Surface Water	Surface Water	Alteration to surface water – interference to surface drainage.	Surface drainage will not be damaged. All clearing to be >50m from drainage or claypans.	Low	No permanent modification to hydrological features caused by exploration activities without obtaining a water affecting permit from the relevant Landscape Board (under Landscapes Act SA 2019).	Provide before, during and after photographic evidence within the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that original drainage contours (watercourses and lakes) are consistent with the natural relief post rehabilitation within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period). Alternatively, provide copies of water affecting permits within the annual exploration compliance report.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Third party access	Soil/vegetation/fauna	Degradation of rehabilitated access tracks caused by third party access (includes previously closed and rehabilitated access tracks).	No opening up of rehabilitated tracks unless permitted or covered as part of this PEPR.	Low	Rehabilitated access tracks remain permanently closed, unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained.	Maintain before and after photographic evidence demonstrating that all tracks are closed and rehabilitated within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. Representative photos are to be included within the annual exploration compliance report. Provide the information requested within the 'Rehabilitation' section of the annual exploration compliance report.
Aboriginal heritage	Aboriginal heritage sites	Disturbance to Aboriginal heritage	Complete heritage survey covering all areas intended to be disturbed. Generally areas of creeks, claypans, topographic and cultural features will be avoided. Additionally walk area prior to earthworks to ensure no potential sites have been missed. Any artifacts that are found will be documented and reported to the native title group.		No disturbance to Aboriginal artefacts or sites of significance unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained.	Maintain a database and provide a statement within the 'Compliance with approved programs' section of the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that: • Heritage sites were not impacted during the conduct of the exploration program, unless prior approval was obtained under the appropriate legislation • Work ceased on discovery of a significant site and recommenced only after authorisation. • Aboriginal heritage sites identified during the exploration program were appropriately recorded and reported to authorities, if not previously known.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
General Public	General Public	Injury or death to members of the public as a result of exploration activities.	While the area is proximal to Coober Pedy there is no current public activity in the vicinity of the program. However AusQuest will ensure site security is maintained through signage and by stopping any members of the public from getting close to the equipment. If members of the public do make their way onto site then operations will be shut down until they are escorted off the area.		No accidents involving the public that could have been reasonably prevented by the licensee.	Provide a statement within the 'Compliance with approved programs' section of the annual exploration compliance report confirming no accidents occurred involving the public during and after the exploration program. If an accident involving the public did occur, provide a copy of the independent investigation report within the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that the licensee could not have reasonably prevented the accident through the implementation of precautionary measures.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Groundwater	Groundwater/aquifer	Groundwater contamination: • contamination of aquifers through entry of pollutants from the surface • interconnection between aquifers • degradation of natural hydrostatic conditions (maintain pre-drilling pressures).	No water will be extracted from dams, water bores or drill holes. Current aquifers are not being used and its assumed they are not suitable due to the failure of previous bores in the area. If confined aquifers are intersected then adopt guidelines from from M21 (Mineral Exploration Drillholes — General specifications for construction and backfilling). Drilling is expected to only intersect one unconfined aquifer. An unconfined aquifer is one in which the water is under atmospheric pressure, and generally remains at the level at which it was intersected. Although the aquifer is not under pressure groundwater discharge is possible during all drilling processes as the sample is returned to surface. Management and mitigation methods to control ground water intersected during includes: • Prepare a sump to contain excess water in the event of groundwater discharge. • Have machinery onsite to be available to modify the sump required to contain		Drillholes restored to controlling geological conditions that existed before the hole was drilled or, where it is intended to re-enter the hole, the hole must be completed with casing of adequate strength and the casing cemented so that all aquifers are isolated to prevent the movement of any fluids behind the casing.	Maintain evidence demonstrating that drillholes are decommissioned in accordance with Earth Resources Information Sheet M21, Mineral exploration drillholes – general specifications for construction and backfilling, and/or specific conditions from DEW (Groundwater) within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. Provide the information requested within the ‘Groundwater’ section of the annual exploration compliance report.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			the groundwater if required. • Upon completion of drilling, the drillhole will be temporarily plugged so as not to introduce pollution from the surface. Complete rehabilitation will be tentative pending receipt of analytical results of the drill cuttings. This usually takes up to 6 – 8 weeks. When these drill cuttings are no longer required, rehabilitation can be completed and the drillhole will be backfilled with drill cuttings (refer to drillhole construction and decommissioning section located in this PEPR)			

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Soil	Soil	Disturbance to the soil profile and topography, and accelerated soil erosion caused by exploration activities (e.g. construction of sumps, new tracks and drill pads; ground compaction at laydown areas and camps).	Only construct pads and tracks on flat areas and bypass any slopes or drainage areas. Blade up clearing to be used at all times. Ensure engagement with landholders regarding the use of existing tracks and driving to conditions to reduce dust.		Where soil disturbance occurs as a result of exploration activities, ensure that: • topsoil quality and quantity is maintained • the soil profile and topography is reinstated to original conditions • there is no accelerated soil erosion.	Maintain before, during and after photographic evidence of all excavations, drillsites, camps, laydown areas and new tracks demonstrating that: • The soil profile and topography is reinstated to original conditions and is consistent with natural surroundings within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. • Where required, sufficient topsoil is removed (depending on soil profile), stored separately from subsoil and reinstated (in the correct order) within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. • There are no signs of accelerated soil erosion during and post rehabilitation of disturbed sites. Representative photos to be included within the annual exploration compliance report. Provide the information requested within the 'Rehabilitation' section of the annual exploration compliance report.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Stakeholders	Stakeholders	Stakeholders: - freehold land owners - perpetual lease holders - pastoral lease holders - Aboriginal land (Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara and Maralinga Tjarutja lands) - Department of Defence - state government departments. - local government (councils) - federal government - native title parties.	Ensure program is approved by Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (AMYAC) who have the native title and manage the station. Ensure approval is obtained for access to the Woomera Infrequent zone with the Department of Defence. Notify district council of Coober Pedy.	Low	Stakeholders are fully informed and satisfied with the proposed methods used to conduct exploration activities on their land, and all prescribed forms are served and agreements obtained in accordance with the Mining Act.	Provide the information requested within the 'Complaints' section of the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that all reasonable complaints from stakeholders are resolved to the satisfaction of both parties prior to and ongoing during the course of exploration program, without the involvement of DEM. Provide the information requested within the 'Landowner details and liaison' section of the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that prescribed forms were served and agreements obtained in accordance with the Mining Act prior to the commencement of exploration activities.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Weeds and Pathogens	All flora and fauna, especially listed species.	Loss/modification of the environment (biological, social and economic) through the introduction of weeds and pathogens.	To prevent the ongoing spread of Buffel grass mitigation and rehabilitation strategies will include but are not limited to; • AusQuest staff and contractors will be made aware of Buffel grass, and a copy of the strategic plan will be on site for staff to refer to • AusQuest will ensure vehicles, equipment and footwear are free of clods of soil and plant material particularly when off-road machinery enter the site. If any infestations of Buffel Grass are encountered during the drilling program, cleaning procedures will be implemented when leaving the infestation and the area of infestation avoided. • Surveys indicate potential risk, or if the landowner raises any concern over the spread of weeds. Discussions with Landholders has raised no concerns about the presence or spread of weeds. • Ongoing discussion with the landholders prior to each field program to ensure AusQuest is aware of any issued relevant to the sites accessed for field work. • Vehicles will be		No introduction of new species of weeds and plant pathogens, nor increase in abundance of existing weeds species.	Provide a statement within the 'Compliance with approved programs' section of the annual exploration compliance report, confirming that: • Vehicle logs were kept during the exploration program, demonstrating that all vehicles are clean and free of plant and mud material prior to entering properties† within the tenement areas, unless otherwise agreed to with the relevant landowners. • Photographic evidence before and during exploration operations and after rehabilitation of disturbed sites was captured, demonstrating that no new weeds and plant pathogens were introduced, nor an increase in abundance of existing weeds recorded.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			washed and clean before entering new sites where the risks warrant it (i.e. between exploration areas of different weed profiles)			

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Fire	Community/landowners	Damage to infrastructure and loss of income through fire.	All fire bans, regulations and directions from the Country Fire Service will be observed. Fires will not be permitted on fire ban days. Strict precautions will always be observed to prevent accidental fires, including correct disposal of cigarettes. All vehicles are fitted with appropriate fire extinguishers. Drillers will have Hot Works Permits for welding, cutting, and oxy-cutting and will provide a copy of that permit to AusQuest. The drill rig has relevant fire suppression units fitted which are regularly checked to be in good working order. Camp/Laydowns: Fuel stoves, servicing areas, and kitchens should be sited on ground cleared to bare earth with a firebreak sufficient to isolate it from the surrounding vegetation. Fire extinguished fitted or available in required areas. No activity to take place during periods of Catastrophic Fire Danger.		No loss of infrastructure or income through fire as a result of exploration activities.	Provide a statement within the 'Compliance with approved programs' section of the annual exploration compliance report confirming that no uncontrolled fires* occurred. Alternatively, provide a report on the independent investigation of all uncontrolled fires* demonstrating that the licensee could not have reasonably prevented the fire through the implementation of precautionary measures.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Groundwater	Soil/vegetation/fauna	Discharge of groundwater into the surrounding environment.	Ensure all drilling water is contained within sumps and rehabilitation is completed within guidelines. Bunding might be required around collars and cyclone to contain water. If excess water cannot be contained it the hole is to be stopped or water to be pumped out or to other sumps.		No discharge of groundwater outside of the exploration site (e.g. drillsite) into the surrounding environment and no discharge of water into a watercourse, unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained.	Maintain photographic evidence of all drillsites demonstrating that groundwater was not discharged into the surrounding environment, unless water affecting activity permits were obtained allowing the discharge of groundwater into watercourses and/or lakes. Representative photos and water affecting activity permits (where applicable) to be included within the annual exploration compliance report.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Contamination	Soil/vegetation/fauna	Soil/vegetation contamination (e.g. hydrocarbons, rubbish, drill samples/cuttings, ablutions, other sources)	• All general waste material including plastic sample bags, plastic sheeting placed under rig to catch spills and any other drilling related rubbish will be collected and brought back to Coober Pedy or Adelaide or Port Augusta and disposed of accordingly. • The drill rig is equipped with a hydrocarbon spill kit and all drillers and offsiders are trained to deal with any spills as quickly and efficiently as possible, and waste will be disposed of at the nearest Waste Transfer Station on completion of works. • A hydrocarbon spill kit will be stationed at the filling areas on the fuel truck. • Pre-start checks (safety and environment) will be undertaken on equipment to identify any leaks. •Site inspections will be undertaken, and corrective actions implemented before project sign-off is completed. • All waste will be contained, and either taken to Coober Pedy dump, or if not, possible they will be brought back to Adelaide or Port Augusta and		No contamination of soil and vegetation as a result of exploration activities.	Demonstrate that all domestic or industrial waste (includes general rubbish and hydrocarbons) is disposed of in accordance with the Environment Protection Act 1993 within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), and that all fuel and chemicals are stored in accordance with EPA requirements, by providing: • The name, location and contact details of the authorised waste disposal facility. • A statement within the 'Compliance with approved programs' section of the annual exploration compliance report confirming domestic and industrial waste was removed from all exploration sites and disposed of at an authorised waste disposal facility. • Photographic evidence within the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that all fuel and chemical storage facilities were managed in accordance with EPA requirements. Maintain photographs of all exploration sites and provide representative photos within the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that drill cuttings are: • removed from site and disposed of at a licensed facility • buried under a minimum of 30 cm of soil, or in accordance with EPA guideline, Radiation protection guidelines on mining in South Australia: mineral exploration, available on the EPA website, or • backfilled down the drillhole, within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. Provide the information requested within

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			disposed of accordingly. • Drill cuttings will be disposed of by backfilling of drill-holes, with excess cutting disposed of within drill sumps close to each drill site. • Plastic drilling bags, calico drill bags and Rehabilitated PVC drill collars will bremoved from site and disposed of at Coober Pedy waste dump. Drill cuttings will be buried in line with DEM guidelines Some cuttings will be used to backfill the drill hole prior to plugging. No cuttings will be visible at surface following rehabilitation and the sumps will be backfilled in the order that they were excavated - i.e., subsoil and then topsoil on top. Toilet facilities to consist of a ~6m deep drillhole with privacy tent and field toilet seat placed above it, A new hole will be drilled and used as a toilet facility for each drill program. If the frequency of site activities increases, leading to more permanent camp requirements, an amendment to this PEPR will be made, including advice from Health SA, regarding the need for upgraded sewage and grey water treatment.			the 'Rehabilitation' section of the annual exploration compliance report.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Groundwater users	Groundwater users	Interference to existing water users when extracting water from existing dams, water bores or mineral drillholes.	Ground water will not be used. No current ground water users exist in the area of the proposed work.	Low	No public nuisance impacts resulting from the extraction of water for exploration purposes, unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained.	Provide the information requested within the ‘Complaints’ section of the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that all reasonable complaints from stakeholders were resolved to the satisfaction of both parties, prior to and ongoing during the course of the exploration program without the involvement of DEM. Where permits are required for the extraction and/or usage of groundwater, provide copies of the licence or permit within the annual exploration compliance report.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Native Vegetation	Flora and fauna and their habitats; includes Common wealth and state schedule d species.	Loss/modificatio n of native vegetation and associated habitats through the clearance of vegetation.	Vegetation in this region is predominantly an open to very open acacia woodland with a variable understory of Senna, Saltbush, Bluebush and other flora identified in Native Vegetation tables of this PEPR Application. Mitigation and rehabilitation strategies used to reduce disturbance to native vegetation include but are not limited to; • Unnecessary vegetation disturbance will be avoided with implementation of methods consistent with guidelines and requirements of the Mining Act 1971 • Site access will use existing tracks where possible in consultation with the landowners to reduce new track lengths. • Clearing of understory vegetation and mechanical clearing of tracks will be avoided • Where mechanical clearing is required, rootstock will be preserved. • New tracks will be sited to minimise the amount of vegetation removal and will pass around larger trees • Access track will be dog legged of existing tracks and continuous straight lines will be avoided. • Drill	Low	No permanent loss/modifi cation of native flora and fauna populations and their habitats through: • clearance • fire • other unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained.	Maintain before, during and after photographic evidence of all exploration sites (e.g. drillsites, new track exit/entry points off existing tracks, costeans, campsites) demonstrating that: • The area and method of disturbance is consistent with that described in the PEPR. • No uncontrolled fires* occurred as a result of exploration activities. Representative photos to be included within the annual exploration compliance report.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			sites will only be cleared if necessary, with holes sighted on non-vegetated ground if possible, • Traffic will be restricted to one track, and contractors are reminded at the start of each program and during programs as needed to stick to existing tracks and turn around areas. • Tracks that will not be used again once rehabilitated. • ruts levelled and vegetation debris removed during clearing and topsoil respread over track area. • Rehabilitation will aim to restore the land to a stable condition that will facilitate land use consistent with that established prior to implementing the exploration program. • All vehicles carry fire extinguishers in the event of a fire. Smoking will only be permitted on the drill site away from vegetation and all cigarette stubs will be disposed of in a designated container. Hot points on vehicles and machinery will avoid dry vegetation. AusQuest will aim to position drill holes to ensure minimal disturbance to native vegetation. No trees are anticipated to be			

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			disturbed during the proposed drilling works, with minimal damage expected to saltbush and bluebush at drill pads and along access tracks. If clearing is required, it will be done by raised bucket and will aim to leave rootstocks intact to allow for revegetation. Drill pads and tracks will be lightly scarified upon completion of works if required.			
Other	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Low	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Supporting Information

Photos

Upload Photos

Expand/Collapse

File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
Photo_Lanscape1.jpg	4.39 Mb	15-01-2026 17:18:26	Download (MERS/EP-04005/Supporting information/Photos/Photo_Lanscape1_2026-01-15T06-48-26.608Z.jpg)
Photo_Lanscape2.jpg	2.42 Mb	15-01-2026 17:18:26	Download (MERS/EP-04005/Supporting information/Photos/Photo_Lanscape2_2026-01-15T06-48-26.653Z.jpg)

Site identification	Date taken	Photo number & PEPR section reference	Easting (GDA94)	Northing (DGA94)	Zone	Details and comments	Document ID
Central Drilling Area	19/03/2025				53	Photo from the centre of the project area where the drilling is planned.	

Supporting Maps

Upload Maps

Expand/Collapse

File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
Regional Location Map.pdf	6.68 Mb	15-01-2026 17:27:32	Download (MERS/EP-04005/Supporting information/Maps/Regional Location Map_2026-01-15T06-57-32.736Z.pdf)

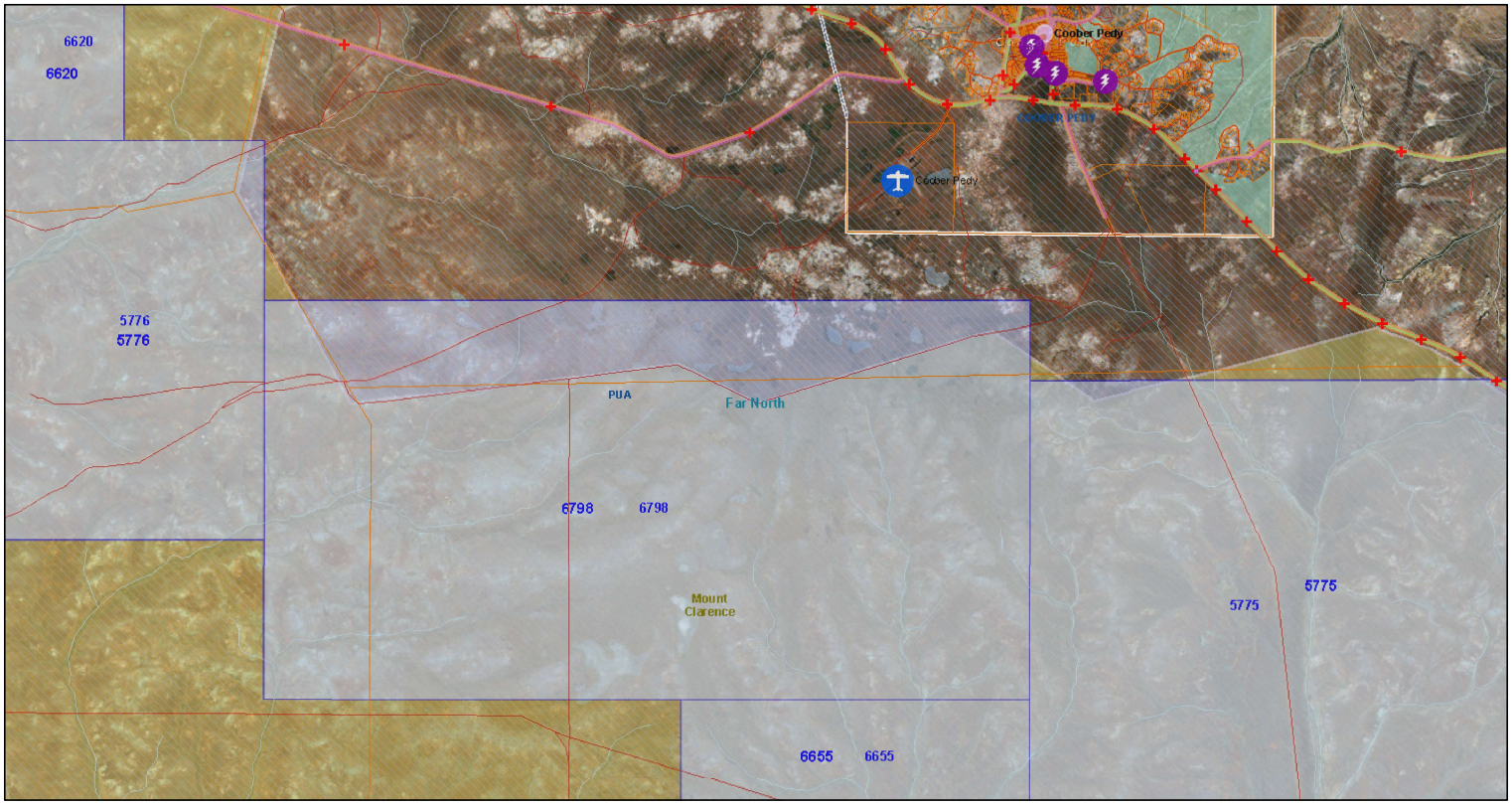
Figure Description	Document ID
Regional Topographic Map showing the location of the lease on the 1:250,000 Map sheets.	Regional Location Map.pdf

Additional Information

List any other supporting information and/or documents submitted with the application, including land access approvals/permits required to conduct the proposed exploration program.

No Other documents are required.

SARIG Map



January 15, 2026

1:100,000

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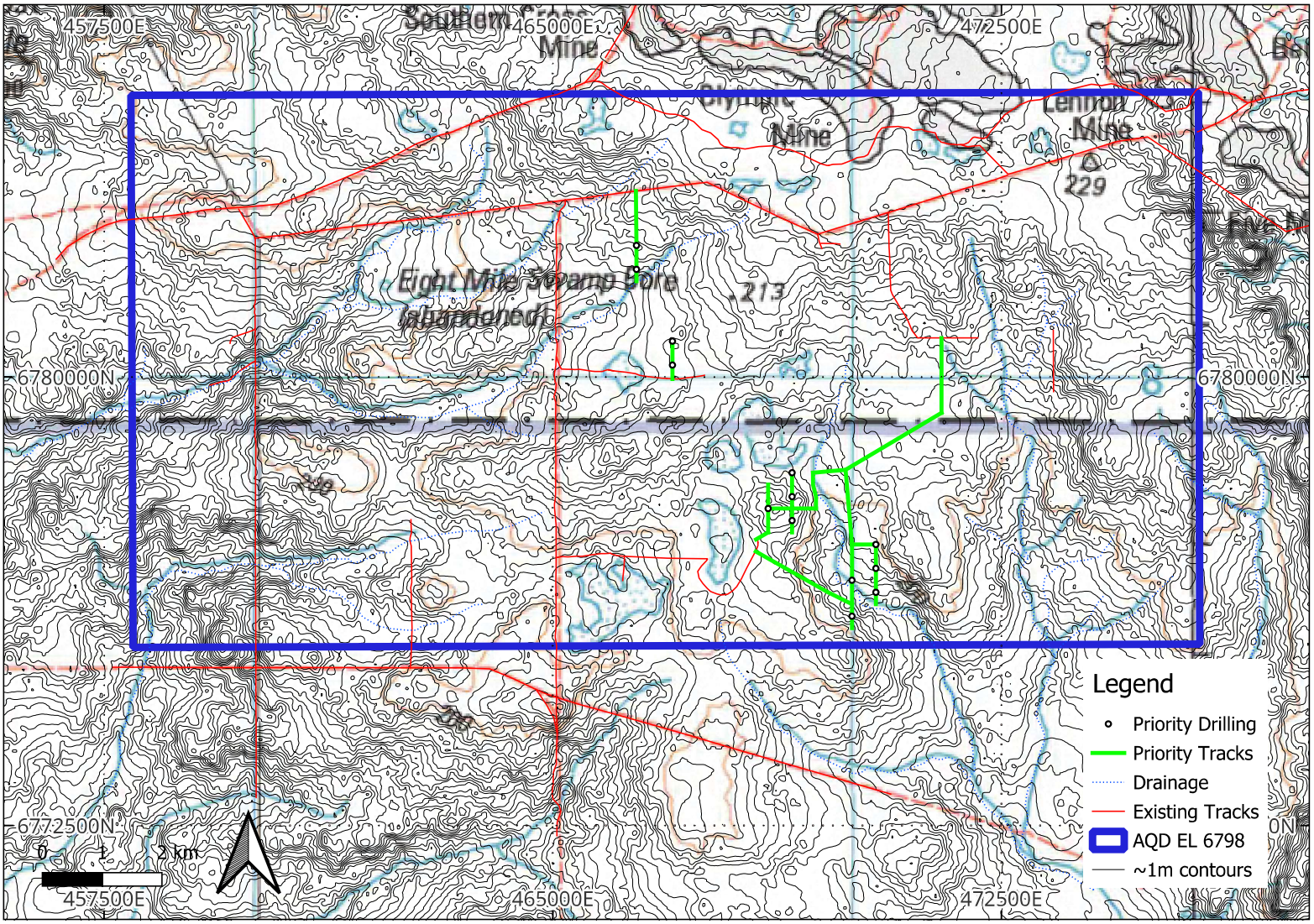
0 1.75 3.5 7 km


457500E
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Mine
Mine
Mine
229
213
6780000N
6780000N
6772500N
0
1
2 km
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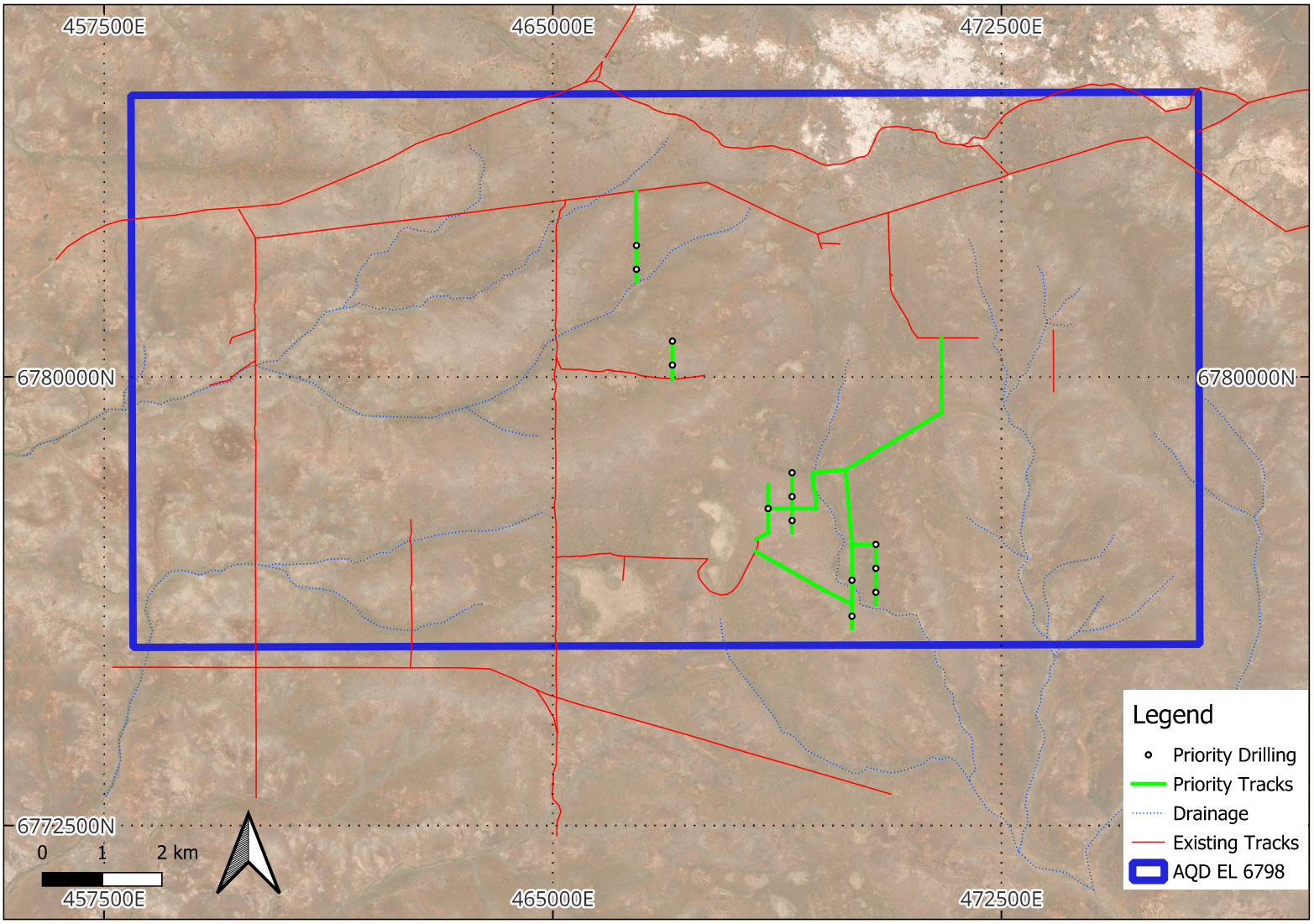
465000E
472500E
Legend
Priority Drilling
Priority Tracks
Drainage
Existing Tracks
AQD EL 6798
~1m contours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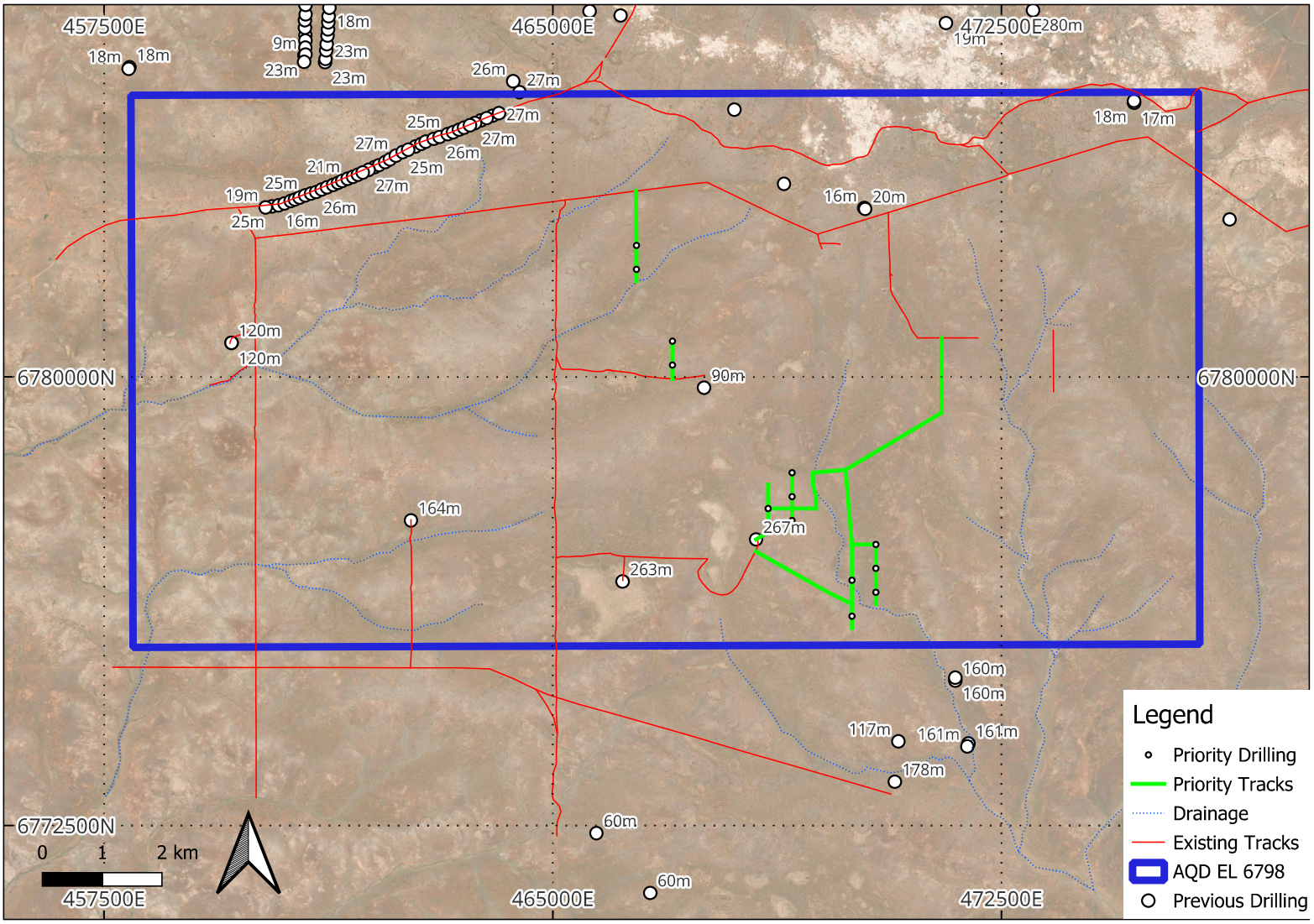
2 km
Legend
Priority Drilling
Priority Tracks
Drainage
Existing Tracks
AQD EL 6798


457500E
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6772500N
18m
18m
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25m
27m
26m
27m
21m
25m
25m
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19m
26m
25m
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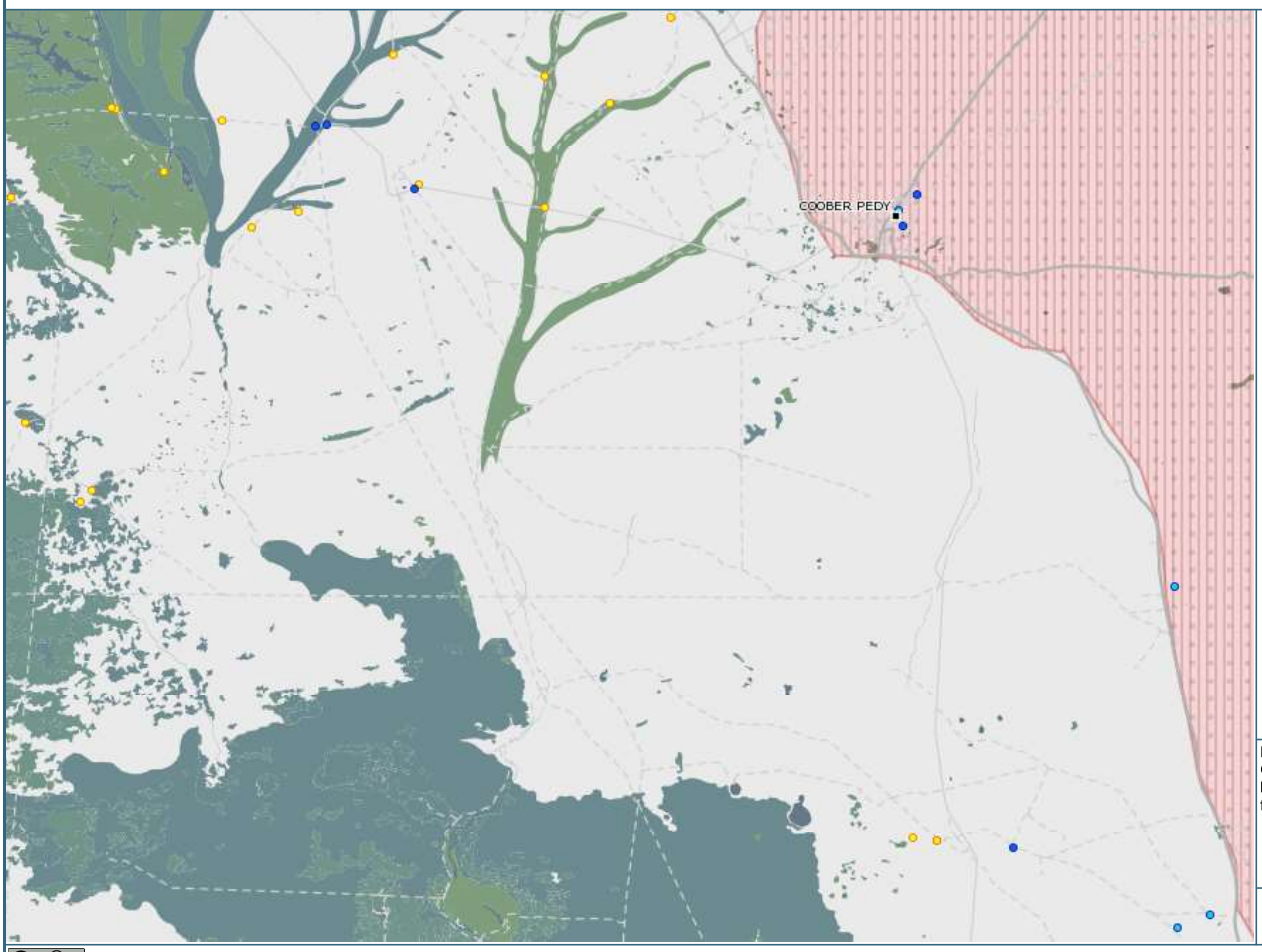
280m
19m
18m
17m
16m
20m
120m
120m
90m
164m
267m
263m
160m
160m
117m
161m
161m
178m
60m
60m
0
1
2 km
Legend
Priority Drilling
Priority Tracks
Drainage
Existing Tracks
AQD EL 6798
Previous Drilling

Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Atlas

Cooper Pedy GDEs



Aquatic Inflow Dependent Ecosystem (IDE), reliant on water in addition to rainfall

Highly likely to be an ID

Likely to be an IDE

Water supply bores

Water supply

Terrestrial GDE (no data)

No ecosystems analyse

Stock and domestic bores

Stock and domestic

N

1:452,715

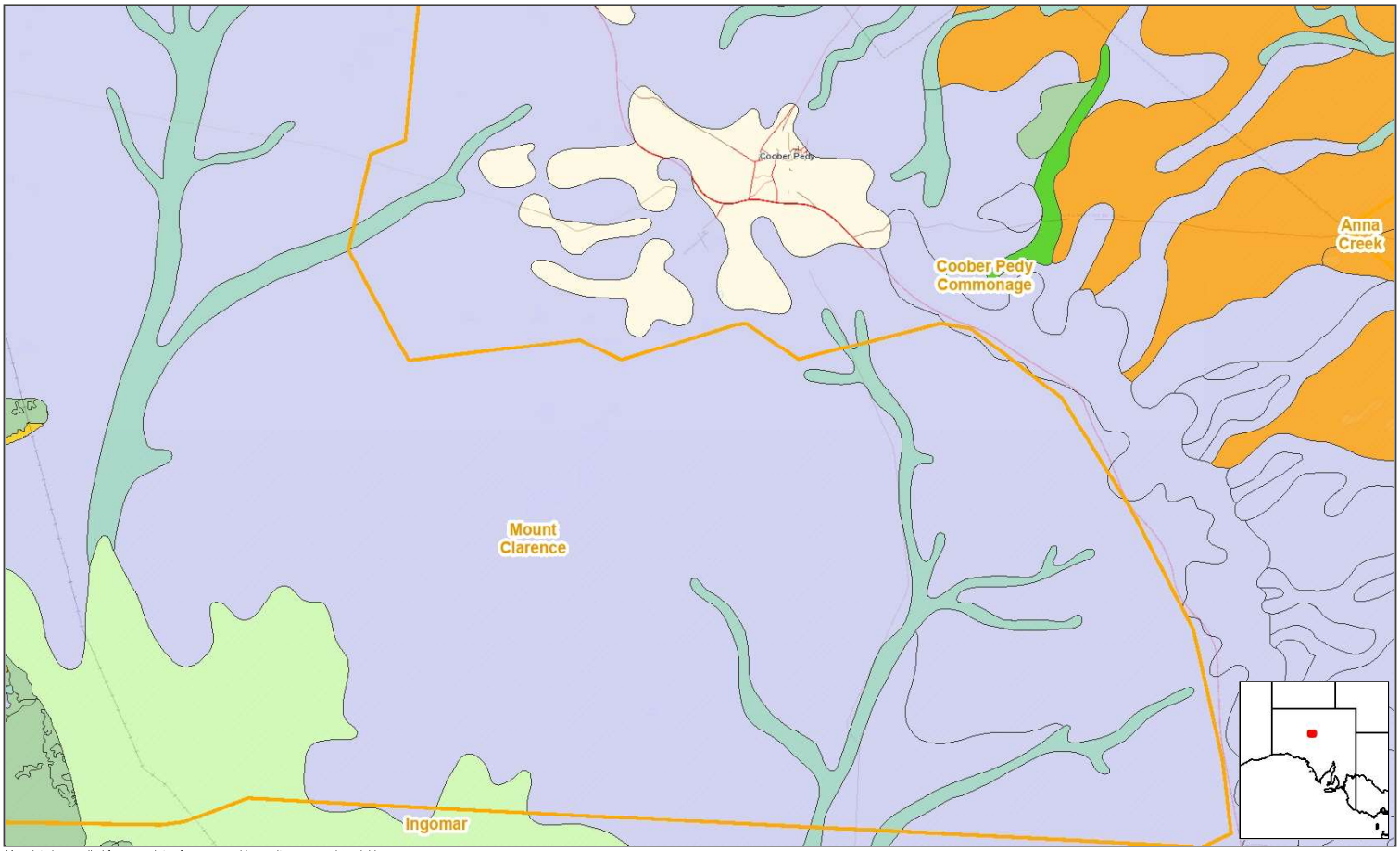
Kilometres 10

Data Source: Bureau of Meteorology, Geoscience Australia and State/Territory lead water agencies. Refer to metadata for further information: Click here

Australian Albers GDA94

Date: 30 January, 2026

Vegetation Units



Map data is compiled from a variety of sources and hence its accuracy is variable.

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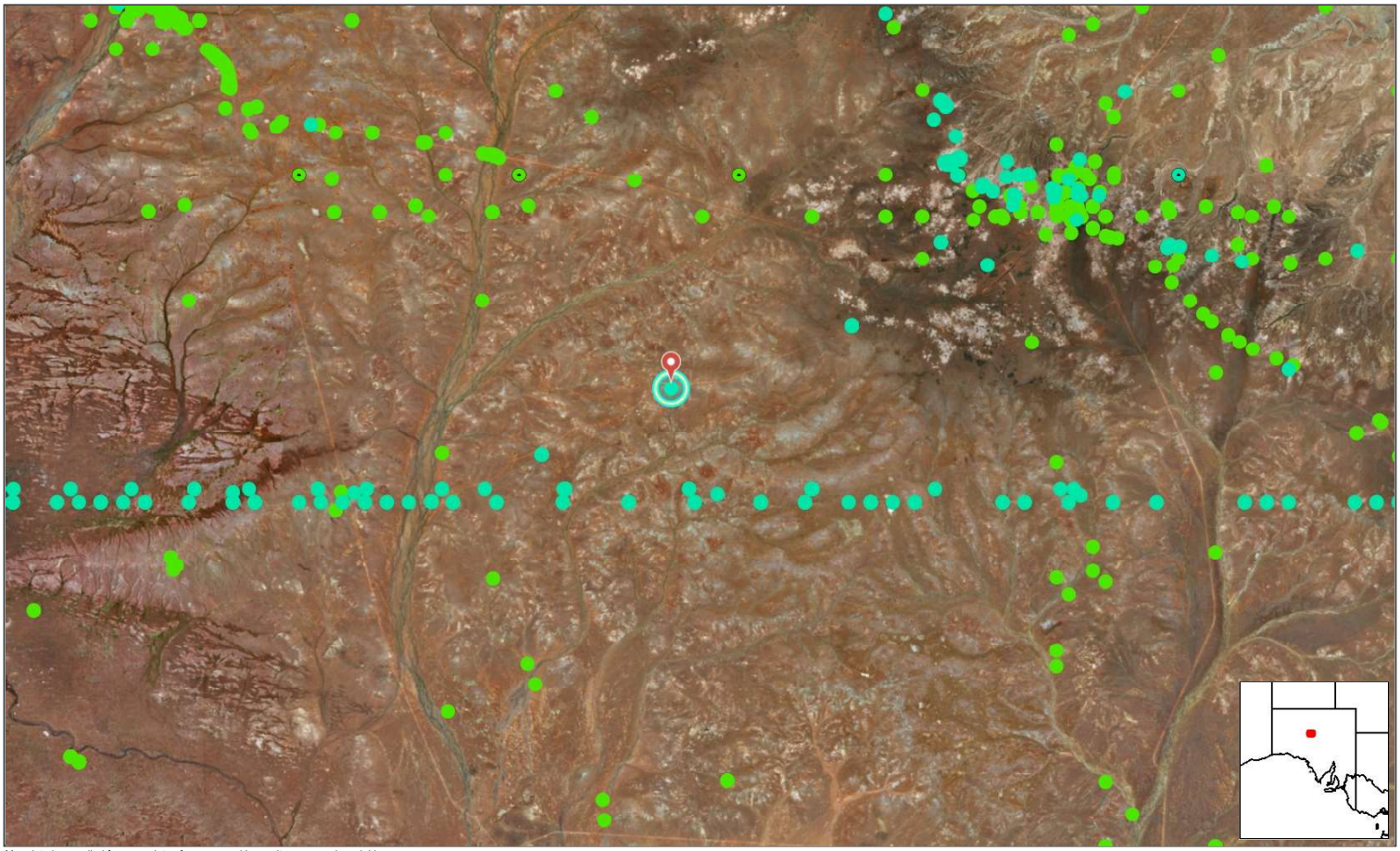
Datum:	Geocentric Datum of Australia, 2020
Projection:	Web Mercator (Auxiliary Sphere)

Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Water



Map data is compiled from a variety of sources and hence its accuracy is variable.

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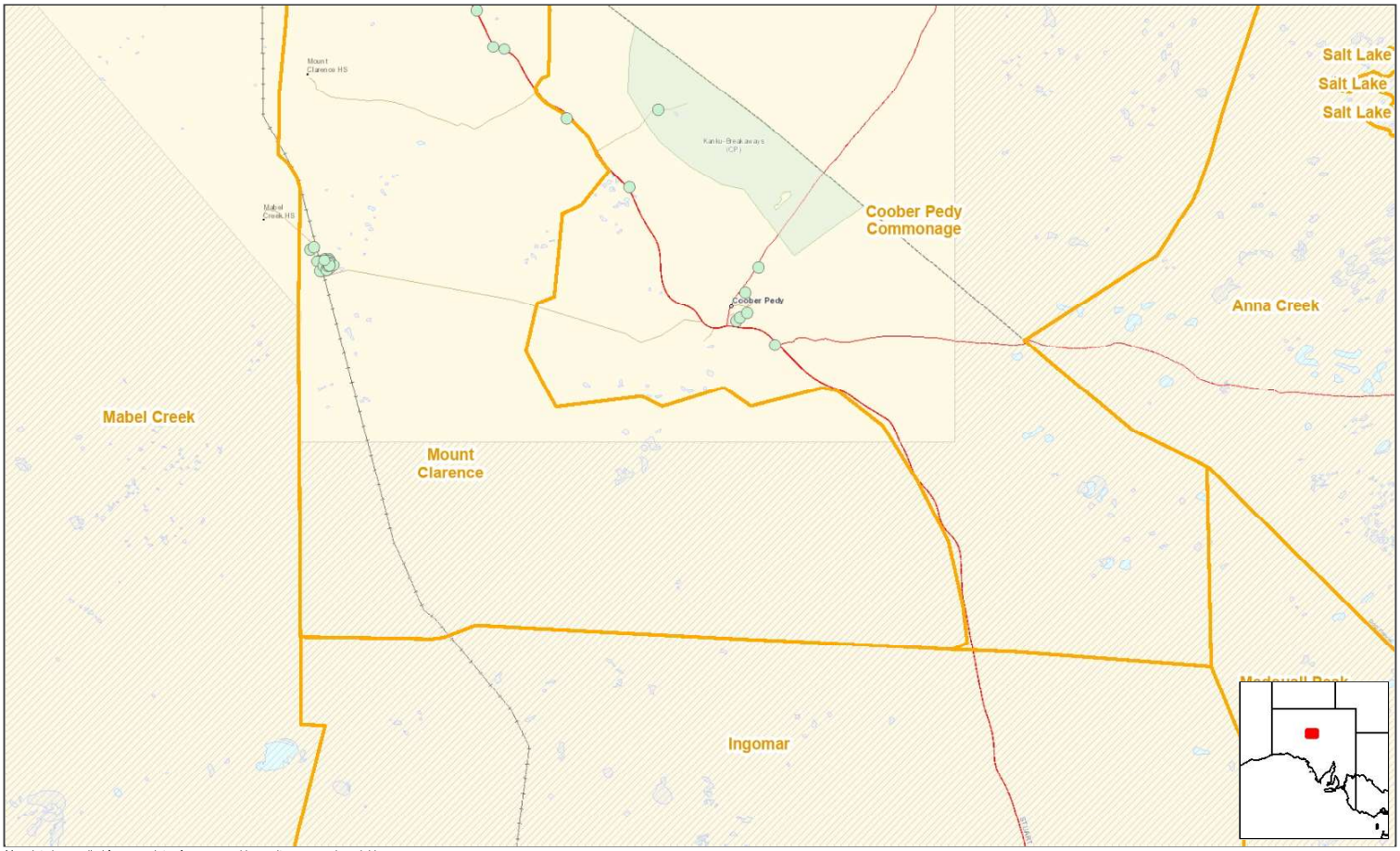
Projection:	Web Mercator (Auxiliary Sphere)

Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Water

Weed Locations



Map data is compiled from a variety of sources and hence its accuracy is variable.

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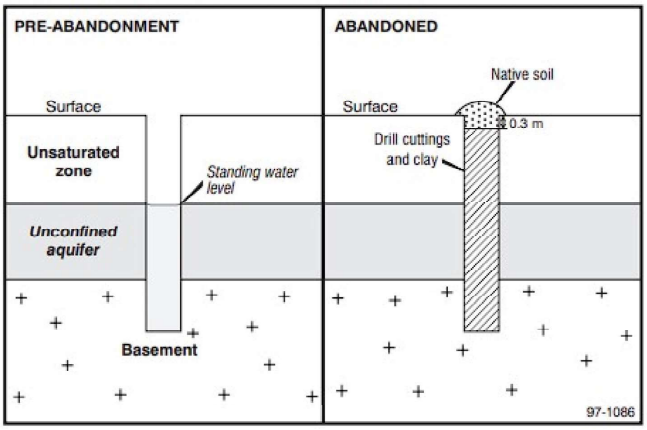
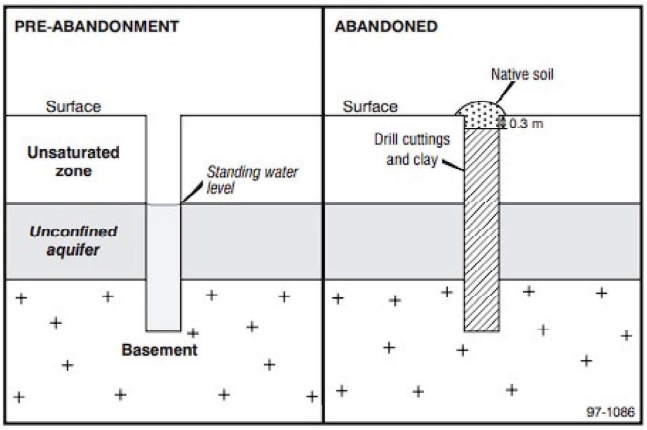
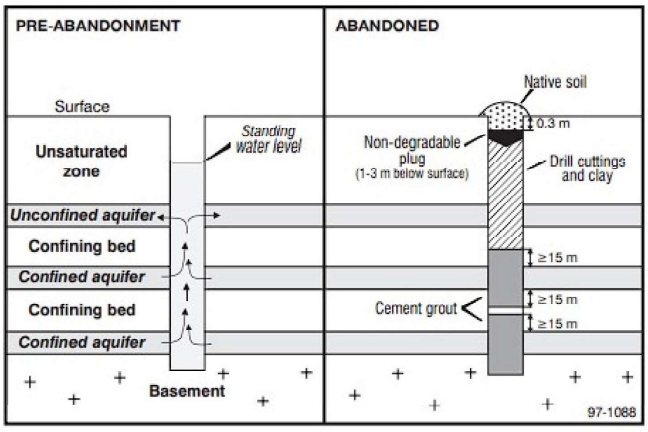
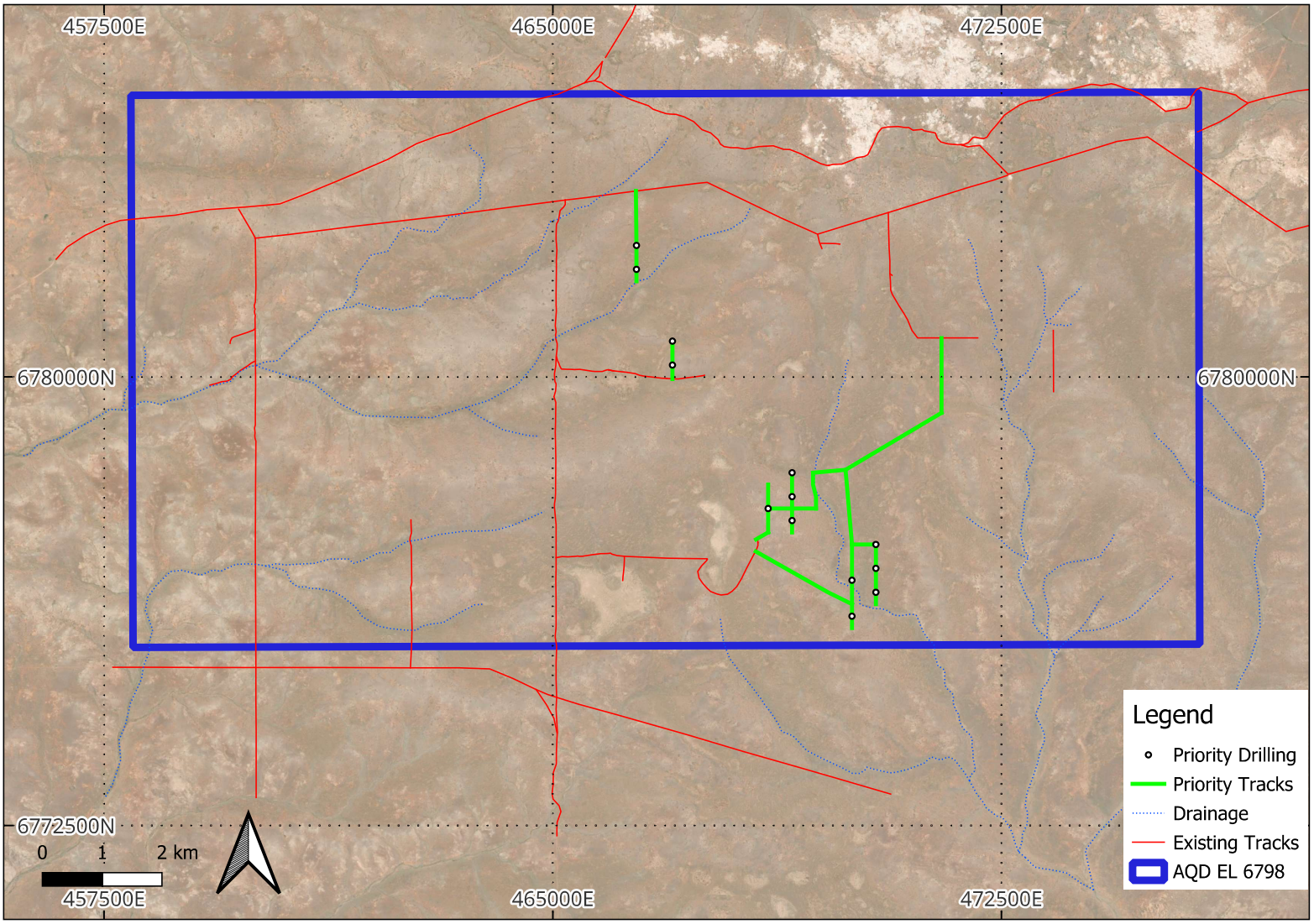
Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Water


PRE-ABANDONMENT
ABANDONED
Surface
Unsaturated zone
Standing water level
Unconfined aquifer
Basement
Native soil
Surface
0.3 m
Drill cuttings and clay
97-1086


PRE-ABANDONMENT
ABANDONED
Surface
Unsaturated zone
Standing water level
Unconfined aquifer
Basement
Native soil
Surface
0.3 m
Drill cuttings and clay
97-1086


PRE-ABANDONMENT
ABANDONED
Surface
Unsaturated zone
Standing water level
Unconfined aquifer
Confining bed
Confined aquifer
Confining bed
Confined aquifer
Basement
Native soil
0.3 m
Non-degradable plug
(1-3 m below surface)
Drill cuttings and clay
≥15 m
Cement grout
≥15 m
≥15 m
97-1088


457500E
465000E
472500E
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6772500N
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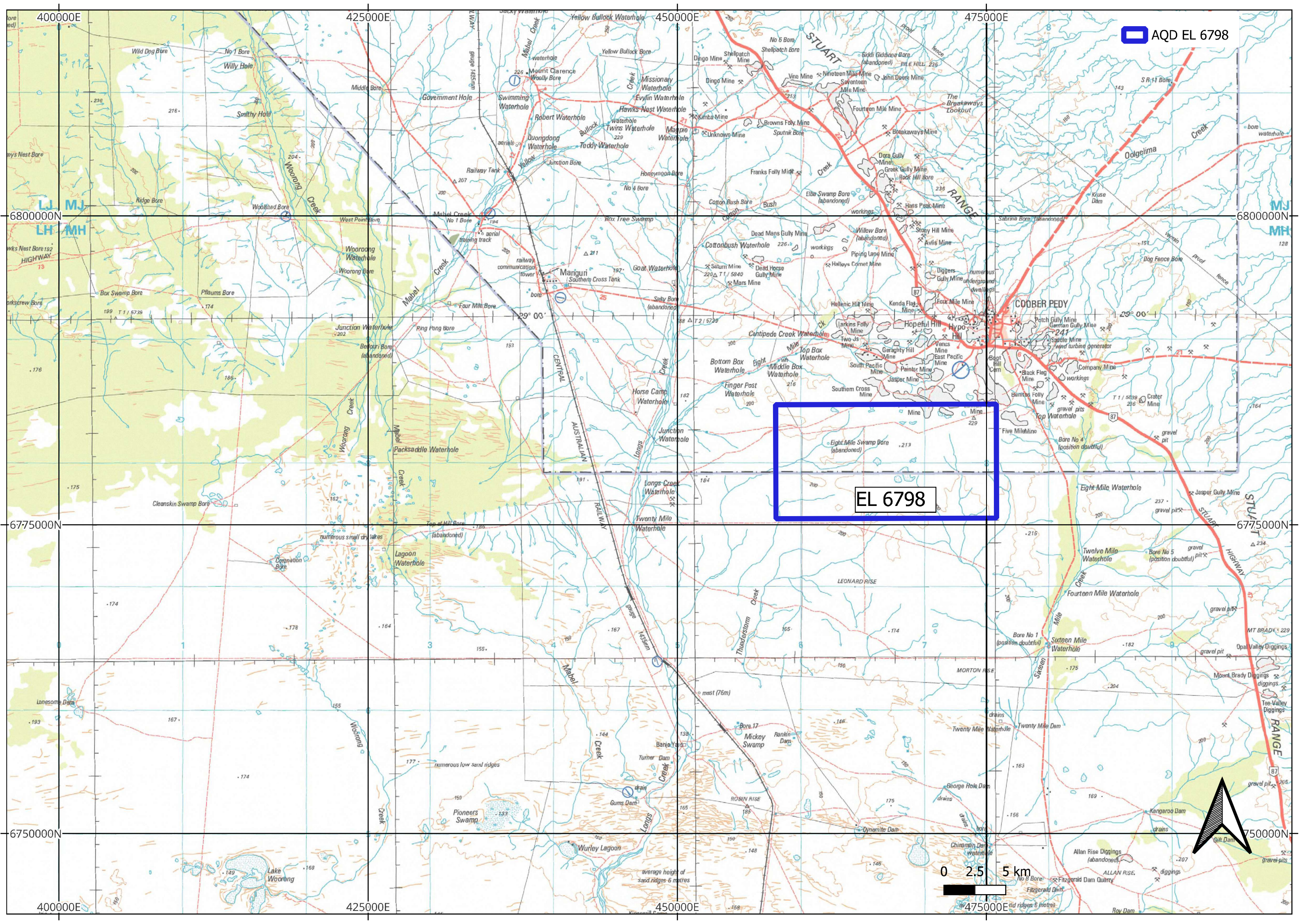
1
2 km
Legend
Priority Drilling
Priority Tracks
Drainage
Existing Tracks
AQD EL 6798



AQD EL 6798
EL 6798
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425000E
450000E
475000E
6800000N
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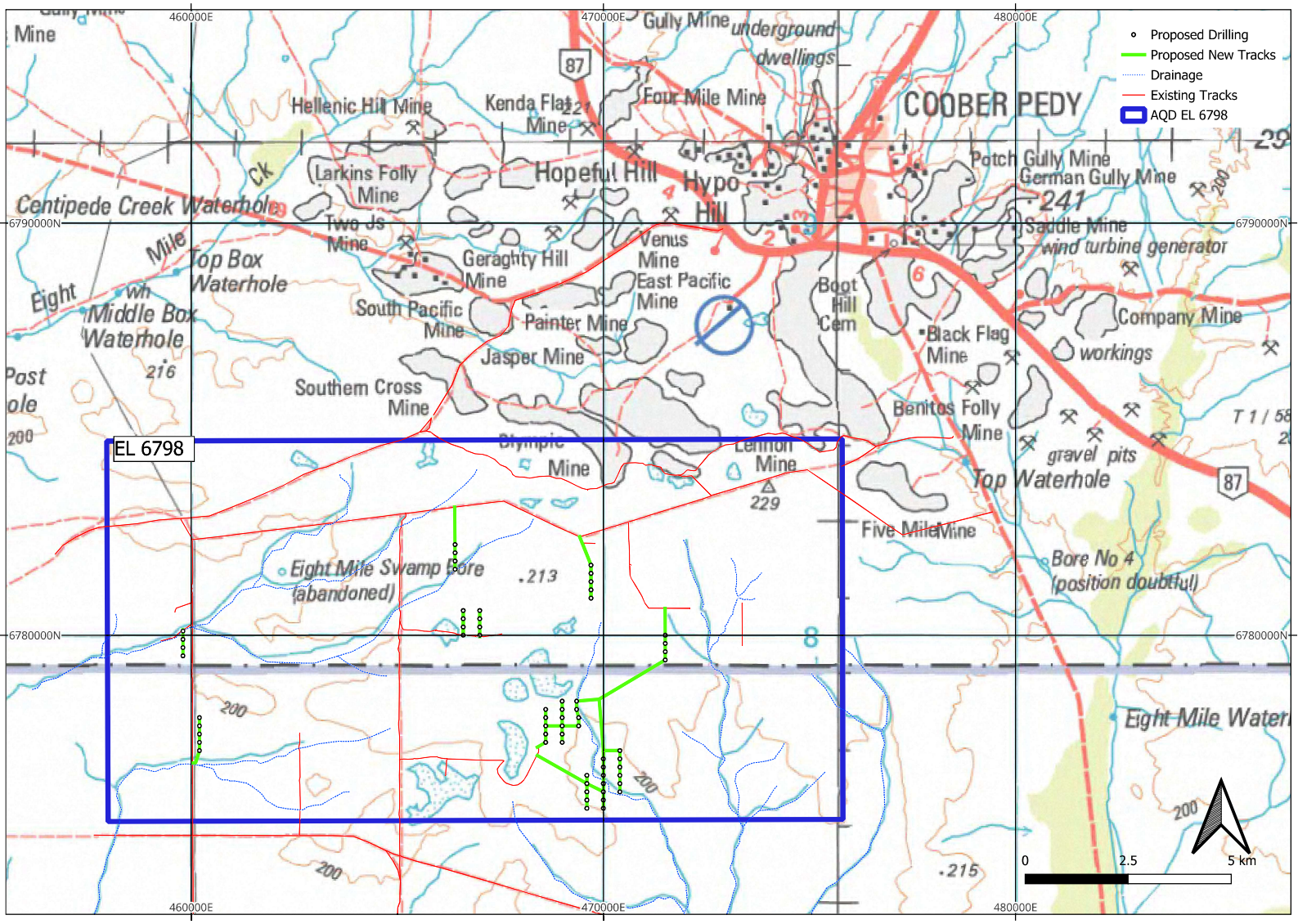
6750000N
COOBER PEDY
0 2.5 5 km


Proposed Drilling
Proposed New Tracks
Drainage
Existing Tracks
AQD EL 6798
EL 6798
460000E
470000E
480000E
6790000N
6780000N
Gully Mine
underground dwellings
Hellenic Hill Mine
Kenda Flat Mine
Four Mile Mine
COOBER PEDY
Potch Gully Mine
German Gully Mine
Larkins Folly Mine
Hopeful Hill
Hypo Hill
Centipede Creek Waterhole
Two Js Mine
Saddle Mine
wind turbine generator
Top Box Waterhole
Middle Box Waterhole
Geraghty Hill Mine
Venus Mine
East Pacific Mine
Boot Hill Cem
South Pacific Mine
Painter Mine
Jasper Mine
Company Mine
workings
Black Flag Mine
Southern Cross Mine
Benitos Folly Mine
gravel pits
Top Waterhole
Olympic Mine
Lennon Mine
Five Mile Mine
Eight Mile Swamp Bore (abandoned)
Bore No 4 (position doubtful)
Eight Mile Water
0
2.5
5 km