

Remediation Order

ORDER ISSUED TO:

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

Reference: DOC20/708259
 Date of issue: 19 February 2021

CC:

ORDER TO CARRY OUT REMEDIATION WORK UNDER SECTION 11.15 OF THE *BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 2016 (NSW)*

Basis for issuing Remediation Order

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (**the Department**) has responsibility for the enforcement of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act)*, the now repealed *Native Vegetation Act 2003 (NV Act)*, and the Regulations associated with both Acts. Although the NV Act was repealed on 25 August 2017, any offence committed against the NV Act prior to that date remains subject to regulatory actions by the Department. Clause 58 of *Biodiversity Conservation (Savings and Transitional) Regulation 2017* enables the provisions of the NV Act relating to proceedings for an offence, penalty notices, court orders and remediation orders to continue to apply.

[REDACTED] is the current owner of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] **Table 1** lists relevant land parcels within the property.

Table 1: Land parcels comprising the property

Lot	Deposited Plan
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Information and evidence obtained to date, including an assessment of aerial / satellite imagery and a vegetation assessment supports that **damage**, caused by **clearing** 492 hectares of native vegetation (the **Areas of interest** mapped at **Attachment A**) occurred on the Property between January 2013 and August 2017.

At all material times, it was an offence against section 12 of the NV Act for a person to carry out or authorise clearing of native vegetation, except in accordance with a development consent granted in accordance with the NV Act or a property vegetation plan.

Opinion

I, [REDACTED], Senior Team Leader North West, Compliance and Regulation (STL NWCR), am satisfied that native vegetation has been damaged in or as a result of the commission of an offence against section 12 of the NV Act.

Delegation

I, [REDACTED], STL NWCR, hold delegated authority on behalf of the Environment Agency Head for the purposes of section 11.15 of the BC Act.

Order

I, [REDACTED], STL NWCR, order [REDACTED] (the **Remediator**) to carry out the following remediation work for duration specified.

Requirements

1. Remediation Area

- 1.1. In this Order, **Remediation Area** means the areas marked “Remediation Area” on **Attachment B**.
- 1.2. This Order requires the Remediator to inform the Environment Agency Head of any change in the ownership or occupancy of the land concerned at least 21 days prior to any such change occurring.

2. Duration

- 2.1. This Order will be in force for fifteen (15) years; unless varied or revoked in accordance with the BC Act.

3. Remediation work

- 3.1. Implementation of the following measures must be commenced within 30 days of the issue of this Order.

Soil disturbance

- 3.2. Soil disturbance in the Remediation Areas is prohibited, except in accordance with written approval from the Department.

Remediation

- 3.3. Native vegetation is to be allowed to regenerate in the Remediation Areas as the priority method of remediation. To protect regenerating vegetation and fauna habitat the following activities are prohibited within the Remediation Areas:
 - Clearing of native vegetation – except as a requirement of this Order or with written approval from the Department.
 - Removal of fallen timber.
 - Cultivation.
 - Construction of infrastructure.
 - Aerial spraying.
- 3.4. Sow the Remediation Areas that have been subjected to cultivation with native grasses as prescribed in **Attachment C**.
- 3.5. If after a period of four years, over-storey species regeneration is occurring at a rate lower than 10 stems per hectare, then, plant over-storey species in accordance with the directions given in **Attachment C**.

Weed management

- 3.6. The Remediator must implement measures to ensure **exotic flora** do not have a significant impact on the **biodiversity values** of the Remediation Areas.
- 3.7. Without limiting this clause, the Remediator must ensure that exotic flora occupy less than 5% of total groundcover of the Remediation Areas. Control measures permitted include:
 - Spot application of herbicide
 - Manual removal
 - Biological control.

Pest animals

- 3.8. The Remediator must implement measures to reduce the density of **exotic animals** to a level that is not having a significant impact on the biodiversity values of the Remediation Areas; and maintain densities at or below that level using any approved means.

Livestock

- 3.9. The Remediator must implement measures to keep the Remediation Areas free of **stock**, except in accordance with a **sustainable grazing** regime approved by the Department.

Fire

- 3.10. The Remediator must implement measures to prevent fire occurring within the Remediation Areas and to suppress and extinguish any fire that does occur.
- 3.11. The Remediator may continue to implement fire prevention buffering methods consistent with practices undertaken on the property prior to the commencement of this Order to a distance of no more than four (4) metres and must remain in areas that have been previously maintained for fire prevention.

Fencing

- 3.12. Fences are to be maintained to ensure the exclusion of stock from the Remediation Areas.
- 3.13. If the Remediator wishes to continue grazing rights within the land outside the Remediation Areas, the boundaries of the defined Remediation Areas must be fenced to a standard that excludes stock.
- 3.14. The Remediator must erect signage so that any person entering the Remediation Area is aware; and does not use the land in a manner that would contradict this Order.
- 3.15. A fifteen (15) metre buffer zone is to be established around the eastern, western and northern boundaries of the property to allow for permanent boundary fence line replacement and maintenance.

Access

- 3.16. The Remediator must provide reasonable access to staff of the Department for the purposes of administering this Order.
- 3.17. The Department must provide reasonable notice of an intention to inspect the Remediation Areas.

Hazards, chemicals and waste

- 3.18. The use of insecticides, herbicides and soil ameliorants is not permitted on the Remediation Areas except as approved in writing by the Department.
- 3.19. Waste is not to be placed, stored or kept in the Remediation Areas.
- 3.20. All staff, contractors and other visitors entering the Remediation Areas are to be made aware of this Order and instructed to comply with its requirements.

Costs

- 3.21. The Remediator must bear all costs associated with implementing the conditions of this Order.

4. Inspections and records

Inspections

- 4.1. The Remediator is to inspect the Remediation Areas twice each year, with a minimum of 150 days between each inspection for the purposes of determining the percentage of ground cover that is comprised of **exotic flora** and priority weeds.
- 4.2. In the Remediation Areas, there are four monitoring points located at the GPS co-ordinates given in **Table 2** and mapped at **Attachment B**. The co-ordinates given must be permanently marked to ensure the location is the same each monitoring period.

Table 2: Location of monitoring points

Monitoring Point	Latitude	Longitude	Easting	Northing
██████████	██████████	██████████	██████	██████████
██████████	██████████	██████████	██████	██████████
██████████	██████████	██████████	██████	██████████

Records

- 4.3. The following records must be made by the Remediator for all inspections:
 - The date(s) on which the inspection was undertaken.
 - The name of the person who undertook the inspection.
 - Photographs to the north, east, south and west at each monitoring point.
 - Observations made during the inspection including:
 - Percentage of ground cover comprised of weeds.
 - Presence or absence of pest animals in the Remediation Areas.
 - Risk of fire within the Remediation Areas.
 - Remediation work required; including condition targets and time frames for completion.
 - Details of any work required within the Remediation Area.
 - The proposed date(s) of that work.
- 4.4. All records required to be kept by this Order must be:
 - Accurate.
 - In a legible form.
 - Kept for the duration of this Order.
 - Must be provided to the Department annually.

5. Reporting

Initial works report

- 5.1. The Remediator must prepare and submit an Initial Works Report to the Department within six weeks of the date of issue of this Order. This report must contain:
- Confirmation of the exclusion of stock and dates of any actions taken to remove stock.
 - The percentage of ground cover that is comprised of exotic flora and priority weeds.
 - An assessment of pest animal presence within the Remediation Area.
 - Advice of any completed, required, or proposed work within the Remediation Area.

Annual report

5.2. A Monitoring Report must be submitted to the Department annually whilst this Remediation Order is in force. The initial report is due twelve (12) months from the date of issue and annually thereafter. Monitoring Reports must contain the records made for all inspections (see clause 4.3).

5.3. Reports may be submitted to the Department by:

By mail, courier or hand to:

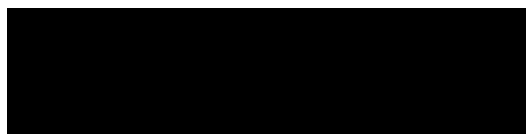
Compliance and Regulation Unit
Biodiversity and Conservation North West
Level 1, 48-52 Wingewarra Street
P.O. Box 2111
Dubbo NSW 2830

OR

By email to:

ROG.North@environment.nsw.gov.au

Marked to the attention of the Compliance and Regulation Unit



Senior Team Leader North West
Compliance and Regulation
Biodiversity and Conservation Division
(by Delegation)

Definitions

In this Order, the following definitions apply:

Term	Definition
Areas of interest	Areas where native vegetation was cleared in contravention of section 12 of the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> ; mapped at Attachment A .
BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>
Clearing	Has the same meaning as defined in section 7 of the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i>
Damage	Damage has the same meaning as defined in section 11.14 of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>
The Department	The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Exotic animals	Includes feral cats, wild dogs, feral pigs, feral goats, feral deer, foxes, hares, rabbits, and other exotic animal species but does not include livestock or native wildlife
Exotic flora	Plant species that are not "native vegetation" as defined in section 6 of the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i>
Native vegetation	Has the same meaning as defined in the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i>
NV Act	<i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i>
Order	This document – a Remediation Order issued under section 11.15 of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>
PCT	Plant Community Type
Property	[REDACTED]
Remediation Area	The areas located on the Property shown schematically on the map in Attachment B and marked "Remediation Area"
Remediator	[REDACTED]
Stock	Means all livestock (including, but not limited to, cattle, horses, sheep, alpacas, domesticated pigs and domesticated goats); it does not include native wildlife
Sustainable grazing	Sustainable grazing is grazing by livestock, and the management of grasslands used for grazing, that is not likely to result in the substantial long-term decline in the structure and composition of native vegetation
Threatened Ecological Community	Has the same meaning as defined in the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>
Waste	Has the same meaning as defined in the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i>

Information about this Order

Compliance: It is an offence against section 11.22 of the BC Act to contravene this Order without reasonable excuse or to intentionally obstruct anyone carrying out remediation work under this Order.

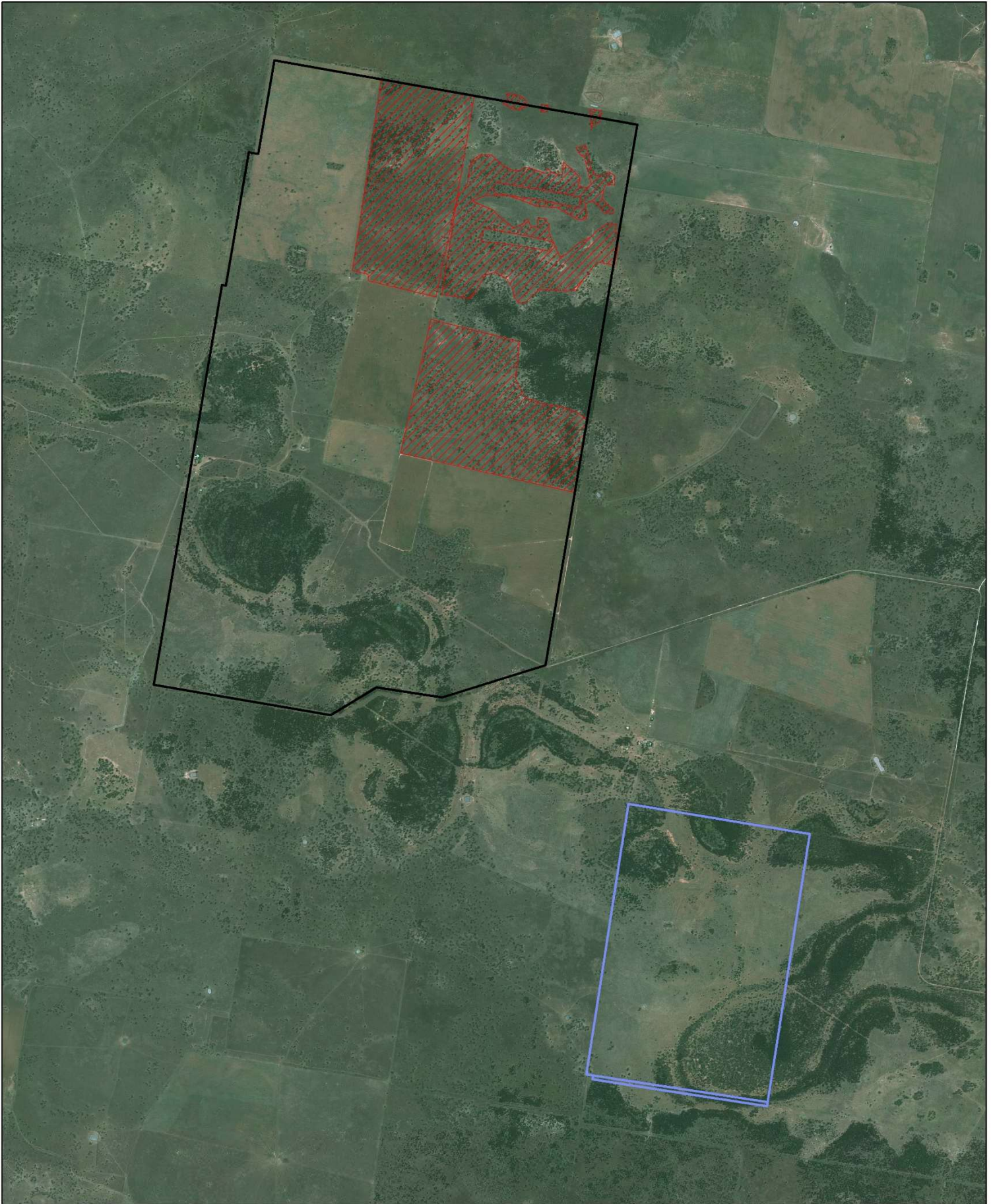
Your obligation to comply with the requirements of this Order continues until the Order is complied with, even if the due date for compliance has passed.

Appeal: Section 11.23(1) of the BC Act allows for a person given a remediation order to appeal against the giving of the Order (or any terms of the Order) to the NSW Land and Environment Court within 30 days of the service of the Order. However, even if an appeal is lodged, you must comply with this Order, unless the Court orders otherwise. More information on appeals can be found on the NSW Land and Environment Court website <http://www.lec.justice.nsw.gov.au>.

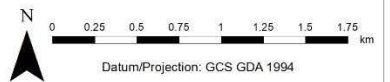
Variation: This order may be varied or revoked in the same manner in which it was given.


Attachments:

- Map of the 'Areas of interest'
- Maps of the 'Remediation Areas'
- Revegetation requirements



Attachment A - Areas of Interest



 Areas of Interest - 492 ha

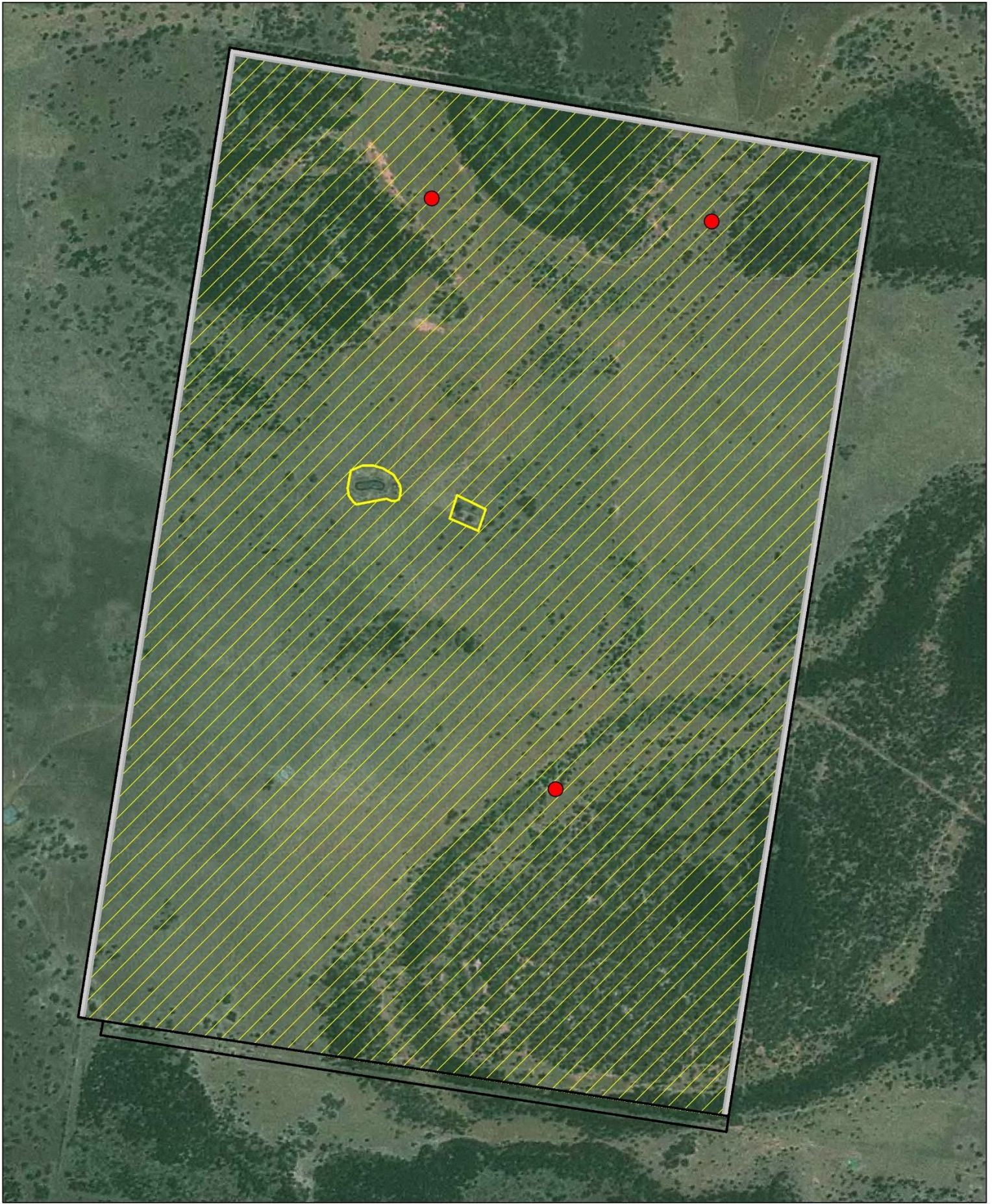


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Map prepared by 



**Planning,
 Industry &
 Environment**



● Monitoring Points

□ Rowlands

■ 15m Fenceline Buffer

▨ Remediation Order

Attachment B Remediation Areas

0 0.25 0.5 km

Datum/Projection: GCS GDA 1994

N



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Map prepared by [REDACTED]

Remediation Order

Attachment C

Revegetation requirements

Endemic grasses

To reduce the likelihood of exotic flora / weed invasion and to promote soil stability the following endemic grass species should be sown in the Remediation Areas that have been previously cultivated:

- Curly Windmill Grass (*Enteropogon acicularis*)
- Small flower Wallaby Grass (*Rytidosperma setaceum*)
- Warrego summer grass (*Paspalidium jubiflorum*)
- Fairy Grass (*Sporobolus caroli*)
- Umbrella Canegrass (*Leptochloa digitata*) (within 50m of a depression or watercourse)
- Native Millet (*Panicum decompositum*).

These species should be sown at >50% total groundcover per hectare in the Remediation Areas.

Overstorey regeneration

Coolabah (*Eucalyptus coolabah*) and Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*) require intermittent flooding to regenerate. The preferred method for regeneration of the mid and upper strata is natural following a flood event. If these species fail to regenerate after a significant rainfall / flooding event, or in accordance with condition 3.5 of this Order; plant the following species at the rates provided in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Planting rates for tree species

Scientific name	Common Name	Planting rate	Planting location
<i>Eucalyptus coolabah</i> subsp. <i>coolabah</i> or subsp. <i>excerata</i>	Coolabah	5 stems per hectare	All areas
<i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i>	Black Box	5 stems per hectare	All areas
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> subsp. <i>camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	10 stems per hectare	Within 50m from the top bank of a mapped watercourse (Attachment B)
<i>Casuarina cristata</i>	Belah	1 stem per hectare	More than 50m from upper edge of depressions or watercourses
<i>Acacia stenophylla</i>	River Cooba	2 stems per hectare	Within 50m of depressions or watercourses
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Wilga	2 stems per hectare	All areas
<i>Capparis mitchellii</i>	Wild Orange	2 stems per hectare	All areas
<i>Eremophila maculata</i>	Spotted Fuchsia	1 stem per hectare	All areas