

Remediation Order

ORDER ISSUED TO:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Reference: DOC21/1132906
Date of issue: 29 August 2022

BY: email to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

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

Basis for issuing Remediation Order

The Department of Planning and Environment (**the Department**) is responsible for the enforcement of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (**BC Act**) and Part 5A of the *Local Land Services Act 2013* (**LLS Act**) as well as Regulations under each of these Acts.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are joint owners of [REDACTED] within the Moree Plains Local Government Area, (the **Property**). [REDACTED] is the relevant land parcel.

[REDACTED], a director of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], a director of [REDACTED] have assumed responsibility for the property.

Information and evidence obtained to date, including an assessment of aerial / satellite imagery and a vegetation assessment supports that **damage**, caused by **clearing** sixty-five (65) hectares of native vegetation (the **Areas of interest** mapped at **Attachment A**) occurred on the Property between September 2017 and October 2019.

It is acknowledged that the clearing referred to in this order was undertaken by the former landholder rather than [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

At all material times, it was an offence against section 60N of the LLS Act for a person to clear native vegetation in a regulated rural area, except in accordance with an:

- Allowable activity authorised under Division 4 and Schedule 5A
- Authorisation under a land management (native vegetation) code under Division 5
- Authorisation by an approval of the Native Vegetation Panel under Division 6
- Authorisation under section 60O (clearing authorised under other legislation)
- Operation authorised under Part 5B (Private Native Forestry).

Opinion

I, [REDACTED], Senior Team Leader, North West Compliance and Regulation (STL NWCR), am satisfied that native vegetation has been damaged in a regulated rural area in or as a result of the commission of an offence against section 60N of the LLS Act.

Order

Pursuant to section 11.15 of the BC Act and under delegation from the Environment Agency Head, I, [REDACTED], STL NWCR, order [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (the **Remediators**) to carry out the following remediation work for the duration specified.

Requirements

1. Remediation Areas

- 1.1. In this Order, **Remediation Area** means the areas marked “Remediation Area” on **Attachment B**.
- 1.2. This Order requires the Remediators 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 Five (5) years from the date of issue; unless varied or revoked in accordance with the BC Act.

3. Remediation work

Soil disturbance

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

Remediation

- 3.2. Native vegetation is to be encouraged/protected within the Remediation Area. The following activities are prohibited within the Remediation Area:
 - Clearing of native vegetation – except with written approval from the Department
 - Removal of fallen timber
 - Cultivation
 - Construction of infrastructure
 - Aerial spraying.

Weed management

- 3.3. The Remediators must implement measures to ensure **exotic flora** do not have a significant impact on the **biodiversity values** of the Remediation Area.
- 3.4. Without limiting this clause, the Remediators 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

- 3.5. The Remediators 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 Area; and maintain densities at or below that level using any approved means.

Livestock

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

Fire

- 3.7. The Remediators must implement measures to prevent fire occurring within the Remediation Area and to suppress and extinguish any fire that does occur.

Fencing

- 3.8. Fences are to be maintained to ensure the exclusion of stock from the Remediation Area.
- 3.9. If the Remediators wishes to continue grazing rights within the land outside the Remediation Area, the boundaries of the defined Remediation Area must be fenced to a standard that excludes stock.
- 3.10. The Remediators 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.

Access

- 3.11. The Remediators must provide reasonable access to staff of the Department for the purposes of administering this Order.
- 3.12. The Department must provide reasonable notice of an intention to inspect the Remediation Area.

Hazards, chemicals and waste

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

Costs

- 3.16. The Remediators must bear all costs associated with implementing the conditions of this Order.

4. Inspections and records

Inspections

- 4.1. The Remediators must inspect the Remediation Area 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 Area, there are 2 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 1: Location of monitoring points

Monitoring Point	Latitude	Longitude	Easting	Northing
Monitoring Point 1	████████	████████	████████	████████
Monitoring Point 2	████████	████████	████████	████████

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.
- Details of any remediation work required within the Remediation Areas, including condition targets
- The proposed date(s) of that work and time frames for completion.

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
- Provided to the Department annually.

5. Reporting

Initial works report

5.1. The Remediators 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 Areas.
- Advice of any completed, required, or proposed work within the Remediation Areas.

Annual monitoring 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:

- 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

- 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 has been cleared
Clearing	Has the same meaning as defined in section 60C of the <i>Local Land Services Act 2013</i>
Damage	Damage has the same meaning as defined in section 11.14 of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>
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 60B of the <i>Local Land Services Act 2013</i>
Native vegetation	Has the same meaning as defined in the <i>Local Land Services Act 2013</i>
Order	This document – a Remediation Order issued under section 11.15 of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>
PCT	Plant Community Type
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: this order takes immediate effect from the date of issue. 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.

Failure to comply - 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.

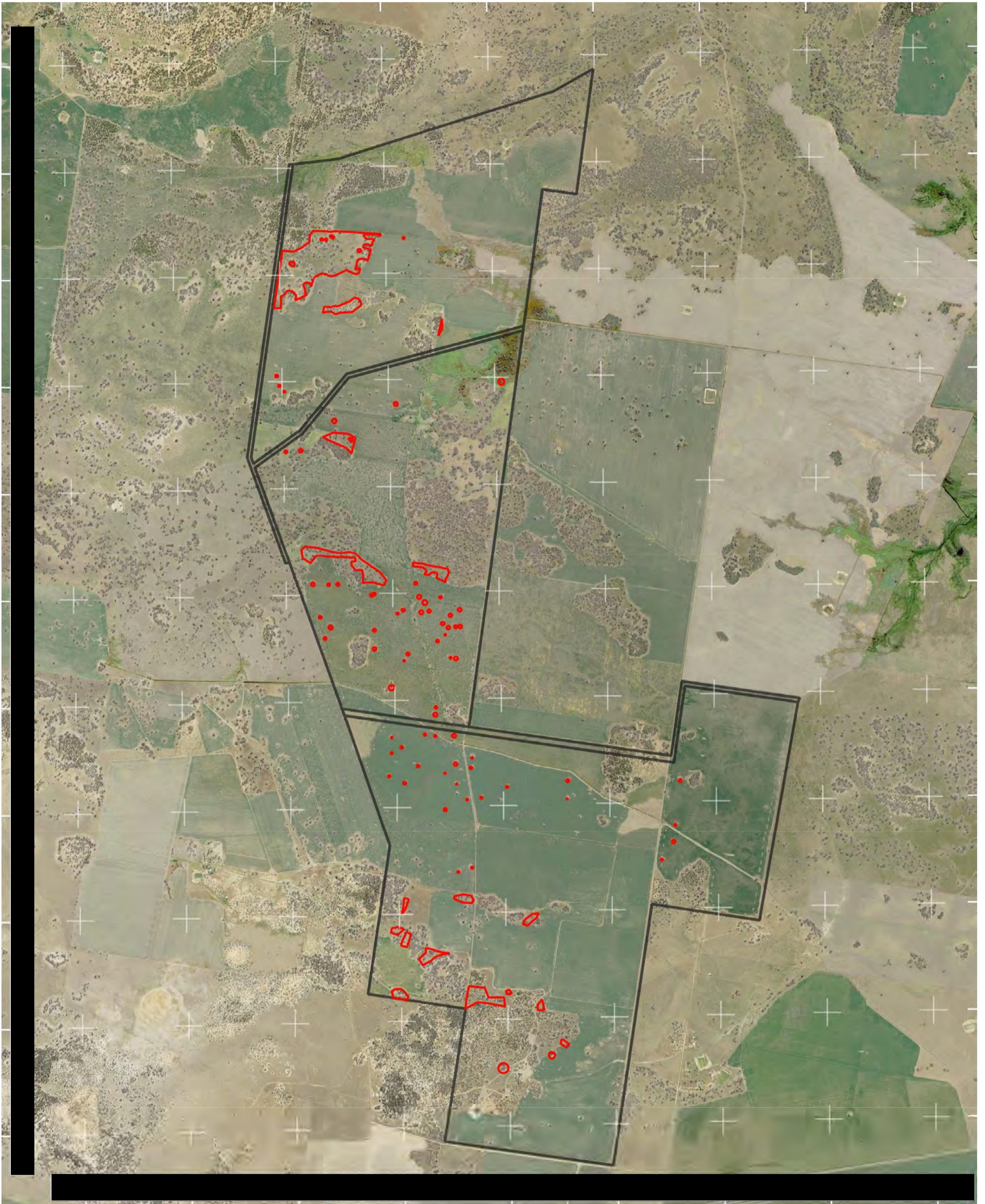
Alternatively, the Environment Agency Head (or Delegate) may authorise another person to carry out the work who may then recover the cost from you or any person may seek an order from the NSW Land and Environment Court requiring you to rectify the breach.

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:

- A Map of the 'Areas of interest'
- B Maps of the 'Remediation Areas'
- B1 Detail with monitoring points



Attachment A: Areas of interest



Areas of interest (65 ha)

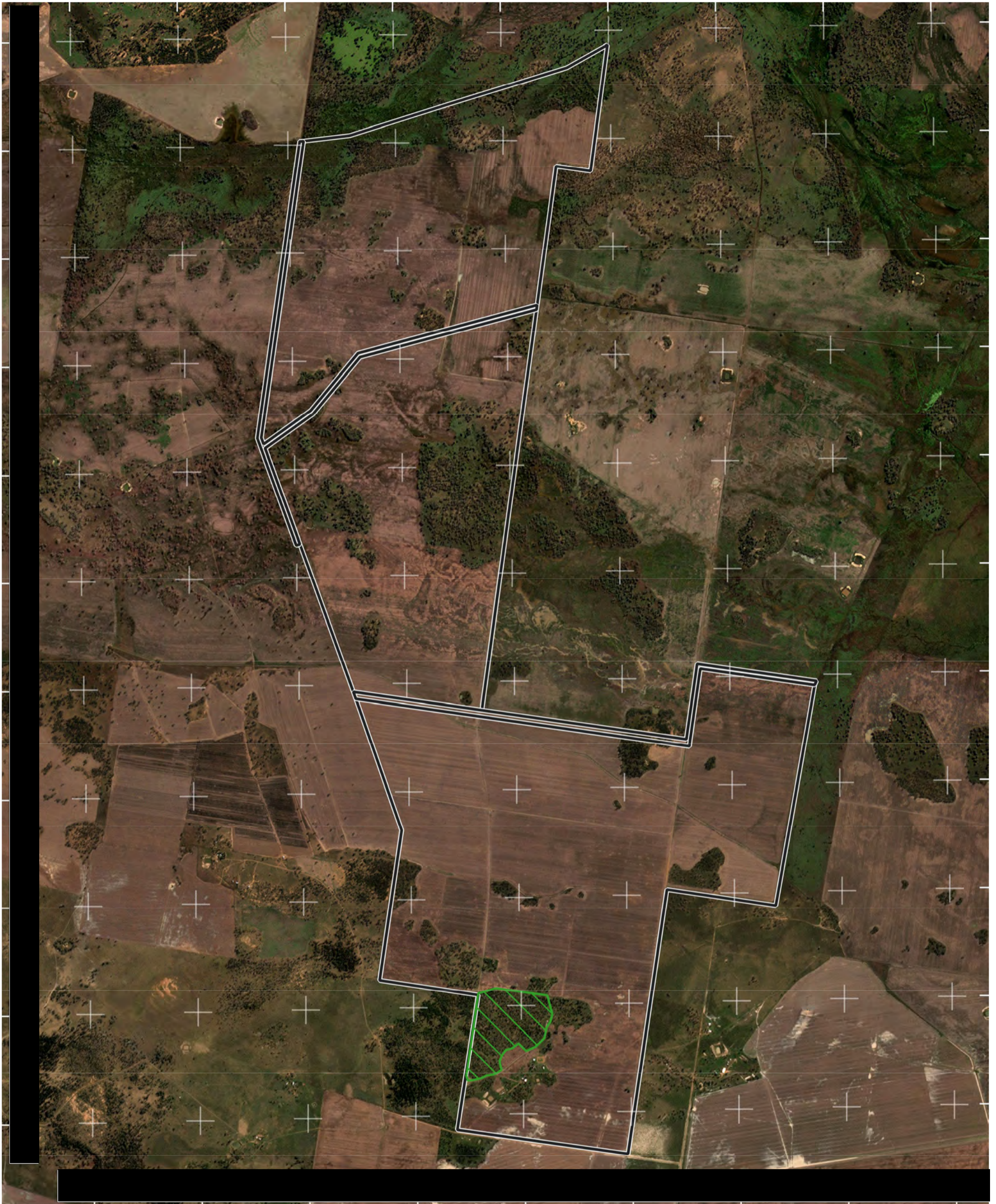
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Scale 1 : 50 000
GDA94 NSW Lambert

Map prepared by [redacted] on 09/06/2022.
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Attachment B: Remediation Area

Scale 1 : 50 000 (A4)
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 Remediation Area (43 ha)



Planet Explorer: Global Monthly 2022 05 Mosaic



- Monitoring Points
- ▨ Remediation Areas (43 ha)
- ▭ [Redacted]

Planet Explorer: Global Monthly 2022 05 Mosaic

Attachment B1: Remediation Area (Detail)

Scale 1 : 10 000 (A4)
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