APPROVAL DECISION

Alpha Coal Mine and Rail proposal, Galilee Basin, Queensland (EPBC 2008/4648)

This decision is made under sections 130(1) and 133 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Proposed action

person to whom the approval is granted	• Hancock Alpha West Pty Ltd • Hancock Coal Pty Ltd • Hancock Coal Infrastructure Pty Ltd
proponent's ACN	• Hancock Alpha West Pty Ltd ACN 149 609 209 • Hancock Coal Pty Ltd ACN 130 249 973 • Hancock Coal Infrastructure Pty Ltd ACN 132 394 122
proposed action	To construct and operate a coal mine and supporting rail link in Central Queensland, as described in the referral dated 21 November 2008 (EPBC 2008/4648).

Approval

Controlling Provision	**Decision**
World Heritage (s12 & s15A)	Approved
National Heritage (s15B & 15C)	
Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)	
Listed migratory species (sections 20 and 20A)	

conditions of approval	This approval is subject to the conditions specified below.
expiry date of approval	This approval has effect until 1 September 2053.

Decision-maker

name and position	The Hon Tony Burke MP Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
signature	Tony Burke
date of decision	23 / 8 / 2012

Conditions of Approval

Any plans required by the Queensland Coordinator-General will suffice where also required by these conditions, provided they meet the standards prescribed in these conditions.

Alpha Coal Mine and Rail

This approval is subject to the conditions specified below.

1. The project area is the area depicted in the map 1 (mine footprint) at Annexure A (and depicted in the SEIS (URS 2011) Vol 2, that is, Appendix C Fig C-3), within the mine lease application (MLA) 70246 with a disturbance limit of 20,603ha, including the following leases (as they are at the date of the decision to which these conditions are attached):

   - Exploration Permit Coal 1210; and
   - Mineral development lease (MDL) 285 and 333

   And the proposed rail alignment as depicted in the maps 2-15 at Annexure A (and depicted in the Supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement (URS 2011) Vol 2, that is, Appendix C Fig C-7 Maps 1-14) with a disturbance limit of 3,450ha.

   A report and maps verifying compliance with this condition must be placed by the proponent on their website at the completion of each construction stage for both the mine and rail for a period of three months. The department must be notified within 1 week of the information being placed on the website.

Disturbance limits

2. The following maximum disturbance limits in Table 1 and Table 2 below apply to authorised unavoidable adverse impacts on MNES as a result of exploration, development, operation and decommissioning of the mine and construction and operation of the rail within the project area illustrated in Figure 1, and external to it, ('whole of project' disturbance limits) for the life of the project.

Table 1: Maximum Disturbance limits for listed threatened ecological communities

Ecological community	EPBC Act status	Disturbance limit (ha)
Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant)	Endangered	100 ha
Semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt (North and South) and Nandewar Bioregions	Endangered	14 ha
Natural Grasslands of the Queensland Central Highlands and the northern Fitzroy Basin	Endangered	151 ha

Note 1: Table 1 is derived from information provided in the EIS (URS 2010), SEIS (URS 2011), and the Amended EBPC Act report (ELA 2012) with rounding to the nearest hectare applied.

Table 2: Maximum Disturbance limits for listed threatened species

Species	Mine: high value habitat	Rail: high value habitat
Avian species		
Black-throated Finch	7,154 hectares	778 hectares
Squatter Pigeon	6,007 hectares confirmed habitat	341 hectares confirmed habitat
Star Finch	212 hectares	To be determined
Red Goshawk	290 hectares	315 hectares
Australian Painted Snipe	220 hectares	316 hectares

Mammal species		
Northern Quoll	To be determined	418 hectares
Greater Long-eared Bat	412 hectares	To be determined
Reptile species		
Retro Slider	To be determined	To be determined
Yakka Skink	8,152 hectares	812 hectares
Ornamental Snake	1,543 hectares	251 hectares confirmed habitat
Brigalow Scaly-foot	To be determined	189 hectares
Flora species		
Dichanthium queenslandicum	To be determined	89 hectares
Dichanthium setosum	To be determined	217 hectares
Eucalyptus raveretiana	To be determined	29 hectares
Croton magneticus	To be determined	17 hectares
Caley (Kaili) Valley Wetland		
Maximum Area to be permanently impacted by the rail loop		14 hectares
Maximum Area to be permanently enclosed by the rail loop		167 hectares, including a maximum of 99 hectares within the Caley Valley Wetland

Note 2: Table 2 is derived from information provided in the EIS (URS 2010), SEIS (URS 2011), and the Amended EBPC Act report (ELA 2012) with rounding to the nearest hectare applied.

a) High value habitat for each of the species listed in Table 2, including where habitat is to be determined, must be confirmed during the pre-clearance surveys provided in condition 3.

Note 3: Offsetting requirements for some species' habitat may be accommodated within ecological communities or overlap with other species habitat requirements, if this habitat is verified as present and includes specific habitat requirements for each relevant species.

MNES Management Plan

3. The person taking the action must submit a MNES Management Plan (MMP) for the approval of the Minister, in consultation with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (Qld) (DEHP), which maximises the ongoing protection and long term conservation of EPBC listed matters of national environmental significance within the project area, rail corridor and infrastructure associated with the rail line as provided in condition 1. The MMP must include:

   a) undertaking preclearance surveys for the presence of listed threatened species and migratory species, their habitat and listed ecological communities;
   b) the methodology and timeframes for conducting pre-clearance surveys for EPBC listed threatened species and ecological communities, and listed migratory species within the 495km rail corridor and infrastructure associated with the rail line;
   c) methodology for staging the pre-clearance surveys;
   d) Preclearance surveys must:
      i. for each species, be undertaken in accordance with the department's survey guidelines in effect at the time of the survey, or survey methodology agreed to the department prior to surveys being undertaken. This information can be obtained from the department's website;
      ii. be undertaken by a suitably qualified person/s approved by the department in writing;
      iii. document the survey methodology;
      iv. apply best practise site assessment and ecological survey methods appropriate for each listed threatened species, migratory species, their habitats and listed ecological

communities;

e) identified measures to prevent mortality of EPBC Act listed threatened species during construction and operation;

f) identified measures to protect EPBC Act listed threatened species habitat located adjacent to cleared areas;

g) identified measures to rehabilitate areas disturbed during construction;

h) details of design elements for the final rail alignment and associated infrastructure;

i) design details of pits or trenches that will allow fauna to escape;

j) measures outlining how affected listed species will be protected, including fauna friendly culverts within the final design;

k) a fauna monitoring program to be undertaken to:

   i. measure the success of management measures to inform an adaptive management approach that must be implemented over any of the remaining sections of the rail line;

   ii. determine the usage and success of culverts in areas of habitat for EPBC Act listed threatened fauna species, including methodology, timing, scope, duration and reporting over the duration of the fauna monitoring program.

l) details of the timeframes to provide documentary evidence to the Minister of the following:

   i. results of EPBC listed threatened fauna and flora species surveys; and

   ii. identification, descriptions and provision of maps of populations of matters of national environmental significance.

m) reporting on milestones and compliance with this plan.

The person taking the action must provide the MMP to the Minister for written approval. After the MMP is approved by the Minister, the pre-clearance surveys as detailed in the approved MMP must be completed.

The results and significant findings of the pre-clearance surveys in relation to MNES, must be provided to the Minister for approval and published on the proponent's website within 3 months of finalising the pre-clearance surveys.

The person taking the action cannot commence construction until;

i. the Minister has approved the MMP in writing;

ii. the pre-clearance surveys for Stages 1 and 2 of the action (as provided in the EPBC Act Report, June 2012) are completed;

iii. results are published on the proponent's website; and

iv. the Minister has approved the pre-clearance survey results for Stages 1 and 2.

The approved MNES Management Plan must be implemented.

Biodiversity Offset Strategy

4. To compensate for any authorised unavoidable impacts on MNES as provided by condition 2 and as confirmed by the pre-clearance survey requirements in condition 2, a Biodiversity Offset Strategy must be submitted for approval by the Minister within 12 months of approval of the MMP.

   The Biodiversity Offset Strategy must identify land within the Galilee Basin region that has been acquired by the proponent and will be managed for environmental gain and protected by covenant until 2073. All offsets must be secured under relevant Queensland legislation within 3 years of commencement of construction.

   The Biodiversity Offset Strategy must provide details of the offset areas including; maps and site descriptions, environmental values relevant to MNES, connectivity with other habitats and biodiversity corridors, a rehabilitation program, and conservation and management measures for long term protection.

   a) Offsets of 8:1 (offsets:impacted) must be found for disturbance impacts to:

      i. Habitat identified in pre-clearance surveys as high value habitat with potential micro habitat features required for *Poephila cincta cincta* (Black-throated Finch).

b) Offsets of 8:1 (offsets:impacted) must be found for disturbance impacts to the following listed endangered ecological communities:

   i. Semi-evergreen vine thickets of the Brigalow Belt (North and South) and Nandewar Bioregions; Natural Grasslands of the Queensland Central Highlands and the northern Fitzroy Basin; Brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla* dominant and co-dominant).

c) Offsets of 8:1 (offsets:impacted) must be found for disturbance impacts to potential or confirmed habitat, which includes micro habitat features, for the species through the pre-clearance surveys, for:

   i. *Geophaps scripta scripta* (Squatter Pigeon (Southern)); *Dasyurus hallucatus* (Northern Quoll); *Paradelma orientalis* (Brigalow Scaly-foot); *Denisonia maculata* (Ornamental Snake); *Egernia rugosa* (Yakka Skink); *Eucalyptus raveretiana* (Black Ironbox); *Croton magneticus*; *Dichanthium queenslandicum*; *Dichanthium setosum*; *Lerista allanae* (Retro Slider).

d) Offsets of 6:1 (offsets:impacted) must be found for disturbance impacts to areas of the Caley (Kaili) Valley Wetland which are either directly impacted or enclosed by the rail loop;

e) Offsets of 4:1 (offsets:impacted) must be found for disturbance impacts to:

   i. Habitat identified as high value potential or confirmed, which includes micro habitat required for the species, through the pre-clearance surveys for: *Nyctophilus timoriensis* (Greater Long-eared Bat); *Erythrotriorchis radiatus* (Red Goshawk) and *Rostratula australis* (Australian Painted Snipe).

f) Should the pre-clearance surveys undertaken in accordance with the requirements of conditions 2 and 3, result in changes to the maximum disturbance limits in Table 1 and the high value habitat identified in Table 2, then the person taking the action must present this information to the Minister.

   Any evidence demonstrating how disturbance impacts to areas of the Caley (Kaili) Valley Wetland have been minimised must also be presented to the Minister.

   If this information is supported by expert independent scientific opinion and is presented to the Minister within 36 months of commencement of the action, a revised offset ratio may then be approved by the Minister.

The Biodiversity Offset Strategy must be implemented.

If the approved Biodiversity Offset Strategy cannot be implemented because of failure of arrangements to secure the necessary area of private land, then the proponent must notify the Minister of failure to secure and then submit for the Minister's approval an alternative Biodiversity Offset Strategy.

The alternative Biodiversity Offset Strategy must provide at least an equivalent environmental outcome to those specified in this condition. The approved alternative Biodiversity Offset Strategy must be implemented.

Biodiversity Offset Strategy Funding and Administration

5. In addition to the Biodiversity Offset Strategy requirements at condition 4, the person taking the action must establish and contribute to a pool of funds and administrative arrangements for the better protection and long term conservation of the EPBC matters of national environmental significance in the Galilee Basin.

6. These arrangements, including terms of reference to support a regional approach, funding mechanisms and an initial work plan, must be agreed by the Minister and may be in the form of a trust fund. A trust fund, or similar arrangement, will facilitate the development and implementation of research programs identified as a priority to manage development impacts on matters of national environmental significance, and allow contributions from other proponents in the Galilee Basin. The person taking the action will:

   a) establish a trust or similar legal institutional arrangement, to coordinate research on EPBC listed threatened fauna, that examines the following; a) lifecycles; b) threatening processes; c) appropriate land management measures; d) identification of habitat requirements and important populations; and e) long term conservation requirements to ensure persistence of the species.

b) implement research plans for the Black-throated Finch and Squatter Pigeon to determine likely impacts from the proposed action (as defined in condition 1), these plans will include:
   i. methodologies of a two year baseline survey that will inform the better understanding of the species lifestyle, movement patterns, habitat requirements and population dynamics. The survey methodologies must be in accordance with the department's survey guidelines in effect at the time of the survey;
   ii. methodologies for the baseline survey must be agreed in writing by the Minister prior to any construction activities;
   iii. the baseline survey must commence in the first year following the date of approval;
   iv. an ongoing monitoring program (developed from the baseline monitoring) for both species, to continue for the life of the mine, with annual reporting requirements to be included;
   v. commitments, including financial that will be made by the person taking the action to support the undertaking of research;
   vi. the time frames within which the research will be undertaken;
   vii. timing and methods of reporting the research outcomes to the Minister, the scientific community and the public;
   viii. consultations with the Minister regarding how the proposed research plan aligns with other Black-throated Finch or Squatter Pigeon studies being developed, and outcomes of these consultations; and
   ix. results of the Black-throated Finch and Squatter Pigeon Research Plan must be utilised to inform adaptive management approaches identified in condition 7(d); and to inform the Vegetation Management Plan (condition 7).

c) identification of priority actions for funding must be decided by representatives that include but are not necessarily limited to the following: the proponent, DEHP, a member of the Black-throated Finch Recovery Team nominated by the Recovery Team, and the department.

d) documentary evidence must be provided to the department showing that the annual financial contributions to the trust fund have been provided to the department within 28 days of each payment.

The person taking the action must contribute $200,000 per annum (GST exclusive) for 10 consecutive years from establishment, towards these activities. To ensure this funding is adequate for the implementation of the requirements set out in condition 6, a review of funding contributions may be undertaken after 5 years of its establishment or as otherwise agreed by the Minister. This review should take into account progress with the implementation of the research programs and any subsequent on ground actions, as well as the involvement of other proponents in these funding and administrative arrangements.

These requirements must be implemented.

The proponent must establish these arrangements within 2 years of this approval.

Vegetation Management Plan

7. The person taking the action must submit a Vegetation Management Plan to the Minister for approval. The plan must address the following requirements:

   (a) make reference to the Biodiversity Offset Strategy as outlined in condition 4;

   (b) make reference to the Black-throated Finch Research Plan as outlined in condition 6(b);

   (c) make reference to the Squatter Pigeon Research Plan as outlined in condition 6(b);

   (d) management measures for habitat identified within the Biodiversity Offset Strategy (condition 4) with input from experts with relevant expertise to native vegetation management in the Galilee Basin;

   (e) a monitoring program to be undertaken to;

      i. measure the success of management measures to inform an adaptive management approach that must be implemented; and

      ii. report on milestones and compliance with this plan.

   (f) the Vegetation Management Plan must also identify thresholds for intervention, where rehabilitation and vegetation management measures are exceeded; and

   (g) the choice of suitably qualified experts will be agreed with the Minister.

The Vegetation Management Plan must be submitted for the approval of the Minister within six months of the commencement of construction.

The approved Vegetation Management Plan must be implemented.

Mine Rehabilitation Management Plan

8. The person taking the action must submit a Mine Rehabilitation Management Plan for the entire mine footprint to the Minister for approval. The plan must:

   (a) Include maps of habitat for listed threatened species and ecological communities, and listed migratory species resulting from pre-clearance surveys, as per condition 3;

   (b) Include rehabilitation measures for habitat and provide a list of native species that have been endorsed by suitably qualified experts relevant to the matters being protected;

   (c) Include management measures for identified habitat with input from suitably qualified experts;

   (d) Include a monitoring program to be undertaken to;

      i. measure the success of management measures to inform an adaptive management approach that must be implemented; and

      ii. report on milestones and compliance with this plan.

   (e) identify measures of success;

   (f) identify thresholds for intervention, where rehabilitation and vegetation management measures are exceeded; and

   (g) identify the choice of suitably qualified experts that will be agreed with the Minister.

   The person taking the action must not commence stage 2 (years 6-10 of the mine operations) until the Minister approves the Mine Rehabilitation Management Plan in writing

   The approved Mine Rehabilitation Management Plan must be implemented.

Final Rail Alignment Report

9. The person taking the action must prepare a Final Rail Alignment Report, that identifies and reports on the success of the MMP (condition 3) for the ongoing protection and long term conservation of EPBC listed threatened fauna and flora species along the alignment of the rail line. The report must provide:

   (a) documentary evidence of;

      i. results of the EPBC listed threatened fauna and flora species surveys; and

      i. identification, description and mapping of populations of national environmental significance;

   (b) for management measures for identified habitat with input from suitably qualified experts (condition 3 (e) to (g));

   (c) evidence and reasoning, prior to the commencement of construction of each relevant stage, of how the results of the survey were used to avoid and mitigate impacts on EPBC listed threatened species in finalising the rail alignment;

   (d) outcomes of the fauna monitoring program that;

      i. measure the success of management measures to inform an adaptive management approach implemented as per condition 3;

      i. reports on milestones and compliance with this report;

      ii. identify measures of success, such as the usage and success of culverts in areas of habitat for EPBC Act listed threatened fauna species, including methodology, timing, scope, duration and reporting over the duration of the fauna monitoring program;

      iii. identify and document alternative management regimes where measures have been proven unsuccessful; and

iv. identify thresholds for intervention that have been applied, and where rehabilitation and vegetation management measures are exceeded.

The proponent must provide evidence that fauna friendly culverts have been constructed at locations where they maximise the benefits for EPBC listed threatened species, on their website.

The person taking the action must submit an initial Rail Alignment Report to the Minister for approval within 1 year of commencement of construction activities. A Final Rail Alignment Report is to be provided to the Minister for approval within 2 years of the date of the Minister's approval of the initial Rail Alignment Report.

Caley (Kaili) Valley Wetland Management Plan

10. To manage potential impacts on the values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and migratory species including dugongs and migratory birds, or other matters of national environmental significance, the person taking the action must submit a Caley Valley Wetland Management Plan to the Minister for approval. The plan must address the following requirements:

(a) survey the length of and areas enclosed by the rail loop within Caley (Kaili) Valley Wetland to identify and verify habitat for matters of national environmental significance;

(b) identify, describe and map populations of matters of national environmental significance;

(c) measures to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts (including indirect impacts) to matters of national environmental significance;

(d) rehabilitation for habitat identified for disturbance using agreed native species with input from suitably qualified experts relevant to the matters being protected;

(e) measures to identify, avoid and mitigate impacts (including indirect impacts) to matters of national environmental significance through the disturbance of Acid Sulphate Soils;

(f) management measures for habitat with input from experts with relevant expertise to native vegetation management in the Caley (Kaili) Valley Wetland;

(g) specific measures to address coal dust impacts to the Caley Valley Wetland that provide equivalent protection to that provided by physically covered wagons;

(h) identify threshold limits and management measures for any coal dust impacts on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and reporting to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority six monthly (mid December and mid May);

(i) if chemical coverings are used, outline proposed methodology for covering coal wagons, with details of materials used in covering the wagons, their relative toxicities, and evidence that this method better controls coal dust when compared with physical covering of coal wagons;

(j) location, and use of, windbreaks at storage sites;

(e) include an ongoing monitoring program to be undertaken to;

i. measure the success of management measures to inform an adaptive management approach that must be implemented;

ii. report on milestones and compliance with this plan;

iii. identify measures of success; and

iv. identify thresholds for intervention, where rehabilitation and vegetation management measures are exceeded.

The person taking the action cannot commence construction until the Minister approves the Caley Valley Wetland Management Plan in writing.

The approved Caley Valley Wetland Management Plan must be implemented.

Water Quality

Regional Water Plan

11. The person taking the action must submit a Regional Water Plan to the Minister for approval. The plan must address the following requirements:

    (a) a regional surface water and a regional groundwater water monitoring program with reference to groundwater dependent habitat for listed threatened species and ecological communities, and listed migratory species:

    (b) the monitoring identified in condition 11 (a) must include identification of linkages between the formations, and likely movement of water into and out of the aquifers;

    (c) address the potential for impacts to groundwater dependent habitat for listed species and ecological communities, and listed migratory species;

    (d) Include an ongoing monitoring program to be undertaken to;

        i. ensure no drawdown impacts result from mining operations on groundwater dependent communities in the Great Artesian Basin;

        ii. measure the success of management measures to inform an adaptive management approach that must be implemented;

        iii. report on milestones and compliance with this plan;

        iv. identify measures of success; and

        v. identify thresholds for intervention, where rehabilitation and vegetation management measures are exceeded.

    The person taking the action cannot commence construction activities until the Minister approves the Regional Water Plan in writing.

    The approved Regional Water Plan must be implemented.

Water Quality Management Plan

12. To manage potential impacts on the values of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park World Heritage Area, the person taking the action must submit a Water Quality Management Plan to the Minister for approval. The plan must address the following:

    (a) management measures for acid rock drainage with particular reference to sulphur content resulting from overburden stockpiles;

    (b) measures to prevent acid water seepage into catchment systems;

    (c) include an ongoing monitoring and management program to be undertaken to;

        i. ensure stormwater and runoff or coal dust impact from the mine, mining operations and the rail is managed to minimise sediment into the Burdekin dam and thus into the Great Barrier Reef;

        ii. ensure that runoff or coal dust impact from the rail corridor and storage areas at Abbot Point is managed to minimise impact to the Great Barrier Reef;

        iii. measure the success of management measures to inform an adaptive management approach that must be implemented;

        iv. report on milestones and compliance with this plan;

        v. identify measures of success; and

        vi. identify thresholds for intervention, where rehabilitation and vegetation management measures are exceeded.

    (d) identify threshold limits and management measures for runoff and coal dust impacts on the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and reporting to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority six monthly (mid December and mid May).

    The person taking the action cannot commence construction until the Minister approves the Water Quality Management Plan in writing.

    The approved Water Quality Management Plan must be implemented.

General

13. Within 10 business days of commencement of the action, the person taking the action must advise the Minister in writing the actual date of commencement.

14. If the person taking the action becomes aware of new information regarding the scale of impacts to any EPBC Act listed species or community, the person taking the action must report that information to the Minister within 10 business days of becoming aware of the new information.

15. If the Minister believes that it is necessary or desirable for the better protection of listed threatened species and communities to do so, the Minister may request that the person taking the action make specified revisions to the plans or report approved pursuant to conditions 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 and submit the revised plan or report for the Minister's approval. The person taking the action must comply with any such request. The revised approved plan or report must be implemented. Unless the Minister has approved the revised plan or report, then the person taking the action must continue to implement the plan or report originally approved.

16. If the person taking the action wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with the plans or report referred to in conditions 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 the person taking the action must submit for the Minister's approval a revised version of the plan or report. The varied activity shall not commence until the Minister has approved the varied plan or report in writing. If the Minister approves such a revised plan or report, that plan or report must be implemented in place of the plan or report originally approved.

17. Upon the direction of the Minister, the person taking the action must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the conditions of approval is conducted and a report submitted to the Minister. The independent auditor must be approved by the Minister prior to the commencement of the audit. Audit criteria must be agreed to by the Minister and the audit report must address the criteria to the satisfaction of the Minister.

18. The person taking the action must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the above conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the plan required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the Minister. Such records may be subject to audit by the Minister or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits will be posted on the departments website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.

19. If, at any time after five years from the date of this approval, the Minister notifies the person taking the action in writing that the Minister is not satisfied that the approved plans or report as per conditions 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 have been implemented, the action must not thereafter be commenced without the written agreement of the Minister.

Definitions:

Construction: construction includes any action-related construction and commissioning activities on the project property, excluding investigatory works such as, but not limited to, geotechnical, geophysical, biological and cultural heritage surveys, baseline monitoring surveys and technology trials.

The department: means the Australian Government department responsible for administering Part 4 of the EPBC Act;

CG's report: Alpha Coal Project, Coordinator-General's Evaluation Report on the environmental impact statement (Queensland Government) released 29 May 2012 (CG's Report);

Clearance of native vegetation: means the cutting down, felling, thinning, logging, removing, killing, destroying, poisoning, ringbarking, uprooting or burning of native vegetation;

Commencement: means any physical disturbance including clearing of vegetation that is a listed threatened species or community or that is habitat of listed threatened species or listed migratory species or new road works, new rail works, new camps, development of mining associated infrastructure and mining operations. Commencement does not include:

(a) minor physical disturbance necessary to undertake pre-clearance surveys or establish monitoring programs or associated with the mobilisation of the plant, equipment, materials, machinery and personnel prior to the start of railway or road development or construction;

(b) activities that are critical to commencement that are associated with mobilisation of plant and equipment, materials, machinery and personnel prior to the start of railway or road development or construction only if such activities will have no adverse impact on MNES, and only if the proponent has notified the department in writing before an activity is undertaken.

Disturbance limits: Maximum amount of habitat MNES depend upon, to be cleared within the area defined in condition 1.

EPBC Act: means the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*;

Expert independent scientific opinion: means an opinion from a person with suitable and relevant qualifications, who is not an employee of the person to whom the approval is granted or an associated legal entity.

High value habitat: as defined in Appendix B to Alpha Coal Mine and Rail EPBC Act Report, Predictive Habitat Mapping Methodology, June 2012.

Minister: means the Minister responsible for Part 4 of the EPBC Act, and may include a delegate of the Minister under s.133 of the EPBC Act;

MNES: means matters of national environmental significance, being the relevant matters protected under Part 3 of the EPBC Act;

Operation: means extraction of coal has commenced from the coal mine and being delivered via the rail line.

Plan: includes a protocol, report, study, plan, or strategy (however described);

Potential habitat: as defined in Appendix B to Alpha Coal Mine and Rail EPBC Act Report, Predictive Habitat Mapping Methodology, June 2012.

Proponent: means the person to whom the approval is granted, and includes any person acting on behalf of the proponent;

Referral: means a referral under the EPBC Act including any variation of the referral;

Suitably qualified person: means a person who has professional qualifications, training, skills or experience relevant to the nominated subject matter and can give authoritative assessment, advice and analysis to performance relative to the subject matter using the relative protocols, standards, methods or literature.

Survey guidelines:
Matters of National Environmental Significance, Significant impact guidelines 1.1, *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/pubs/nes-guidelines.pdf

Draft EPBC Act Policy Statement 3.21 – Significant Impact Guidelines for 36 Migratory Shorebird Species (http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/pubs/migratory-shorebirds.pdf)

Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened birds, Guidelines for detecting birds listed as threatened (http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/threatened-birds.html)

Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened frogs, Guidelines for detecting frogs listed as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
(http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/threatened-frogs.html)

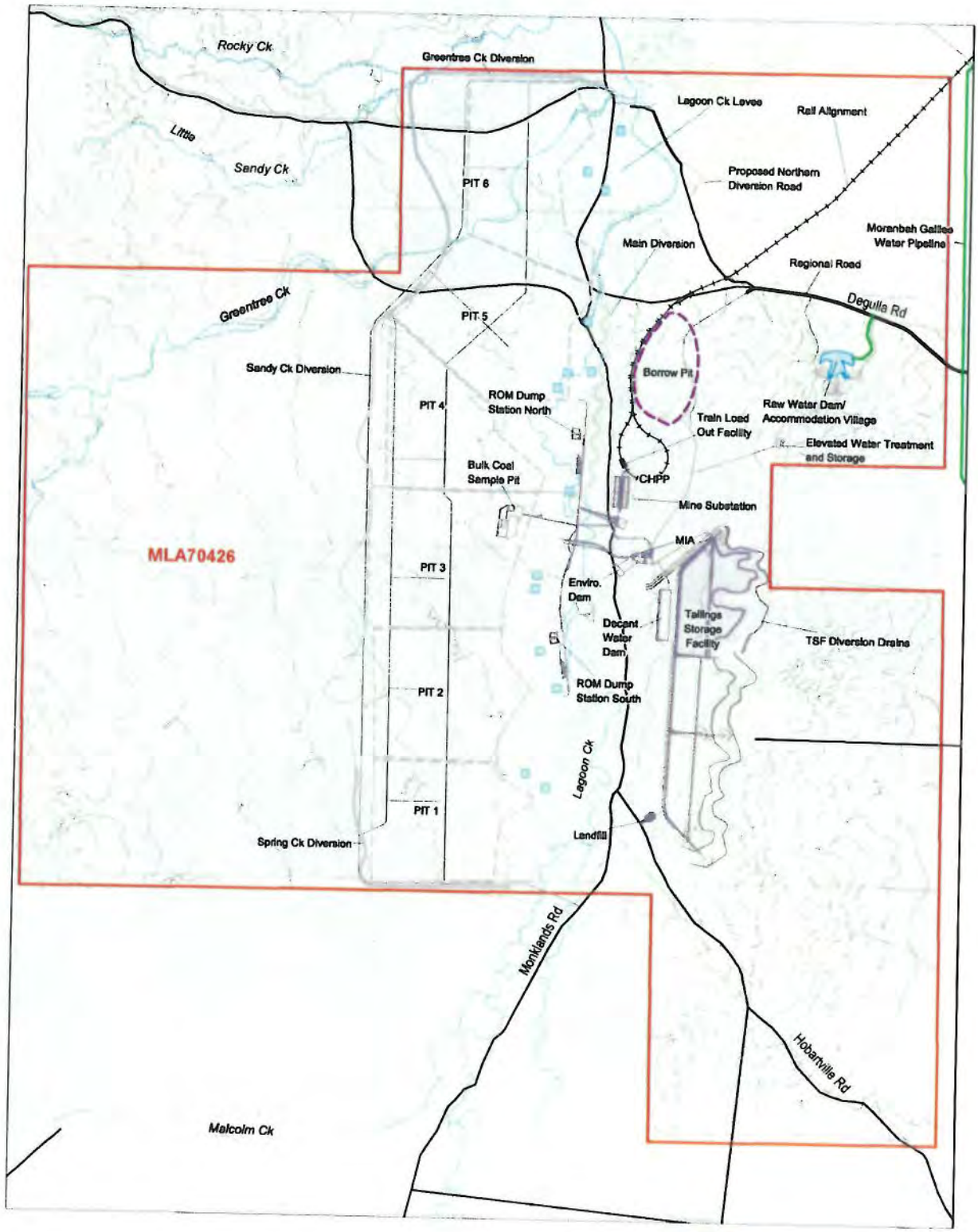
Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened mammals, Guidelines for detecting mammals listed as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 (http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/threatened-mammals.html)

Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened reptiles, Guidelines for detecting reptiles listed as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 (http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/threatened-reptiles.html)

Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened bats, Guidelines for detecting bats listed as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/threatened-bats.html)

Annexure A

Map 1 – Mine site



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Scale 1:150,000 (A4)
Datum: GDA94, MGA Zone55

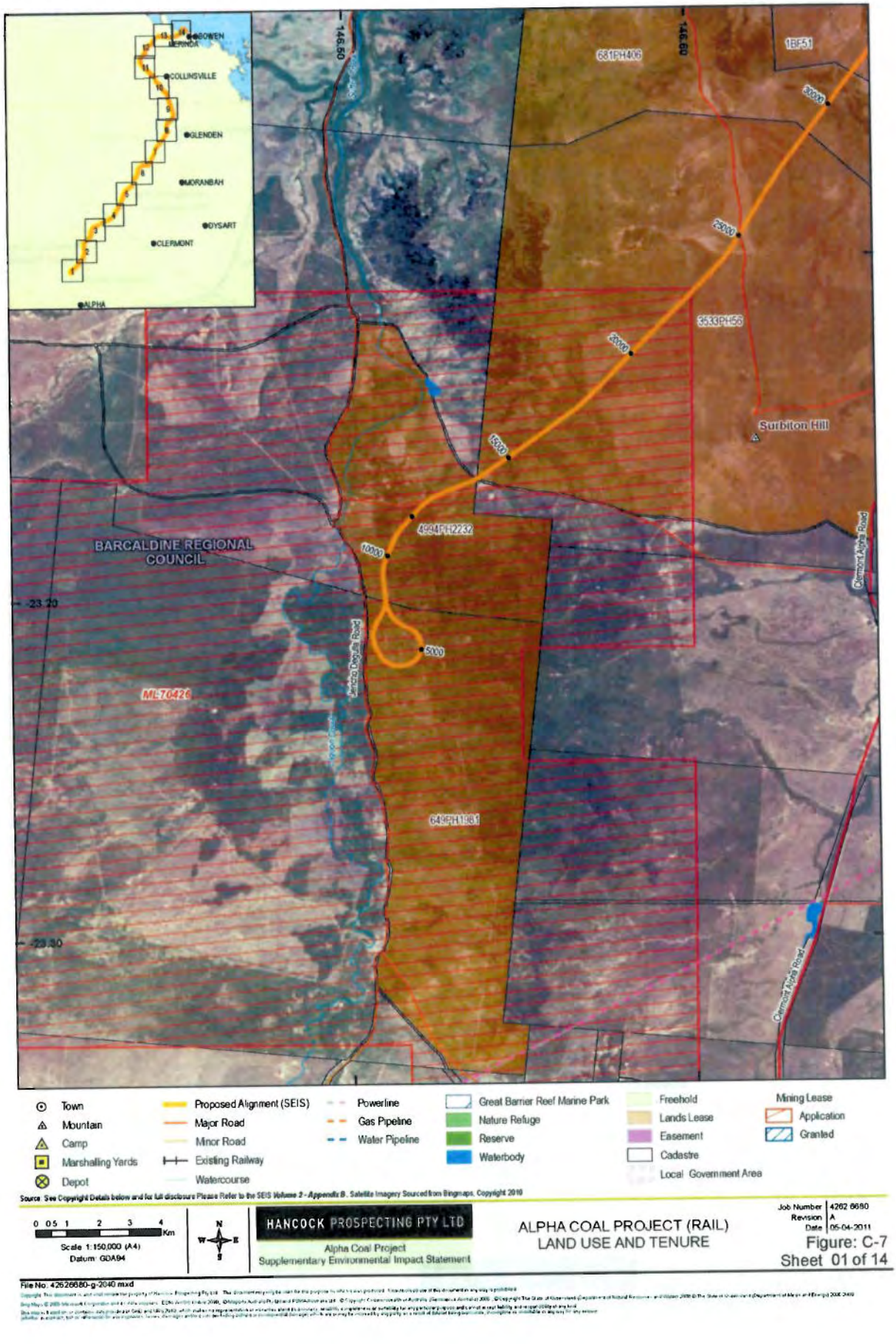
HANCOCK PROSPECTING PTY LTD
Alpha Coal Project
Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement

ALPHA COAL PROJECT (MINE)
PROJECT LAYOUT

Job Number | 4262 6680
Revision | B
Date | 01-04-2011

Figure: C-3

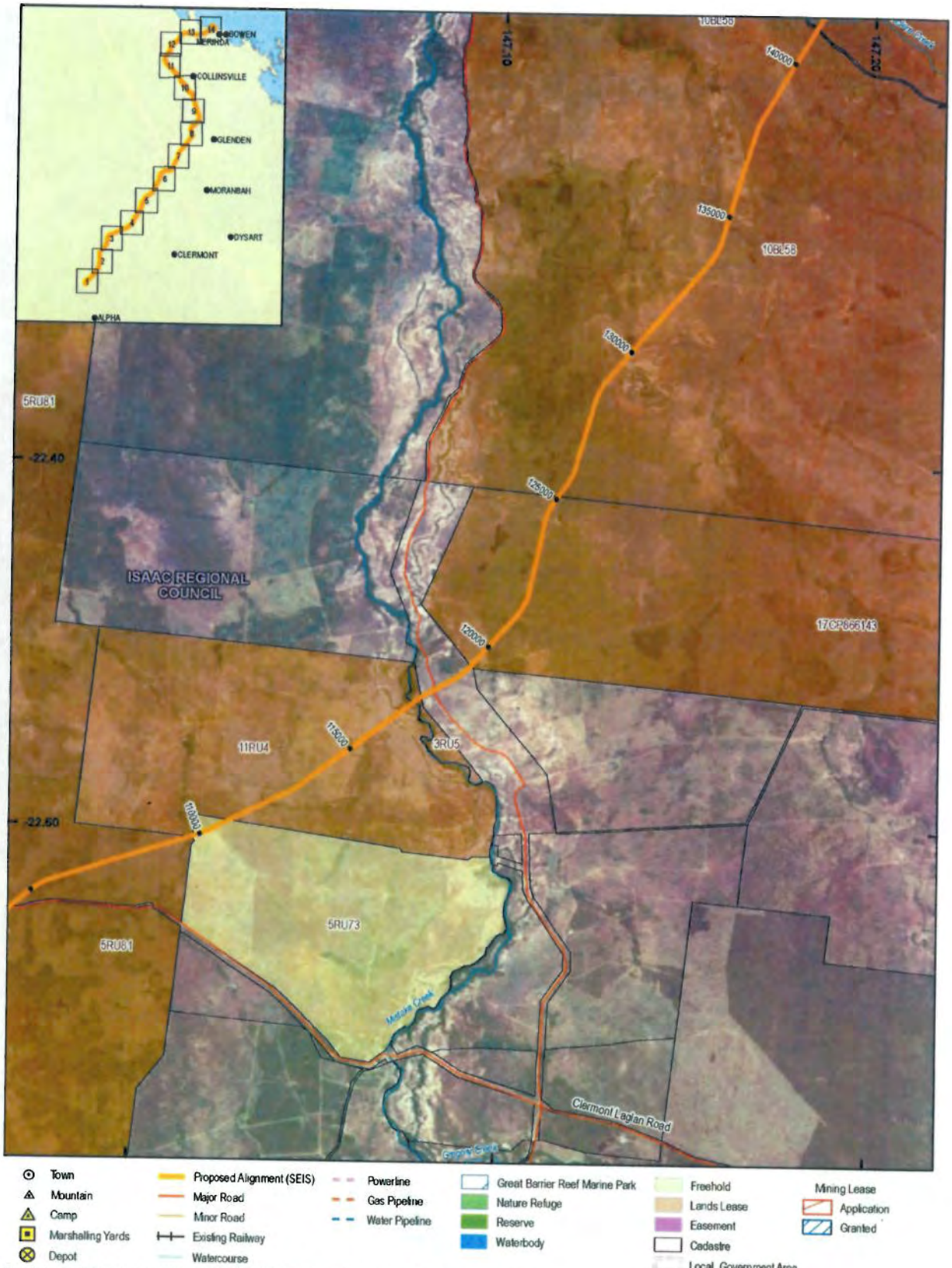
Map 2 – Rail Alignment exiting Alpha coal mine



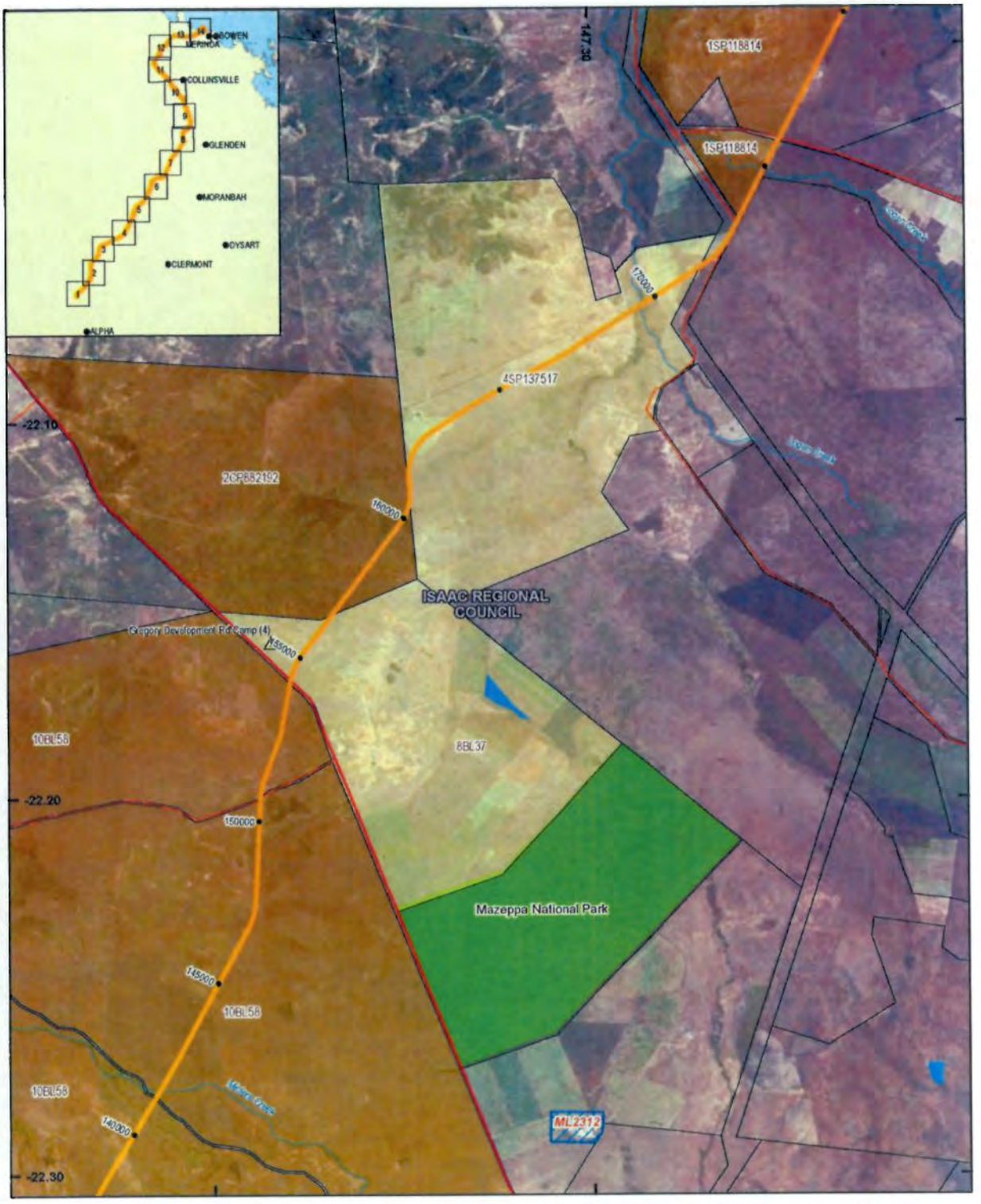
Map 3- Rail alignment

Map 4 – Rail alignment

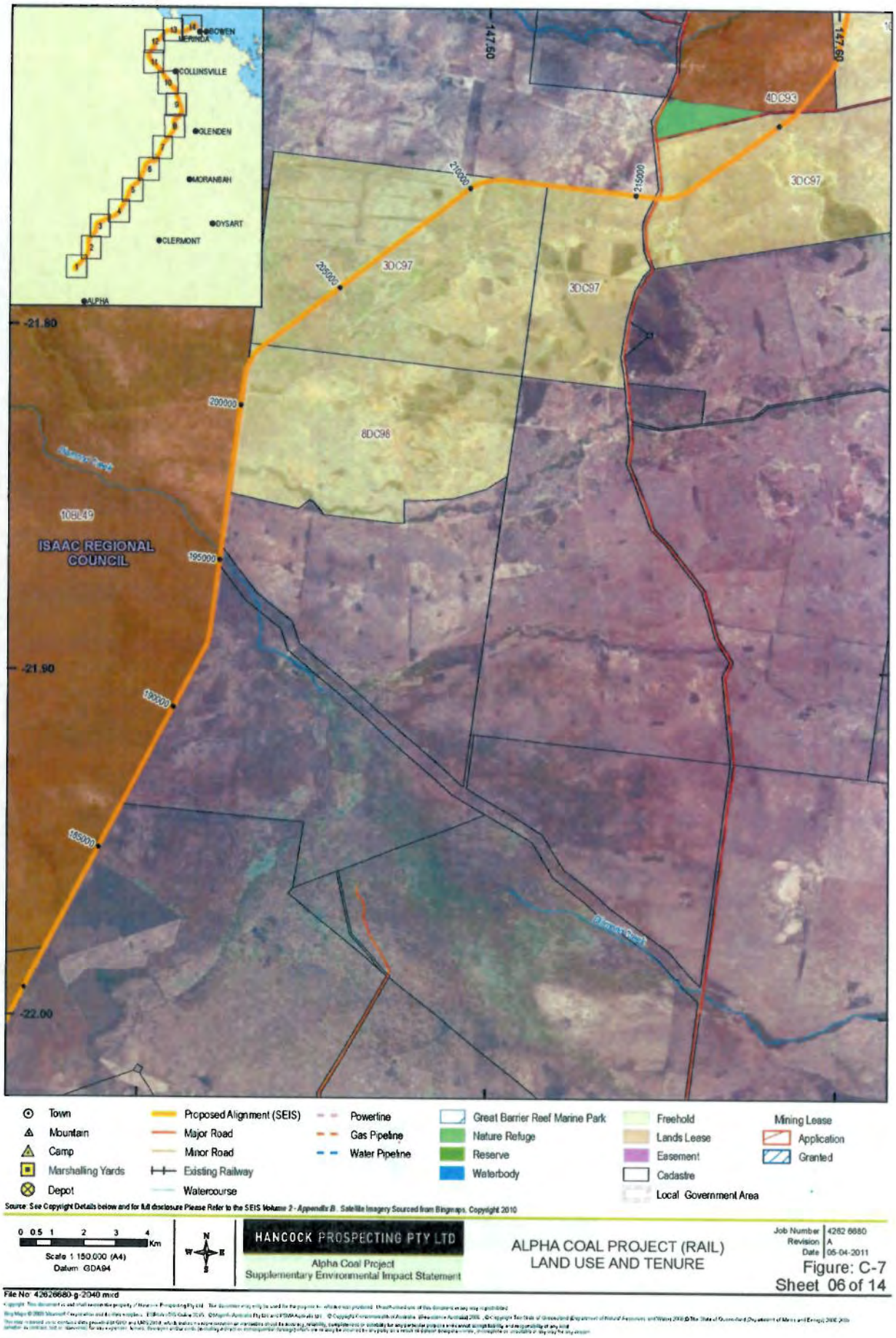
Map 5 - Rail alignment



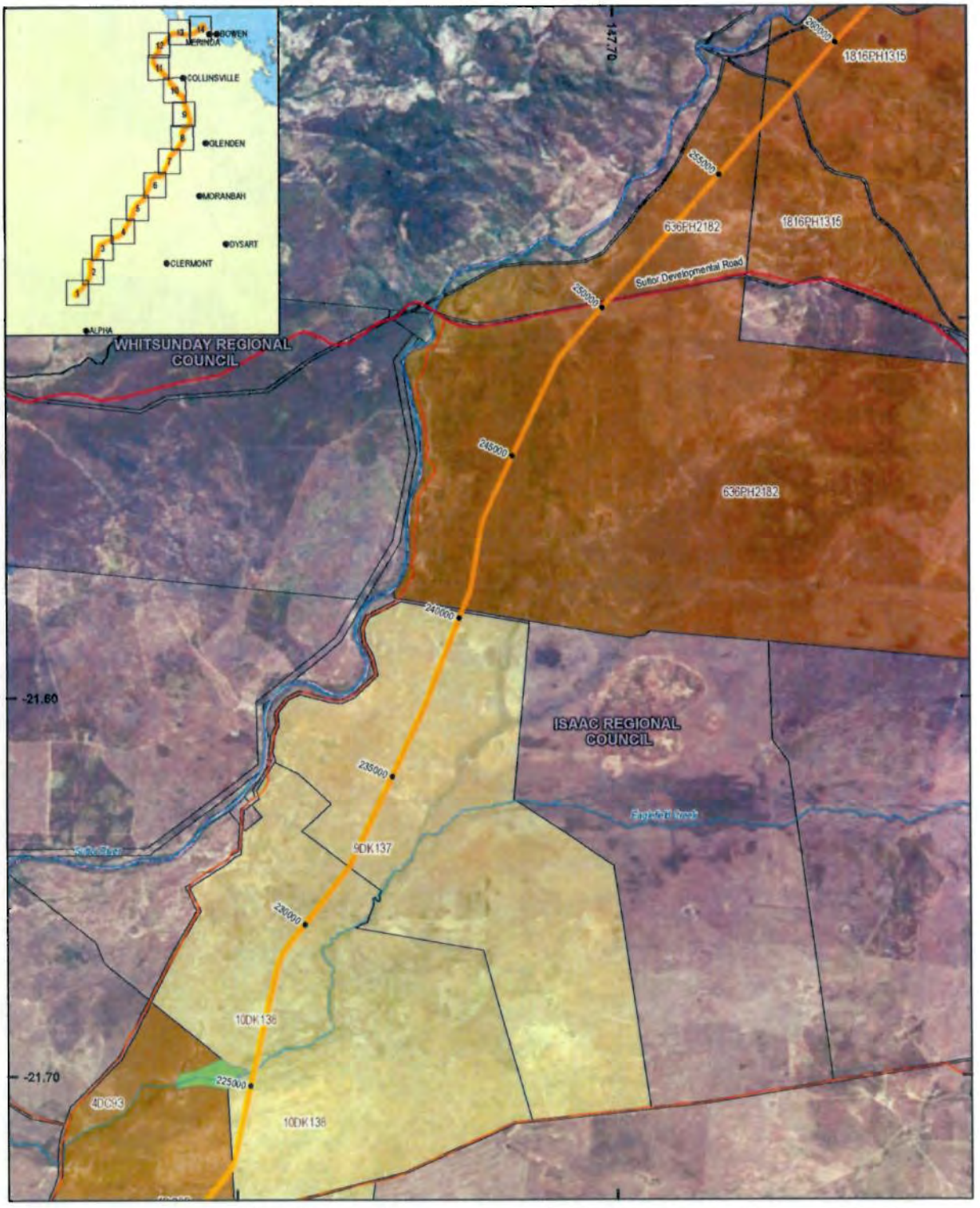
Map 6 – rail alignment



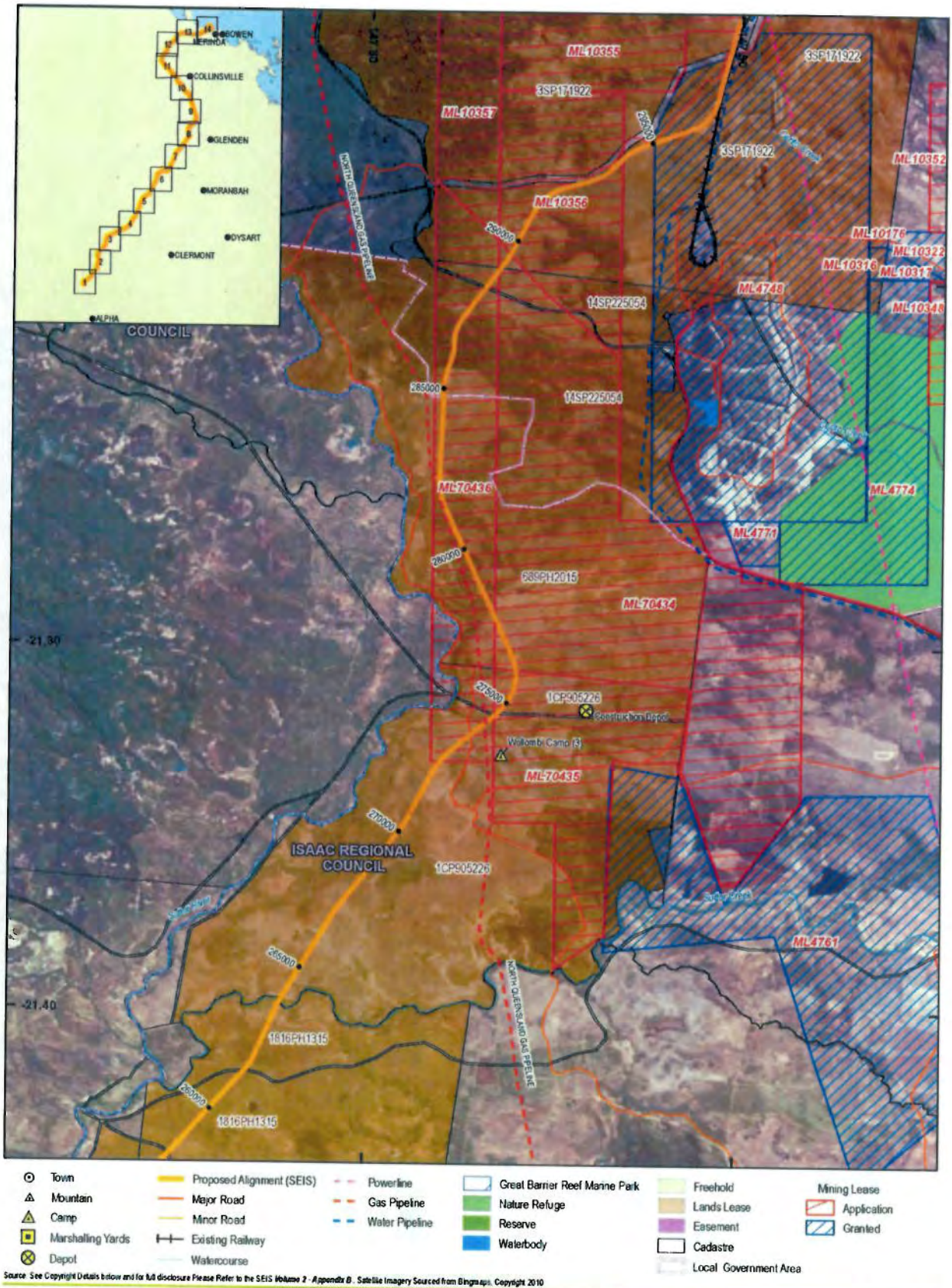
Map 7 - Rail alignment



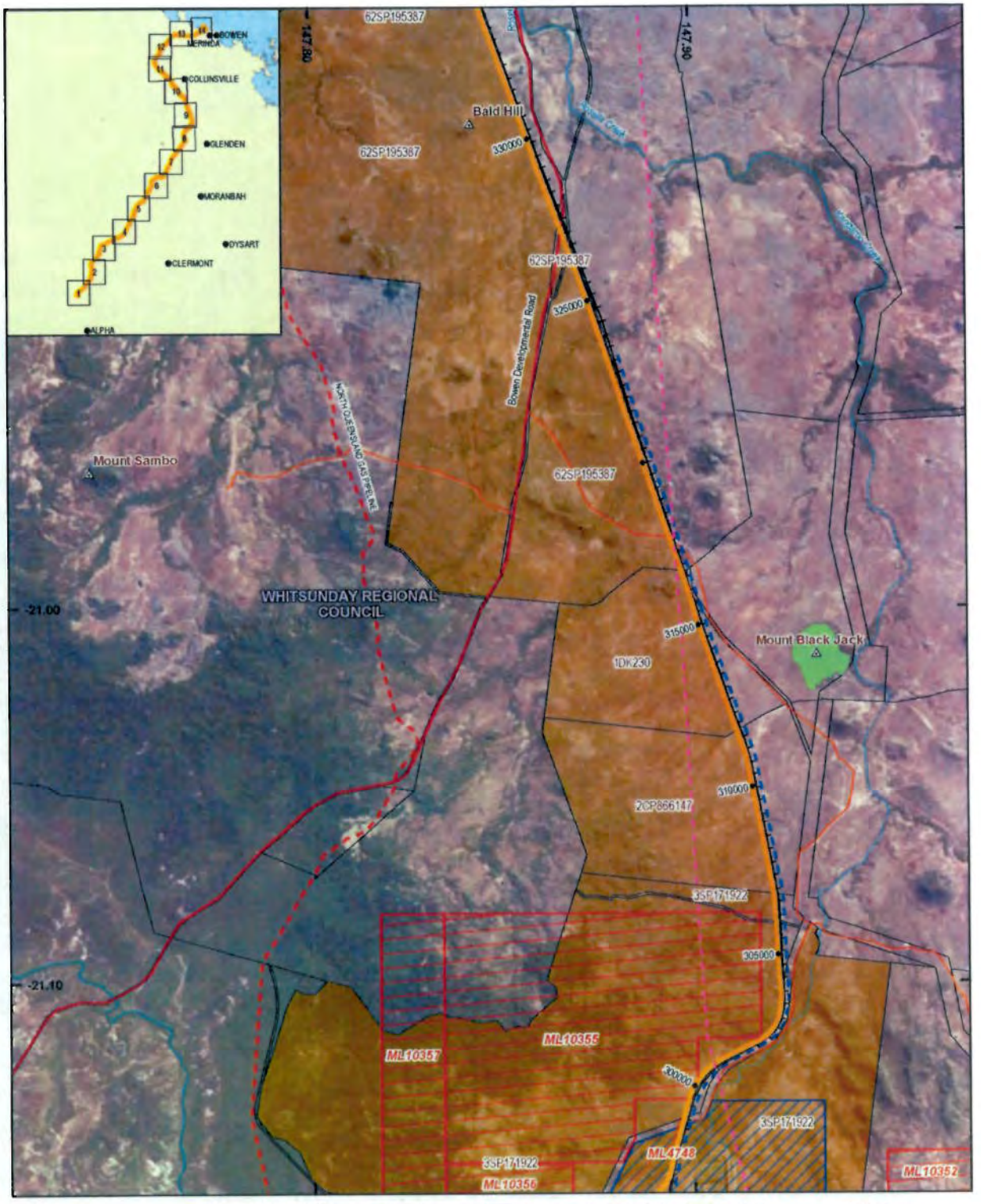
Map 8 – Rail alignment



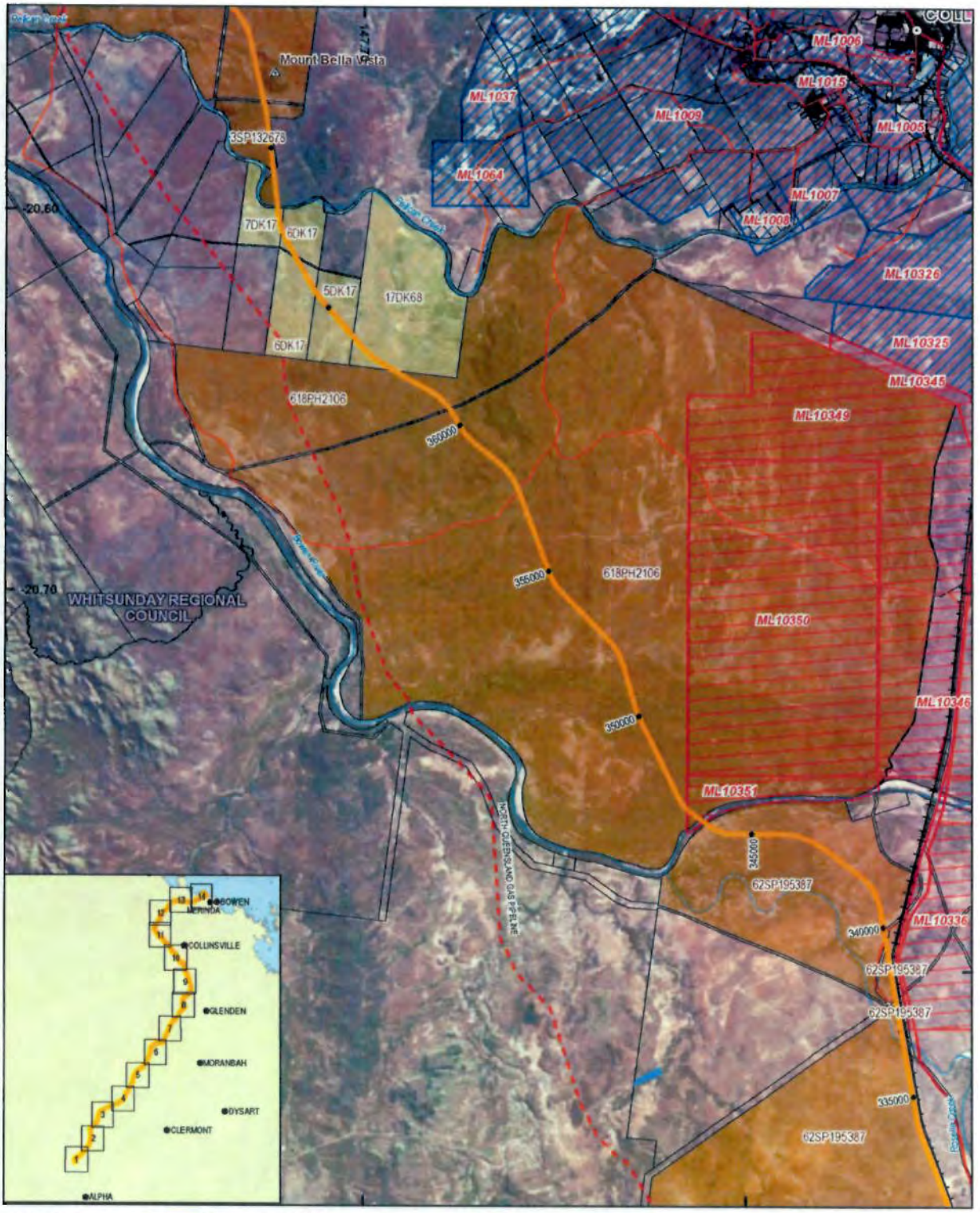
Map 9 – Rail Alignment



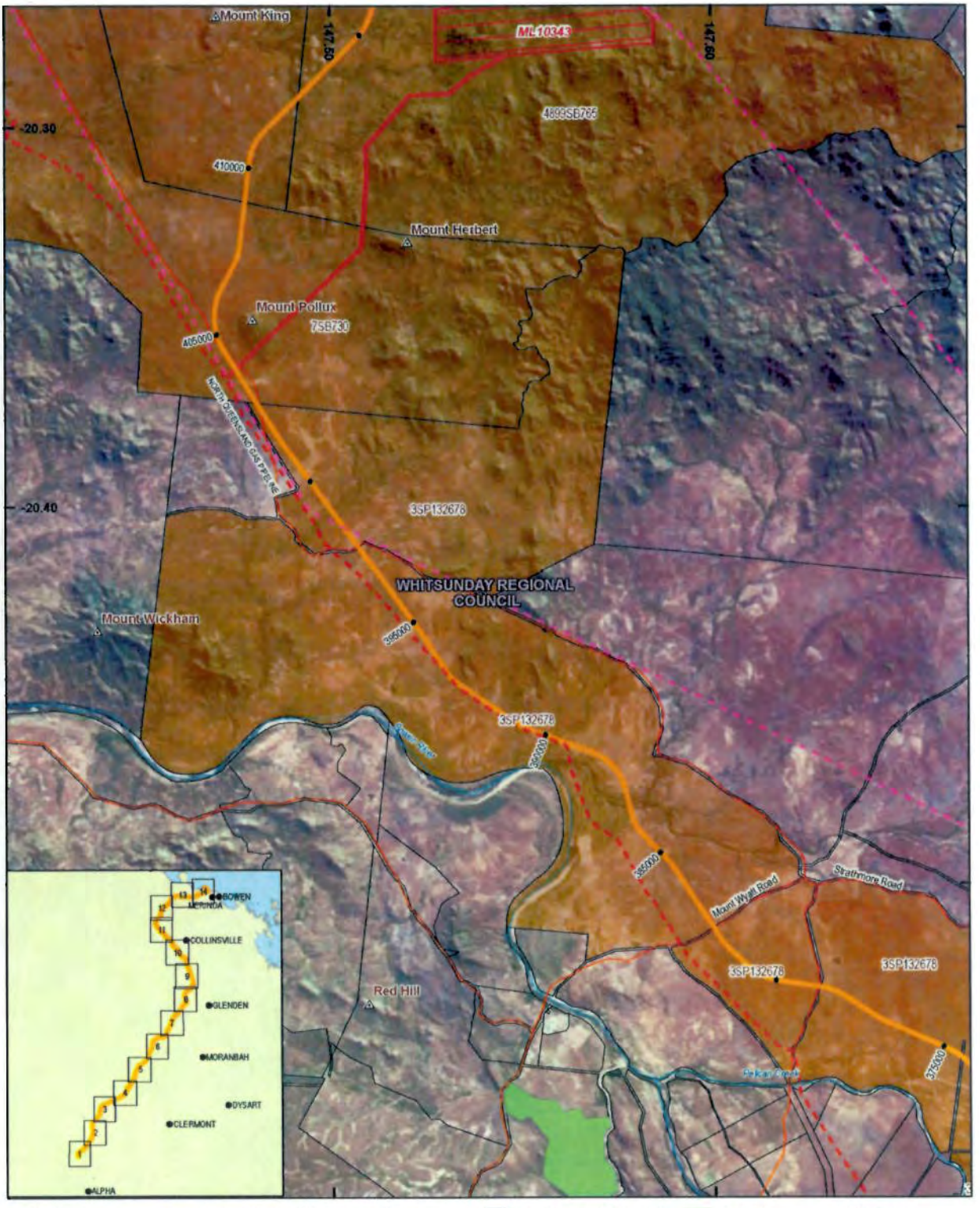
Map 10 – Rail alignment



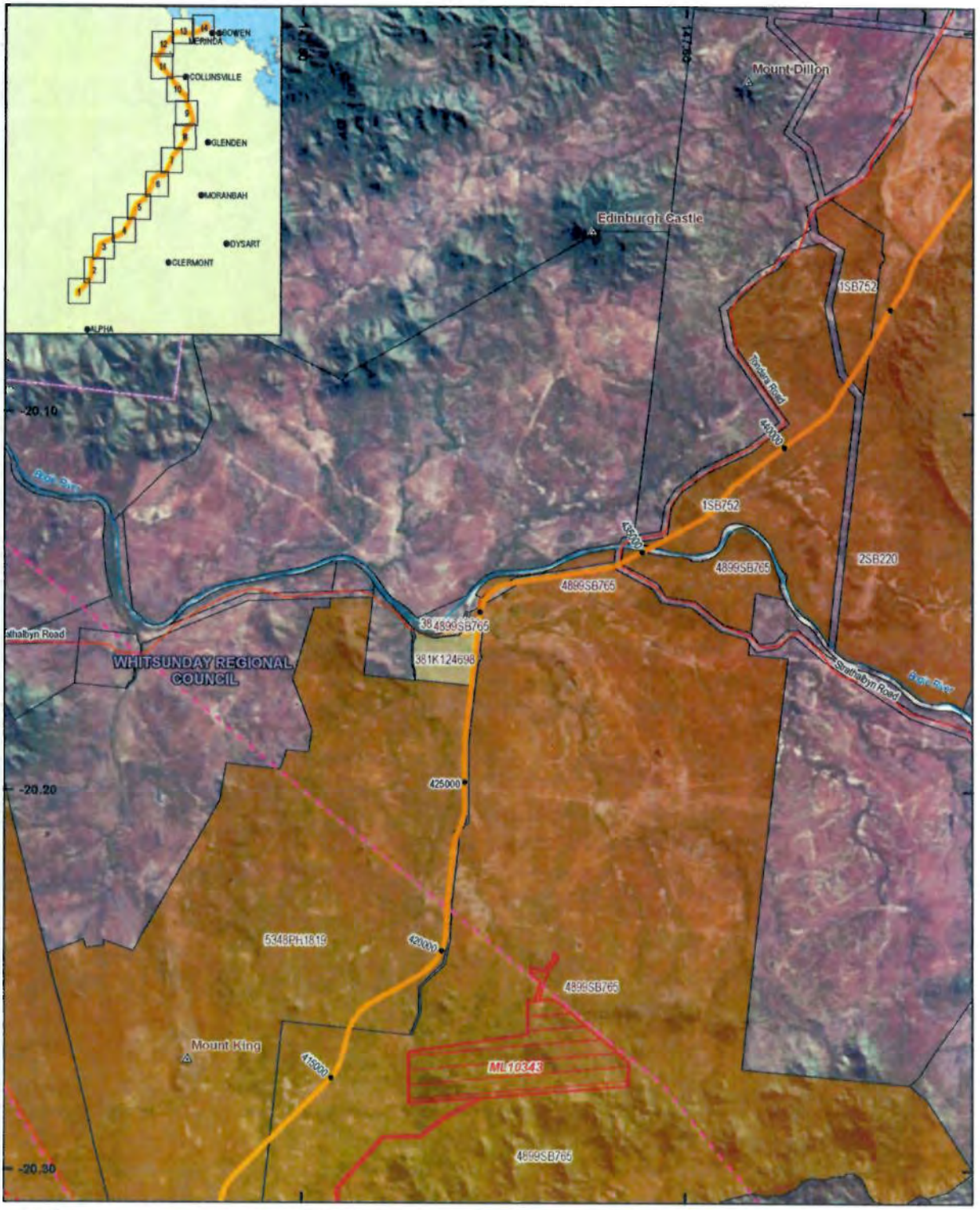
Map 11 – Rail alignment



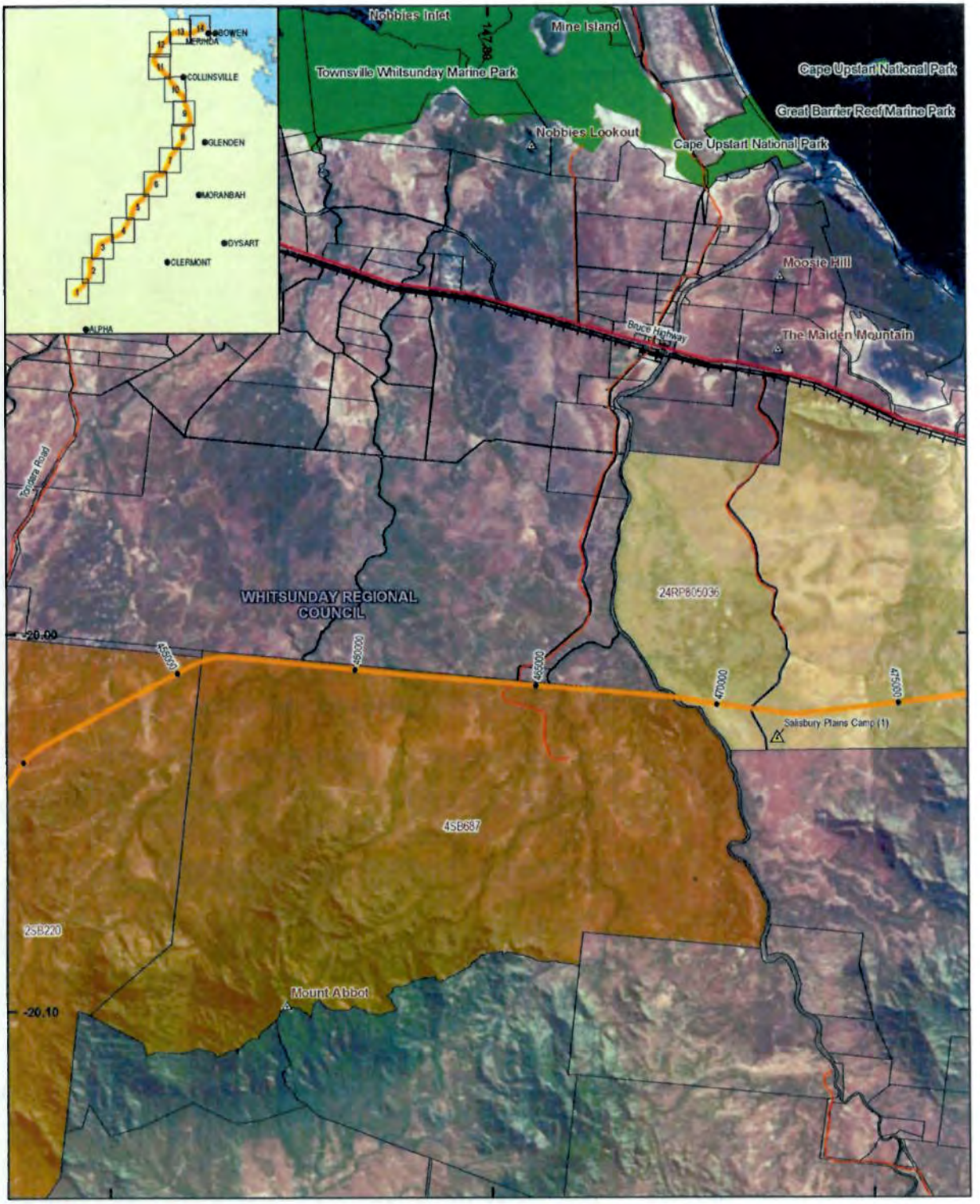
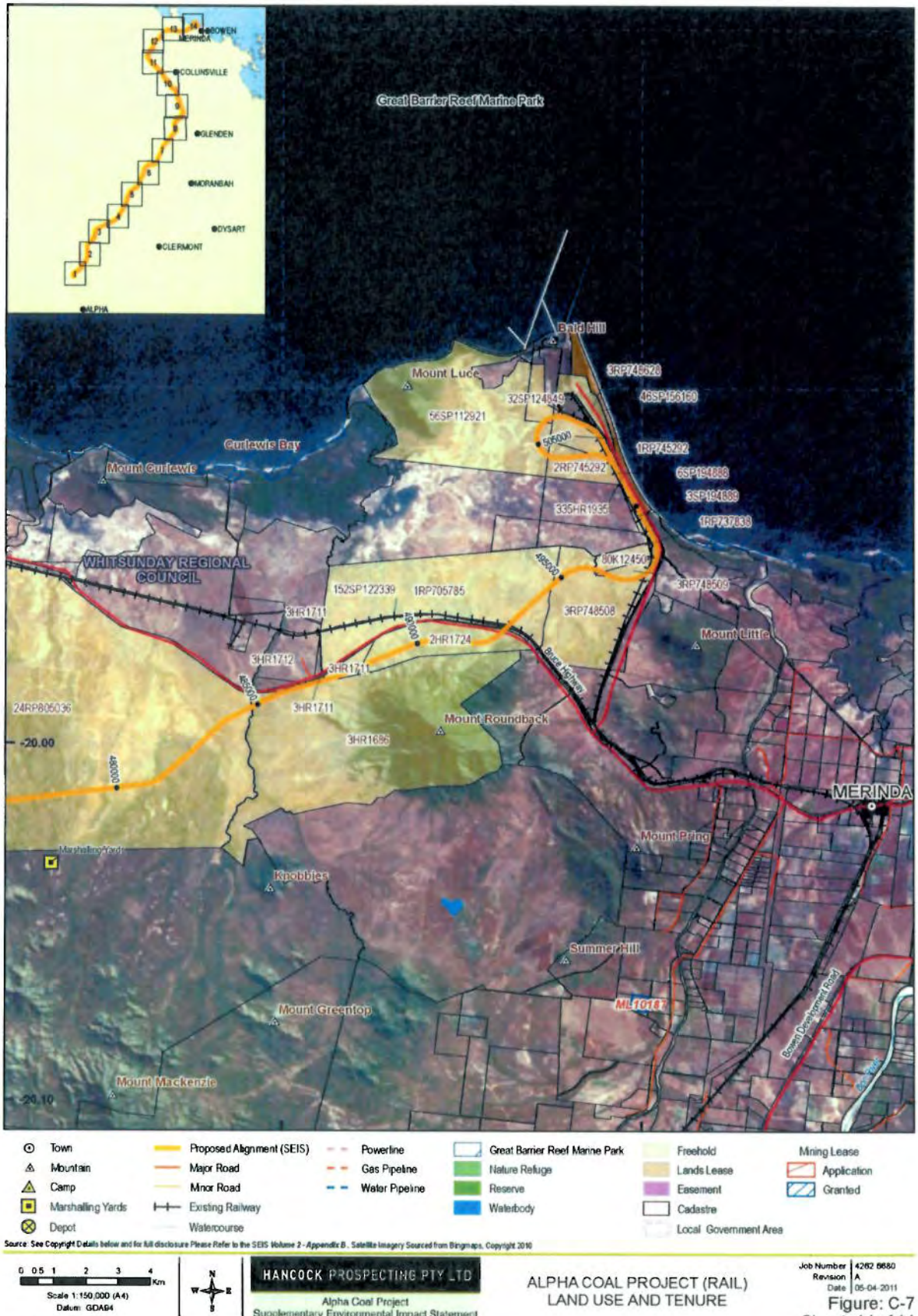
Map 12 – Rail alignment



Map 13 – Rail alignment



Map 14 – Rail alignment



Map 15 – Rail alignment