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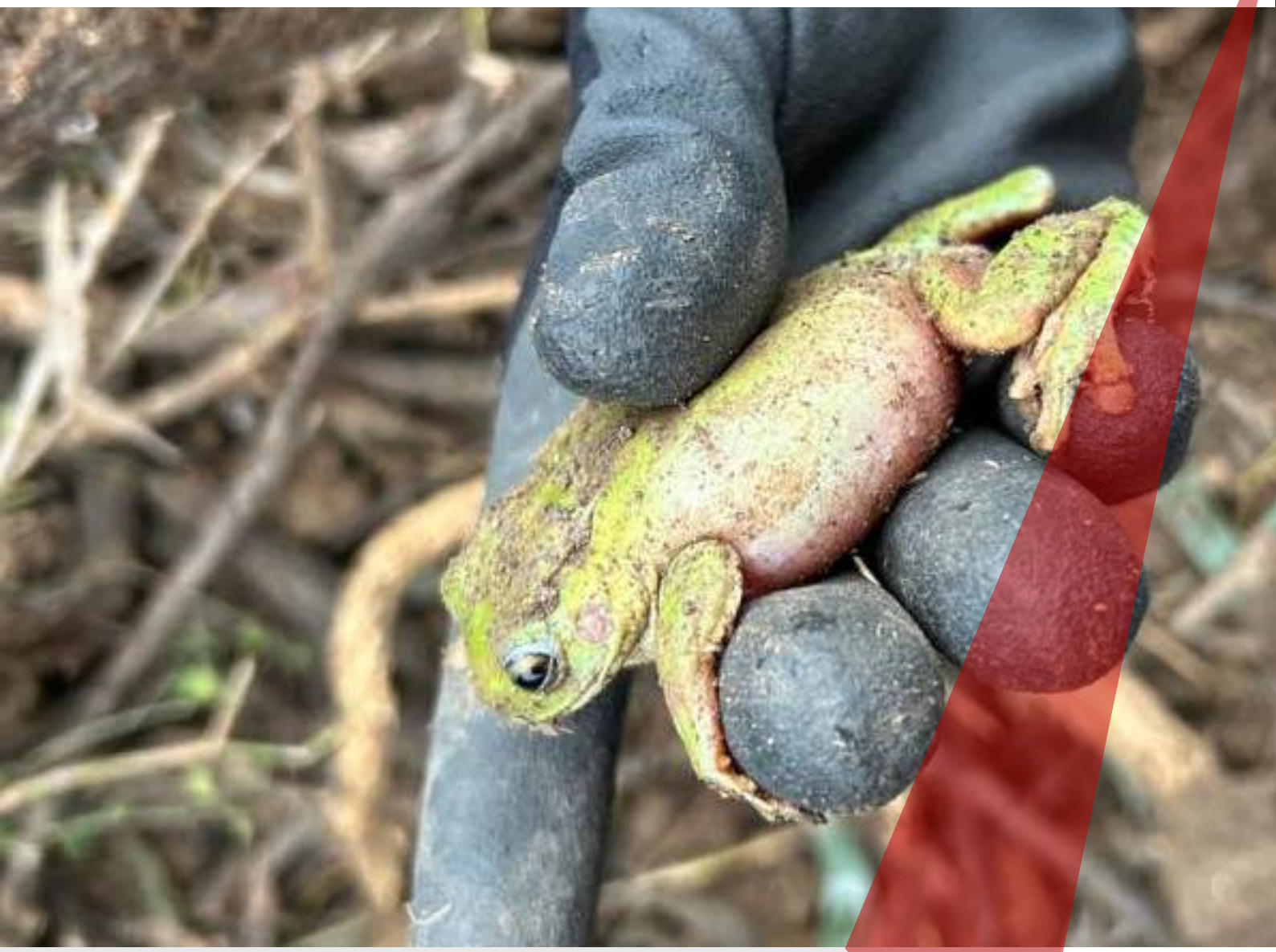

Fauna Spotter Catcher Vegetation Clearing Report – Caval Ridge

Prepared for:
Black Cat Civil

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project scope

Ausecology was engaged by Black Cat Civil to provide Fauna Spotter Catcher (FSC) services for vegetation clearing activities associated with pit extension at Peak Downs Mine located approximately 20km south-east of Moranbah, Queensland. The total clearance footprint was made up of a single small area located near Ramp 40 (See Appendix A). Preclear surveys were initially conducted on the 16th of June across the entire area. Vegetation clearing occurred from the 16th to 18th of June, for a total of three days. The FSC was present on site for the entire duration of clearing works to reduce potential impacts on wildlife and/or habitat.

2 Methodology

Ausecology has extensive experience with a wide variety of fauna species obtained during fauna surveys, fauna spotter catcher work and long-term fauna monitoring works.

2.1 Equipment

Ausecology staff are trained in fauna handling techniques and were provided with the following equipment:

- Snake hook and hoop bag
- Three-pronged rake for raking through leaf litter and small woody debris
- Jimmy bar for rolling small logs, rocks and peeling bark off trees
- Calico bags, plastic container and cages for appropriate capture of animal and transfer to release site or veterinarian/fauna rehabilitation carer
- GPS unit
- All required PPE

2.2 Qualifications, permits and licences

For a person/s to undertake the duties associated with being a FSC, they must be suitably qualified and experienced for the task and have the appropriate permits/licences in place from the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI). The FSC work was conducted under the relevant licences held by Ausecology as listed in *Table 2-1*.

Table 2-1 Relevant licences held by Ausecology

Title	Licence Number	Expiry Date
Animal Ethics Committee	CA 2025/01/1924	12/03/2029
Damage Mitigation Permit	WA0053702	17/08/2026
Rehabilitation Permit	WA0046797	16/10/2025
Scientific Purposes Permit	WA0027791	05/11/2025
Scientific Use Registration Certificate	SUR000483	13/03/2029

In addition, staff working as an FSC have the appropriate vaccinations (e.g. Australian bat Lyssavirus) where required.

2.3 Inspection and spotter-catching methods

The fauna spotter catcher activities undertaken included:

- Inspecting vegetation and habitat prior to clearing
- Raking leaf litter for small reptiles
- Inspecting under logs and other objects
- Inspecting stockpiles of soil and/or vegetation
- Capture of fauna and relocation of fauna to suitable habitat
- Euthanasia of pest species or fauna suffering from unrecoverable injuries when required
- Debarking trees for small reptiles

Preceding vegetation clearing and immediately prior to the commencement of vegetation clearing, a visual inspection and search for fauna and their breeding habitat was undertaken and any potential habitat was marked.

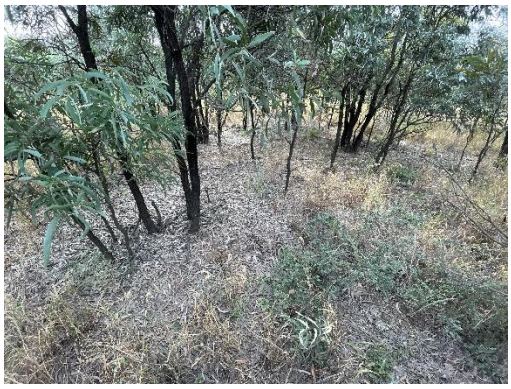
During clearing works, any fauna encountered were, where possible, captured and relocated to suitable adjoining habitat as soon as practicable. Pest fauna or critically injured animals beyond the potential for practical rehabilitation were promptly euthanised to alleviate suffering as per the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*.

3 Results

3.1 Pre-clearance summary

The clearance footprint of the area was dominated by non-native grass and weed species with scattered stands of immature brigalow (*Acacia harpophylla*). The only habitat features recorded were patches of leaf litter under denser clusters of brigalow, but other than this, no significant habitat features were present.

Table 3-1 Habitat features present and management actions to mitigate impacts

Habitat feature	Potential fauna and associated use	Proximity to clearance footprint	Management Actions	Photos
Leaf litter	Small reptiles	Within footprint	Raking and searching for fauna	

3.2 Post-clearance summary

During post-clearance works, the total clearance footprint underwent soil levelling (Figure 3-1).

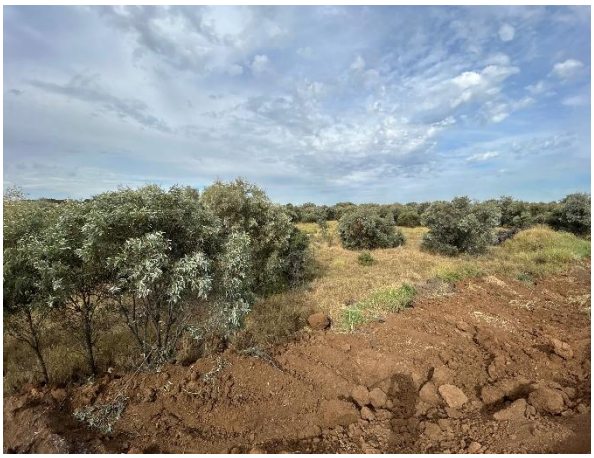
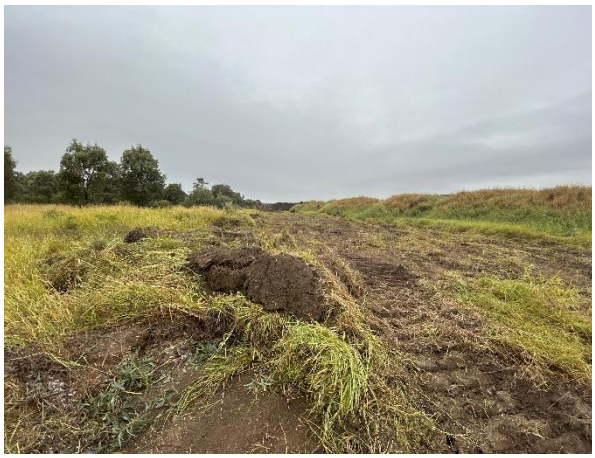



Figure 3-1 Landscape post-clearance

Six species of fauna were encountered, with a total of twelve individual animal interactions (Table 3-2). Of these, two animals were captured and released out of the clearing area, five were humanely euthanised, and five were found dead. Captures of species are displayed in Figure 3-2 to Figure 3-5 Green tree snake (Dendrelaphis punctulatus). Appendix B presents a map of each encounter, the details of which are recorded in Appendix C.

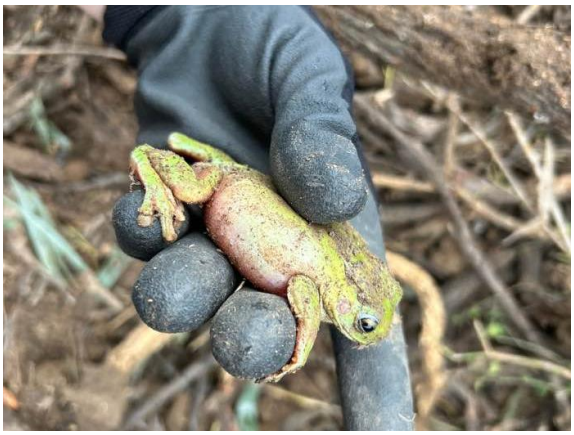


Figure 3-2 Common green treefrog (Litoria caerulea)

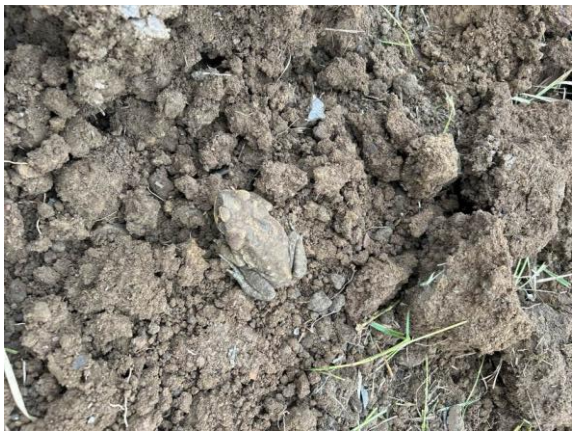


Figure 3-3 Cane toad (Rhinella marina)

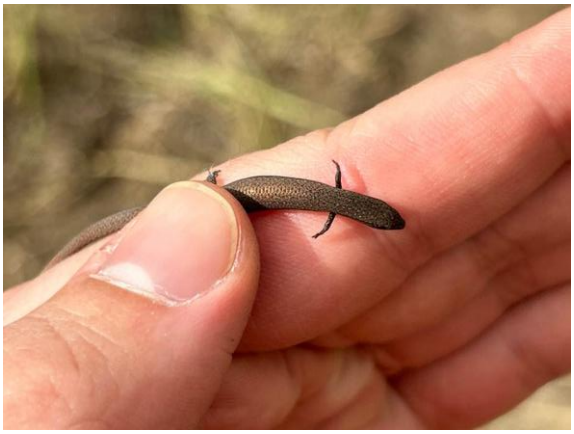


Figure 3-4 Tree-base litter skink (Lygisaurus foliorum)

Figure 3-5 Green tree snake (Dendrelaphis punctulatus)

Table 3-2 Summary of fauna encounters across clearance footprint

Scientific Name	Common Name	NC Act Status	Total Encountered
Dendrelaphis punctulatus	Green tree snake	C	2
Limnodynastes salmini	Salmon striped frog	C	1
Litoria caerulea	Common green treefrog	C	1
Lygisaurus foliorum	Tree-base litter skink	C	1
Pseudonaja textilis	Eastern brown snake	C	1
Rhinella marina	Cane toad	*	6
Total			**12**

NC ACT Status: [CE] – Critically endangered, [E] – Endangered, [V] – Vulnerable, [NT] – Near threatened, [C] – Least concern species
Introduced species [*]

Appendix A – Pre-clearance Habitat Mapping

Habitat Feature - Leaf Litter

Study Area

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Appendix-A

Pre Clearance - Habitat Features

Survey Period - 16th -18th of June

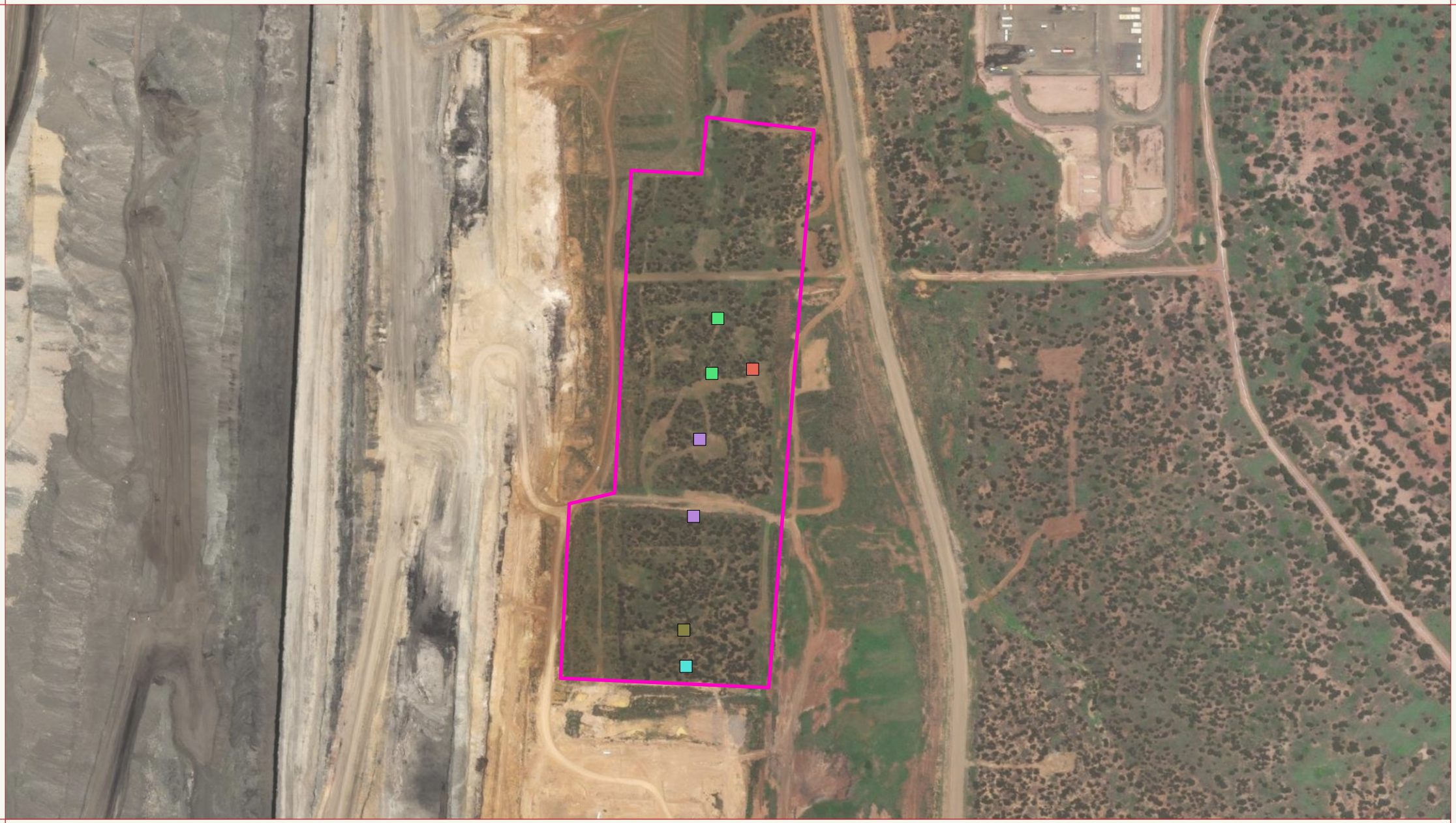
N

0 100 200

Meters

GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

Appendix B – Fauna Encounters Mapping



Capture Locations

- *Dendrelaphis punctulatus* - green tree snake
- *Litoria caerulea* - common green treefrog
- *Lygisaurus foliorum* - tree-base litter-skink
- *Pseudonaja textilis* - eastern brown snake
- *Rhinella marina* - cane toad
- Study Area

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Appendix-B

Capture Locations

Survey Period - 16th -18th of June

N

0 100 200

Meters

GDA2020 MGA Zone 55

Appendix C – Fauna Capture Data

Encounter Type	Encounter Date	Encounter Location		Scientific name	Common name	NC Act Status*	Count	Release Date	Release Location		Outcome**				
		Latitude	Longitude						Latitude	Longitude	R	R2	D	E	S
Found Dead	16-06-2025	-22.10804749	148.0623415	*Dendrelaphis punctulatus*	green tree snake	C	1	16-06-2025					X		
Found Dead	16-06-2025	-22.10931836	148.0622352	*Pseudonaja textilis*	eastern brown snake	C	1	16-06-2025					X		
Captured	16-06-2025	-22.10644928	148.062549	*Rhinella marina*	cane toad	-	1	16-06-2025						X	
Found Dead	17-06-2025	-22.10718705	148.0624094	*Dendrelaphis punctulatus*	green tree snake	C	1	17-06-2025					X		
Captured	17-06-2025	-22.10972312	148.0622643	*Litoria caerulea*	common green treefrog	C	1	17-06-2025	-22.11781099	148.07618268	X				
Captured	17-06-2025	-22.10583496	148.062616	*Rhinella marina*	cane toad	-	2	17-06-2025						X	
Captured	17-06-2025	-22.05453988	148.0690458	*Rhinella marina*	cane toad	-	1	17-06-2025						X	
Found Dead	18-06-2025	-22.0389122	148.070307	*Limnodynastes salmini*	salmon striped frog	C	1	18-06-2025					X		
Captured	18-06-2025	-22.10639954	148.063037	*Lygisaurus foliorum*	tree-base litter skink	C	1	18-06-2025	-22.10136708	148.06841634	X				
Found Dead	18-06-2025	-22.03550694	148.0703061	*Rhinella marina*	cane toad	-	1	18-06-2025					X		
Captured	18-06-2025	-22.03543002	148.0703036	*Rhinella marina*	cane toad	-	1	18-06-2025						X	

** NC ACT - Nature Conservation Act 1992; CE – Critically Endangered, E – Endangered, V – Vulnerable, NT – Near Threatened, C – Least Concern*

*** D = Found dead, E = Euthanised, R = Released with no further action, R1= Taken to local vet, S = Self relocated.*