

To whom it may concern

My name is Allan Goody and my wife and our two young children own and operate a cattle grazing property in the Monto area of central Queensland. We purchased this family property late last year and are planning to continue grazing cattle on this land.

I am writing this submission to voice our concerns about the proposed changes to the vegetation laws in Queensland. Our property for the last 10 years or more has always had a percentage of remnant vegetation on it and was coloured in to reflect that on the vegetation map. (I will attach a previous map) We have never had a problem with this because we believe that this was appropriate and we never intended to develop this part of the property or any of the waterways and we agree it should be left as it is. The rest of the property over the years had been semi cleared to improved grazing productivity and control regrowth.

However under the new proposed changes to the vegetation maps we have had an additional 60% of our property deemed remnant vegetation and has been coloured in on the proposed maps. (new proposed map attached) This will have a dramatic impact on our future if it were to go ahead, it will limit our development and also stop us from controlling regrowth which in turn will decrease our carrying capacity of cattle and therefore make us unsustainable. The country that is subject to the proposed changes has always been managed by controlling regrowth therefore making it productive.

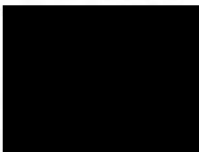
We are firm believers of locking away some remnant vegetation and all waterways for the protection of native wildlife and sediment control, and we are more than happy to have our fair share of this responsibility. We would like to see a more fair and balanced system put in place like the original mapping of our property, this would allow us to be able to move forward in our business and stay profitable and productive. All the while we would have a share of the responsibility of maintaining waterways and protecting that percentage of remnant vegetation.

Every time the vegetation management laws are changed in Queensland it damages the confidence in the agriculture sector and it has affected many families and small business by way of income and emotional stress. What we are asking for is for you to find some common ground between political parties so we can all move on. If these laws are introduced in their current form and then we have another change of government they will be revisited and changed again, all the while costing the state large amounts of money to change legislation.

We hope that you will consider all options on the table and think about how to make a fair and workable system that includes all points of view. Our future and the future of our children depend on this.

Regards

Allan Goody



24-4-16



Vegetation management report

Current as at 23/04/2016

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Overview

The management and clearing of native vegetation in Queensland is regulated by the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, the *Vegetation Management Regulation 2009*, the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* and the *Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009* in conjunction with associated policies and codes. These legislation, policies and codes are referred to as the Vegetation Management Framework.

Many routine vegetation management activities can be carried out under exemptions or self-assessable codes under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*. Other activities may require you to apply for a development approval under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. The requirements for a permit depend on the type of vegetation, the land tenure (e.g. freehold or leasehold land), the location, and the extent and purpose of the proposed clearing. In urban areas, vegetation may be regulated by local government provisions even if it is not regulated vegetation under the VMA.

The information in this report will assist you to determine the options for managing vegetation on your property. Based on the lot on plan you have supplied, this report provides the following detailed information:

1. *Property region* - the local government area, bioregion(s), subregion(s), catchment(s) and any applicable area management plans associated with your property.
2. *Vegetation management framework* - an explanation of the options that may be available to manage vegetation on your property.
3. *Property details for the specified Lot on Plan* - specific information about your property including land tenure, vegetation categories, regional ecosystems, watercourses, wetlands, essential habitat, land suitability and protected plants.
4. *Maps* - a series of colour maps to assist in identifying regulated vegetation on your property including:
 - regulated vegetation management map
 - vegetation management map
 - proposed regulated vegetation management map
 - proposed vegetation management map
 - land suitability map
 - protected plants map.

Please note, the Government has proposed changes to the Category C and Category R areas which are shown on the proposed regulated vegetation management map. For more information on these changes, please refer to the Department's [website](#).

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1. Property regions

Table 1 provides a summary of the regions that property [REDACTED] is located within.

Table 1: Property regions

Local Government(s)
North Burnett Regional

Bioregion(s)	Subregion(s)
Brigalow Belt	Banana - Auburn Ranges

Catchment(s)
Burnett
Fitzroy

Area Management Plan(s)
Necessary environmental clearing in the Burnett and Kolan catchments

2. Vegetation management framework

Vegetation clearing is regulated under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VMA) and the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* (SPA). A development approval is required to clear where the clearing is not exempt under the SPA, or where it cannot be carried out under a self-assessable clearing code or an area management plan under the VMA.

The VMA does not apply to all land tenures or vegetation types. State forests, national parks, forest reserves and some tenure types as defined under the *Forestry Act 1959* and *Nature Conservation Act 1992* are not regulated by the VMA. Managing vegetation not regulated under the VMA may require permits under these laws.

The following native vegetation is not regulated under the VMA but may require permit(s) under other laws:

- a) grass or non-woody herbage;
- b) a plant within a grassland regional ecosystem; and
- c) a mangrove.

The regulated vegetation management map, the vegetation management map, the land suitability map and the protected plants map provided in section 4 and the information provided in section 2 and 3 of this report will assist you in identifying clearing suitability and enable you to determine whether your proposed clearing is:

- exempt;
- requires notification and compliance with a self-assessable code or area management plan; or
- requires a development approval.

2.1 Exemptions

The vegetation management framework allows clearing for certain purposes without approval, known as an exemption.

Areas that are mapped as Category X (white in colour) on the regulated vegetation management map (section 5.1) on most State land tenures are exempt and therefore do not require a development approval or notification.

There are other exemptions that apply to a range of routine property management activities. A list of these is available at <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/vegetation/exemptions/>.

Although vegetation management laws may allow clearing under an exemption, there may be other state, local or Commonwealth laws that apply. Exemptions may not apply if the vegetation is subject to permit conditions, a covenant, an offset or restrictions as a result of unlawful clearing.

2.2 Self-assessable codes

Some clearing activities can be undertaken using a self-assessable vegetation clearing code and notification process. The codes can be downloaded at

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/vegetation/codes/>

If you intend to clear vegetation under a self-assessable vegetation clearing code, you must notify the department before commencing. The information in this report will assist you to complete the online notification form.

You can complete the online form at

<https://apps.dnrm.qld.gov.au/vegetation/>

2.3 Area management plans

Area Management Plans (AMP) provide an alternative approval system for vegetation clearing. They list the purposes and clearing conditions that have been approved for the areas covered by the plan. It is not necessary to use an AMP, even when an AMP applies to your property.

If an area management plan applies to your property, it will be listed in Table 1 of this report.

To clear under an existing AMP, you must notify the DNRM before clearing starts and follow the conditions listed in the AMP. You can download the area management clearing notification form and obtain a copy of the relevant AMP at

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/vegetation/area-plans/>

2.4 Development approvals

If your proposed clearing is not exempt, or is not permitted under a self-assessable vegetation clearing code, or an AMP, you may be able to apply for a development approval. Information on how to apply for a development approval is available at

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/vegetation/applying/>

3. Property details for [REDACTED]

3.1 Tenure

All of the lot, plan and tenure information associated with property [REDACTED], including links to relevant Smart Maps, are listed in Table 2. The tenure of the property (whether it is freehold, leasehold, or other) may be viewed by clicking on the Smart Map link(s) provided.

Table 2: Lot, plan and tenure information for the property

Tenure	Lot	Plan	Link to property on SmartMap
[REDACTED]			

The tenure of the land determines whether certain exemptions are applicable.

Some self-assessable codes apply only to freehold and leasehold land granted for grazing and agricultural purposes.

3.2 Vegetation categories

Please note, the Government has proposed changes to the Category C and Category R areas which are shown on the proposed regulated vegetation management map. For more information on these changes, please refer to the Department's [website](#).

Vegetation categories are shown on the regulated vegetation management map in section 5.1 of this report. Descriptions for these categories are shown in Table 3.

Table 3

Category	Colour on Map	Description	Requirements
A	red	Compliance areas, environmental offset areas and voluntary declaration areas	Clearing requires a development approval, exemption, or self-assessable clearing code or area management plan notification.
B	dark blue	Remnant vegetation areas	Clearing requires a development approval, exemption, or self-assessable clearing code or area management plan notification.
C	light blue	High-value regrowth areas	Clearing requires exemption, or self-assessable clearing code or area management plan notification.
R	yellow	Regrowth within 50m of a watercourse in the priority reef catchment areas	Clearing requires exemption, or self-assessable clearing code or area management plan notification.
X	white	Areas not regulated under the <i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>	No permit or notification required on all but certain state land tenures.

The vegetation categories on this property are listed in Table 4.

Table 4: Vegetation categories for subject property

Vegetation category
Category X
Category B

3.3 Regional ecosystems

The endangered, of concern and least concern regional ecosystems on your property are shown on the vegetation management supporting map in section 5.2 and are listed in Table 5.

A description of regional ecosystems can be accessed online at

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/ecosystems/descriptions/>

Table 5: Regional ecosystems present on subject property

Regulated vegetation description	Regional ecosystem patch
rem_leastc	11.8.4/11.3.25
rem_leastc	11.8.4
rem_oc	11.12.6/11.12.1/11.3.4/11.12.4
rem_oc	11.10.1/11.10.7/11.3.4/11.11.10/11.10.8
rem_leastc	11.12.2/11.3.25
rem_oc	11.12.1/11.3.4

rem_leastc	is vegetation category A or B with a VMA status of least concern
rem_oc	is vegetation category A or B with a VMA status of concern
rem_end	is vegetation category A or B with a VMA status of endangered
hvr_leastc	is vegetation category C or R with a VMA status of least concern
hvr_oc	is vegetation category C or R with a VMA status of concern
hvr_end	is vegetation category C or R with a VMA status of endangered

The VMA status of the regional ecosystem (whether it is endangered, of concern or least concern) also determines if any of the following are applicable:

- exemptions
- performance outcomes in State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP)
- self-assessable codes.

Some clearing purposes are limited to a particular group of regional ecosystems (e.g. encroachment) and some self-assessable codes allow clearing only in certain regional ecosystems.

3.4 Watercourses

Vegetation management watercourses for this property are shown on the vegetation management supporting map in section 5.2.

3.5 Wetlands

There are no vegetation management wetlands present on this property.

3.6 Essential habitat

Any essential habitat on this property will be shown on the vegetation management supporting map in section 5.2.

Essential habitat identifies areas in which species of wildlife that are endangered, vulnerable, rare or near threatened under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* have been known to occur. These important habitat areas are protected under the VMA.

If essential habitat is identified on this property, the information about the protected wildlife species is provided in Table 6 below (if no table is displayed below, there has not been any essential habitat identified on this property). The species label is shown on the vegetation management supporting map in section 5.2. The essential habitat factors are stated in the columns marked with an asterisk.

Table 6: Endangered, vulnerable, rare or near threatened wildlife species identified within the property (if no table is shown below, there is no essential habitat identified on the property)

Additional essential habitat information

3.7 Land suitability

Land suitability mapping and information is required if you are applying to clear vegetation for high value or irrigated high value agriculture. Land suitability assessment addresses the capacity of land to sustain specific land uses such as cropping, irrigated agriculture and forestry.

A land suitability map for this property is provided in section 5.3. The map provides detailed land suitability, agricultural land classification, or soil and land resource mapping data where it is available.

The land suitability project that applies to this property is shown in Table 7 and Table 8.

Table 7: Land suitability project details for this property

Project name	Project code	Start date	Scale
Lands of the Dawson-Fitzroy Area	ZDD3	2003-02-03 00:00:00	500000
North Burnett Land Resource Survey (ABN)	ABN	1991-01-01 00:00:00	250000

Table 8: Available land suitability project reports for this property

Project name	Availability of report
Lands of the Dawson-Fitzroy Area	CSIRO report. Available at www.publications.qld.gov.au
North Burnett Land Resource Survey (ABN)	Available at www.publications.qld.gov.au

3.8 Protected plants

In Queensland, all plants that are native to Australia are protected plants under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. The Act endeavours to ensure that protected plants (whole plants or protected plant parts) are not illegally removed from the wild or illegally traded.

Prior to clearing, you must check the flora survey trigger map to determine if the clearing is within a high risk area. The trigger map for this property is provided in section 5.4.

If your property is in a high risk area, a flora survey must be undertaken and a clearing permit may be required for clearing endangered, vulnerable and near threatened plants (EVNT plants) and their supporting habitat.

If a flora survey identifies that EVNT plants are not present or can be avoided by 100m, the clearing activity may be exempt from a permit. An exempt clearing notification form is required. This form can be downloaded at

<http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/licences-permits/plants-animals/protected-plants/>

In an area other than a high risk area, a clearing permit is only required where a person is, or becomes aware that EVNT plants are present.

Clearing of least concern plants is exempt from requiring a clearing permit within a low risk area.

To be eligible for certain clearing exemptions you need to keep a copy of the map for the area subject to clearing. Protected plants flora survey trigger maps are valid for a period of 12 months from the date of request. After 12 months you will need to obtain a new protected plants flora survey trigger map to determine clearing requirements for your area of interest. This can be accessed online at

<http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/licences-permits/plants-animals/protected-plants/map-request.php>

For further information or assistance on the protected plants flora survey trigger map for this property, please contact the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection at

palm@ehp.qld.gov.au

3.9 Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF)

The ERF is an Australian Government scheme which offers incentives for businesses and communities across the economy to reduce emissions.

Under the ERF, farmers can earn money from activities such as planting (and keeping) trees, managing regrowth vegetation and adopting more sustainable agricultural practices.

The purpose of a project is to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Each project will provide new economic opportunities for farmers, forest growers and land managers.

Further information on ERF is available at <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/state/use/carbon-rights/>

4. Contacts for further information

For further information on vegetation management:

Phone 135VEG (135 834)

Email vegetation@dnrm.qld.gov.au

Visit www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/our-department/contact-us/vegetation-contacts to submit an online enquiry.

5. Maps

The maps included in this report may also be requested individually at:

<https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/qld/environment/land/vegetation/vegetation-map-request-form>

and

<http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/licences-permits/plants-animals/protected-plants/map-request.php>

Regulated vegetation management map

The regulated vegetation management map shows vegetation categories to determine clearing requirements. These maps are updated monthly to show new property maps of assessable vegetation

Vegetation management supporting map

The vegetation management supporting map provides information on regional ecosystems, wetlands, watercourses and essential habitat.

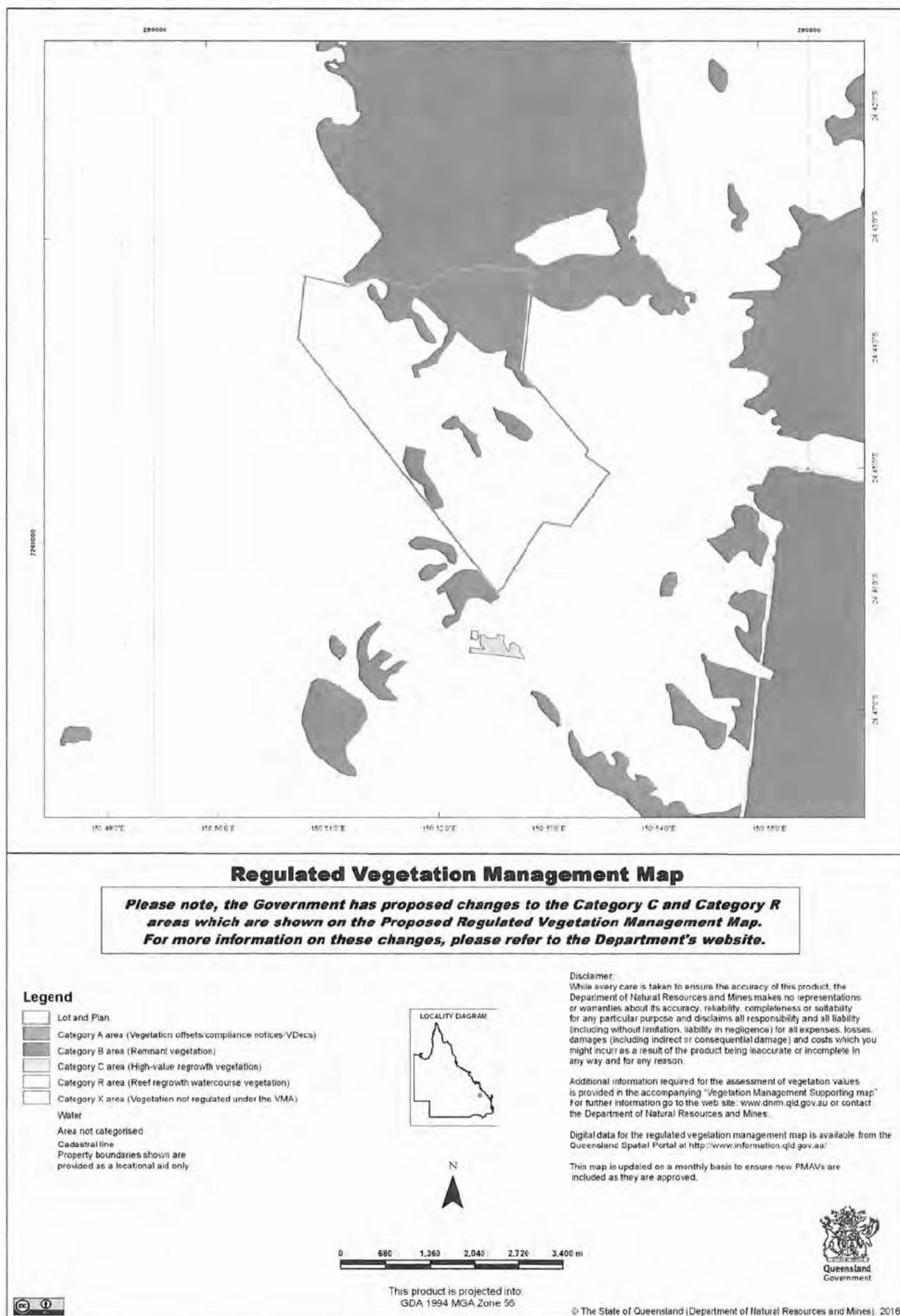
Land suitability map

The land suitability map assists with identifying the land suitability category under the high value and irrigated high value agriculture vegetation clearing purpose.

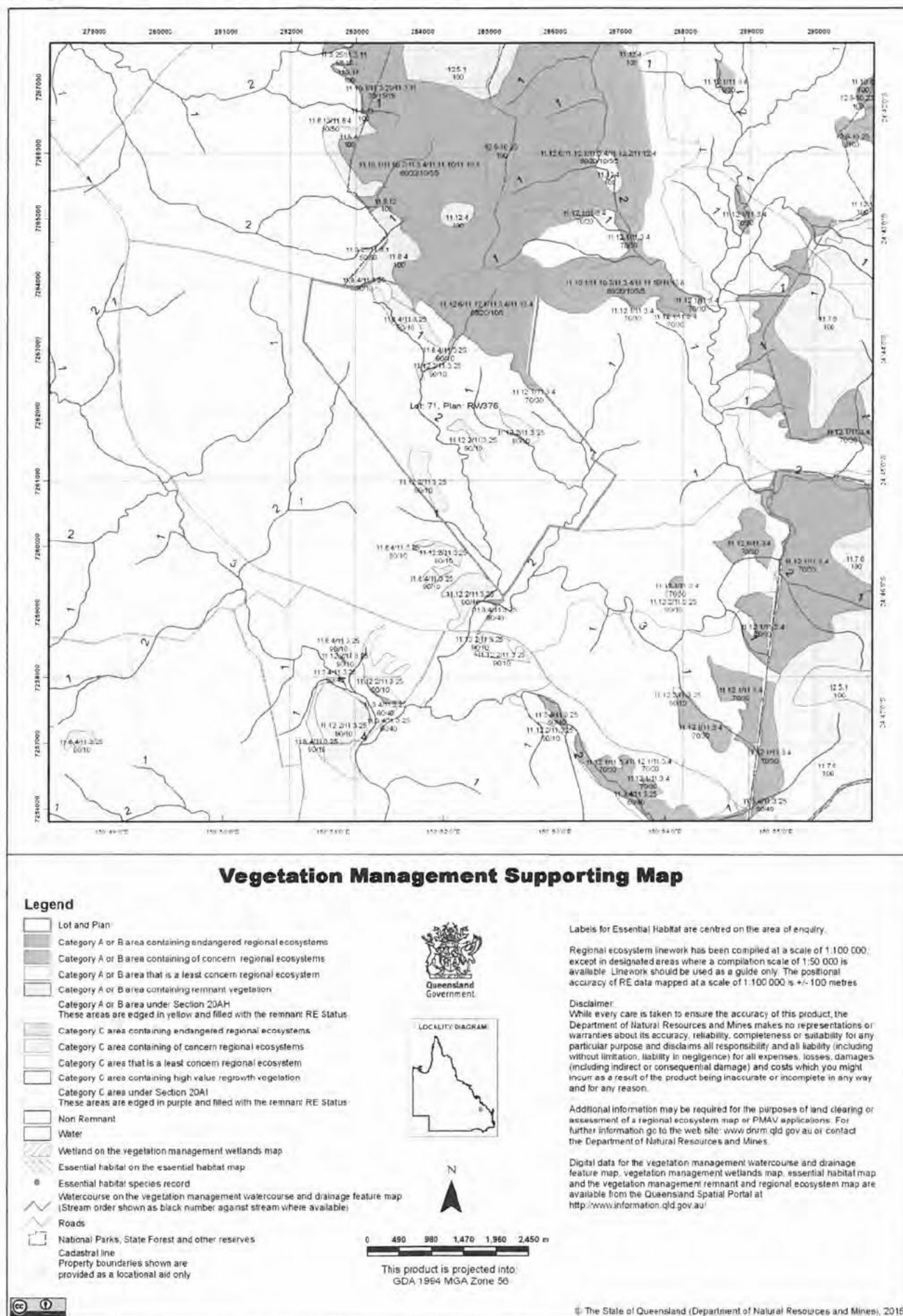
Protected plants map

The protected plants map shows areas where particular provisions of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* apply to the clearing of protected plants.

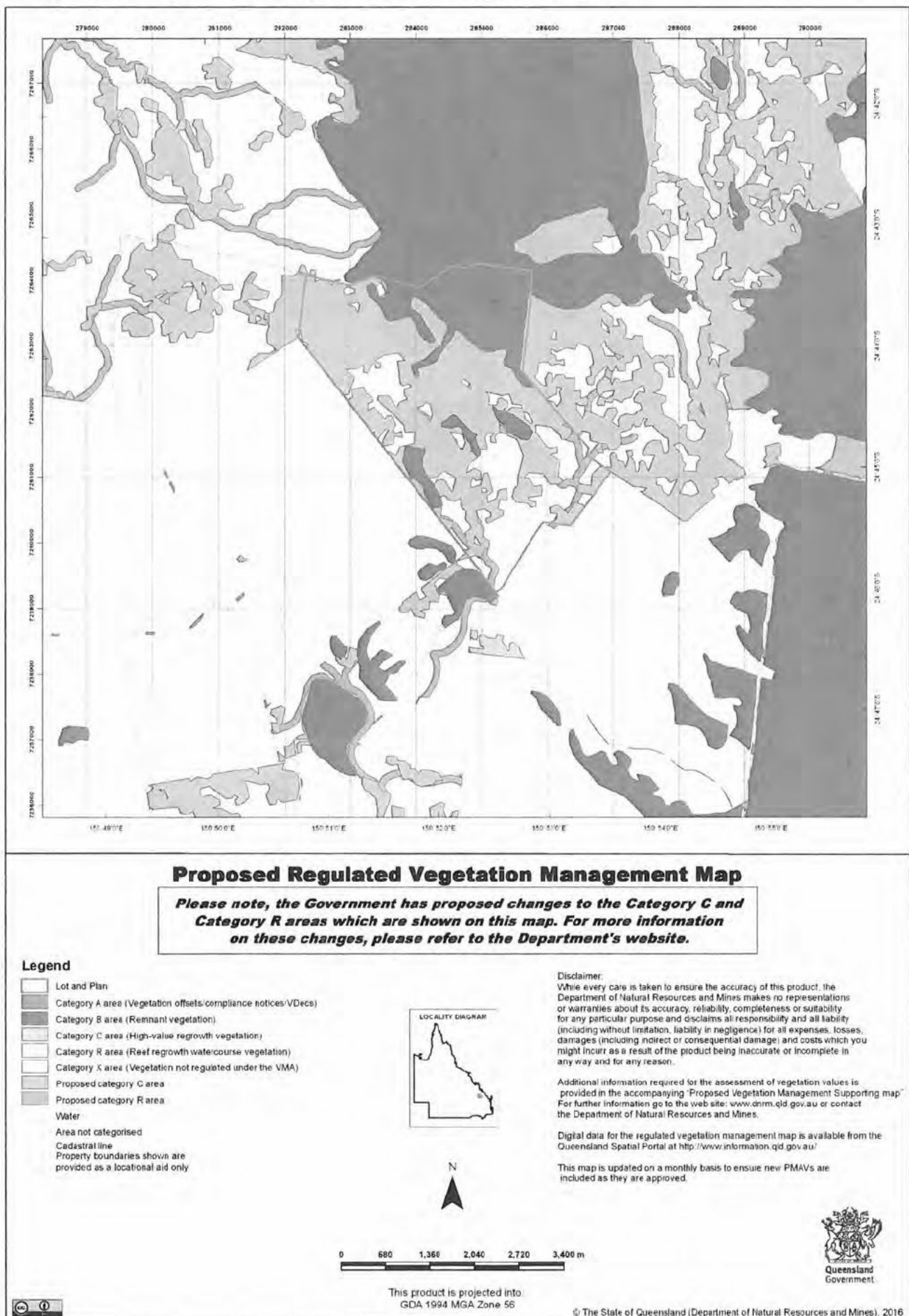
5.1 Regulated vegetation management map



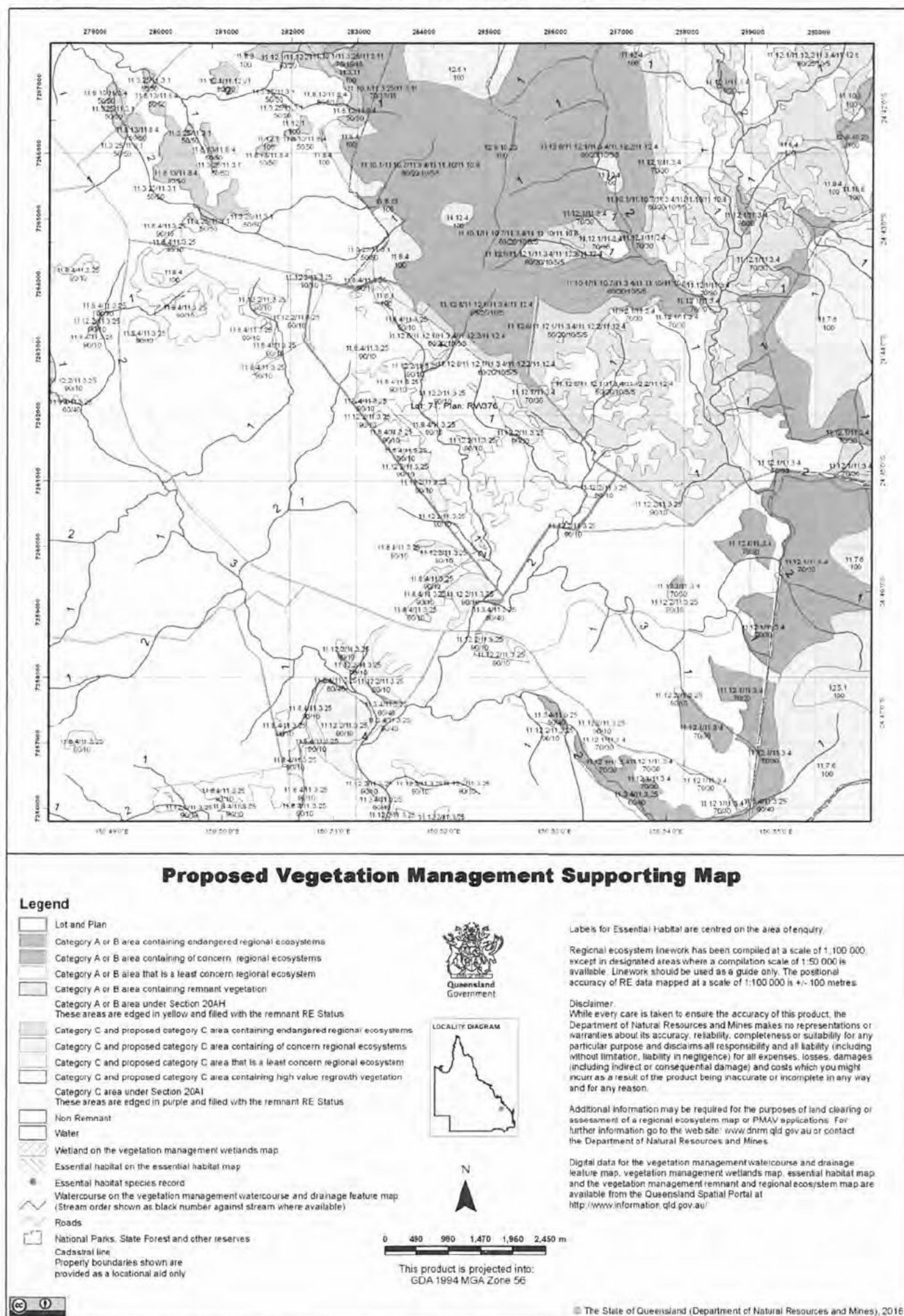
5.2 Vegetation management supporting map



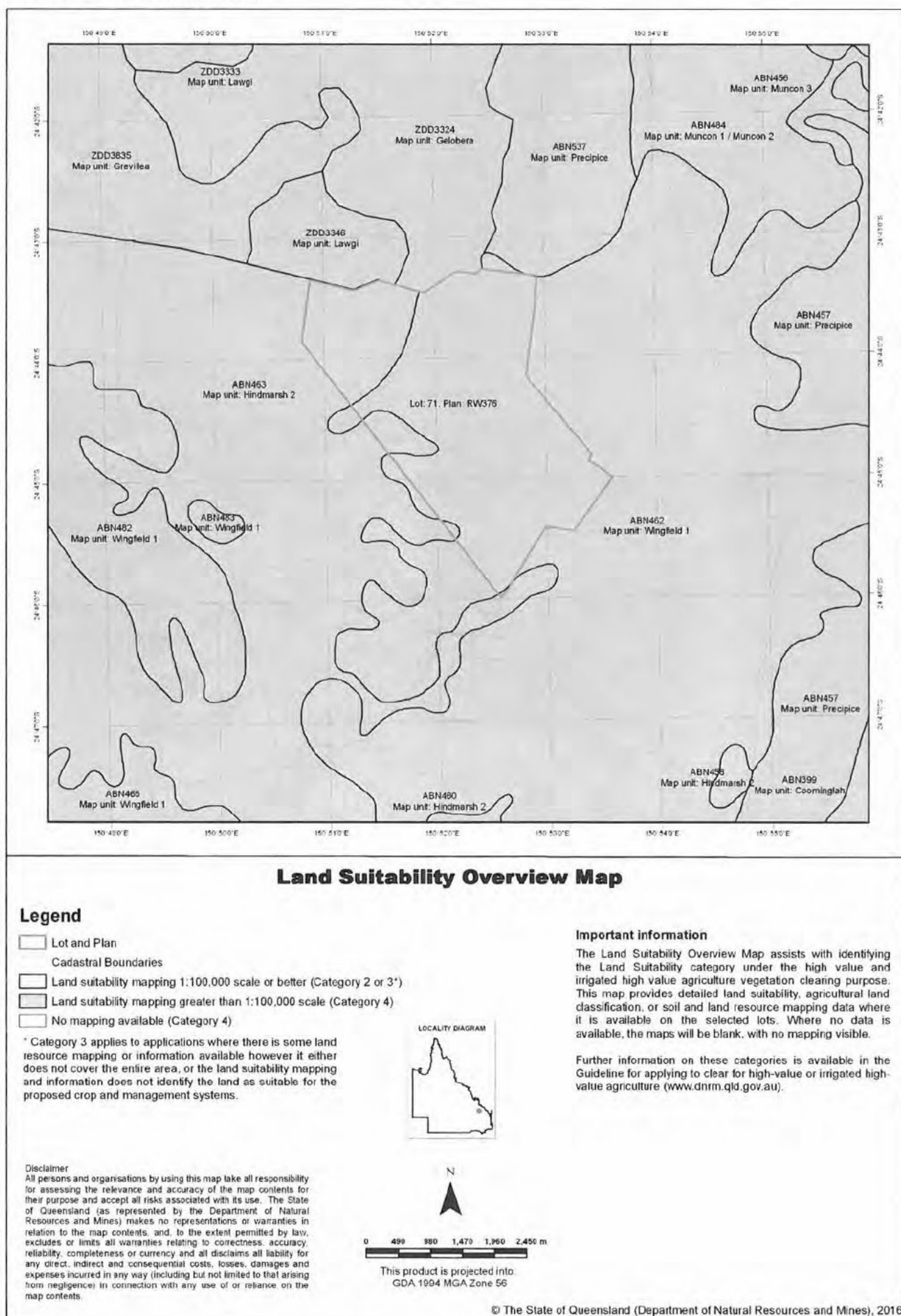
5.3 Proposed regulated vegetation management map



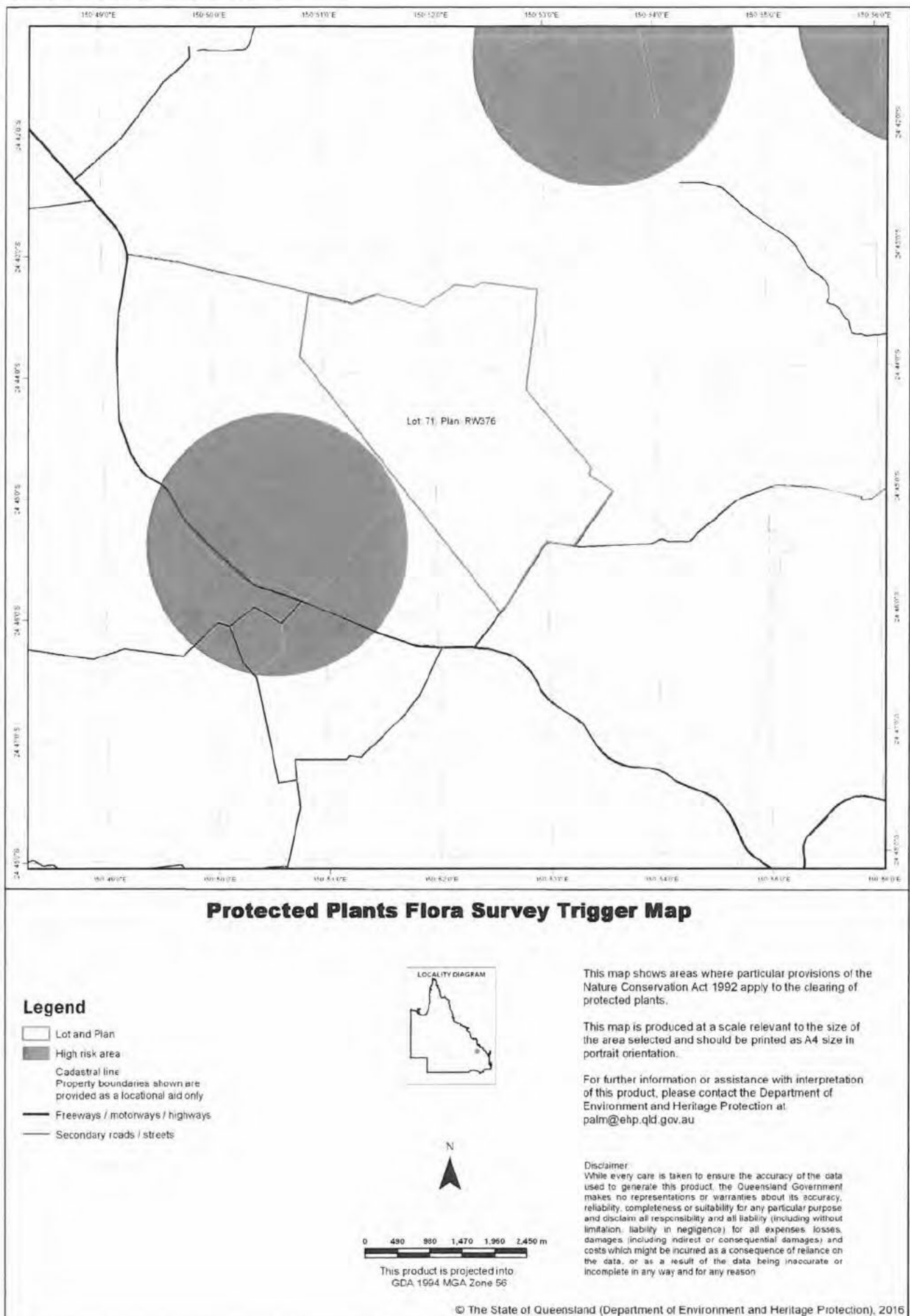
5.4 Proposed vegetation management supporting map

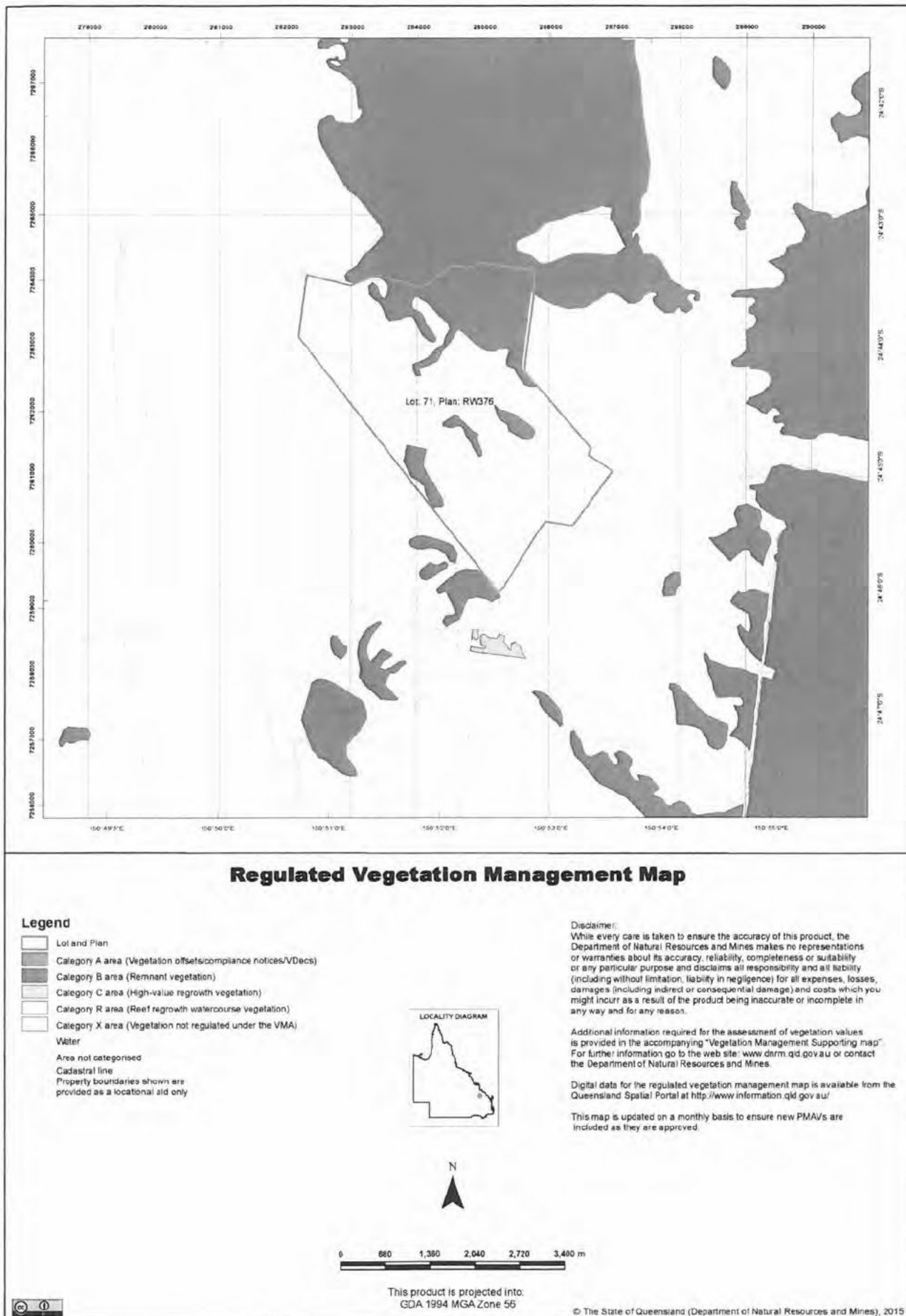


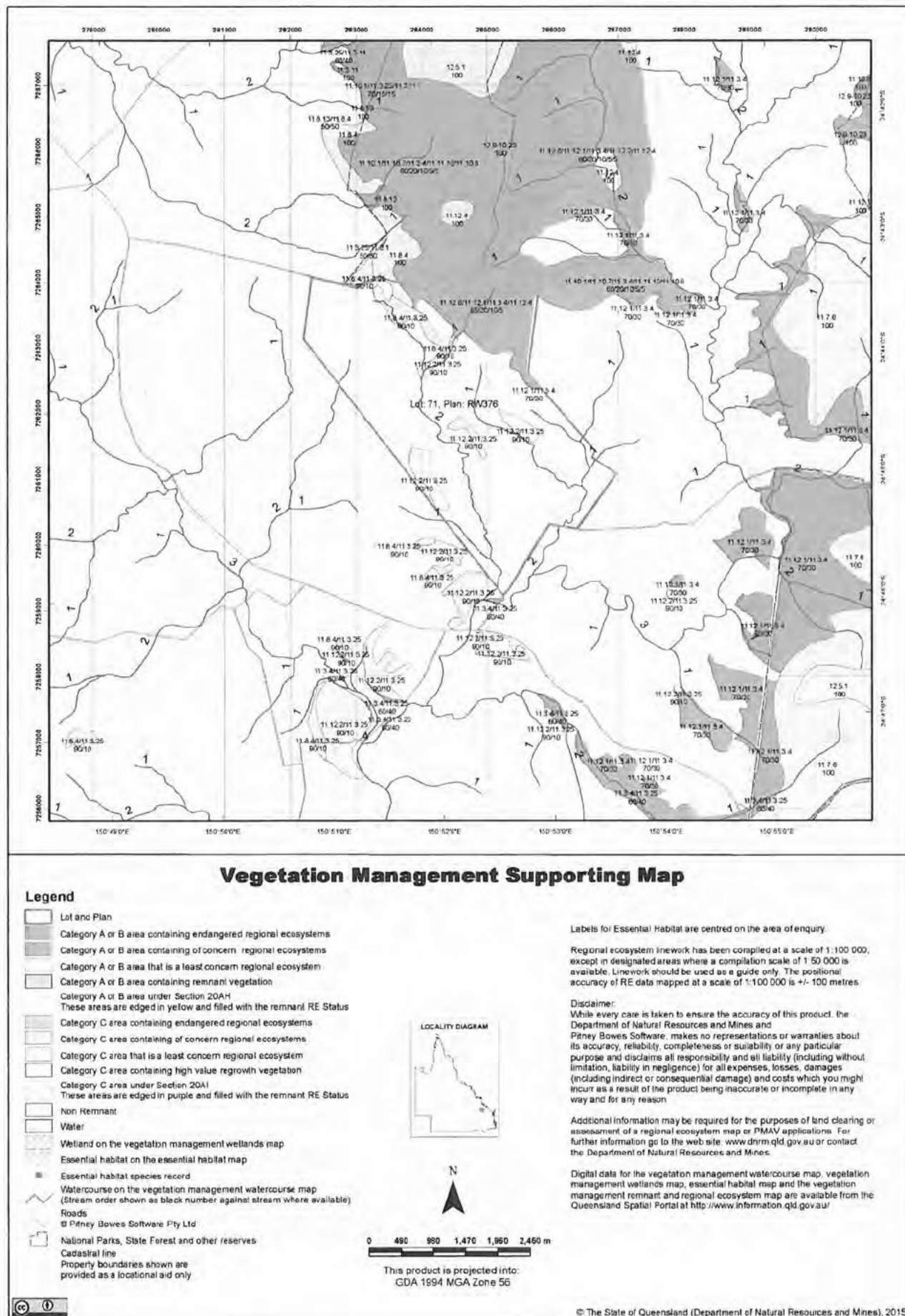
5.5 Land suitability map



5.6 Protected plants map







Vegetation Management Act 1999 - Extract from the essential habitat database

Essential habitat is required for assessment under the:

- State Development Assessment Provisions - Module 8: Native vegetation clearing which sets out the matters of interest to the state for development assessment under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*; and
- Self-assessable vegetation clearing codes made under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Essential habitat for one or more of the following species is found on and within 1.1 km of the identified subject lot/s or on and within 2.2 km of an identified coordinate on the accompanying essential habitat map.

This report identifies essential habitat in Category A, B and Category C areas.

The numeric labels on the essential habitat map can be cross referenced with the database below to determine which essential habitat factors might exist for a particular species.

Essential habitat is compiled from a combination of species habitat models and buffered species records.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines website (<http://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au>) has more information on how the layer is applied under the State Development Assessment Provisions - Module 8: Native vegetation clearing and the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

Regional ecosystem is a mandatory essential habitat factor, unless otherwise stated.

Essential habitat, for protected wildlife, means a category A area, a category B area or category C area shown on the regulated vegetation management map:-

- 1) (a) that has at least 3 essential habitat factors for the protected wildlife that must include any essential habitat factors that are stated as mandatory for the protected wildlife in the essential habitat database; or
- 2) (b) in which the protected wildlife, at any stage of its life cycle, is located.

Essential habitat identifies endangered or vulnerable native wildlife prescribed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1994*.

Essential habitat in Category A and B (Remnant vegetation species record) areas:1100m Species Information

(no results)

Essential habitat in Category A and B (Remnant vegetation species record) areas:1100m Regional Ecosystems Information

(no results)

Essential habitat in Category A and B (Remnant vegetation) areas:1100m Species Information

(no results)

Essential habitat in Category A and B (Remnant vegetation) areas:1100m Regional Ecosystems Information

(no results)

Essential habitat in Category C (High value regrowth vegetation) areas:1100m Species Information

(no results)

Essential habitat in Category C (High value regrowth vegetation) areas:1100m Regional Ecosystems Information

(no results)