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Anketell Road Upgrade (Leath Road to Kwinana Freeway)

Request to vary Proposed Action
under Section 156B of the EPBC Act
(2024/09841)



Enquiries: [REDACTED]
Our Ref: D25#489468
Your Ref: Assessment No. 2024/09841

16 May 2025

[REDACTED]
Director South WA Assessments
Environment Assessments West
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
John Gorton Building King Edward Terrace
Parkes ACT 2600

Dear [REDACTED]

Anketell Road Upgrade (Leath Road to Kwinana Freeway), Request to vary Proposed Action under Section 156B of the EPBC Act (2024/09841)

In March 2024, Main Roads Western Australia (Main Roads) referred the Anketell Road Upgrade (Proposed Action) to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) for assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

On 22 August 2024, a delegate of the Federal Minister for the Environment determined that the Proposed Action was a controlled action pursuant to the EPBC Act, to be assessed by Preliminary Documentation. The relevant Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) were listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 and 18A).

On 22 September 2024, DCCEEW requested additional information to support the Preliminary Documentation. Main Roads has undertaken and commissioned further environmental studies to support this request and prepare the Preliminary Documentation.

Main Roads seeks to amend the development envelope for the Proposed Action (Proposed Action Area (PAA)). Accordingly, Main Roads submits this variation request under s.156A of the EPBC Act. Details of the variation to the Proposed Action are provided below to satisfy Regulation s.95A(2) of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000 (Cth).

Main Roads has submitted a consistent request to the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority to vary the Proposal under s.43A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. The request to amend the referred proposal (Development Envelope) during assessment was approved by the EPA on 7 May 2025.

Reasons for the proposed variation

The reason for the proposed amendment to the PAA include improved integration with adjacent existing and proposed infrastructure, incorporation of additional design elements, incorporation of stakeholder engagement and the avoidance of environmental values.

The proposed amendments to the DE will result in the following beneficial outcomes;

- improved integration with existing and proposed infrastructure, at Risely Road, Weston Street and the Kwinana Motorplex.
- Incorporation of additional design elements to allow for additional drainage basins along the length of the Proposal.
- the alignment has been shifted southwards in proximity to the Alcoa facility following feedback from Alcoa.
- the design to the southwest of the Anketell Road and Rockingham Road intersection was altered to avoid and minimise environmental impacts.

The overall amendment to the DE results in a net reduction in environmental impacts.

Proposed Action variation

The referral described the PAA as comprising a total area of 221.09 hectares (ha), including clearing or disturbance of up to 96.20 ha of native vegetation and 47.98 ha of non-native vegetation. This request varies the total area to 224.83 ha, including clearing or disturbance of up to 92.22 ha of native vegetation and 50.35 ha of non-native vegetation.

Figure 1 shows the March 2024 referral PAA overlayed with the amended PAA.

Impacts of the proposed variation on MNES compared with referred proposal

The referral considered the Proposed Action likely to have a significant impact on MNES, specifically:

- Tuart woodlands and forests of the Swan Coastal Plain threatened ecological community (TEC)
- Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC
- Carnaby's Cockatoo
- Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (FRTBC)

The proposed variation to the PAA will result in reduced impact extents for Tuart woodlands and forests of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC and Black Cockatoo foraging habitat. It is acknowledged the proposed variation to the PAA will result in a minor increase in impact to the Banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC.

The referral noted the PAA also potentially contained Honeymyrtle shrubland on limestone ridges of the Swan Coastal Plain Bioregion TEC. The extent of this potential vegetation community is unchanged by the proposed variation to the PAA. Main Roads continues to engage with DCCEEW regarding the occurrence of the Honeymyrtle shrubland on limestone ridges of the Swan Coastal Plain Bioregion TEC within the PAA.

A summary of impact change to MNES associated with the proposed variation compared to the referral is provided in Table 1. Figures 2 to 6 show the proposed variation to the PAA impact extents.

The proposed variation to the PAA will not result in any impacts to additional MNES, nor has the magnitude of the impacts changed significantly.

Table 2: Impact change to MNES associated with the proposed variation

Element	Referral	Proposed variation	Change
Total Development Envelope (ha)	221.09	224.83	1.7 % increase
Tuart (<i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i>) woodlands and forests of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC (ha)	41.65	40.99	1.6 % decrease
Banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC (ha)	14.26	14.56	2.1 % increase
Carnaby's Cockatoo foraging habitat (ha)	57.86	56.98	1.5 % decrease
FRTBC foraging habitat (ha)	38.79	38.34	1.2 % decrease
Black Cockatoo suitable DBH trees	608	592	2.6 % decrease
Black Cockatoo suitable DBH trees that contain hollows considered potentially suitable for Black Cockatoo breeding	18 trees containing 25 hollows	8 trees containing 8 hollows	55.6 % decrease in trees 68 % decrease in hollows

Alternatives, mitigation measures and offsets

The reduction in impacts represent an improved environmental outcome for the Proposal. The Preliminary Documentation will detail alternatives and mitigation measures for the Proposal to avoid and/or reduce environmental impacts.

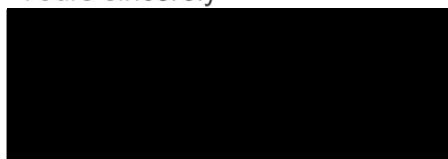
Where the varied Proposed Action has a significant impact to MNES that cannot be avoided and/or mitigated, offsets will be provided, and an offset strategy will be submitted with the Preliminary Documentation.

Summary

The proposed variation to the PAA will result in reduced impact on Tuart woodlands and forests of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC and Black Cockatoo foraging habitat, including Black Cockatoo suitable DBH trees with and without hollows. Main Roads acknowledges the proposed variation to the PAA will result in a minor increase in impact to the Banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC however the 2.1% (0.3ha) increase is not considered significant.

The variation to the Proposed Action being sought by Main Roads provides a good environmental outcome and demonstrates Main Roads commitment to minimising its impact on the environment. Main Roads will continue to identify and assess opportunities to further reduce its impact on the environment throughout the life of the project.

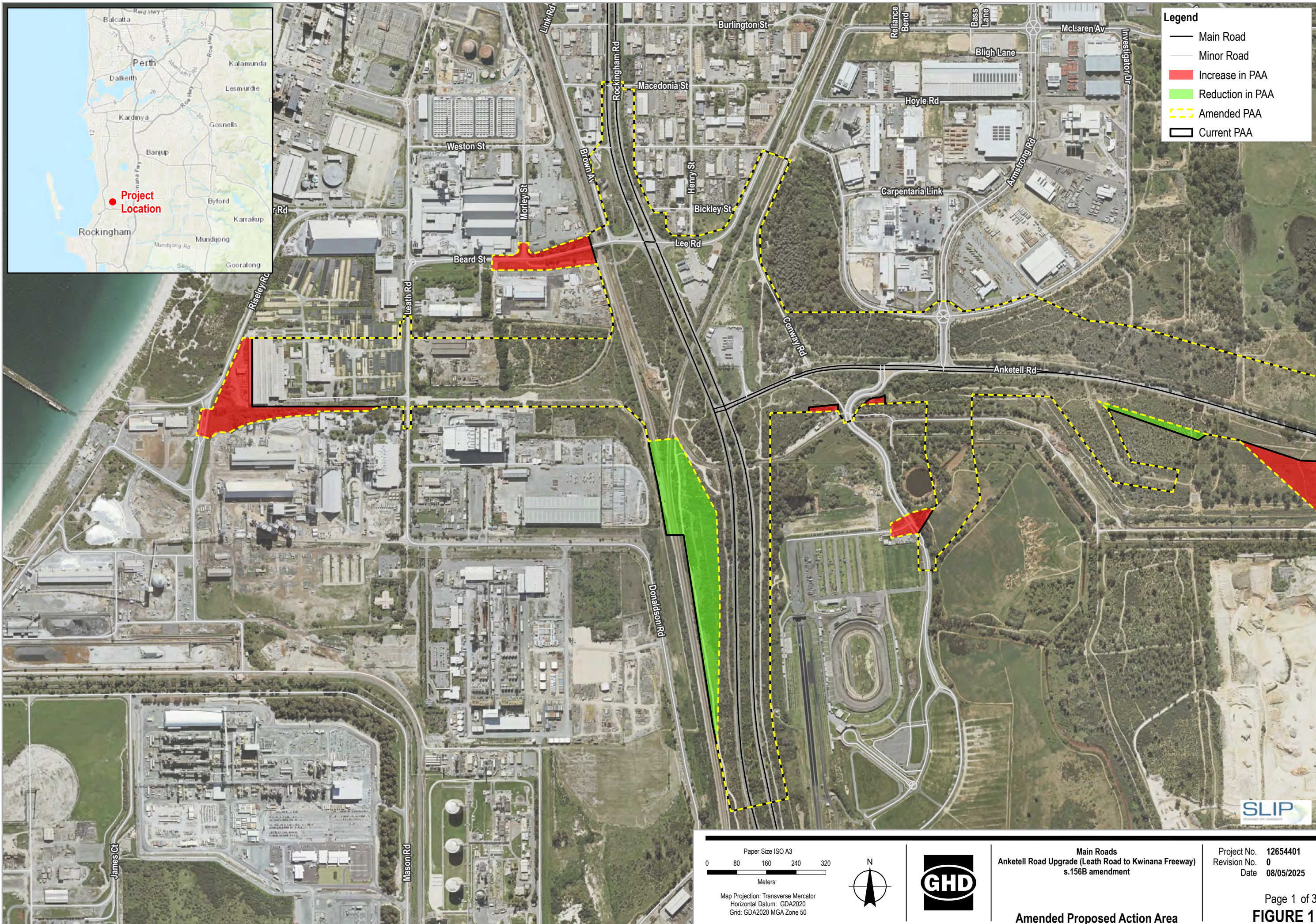
Yours sincerely

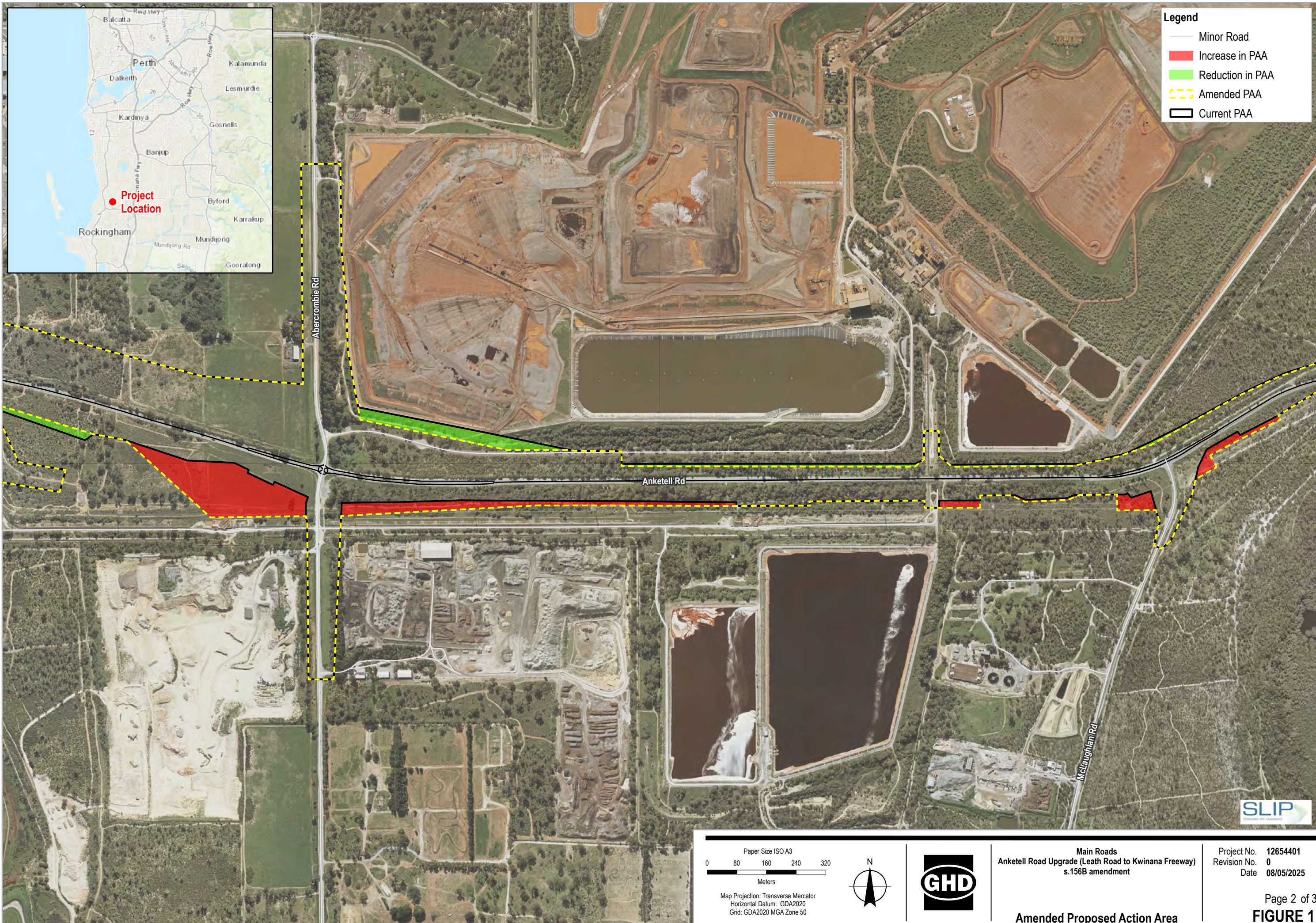


Director Environment and Heritage

Enc:

- Figure 1: Amended Proposed Action Area
- Figure 2: Impact of Amended PAA - Tuart woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC
- Figure 3: Impact of Amended PAA - Banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC
- Figure 4: Impact of Amended PAA - Carnaby's Cockatoo Foraging Habitat
- Figure 5: Impact of Amended PAA - Forest Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo Foraging Habitat
- Figure 6: Impact of Amended PAA - Suitable DBH Habitat Trees
- Attachment 1 – Revised PAA shapefile

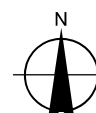




- Legend**
- Minor Road
 - Increase in PAA
 - Reduction in PAA
 - Amended PAA
 - Current PAA

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Grid: GDA2020 MGA Zone 50

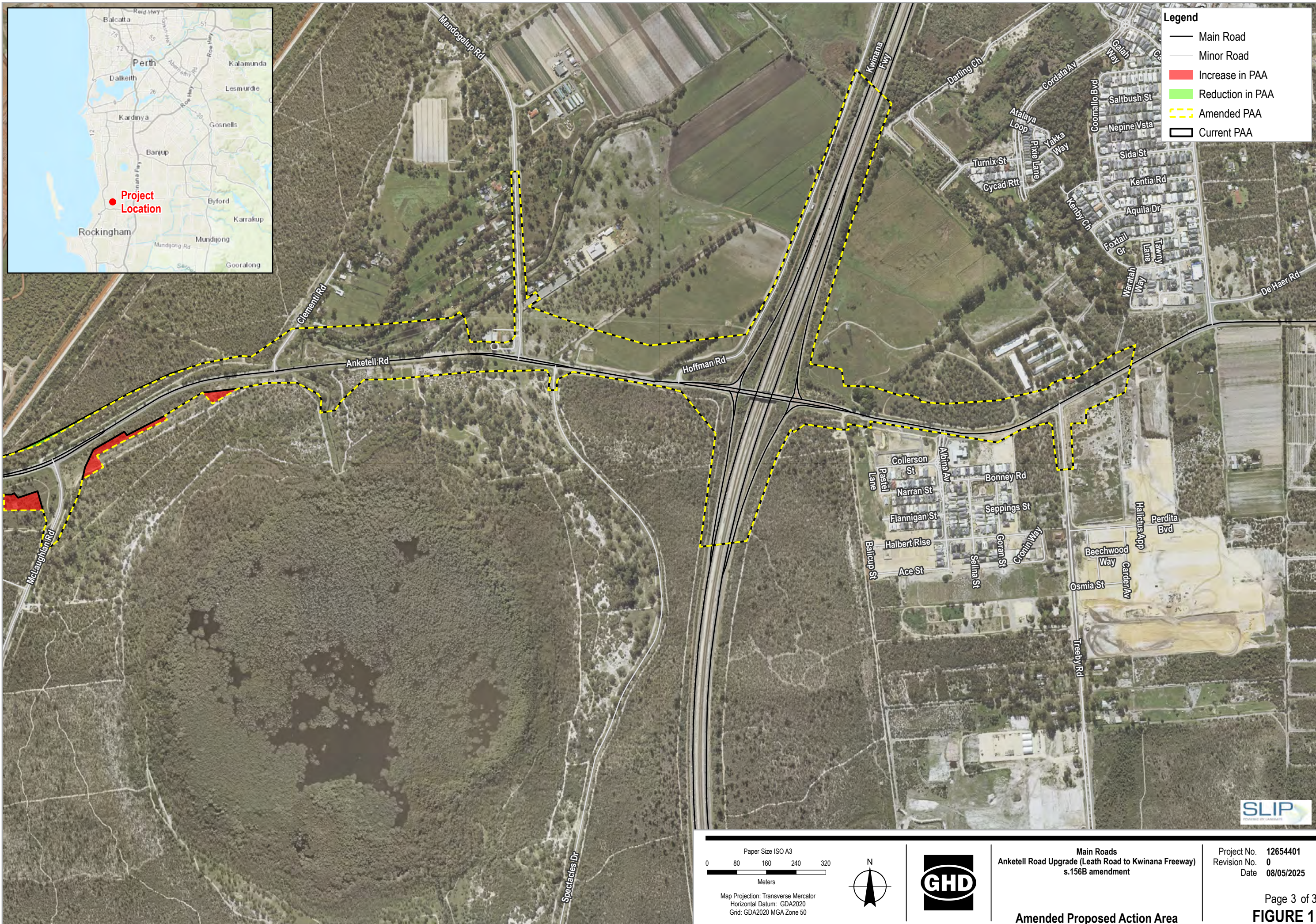


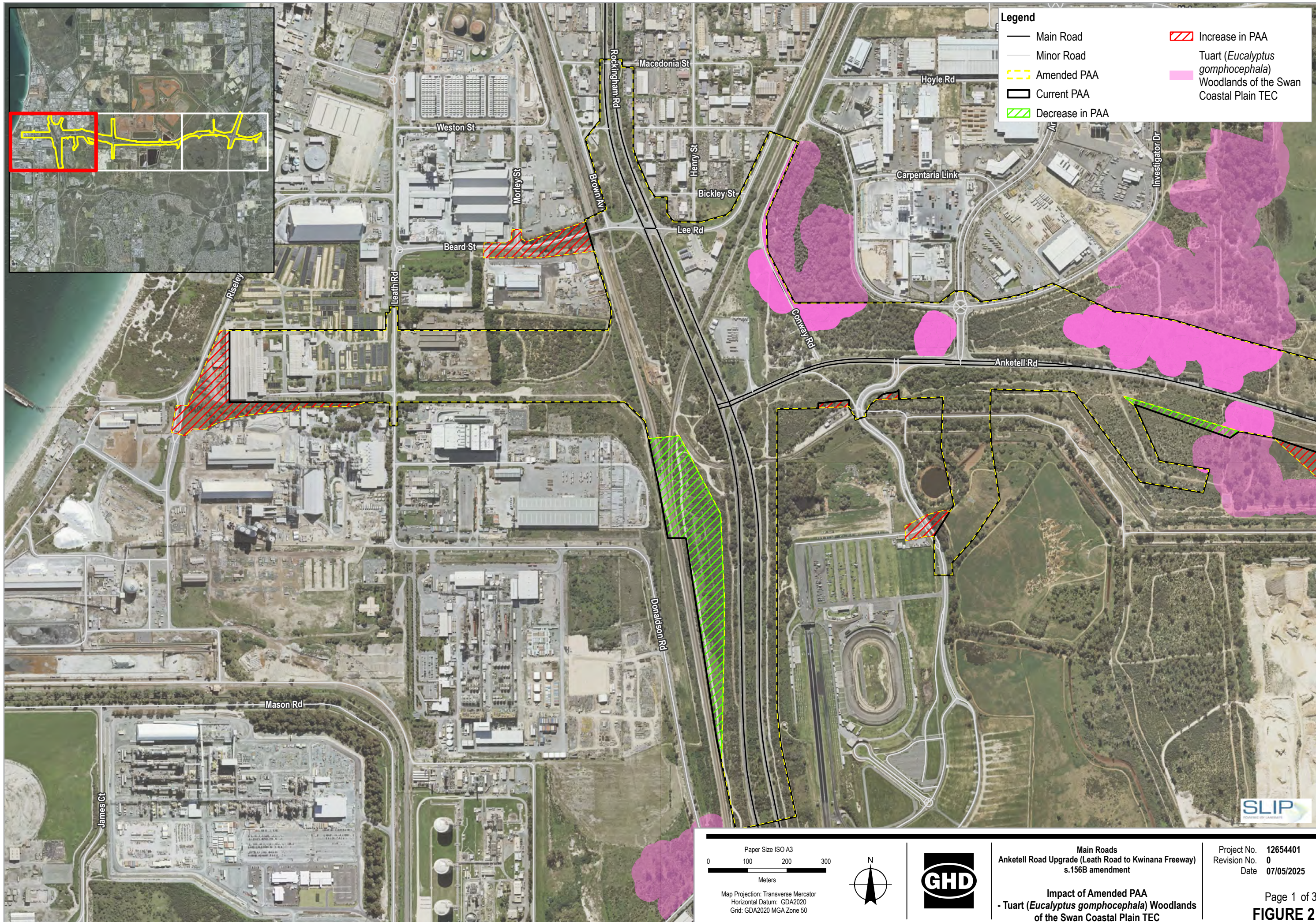
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s.156B amendment

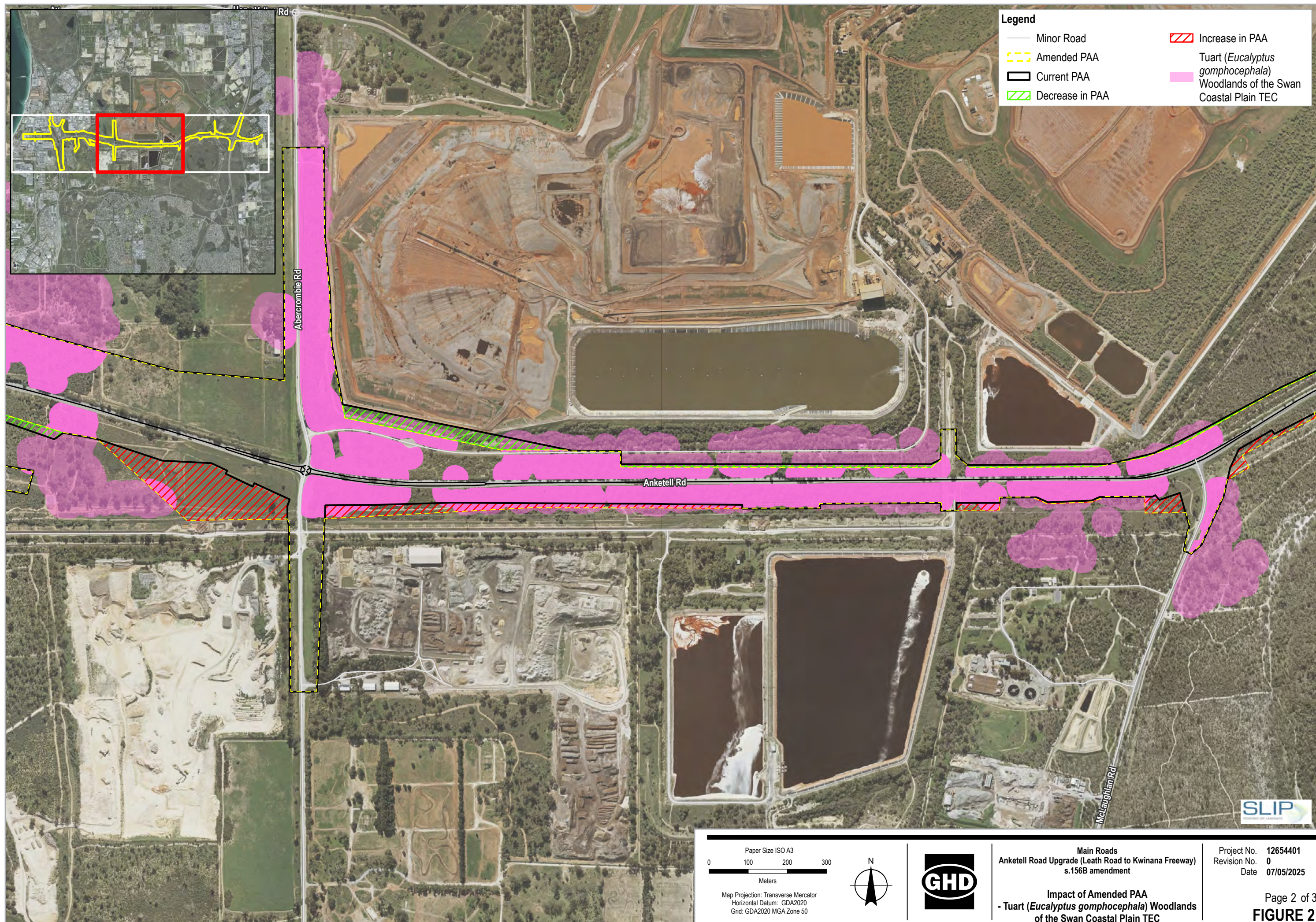
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Revision No. 0
Date 08/05/2025

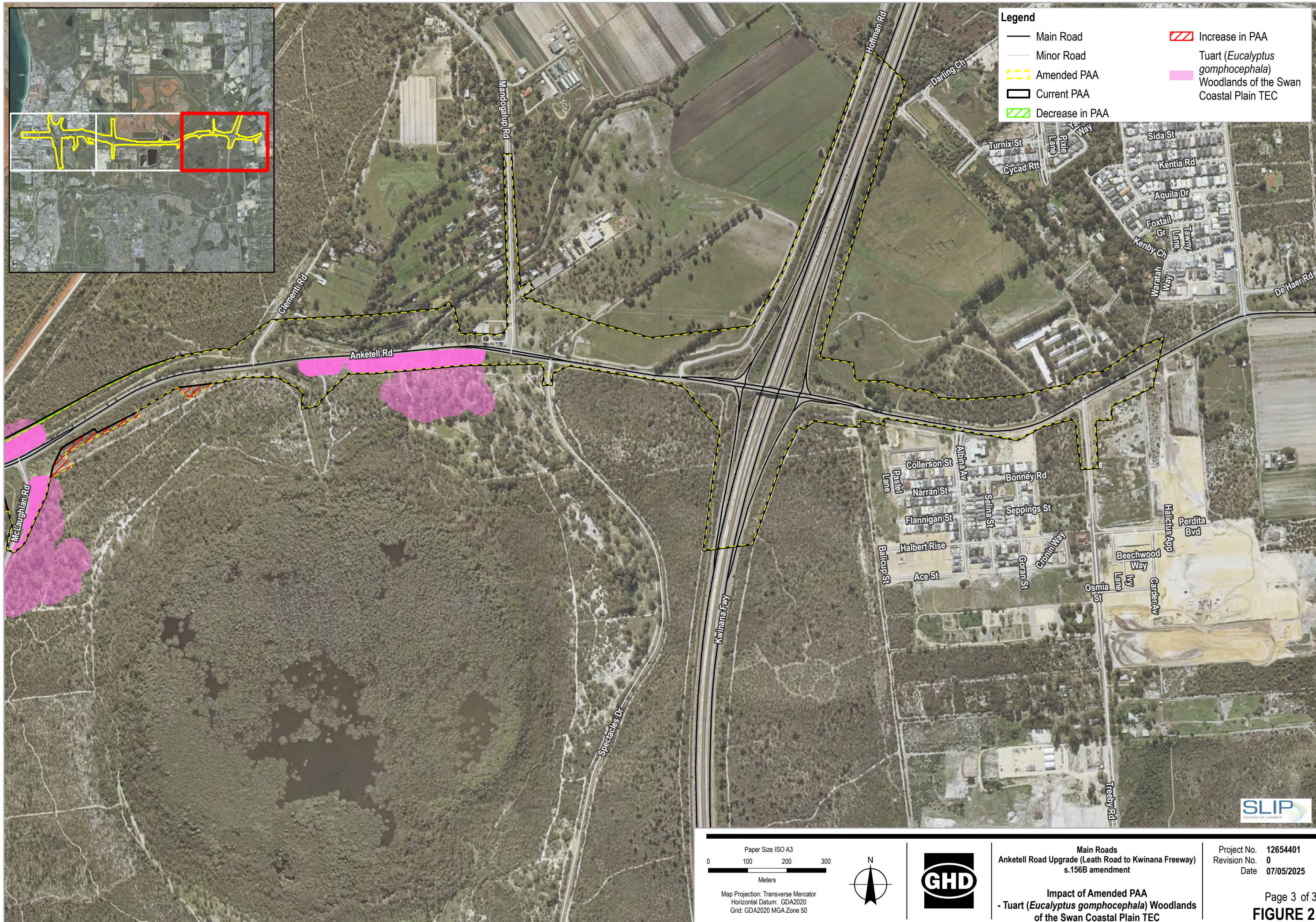
Amended Proposed Action Area

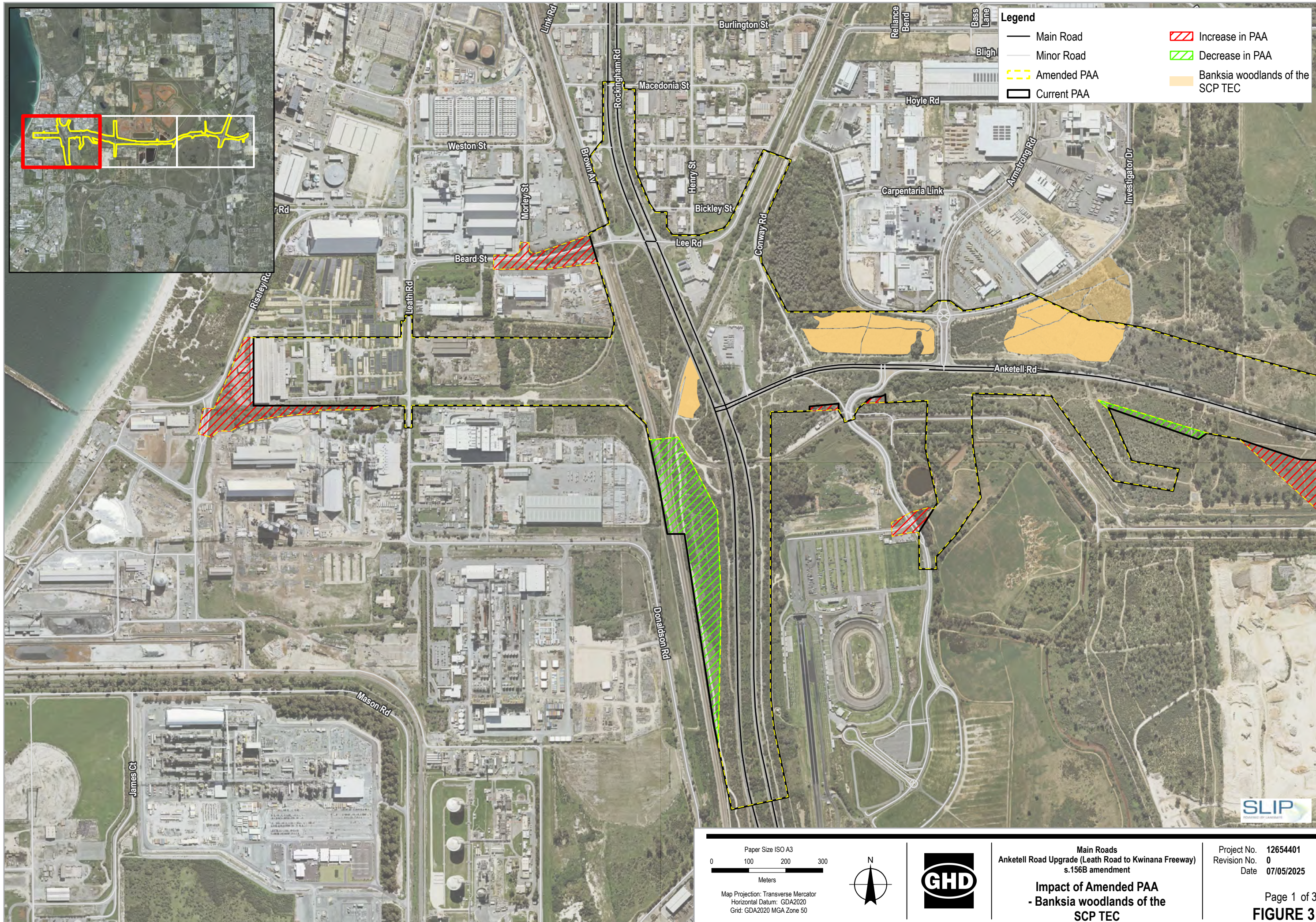
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FIGURE 1

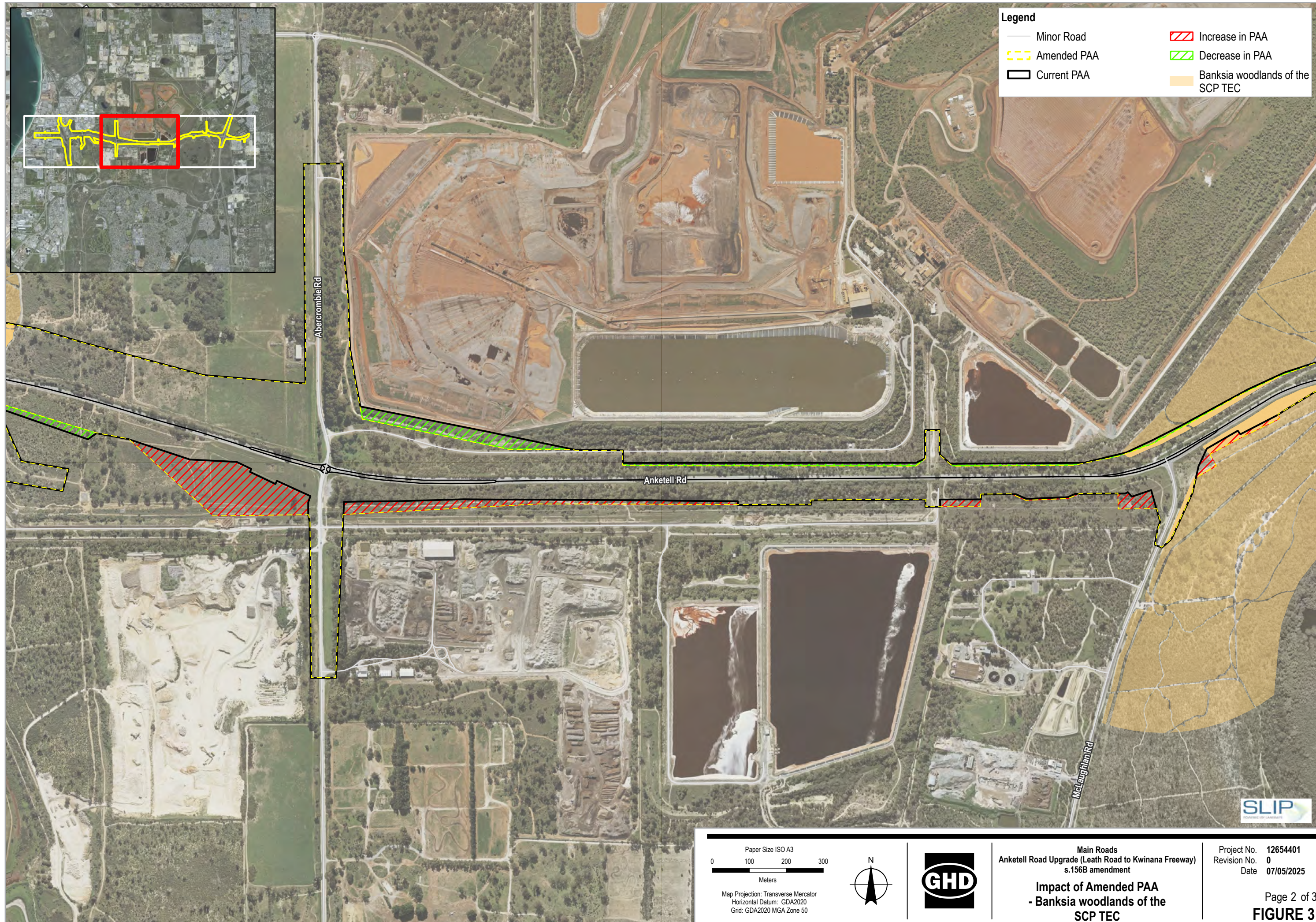


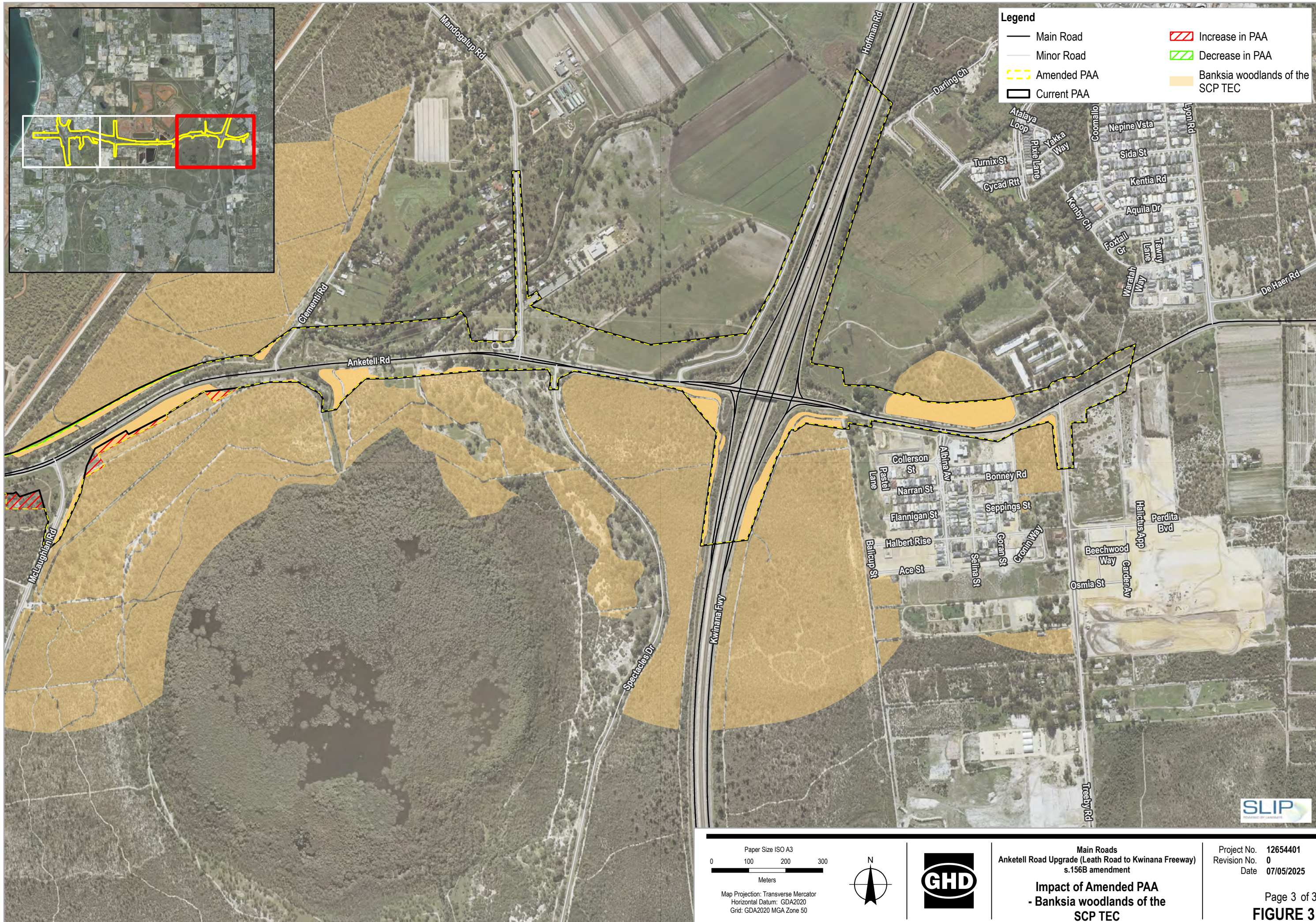


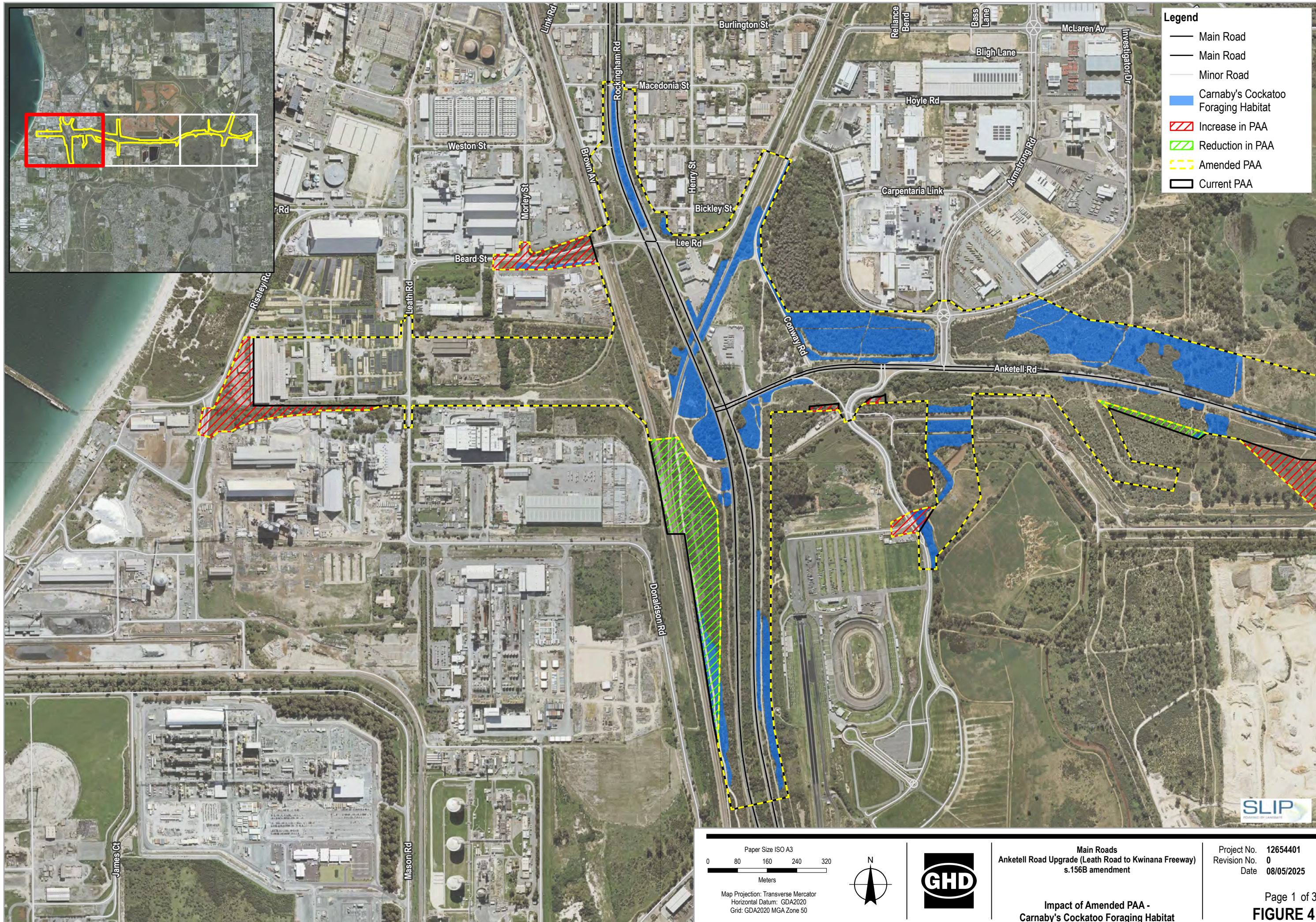


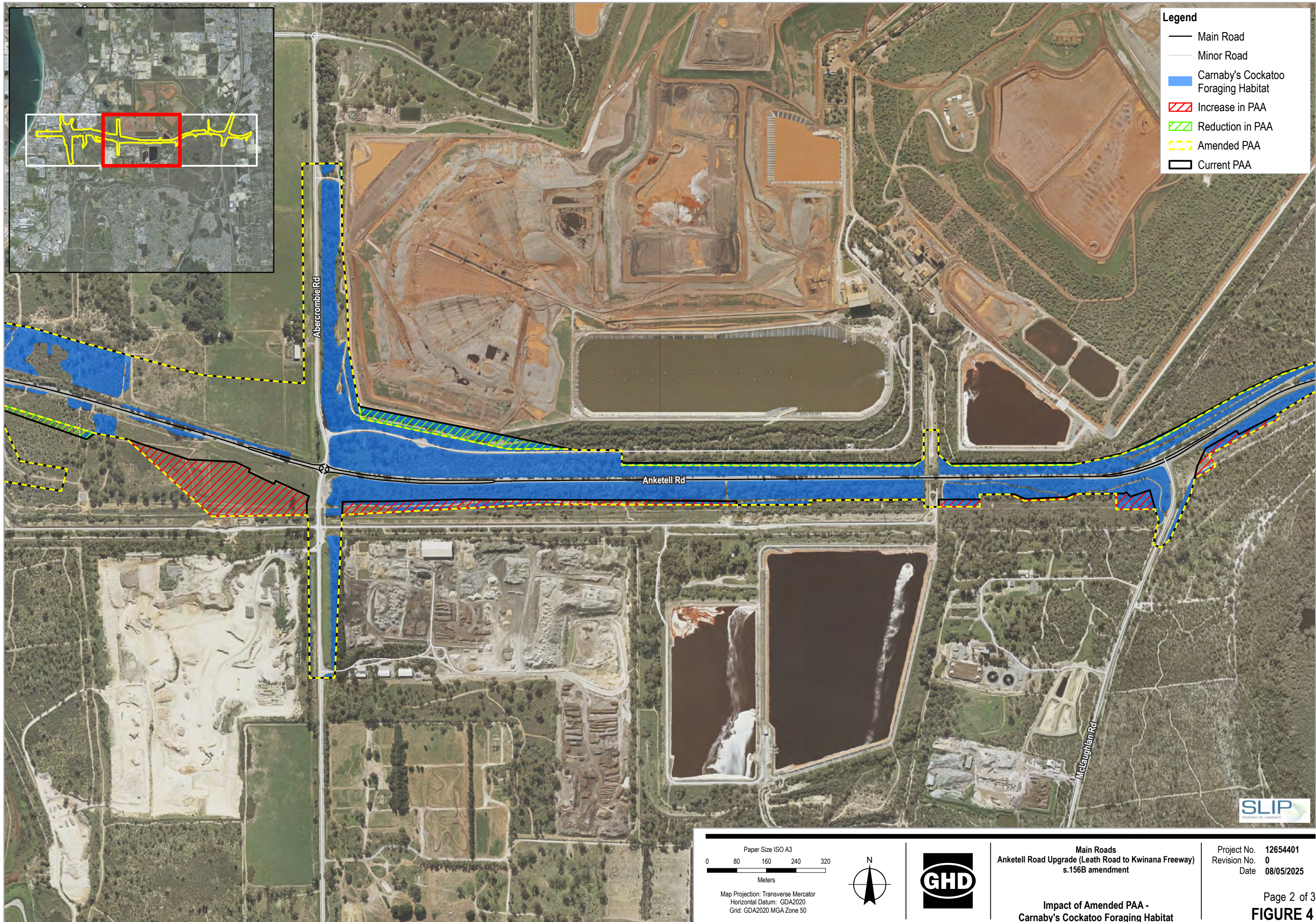


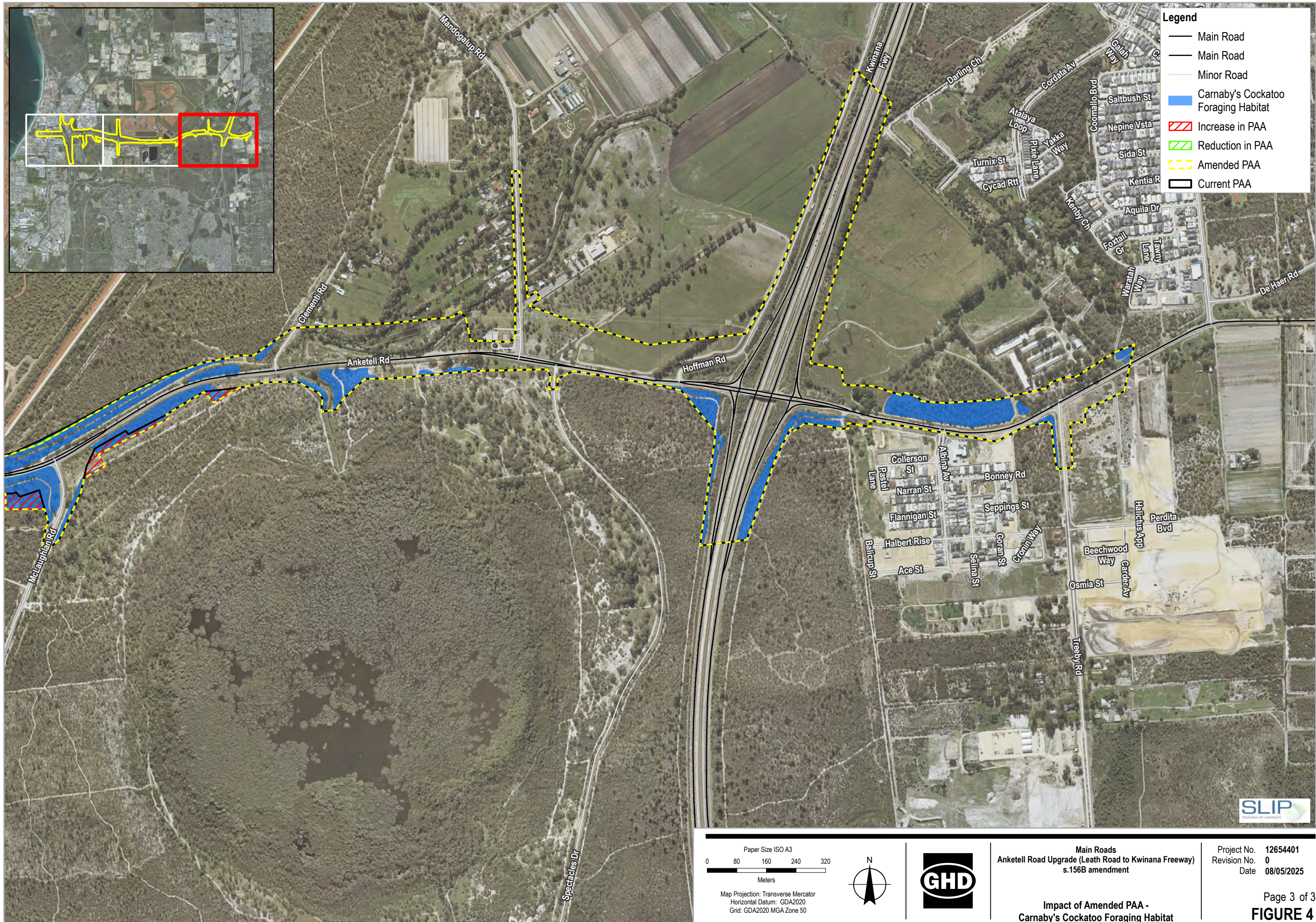


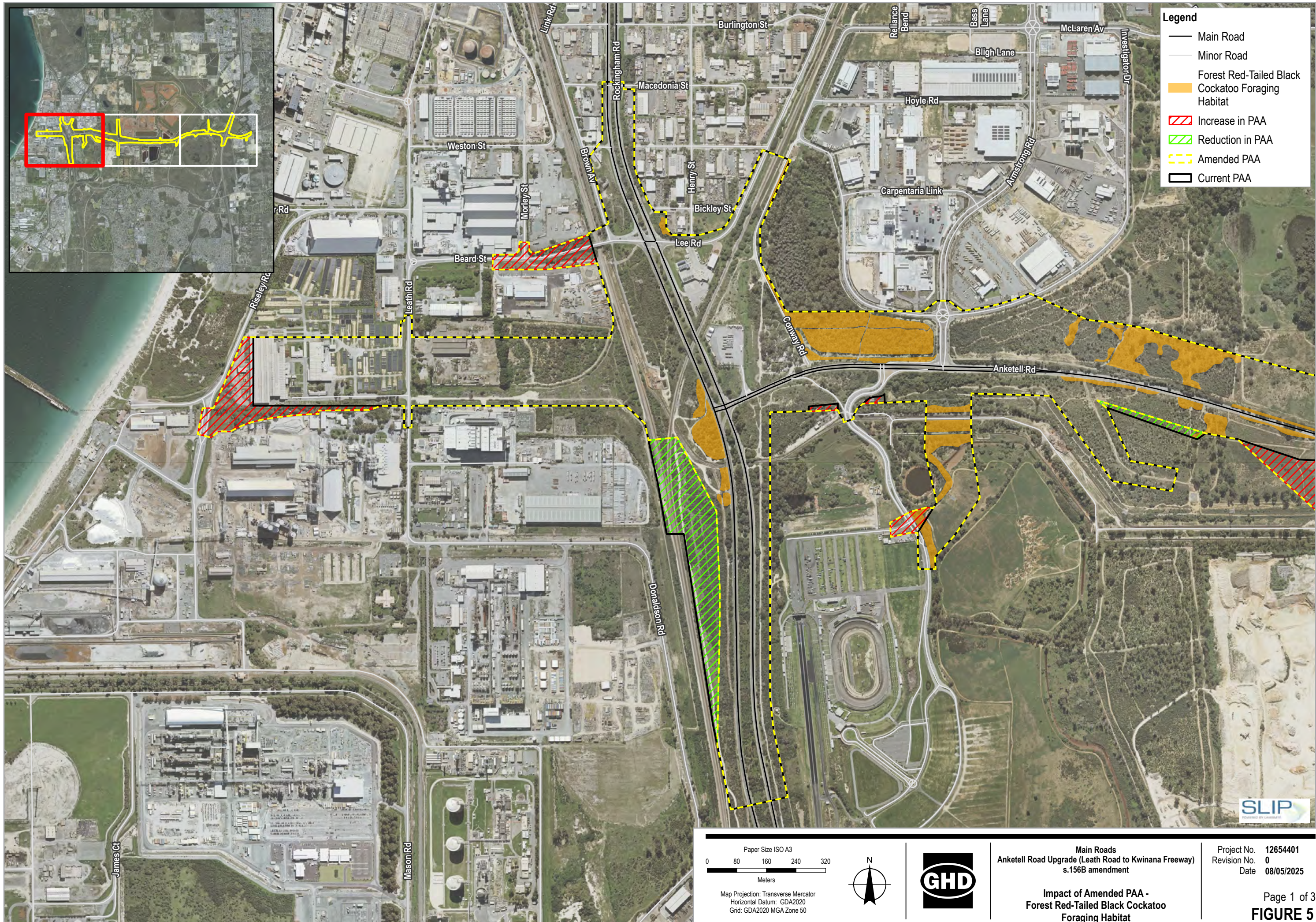




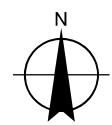








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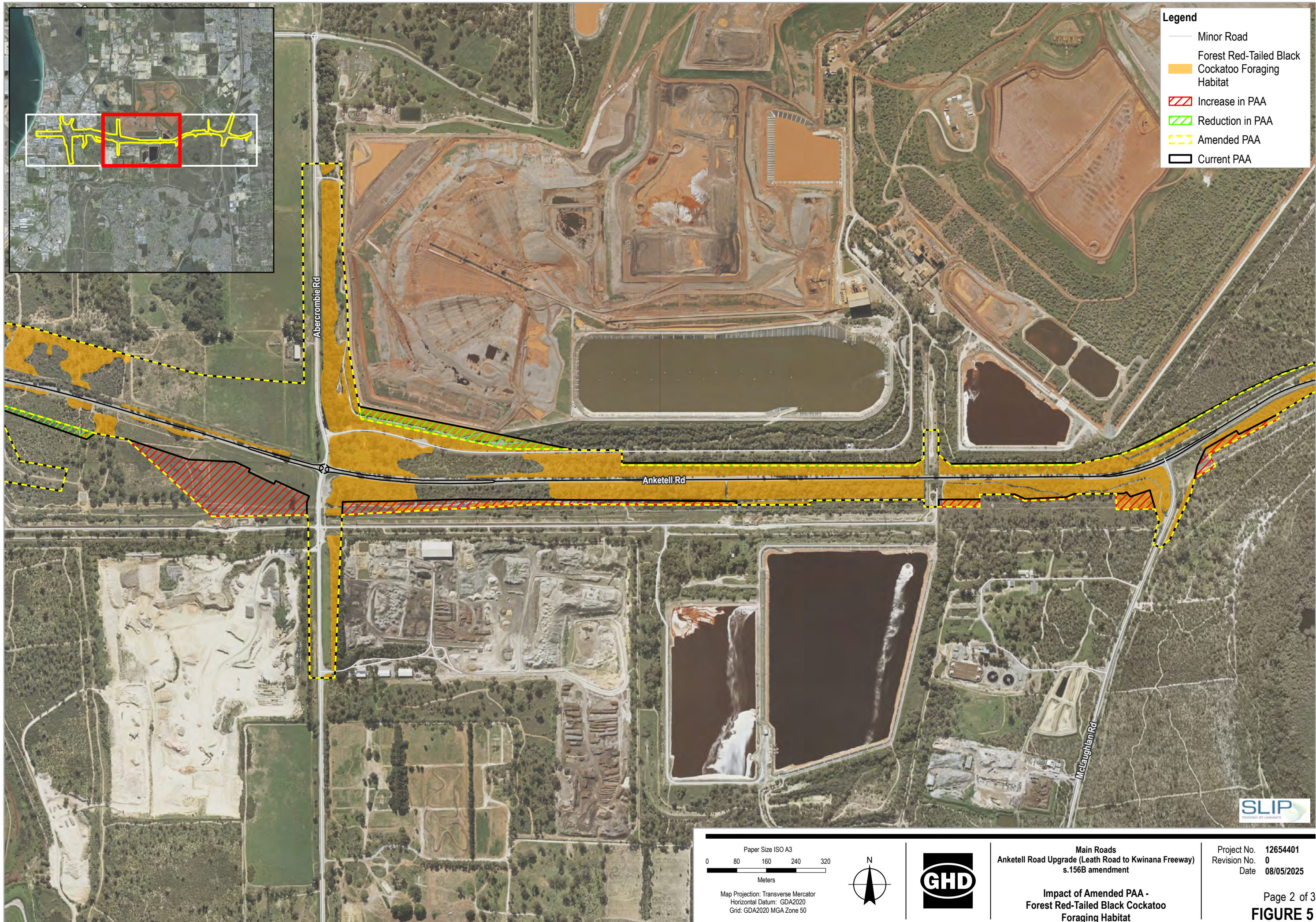


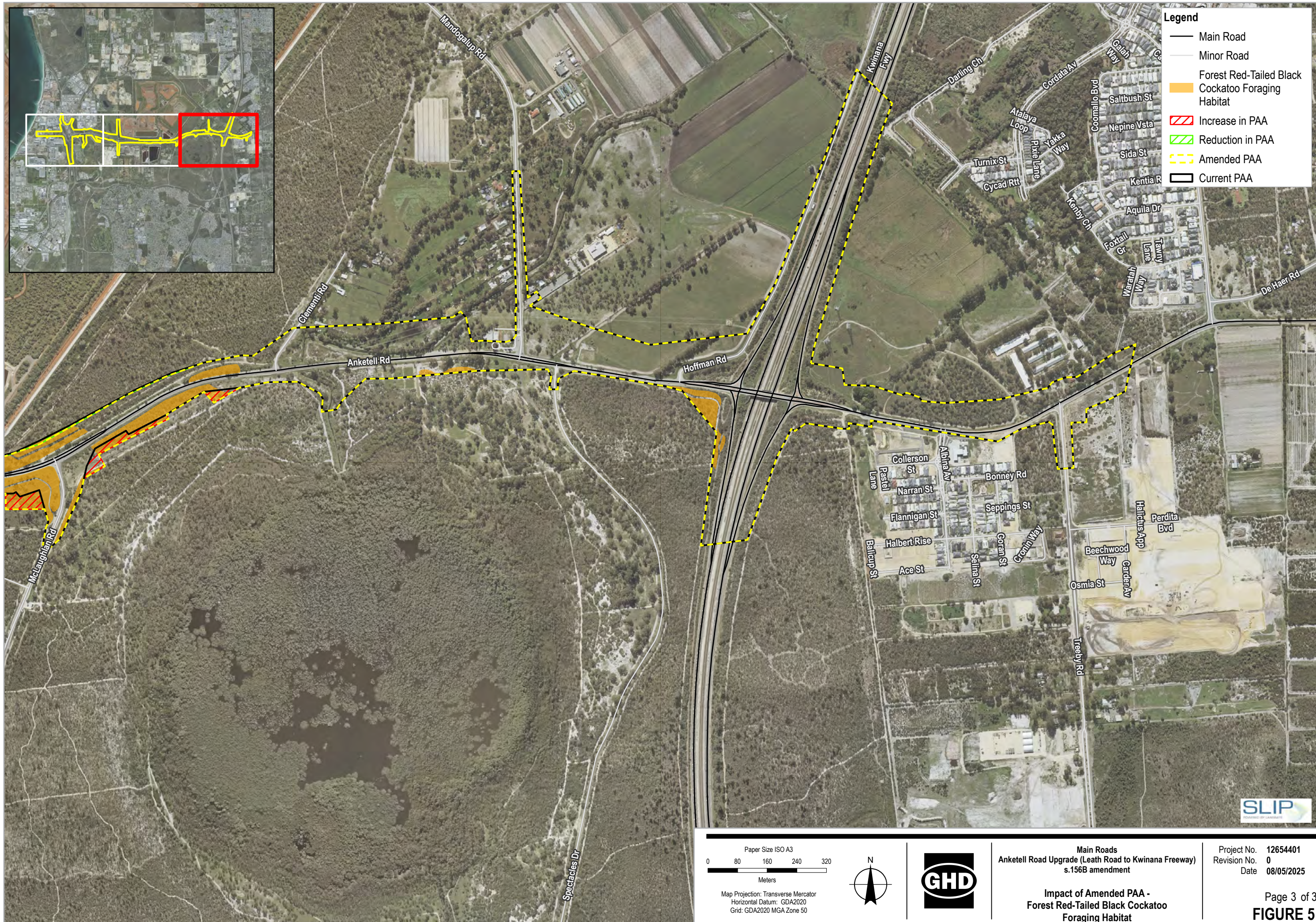
Main Roads
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s.156B amendment

Impact of Amended PAA -
Forest Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo
Foraging Habitat

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FIGURE 5

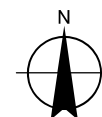




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FIGURE 5

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