

Lizard Management Plan

Buller Plateaux Continuation Project

August 2026

BUL-ENV-PLN-005

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Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

Term	Definition
ACO	Artificial Cover Object
AEC	Animal Ethics Committee, Department of Conservation
Bathurst	Bathurst Resources Limited, including its subsidiary companies BT Mining Ltd, Bathurst Coal Ltd, and Buller Coal Ltd
BPCP	Buller Plateaux Continuation Project
BDC	Buller District Council
BOMP	Biodiversity Outcome Monitoring Plan
BRL	Bathurst Resources Limited
Buller Plateaux	A collective reference to the Stockton Plateau and Denniston Plateau
DOC	Department of Conservation
DPPA	Denniston Plateau Protection Area
ELF	Engineered Land Form
FTAA	Fast-track Approvals Act 2024
LMP	Lizard Management Plan (this Plan)
MFS	Mount Frederick South Project sub-area
NZTCS	New Zealand Threat Classification System
PCEMP	Pest Control and Elimination Management Plan
Plan	Management Plan
Project disturbance area	The area to be disturbed by habitat clearance and earthworks associated with the Project
RMA	Resource Management Act (1991)
SEMP	Site Environmental Management Plan
SVL	Snout Vent Length
The Project	The Buller Plateaux Continuation Project
UWHR	Upper Waimangaroa Haul Road (a Project sub-area)
VDT	Vegetation Direct Transfer
WAA	Wildlife Act Authority
WCRC	West Coast Regional Council

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Description

1.1.1 Overview

Bathurst Resources Limited (BRL) is a publicly listed New Zealand coal mining company with a focus on people and long-term environmental sustainability. BRL is New Zealand's largest coal mining company, producing over 2 million tonnes of coal each year and employing over 550 people. Through its majority owned joint venture company BT Mining Limited, BRL operates the Stockton coal mine on the West Coast of the South Island, and Rotowaro and Maramarua coal mines in the North Island. The remaining estimated mine life at the Stockton Mine is currently approximately 5 – 7 years.

BRL is seeking approvals through the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 ('FTAA') for the Buller Plateaux Continuation Project ('BPCP', or the Project) (Figure 1). The purpose of the Project is to re-consent the existing infrastructure and mining operations associated with the Stockton Mine and provide access to additional coal mining areas across the Buller Plateaux. The coal resource in the current Stockton operations is close to depletion, and further coal resources for blending are required.

1.1.2 Project Location

The BPCP includes parts of both the Denniston and Stockton Plateaux, collectively referred to here as 'the Buller Plateaux' and is located approximately 15km northeast of Westport. The BPCP is a complex proposal which seeks to enable a mix of ongoing and new mining activities. The land tenure is a mix of Crown, private and BRL owned land. The authorisations required for the proposed activities are being bundled into a single application to proceed through the FTAA process.

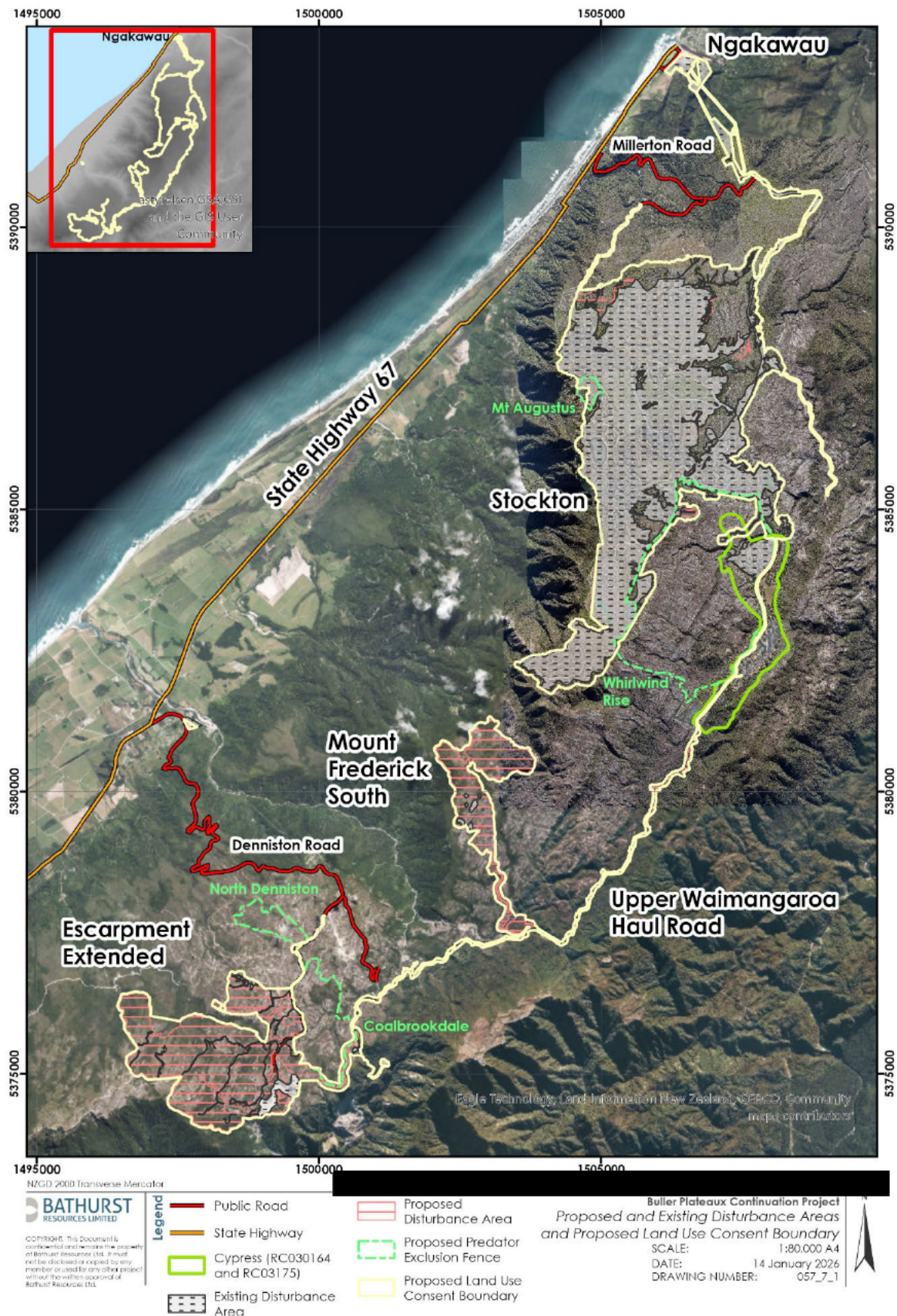


Figure 1: Proposed disturbance areas

1.2 Plan purpose, objectives and scope

The objective of the Lizard Management Plan (LMP) is to avoid and minimise adverse ecological effects on indigenous lizards during construction and operation of the BPCP through effects avoidance and minimisation measures, with the purpose of this LMP to set out the methods for achieving this objective.

Accordingly, this LMP details methods for capture, handling, temporary holding and relocation of lizards and associated applied research. The LMP is intended to support a Wildlife Approval application by Bathurst Resources Ltd (BRL) under Schedule 7 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA), and the Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment Report (EcoLogical Solutions 2026).

Measures to rehabilitate or compensate for adverse effects on lizards are also addressed in other plans. This includes:

- The rehabilitation of habitat for lizards and other values through either habitat transfer or native revegetation and habitat enhancement, as set out in the Rehabilitation Management Plan (BPCP-ENV-PLN-002).
- Compensation for residual effects on lizards that cannot otherwise be avoided, minimised, remedied or offset as addressed in the Pest Control and Elimination Management Plan (PCEMP)(BPCP-ENV-PLN-022)).
- Monitoring to assess outcomes for lizards and inform adaptive management or contingency measures if required, as detailed in the Biodiversity Outcome Monitoring Plan (BOMP)(BPCP-ENV-PLN-009)).

Table 1 below provides a summary of effects management measures for lizards and the primary management plan relevant to each measure.

Table 1 Summary of lizard effects management measures and relevant management plans

Lizard management measures	Primary management plan(s)
Physical delineation of disturbance area and habitat/biodiversity features for salvaging	LMP
Determination of onsite construction method refinements to further avoid or minimise effects where possible	LMP
Compliance monitoring and reporting in relation to lizard habitat effects avoidance and minimisation (excluding salvage and relocation operations)	LMP
Salvaging and relocation operations including: • manual searching and deployment and checking of ground ACOs • handling and release into relocation sites	LMP
Lizard monitoring (radiotracking) and reporting to assess the success of salvaging and relocation operations for geckos	LMP
Compliance monitoring and reporting in relation to salvaging and relocation operations	LMP
Ecological rehabilitation of habitat for lizards and other	RMP

biodiversity values via native revegetation, habitat transfer and relocation of salvaged habitat features including rocks and coarse wood	
Compensation for residual effects via pest elimination within the proposed pest exclusion fence network and intensive pest control	PCEMP
Lizard monitoring to assess rehabilitation and compensation outcomes for lizards and inform adaptive management or contingency measures. This monitoring is distinct from monitoring salvage and relocation outcomes and is in relation to verifying outcomes for lizards in relation to: • Ecological rehabilitation within the Project disturbance area • Compensation actions within the pest exclusion fence network and the Blackburn-Pakihi intensive mammalian pest control area	BOMP

[Placeholder: Additional conditions relating to the application of mātauranga Māori and exercise of kaitiakitanga.]

1.3 Lizard Management Plan requirements

Conditions to be inserted upon issue of the final decision.

Table 2: Consent condition requirements relevant to this plan

Lizards
Lizard Management Plan

1.4 Wildlife Approval requirements

All indigenous lizards are legally protected under the Wildlife Act 1953 (Wildlife Act). The FTAA provides for Wildlife Approvals, which authorise acts or omissions that would otherwise constitute offences under specified provisions of the Wildlife Act, including instances where native lizards may be harmed or killed during Project activities.

This LMP addresses the following matters specific to the Wildlife Act under the FTAA:

- Handling of lizards (including non-threatened, 'At Risk' and 'Threatened' lizard species);
- Salvaging of lizard species from the Project disturbance area;
- Relocation of salvaged lizards into relocation sites;
- The success of the salvaging and relocation operations (to the degree possible);
- Inadvertent lizard injury and death; and accidental discovery (threatened species);
- Wildlife Approval reporting requirements.

1.5 Animal ethics approval

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 requires that separate approval is necessary for manipulation of any animal. In this case application of radio telemetry transmitters to lizards has been deemed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) to be manipulation requiring separate approval. The main requirements of this approval are annual reporting on work completed to ensure that the welfare of the lizards during the radio telemetry trials is considered.

1.6 Stakeholder Engagement

The stakeholder consultation regarding associated technical reports and this management plan has been summarised in the Stakeholder Consultation section of the BPCP FTAA main application.

A draft of this management plan was supplied to relevant regulators and iwi (Te Runanga o Ngāti Waewae) as part of the FTAA pre-consultation engagement.

Once this management plan is approved, this section will document all future stakeholder engagement undertaken for subsequent versions.

1.7 Responsibilities and Competencies

BRL holds overall responsibility for implementation of, and compliance with this plan and any Wildlife Act Authorities obtained by BRL.

All ecologists and sub-contractors implementing the protocols outlined in this plan shall be suitably experienced and will work under the instruction of the Project Herpetologist(s). The Project Herpetologist(s) will be suitably qualified and experienced in lizard surveys, lizard salvaging and relocation operations and applied monitoring and research, including radio-tracking.

2.0 Effects on lizards and effects management

Information on lizard values, effects and effects management including relevant figures, is provided in the Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (EcoLogical Solutions, 2026) and summarised below.

2.1 Lizard values and habitat use

In total three native lizard species are present within the Project disturbance area and an additional species is potentially present (Table 3), based on habitat suitability, confirmed presence during field surveys, and known presence in the general area.

Table 3: Native lizards observed during surveys and species likely to be present

Common name	Scientific name	Threat status (NZTCS) ¹	Abundance
Westland speckled skink	<i>Oligosoma aff. newmani</i> "Westland"	At Risk - declining-	Encounter rates are relatively high compared to other areas within the species' range; however, densities are uncertain due to challenges in inferring densities from detection rates in complex habitats. A summary of lizard survey results on the Buller Plateaux is provided in Table 6 of the Buller Plateaux Contextual Study (EcoLogical Solutions, 2026)
Northern grass skink ²	<i>Oligosoma polychroma</i>	Not Threatened	
Forest gecko	<i>Mokopirakau granulatus</i>	At Risk - declining	
West Coast green gecko	<i>Naultinus tuberculatus</i>	Threatened - nationally vulnerable	

Together, forest geckos and West Coast green geckos use the entire suite of habitat types on the Buller Plateaux with the obvious exclusion of open water or highly disturbed areas that lack vegetation (e.g. roads). Forest geckos are nocturnal and typically occupy sandstone pavement (where they are common underneath rock slabs), bluffs and tors, shrublands, prostrate vegetation and forest. West Coast green gecko occupy shrublands, fernlands on tussock wetland areas, sandstone pavement and forest. West Coast green gecko are not known to use cover objects or crevices.

The Speckled skinks are expected to use open habitats, but not forest or tall shrubland interiors because they are too shaded to provide ideal skink habitat. The detection rate is likely to underestimate the number of lizards present.

Across the Buller Plateaux, natural habitat mosaics with high physical (structural) complexity, adequate food resources throughout the year and adequate shelter/refugia from extreme weather (temperature,

¹ New Zealand Threat Classification System (Hitchmough et al, 2026).

² In addition to the three species present on the Plateau, the nationally Not Threatened grass skink (*Oligosoma polychroma*) is also known to exist in the vicinity of the project in lower elevation habitats and while its presence cannot be ruled out it is assumed that this species is not present in most if not all impacted areas and that based on the Not Threatened classification and low magnitude of effects it is expected that the level of residual effects on this species will be less than moderate.

wind and desiccation) are likely to support a high carrying capacity of lizards. This includes habitat mosaics within topographically diverse areas such as gorges and gullies.

2.2 Effects on lizards

Potential adverse effects on lizards relating to mining construction will include:

- 755 ha of vegetation and habitat loss through habitat clearance and earthworks within the Project Disturbance Area
- The creation of habitat edge effects, altering the composition and health of adjacent vegetation (i.e. habitat degradation), which may affect habitat suitability for flora and fauna.
- Direct mortality or injury to lizards, which may be harmed during habitat clearance or earthworks activities.
- Habitat fragmentation and isolation due to the loss and reduction of available habitat types and by reducing the ability for lizards to disperse across the landscape for food, shelter, and breeding purposes, i.e. severing or partially severing access to habitats that would otherwise be suitable.
- Disturbance associated with construction-related noise and vibrations or dust.

Potential long-term ongoing adverse effects on lizards during mining operations may include:

- Ongoing habitat degradation associated with habitat loss, edge effects and fragmentation, which permanently affect movement of some species, with possible effects on meta-population dynamics and increased vulnerability to local extinction.
- Ongoing disturbance effects, particularly on habitat margins/edges, through noise, dust, artificial lighting and blasting.
- Mortality or injury associated with operations.

2.3 Measures to reduce the severity of effects

Measures to reduce the severity of effects on lizards include effects avoidance and minimisation through Project shaping as detailed in the Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (EcoLogical Solutions, 2026).

Measures to further avoid or minimise effects through detailed design and construction as detailed in following sections broadly include:

- measures to avoid or minimise effects on high values habitat through further project refinement during detailed design and construction
- measures to avoid or minimise unnecessary impacts to non-disturbed areas
- Salvage and relocation operations

Measures to rehabilitate habitat (including for lizards) within the Project disturbance area are set out in the RMP. The long-term focus of rehabilitation will be to develop self-sustaining ecosystems with similar lizard diversity and functionality to the surrounding (undisturbed) environment to the degree possible. However, the extent and proportion of vegetation types will be different to the pre-mining situation with fewer, more simple vegetation communities which lack the extensive ecotones and complex mosaic of types characteristic of the pre-mining vegetation. The main ecological drivers of altitude, aspect, drainage, rock cover and slope will remain. The rehabilitation proposed for the Project includes:

- Vegetation direct transfer ('VDT'), which constitutes both effects avoidance/ minimisation because it avoids or minimises habitat loss and harm to lizards and rehabilitation because habitat is transferred back into the Project disturbance area once ready.
- Native revegetation of engineered landforms once suitable for rehabilitation.
- Mammalian browser and predator control and weed management across ecological rehabilitation sites
- Deployment of salvaged habitat features to rehabilitation sites to provide refugia for lizards as set out in the RMP. This includes the deployment of salvaged rocks, boulders and coarse wood as well as the placement of rocks and boulders into scraped depressions (0.5m – 1m deep) within the engineered landforms to provide winter refuges for lizards when in torpor.

2.4 Level of residual effects

The level of residual effects on lizard species after avoidance, minimisation and remediation measures have been considered is summarised in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Level of residual effects on lizards

Species	Threat status (NZTCS) ³	Areal extent of habitat loss (ha) ⁴	Residual effect
Westland speckled skink	At Risk - declining	755 ha of direct habitat loss and 128 ha of indirect effects (which is conservatively assessed as total loss)	Very high
Forest gecko	At Risk - declining		Very high
West Coast green gecko	Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable		Very high
Northern grass skink	Not Threatened	Assumed to be a small fraction of habitat impacted by project activities if present	Low

2.5 Residual effects management

To address residual adverse effects on lizards that cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied, residual effects management for lizards (and other values) will include 911 ha of pest-exclusion fenced areas delivering a pest (and weka) free stronghold (Appendix A, Figure 1 and 1A-D). This includes the following pest exclusion fences:

- Denniston North fenced area (47.3 ha)(Figure 1A))
- Coalbrookdale fenced area (154.4 ha)(Figure 1B))
- Mt. Augustus fenced area (14.6 ha)(Figure 1C))
- Whirlwind Rise fenced area 694.9 (ha)(Figure 1D))

2.6 Expected outcomes for lizards

A net loss of high-quality lizard habitat is expected and it is uncertain whether there will be net loss or net positive outcomes in terms of population size within 35 years as the magnitude of benefit associated with residual effects management is unable to be determined with precision. The response of lizards to the mammalian pest exclusion fence and to other mammalian pest control regimes that form part of the broader residual effects management package will be verified through proposed biodiversity outcome monitoring for lizards as set out in the Biodiversity Outcome Monitoring Plan (BPCP-ENV-PLN-009).

³ Threat status is based on the most recent New Zealand Threat Classification System publication, which is Hitchmough et al 2026;

⁴ Ecological and general disturbance edge effects will occur in addition to this direct loss.

3.0 Effects avoidance and minimisation protocol

3.1 Avoidance and minimisation protocol (excluding salvage and relocation)

Iterative and ongoing refinement of the Project disturbance area will be undertaken during detailed design and construction to avoid impacts on high value lizard habitats and associated lizards to the degree practicable. Additionally, prior to habitat clearance the following onsite avoidance and minimisation actions will be undertaken

- Project boundaries will be physically delineated by a surveyor and provided to operators to avoid or minimise the possibility of inadvertent clearance of habitat outside the disturbance area
- Where practicable and safe to do so, tall vegetation will be directionally felled to fall into the disturbance area to avoid unnecessary damage to the immediately adjoining habitats outside the disturbance area.
- Where practicable, clearance of vegetation will be avoided from May – September (inclusive) when lizards are inactive and less likely to be captured. Some habitat clearance activities will need to be undertaken in winter periods (see Section 2 above), though the location and extent of lizard habitat to be cleared outside of lizard salvage season is not yet able to be confirmed.
- As set out in the RMP, vegetation direct transfer will be undertaken to the extent practicable. Where undertaken, this will avoid or minimise lizard habitat loss and the likelihood of harm within the disturbance area.
- VDT provides suitable habitat for forest gecko and Westland speckled skink but the presence of West Coast green gecko in VDT has yet to be confirmed, noting that this species is considerably more difficult to detect (EcoLogical Solutions Limited, 2026). It remains unknown whether lizards were present in VDT habitats because they had survived transfer or because they had colonised VDT from surrounding areas or both.
- Other measures to avoid or minimise general effects on terrestrial biodiversity values (including lizards) are detailed in other plans including but not limited to:
 - Management of edge effects via planting of newly exposed edges, use of soil, boulders, logs and other resources to create a bund and other actions as required to reduce edge effects as detailed in the Rehabilitation Management Plan (BPCP-ENV-PLN-002).
 - Sedimentation and erosion via the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan for Land Disturbance Activities (BPCP-ENV-PLN-013)
 - Accidental spills and fire via the Hazardous Substances Management Plan (BPCP-ENV-PLN-014)
 - Noise, Blasting and Vibration via the Noise, Blasting and Vibration Management Plan (BPCP-ENV-PLN-016)
 - Dust suppression via the Dust Management Plan (BPCP-ENV-PLN-017)
 - Lighting via the Lighting and Visual Amenity Management Plan (BPCP-ENV-PLN-018)

- As set out in Section 3.2, salvaging and relocation operations will be undertaken for all three legally protected lizard species (and northern grass skink in the unlikely event that this species is present in the Project footprint), including an applied research programme to assess outcomes as described in this LMP. Notwithstanding this, it is conservatively assumed that these measures will not materially reduce the overall severity of effects on lizards, due to:
 - the expectation that only a small proportion of individuals can feasibly be salvaged, for the reasons outlined below (Table 5); and
 - uncertainty regarding post-relocation survival of salvaged individuals.

3.2 Salvaging and relocation

Salvaging and relocation protocols are set out in the following sections

3.2.1 Salvaging principles

The salvaging approach addresses the nine principles in the Department of Conservation's guidance document *Key principles for lizard salvage and transfer in New Zealand* as set out in Table 5 below⁵.

Table 5: Assessment against key salvaging and relocation principles

WAA Salvaging Principles	Assessment
Principle 1: Lizard species' values and site significance must be assessed at both the development and receiving sites	Principle addressed. Lizard species values and site significance are assessed at: • the development sites as detailed in the Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment Report (EcoLogical Solutions 2026) • the relocation (receiving) sites as detailed in the Residual Effects Management Report (Alliance Ecology Ltd)
Principle 2: Actual and potential development-related effects and their significance must be assessed	Principle addressed as detailed in the Buller Plateaux Continuation Project Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment Report (EcoLogical Solutions 2026)
Principle 3: Alternatives to moving lizards must be considered	Principle addressed as detailed in the Substantive Application and the Buller Plateaux Continuation Project Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment Report (EcoLogical Solutions 2026) noting that the location of the coal resource is fixed. Avoidance of effects (thus negating the need to move lizards) has therefore focussed on avoidance of the highest value habitats for infrastructure such as roads, buildings and overburden disposal sites and reducing the Project disturbance area where achievable.
Principle 4: Threatened lizard species require more careful consideration than less-threatened species	This principle is addressed via the level of effort assigned to specifically targeting West Coast green gecko for salvaging which is nationally Threatened (nationally vulnerable).

⁵ Department of Conservation Lizard Technical Advisory Group (2019). Key principles for lizard salvage and transfer in New Zealand. Department of Conservation, Wellington

WAA Salvaging Principles	Assessment
Principle 5: Lizard salvage, transfer and release must use the best available methodology	Section 3.3 of this LMP addresses the salvage effort and approach. In terms of salvage methodology, this principle is addressed to the extent practicable in terms of the range of lizard salvaging methods deployed. However there are significant constraints to salvaging success for this Project. Specifically: • Year-round clearance is required for this Project to maintain critical path and therefore, while lizard salvaging will be undertaken in all feasible habitat types, salvaging may be required months prior to habitat clearance when such clearance is scheduled outside salvaging season (i.e. when habitat clearance is conducted from May to September inclusive). • No matter the level of effort applied and despite our understanding that DOC considers >80% of lizards salvaged to constitute best practice, this cannot feasibly be achieved for this Project. In contrast we expect only a small proportion of lizards (< 1%) will be feasibly salvaged from the Project disturbance area. This is due to several constraints, namely: ○ An inability to salvage lizards in inaccessible habitats, including constraints salvaging arboreal geckos in tall forest vegetation or any lizard species occupying excessively steep habitats or in areas with abandoned mine shafts and ground subsidence that pose health and safety risks ○ An inability to undertake nocturnal salvaging, which is an effective means of detecting forest and West Coast green geckos, in otherwise suitable habitats due to health and safety risks in locations with abandoned mine shafts or on sandstone pavement where prostrate vegetation can cover small but deep fissures ○ An inability to salvage lizards in a high proportion of habitats due to difficulties in deployment, detection or using available methods, e.g. geckos cannot be salvaged from tall forest canopies even if detected (e.g. by drone searching) ○ Constraints with salvaging a high proportion of lizards in highly complex habitats within which they are difficult to detect or capture using available methods. ○ The level of effort applied to salvaging reflects the predictions that no amount of effort will materially reduce the severity of effects and that efforts and resource are better directed to the pest exclusion fences as has occurred.
Principle 6: Receiving sites and their carrying capacity must be suitable in the long term	Principle addressed via the conservation management actions proposed for relocation sites coupled with their size. Lizards salvaged from the Denniston Plateau will be relocated into: • Denniston North pest exclusion fenced area (47.3 ha), or • Coalbrookdale pest exclusion fenced area (154.4 ha) on Denniston Plateau. Lizards salvaged from the Stockton Plateau will be relocated into:

WAA Salvaging Principles	Assessment
	• Mt. Augustus pest exclusion fenced area (14.6 ha) on the Stockton Plateau • Whirlwind Rise pest exclusion fenced area (694.9 ha) on the Stockton Plateau. As detailed in the PCEMP, habitat types within each pest exclusion fence are highly suitable for the three species that require salvaging and there is high certainty that all lizard species will recover within mammalian-pest free areas. Each fence will be maintained for 50 years while the population-doubling outcome target and net loss/gain assessment are framed over 35 years. However, there will be a delay, and in some cases, a significant delay between lizard salvage during initial clearance and the construction of pest exclusion fences, and completion of pest eradication. Commencement of construction for each fence is as follows⁶ with commencement of eradication assumed to follow the year after • Stage 1 – Denniston North pest exclusion fence • Stage 3 – Coalbrookdale pest exclusion fence • Stage 5 – Construction of Mt Augustus pest exclusion fence • Stage 7 – Whirlwind Rise pest exclusion fence For lizards salvaged early on the Stockton Plateau, there will be a notable time delay between when lizards are relocated and when mammalian pests are eliminated within the two fences. To partially reduce issues with relocating lizards to pest-exclusion fence areas prior to the construction of the pest exclusion fences and the elimination of mammalian pests therein, salvage lizards will be relocated to weka free enclosures as set out in consent conditions (Table 2). Regardless lizards are proposed for release in these areas with lizards salvaged on Stockton released into areas around which the Mt Augustus and Whirlwind Rise pest exclusion fences will be constructed and lizards salvaged on Denniston released into areas around which the Denniston North or Coalbrookdale pest exclusion fence areas will be constructed. The numbers of lizards that are expected to be salvaged are unlikely to have adverse effects on resident lizards via inter- or intra-specific competition due to the number of salvaged lizards (ca 500) being relocated relative to the areal extent of relocation sites (the 911 ha of habitat within the pest exclusion fence network).
Principle 7: Monitoring is required to evaluate the salvage operation	Principle addressed via radio-tracking of forest gecko, West Coast green gecko and CritterPic monitoring (or similar technology) of all three species to evaluate the success of salvage and relocation programmes as set out in the BOMP.
Principle 8: Reporting is required to communicate	Principle addressed through:

⁶ The years assigned to each stage had yet to be confirmed at the time of finalising this management plan

WAA Salvaging Principles	Assessment
outcomes of salvage operations and encourage process improvements	• Reporting requirements as set out in Sections 10 and 11 of this LMP in relation to salvage and relocation activities, results and adaptive management. • Reporting on the success of relocations as determined by radio-tracking (Section 7 of this LMP) and as set out in the BOMP.
Principle 9: Contingency actions are required when lizard salvage and transfer activities fail	It is assumed that lizard salvage will not reduce the overall severity of effects, given the relatively small proportion of individuals likely to be captured and relocated within this landscape, along with the inherent challenges in verifying success through monitoring (as outlined above). Accordingly, although salvage and relocation outcomes will be monitored via the proposed radio-tracking programme, the compensation framework has been developed on the basis that these activities will not materially reduce adverse effects. Similarly, no reduction in effect severity has been attributed to the ecological rehabilitation programme. On this basis, no additional contingency measures beyond the proposed compensation package are included. However, contingency measures will be implemented if monitoring indicates that the compensation programme is not achieving its intended outcomes—specifically, the target of doubling each lizard species population within pest exclusion fences over a 35-year period.

3.3 Salvaging protocols

Prior to salvaging works commencing, a comprehensive induction relating to the management of lizards will be conducted for relevant contractors, the Environmental Manager, and other authorised personnel.

The protocols for lizard salvaging and relocation specified below are consistent with standard methodologies from DOC's Inventory and Monitoring Toolbox: Herpetofauna (Greene & McNutt 2012) and are commonly used on many construction projects. The methodologies have been adapted in this LMP for local site conditions at the BPCP.

3.4 Salvaging within the Project disturbance area and timing

Lizard salvaging during the day will be undertaken during warmer months (October to April inclusive) and only when temperatures exceed 10° Celsius. While habitat clearance will be avoided to the extent possible outside these months, there will be a time-lag between salvaging and habitat clearance when clearance occurs outside lizard salvaging season, i.e. during May – September inclusive.

Lizards will be salvaged prior to habitat clearance during daylight hours in all locations within the Project disturbance area with the notable exception of:

- Interior tall forest where detection probabilities are low and any lizards detected are unlikely to be captured, e.g., geckos detected in the canopy of tall forest.
- Excessively steep and rocky terrain or selected locations within open vent shafts where health and safety is a concern.

3.5 Salvaging methods

Lizard salvaging will be undertaken prior to and immediately after habitat clearance.

3.5.1 Pre-clearance salvage

Pre-clearance salvaging will include manual searching aided by drone surveillance and a lizard dog (if/when available), and the deployment and checking of Artificial Cover Objects (ACOs) as specified below. The proposed combination of methods is expected to capture all lizard species present. However, West Coast green gecko detections are limited to manual searching only, as this species is not targeted using other methods that are suited to capturing species that use artificial or natural cover objects.

3.5.1.1 Artificial Cover Objects

Ground ACOs will be deployed across all low stature vegetation and shrublands throughout the Project disturbance area to target Westland speckled skink and forest gecko.

All ground ACOs will be deployed at least 10 months prior to habitat impacts, with the first of three checks occurring a minimum of 6 months after deployment, and the subsequent two checks at least 1 month apart to allow sufficient time for lizards to occupy the ACOs. Typically the last check would occur immediately prior to habitat clearance, but this will not be possible for any clearance that occurs outside the standard lizard salvaging season.

An average of 4 ground ACOs per ha will be deployed across low stature and shrubland habitat (totalling approximately 560 ha of the 755 ha Project disturbance area (or a minimum of 2,240 ACOs in total). Within these habitats, ground ACOs will be deployed in microhabitats where lizards are deemed to be most active (e.g., along logs, rock edges or in the margins between complex habitats and bare ground). The actual number of ACOs deployed within a given hectare will vary, with more ACOs deployed in higher quality habitat. Deployment rates are expected to range from 0 in areas of low habitat quality to up to 40 in areas of highly suitable habitat where the capture rate is expected to be high.

Each ground ACO will consist of double-layered onduline sheets (475mm x 400mm) with 7-8mm spacings created between the bottom and top layers of each ACO sheet using small stones, twigs or dowels. Deploying and establishing ACOs will include:

- Clearing low-stature vegetation to bare earth/ground where feasible using heavy duty hand rakes
- Weighting ACOs with rocks or heavy duty ground staples (300mm x 6mm) where rocks are absent or sparse.

Each ground ACO will be GPS-recorded, numbered and flagged to assist with re-sighting during salvaging operations.

3.5.1.2 Manual searching

Manual searching will be undertaken within two weeks of habitat clearance at a given site, except when habitat clearance occurs in winter months, in which case there will be up to several months difference

between the completion of manual searching and actual habitat clearance activities. Manual searching will involve the following:

- Visual surveys for West Coast green gecko in prostrate or shrubland vegetation including the use of binoculars and drones targeting gecko in suitable habitat from which individuals can be feasibly salvaged.
- Manual lifting and checking of cover objects for Westland speckled skink and forest gecko including the use of a certified lizard dog to detect the presence of lizards under rocks or within low stature vegetation.

Manual searching for West Coast green gecko

Manual searching for West Coast green gecko will be undertaken by one or more 2-3 person teams of suitably trained ecologists during suitable weather conditions, specifically sunny calm mornings or later afternoons during warmer months when lizards are basking in vegetation and detection probability is highest.

Manual visual searching for West Coast green gecko will be undertaken by a dedicated survey team/s in all low prostrate and shrubland vegetation and along forest margins that can be feasibly searched. Searching will include a mixture of naked eye, binocular and drone surveillance techniques. A minimum of 2 person hours per hectare of manual searching will be undertaken in all non-forested habitat and forest margins within the Project disturbance area excluding roads (estimated at 560 ha). This amounts to a minimum total of 1,120 person-hours of search time, with search time per hectare in a given location influenced by habitat suitability and capture rate.

Searching for West Coast green gecko will be undertaken using a slow and methodical approach, to avoid geckos detecting the herpetologists. A previous radio-tracking study (Tonkin & Taylor 2015) undertaken as part of the existing Escarpment Mine salvage and relocation programme indicated that geckos may detect searchers moving nearby the search location and, as a result, begin moving deeper into vegetation therefore reducing detection success.

Drone surveillance will be conducted using a DJI Mavic 4 Pro or similar which includes a high-resolution camera with a 168mm telephoto lens (minimum). The drone will be flown at low altitude and slow speed to maximise detection of West Coast green gecko within vegetation. The drone will be manoeuvred across optimal habitats, with the camera angled obliquely to scan vegetation surfaces where lizards are most likely present.

Manual searching for Westland speckled skink and forest gecko

All accessible non-forested habitats and forest margins will be manually searched for Westland speckled skink and forest gecko during daylight hours. Searching will be undertaken by one or more 2-3 person teams of suitably qualified and experienced ecologists during suitable weather conditions within the salvaging months, which includes all weather except where the temperature is <10°C and during moderate to heavy rain. This team/s will operate separately from the West Coast green gecko survey team.

Manual searching for Westland speckled skink and forest gecko will involve carefully lifting or turning over rocks and any other cover and searching suitable crevice habitats using a small torch. A minimum of 2 person hours per hectare of manual searching will be undertaken in all non-forested habitat and forest margins within the Project disturbance area excluding roads (estimated at 560 ha) amounting to a minimum of 1,120 person hours search time. Search time per hectare in a given location will be influenced by habitat suitability and capture rate as indicated by the initial ACO pre-salvage checks to be undertaken prior to manual searching.

Manual searching for forest gecko and Westland speckled skink will be assisted by a trained lizard detection dog when available, working systematically through the survey area under the direction of a qualified handler (in addition to the 2 – 3 person team/s). The dog is trained to locate lizards using scent cues and to indicate presence without making contact, allowing targeted searches of likely refuges such as rock piles, vegetation, and ground cover. When the dog signals, the handler confirms detection. The use of a trained detection dog increases survey efficiency and detection probability for cryptic or low-density lizard species that are difficult to locate using standard visual search methods alone. Detection of West Coast green gecko by the lizard dog is also possible when geckos are positioned in vegetation near the ground.

3.5.2 Post-clearance salvage

It is likely that lizards will remain within cleared mining areas unless they are captured and relocated elsewhere. Under the guidance of the supervising herpetologist, suitably qualified and experienced ecologists will salvage and relocate lizards from within Project disturbance areas if they are encountered after habitat clearance or vegetation transfer. The timeframes during which this methodology will be applied will depend upon the timing and duration of habitat clearance and vegetation transfer and will need to be planned in conjunction with mine scheduling. Where possible, trained environmental personnel will manually search for displaced lizards within 24 hours of vegetation clearance activities in a given location, within the mining footprint(s).

4.0 Handling, data collection, sampling and transporting lizards

4.1 Handling

Lizard handling will be kept to a minimum to reduce stress caused to the animals. Lizards will only be handled by an experienced herpetologist, appropriately trained field ecologist/s, or trained mine site personnel working under a Wildlife Act Authority.

Captured lizards will be temporarily kept (held) in sterilised containers with ample air flow, foliage or similar cover, and moisture. Lizards will be kept in these containers for a maximum of 24 hours prior to their release into appropriate relocation site/s. All temporary captivity procedures will be undertaken in accordance with DOC Guidelines (Gibson, no date).

4.2 Data collection

Each individual lizard salvaged will be assigned a number and the following information will be recorded:

- Date and time of capture and weather conditions;
- Lizard salvage personnel
- Capture methodology, including Ground ACOs, Manual searching (Human detected), Manual searching (Lizard dog detected), or Manual searching (Drone detected).
- Capture location (GPS coordinates) and Ground ACO identifier
- Habitat type (using habitat classifications from the Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment report (EcoLogical Solutions 2026))
- Microhabitat type (all microhabitat types within 1m² of detection), ie prostrate vegetative ground cover, bare rock, leaf litter, loose rock/boulder, shrubland, or forest.
- Sex (reproductive status for females), age class, Snout to Vent Length (SVL) and tail status (regenerating versus original tail), and overall health and condition; and
- High resolution images of each lizard's dorsal, lateral and ventral surfaces and the side of its head will be taken to assist with later identification of individual lizards.

Information will be recorded onto customised field data sheets and subsequently entered into an Excel spreadsheet (or similar) for descriptive and statistical analyses.

If unusual lizards are captured that cannot be readily identified to species level in the field, DOC will be notified and, if requested, these animals (or high-resolution photos of them) will be provided to DOC for identification. Any animals requiring confirmation of species that cannot be undertaken via photos, will be held in containers as explained above and provided to DOC, Westport Office as soon as possible after capture (generally within 24 hours but up to 72 hours if found outside DoC office hours). Information on the capture location, habitat type and when the animal was found will be provided to DOC along with the animal. Once the animal has been identified by DOC, the Project herpetologist or suitably qualified and experienced ecologist(s) will collect and release it as part of the relocation programme.

If circumstances require the holding of lizards for periods longer than 24 hours for relocation, or 72 hours for provision to DOC for identification (e.g. where research and release would be improved by a longer period), then this holding will be proposed to DOC for its consideration and approval, with explanations around temporary husbandry.

Where the collection of genetic material to support understanding of the taxonomy of lizards within the Buller Plateaux is considered desirable, it will be the responsibility of the Project herpetologist who will work under the guidance of DOC as generally described in DOC's Standard Operating Procedure for bird blood / feather and reptile tissue sampling. Any animals that are incidentally killed, or any tails that are dropped and recovered in the course of mining and lizard work will be retained, where possible, and provided to DOC as part of this genetic work.

5.0 Salvage estimates

It is difficult to estimate the number of lizards likely to be salvaged from the Project disturbance area based on the proposed level of effort. Nevertheless, to provide indicative context, the most relevant available dataset is from the Denniston Plateau Protection Area (DPPA) programme, which overlaps the current Project disturbance area, and where lizard monitoring was undertaken in 2015 across five sites. The DPPA is a 700 ha contiguous block located in the northern and eastern parts of the Denniston Plateau. Some of the DPPA is located within the Project Disturbance Area in that it is characterised largely by coal measure pakihi, sandstone erosion pavement, manuka shrubland, mixed beech and southern rata mountain forest. Mean encounter rates for each of the three lizard species likely to be impacted were as follows for ACO checks and manual searching:

- Forest gecko:
 - 0.0275 per ACO check (52 individuals from 1891 checks)
 - 0.02 per person-hour searching (8 individuals from 403.1 hours searching).
- Westland speckled skink:
 - 0.0005 per ACO check (1 individual from 1891 checks)
 - No Westland speckled skink were detected during 403.1 hours of searching; however, it is assumed that Westland speckled skink will be detected using this method, and that use of the lizard dog will greatly assist with detecting this species.
- West Coast green gecko:
 - 0.124 geckos per person hour (50 individuals from 403.1 person hours searching).

If encounter rates from the earlier DPPA monitoring study are applied to the level of effort proposed for this salvaging and relocation programme, the potentially indicative numbers of lizards salvaged are as follows:

Forest gecko - approx. 230 based on best available information comprising:

- 185 forest gecko salvaged from ACOs based on an encounter rate of 0.0275 per ACO x 6,720 ACO checks (2,240 ACOs x 3 checks)
- 23 forest gecko from manual searching via turning over rocks based on encounter rate of 0.02 per person hour x 1,120 person hours

Westland speckled skink - upwards of 3-4 based on an encounter rate of 0.0005 x 6,720 ACO checks (2,240 ACOs x 3 checks) noting that Westland speckled skink are considerably more prevalent on the Stockton Plateau and elsewhere on the Denniston Plateau and the actual number salvaged may be an order of magnitude higher.

West Coast green gecko - approximately 139 based on an encounter rate of 0.124 individuals per person hour x a minimum of 1,120 person hours searching.

6.0 Relocation protocol

This section provides detail on the methods that will be used for lizard transfer and relocation.

6.1 Handling and release protocol

The following steps will be undertaken by the suitably qualified and experienced ecologist(s) to ensure appropriate handling of lizards occurs. The transportation of all lizards will comply with the Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) Code of Welfare.⁷

Capture, handling and relocation of lizards will be undertaken in accordance with the following methodologies:

- All field equipment that indigenous lizards may come into contact with (e.g. plastic enclosures, collection bags, scales, etc.) will be sterilised;
- Hand sterilisation will be undertaken;
- Salvaged lizards will be placed in either cloth bags (only during salvage), or in suitable ventilated plastic containers (during transportation). Care will be taken so that the bags and containers will be kept at a constant ambient temperature. Vegetation/leaf litter and a wetted sponge will be added to plastic containers to shelter and protect lizards during transportation;
- Where practical, lizards will be placed into ventilated two-litre plastic containers for no longer than 24 hours for transportation and relocation to the relocation site (unless identification by DOC is required); and
- Lizards will be released into appropriate habitat within the relocation sites detailed in section 6.2 below, suitable for the species being relocated. Lizards will be released at least 20 metres apart, unless found together.

Upon release, the following information will be recorded for each lizard:

- Date and time of release and weather conditions;
- Release location (GPS coordinates) and habitat type; and
- Release photograph(s).

6.2 Relocation sites

Salvaged lizards will be relocated into suitable habitat within one of four pest-exclusion fenced areas (Appendix A, Figure 1A - D):

- Denniston North pest exclusion fenced area (47.3 ha) on Denniston Plateau (Figure 1A)
- Coalbrookdale pest exclusion fenced area (154.4 ha) on Denniston Plateau (Figure 1B)
- Mt Augustus pest exclusion fenced area (14.6 ha) on the Stockton Plateau (Figure 1C)

⁷ Ministry for Primary Industries (2018). Code of Welfare: Transport within New Zealand. MPI, Regulation and Assurance Branch, Wellington 6140

- Whirlwind Rise pest exclusion fenced area (694.9 ha) on the Stockton Plateau (Figure 1D).

Salvaged lizards will be preferentially released into the relocation site closest to the point of capture, provided this remains compatible with the carrying capacity of the pest-exclusion fenced area. Lizards shall be relocated into suitable species-specific micro-habitats within the relocation site(s) that provide adequate complexity and cover.

Lizards that are salvaged in relation to early vegetation clearance may need to be released into the pest exclusion fence areas prior to the construction of the pest exclusion fences and/or the elimination of mammalian pests within. For lizards salvaged earlier in the programme there is expected to be a delay between relocation into the pest exclusion fences and the eradication of mammalian pests therein. To partially reduce issues with relocating lizards to pest-exclusion fence areas prior to the construction of the pest exclusion fences and the elimination of mammalian pests therein, salvage lizards will be relocated to weka free enclosures as set out in consent conditions (Table 2)

7.0 Monitoring and applied research

7.1 Monitoring objectives

The objective of the salvaging and relocation monitoring and applied research programme is to determine the success of the programme through a better understanding of actual densities of lizards (West Coast green gecko) on searchable habitat types on the plateau and the response and likelihood of success of salvage and relocation.

Ultimately this salvaging and relocation monitoring and applied research programme is intended to:

- Inform the effects assessments and effects management measures for future projects with similar effects;
- Contribute to a broader understanding of the success of salvaging and relocation operations on lizards.

7.2 Density estimates

Destructive sampling will be carried out within the Project disturbance area that will not be subject to VDT, to determine the actual abundance of West Coast green gecko in these targeted areas and better understand likely abundances of lizards across the Buller Plateaux. Specifically, plots of suitable West Coast green gecko habitat within the Project disturbance area will be selected and systematically searched for West Coast green geckos. During searching, habitat will be incrementally removed from the plot and comprehensively searched until there is no more potential habitat remaining inside the plot.

The purpose of this approach is to quantify densities of West Coast green geckos within targeted areas, thereby providing an evidence base for estimating potential abundance across comparable habitats on the Buller Plateau. This will, in turn, improve understanding of the magnitude of Project effects and the effectiveness of proposed compensation measures.

To this end, twenty x 100 m² (10 m x 10 m) plots of suitable West Coast green gecko habitat within the Project Disturbance Area will be selected using a spatially stratified randomised approach over the life of the project. Barrier fences (e.g. silt fences) will be deployed around the perimeter to prevent potential movement of lizards in and out of the plot. All available habitat (i.e. vegetation) within these plots will be systematically searched for West Coast green geckos and then removed until there is no more potential habitat inside the plot.

It is not feasible to determine population densities of forest gecko or Westland speckled skink, as these species utilise habitats that cannot readily be surveyed. For example, individuals may occur beneath large, immovable boulders, within rock crevices, or under dense, structurally complex low-stature vegetation, where detection probability is inherently low.

7.3 CritterPics®

The CritterPic® animal monitoring system is a small, motion triggered camera trap that captures high-quality images of small animal species with real-time image transfer. The system is a useful tool for investigating the occurrence or occupancy rates of lizards, particularly for cryptic species at low densities in highly complex and/or difficult-to-access sites.

CritterPics (or similar technology) will be employed to assess survivorship and occupancy trends of relocated individuals over time (or relative abundance trends if AI-trained individual species detection proves feasible). One hundred CritterPic units will be deployed at ground level across lizard relocation sites and will be installed near artificial cover objects (ACOs), suitable basking sites, or natural refugia (e.g. rock piles, logs, dense vegetation). Cameras will be configured to take rapid still images or short bursts when triggered.

To obtain baseline information, CritterPics will be installed for a two-month period (February–March) within pre-selected relocation sites inside the pest exclusion fence network prior to relocation. These units will then be reinstalled and monitored annually over the same two-month period on an ongoing basis before and following the release of relocated lizards for the duration of the consent.

Each unit will be baited with dried strawberries, tinned sardines, tinned pear, and peanut butter, with 50% of CritterPics also baited with a PoaUku long-life lure. The CritterPics (or similar technology) will be secured to the ground, and the entrance to each unit will be cleared.

As set out in the BOMP (BPCP-ENV-PLN-009), this method will also be applied to monitoring the response of lizards to the elimination of mammalian pests within the pest exclusion fences (i.e. through changes in occupancy rate or relative abundance. To this end, a further hundred CritterPics (or similar technology) will be established in suitable locations away from relocation sites.

7.4 Radio-tracking

Assuming Animal Ethics Committee approval is granted, a minimum of 200 geckos (100 West Coast green geckos and 100 forest geckos) will be radio-tracked across the duration of the salvaging and relocation programme (ca 10 years) to assess the effectiveness of relocation to release sites within the pest exclusion fenced areas. 140 of these will be salvaged geckos (70 West Coast green geckos and 70

forest geckos) and 60 will be resident geckos (30 West Coast green geckos and 30 forest geckos) captured in the vicinity of the relocation sites.

This assessment will be based primarily on survivorship, spatial dynamics (site fidelity) and body condition of relocated lizards. If the radio-tracked lizards survived, exhibited site fidelity at release sites and maintained body condition, results would suggest that relocation of salvaged lizards is an effective management approach. This radio-tracking work will add to knowledge obtained from a previous radio-tracking study undertaken in 2013 and 2014 by Bathurst in relation to the existing Escarpment Mine consent (Tonkin & Taylor, 2015). Conversely, if lizards do not survive relocation, dispersed away from the release site or body condition/ health deteriorated, then this would suggest that the relocation of salvaged lizards was not an effective management option (or possibly that radio-tracking negatively impacted individuals).

To monitor the relocation success of geckos (>10g) salvaged from the Project disturbance area, Holohil BD2X (0.45 gram) transmitters will be used together with a TR4 receiver. This approach will ensure that the total weight of the transmitter and harness is < 5 % of the animal's body weight, which is below the < 7.5% of body weight threshold recommended for lizards (Beausoleil et al. 2005).

Cotton-like hypoallergenic, breathable surgical tape will be used to attach the transmitters. This approach was first trialled by Matthew Salmon, University of Otago (Salmon 2002). The technique has since been used successfully on several native gecko species including common geckos, southern forest geckos, Harlequin geckos, Duvaucel's geckos, Marlborough green geckos, and jewelled geckos (Hoare et al. 2013; Baber et al. 2015). The weight of the harness is approximately 0.02 g (on average). Therefore, the combined weight of the transmitter and harness (0.47g) will be <5% and well below the < 7.5 % threshold recommended for lizards.

Radio-tracking will be conducted in consultation with appropriately experienced ecologists from DOC and in accordance with an approved DOC Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) permit (AECXXXX).

8.0 Inadvertent lizard injury or death

The following steps will be implemented if any injured or dead lizards are found during lizard salvage in accordance with the Wildlife Approval:

- The Project herpetologist in consultation with BRL will notify the DOC Local Area Manager at the earliest opportunity within 24 hours of becoming aware that an injured or dead lizard has been found.
- If DOC requests it, any dead lizard of a Threatened, At Risk, or Data Deficient species shall be sent to the appropriate Wildlife Postmortem Service for necropsy. The body is to be chilled if it can be delivered within 24 hours, or frozen if longer than 24 hours to deliver.
- Appropriate measures shall be undertaken to minimise further lizard deaths.
- If injured lizards are found during salvage, a suitably qualified vet will be contacted to discuss options

- Injured lizards will be kept in an appropriate portable enclosure (i.e., a clean, well-ventilated plastic container) under the direction of the Project Herpetologist to ensure the animal is handled appropriately until the lizard(s) can be assessed and treated.
- The decision to euthanise or release the injured lizard(s) to the lizard relocation site will be undertaken at the direction of a qualified vet if available or alternatively the Project Herpetologist

9.0 Incidental discovery protocol (threatened species)

As part of site inductions, all contractors and staff will be made aware of the possibility of the 'Threatened', 'At Risk' and 'Data Deficient' lizard species being present and will be supplied with photographs so they know what they look like.

Contractors and staff will also be briefed regarding the incidental discovery protocol for lizard and all other relevant incidental discoveries as set out in this plan.

Personnel are responsible for notifying their supervisor upon the discovery of any 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' herpetofauna, on the same working day as the discovery. The supervisor will notify the Project herpetologist and Environmental Manager.

Any 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' species that is discovered on site and not identified in this management plan, i.e. any species other than Westland speckled skink, forest gecko, West Coast green gecko or Northern grass skink, will be reported to the Project herpetologist and site Environmental Manager. The Environmental Manager will then liaise with the DOC Local Area Manager and iwi. All discoveries are to be recorded in a database with an incident register and log of actions taken for each discovery.

If additional 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' species not addressed by this LMP are discovered at any stage in the lifetime of the Project, these species will be incorporated into this LMP.

Should any novel lizard species be recorded, the Project Herpetologist will be engaged to submit the record to the DOC Amphibian and Reptile Distribution Scheme (ARDS), to undertake a follow up survey and make recommendations (if any), and to review relevant aspects of this LMP accordingly.

10.0 Compliance monitoring and reporting

Compliance or incident reports described in this section will be submitted to Council.

10.1 Annual lizard compliance monitoring report

The annual lizard compliance monitoring report will sit within the overarching Ecology Annual Monitoring Report and shall include:

- Confirmation that lizard effects avoidance and minimisation protocols were followed in accordance with the LMP and associated proposed conditions, including:

- A description of methods and results relating to lizard salvaging operations
- Maps illustrating where avoidance or minimisation measures were undertaken
- A description of actions and results in relation to the salvage and relocation monitoring and applied research programmes
- Recommendations for potential changes to improve the effectiveness of lizard management in relation to the LMP scope.
- Representative photos showing evidence of salvage and relocation operations being undertaken along with evidence of release and relocation site restoration and enhancement measures.

Annual reporting related to the LMP will cease once lizard salvage and relocation programme is complete, inclusive of the radio-tracking programme to assess the likely success of operations for forest and West Coast green gecko.

The outcomes of LMP implementation will be summarised in a final (post-construction) report submitted to the West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) and Buller District Council (BDC) as part of the ecology reporting requirement.

Results associated with the BPCP programme, which includes monitoring at the lizard relocation release site, will continue to be reported on annually.

10.2 Incident monitoring and reporting

The Regulator/Grantor will be notified as soon as practicable but no more than five working days after an unscheduled event associated with habitat clearance. Such events include notable compliance failure that results in adverse ecological effects, or an event that causes vegetation damage on a scale that requires an urgent remedy according to the Project Herpetologist to return to compliance with any section of the BPCP ecological management plans and planting programmes.

A subsequent investigation report will be provided to the Regulator/Grantor within 30 working days and include the following information:

- The causes of the incident, the emergency response measures (if applicable), and the response proposed to avoid a recurrence of the issue;
- An assessment undertaken by the Project Herpetologist which details any adverse effects of the exceedance; and
- Proposed measures to address effects.

As appropriate, lizard management activities and monitoring results will be documented and reported in the Ecology Annual Monitoring Report. At the time of submitting this report, BRL shall advise of any material changes that it intends to initiate and the timeframe for such material change.

10.3 Animal Ethics Committee Reporting requirements

The AEC will most likely have reporting requirements and these will be followed and adhered to and where practicable integrated with the wider reporting requirements.

11.0 Roles, Responsibilities, and Training

BRL is committed to continual training and awareness of all staff, employees, and contractors. Training and awareness procedures are an integral part of ensuring the full implementation of the Lizard Management Plan across all aspects of all projects. Effective and regular communication at all levels reinforces the message that ecology management issues are taken seriously and that the LMP has the active support of the principal contractor.

Implicit in the effective management of lizard values of all areas where BRL operates is the allocation of responsibilities to key individuals. Details of roles and responsibilities associated with this Lizard Management Plan are provided in Table 6 below.

The Buller Plateaux Continuation Project Mine Induction Package, induction process and regular training will encourage environmental awareness of all staff, employees and contractors on the BPCP.

Ongoing training and awareness initiatives will take place for specific teams that deal with mine operations that impact on lizards, such as vegetation clearance and other forms of disturbance to areas outside of the mine footprint(s).

Table 6: Personnel responsible for implementing the LMP and associated tasks

Position	Accountable Task
Site Senior Executive (SSE) / General Manager (GM)	• Provide adequate resources for the implementation of this LMP. • Overall accountability for implementation of this Plan; • Endorses significant management responses where required; and • Approve any other key management plans and agreements where required
Environmental Manager	• Be responsible for ensuring the implementation of the requirements of this LMP and communicating any issues to the BPCP Management Team; • Facilitate any monitoring required as part of the LMP • Report on lizards of the Buller Plateaux as part of the EMS Management Review Process to the BPCP Management Team; • Address the external reporting requirements of the plan and manage the Annual Monitoring Report and Annual Work Plan process; • Oversee corrective actions, as required, to address non-compliance and the reporting thereof to consent authorities; and • Ensure lizard monitoring is conducted, recorded and communicated as per the requirements of this plan. • Co-ordinate training of the employees and contractors with regards to their responsibilities in relation to this LMP.
Project herpetologist	• Responsible for ensuring the technical elements of the plan are undertaken according to best practice and by suitably qualified experts.

Position	Accountable Task
Lizard specific consultants or contractors	- Undertake work practices that comply with the LMP. - Periodically assess VDT sites within the rehabilitated mine footprints to determine the suitability of rehabilitated sites on the ELF for lizard relocation
Mine Planning Manager	Ensure that risks to the lizard fauna have been incorporated into the mine design and staging, ELF design and rehabilitation planning for the mine.
Training supervisor	- Coordinate training for employees and contractors on lizard management responsibilities and procedures under this Plan; - Support the development and delivery of lizard-related training and induction content.
Supervisors	- Ensure day-to-day operations are undertaken in accordance with the mitigation and management measures set out in this Plan; - Provide instruction to workers on relevant lizard controls and protocols; - Identify and respond to operational activities that may increase lizard effects; and - Monitor the effectiveness of lizard management measures and report issues as required; and Implement corrective actions as directed.
All personnel	- Comply with site procedures and controls relevant to lizard management; - Report any lizard related issues, or incidents that may adversely affect lizards within and beyond the mine boundary during mine construction and operation to their supervisor; and - Participate in inductions and toolbox talks relevant to the requirements of this Plan.

12.0 Management Plan Approval and Revision

Any proposed changes to this LMP will be confirmed in writing by the consent holder following consultation with Buller District Council and West Coast Regional Council. Te Runanga o Ngāti Waewae and the Department of Conservation will be consulted on any material proposed changes that may arise.

12.1 Change Register

This Lizard Management Plan is issued, revised, and amended under authorisation of the CEO.

A copy will be stored electronically with access available to all workers. The signed hard copy will be maintained in the Wellington document library.

Reasons for making changes will be documented and recorded in the document management table, refer to Table 7. A copy of the original document and subsequent versions will be kept for records and marked as obsolete. Each new/updated version will be issued with a version number and date to eliminate obsolete documentation being used.

Table 7: Document management

Document Management:			
Regulatory Approvals Authorities:			
Document Owner:			
Document Owner Name:			
GM HSEC Approval Signature:			
Date:			
Document Approver:			
CEO Name:			
CEO Signature:			
Date Approved:			
Revision History:			
Date	Version No.	Lead Author	Contributing Authors
Version No.: Detail / Changes:			
Next Planned Review:			

13.0 References

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A.1. Appendix A Pest exclusion fence figures

Projection: NZGD 2000 New Zealand Transverse Mercator

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Pest exclusion fenced areas

Figure 1

Projection: NZGD 2000 New Zealand Transverse Mercator

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Exclusion Fences: Denniston North

BATHURST PEST CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT

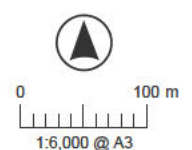
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 Pest exclusion fence

Data Sources: Alliance Ecology, Eagle Technology, LINZ



Map 1A

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Exclusion Fences: Coalbrookdale

BATHURST PEST CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT

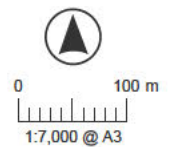
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 Pest exclusion fence

Data Sources: Alliance Ecology, Eagle Technology, LINZ



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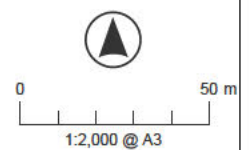


Exclusion Fences: Mt. Augustus

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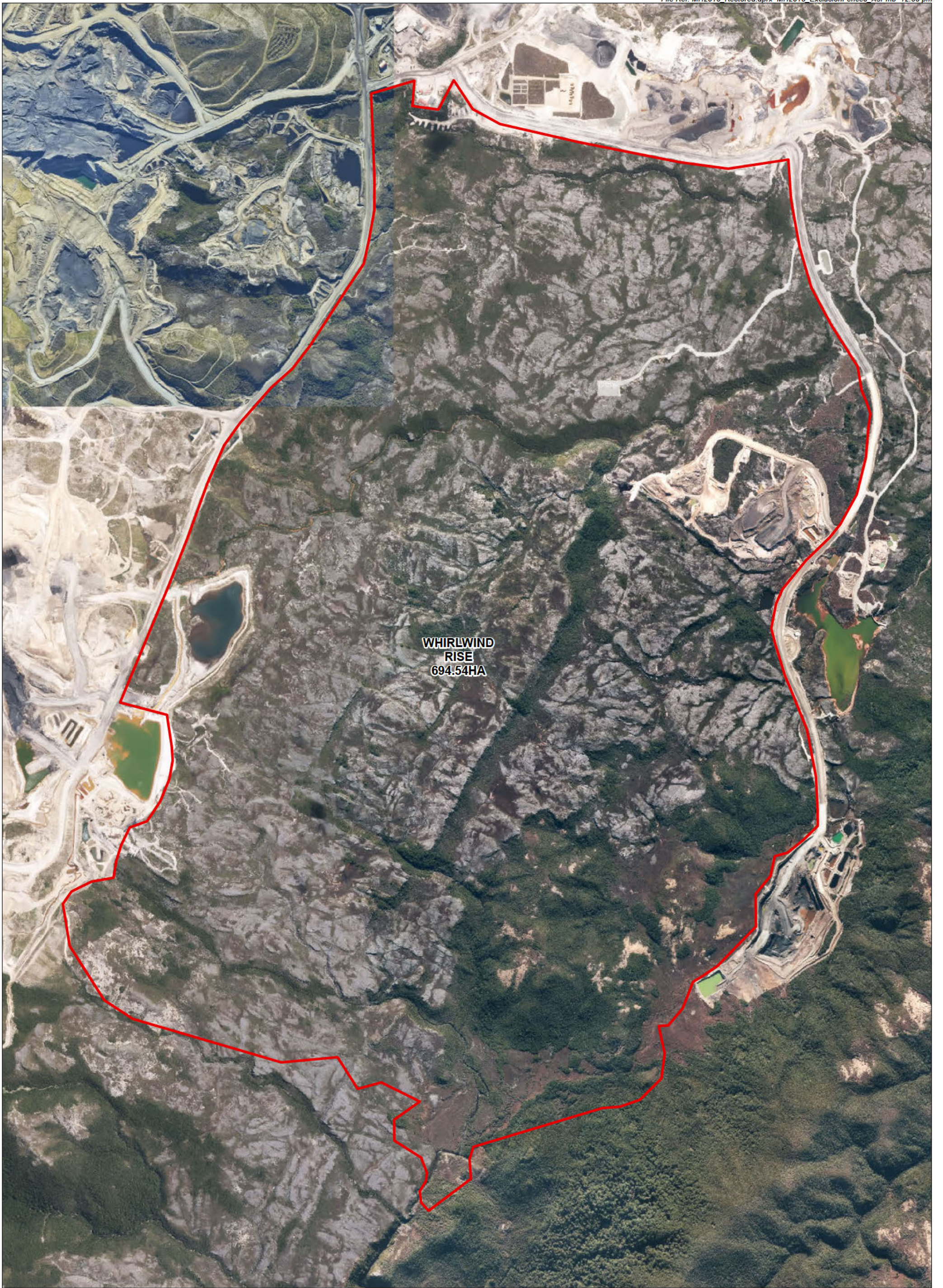
LEGEND
Pest exclusion fence

Data Sources: Alliance Ecology, Eagle Technology, LINZ



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Exclusion Fences: Whirlwind Rise

BATHURST PEST CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT

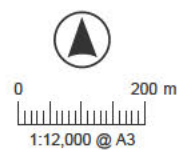
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 Pest exclusion fence

Data Sources: Alliance Ecology, Eagle Technology, LINZ



Map 1D