



Initial Offset Area Condition Report – [REDACTED]

Moranbah North Mine Extension

Issue: 1

Date: 30/06/2026

Contents

1	Introduction	3
1.1	The Project	3
1.2	Offset Areas	3
1.3	The Purpose	4
2	Methods	6
2.1	Field Assessment	6
2.2	Survey Limitations	9
3	Field Assessment results	9
3.1	Threatened Fauna Species – Ornamental Snake	9
3.1.1	Ornamental Snake	9
3.2	Ecological Function	11
3.2.1	Introduced/Non-Native Wildlife	11
3.2.2	Threatening processes	12
3.2.3	Wetlands and watercourse features	12
3.2.4	Corridors and connectivity	13
4	Habitat Quality Assessment Results	14
5	Conclusion	14
6	[REDACTED]	15

1 Introduction

The Offset Area Management Plan approved on 6 August 2024 (OAMP) and varied on 15 July 2025 describes how Anglo American proposes to secure and manage biodiversity offsets for the Moranbah North Mine Extension (the Project) for approval (EPBC 2018/8338) issued under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) on 18 September 2020 (and varied on 28 February 2022).

The OAMP describes how significant residual impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) will be offset consistent with the *EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy*.

Section 9.1 of the OAMP requires that, by 30 June 2026, the Proponent submit to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) an Initial Offset Area Condition Report. The Report must be subsequently published on Anglo American's website.

The reporting period is from approval of the OAMP on 15 July 2025 to 30 May 2026 (Reporting Period).

This is the Initial Offset Area Condition Report for the Reporting Period for Section 9.1 of the OAMP is specifically for for [REDACTED]. An initial Offset Area Condition Report for [REDACTED] was submitted by 30 June 2025 as required by version F of the OAMP.

1.1 The Project

The Moranbah North Mine is an underground metallurgical coal mine, located near Moranbah in the Bowen Basin of Central Queensland.

1.2 Offset Areas

To fulfil the requirements of the EPBC Act approval, two properties were proposed in the OAMP to acquit the Project's offset requirements:

1. [REDACTED]; and
2. [REDACTED].

On 11 June 2026, Anglo American submitted to the DCCEEW a request to vary the approved OAMP. Anglo American has been in negotiations with the landholder of [REDACTED] to secure offsets across both lots of the property as per OAMP (version F), however was unable to reach agreement with the landholder on areas to be utilised for offsetting as per OAMP version F.

Additional ecology surveys were undertaken in 2025 to verify available ornamental snake habitat on areas which have been agreed with the landholder. The surveys confirmed that suitable habitat is available to acquit the offset requirements. Accordingly, Anglo American has submitted a revised OAMP (version G) for Departmental approval which includes a change in the location and areas on the property as well as a change in the reporting requirement for the Initial Offset Condition report to 2027.

Currently, Anglo American and DCCEEW are in ongoing discussions regarding the variation request and approval of the variation to the OAMP is pending. As the varied OAMP has not yet been approved, this report provides a summary of the initial offset condition across the proposed [REDACTED] offset locations in the revised OAMP (version G). Management actions in the offset area have not yet taken place as the area has not yet been legally secured, however management actions have taken place areas the property and in adjacent offset areas on [REDACTED].

The locations of the [REDACTED] properties are shown in Figure 1. The [REDACTED] provides offsets for Koala, Greater glider and Squatter pigeon, while the [REDACTED] will provide the offset for Ornamental snake. The selected properties are considered suitable to provide the values required to address the approval requirements.

1.3 The Purpose

In accordance with section 9.1 of the OAMP, the purpose of this Initial Offset Area Condition Report is to detail the following:

- Survey sites /photo point (Section 3.2 of Appendix A);
- Offset condition outcomes, including habitat quality scores, condition of habitat and results of surveys;
- Weed and pest animal status over the period; and
- Effectiveness of management actions.

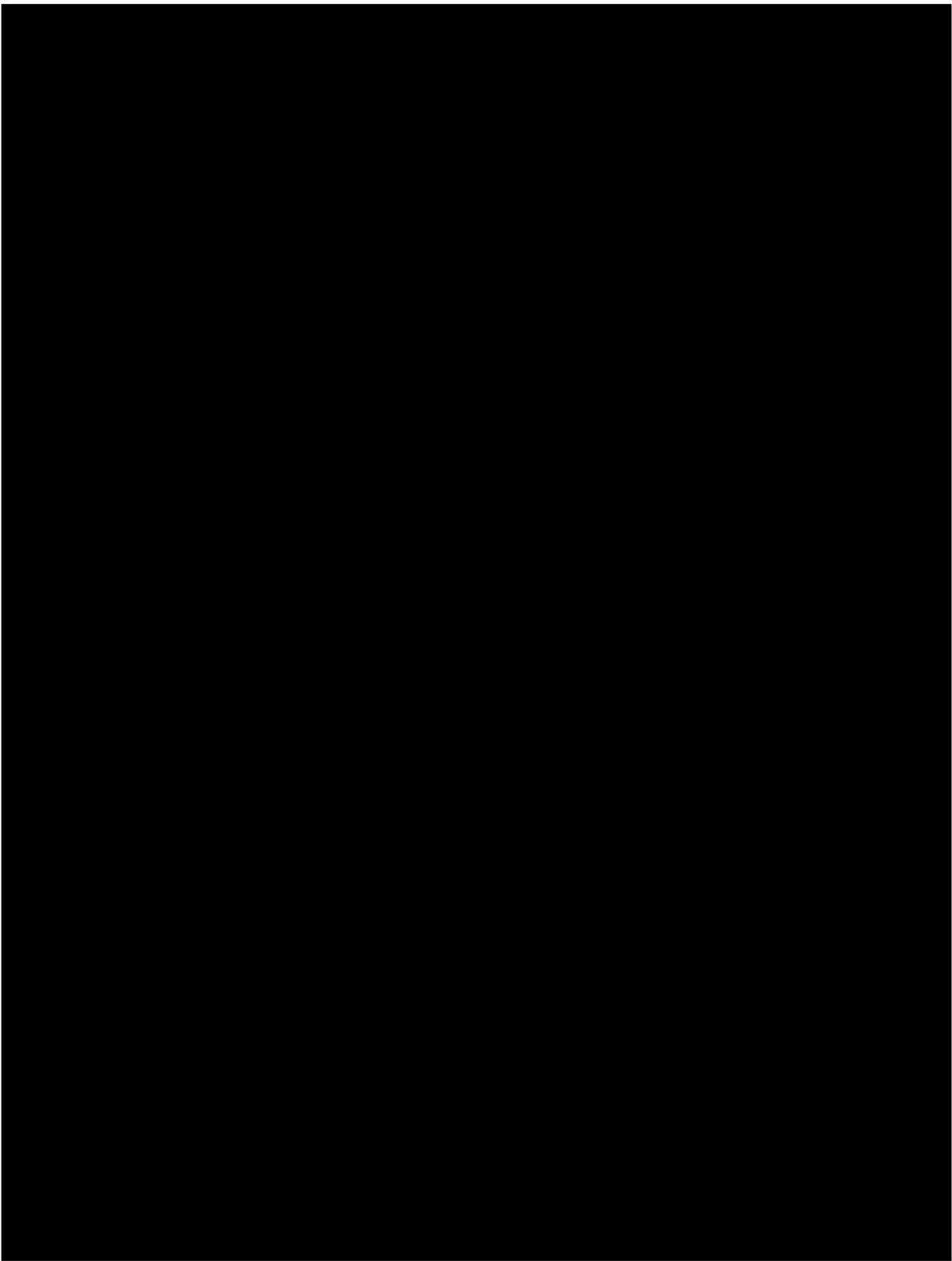


Figure 1 Moranbah North Offset Areas

2 Methods

2.1 Field Assessment

An assessment to determine baseline values for the updated [REDACTED] offset area was completed by ELA in October 2025 (Section 3.2 of ELA Report). This assessment forms the basis of this Initial Offset Area Condition Report

The aim of the assessment was to verify vegetation mapping and confirm the presence of species values for offset including assessment targeted the following Ornamental snake (*Denisonia maculata*).

The field survey consisted of vegetation, flora and fauna components, all of which were undertaken in accordance (where possible), with State and Commonwealth guidelines, including the following:

- Methodology for survey and mapping of regional ecosystems and vegetation communities in Queensland (Neldner, et al., 2023)
- BioCondition: A Condition Assessment Framework for Terrestrial Biodiversity in Queensland (Eyre, et al., 2015)
- Guide to determining terrestrial habitat quality – Methods for assessing habitat quality under the Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy (version 1.3) (DES, 2020)
- Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Survey Assessment Guidelines for Queensland (version 4.0) (Eyre, et al., 2022)
- Survey guidelines for Australian threatened birds (DEWHA, 2010)
- Survey guidelines for Australian threatened reptiles (DSEWPC, 2011)
- Draft referral guidelines for the nationally listed Brigalow Belt reptiles (DCCEEW, 2023)
- Approved Conservation Advice for the Brigalow (Acacia harpophylla dominant and co-dominant) ecological community (DoE, 2013)
- Guidance on the use of the Modified Habitat Quality Assessment Method (DEHP, 2023).

Refer to section 3 and 4 of this document for the field assessment results.

The survey sites locations are captured in Figure 2 and 3 below.

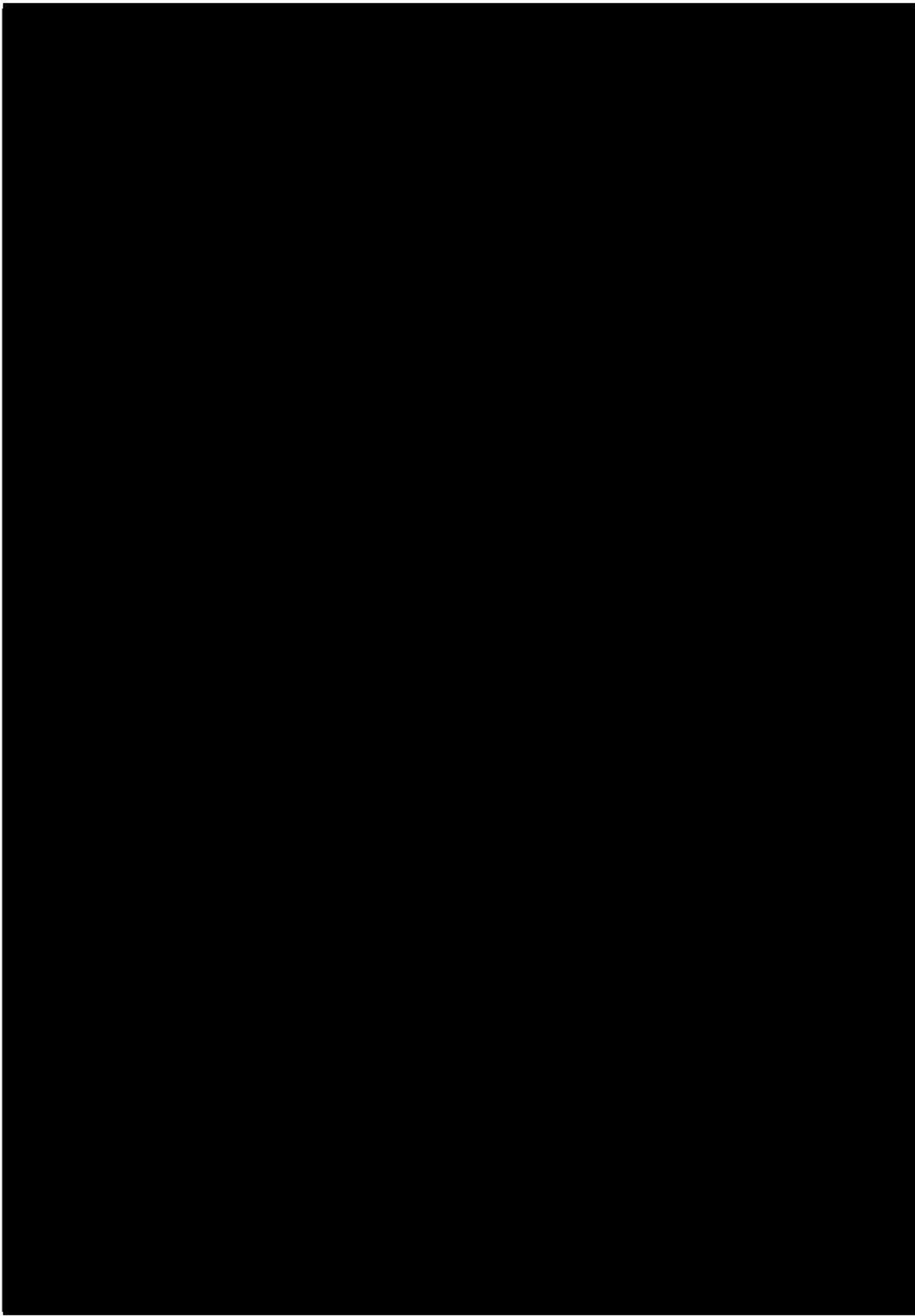


Figure 2 Vegetation and flora survey sites

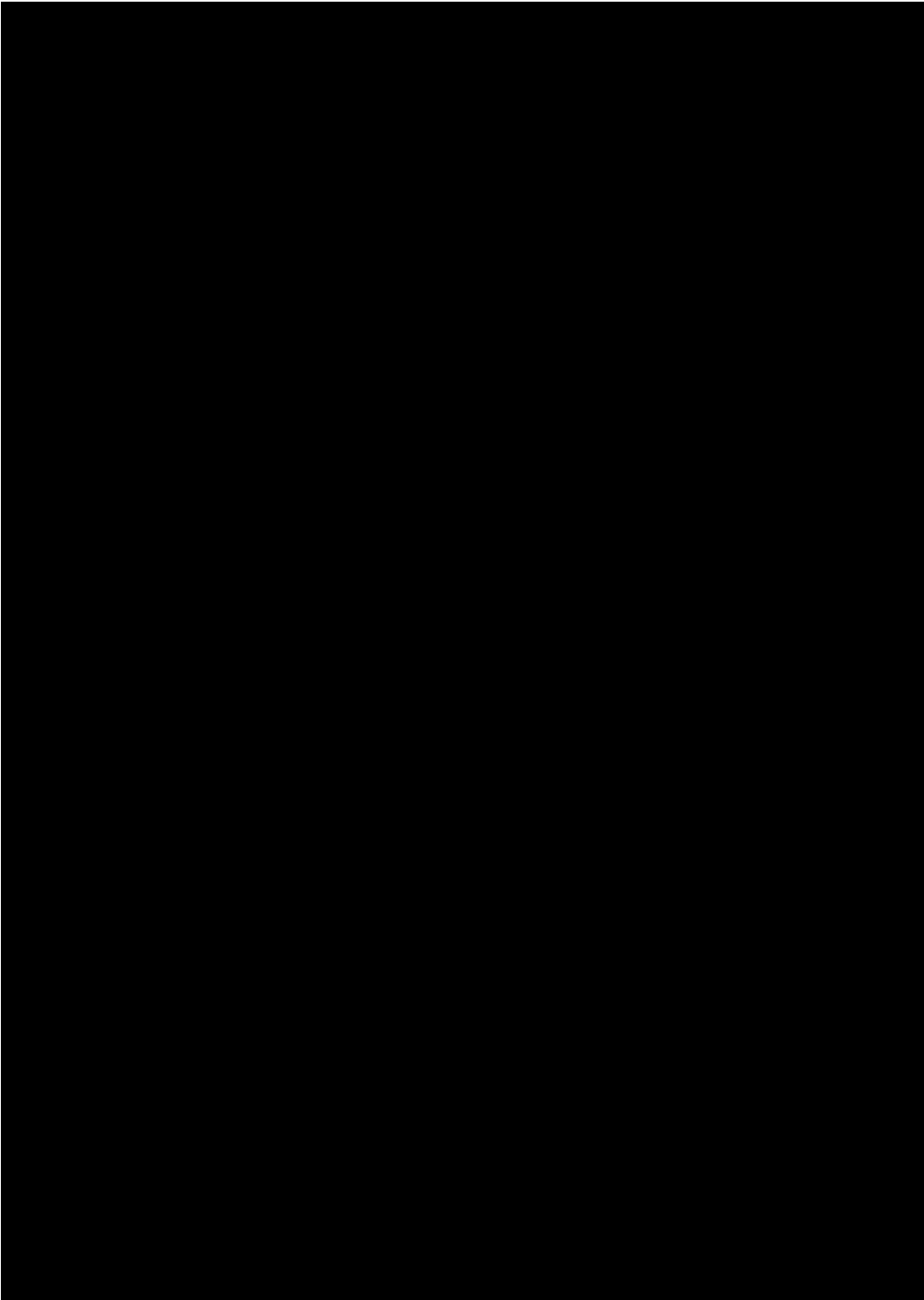


Figure 3 Fauna and habitat quality assessment sites

2.2 Survey Limitations

Ecological surveys have a range of inherent limitations associated with seasonal timing of the survey, variable climate conditions and species behaviour. As such, the survey conducted represents a “snapshot” in time and may not provide a true indication of presence or absence of flora and fauna species within the survey area.

3 Field Assessment results

3.1 Threatened Fauna Species – Ornamental Snake

3.1.1 Ornamental Snake

The ornamental snake primarily inhabits woodland and open forest habitats in moist environments such as floodplains, gilgai, undulating clay pans, near waterbodies (swamps and lakes) and along watercourses. It prefers these habitats due to the abundance of prey food, namely frogs (DoE, 2014). The species shelters under woody debris and in soil cracks where it can remain inactive for extended periods during dry conditions. The ornamental snake is often associated with *Acacia harpophylla* dominated communities including Brigalow TEC, although it can also occur in various other REs. Additionally, it may inhabit non-remnant vegetation where gilgai and cracking clay soil formations are present. Gilgais become seasonally flooded, which provides breeding habitat for many frog species, which the snakes prey upon.

Suitable foraging and dispersal habitat for the ornamental snake was ground-truthed within the study area totalling an area of 163 ha. Whilst gilgai formations were not inundated at the time of the survey, and survey conditions were not ideal for detection of the species, one ornamental snake slough (skin) was recovered in the southern portion of the survey area within remnant RE 11.4.9. The recovered snake slough scale count was 17 mid-body dorsal scales, 129 ventral scales, 23 single subcaudal scales, with a single anal scale. Ornamental snake is known to have 17 midbody dorsal scales and 120-150 ventral scales and is the only species fitting this scale count within this region, with De Vis’ banded snake (*Denisonia devisi*) occurring further west and little whip snake (*Parasuta flagellum*) occurring outside of Queensland in the southeast of

Australia. Curl snake (*Suta suta*), also present within the site, are of similar size and habitat, although a habitat generalist, however, has 19-21 mid-body dorsal scales and 150-170 ventral scales.

Habitat quality assessments identified suitable foraging and dispersal habitat for the ornamental snake in both remnant and non-remnant areas. Floodplain eucalyptus woodlands (RE 11.3.3) as poor foraging habitat and *Acacia harpophylla* shrubby woodlands to open forest as well as shrubby brigalow woodlands with scattered Eucalypts on Cainozoic clay plains (RE 11.3.1, 11.4.8 and 11.4.9) as foraging and shelter habitat. These REs were identified as suitable habitat for the ornamental snake due to the presence of cracking clay soils and gilgai abundance. The non-remnant areas were identified as suitable habitat due to the presence of cracking clay soils.

Within the assessment units 1-3, which account for the majority of gilgai formation within the study area (i.e. REs 11.4.8 and 11.4.9 in the southern patches), the average habitat quality score and landscape attributes were overall low. Factors affecting habitat quality score and landscape habitat generally related to a lack of connectedness between patches of vegetation and surrounding remnant areas which have been highly fragmented for agricultural purposes.

Factors negatively influencing site-based scores were often relevant to the absence of large trees (not applicable to the species) low perennial native grass cover and a lack of woody debris. Often high levels of non-native ground cover (i.e. Buffel) were present. However, it should be noted that even though ground level strata was largely non-native in these areas and coarse woody debris (which may provide shelter for ornamental snakes) was absent or sparse, these areas are still able to provide gilgai micro-habitats and are sufficient to enable the species to persist here, as demonstrated by the presence of ornamental snake slough.

Whilst the species can persist without the presence of brigalow (e.g. non-remnant areas of gilgai), ploughing can cause habitat loss through the destruction of gilgai and soil cracks. Cattle grazing practices in these areas, such as overgrazing by stock and grazing of gilgais during the wet season, has potential to lead to soil compaction and compromising of soil structure. These practices cause high threats to the species (scope and severity). If areas of gilgai are proposed as offset areas, the exclusion of stock would need to be prioritised.

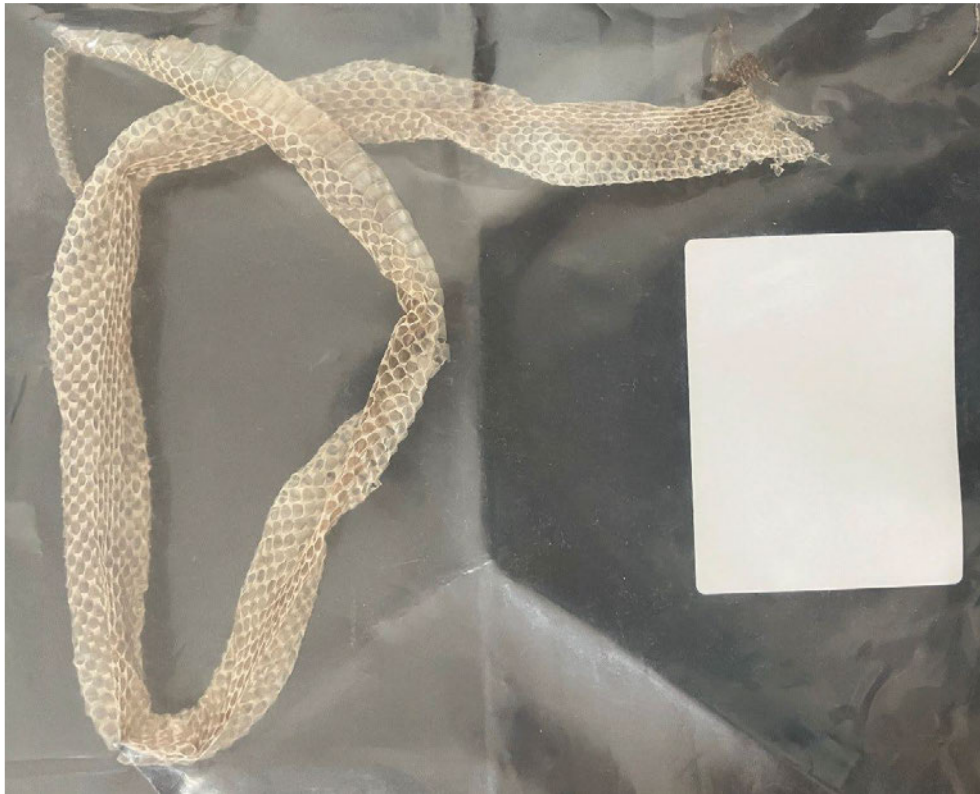


Figure 4 Ornamental snake slough recovered from the study area

Refer further to Appendix A for more details on the ecological survey conducted.

3.2 Ecological Function

3.2.1 Introduced/Non-Native Wildlife

A total of eight weed species were identified across the study area. Most invasive flora species were found to occur in low abundance as scattered individuals, and weed management was evident. Jerusalem thorn (**Parkinsonia aculeata*), a common and invasive weed throughout the region, was well-managed throughout the property. The exotic pastoral grass **Cenchrus ciliaris* was recorded in extensive, high density stands throughout the study area and is common throughout much of the region. Five weeds of national significance (WoNS) were identified, including;

- Velvety prickly pear (*Opuntia tomentosa*)
- Common pear (*Opuntia stricta*)
- Jerusalem thorn (*Parkinsonia aculeata*)
- Parthenium (*Parthenium hysterophorus*)

- Rubber vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*).

Weeds, including Weeds of National Significance, were observed and recorded within the study area. In general, weed management practices were found to be relatively effective, particularly an obvious lack of *Parkinsonia*, in relation to other nearby areas where this WoNS is well established. The broad dominance of Buffel grass across much of the study area is likely to significantly reduce the biodiversity of ground level strata, including threatened grass species; *Dichanthium queenslandicum* and *Dichanthium setosum* that are known to occur within the area. Six introduced pest fauna species were observed during the field survey including cane toad, european cattle (domestic cattle belonging to the landholder), cat, brown hare, rabbit and pigs

3.2.2 Threatening processes

Field assessment of the study area identified the presence of numerous threatening processes including habitat fragmentation, drought, extreme heat, grazing pressure, pest animals and weeds.

Direct impacts of grazing, such as suppressed ground layer species diversity, pugging in wet areas, and indirect impacts such as encroachment of **Cenchrus ciliaris* (Buffel grass) and weeds result from cattle grazing. Grazing impacts on the regeneration of native tree species was highly evident. Many palatable native trees, such as dessert limes (*Citrus glauca*) were denuded of foliage where cattle had access and a general lack of eucalyptus regrowth was evident across all areas. This pressure is present across the entire study area.

The clearing of vegetation to allow for the grazing of stock, construction and maintenance of tracks and infrastructure as well as cropping is also a key threatening process.

3.2.3 Wetlands and watercourse features

The offset area includes 3 patches within [REDACTED]. The north-western patch borders a small creek, [REDACTED] which lines through the property. The southern two patches largely surrounded by cropping land.

3.2.4 Corridors and connectivity

On [REDACTED], the offset area comprises three patches of suitable habitat that adjoins other vegetated areas which have been used or proposed as offsets for other Anglo American projects. The property importantly adjoins the [REDACTED] creating a large expanse of conservation land. [REDACTED] also supports existing offset areas surrounding [REDACTED] in the northern and central parts of the property, see Figure 5 below.

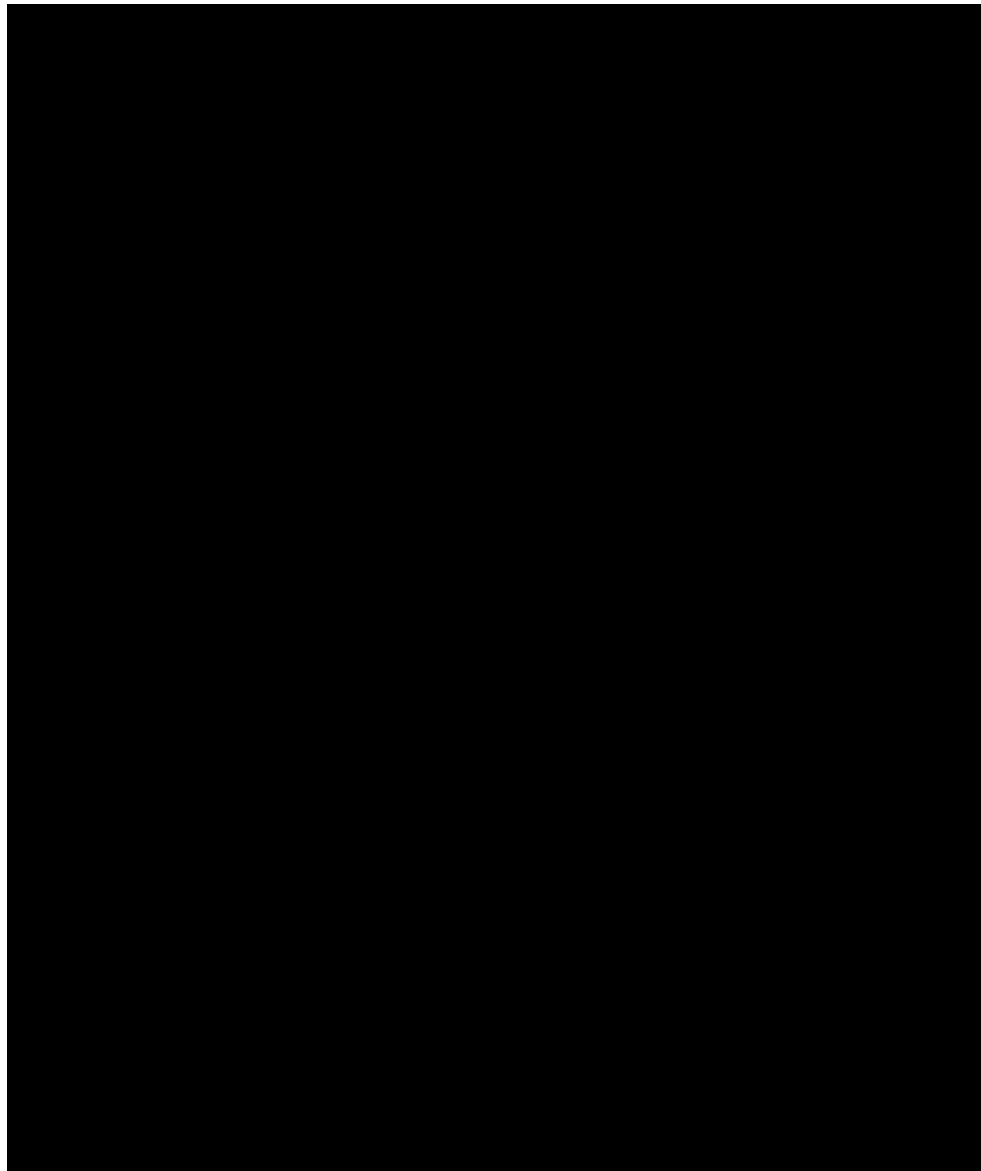


Figure 5 [REDACTED]

4 Habitat Quality Assessment Results

Table 1 outlines the modified habitat quality results for Ornamental Snake. An assessment of habitat quality within the study area was undertaken in accordance with the *Guide to Determining Terrestrial Habitat Quality* (Version 1.3) (DES, 2020).

Table 1 Modified Habitat quality results

AU	RE	Class	Bio Condition Classification Score	Habitat Quality Score	Weighted habitat score	Area (ha)
1	11.4.9	Non-Remnant	4	3.33/10	1.79/10	79.05
2	11.4.9	Remnant	3	4.24/10	0.37/10	13.16
3	11.4.8	Non-Remnant	4	3.11/10	0.73/10	34.94
4	11.3.3	Remnant	2	4.35/10	0.13/10	4.35
5	11.3.1	Remnant	2	4.43/10	0.19/10	6.54
6	11.3.3	Non-Remnant	2	4.43/10	0.34/10	11.54
Total habitat quality score for the Matter Area				3.05/10		

5 Conclusion

ELA conducted and ecology survey of the [REDACTED] area to evaluate the condition of the environment to support MNES, including Ornamental Snake.

The survey confirmed the presence of ornamental snake through a snake slough found in the survey area. And that the area is suitable to support ornamental snake habitat.

Due to the timing of the initial offset condition report and the property not yet required to be legally secured, management actions have not taken place in the offset area. Although property wide and adjacent management actions (i.e weed management) have had impact on the offset area. It is recommended that the threatening processes are addressed through management actions including those captured in the OAMP including weed and pest management and grazing restrictions.

Anglo American intends to review the assessment sites that have been monitored in the October 2025 to ensure that all the respective regional ecosystems are appropriately monitored as the habitat quality scores were derived for the entire surveyed area of suitable habitat. It is intended that this will occur in 2027 in accordance with the revised OAMP that is currently being assessed by the Department.

6 Appendix A – [REDACTED] Suitability Assessment Report