



Rockwater
PROPRIETARY LIMITED

MULGA ROCK PROJECT

HYDROGEOLOGY, AND ASSESSMENT OF DEWATERING REQUIREMENTS AND WATER SUPPLY SOURCES

JULY 2013

**REPORT FOR
ENERGY AND MINERALS AUSTRALIA LIMITED**

345.0/13/01

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Energy and Minerals Australia Limited (EMA) Mulga Rock deposits are uranium-bearing, polymetallic deposits located 250 km east-north-east of Kalgoorlie. These include the Emperor, Shogun, Ambassador and Princess deposits. The Emperor and Shogun deposits are adjacent in the western part of the project area; Ambassador is in the east; and Princess is north of Ambassador (Fig. 1).

A Scoping Study was completed in 2010 on the Ambassador deposit, and that deposit forms the initial focus for mining. Rockwater was engaged by EMA to provide hydrogeological input to the Mulga Rock project, in particular to assess dewatering requirements and to outline sources of water.

This report presents the results to date of hydrogeological investigations on all of the deposits at Mulga Rock.

1.1 CLIMATE

Mulga Rock is in an arid area with hot summers and mild winters. Bureau of Meteorology contour maps indicate that rainfall averages about 210 mm per annum. Annual dam evaporation is about 2,100 mm (Luke, Burke and O'Brien, 1988). The nearest long-term rainfall station is at Edjudina, about 110 km to the west. Average rainfall data for the station (1900 to 2012) are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Average Monthly Rainfall (mm) Edjudina (BoM Station 012027)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
20.6	28.2	26.1	19.4	21.9	22.5	19.3	16.9	9.7	11.5	13.8	12.9	219.2

Most of the rain falls in irregular thunderstorm events or during the passage of the remnants of cyclones, with some frontal systems in winter. Daily rainfalls have been up to 98 mm (in February).

2 HYDROGEOLOGICAL SETTING

The Mulga Rock deposits lie in the Narnoo sub-basin (Fewster, 2009), a structurally controlled palaeovalley that was established during the Permian. A major phase of stream rejuvenation in the Eocene, followed by marine transgressions led to the development of the palaeodrainage which contains the mineralised sediments. The Narnoo sub-basin contains fluvial, lacustrine and marine sediments of Tertiary and Cretaceous age that

include sandstone, claystone, lignite and minor conglomerate, which commonly occur in graded beds. Mineralisation typically occurs in the lignite and the underlying sandstone.

The Tertiary Minigwal palaeodrainage which includes Lake Minigwal probably flowed originally into the Narnoo sub-basin and then continued to the south along the western edge of crystalline rocks of the Albany-Fraser Orogen, before discharging into the Eucla Basin. That palaeodrainage has since been captured by another drainage system and now flows further to the north. There may still be an outlet from the Narnoo sub-basin to the south: the southerly direction of flow can be seen by groundwater levels measured in the Ambassador deposit (Fig. 1). Uranerz (1986) drilled a number of sections across the palaeodrainage which they referred to as the Ponton Channel. The channel includes a West Arm which extends south from the Emperor and Shogun deposits, and an East Arm that extends south from near the Ambassador deposit (the Palaeodrainage in Fig. 1). The nearest section to Ambassador was on Uranerz grid line 92500 N, about 23 km south of Ambassador. At that location the palaeodrainage is about six km wide and contains Tertiary sand and clay to a maximum depth of about 95 m.

The palaeodrainage contains hypersaline groundwater with salinity in the range 150,000 to 250,000 mg/L TDS. In adjacent parts of the Narnoo sub-basin, the groundwater is commonly less saline (ranging from saline to hypersaline), probably due to mixing with low-salinity water that is recharged by the infiltration of rainfall via overlying dune sands.

Salinities measured at various times are contoured in Fig. 2. They increase in the flow directions towards the centre of the palaeodrainage. Piper trilinear diagrams of major ion chemistry (Fig. 3 all data; and Figs 4 to 7 for data from each area/deposit at Mulga Rock) indicate that the portions of sodium and chloride increase, and calcium, magnesium and sulphate decrease – from the Kakarook North and BP areas, to the Ambassador/Princess, Shogun and to the Emperor deposit. This corresponds with generally increasing salinity and presumably groundwater age, and reflects the reducing geochemical conditions.

Thirty kilometres north-east of the Ambassador deposit there are Tertiary sediments that have been deposited within depressions in the Proterozoic bedrock. Mineral sand exploration holes drilled by Ramsgate Resources Ltd for the Kakarook mineral sand project intersected these sediments and where deep they extend below the water table. Water exploration holes have recently been drilled in the area by EMA to locate a source of low-salinity groundwater.

3 PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

GRC (1984) reviewed all available data for PNC Exploration Pty Ltd, previous owners of the project; and carried out hydrogeological assessments for the mine water supply,

dewatering of the Emperor, Shogun and Ambassador deposits, and potential environmental impacts.

Following the above study, a programme of drilling, bore construction and test-pumping was completed, and a reconnaissance was made for a source of low-salinity water (GRC, 1985). Six additional sites were drilled to explore for low-salinity water (GRC, 1986), but with little success.

Two drillholes located east of Ambassador that were reported to have abundant water (PNC, 1986) intersected schist and sediments that were reported to be of Cretaceous and Permian age. Water samples collected from the drillholes had salinities of 20,450 mg/L TDS (RC1440) and 9,150 mg/L TDS (RC1441). The drillhole locations are shown in Fig. 8. From the same report, 31 samples of peaty clay (lignite?) analysed by Amdel, had 47 percent water content.

Douglas *et. al.* (1993) completed a detailed investigation of the hydrochemistry of groundwater from the Ambassador deposit as well as the chemistry and mineralogy of the lignite.

4 HYDROGEOLOGY

4.1 GROUNDWATER LEVELS

Groundwater levels were contoured across the Mulga Rock project area by GRC (1984, Fig. 545-1-4) using approximate ground levels (+/- 3 m) and water levels measured over a three-year period in different layers. They were very irregular, but overall indicated a flat water-table that possibly sloped down from west to east from Emperor to Shogun, and north to south through Ambassador.

Water levels measured by EMA at various times are contoured in Figure 1. They indicate an east to south-easterly direction of groundwater flow at Emperor and Shogun; a south-westerly flow at Princess and Ambassador; and southerly flow at Kakarook North. There appears to be a low flat area in the water table south of Shogun and west of Ambassador that is based on few data points. This would suggest an area of groundwater discharge, however there is no known mechanism for discharge in the area. It is likely instead that the groundwater flow continues to the south-east and south down the palaeodrainage.

The water table at the Ambassador deposit is 27 to 48 m deep. The water table slopes downwards to the south-west and south at an average gradient of 0.0022. The local groundwater flow direction is almost opposite to the regional easterly or south-easterly flow towards the Eucla Basin. However, it is consistent with flow towards the East Arm of the palaeochannel mapped by Uranerz that extends south from Ambassador.

The water table at the Princess deposit ranges from 35.4 m to 48.0 m below ground level, with depths largely dependent on ground elevation. It slopes gently to the south-west, with reduced water levels between 296 m and 298 m AHD (Fig. 1).

4.2 AMBASSADOR AND PRINCESS DEPOSITS

4.2.1 Stratigraphy and Aquifer Parameters

The stratigraphy below the water table (which lies about 38 m below ground level) at the Ambassador deposit (and the adjacent Princess deposit) can be represented by the strata intersected by Bore 7 south of the deposit:

0 – 4 m	Lignite (mineralised)
4 – 9 m	Interbedded clay, lignite and sand
9 – 18 m	Coarse sand
18 – 31 m	Interbedded sand and clay
31 – 63 m	Slightly to very slightly clayey sand (Bore 7 is screened in this layer).

The deeper sand layer intersected by Bore 7 decreases in thickness to the north (M Fewster, pers. comm.).

Three geological sections through the Ambassador deposit and two through the Princess deposit that have been prepared by EMA are included as Figures 9 and 10. The section lines are shown with the geological structure in Fig. 11. They show the complex geology of these deposits. The sediments below the water table are mostly of the Upper and Lower Narnoo that have been deposited in grabens within the faulted Permian to Proterozoic basement. The lower Narnoo sediments are reduced conglomerate, sandstone and claystone of Eocene to Late Cretaceous? age; and the Upper Narnoo sediments are carbonaceous sandstone, claystone and lignite of mid Eocene age, and diamictite, claystone, sandstone and siltstone of Late Eocene age. The beds are commonly graded, fining upwards. The stratigraphy is summarised in the diagram on the following page, also prepared by EMA geologists.

The pumping test on Bore 7 (GRC, 1985) indicated an aquifer transmissivity of 210 m²/d and a hydraulic conductivity of the deeper sand layer of 9 m/d, based on a screened interval of 24 m. A portion of the extracted water would have come from above and below the screened interval so that the average hydraulic conductivity is probably slightly less than 9 m/d. The storage coefficient (confined storativity) is calculated from the pumping test results to be 2×10^{-4} .

The specific yield (drainable porosity) of the lignite is not known, but EMA personnel report that there has been very little drainage of water from drillhole core, even though it

has a high water content (see Section 3, above). A value of five percent (0.05) has been assumed for the numerical modelling.

SEQ	AGE	Narnoo Graph log	Minz	EMA Unit	LITHOLOGY
Upper Gumbo	Pleistocene			Qa	Aeolian sand, <10 m (typically <3m).
	Pliocene				Sandstone, rare granulestone <5 m.
	Late Miocene			J	Lithic diamictite, sandstone, calcrite and gypsum, <5m
	Early-Mid Miocene			I	Lithic diamictite and conglomerate, rare claystone, <20m
				H	Claystone, sandy clay, sandstone, <25 m.
	Late Eocene			G	Sandstone, siltstone and claystone (5-20 m) .Silcrete cap
				F	Diamictite, claystone, sandstone, 2-40 m.
Narnoo Basin	Mid Eocene			E3	Claystone; carbonaceous at base, kaolin at top (1-4 m), Lignite (2-30 m),
				E2	
				E1	Sandstone (Very carbonaceous) (1-20m, typically <5m).
	Eocene - Late Cretaceous?			Dcb	Sandstone (carbonaceous), stacked packages fining-up to claystone, rare lignite, 10-30 m
				Dws	Claystone, grey, locally carb at top, 5-15 m
					Sandstone (well sorted, finning up); 0-15 m
	Lower GB			C2	Conglomerate and sandstone. Ravinement at top. 5-20 m.
				C1	Sandstone, Vy coarse grained, sericite clasts, 0-15 m.
				B	Sandstone, grading to black clay-siltstone 0-15? m.
				A5	Diamictite and Shale. Very rare in Narnoo Basin.
				A4	Sandstone fine arkose (m?).
	Early Permian			A3	Siltstone- very fine arkos, <500 m?.
	Late Carboniferous			A1-2	Carbonaceous shale, pyritic, <500m Thick?
	Mid-Prot?		Basement		Diamictite and shale
	Archaean				Barren Basin Meta-sediments
					Yilgarn Craton Granite-Greenstone
		Clay Sand Granule Pebble			U = Uranium, BM = Ni, Co, Cu (and REE in Units E2-E3) Au = Gold

Mulga Rock Stratigraphy and Mineralisation

4.2.2 Assessment of Dewatering Requirements

Model Description

A numerical groundwater model was constructed and run to estimate dewatering requirements of the proposed mine pits. It consists of an irregular rectangular grid of 66 rows, 72 columns, and four layers covering an area of 15.5 km east–west and 15.4 km north–south centred on the Narnoo sub-basin.

Within the confines of the sub-basin the model layers used are as follows:

Layer 1: lignite (and other fine-grained sediments where the lignite is absent)

Layer 2: the thin sand (sandstone) bed underlying the lignite

Layer 3: interbedded sand and clay

Layer 4: the deeper, thick sand layer screened in Bore 7.



The layering is generalised – in reality the sediments are quite variable and lensoid in nature, and probably displaced by faulting.

Model cells range in size from 75 m by 100 m in the area of the Ambassador deposit to 300 m by 500 m in some peripheral areas. The model utilises Processing Modflow Pro version 7.0.31 and Modflow96 (McDonald and Harbaugh, 1988).

Adopted aquifer parameters for the model are given in Table 2.

Table 2: Adopted Aquifer Parameters

Parameter	Layer 1	Layer 2	Layer 3	Layer 4
Horizontal hydraulic conductivity (m/d)	0.1	8.8	1	9
Vertical hydraulic conductivity (m/d)	0.01	0.4	0.02	1
Storage coefficient	N/A	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002
Specific Yield	0.05	0.2	0.1	0.2

N/A = Not Applicable

Modelling Results

The model was run to simulate dewatering of the planned open-cut mine to the depths shown in the drawing entitled Maximum Block Depth Mined, dated 9 June 2010; and the mining schedule shown in the drawing Annual Mining Progress Mined Pits, dated 7 June 2010, both prepared by Coffey Mining Pty Ltd.

Modflow's Drain package was used to simulate dewatering. The mining would be over a nine year period from 2014 – two model stress periods were used to represent years 2015 and 2018 when different areas would be mined. It was assumed that the mining depths would be below an average ground level of 330 m AHD.

Model-calculated average dewatering rates are given in Table 3.

Table 3: Model-Calculated Average Dewatering Rates (kL/d)

Year	Total kL	Av. kL/d
2014	1837265	5034
2015	249147	2043
2016	407429	1116
2017	932587	2555
2018	22036	287
2019	0	0
2020	1706981	4677
2021	1084396	2971
2022	58146	159
Overall Average		2076

The modelling replicates dewatering using in-pit drains and sumps, and indicates that average annual pumping rates could range from 0 to 5,000 kL/d. Actual rates will depend



on the area being mined, rate of mining, mine depth and dewatering method. In practice, some depressurisation of sand beds will probably be needed using dewatering bores to prevent floor heave, and this will add to the quantities being pumped.

4.2.3 Saline Water supply

The model was also used to estimate the quantity of water available from the deep sandstone beds at and south of the Ambassador deposit. The results indicate that 6,000 kL/d should be available from two widely-spaced production bores. The water would be slightly to moderately acidic (pH 4 to 6), with a salinity of around 37,000 mg/L TDS. There is more highly-saline water to the west near the Shogun and Emperor deposits, and so there could be a gradual increase in salinity with long-term pumping. The indicative quantity of water given above would include water pumped from sumps for mine dewatering.

4.2.4 Groundwater Chemistry

Water samples have been analysed at various times for different suites of parameters from 93 drillholes in total in the Ambassador and Princess deposits. The results of all the analyses are given in Appendix I, and the results from some of the separate sampling events for the Ambassador deposit are described below.

1984 to 1991 Samples

Water samples collected from Bores 1 and 7 at the end of pumping tests in 1984 were analysed for major components (GRC, 1985). Water samples airlifted from 13 drillholes in and near the Ambassador deposit in 1990 and 1991 were also analysed for major components as well as a wide range of metals and rare earth elements (Douglas *et. al.* 1993).

The results of the major component analyses and some other common elements are given in Table 4. They show that the water ranges in salinity from 7,500 to 37,600 mg/L TDS. It is moderately acidic to neutral with pH ranging from 4.3 to 7.0 (generally 5.5 to 6.6); and is of a sodium chloride type with elevated magnesium and sulphate. Metals and other elements that were analysed for (most are not shown in Table 4) were generally at low concentrations. Exceptions were moderate concentrations of iron in several holes (up to 16 mg/L); and high bromine concentrations (up to 23 mg/L). Uranium concentrations were mostly below the limit of detection (0.002 mg/L), with a maximum of 0.038 mg/L.

Oxidation potentials (Eh) range from -167 to 335 mV and are generally greater than 100 mV indicating potentially oxidising conditions. It is likely that the low pH in hole

CD1515 resulted from oxidation of sulphides, and increased rates of oxidation will almost certainly occur when the lignite is dewatered.

The areal distribution of the salinity data for all the deposits and sampling programmes is shown in Figure 2. Salinity increases to the south-west in the direction of groundwater flow, mostly from 20,000 to 40,000 mg/L TDS. Salinity also tends to increase with sample depth (Fig. 12) with moderate correlation, although the main water-bearing zones in each hole have not been identified.

Two holes, CD1366 and CD1409, had much lower salinities than in the other holes. Douglas *et. al.* (1993) consider that this resulted from contamination with rainwater in CD1366; and CD1409 has a high bicarbonate concentration and low sulphate that suggests that the water is young and that there is a high rate of recharge from rainfall/runoff.

Samples from 2010 to 2013

Water samples were airlifted from 10 holes in the Ambassador deposit in March 2010 and analysed for major components and a range of other elements and metals (Table 5). Many other holes in the area were sampled in 2012 and 2013 (Appendix I). The results are similar to the 1984 analyses, with salinity ranging from 8,000 to 80,000 mg/L TDS; pH 2.6 to 8.0; and Fe <0.1 to 56 mg/L. Salinities within the Princess and Ambassador deposits generally range from 20,000 to 30,000 mg/L TDS. Most of the higher salinities, around 60,000 mg/L TDS, are for drillholes about 5 km west of Ambassador but are included with the Ambassador data here.

Minor elements and metals other than iron that were analysed for were generally at low concentrations or below the limits of detection, including uranium. There were some elevated metal concentrations in holes that had low pH. Bromine concentrations ranged from 3 to 23 mg/L; and strontium 2 to 12 mg/L.

Water samples taken from the Princess deposit have been measured in the field in 2012 and 2013 for salinity and pH. The water is acidic, with pH generally ranging from 5.0 to 6.5. Lower pH's of around 3 have been measured in one hole, NNA5623. Salinities are lower than most at Ambassador, ranging from 8,700 to 21,400 mg/L TDS, as the deposit is up-gradient of Ambassador.

Table 4: Results of Major Component Analyses (and Common Metals) 1984

Hole/Bore	pH	Eh (mV)	TDS (mg/L)	Na (mg/L)	K (mg/L)	Ca (mg/L)	Mg (mg/L)	Cl (mg/L)	HCO3 (mg/L)	SO4 (mg/L)	NO3 (mg/L)	Fe (mg/L)	Mn (mg/L)	Br (mg/L)	Sr (mg/L)	Si (mg/L)
Bore 1	6.5	ND	37,609	11,100	260	800	1,400	19,800	89	4,150	10	12.8	ND	ND	ND	ND
RC1148	5.98	129	22,678	6,800	248	532	742	11,800	86	2,490	ND	0.4	0.2	23.1	6.9	21
Bore 7	5.8	ND	36,771	11,000	250	770	1,280	19,600	10	3,850	11	16.2	ND	ND	ND	ND
RC1213	5.46	148	12,506	3,769	138	246	350	6,730	24	1,250	ND	0.46	0.22	10.6	3.3	21
RC1152	5.91	143	19,522	5,645	231	450	700	10,400	30	2,060	ND	0.15	0.13	20.7	6.3	22
RC1151	6.36	144	14,784	4,392	169	319	467	7,810	104	1,560	ND	0.88	0.24	15	4	15.4
RC1419	6.85	173	14,535	4,185	204	300	522	7,430	283	1,730	ND	6.3	0.05	20.3	3.4	6.3
CD1500	6.01	293	18,459	5,276	207	415	651	9,820	107	2,020	ND	1.02	0.27	16.6	4.1	4
CD1498	6.58	335	32,875	9,646	383	858	1,176	16,600	303	4,040	ND	0	0.06	23.3	11.6	7.6
CD1247	7.01	213	26,887	7,939	308	626	856	14,000	382	2,950	ND	0.19	0.05	20.4	5.1	4.6
CD1515	4.27	147	35,984	11,278	250	708	1,212	19,000	0	3,520	ND	0.18	1.34	14.7	7.9	2.8
RC1216	6.45	9	25,376	7,717	249	515	681	13,400	339	2,630	ND	5.1	0.17	13	4.1	1.6
RC1177	6.58	171	27,343	8,236	263	683	754	14,200	191	3,090	ND	7.8	0.28	15.1	5.9	3.2
CD1409	6.58	-167	7,519	2,285	66	174	262	4,070	1,231	56	ND	0.22	0.6	3.3	1.7	2.9
CD1366	6.46	80	8,461	2,271	84	461	290	4,210	ND	1,140	ND	0.34	0.32	4.9	2.2	4.6

Table 5: Results of Major Component Analyses (and Other Elements and Metals) 2010

Hole/Bore Hole/Sample Depth Date Analysed	Units	NNA5027 82 26/03/2010	NNA5198 64 26/03/2010	NNA5393 73 26/03/2010	NNA5127 65 26/03/2010	NNA5140 51 26/03/2010	NNA5086 75 26/03/2010	NNA5103 66 26/03/2010	NNA5199 55 26/03/2010	NNA5155 51 26/03/2010	NNA5107 69 26/03/2010
pH	pH Units	4.1	3.5	4.2	5.5	6.4	6.8	4.3	4.2	6.7	4.8
Conductivity @25°C	µS/cm	17780	23060	31200	31400	27420	47800	41700	45000	28390	44700
TDS (Calculated)	mg/L	10668	13836	18720	18840	16452	28680	25020	27000	17034	26820
Soluble Iron, Fe	mg/L	0.844	50.813	6.526	0.203	<0.2	<0.2	0.76	5.885	<0.2	<0.2
Sodium, Na	mg/L	3038	4116	5748	5710	4898	8651	7602	8197	5087	8130
Potassium, K	mg/L	101	128	185	187	171	349	257	316	180	292
Calcium, Ca	mg/L	197	274	416	463	357	604	580	614	362	620
Magnesium, Mg	mg/L	301	336	548	531	422	900	772	833	488	834
Chloride, Cl	mg/L	5311	7558	11235	10922	8689	17219	13693	16462	9677	15717
Carbonate, CO ₃	mg/L	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Bicarbonate, HCO ₃	mg/L	<5	<5	<5	49	9	32	<5	<5	31	<5
Sulphate, SO ₄	mg/L	1355	1633	2237	2227	1751	3317	2875	3273	1827	3553
Nitrate, NO ₃	mg/L	0.35	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2
Cation/Anion balance	%	-2.5	-5	-6.3	-5.2	-2.1	-6.3	-1.9	-6.9	-4.6	-5.8
Sum of Ions (calc.)	mg/L	10303	14045	20368	20089	16297	31071	25778	29695	17652	29147
Soluble Arsenic, As	mg/L	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.005	<0.01
Soluble Boron, B	mg/L	1.252	1.011	1.611	1.409	1.208	2.712	1.722	2.126	1.352	1.688
Soluble Barium, Ba	mg/L	0.038	0.052	0.035	0.055	0.07	0.051	0.066	0.094	0.053	0.067
Soluble Beryllium, Be	mg/L	<0.005	0.02	0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.005	<0.01
Soluble Cadmium, Cd	mg/L	<0.0005	0.001	0.003	0.024	0.0009	0.007	0.013	<0.001	<0.0005	0.319
Soluble Chromium, Cr	mg/L	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.01	0.013	<0.01	<0.005	<0.01
Soluble Copper, Cu	mg/L	0.032	0.021	0.018	0.013	0.024	0.018	0.628	0.016	0.005	1.904
Soluble Cobalt, Co	mg/L	0.075	0.719	1.052	0.625	0.148	0.199	3.958	0.653	0.026	2.292
Soluble Lead, Pb	mg/L	0.015	0.041	<0.005	<0.005	0.006	<0.01	0.345	<0.01	<0.005	3.077
Soluble Molybdenum, Mo	mg/L	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	0.012	0.035	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.008	<0.01
Soluble Manganese, Mn	mg/L	3.208	1.367	1.021	1.246	0.532	1.964	1.608	1.299	0.562	2.345
Soluble Nickel, Ni	mg/L	0.055	1.153	1.888	0.627	0.181	0.377	3.83	1.719	0.023	2.905
Antimony, Sb	mg/L	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.005	<0.01
Soluble Tin, Sn	mg/L	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.005	<0.01
Soluble Selenium, Se	mg/L	<0.005	0.007	<0.005	0.009	<0.005	<0.01	0.104	<0.01	<0.005	<0.01
Soluble Zinc, Zn	mg/L	0.08	6.647	3.252	0.266	0.162	0.918	5.256	7.779	0.074	12.888
Soluble Uranium	mg/L	<0.005	<0.005	0.028	0.032	<0.005	<0.01	0.019	<0.01	<0.005	0.068
Vanadium	mg/L	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	0.009	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.005	<0.01
Soluble Mercury, Hg	mg/L	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001

4.3 EMPEROR AND SHOGUN DEPOSITS

The hydrogeology of the Emperor and Shogun deposits was investigated by GRC (1984, 1985), and the description below is largely taken from the information presented in those reports as well as some recent data.

4.3.1 Stratigraphy and Aquifer Parameters

The stratigraphy at Emperor and Shogun is similar to that at Ambassador, with mostly clayey sand and clay overlying silcrete, carbonaceous clay and lignite; and with clayey sand and up to 10 m or more of clean sand near the base of the Tertiary sequence. The thickness of the basal clean sand was contoured by GRC (1984) and is shown in Fig. 13. The contours show that the sand extends along the section of the palaeodrainage that has been drilled for the Mulga Rock project, but that the thickness if quite variable and in some locations most or all of the sand appears be clayey.

Bores 6 (Emperor deposit) and 7 (south of Ambassador deposit) are screened in thick sections of this sand, and test-pumping results indicate that the bores are capable of pumping 2,100 and 3,400 m³/d, respectively (GRC, 1985). Hydraulic conductivity values calculated from the pumping test results were 37.5 m/d (Bore 6) and 9 m/d (Bore 7). Bore 6 has a 12 m screened interval compared to 24 m in Bore 7 – the high hydraulic conductivity calculated for Bore 6 may have been enhanced by groundwater flow from above and below the screened interval.

Bore 5 (Shogun deposit) was screened in a clayey sand below the mineralised lignite, and so was low-yielding. It was test-pumped (GRC, 1985) to determine the vertical permeability (hydraulic conductivity) between the lignite and the underlying clay and sand beds. Values of 0.01 to 0.03 m/d were indicated, and these would probably apply to both the lignite and clayey sand.

4.3.2 Dewatering Requirements

Although the mineralised sand, carbonaceous clay and lignite at Emperor and Shogun are likely to be of low permeability, there is potential for upward leakage from the basal sands. The latter will need to be depressurised to prevent upward leakage and the possibility of heaving of the pit floor during mining.

The dewatering/depressurising requirements have yet to be quantified, but pumping of substantial volumes of water will probably be needed.

4.3.3 Groundwater Availability

GRC (1984) estimated the volume of the clean basal sand to be $3 \times 10^8 \text{ m}^3$ in the Emperor – Shogun area where the thickness of sand was 5 m or more. Assuming a drainable porosity of 0.1, the basal sand would therefore contain $3 \times 10^7 \text{ m}^3$ of groundwater. This represented a conservative estimate of the volume of groundwater available in the area as it didn't include some smaller areas with thick sand, the areas where the sand is less than 5 m thick and saturated sand at higher levels.

4.3.4 Groundwater Chemistry

Water samples have been collected and analysed from 155 drillholes in these deposits, mostly in 1984 and 2012.

Groundwater salinity at Emperor and Shogun ranged from 32,500 to 139,700 mg/L TDS (GRC, 1984) with the highest salinities in the south, and the lowest salinities towards the margins of the palaeochannel to the north or west (Fig. 2) suggesting possible recharge in these areas of less-saline water. The salinity increases with depth, and is generally more saline than at the Ambassador deposit.

The water from the bores at Emperor and Shogun is more acidic than at Ambassador, with pH of 3.8 to 4.1 (GRC, 1985). It is of sodium chloride type with moderately high magnesium and sulphate concentrations.

The Piper trilinear diagram indicates that the portions of the major ions are similar to seawater (Fig. 5). Of the water samples collected from drillholes in 2012 and 2013 (Appendix I) many had low pH in the range 3 to 4 (minimum 2.9 and maximum 6.2), and salinity ranging from 6,100 to 95,500 mg/L TDS. Most salinities are greater than 50,000 mg/L TDS.

Iron concentrations range from <0.05 mg/L to 55 mg/L in recent samples, and up to 190 mg/L in the 1984 samples. Bromine (four analyses) ranged from 23 to 71 mg/L; and strontium 7.7 and 8.8 mg/L (two samples). Other elements and metals that were analysed were at low levels or below levels of detection. Uranium was above the level of detection in five samples, with one high value (0.35 mg/L) from the Shogun costean in 1983. One sample from drillhole MSW002 had an anomalously high zinc concentration (26 mg/L) in May 2012, but was low (0.76 mg/L) in the October 2012 sample.

5 LOW-SALINITY WATER SOURCES

Based on the outcome of the 2010 Scoping Study, the EMA water requirements for processing ore are:

3,000 m³/d of water with 650 mg/L chloride (1,300 mg/L TDS), plus
1,400 m³/d of water with 3,700 mg/L chloride (7,200 mg/L TDS).

If necessary, 4,400 m³/d of water of 7,200 mg/L TDS could be used. This could comprise a mixture of 350 m³/d of 37,000 mg/L TDS water from Ambassador dewatering facilities with 4,050 m³/d of water of salinity 4,500 mg/L TDS from the Kakarook North borefield.

5.1 LOCAL SOURCES

Ramsgate Resources limited carried out exploration for mineral sands in 1990 on a series of drillhole lines located to the east and north-east of the Ambassador deposit (Kakarook Project). Low-salinity water was intersected in a number of drillholes, notably in three drillholes (K104, K105 and K106) on a line 30 km north-east of Ambassador where the saturated thickness was measured at up to 21 m over a width of about 2.5 km (Fig. 8).

Recent exploration drilling in the area, referred to as Kakarook North, has delineated a south-east trending alluvial channel or basin with a saturated thickness of alluvium of up to 37 m over a length of about 6 km and width 2 to 5 km (Fig. 14). The water is contained within graded alluvial sand/sandstone beds of Eocene age that include coarse to very coarse-grained layers that are up to fine gravel in size and overlie Proterozoic bedrock.

The basin is in a low-lying area where runoff from rainfall in elevated areas to the north and north-west probably accumulates in the coarse-grained surface sand before it infiltrates to the water table. This would minimise evaporative losses and assist in maintaining the relatively low salinity of the groundwater. Also, the aquifer appears to be separate from the palaeodrainage/Narnoo sub-basin that contains the lignitic sediments and saline to hypersaline groundwater.

Water was sampled and analysed from 22 bores and drillholes in the Kakarook North area in March and April 2013. It ranges in salinity from 3,950 to 8,070 mg/L TDS, and is generally less than 5,000 mg/L TDS in the main basin/channel area (Fig. 15). The water has pH in the range 5.3 to 8.0 and is generally slightly acidic to slightly alkaline. It has elevated sulphate concentrations (550 to 1,400 mg/L), and low metal concentrations (for those metals analysed).

Salinity measurements in drillholes to the north and north-east of Ambassador and north of Shogun (GRC, 1984), and the results of the 2012/13 analyses at the Princess deposit, indicated some relatively low-salinity groundwater (9,000 to 20,000 mg/L TDS). Potential bore yields are not known, but if suitable sources can be located, the water could be mixed with the low-salinity water in the Kakarook North area to obtain the quantity and quality required for processing the ore.

5.1.1 Resource Assessment

The volume of low-salinity groundwater stored in coarse sand/sandstone in the area of Kakarook North that has been drilled to date is estimated to be at least 30 GL where the saturated thickness is 10 m or more and assuming a specific yield of 0.1.

Individual bore yields could be 200 kL/d to 500 kL/d, and the total borefield capacity could be at least 3,000 kL/d with bores spaced 500 m apart. Water salinity is expected to average about 4,500 mg/L TDS.

This assessment is based on exploration data and will be updated following a programme of test-bore construction, pumping tests and numerical modelling.

5.2 REGIONAL SOURCES

The Department of Water WIN database and a literature search were used to identify other potential sources of low-salinity water.

Shevchenko (2002) shows a regional gravity low (Fig. 16) that extends southwards to near Mulga Rock, and it seems to coincide with a deeper trough or graben within the Gunbarrel Basin. The three Rason bores (BMR, 1975) intersected Permian Paterson Formation sediments deepening to the east, but there were insufficient saturated coarse-grained sediments in the eastern bore to produce groundwater.

The Tropicana bores (Pennington Scott, 2009) intersect Neo-Proterozoic sediments in the trough that yield moderate supplies of highly saline water. Salinities are probably lower (but still high) away from the palaeodrainages.

The BMR (1975) also drilled the Neale stratigraphic holes (Fig. 16). Neale 1B intersected the Ordovician-age Lennis Sandstone from 138 m to 205.7 m (total depth). The sandstone yields large supplies of low-salinity water further north, and would probably do so at this location. Neale 2 was a shallow hole drilled to investigate Tertiary sediments of the Eucla Basin (instead it intersected fine-grained sediments of the Paterson Formation). Neale 3

was also a shallow (38 m) hole planned as a bore to supply water for drilling of the deeper holes. It intersected fine-grained Paterson Formation and failed to yield groundwater.

Anaconda Nickel drilled a series of holes in the Officer Basin to explore for large supplies of low-salinity water for the Murrin Murrin mine. The water was already known to exist from the drilling of water-supply bores for oil exploration wells and from the drilling of the wells themselves, such as Hussar 1 located 320 km north of the northern limit of Fig. 16. Test bores along the Great Central Road intersected water of 1,300 to 2,100 mg/L TDS in the Lennis Sandstone, and it was planned to install a borefield in that area. Other holes were drilled, with the OF prefix in Fig. 16, including OF3x1 to OF3x3 located about 55 km north of Ambassador. Those holes were up to 295 m deep, but only intersected fine-grained sediments and little or no water. OF3x3 had a small supply of brackish to saline water (5,300 mg/L TDS). AngloGold Ashanti has also been unsuccessful in exploring for road-construction water along the access road to Tropicana (M Fewster, pers. comm.).

Based on the above information, it would probably be necessary to install a borefield in the Lennis Sandstone about 250 km north-east of Ambassador to obtain a large supply of low-salinity water. Alternatively, desalination of saline water could be used to supplement the supply from the Kakarook North area.

There is also low-salinity water in limestone near the north-western margin of the Eucla Basin (Commander, 1990) about 200 km east of Ambassador, but there is unlikely to be sufficient water available and it is already developed for water supplies for pastoral stations and local communities.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Groundwater Levels, Mulga Rock Deposits

The water table at the Princess and Ambassador deposits is 13 to 64 m deep; and at the Emperor and Shogun deposits, 13 to 61 m deep – the depth depending mainly on ground elevation.

Water levels reduced to AHD indicate that groundwater flows to the east and south-east at Emperor and Shogun, and to the south-west at Princess and Ambassador. The flow from both areas is inferred to continue to the south-east and south down the palaeodrainage.

Dewatering Requirements

A numerical groundwater model was run to simulate dewatering of the planned open-cut mine at the Ambassador deposit to the depths shown in the drawing entitled Maximum

Block Depth Mined, dated 9 June 2010; and to the schedule shown in the drawing Annual Mining Progress, dated 7 June 2010.

The modelling replicates dewatering using in-pit drains and sumps, and indicates that average annual pumping rates could range from 0 to 5,000 kL/d. Actual rates will depend on the area being mined, rate of mining, mine depth and dewatering method. In practice, some depressurisation of sand beds will probably be needed using dewatering bores, to prevent floor heave, and this will add to the quantities of water pumped.

Saline Water Supply

The model was also used to estimate the quantity of water available from the deep sandstone beds at and south of the Ambassador deposit. The results indicate that 6,000 kL/d should be available from two widely-spaced production bores. The water would be slightly to moderately acidic (pH 4 to 6), with salinity expected to be about 37,000 mg/L TDS. This pumping would lower groundwater levels and reduce flows to in-pit sumps.

It is unlikely that any saline water will need to be pumped, other than that required to achieve dewatering, as processing ore will need water of low salinity.

Groundwater Quality, Mulga Rock Deposits

The results of the analysis of groundwater samples for major components and a range of other elements and metals show that the water from the Mulga rock deposits is acidic to neutral, and of a sodium chloride type with moderately high concentrations of magnesium and sulphate.

Water from the Princess deposit generally has pH in the range 5 to 6.5, and salinity 9,000 to 21,000 mg/L TDS.

Water from the Ambassador deposit has pH ranging from 2.6 to 8.0, and salinity mostly in the range 20,000 to 30,000 mg/L TDS. There are some higher salinities to the south and west – around 60,000 mg/L TDS 5 km west of the deposit.

The water from the Emperor and Shogun deposits is generally more acidic and more saline than at Ambassador. The pH ranges from 2.9 to 6.2, with many values in the range 3 to 4. Salinity ranges from 6,000 to 96,000 mg/L TDS but most values are greater than 50,000 mg/L TDS.

Metals and other elements that were analysed for were generally at low concentrations or below the limits of detection. Exceptions were moderate to high concentrations of iron (up

to 190 mg/L) in a number of holes; and high bromine concentrations (up to 71 mg/L) and strontium (up to 11.8 mg/L) in the few samples that were analysed. Although concentrations were generally low, there were measurements of boron (up to 2.7 mg/L); cadmium (up to 0.32 mg/L); copper (up to 9.6 mg/L); cobalt (up to 4 mg/L); lead (up to 3.1 mg/L); nickel (up to 3.8 mg/L); zinc (up to 26 mg/L); and uranium (up to 0.07 mg/L in bore samples). The elevated metal concentrations were from samples that had low pH.

Low-Salinity Water Sources

From the results of the 2010 Scoping Study, the water requirements for processing ore are:

3,000 m³/d of water with 650 mg/L chloride (1,300 mg/L TDS), plus
1,400 m³/d of water with 3,700 mg/L chloride (7,200 mg/L TDS).

If necessary, 4,400 m³/d of water of 7,200 mg/L TDS could be used. This could comprise a mixture of 350 m³/d of 37,000 mg/L TDS water from Ambassador dewatering facilities with 4,050 m³/d of water of salinity 4,500 mg/L TDS from a borefield at Kakarook North.

Recent exploration drilling in the Kakarook North area has delineated a south-east trending alluvial channel or basin with a saturated thickness of alluvium of up to 37 m over a length of about 6 km and width 2 to 5 km. The water is contained within graded alluvial sand/sandstone beds of Eocene age, and salinity is generally less than 5,000 mg/L TDS in the main basin/channel.

The volume of low-salinity groundwater stored in coarse sand/sandstone in the area of Kakarook North that has been drilled to date is estimated to be at least 30 GL. Individual bore yields could be 200 kL/d to 500 kL/d, and the total borefield capacity could be at least 3,000 kL/d. Water salinity is expected to average about 4,500 mg/L TDS. A programme of bore construction, test-pumping and numerical modelling is required to prove-up the water supply.

Desalination could be used to supplement the water supply, if necessary.

The only other known source of large, low-salinity groundwater supplies is the Lennis Sandstone in the Officer Basin, about 250 km north-east of Ambassador.

Dated: 16 July 2013

Rockwater Pty Ltd



P H Wharton
Principal

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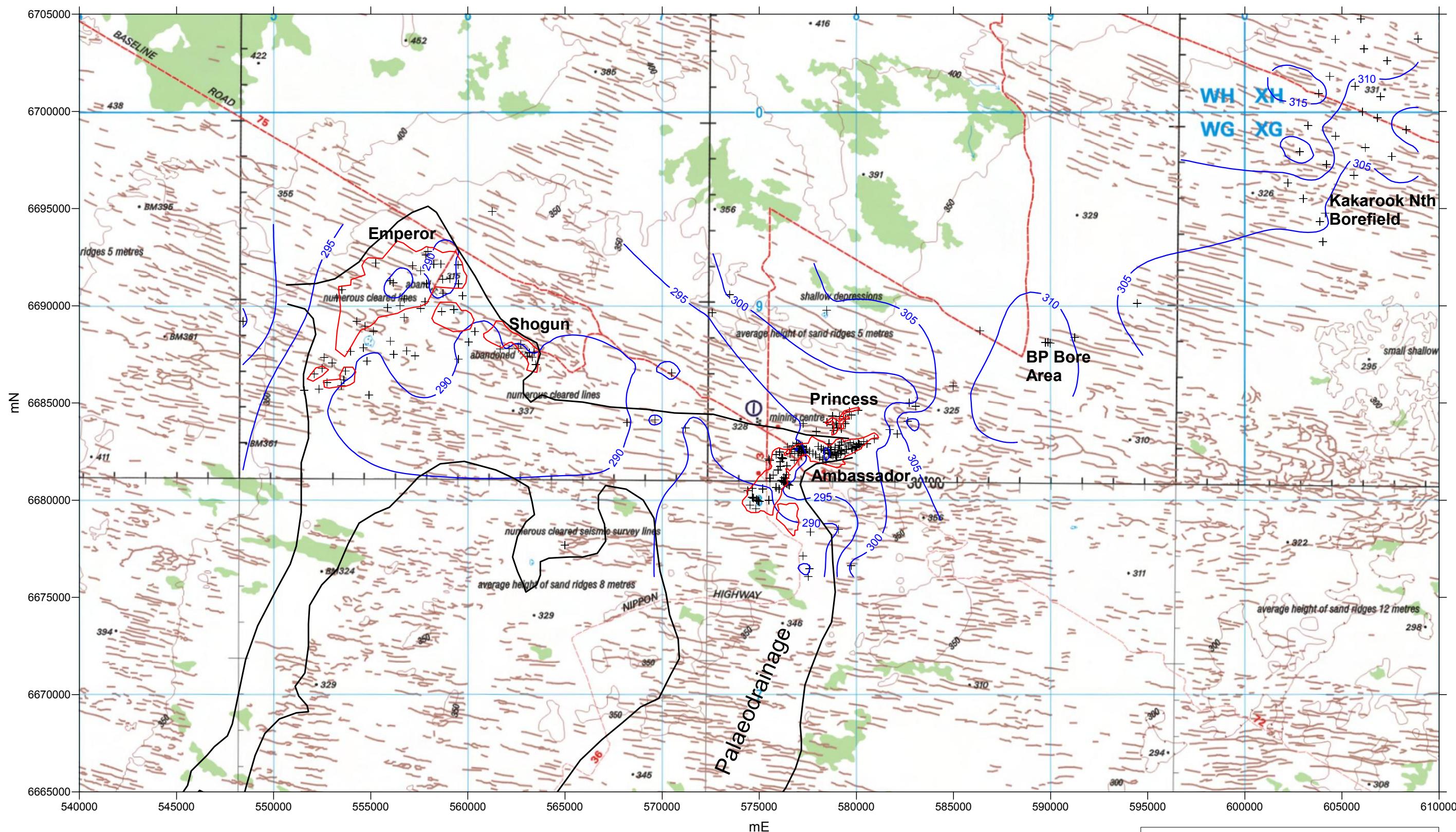
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Figure 1



LOCALITY PLAN, AND REDUCED WATER LEVELS (m AHD)
MEASURED AT VARIOUS TIMES

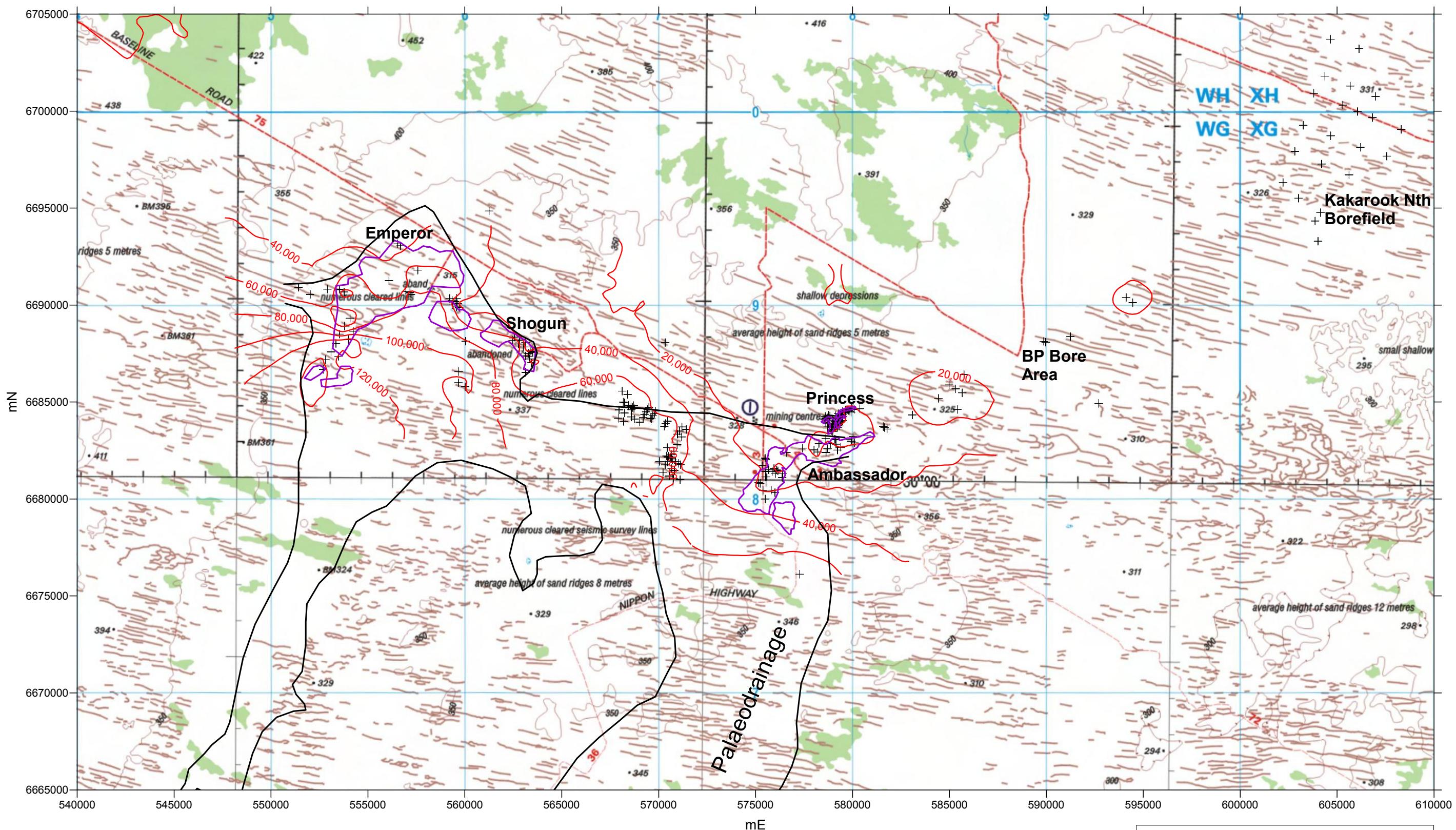
CLIENT: Energy and Minerals Australia

PROJECT: Mulga Rock

DATE: June 2013

Dwg No.: 345-0/13/1-1

Figure 2



GROUNDWATER SALINITY (mg/L TDS)
MEASURED AT VARIOUS TIMES

CLIENT: Energy and Minerals Australia

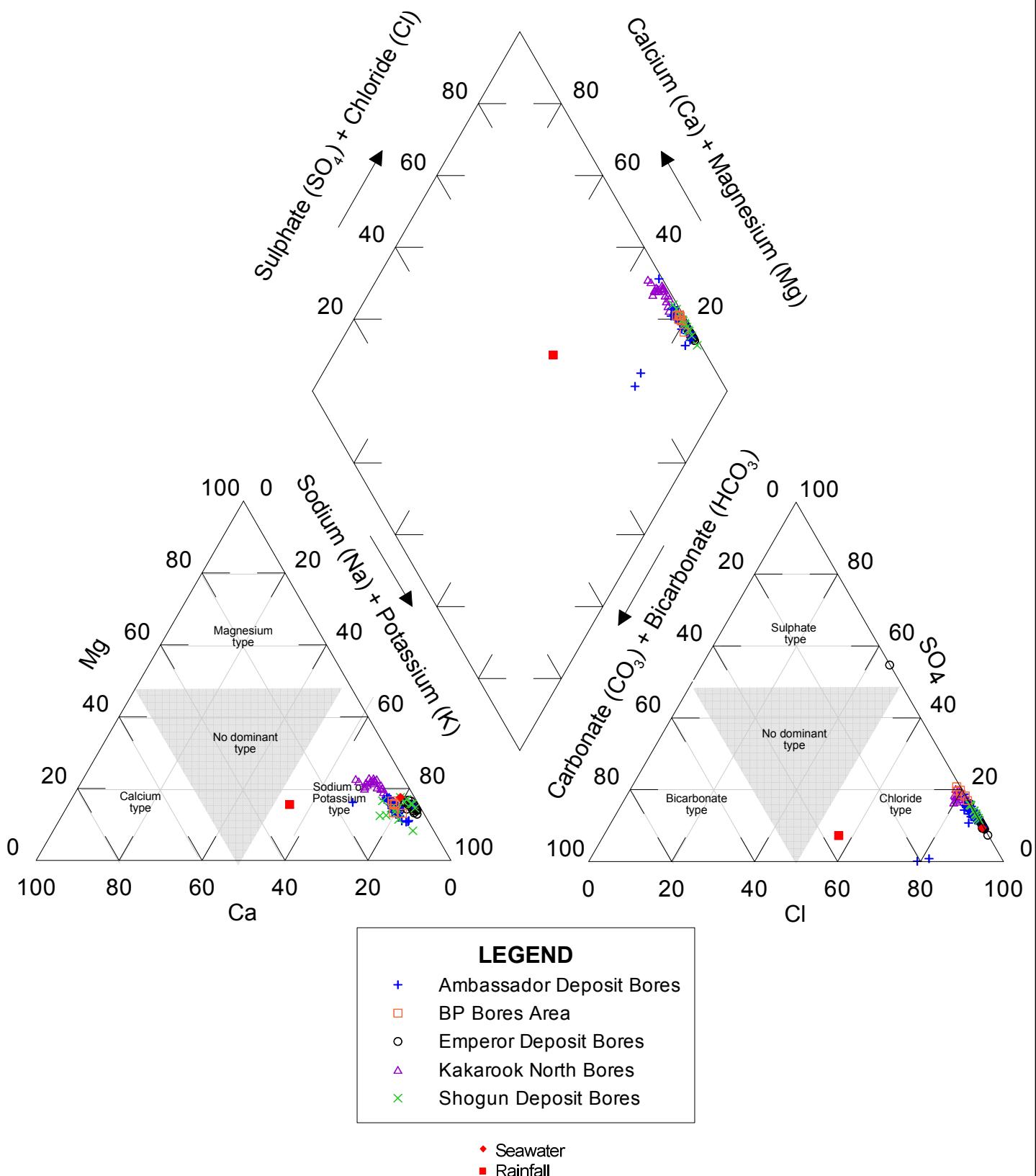
PROJECT: Mulga Rock

DATE: July 2013

Dwg No.: 345-0/13/1-2

Figure 3

PIPER DIAGRAM



I:/236.19/Grapher/PIPER DIAGRAM All deposits.grf

NB: Water chemistry data has been extracted from the excel file titled -
'Mulga Rock - Water Analysis - Compilation XM_May 2013_adapted.xlsx'

Client: Energy and Minerals Australia

Project : Mulga Rock

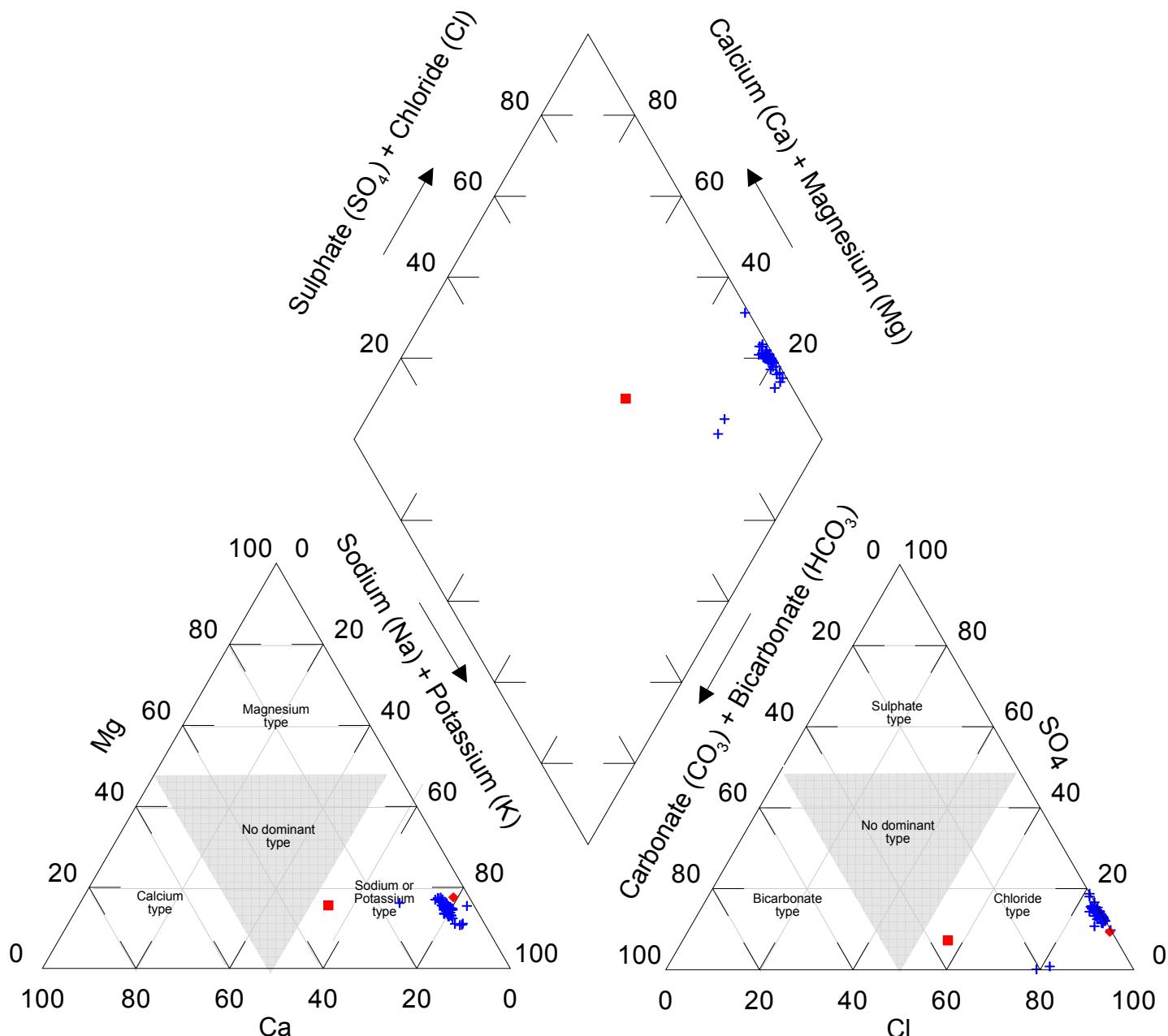
Date : June 2013

Dwg. No: 345-0/13/1-3

PIPER DIAGRAM
MULGA ROCK
WATER SAMPLES

Figure 4

PIPER DIAGRAM



I:/236.19/Grapher/PIPER DIAGRAM AMB and PR deposit.grf

NB: Water chemistry data has been extracted from the excel file titled -
'Mulga Rock - Water Analysis - Compilation XM_May 2013_adapted.xlsx'

Client: Energy and Minerals Australia

Project : Mulga Rock

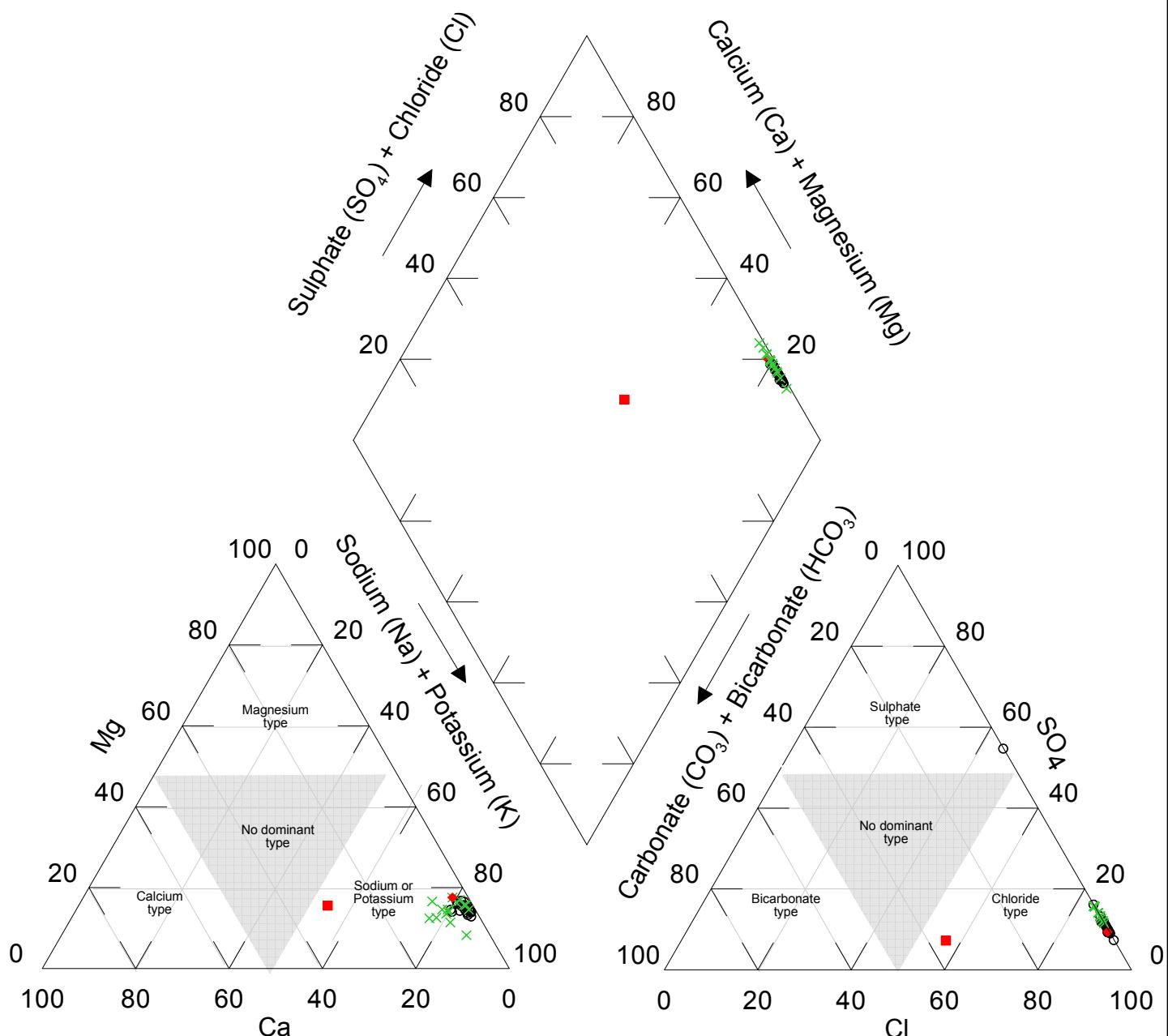
Date : June 2013

Dwg. No: 345-0/13/1-4

PIPER DIAGRAM
MULGA ROCK - WATER SAMPLES
AMBASSADOR AND PRINCESS DEPOSITS

Figure 5

PIPER DIAGRAM



- Shogun Deposit Bores
- Emperor Deposit Bores
- Seawater
- Rainfall

I:/236.19/Grapher/PIPER DIAGRAM EMP deposit.grf

NB: Water chemistry data has been extracted from the excel file titled -
'Mulga Rock - Water Analysis - Compilation XM_May 2013_adapted.xlsx'

Client: Energy and Minerals Australia

Project: Mulga Rock

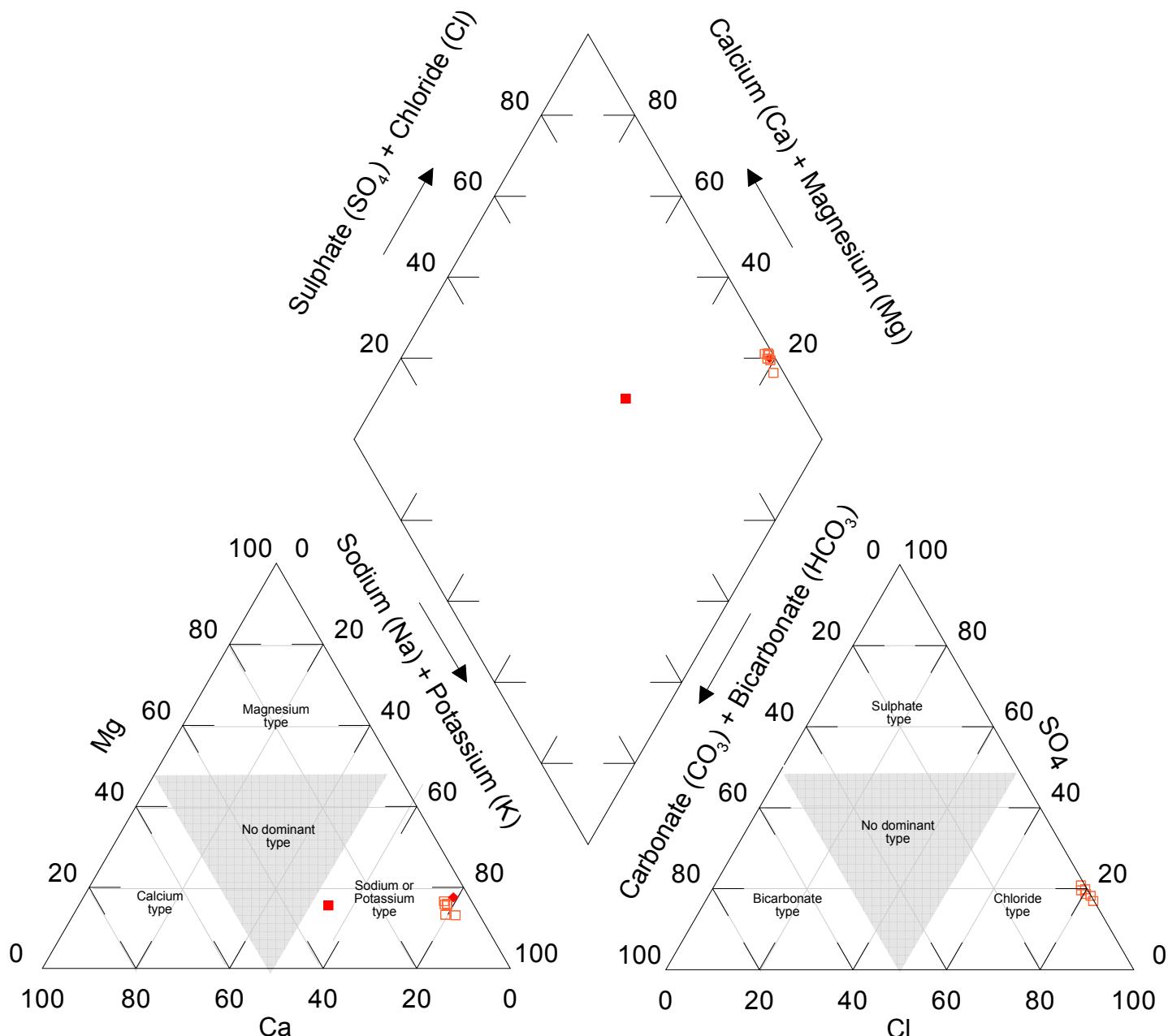
Date: June 2013

Dwg. No: 345-0/13/1-5

PIPER DIAGRAM
MULGA ROCK - WATER SAMPLES
EMPEROR AND SHOGUN DEPOSITS

Figure 6

PIPER DIAGRAM



- BP Bores Area
- ◆ Seawater
- Rainfall

I:/236.19/Grapher/PIPER DIAGRAM BP Bores.grf

NB: Water chemistry data has been extracted from the excel file titled -
'Mulga Rock - Water Analysis - Compilation XM_May 2013_adapted.xlsx'

Client: Energy and Minerals Australia

Project: Mulga Rock

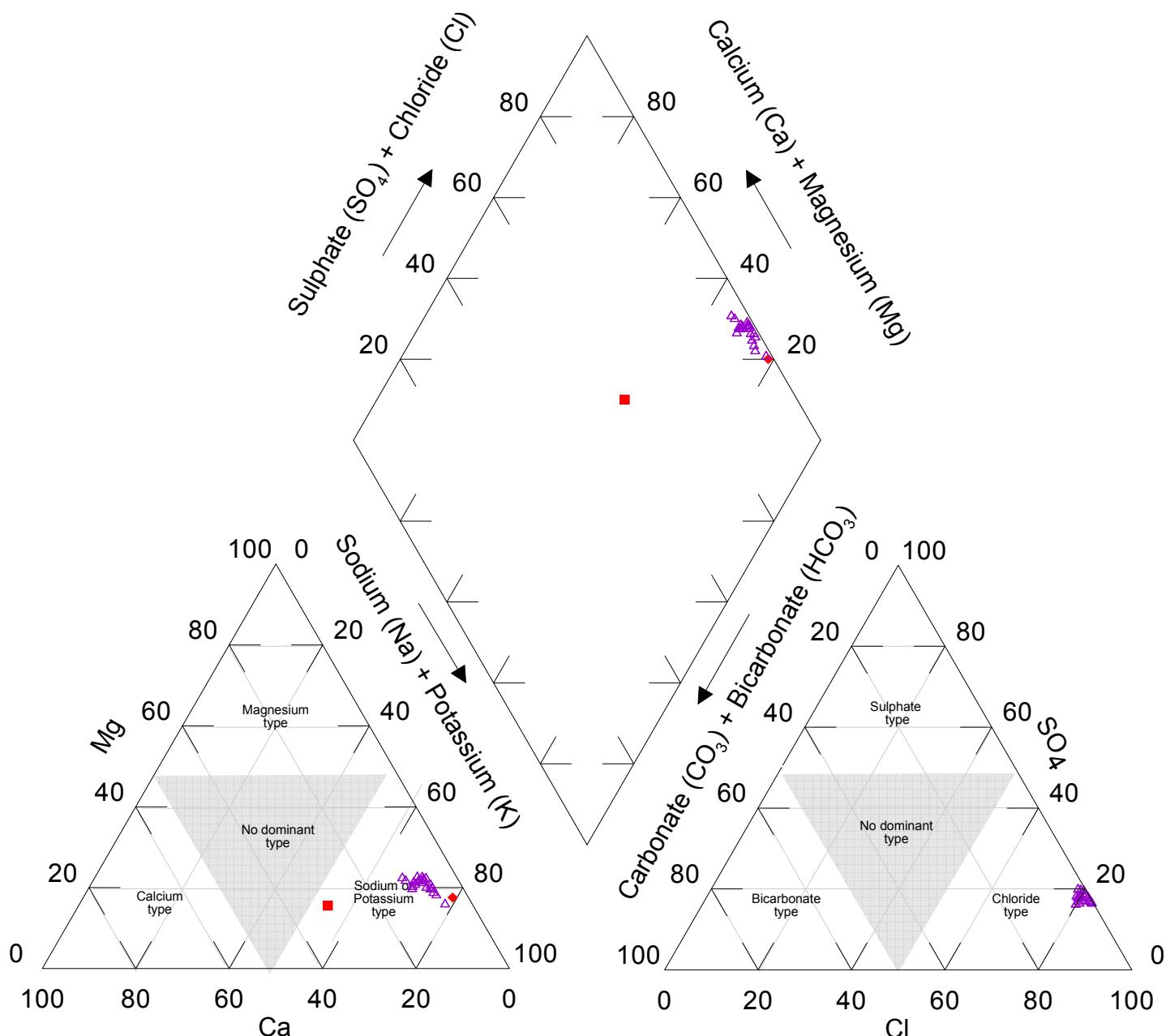
Date: June 2013

Dwg. No: 345-0/13/1-6

PIPER DIAGRAM
MULGA ROCK - WATER SAMPLES
BP BORE AREA

Figure 7

PIPER DIAGRAM



\triangle Kakarook North Bores
 \diamond Seawater
 \blacksquare Rainfall

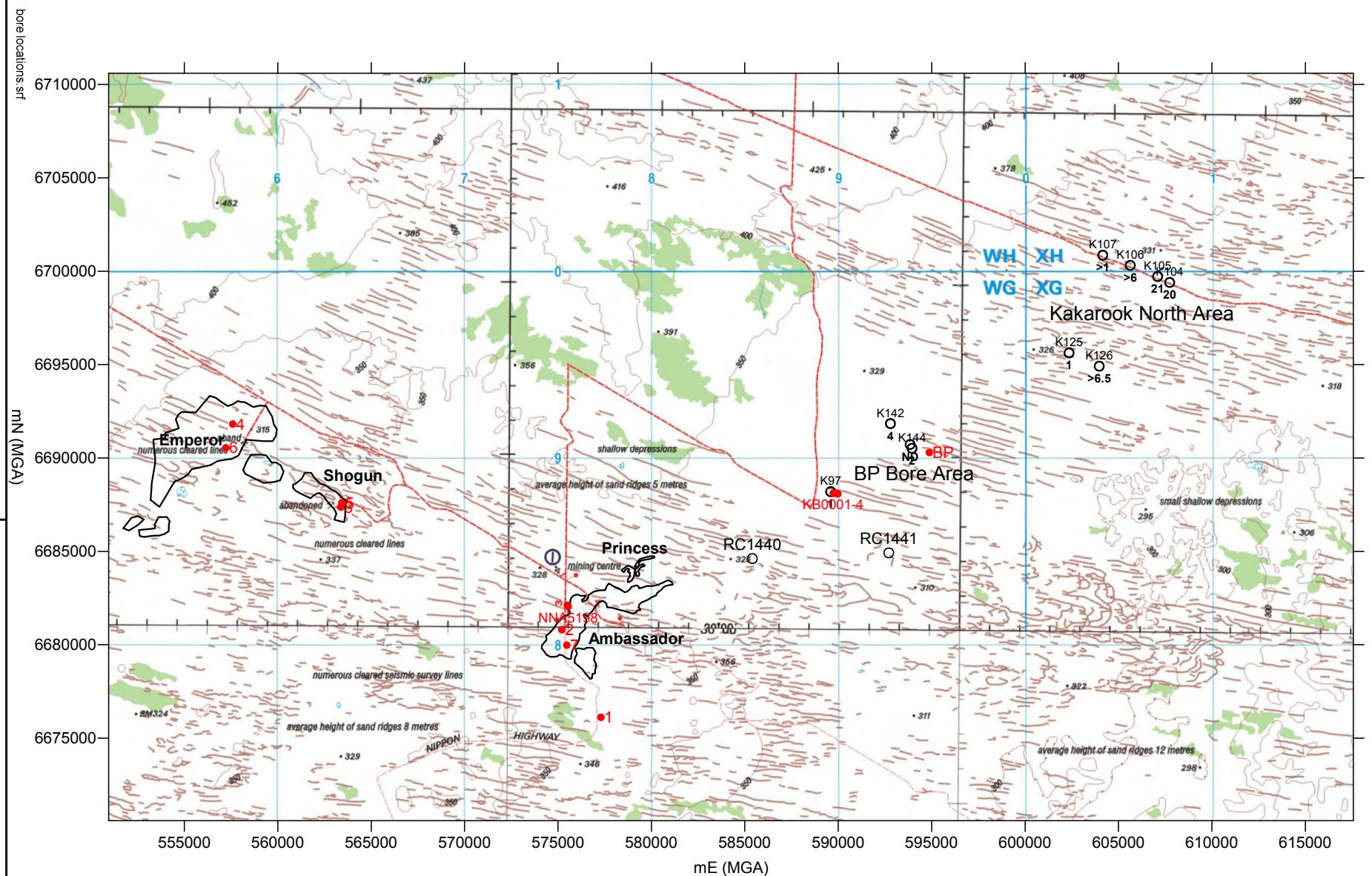
I:/236.19/Grapher/PIPER DIAGRAM KAK deposit.grf

NB: Water chemistry data has been extracted from the excel file titled - 'Mulga Rock - Water Analysis - Compilation XM_May 2013_adapted.xlsx'

Client: Energy and Minerals Australia
 Project: Mulga Rock
 Date: June 2013
 Dwg. No: 345-0/13/1-7

PIPER DIAGRAM
MULGA ROCK - WATER SAMPLES
KAKAROOK NORTH BORES

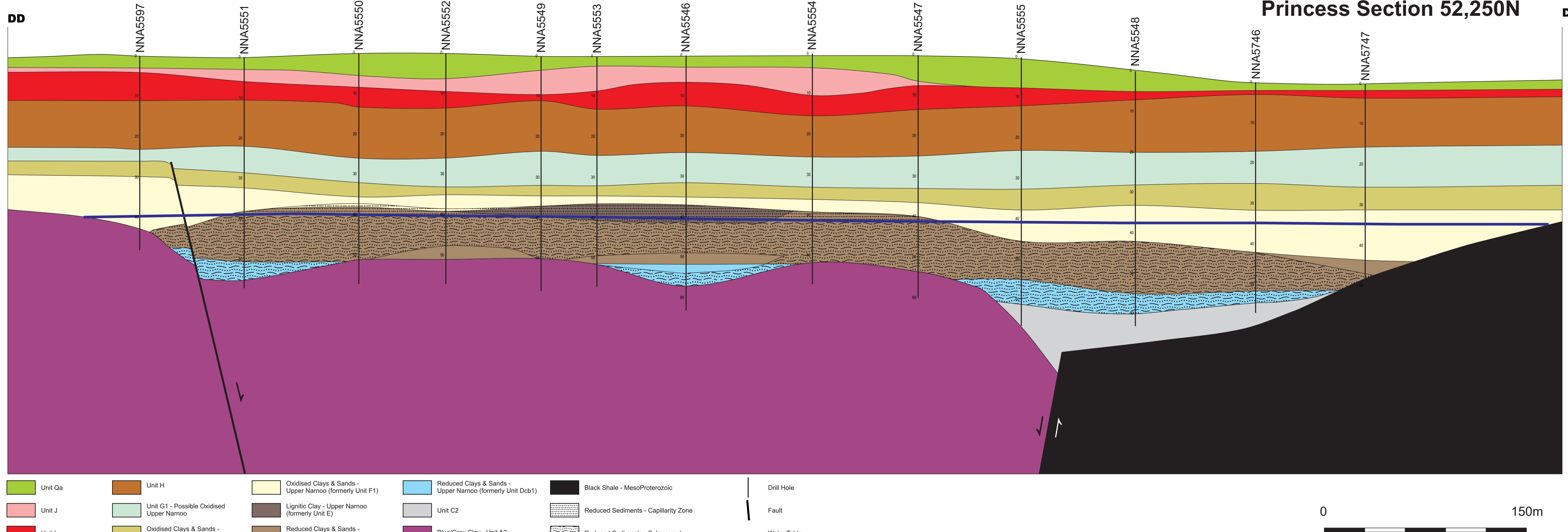
FIGURE 8



BORE LOCATIONS, AND SATURATED AQUIFER THICKNESS

Figure 9

Princess Section 52,250N



Princess Section 52,250N

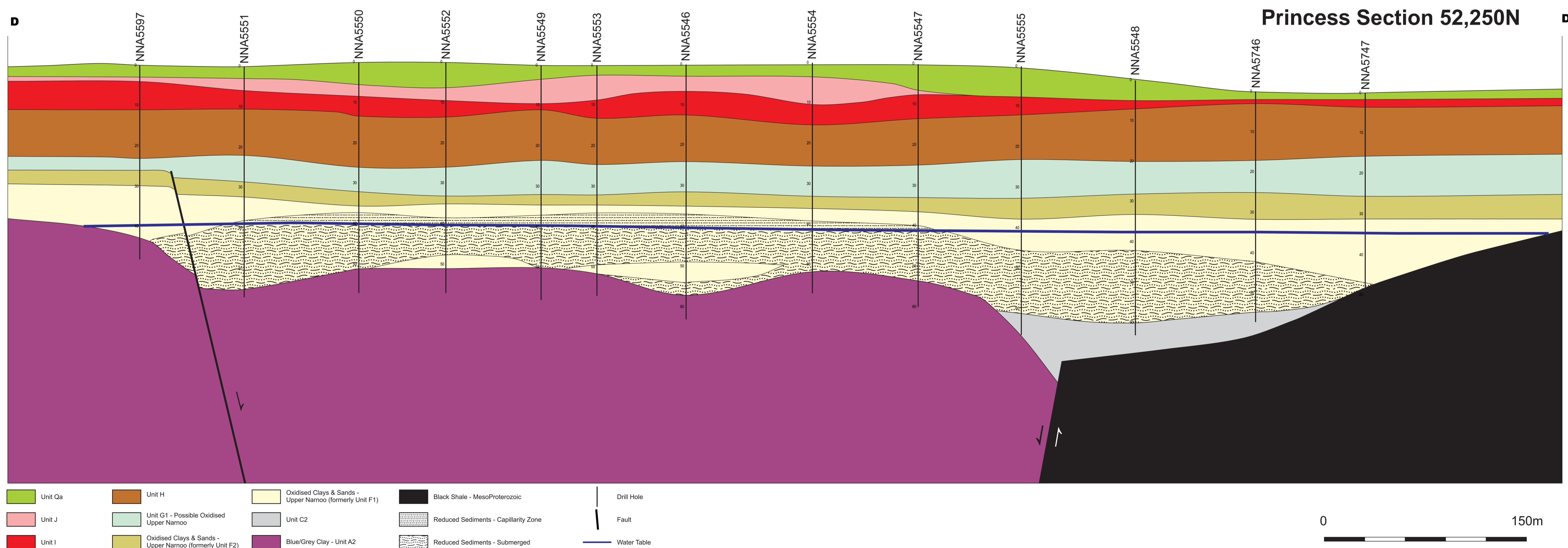


Figure 10

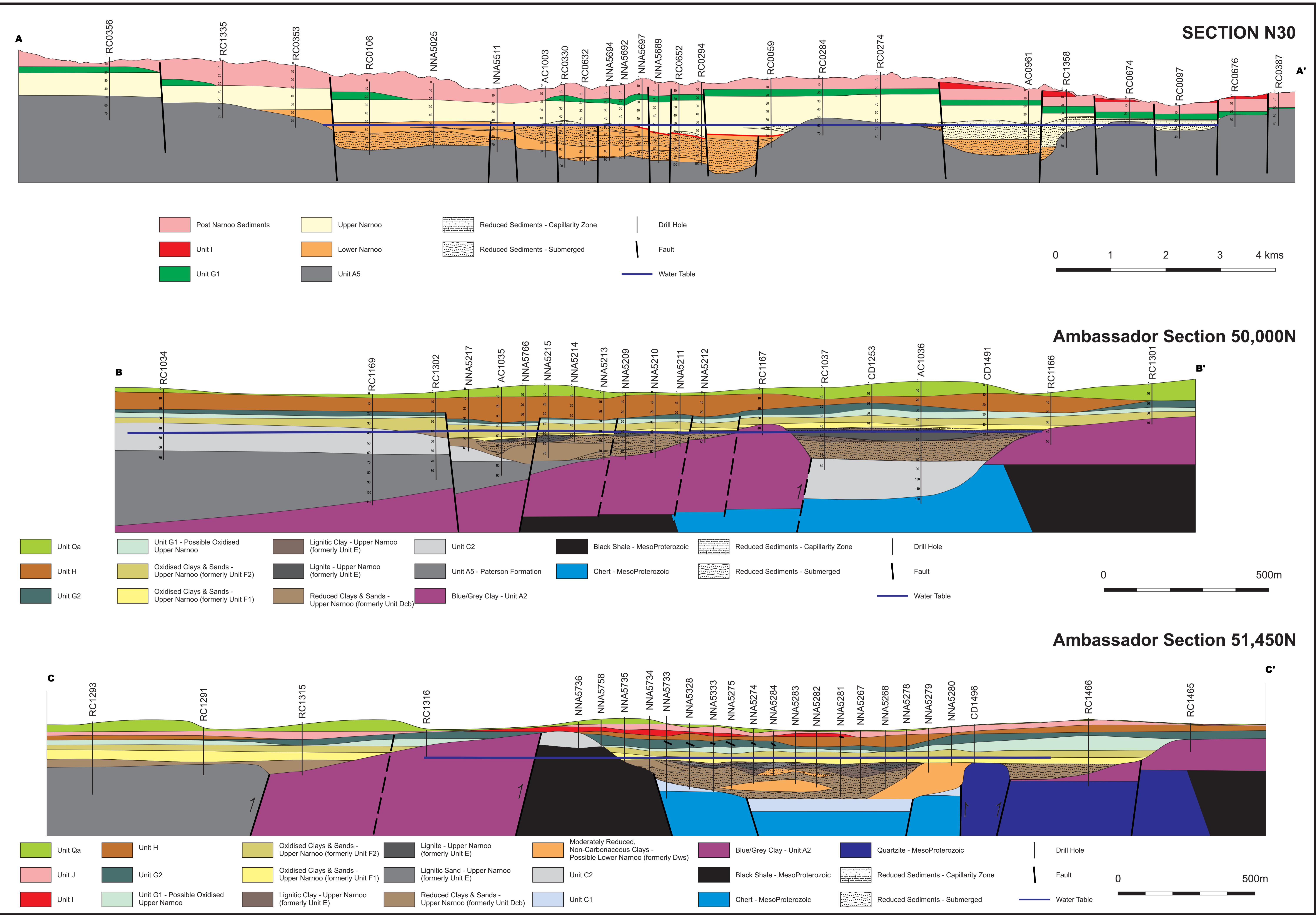
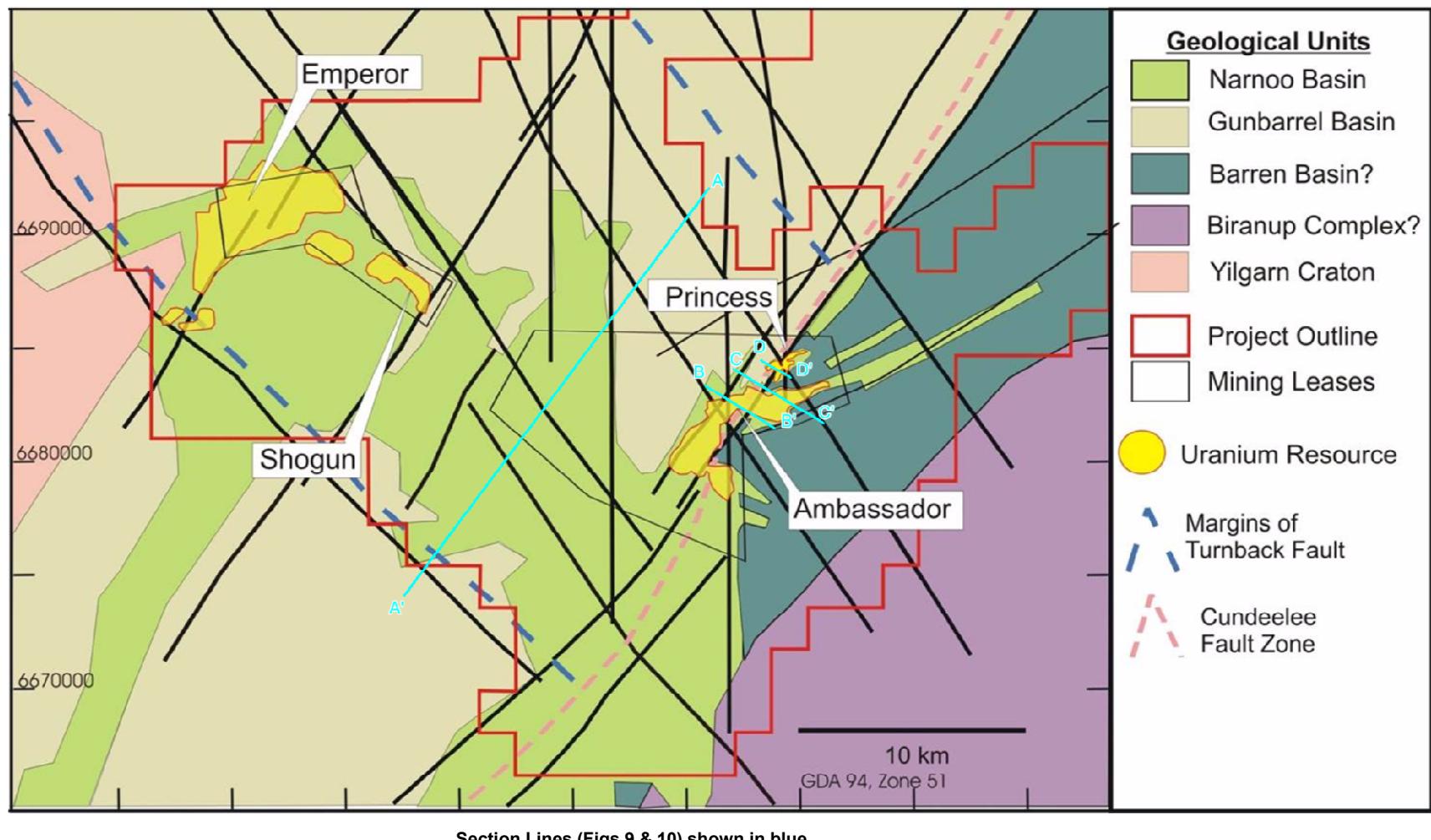


FIGURE 11



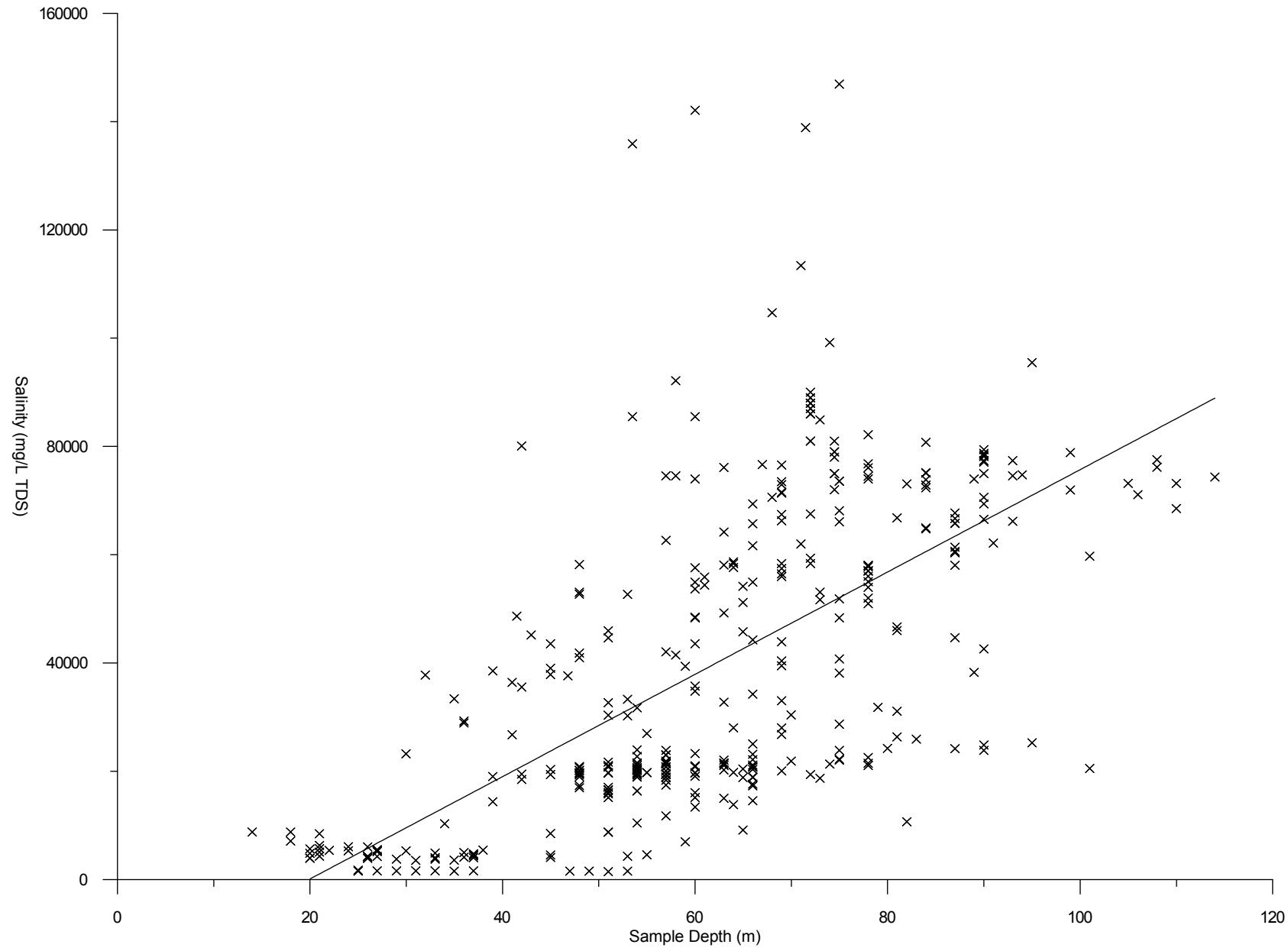
section lines & structure.srf

CLIENT: Energy and Minerals Australia
PROJECT: Mulga Rock Hydrogeology
DATE: July 2013
Dwg No: 345.0/13/1-1

SECTION LINES AND GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE

(Plan provided by PMA)

FIGURE 12



tds vs depth

Client: Energy and Minerals Australia

Project: Mulga Rock Hydrogeology

Date: July 2013

Dwg. No: 345-0/13/1-12

SALINITY (mg/L) VERSUS SAMPLE DEPTH (m)

MULGA ROCK DEPOSITS

FIGURE 13



(From GRC, 1984)

CLIENT: Energy and Minerals Australia
PROJECT: Mulga Rock Hydrogeology

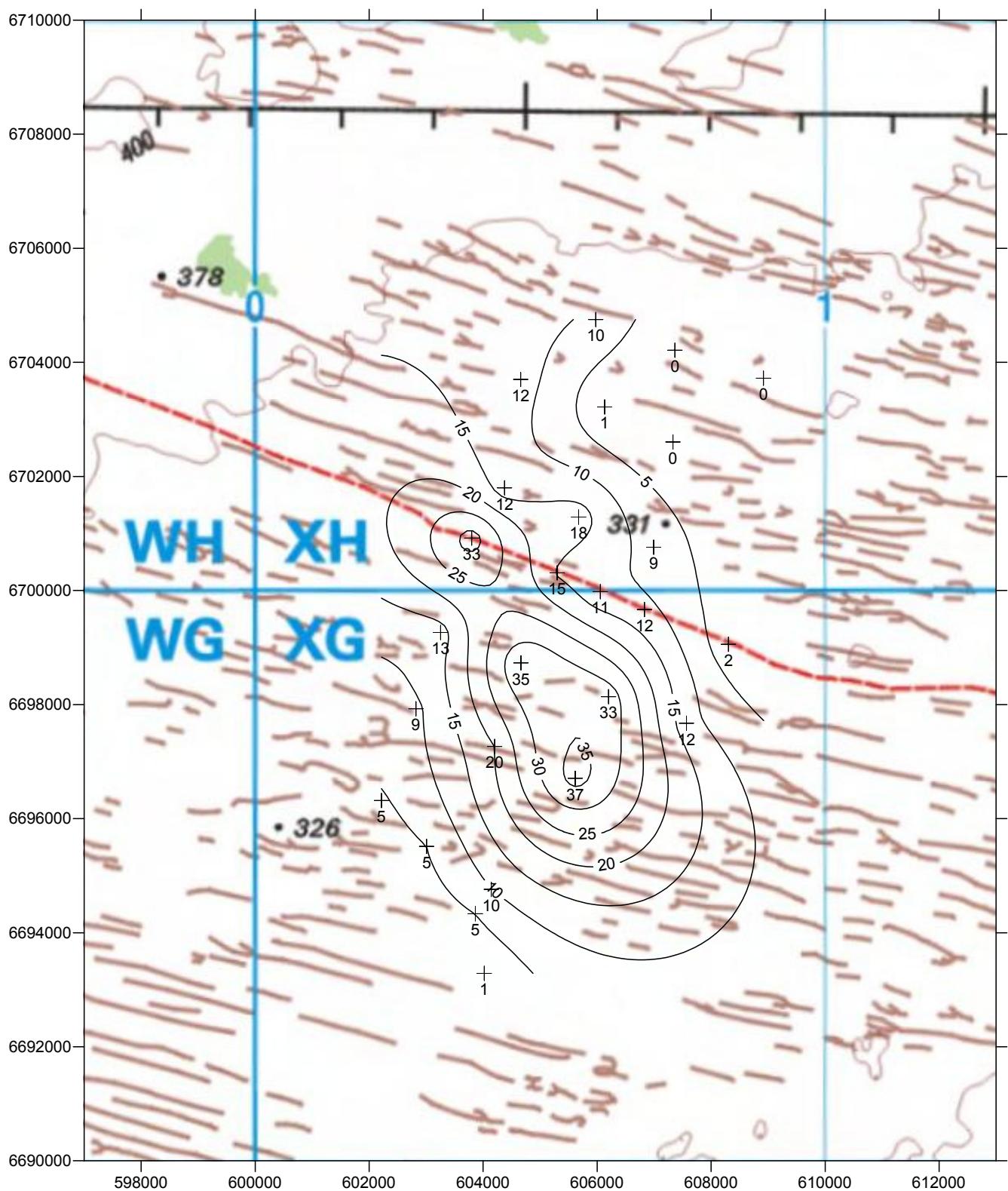
DATE: July 2013

Dwg No: 345.0/31-13

sandisopach.srf

ISOPACHS (m) BASAL TERTIARY SAND

FIGURE 14



kakarook aq thick.srf

CLIENT: Energy and Minerals Australia

PROJECT: Mulga Rock

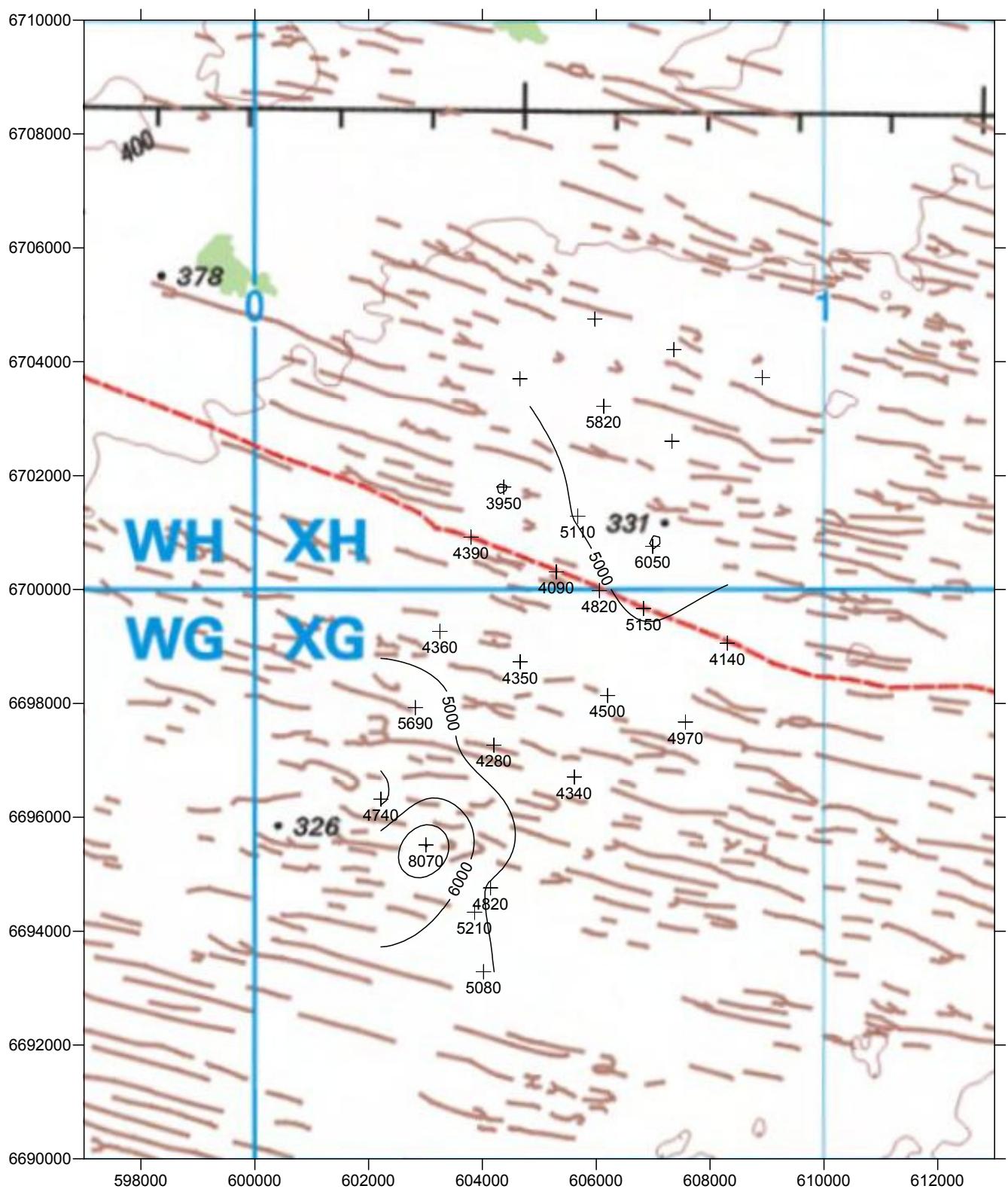
DATE: June 2013

Dwg No: 345-0/13/1-14

AQUIFER THICKNESS (m)

KAKAROOK NORTH BOREFIELD

FIGURE 15



kakarook tds.srf

CLIENT: Energy and Minerals Australia

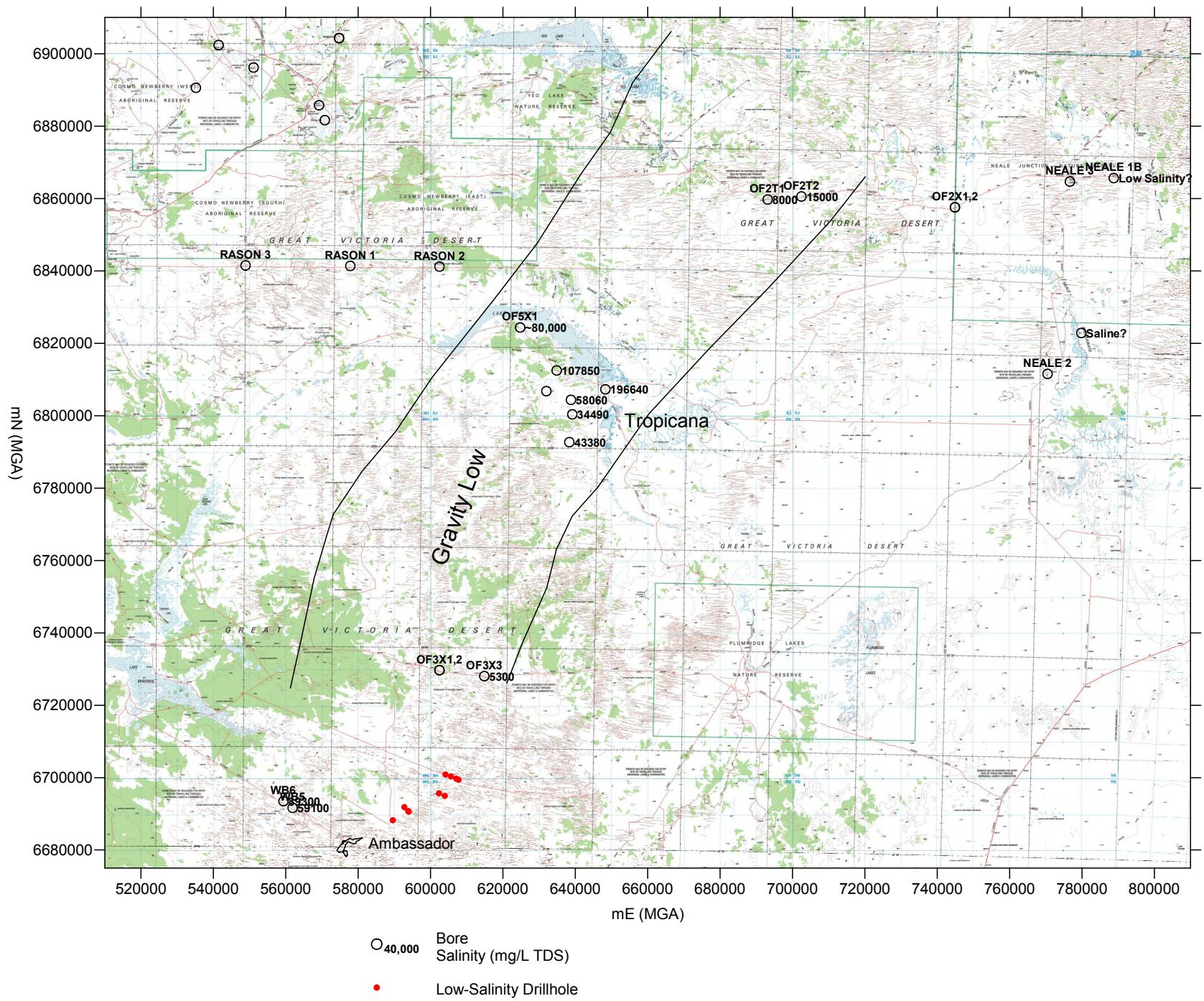
PROJECT: Mulga Rock

DATE: June 2013

Dwg No: 345-0/13/1-15

FIELD SALINITY (mg/L TDS)
KAKAROOK NORTH BOREFIELD

FIGURE 16



WIN TDS.srf

CLIENT: Energy and Minerals Australia

PROJECT: Mulga Rock Hydrogeology

DATE: June 2013

Dwg No: 345.0/31-16

BORE SALINITY (mg/L TDS), WIN
DATABASE AND OTHER SOURCES

APPENDIX I



APPENDIX I-b

Ambassador and Princess Raw Water Chemistry Data

Hole ID	Date Sampled	GDA East	GDA North	La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu	REE (Total)	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	$\delta^{2\text{H}}$
				mg/l	(SMOW)	(SMOW)														
RC1213	Late 1990-Mid 1991	575684	6681498	nd	-3.18	-26.4														
RC1148	Late 1990-Mid 1991	576004	6680326	nd	nd															
RC1152	Late 1990-Mid 1991	576022	6681299	0.0022	0.0038	0.0006	0.0029	0.0008	0.0002	0.0008	0.0001	0.0005	0.0003	0.0005	0.0001	0.0005	0.0001	0.0134	nd	nd
CD1366	Late 1990-Mid 1991	577430	6682621	nd	-2.08	-14														
RC1177	Late 1990-Mid 1991	578272	6682855	nd	-3.47	-32.6														
RC1216	Late 1990-Mid 1991	578630	6683116	nd	-3.59	-32.2														
CD1409	Late 1990-Mid 1991	578711	6682585	0.0011	0.0009	0.0002	0.0008	0.0008	0.0003	0.0007	0.0001	0.0004	0.0001	0.0004	0.0001	0.0006	0.0001	0.0066	-3.5	-24

