



3. Following refinement of the exact location for the surface disturbance, the consulted ecologist and archaeologist would then advise on any constraints posed by access to the sites, ie. alignment of the proposed access track to the sites. As above, the advice of the consulted ecologist and archaeologist with regard to the route alignment and management, would be used to refine the alignment of the proposed access.
4. The refined locations of surface disturbance would then be flagged and relevant personnel advised regarding the restrictions placed on activities by this site identification (flagging) and management requirements.

2.4.9.3 Vegetation Clearing

While the location of some of the required surface facilities within the western section of the Mine Site would occur within remnant woodland vegetation, the area identification process of Section 2.4.9.2 would ensure that as far as practical, the requirement to clear mature trees and larger areas of other native vegetation would be minimised. It is still likely, however, that some larger trees and areas of native shrub and groundcover would have to be cleared to provide for the access, manoeuvring and operations of construction equipment, eg. drill rigs.

Any required felling of trees would be undertaken in a single campaign as part of site establishment. The trees would be visually inspected for roosting or nesting fauna prior to clearing, with any fauna identified appropriately relocated. Trees would be broken into small sections and positioned adjacent to the disturbed area for future use in the rehabilitation of the disturbed area(s).

The remaining under-storey and groundcover would either be stripped with the topsoil to ensure maximum retention of nutrients and to facilitate the rapid vegetation of the soil stockpiles to minimise the opportunity for erosion, or pushed into stockpiles adjacent to the disturbance for future respreading over the area as part of site rehabilitation.

2.4.9.4 Soil Stripping and Management

2.4.9.4.1 Soil Stripping Requirements

The soil materials within the approximate area of disturbance for the various surface facilities required by the proposed Longwall Project were described and assessed by Geoff Cunningham Natural Resource Consultants (GCNRC, 2009a and 2009b) – see Parts 9a and 9b of the *Specialist Consultant Studies Compendium*. The assessment identified:

- the suitability of the soils present for stripping and long-term stockpiling; and
- the requirement for specific stripping and stockpiling methods and/or erosion control measures.

The assessment was based on field and laboratory examinations of key physical and chemical attributes.

