

Report on the geomorphic condition, and protection and rehabilitation priorities for Mulwaree chain-of-ponds

PROFESSOR KIRSTIE FRYIRS

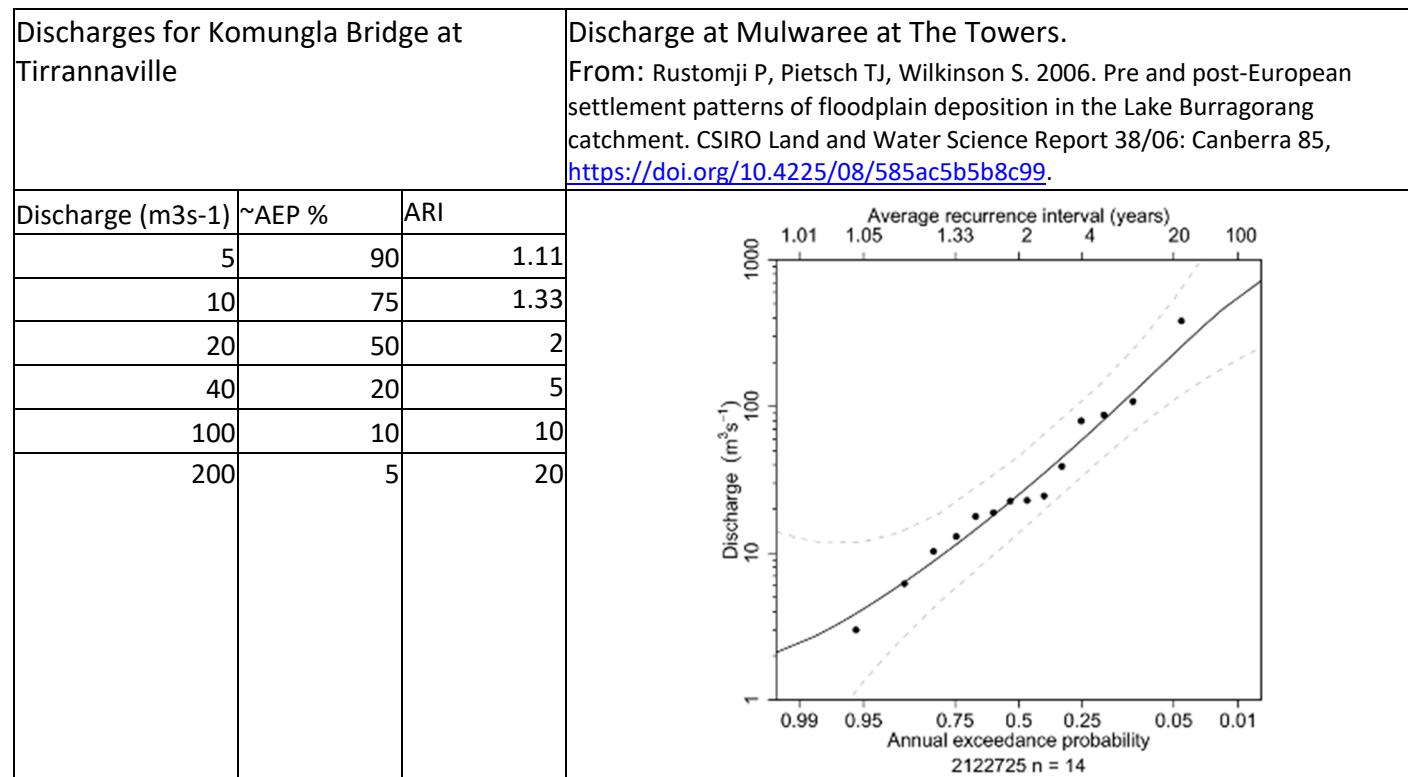
As part of an Australian River Restoration Centre (ARRC) project.

All photos in this report taken by K. Fryirs.



Methods

- Hec-Ras was run on the 5m Digital Elevation Model (DEM) for the full length of Mulwaree from near Lake Bathurst to Goulburn.
- Six discharges were modelled. Only the 1:20 yr AI is provided as it gives the best analysis for identification of erosion hotspots (see Appendix A and B).



- Two days of fieldwork were undertaken to walk the focus reaches on the properties of Kelburn and Tirranaville. The river walk was used to undertake reach identification, geomorphic condition analysis and to identify headcuts.
- When combined with the Hec-Ras modelling, field analyses were used to make recommendations on the protection and rehabilitation priorities on the two properties.
- A photo mosaic of reaches showing their condition and the location of headcuts was compiled.

Hec-Ras unit stream power modelling: What does it mean?

This section is accompanied by Appendix A on top of the elevation model. The exact same output is represented in Appendix B on a greyscale (hillshade) version for completeness.

What is unit stream power? – Unit stream power is a measure of energy expenditure per unit width of channel (or flow). It is a measure used to determine erosion potential and the amount of potential geomorphic work that can be undertaken by any particular discharge. Indicative thresholds of erosion and sediment reworking have been defined in relation to critical values of unit stream power. For example, the movement of pebbles and cobbles is indicatively around 1.5 Wm^2 and 16 Wm^2 respectively. The threshold level of channel instability (bed and bank erosion) is around 35 Wm^2 .

What do the colours mean? – In Appendix A anything that is yellow, orange or red is considered an erosion hotspot ($>30 \text{ Wm}^2$).

What is the interpretation of this modelling? – The erosion hotspots along Mulwaree are mostly occurring at the exit of ponds where flow is being forced into an adjoining connecting (incised) channel downstream. This process is occurring most actively at ‘bankfull’ stage when pond level rises above its ‘exit lip’ and flow is filling the connecting channels. You will see that the areas downstream of ponds that are blue or purple are low energy zones. These are areas where preferential flow paths remain intact and flow is dissipated over swampy ground and adjacent floodplains when it exits a pond. The aim of rehabilitation (or conservation) is to retain the blue and treat the orange and red areas to recover them towards blue. Erosion processes start to occur during the 1:10 yr flood ($100 \text{ m}^3\text{s}^{-1}$) and most actively during the 1:20 yr flood ($200 \text{ m}^3\text{s}^{-1}$) (Appendix A output). Some minor erosion hotspots occur during the 1:5 yr flood ($40 \text{ m}^3\text{s}^{-1}$).

How have we used this modelling? – We have used this modelling to identify erosion hotspots and situate them within the prioritisation recommendations.

Geomorphic condition indicators for a chain-of-ponds

Geomorphic characteristic	Good (expected) and poor (unexpected) observations and interpretations
Valley floor (swamp) surface moisture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good - Water in ponds and in swampy preferential flow paths between ponds, or ground is saturated (boggy) between ponds. • Poor - Water in ponds but swampy preferential flow paths between ponds are dry or dessicated.
Preferential flow paths and connecting channels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good - single or multiple surficial drainage lines on the swamp surface between ponds. • Poor - there should be no connecting channels (with bed and banks) between ponds.
Pond morphology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good - elliptical shaped ponds with reasonable coverage of aquatic bank-side vegetation. • Poor - elliptical shaped ponds with no coverage of aquatic bank-side vegetation.
Connecting channel stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good – n/a (there should be no connecting channels between ponds) • Poor – connecting channels with vertical banks, bank erosion (undercutting and slumping) that represent channel incision and expansion.
Headcuts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good – n/a (there should be no headcuts in preferential flow paths or at the heads of ponds) • Poor – presence of headcuts, either vertical or gradual in morphology.
Sediment regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good - preferential flow paths, ponds and any connecting channels should contain peaty/organic materials and fine-grained sediments. • Poor – presence or active movement of sands and gravels in connecting channels.

Reach condition along the Kelburn and Tirranaville chain-of-ponds

This table is accompanied by Appendix C.

Reach/Condition	Kelburn Reach 1	Kelburn Reach 2	Tirranaville Reach 1	Tirranaville Reach 2	Tirranaville Reach 3	Tirranaville Reach 4
Description	poor condition chain of ponds with incised channels (contains headcuts as threats)	intact chain of ponds with preferential flow paths (contains headcuts as threats)	incised channel with no ponds remaining	poor condition chain of ponds with incised channel that is now recovering	intact chain of ponds with preferential flow paths (contains headcuts as threats) – already an identified RoC potential site/reach	elongate ponds with rehabilitation
Condition (green = Good, red = Poor)						

Matrix of priorities against river reaches

This table is accompanied by Appendix C.

Priority/Reach	Kelburn Reach 1	Kelburn Reach 2	Tirranaville Reach 1	Tirranaville Reach 2	Tirranaville Reach 3	Tirranaville Reach 4
Priority 1						already rehabilitated
Priority 2						
Priority 3						
Priority 4						

River management recommendations and priorities

The overall primary aim is to get the roughness back into the system (via aquatic vegetation (re)establishment) and varied methods of stock management. We recommend no stock access to reaches threatened by headcuts or where intact preferential flow paths occur. Manage stock access into ponds and where connecting channels already occur.

Priority 1 – off-river stock water points and stock management. We recommend this particularly at Kelburn. Stock are an ongoing threat to the integrity of the ponds and are causing further erosion of connecting channels. Exclusion is recommended at headcuts and along ‘intact’ reaches (see Priority 2 & 3).

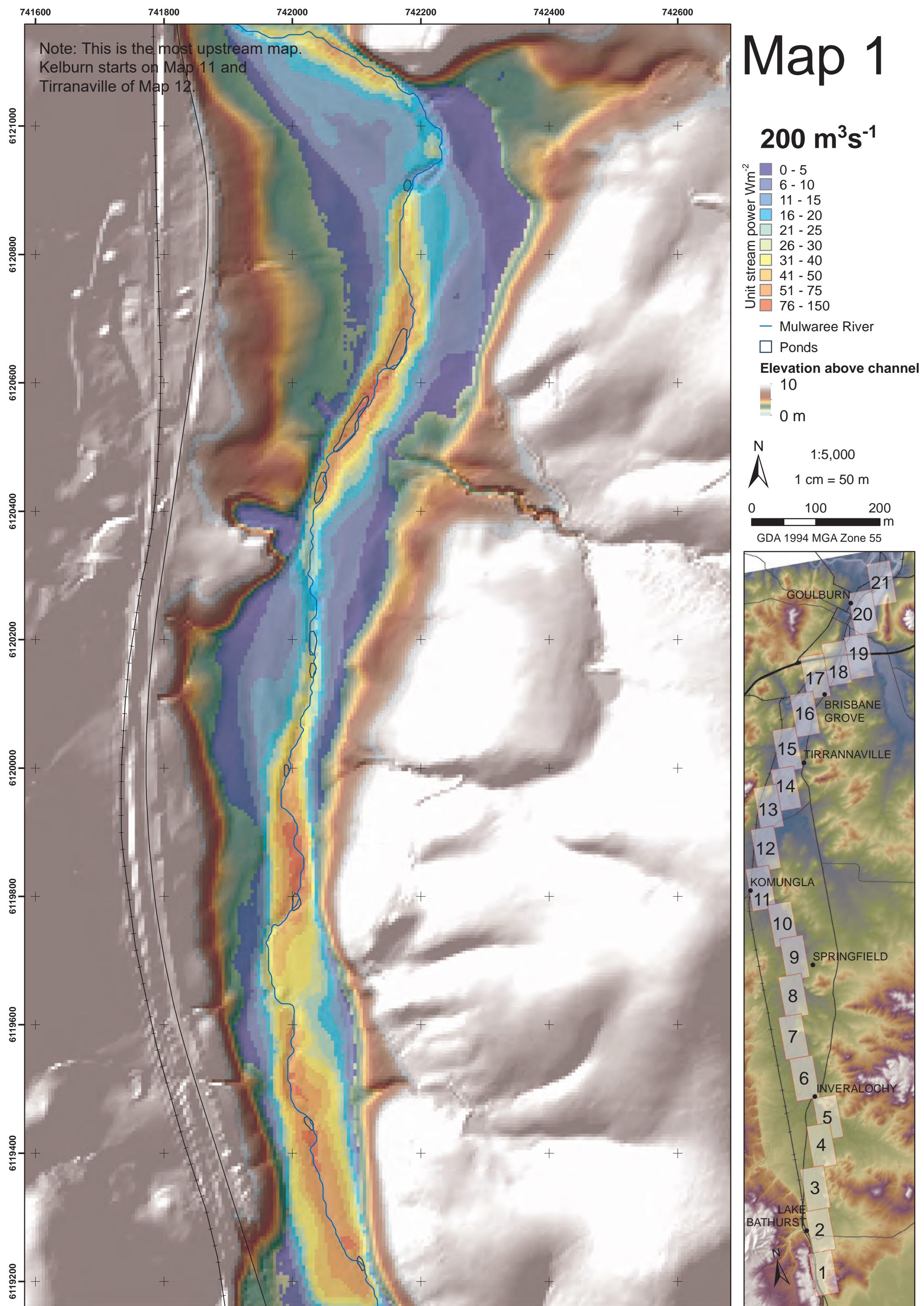
Priority 2 - Look after the identified ‘intact’ reaches at Tirranaville (Reach 3) and Kelburn (Reach 2). The Tirranaville reach has already been identified by RoC as a possible site for work. Extend fencing from existing downstream sites, upstream into this reach. Allow aquatic vegetation to re-establish. Added benefit of working in this reach is that it extends upstream from existing works and previous projects at Tirranaville. At Kelburn there is existing fencing on the west-bank but not on the east bank. Connecting part of the unfenced chain-of-ponds corridor is recommended. Limit or exclude stock access to these reaches.

Priority 3 – Monitor and manage identified headcuts. We identified five headcuts in the system (2 at Tirrannavlle and 3 at Kelbun) in Priority 2 and 4 reaches. Although they have not moved for some time, and all are relatively gradual headcuts, all are exposed to disturbance and could pose a threat to the integrity of ponds in the reaches in which they occur. This is particularly the case in Priority 2 reaches, which we recommend be considered first in parallel with the Priority 2 strategy. We recommend that the headcuts be monitored over time, the reaches fenced off, stock excluded and aquatic revegetation (natural or direct) be undertaken particularly around the headcuts to ensure sufficient roughness to withstand flood flows. At this stage we do not recommend any direct works or heavy interventions at these headcuts that would exacerbate them and make them unstable.

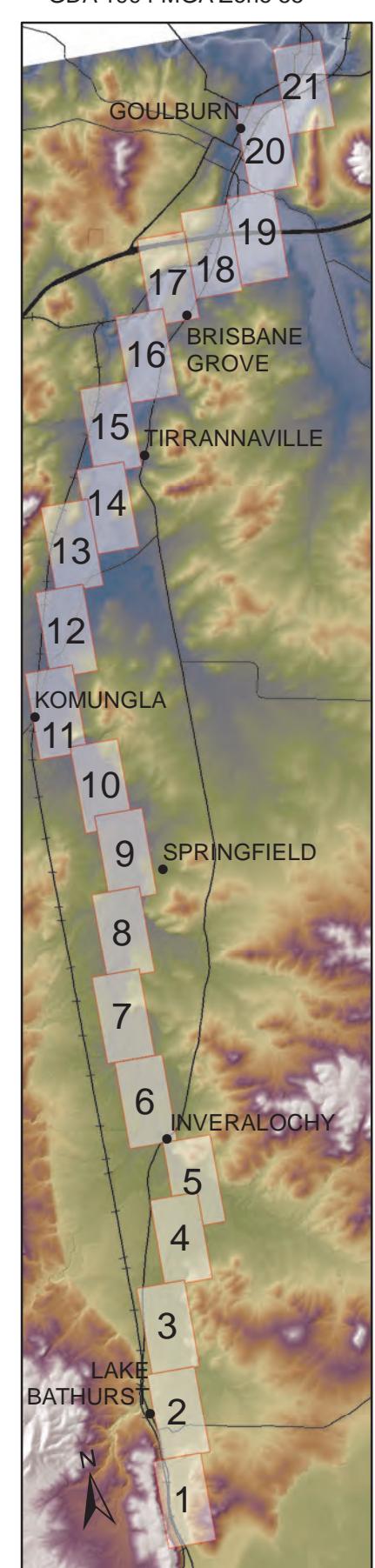
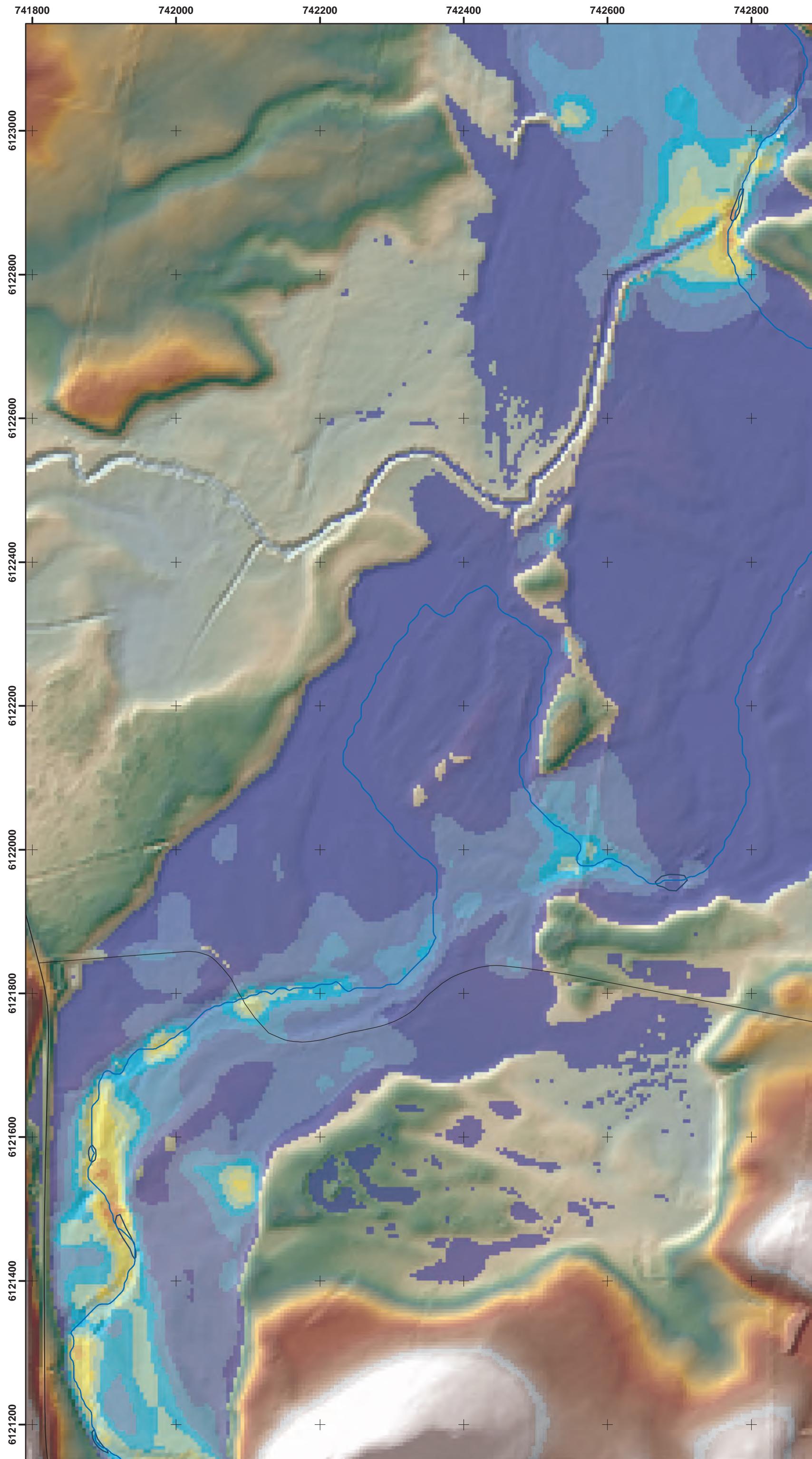
Priority 4 – Kelburn connecting channels. There are several connecting channels between ponds at Kelburn in Reach 1 that are severely eroded. Existing fencing is in place along most of these reaches. Some reed beds are re-establishing at the erosion hotspots at the exit zones to some ponds. The reed beds should be enhanced and extended downstream, particularly at the headcuts in Kelburn Reach 1. Getting aquatic roughness back into the connecting channels at these hotspots and in the reaches immediately downstream will likely prevent further incision and channel erosion in the pond exit zones. More appropriate stock management is required for all these reaches to allow reinforcing grasses and aquatic vegetation to come back naturally or directly along the incised channels.

Appendix A Hec-Ras unit stream power modelling for the 1:20 yr flood ($200 \text{ m}^3\text{s}^{-1}$) on the elevation layer.

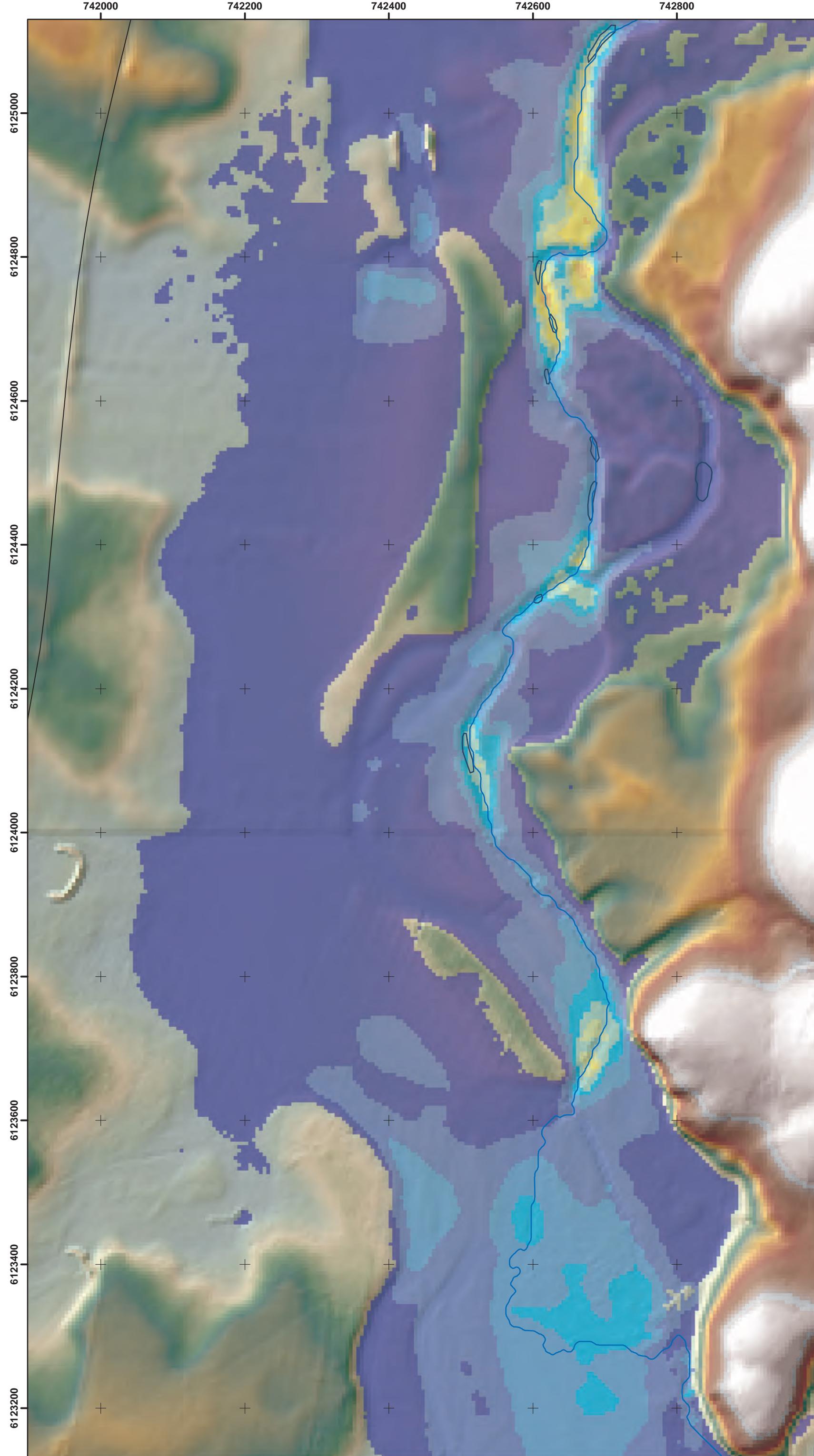
Map 1



Map 2



Map 3



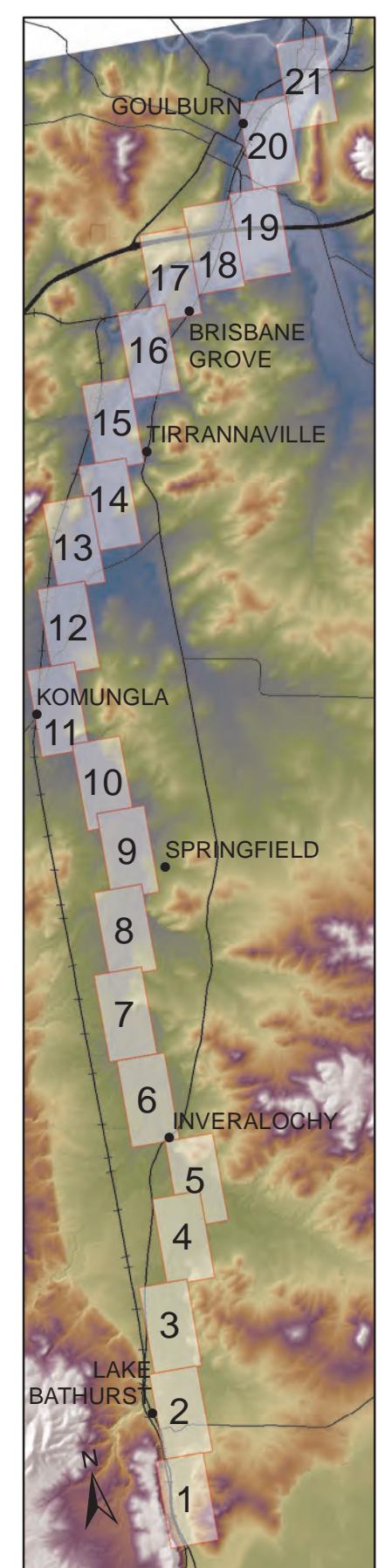
$200 \text{ m}^3\text{s}^{-1}$

1:5,000

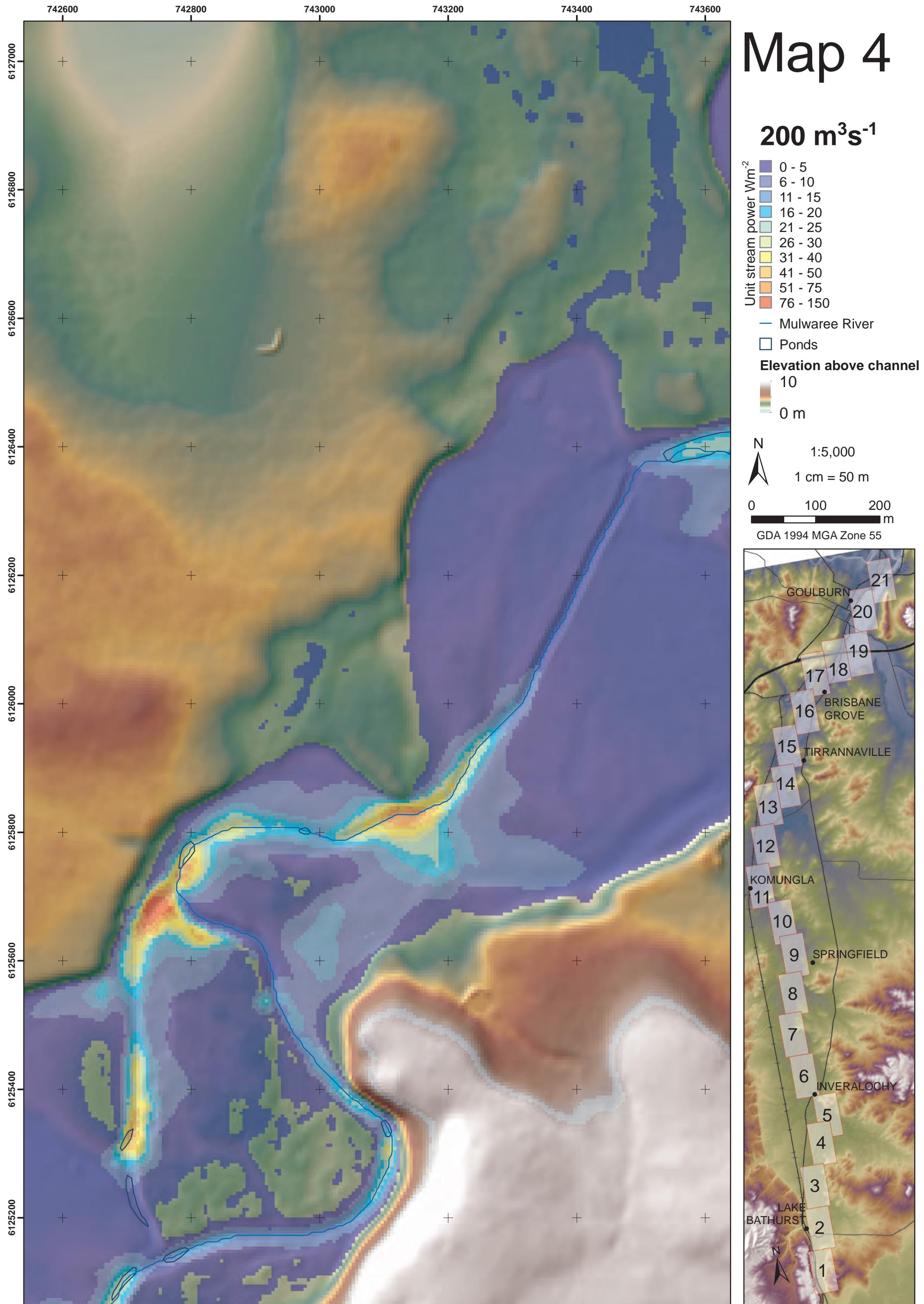
1 cm = 50 m

0 100 200 m

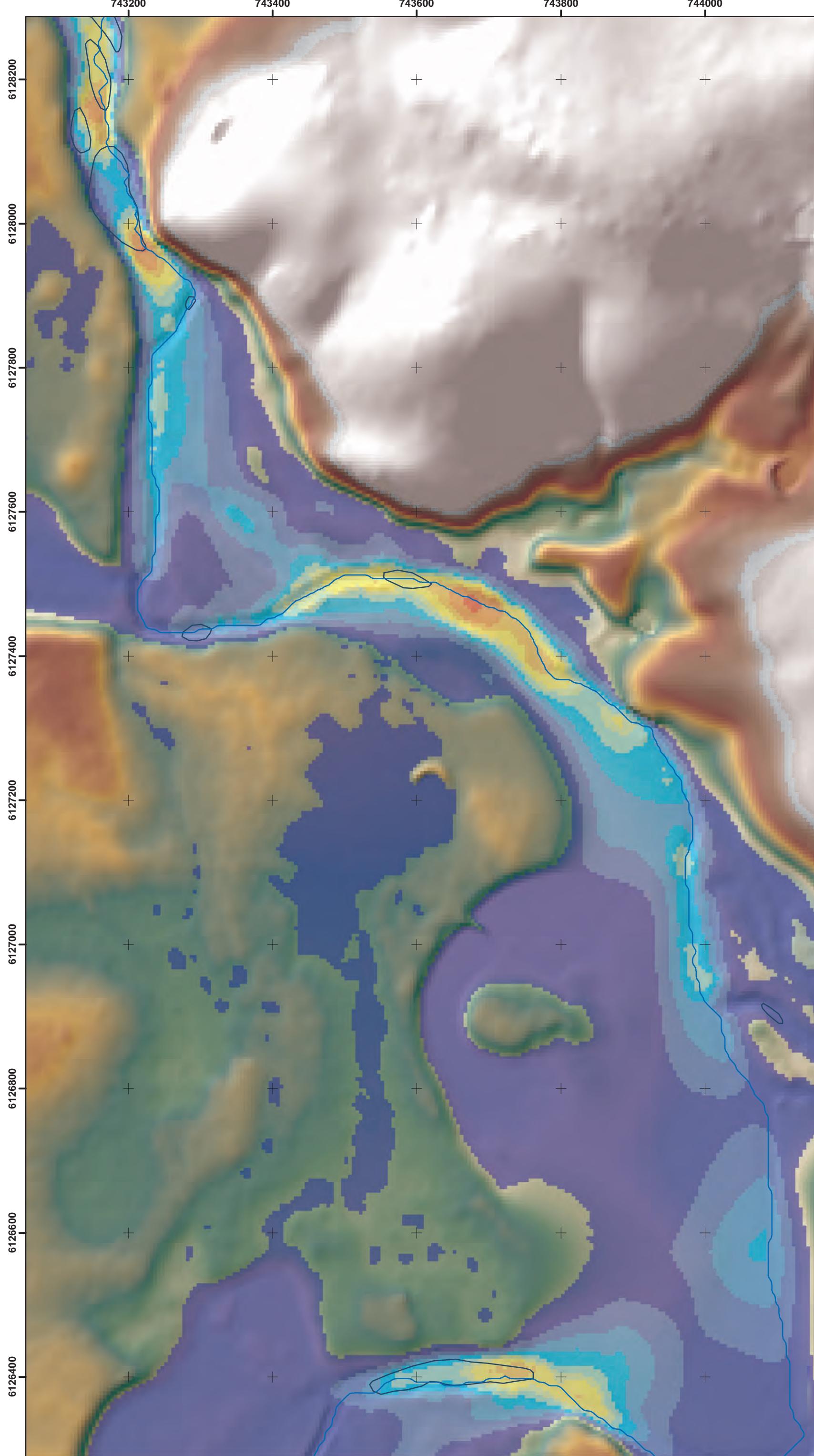
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



Map 4



Map 5



$200 \text{ m}^3\text{s}^{-1}$

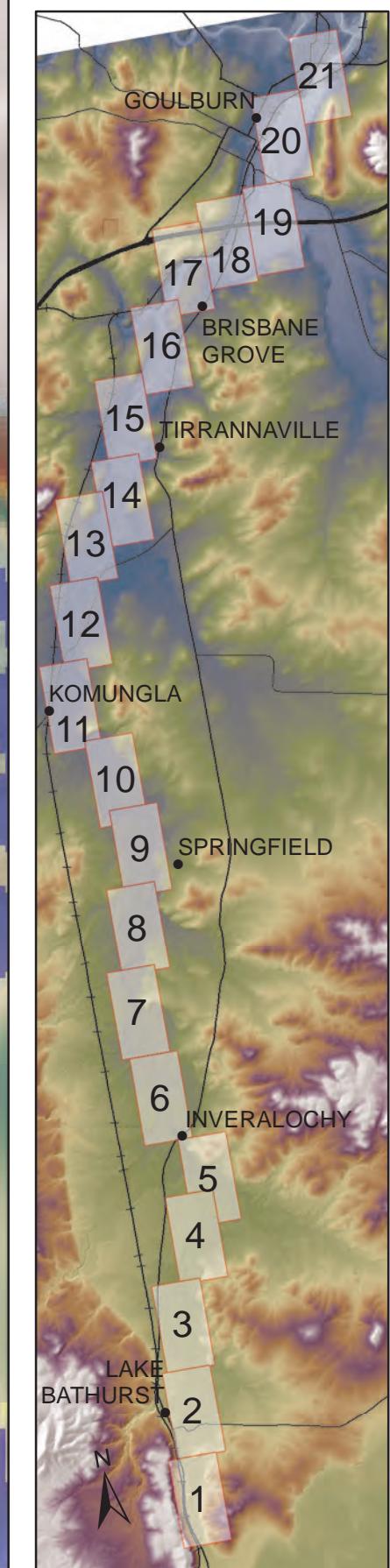
0 - 5
6 - 10
11 - 15
16 - 20
21 - 25
26 - 30
31 - 40
41 - 50
51 - 75
76 - 150

Mulwaree River
Ponds

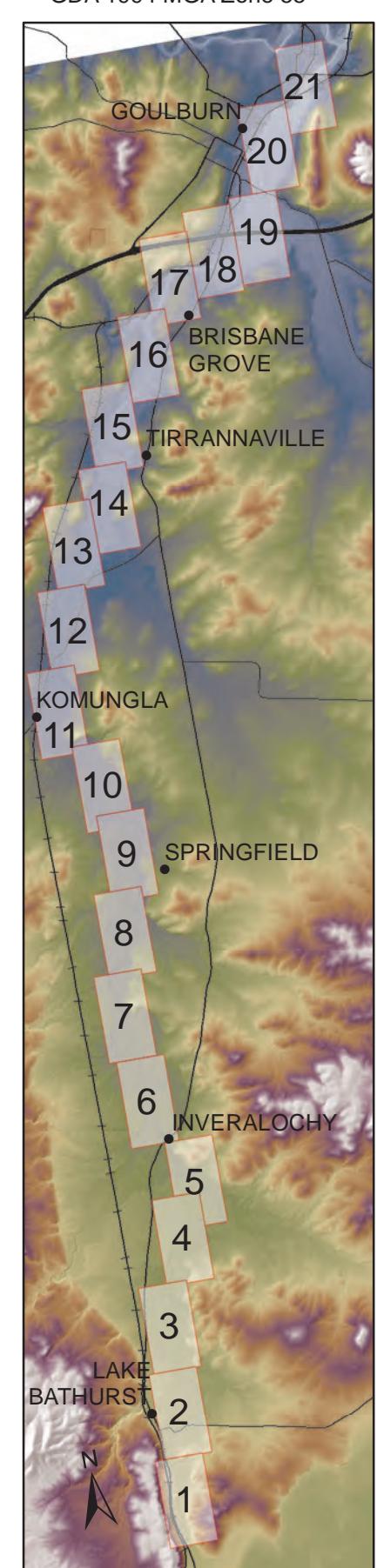
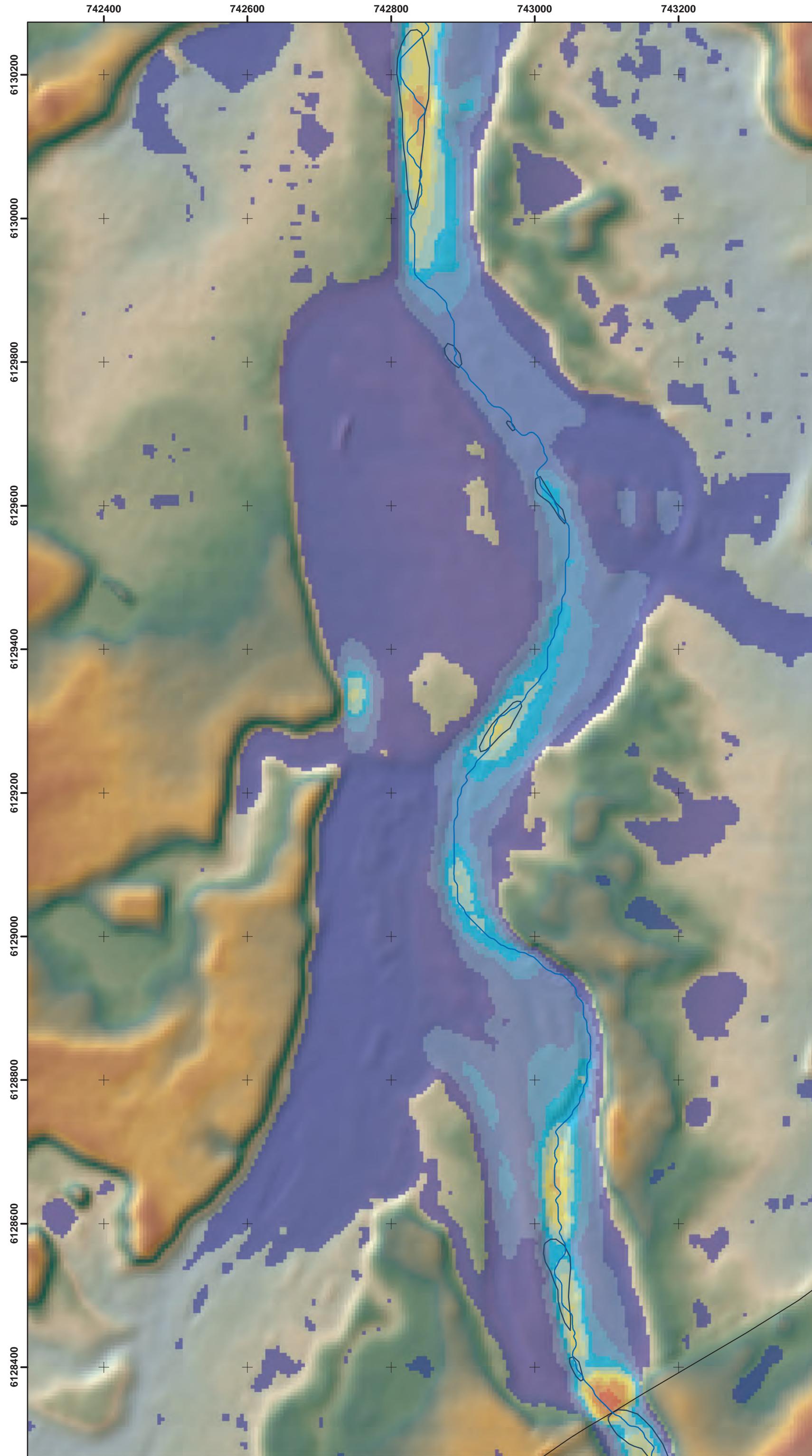
Elevation above channel
10
0 m

N 1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

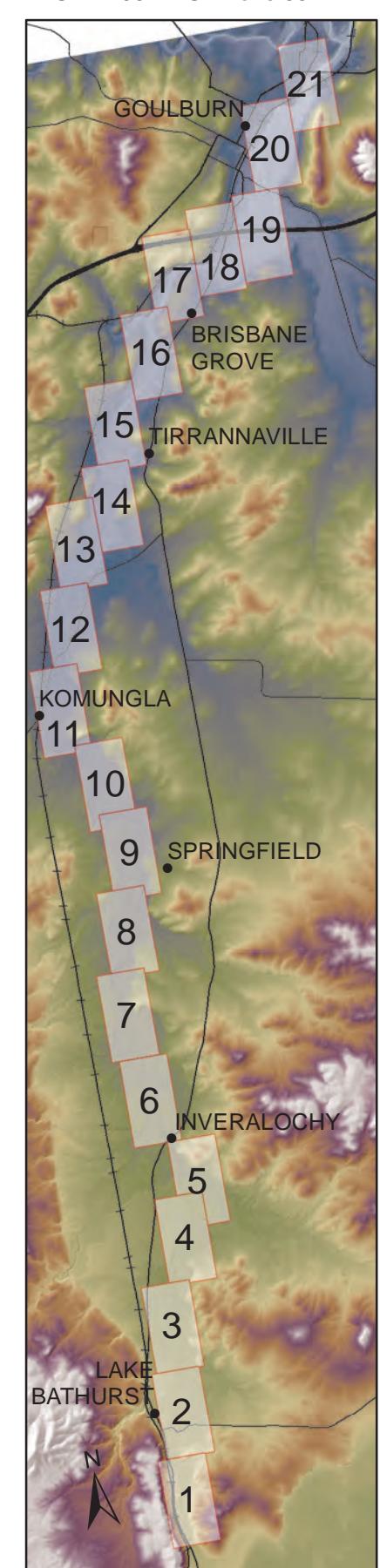
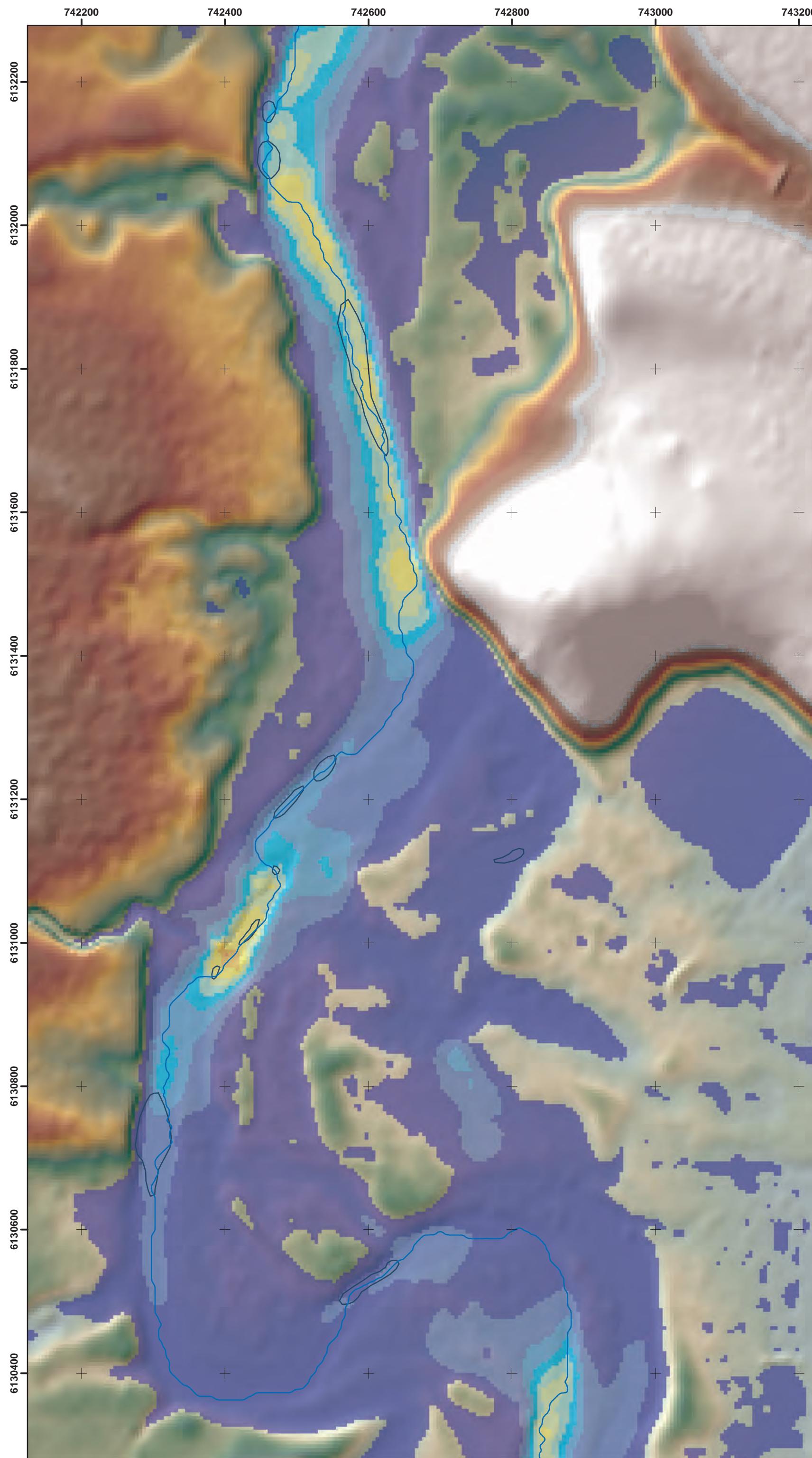
0 100 200
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



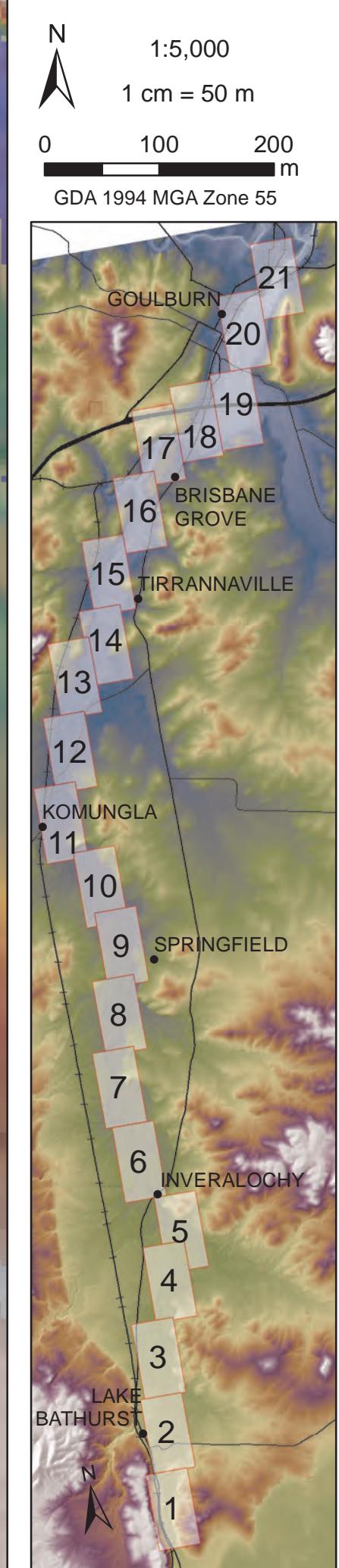
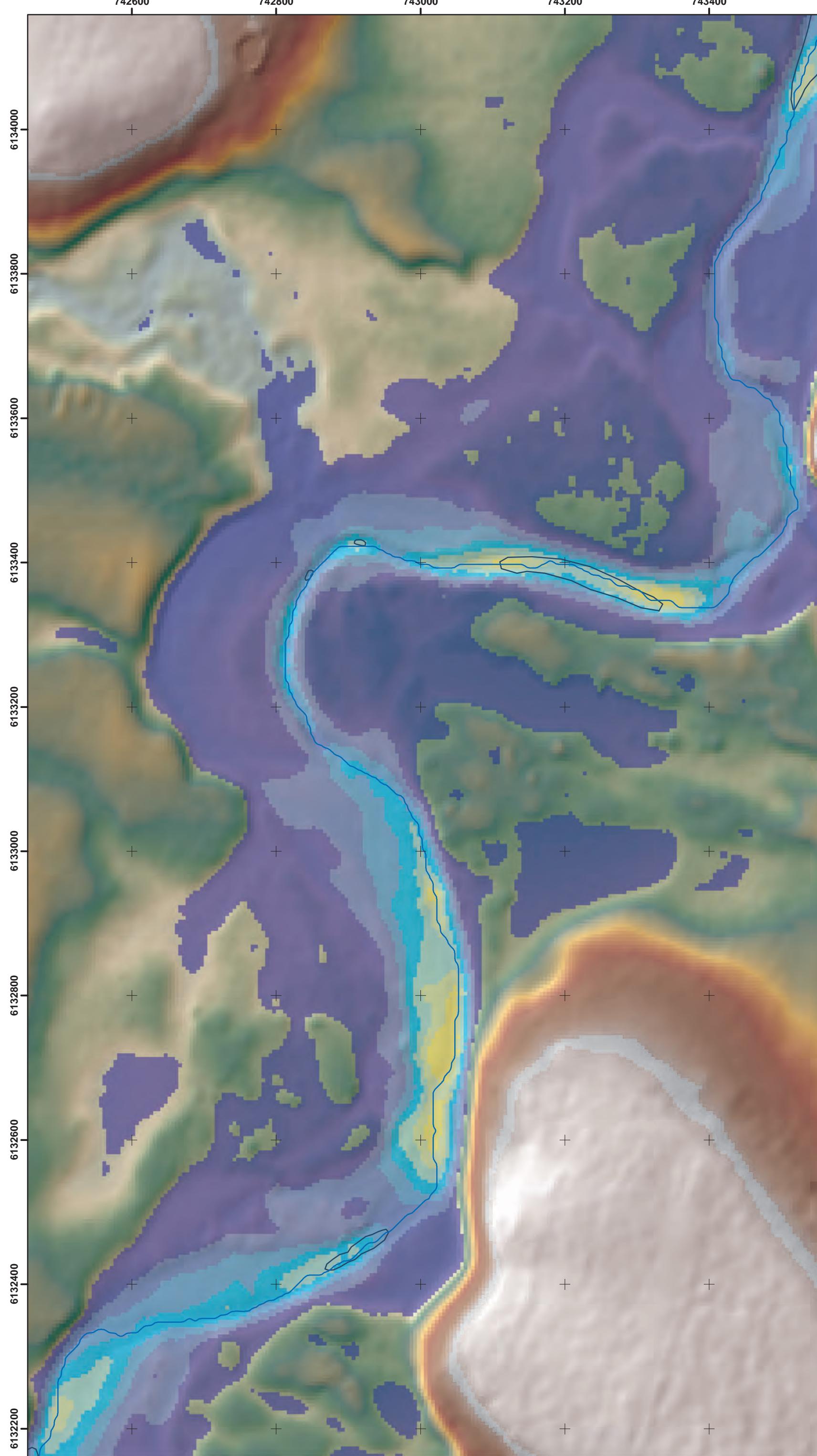
Map 6



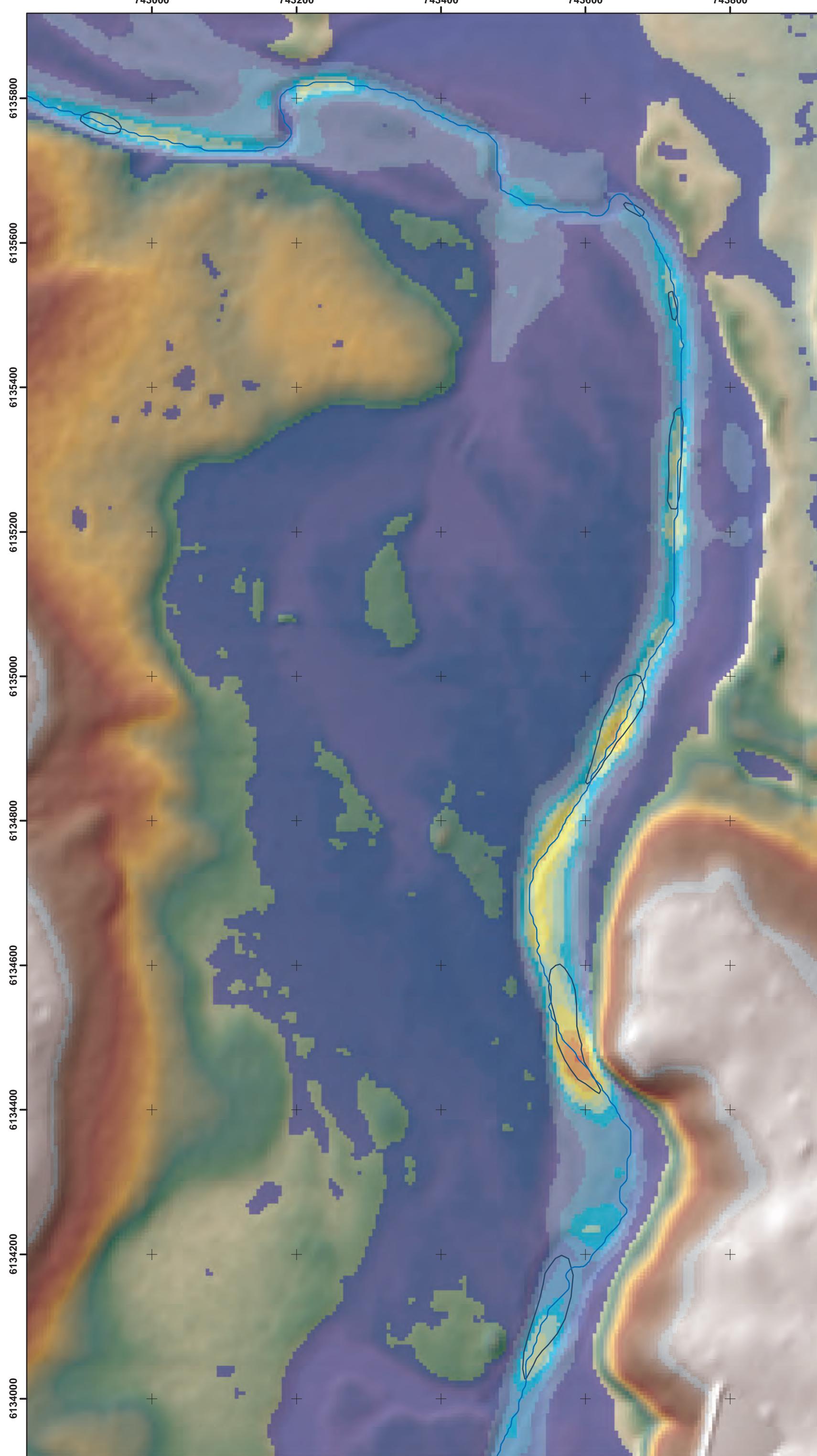
Map 7



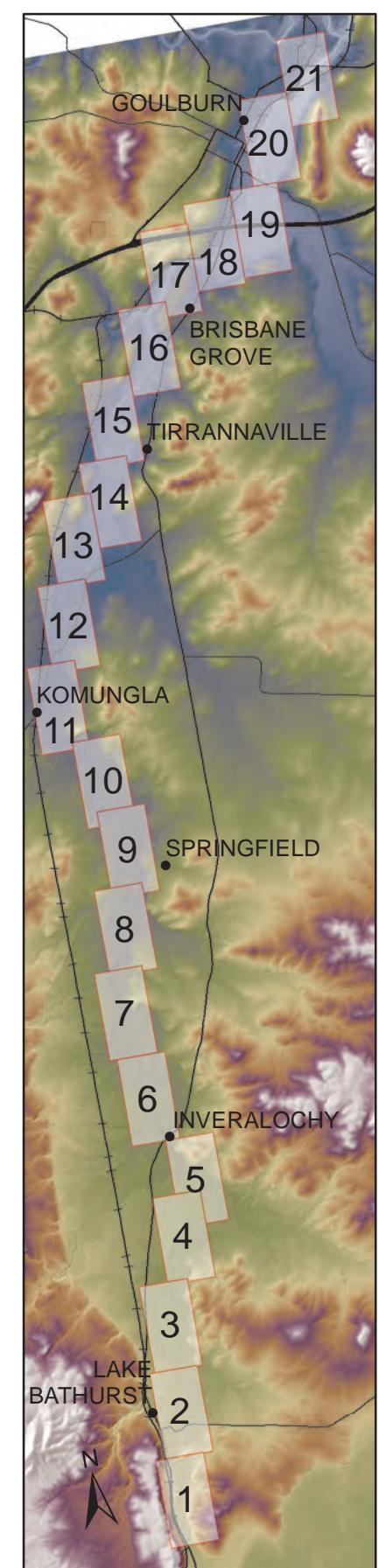
Map 8

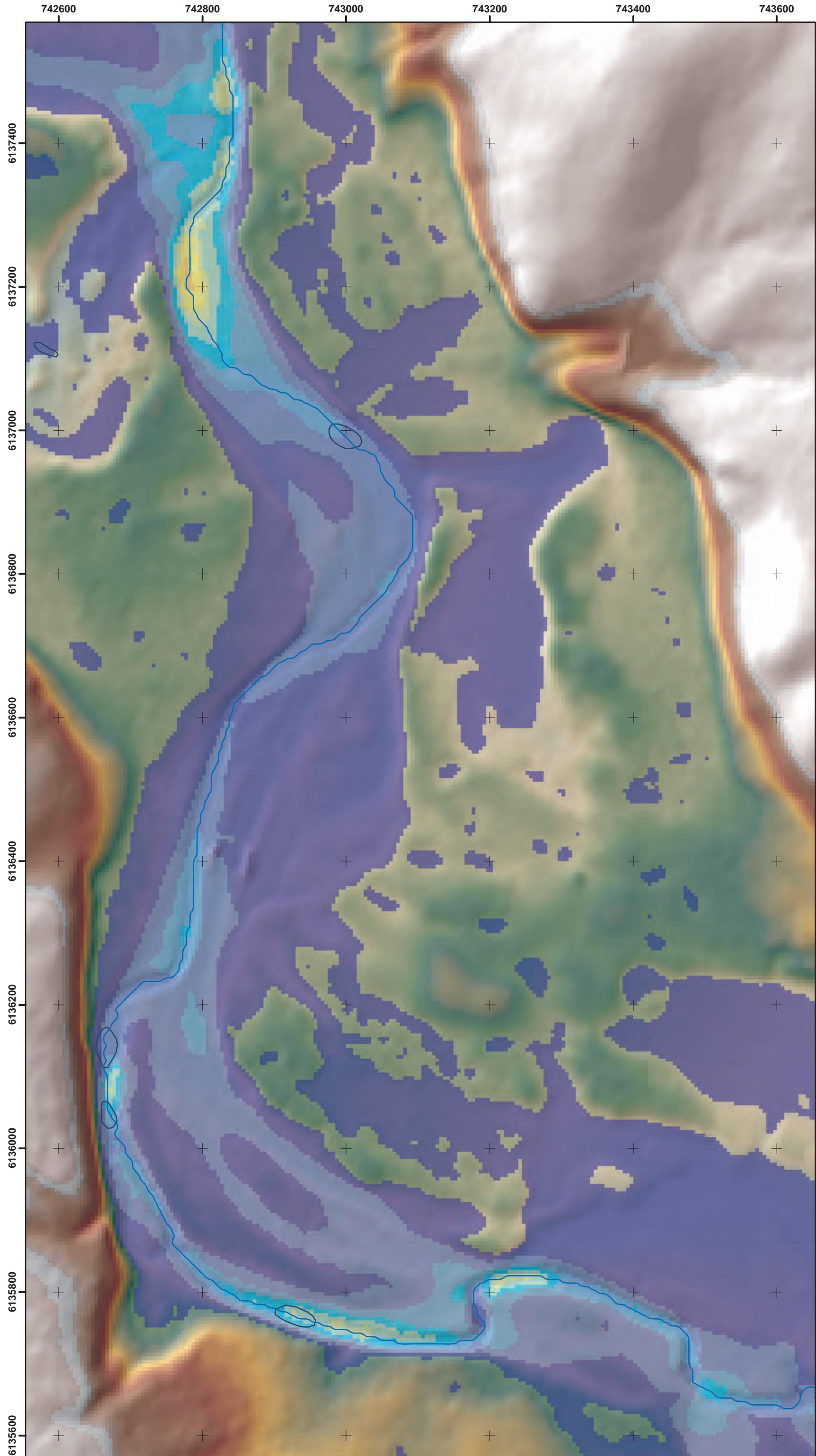


Map 9



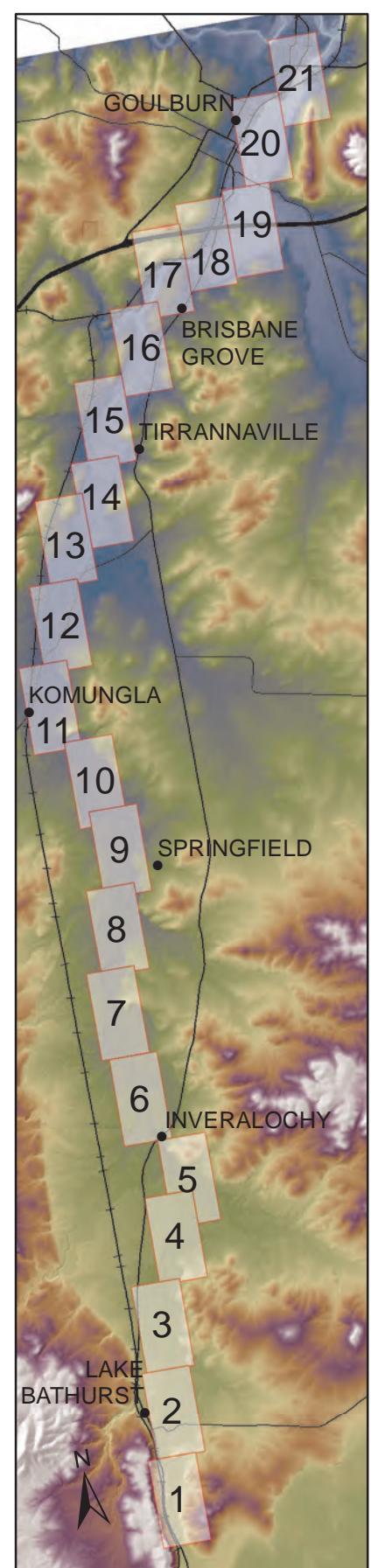
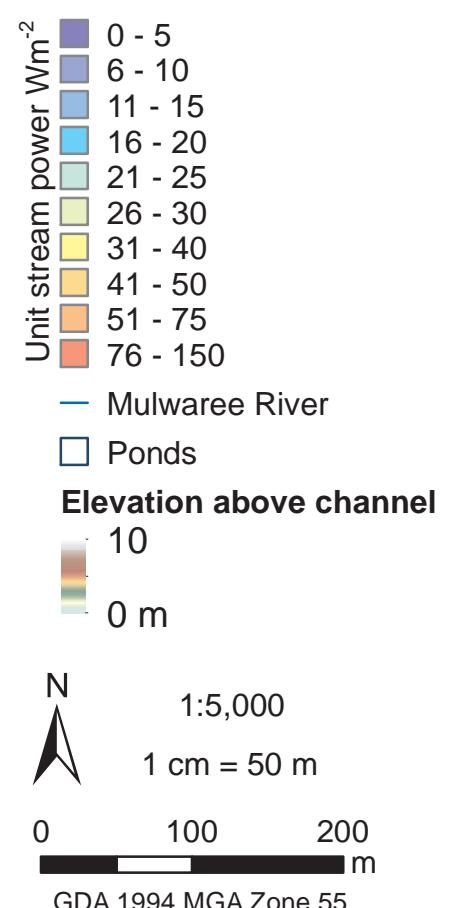
1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m
0 100 200 m
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



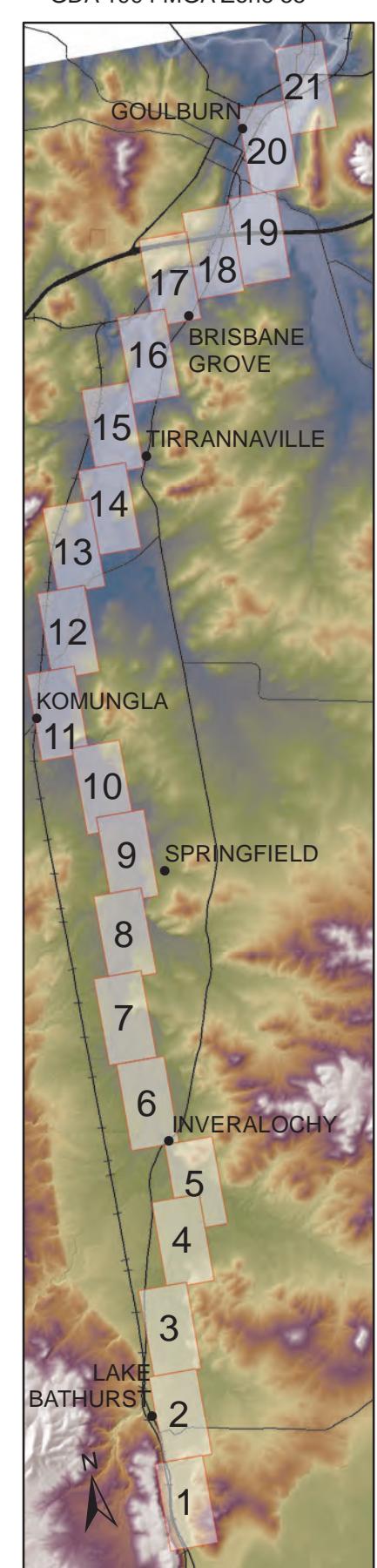
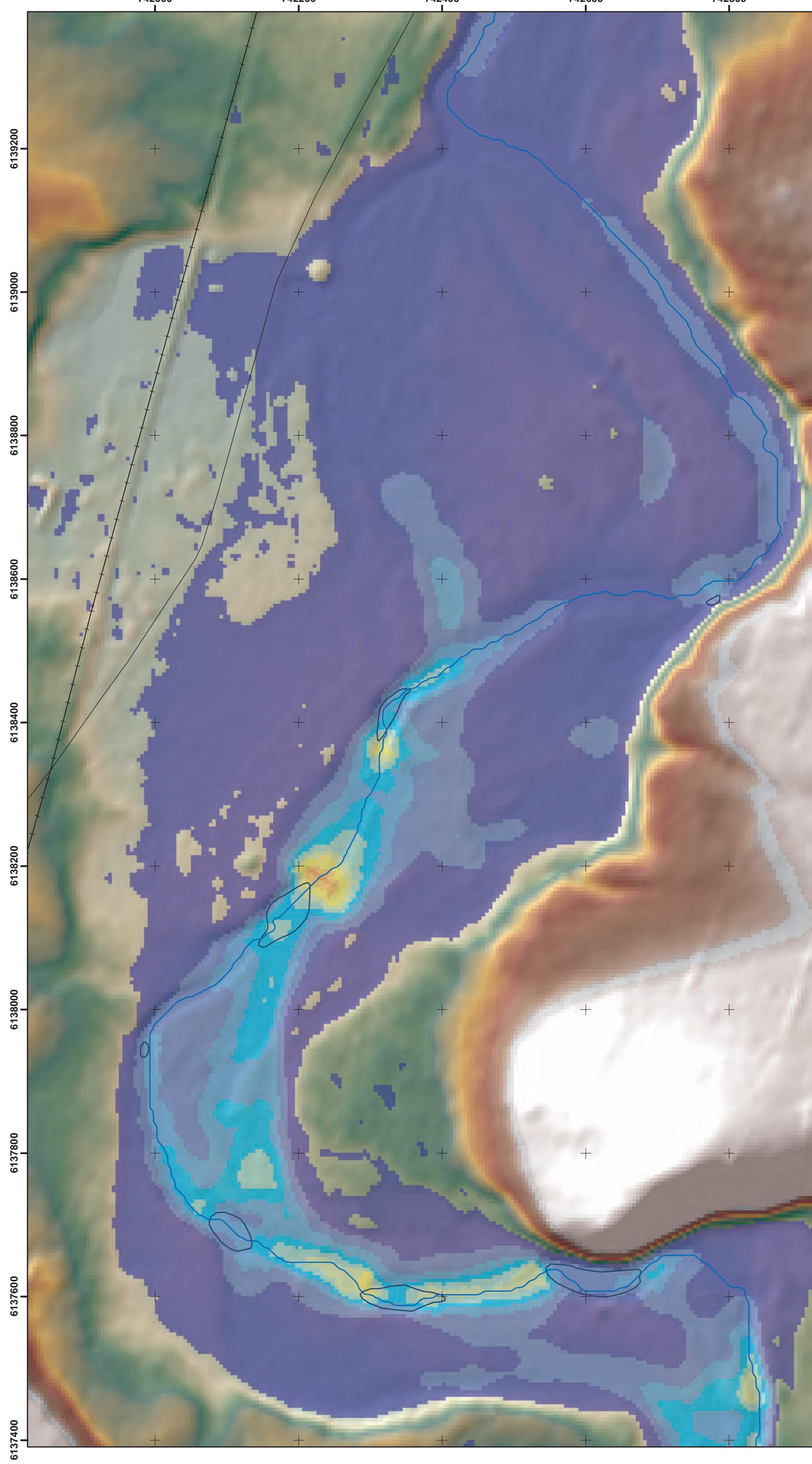


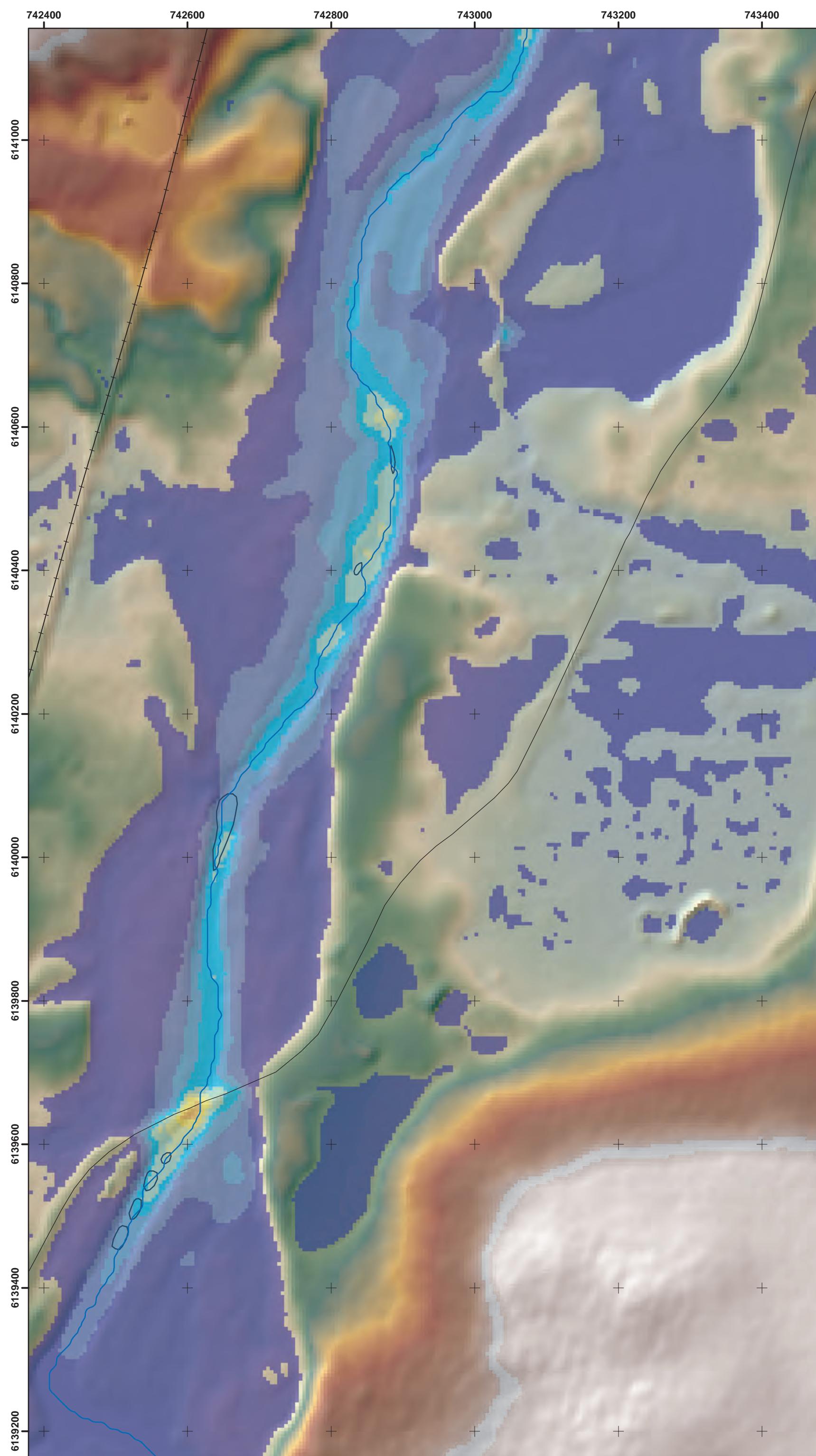
Map 10

200 m³s⁻¹



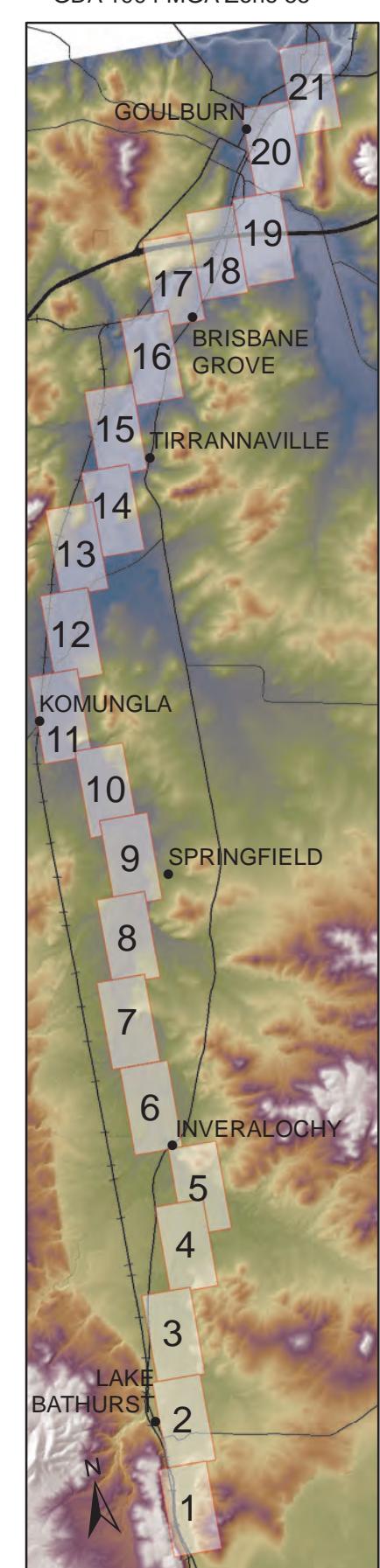
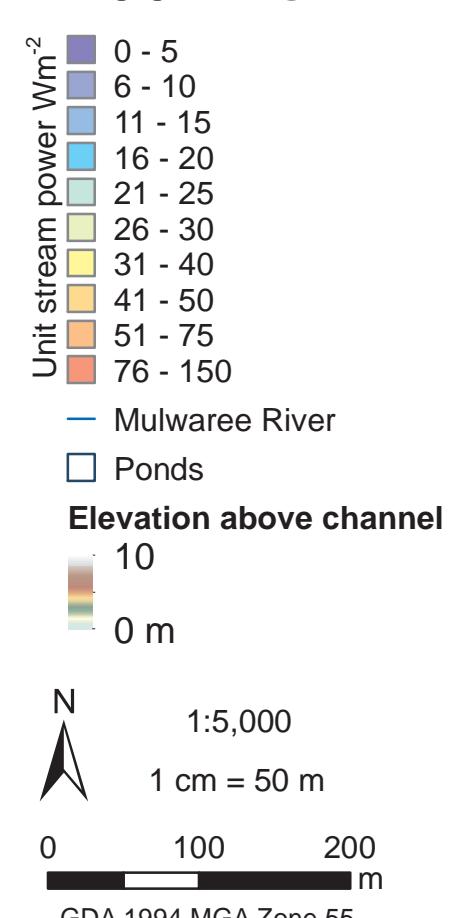
Map 11



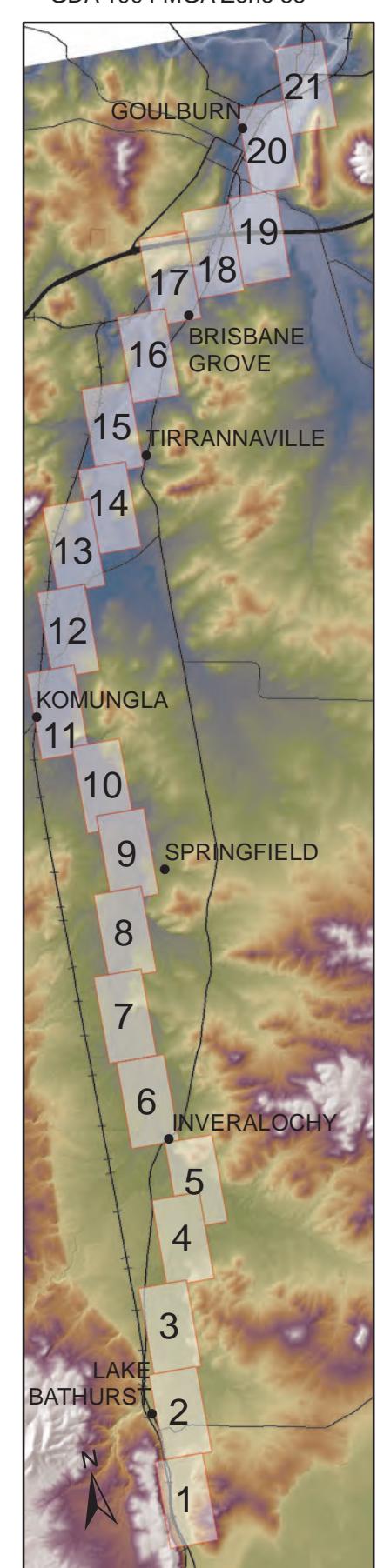
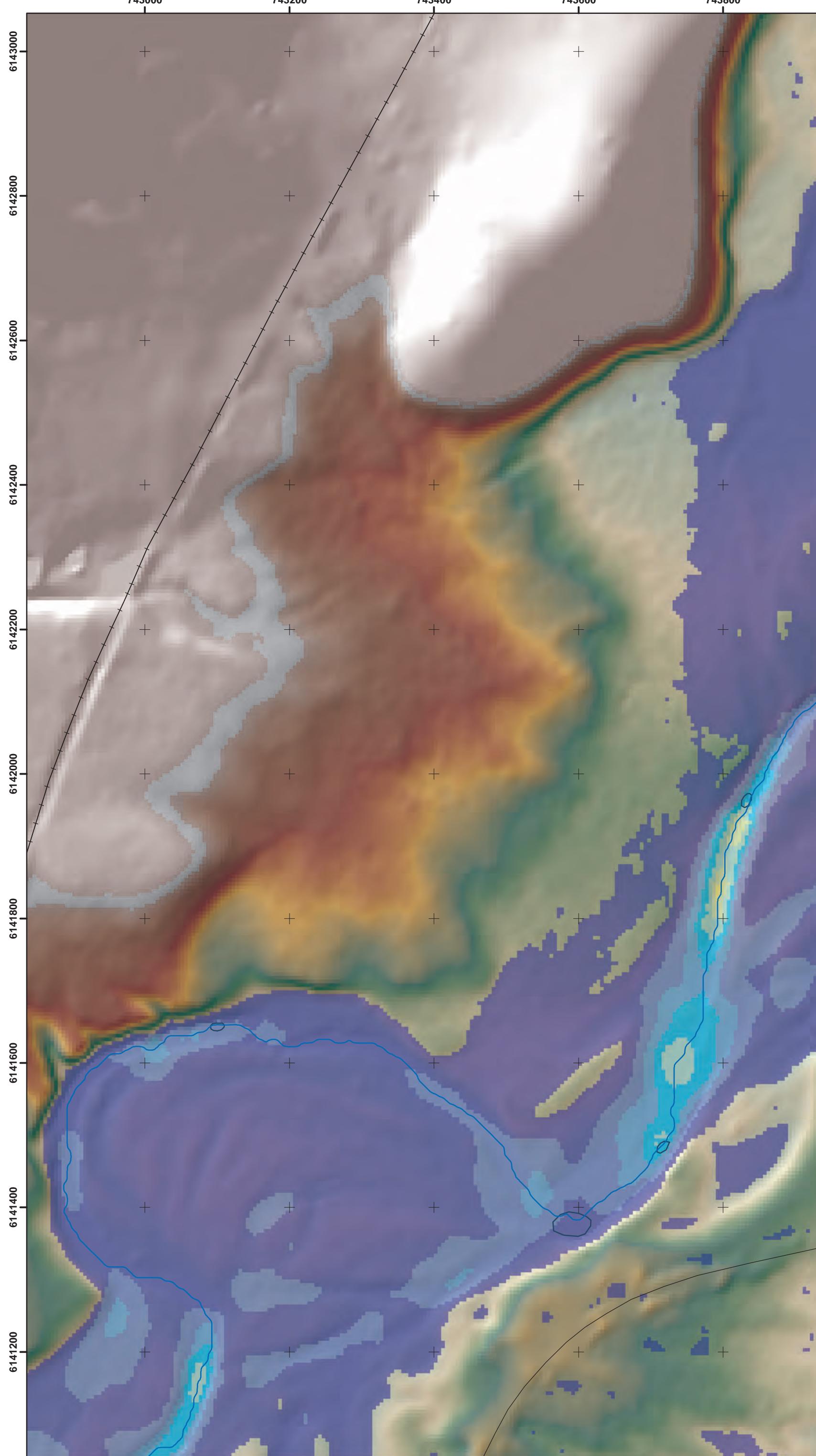


Map 12

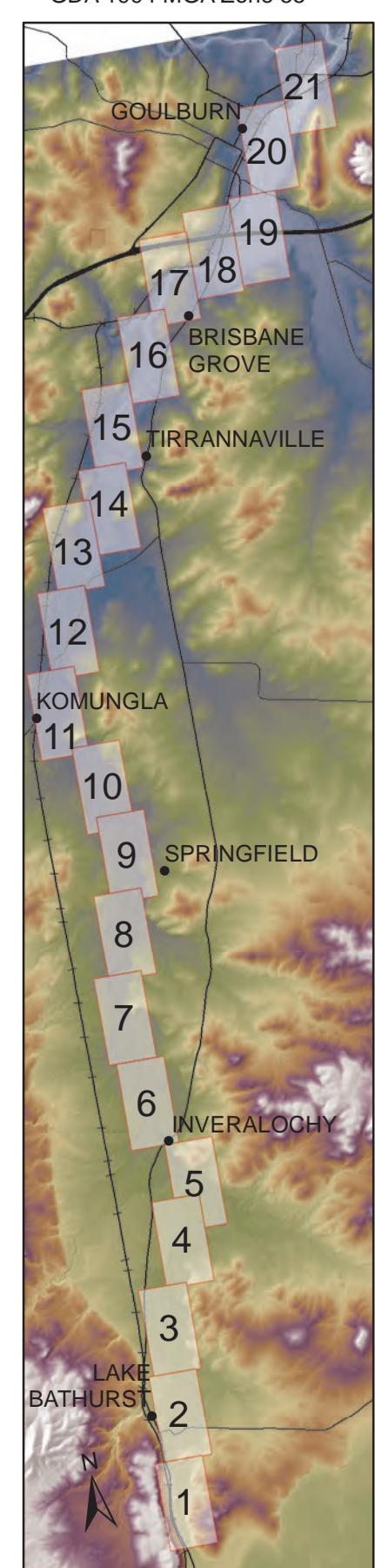
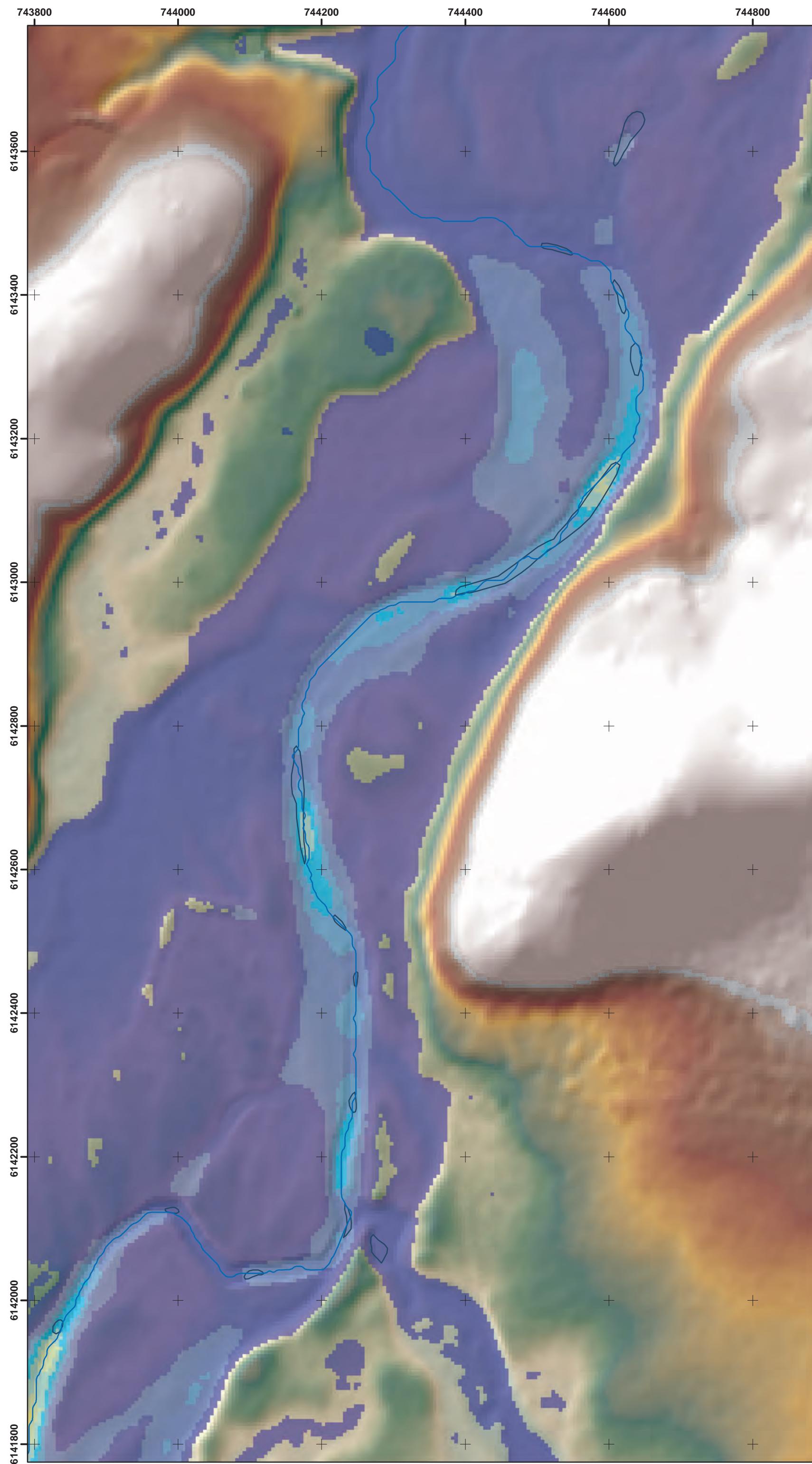
200 m³s⁻¹

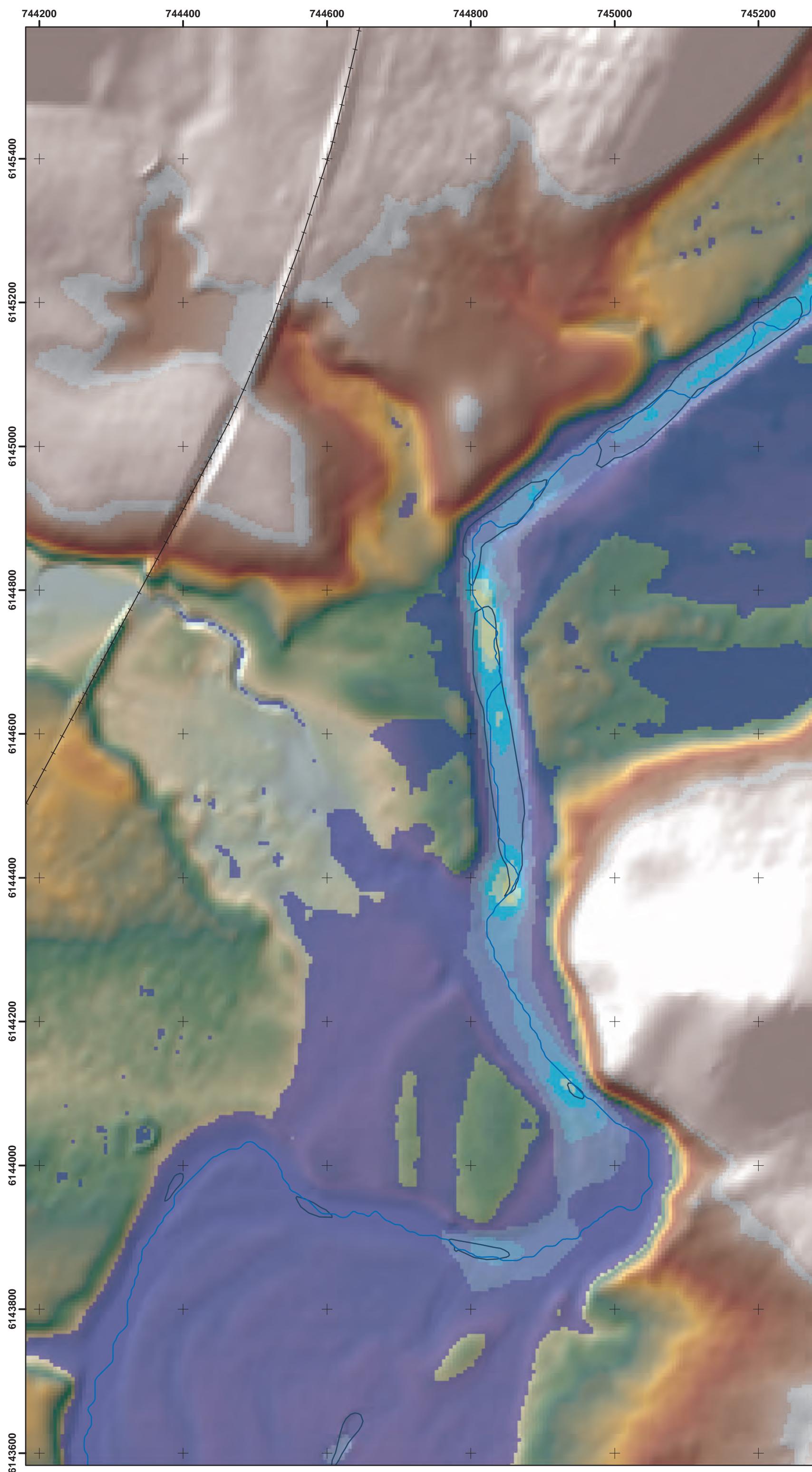


Map 13



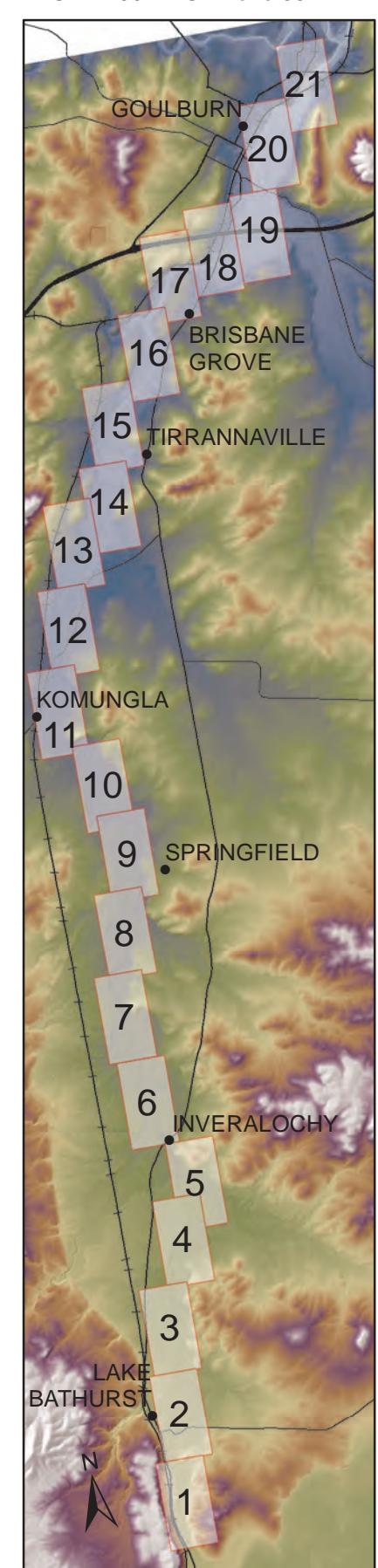
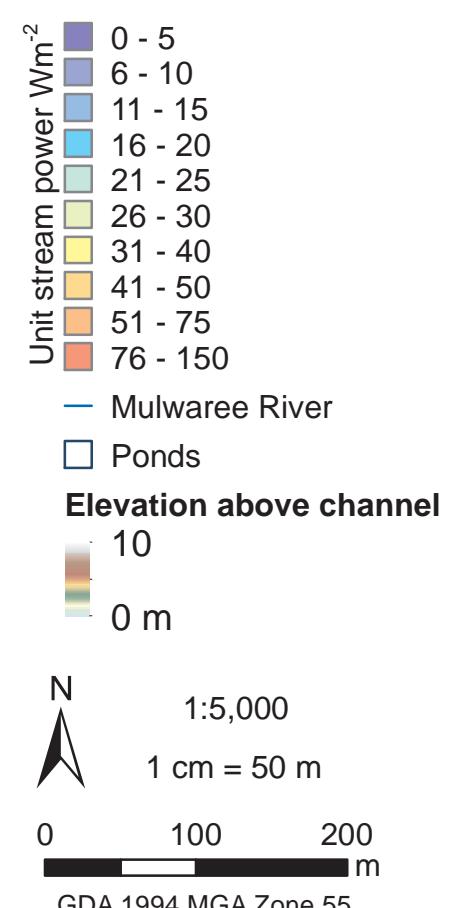
Map 14



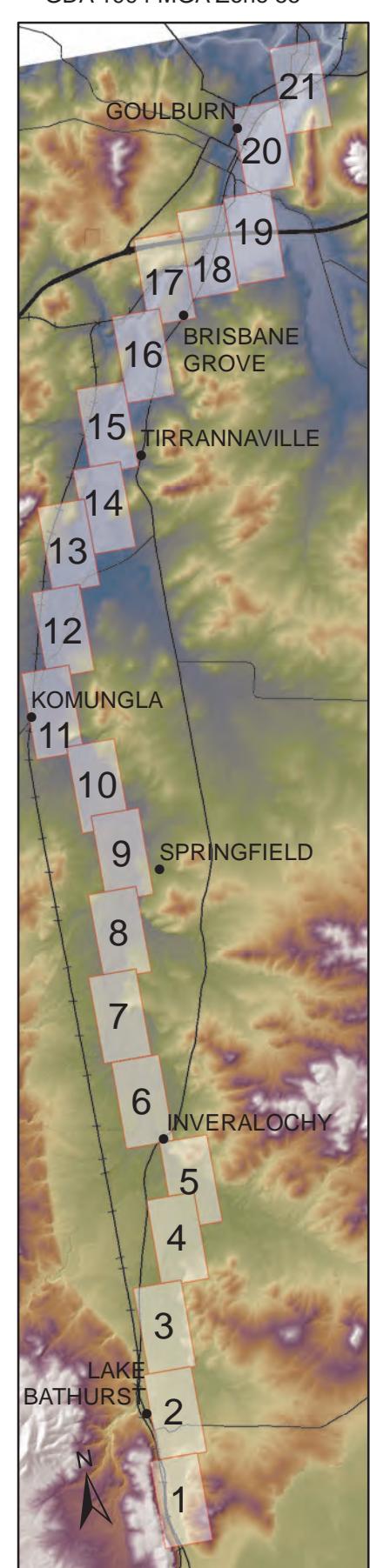
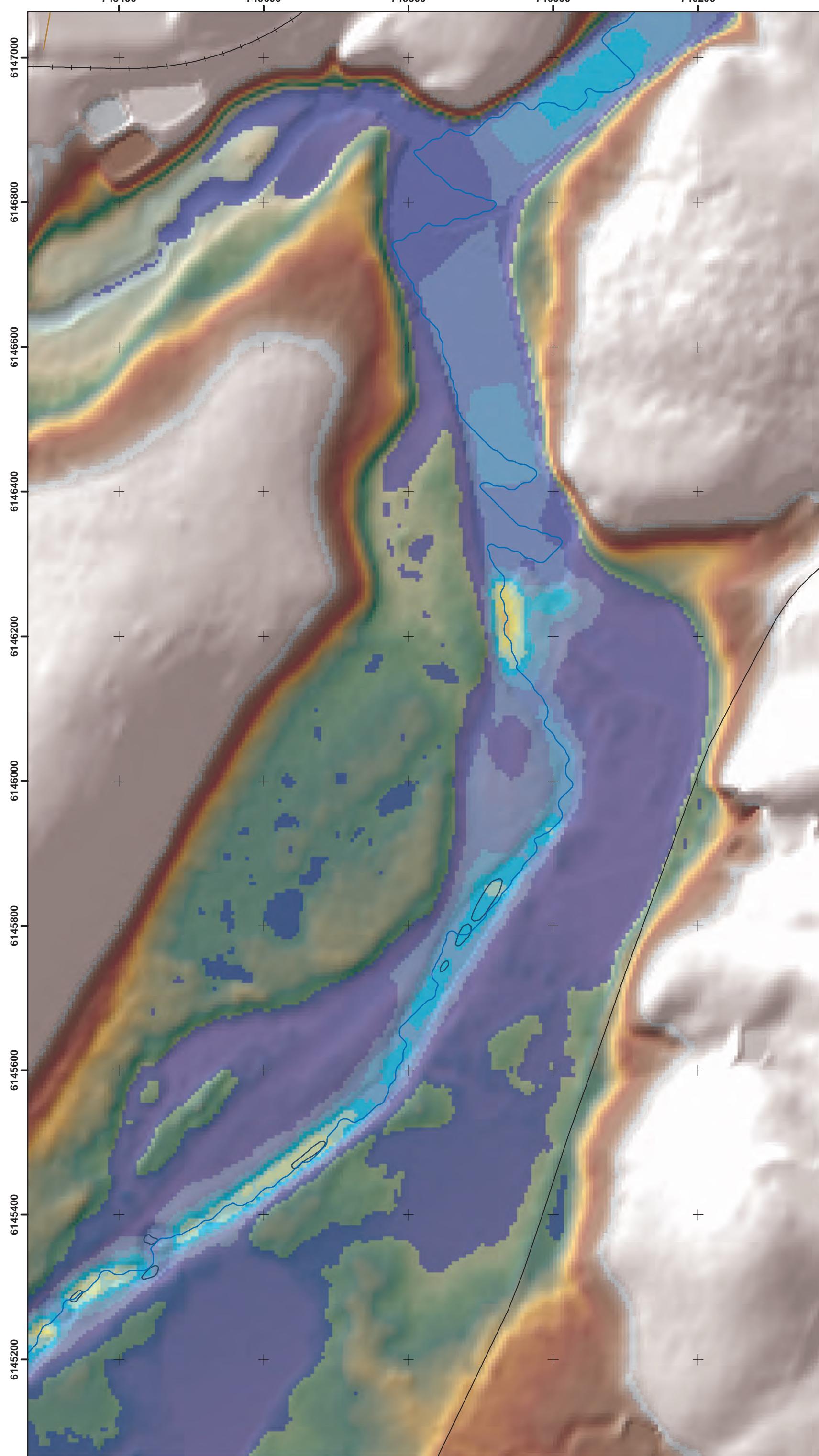


Map 15

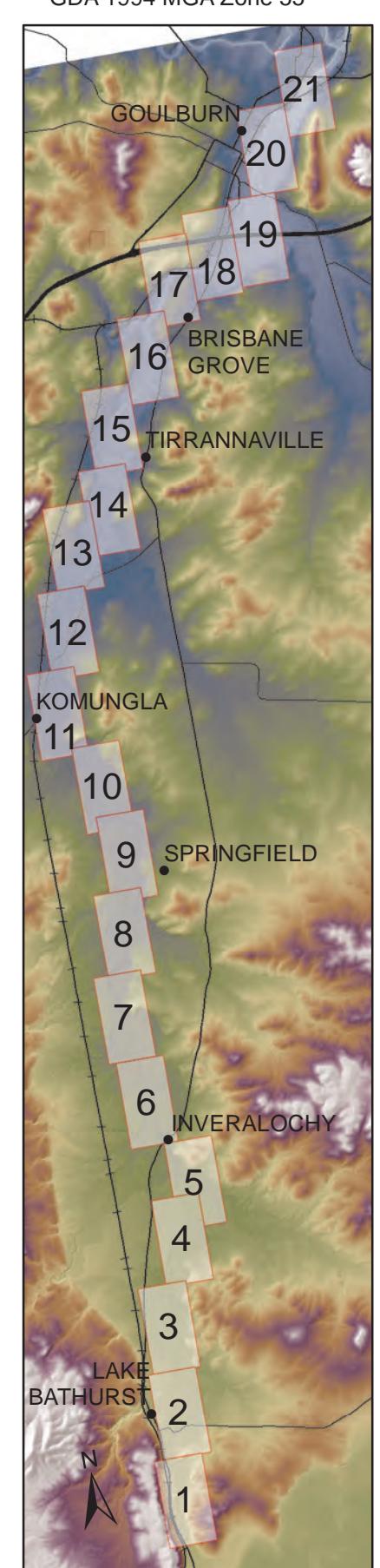
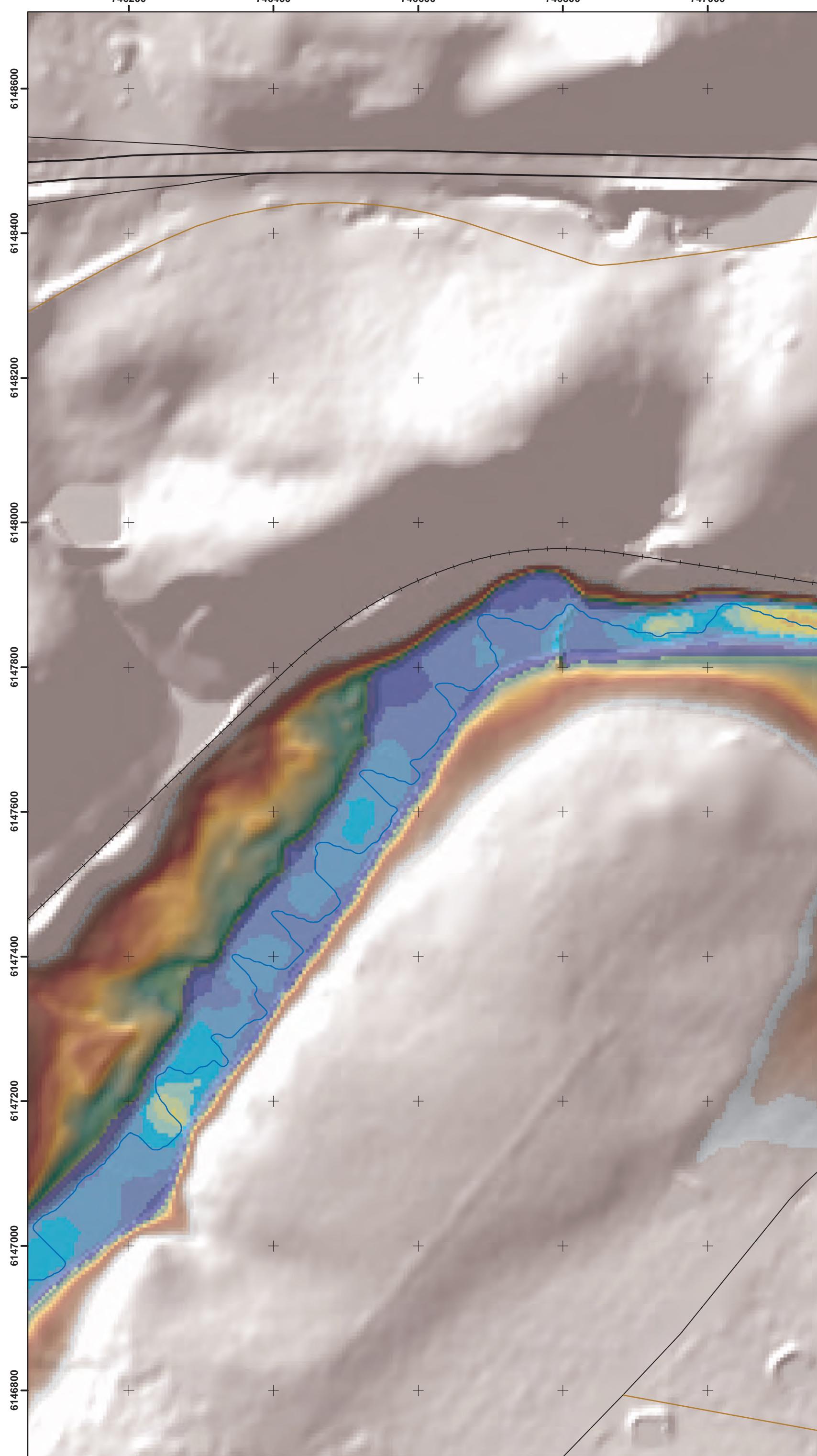
200 m³s⁻¹



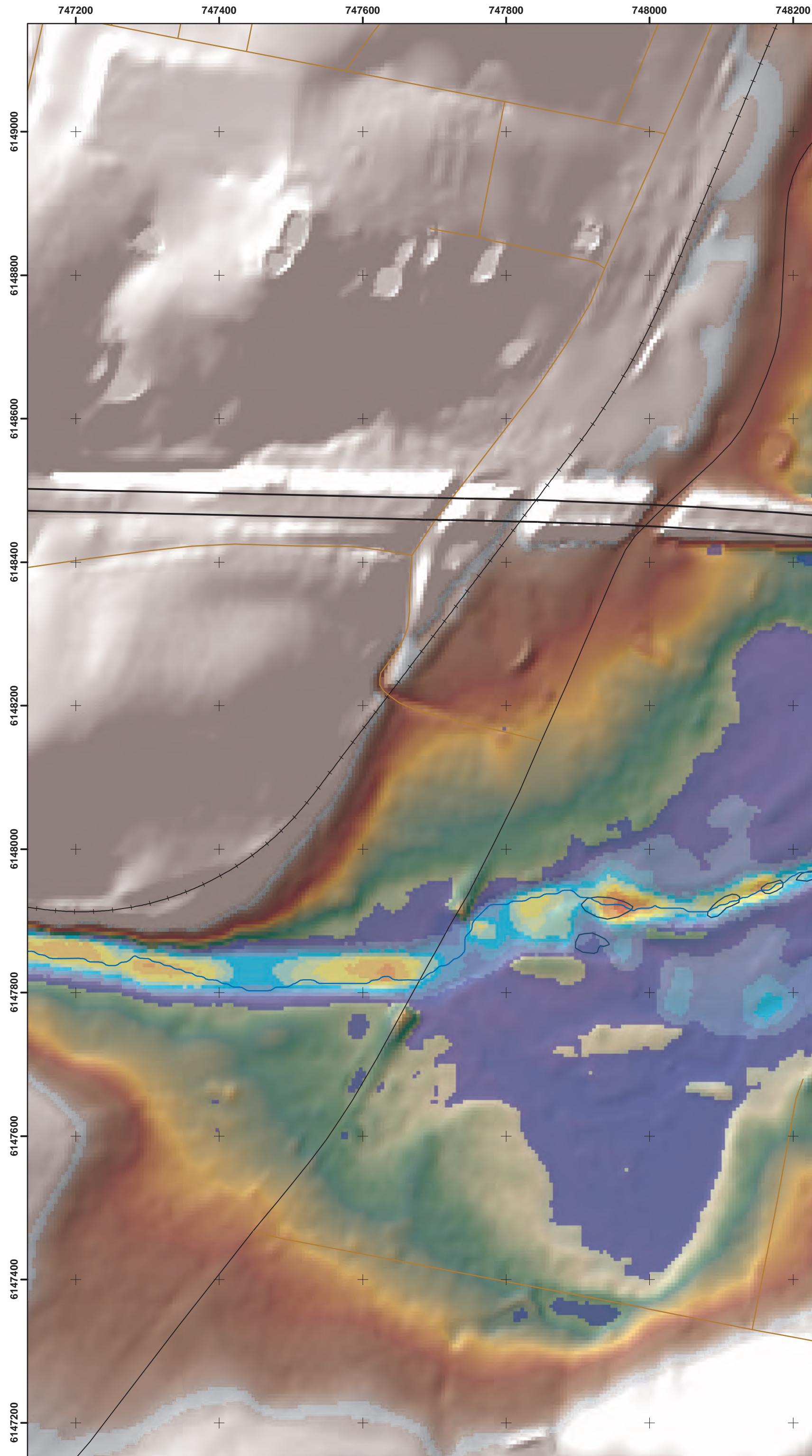
Map 16



Map 17



Map 18



$200 \text{ m}^3\text{s}^{-1}$

Unit stream power Wm^{-2}

0 - 5
6 - 10
11 - 15
16 - 20
21 - 25
26 - 30
31 - 40
41 - 50
51 - 75
76 - 150

Mulwaree River

Ponds

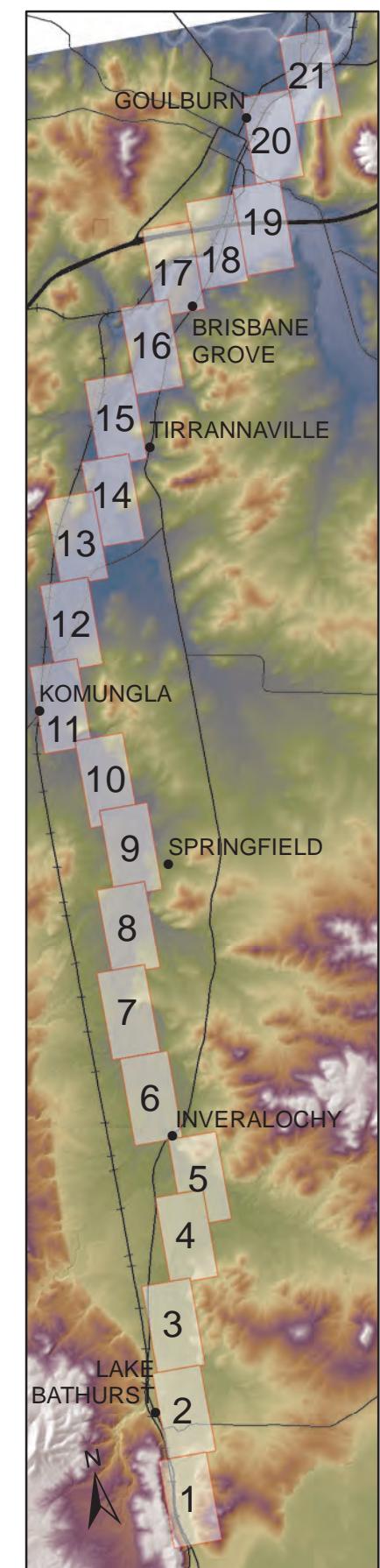
Elevation above channel

10
0 m

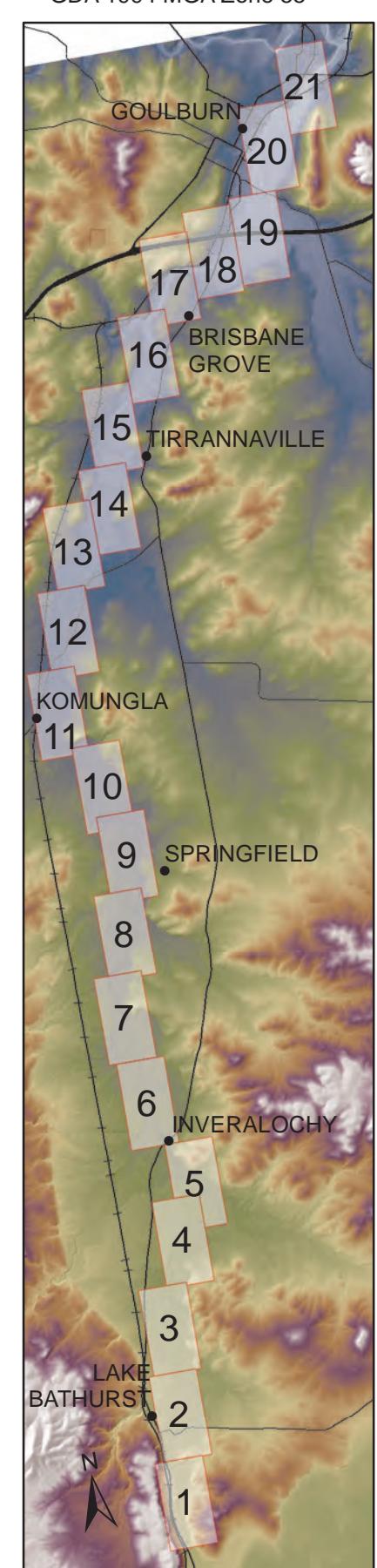
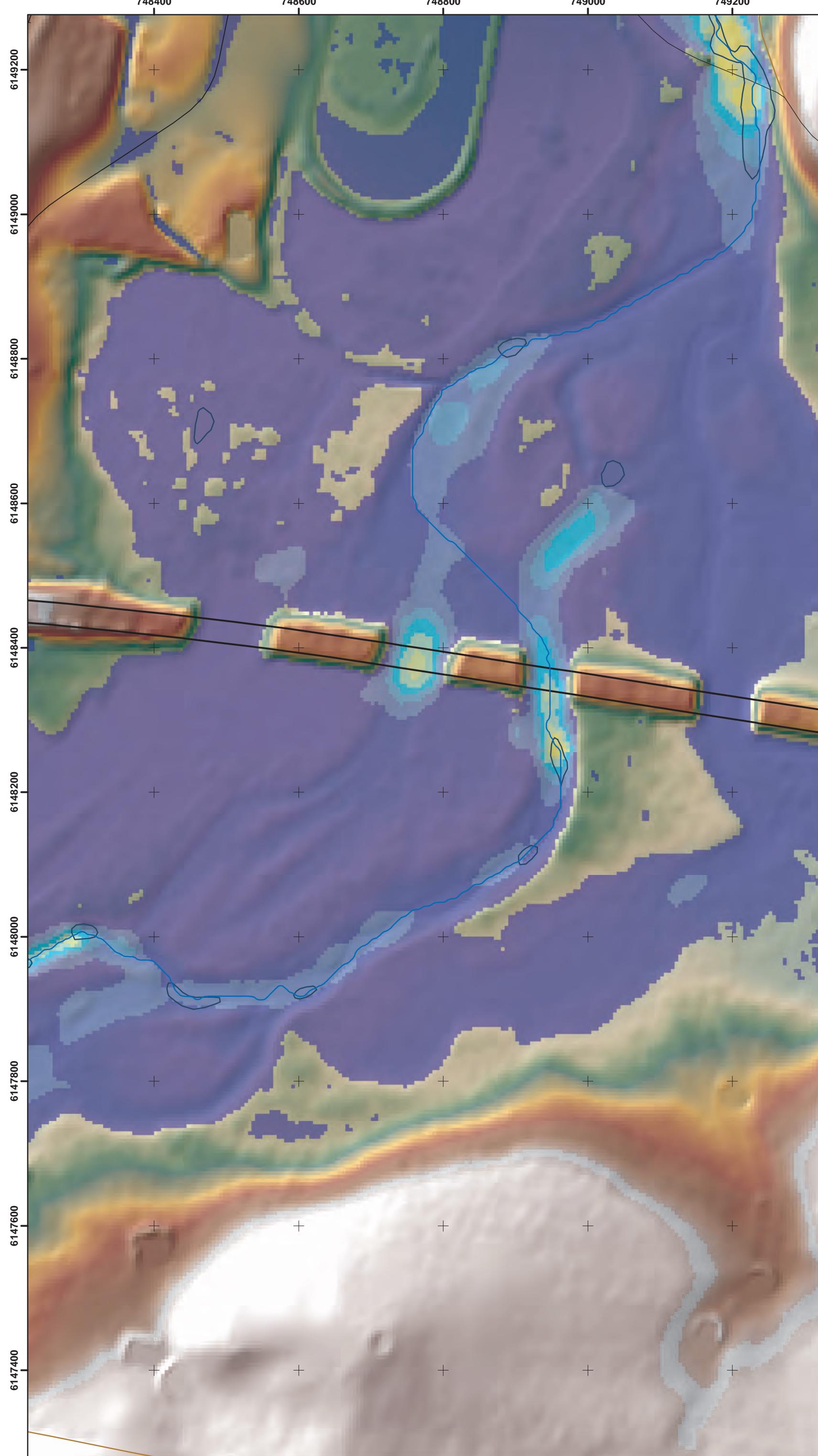
N 1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

0 100 200
m

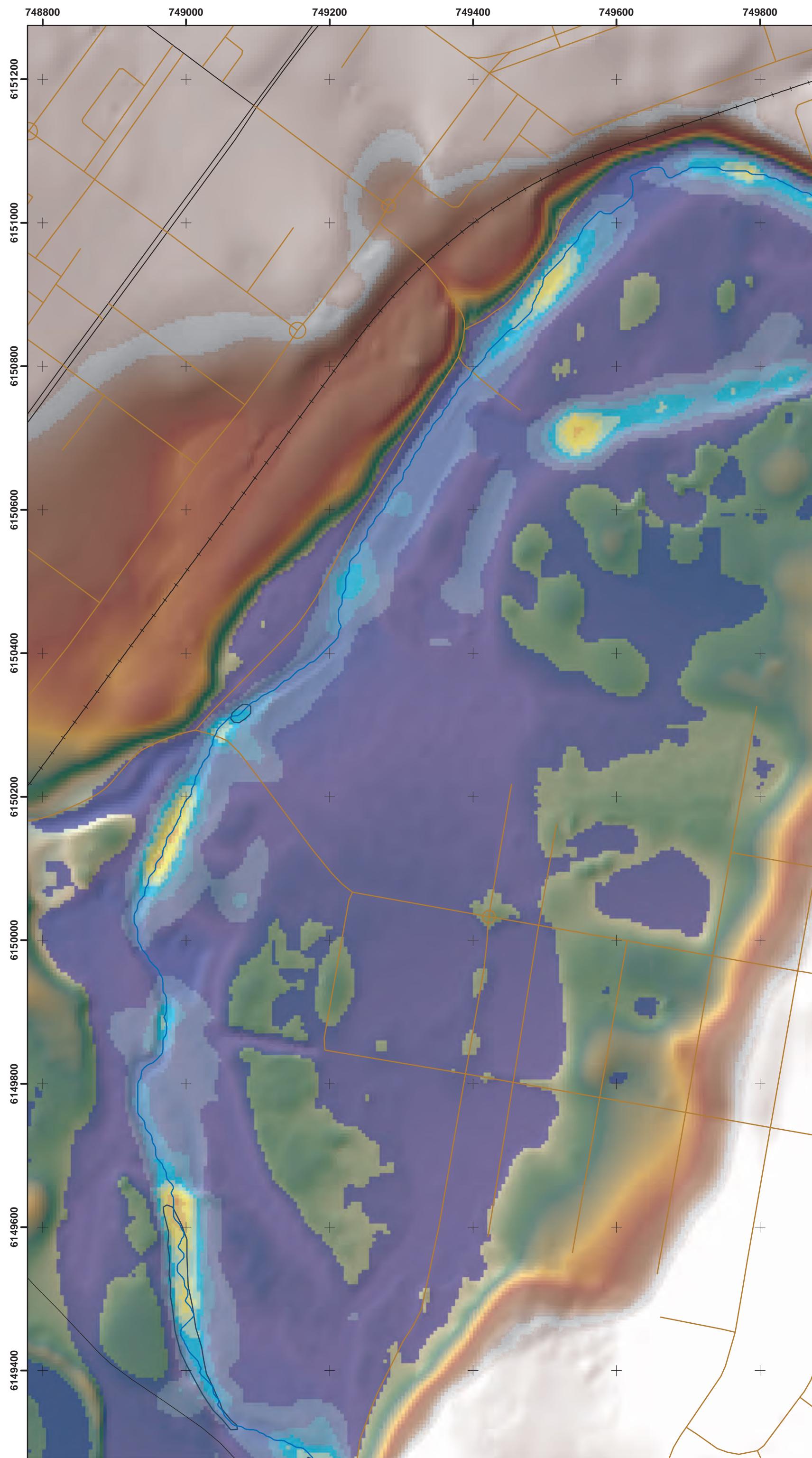
GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55



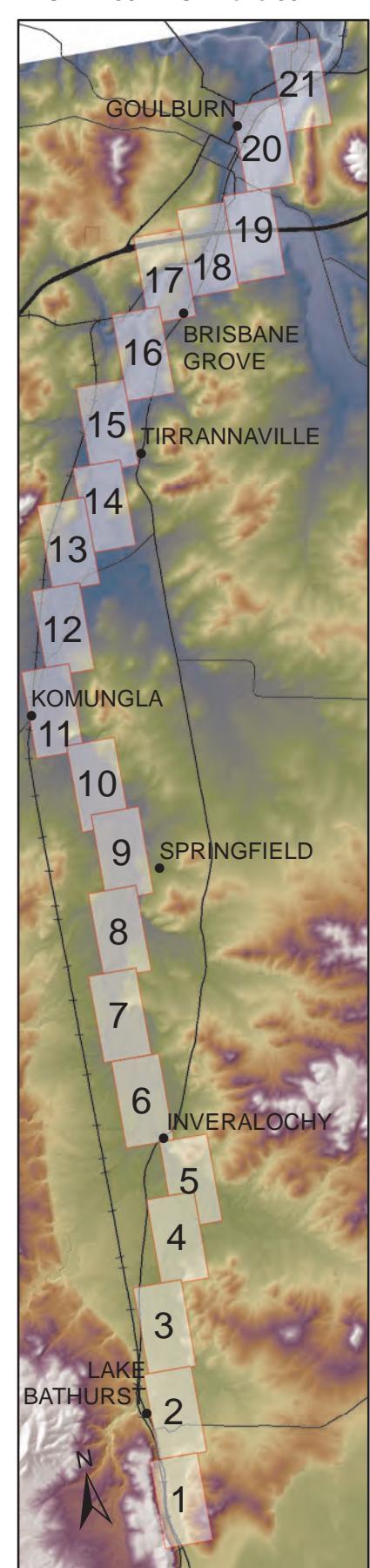
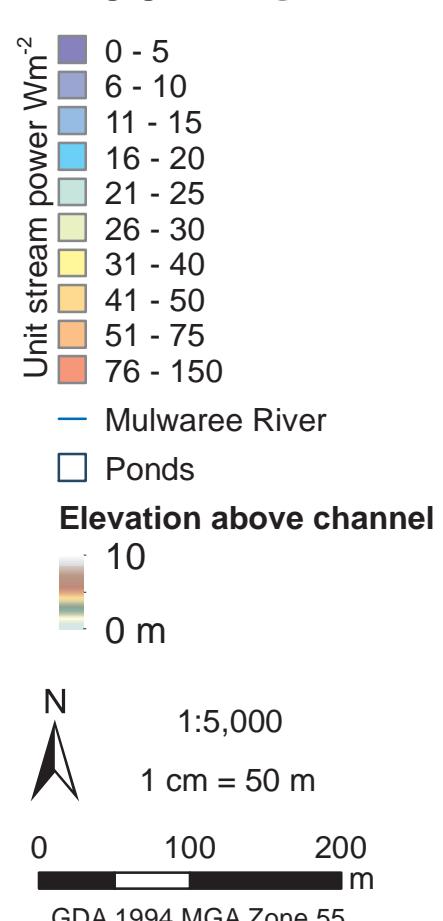
Map 19



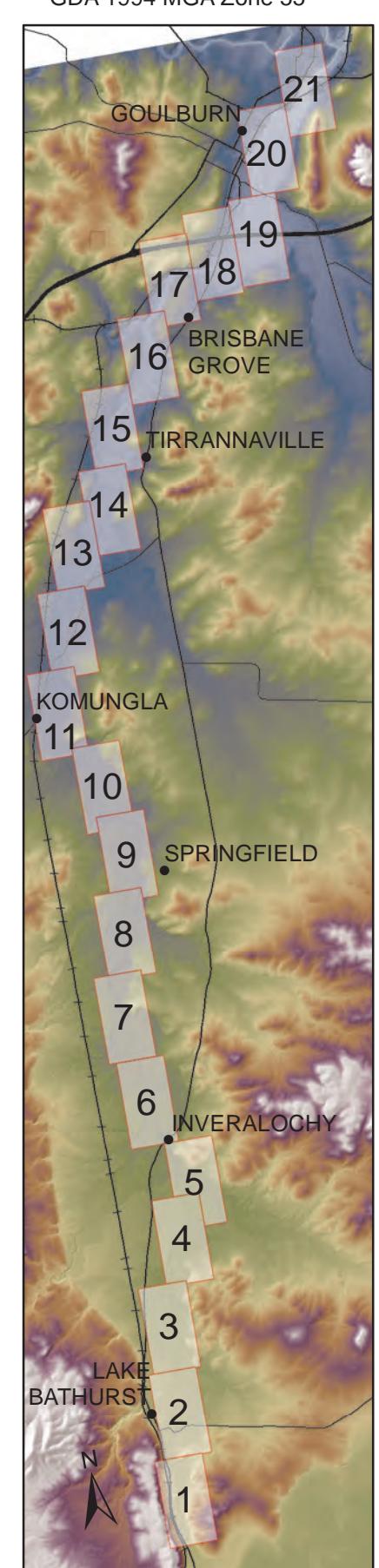
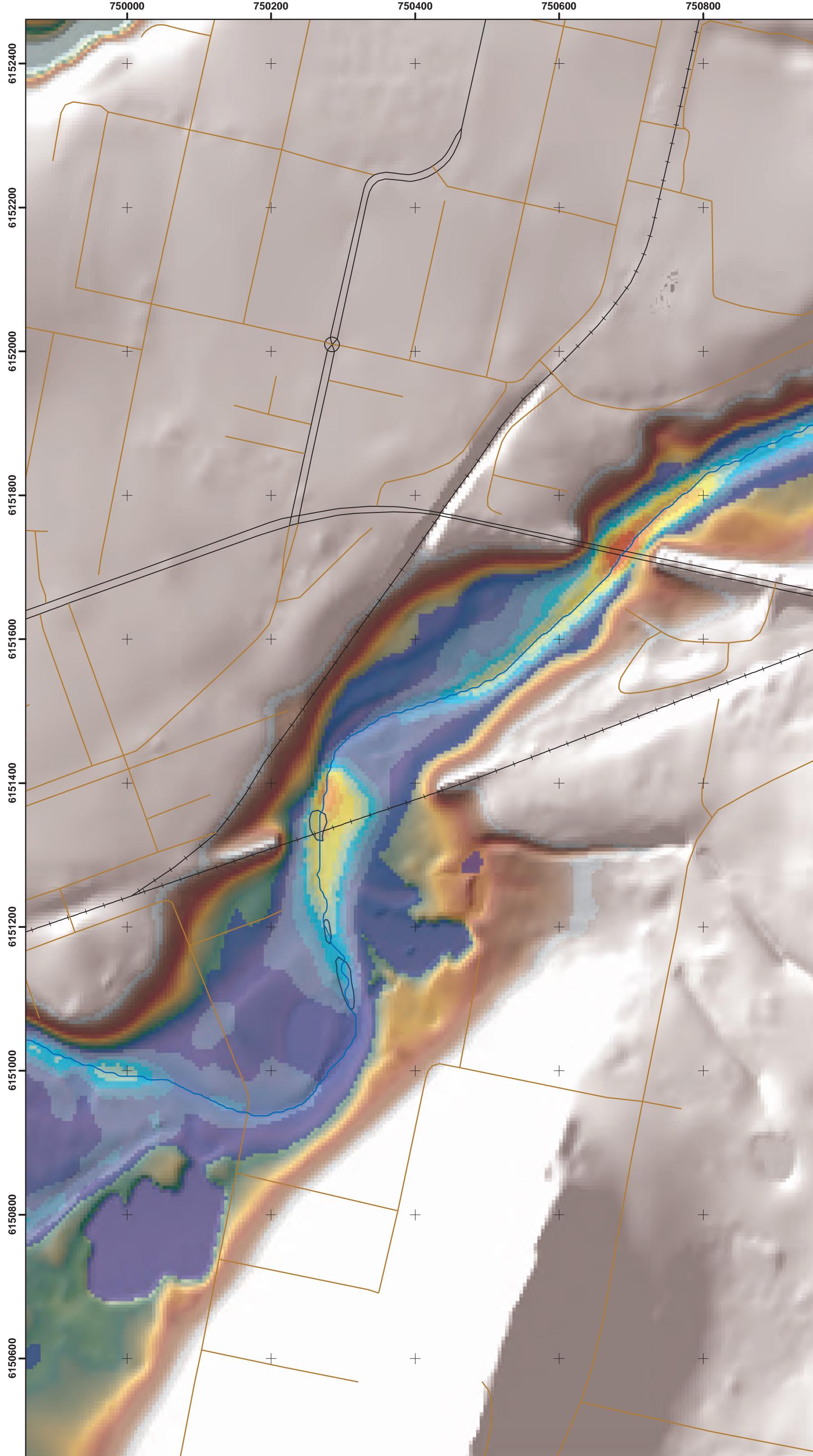
Map 20



$200 \text{ m}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$

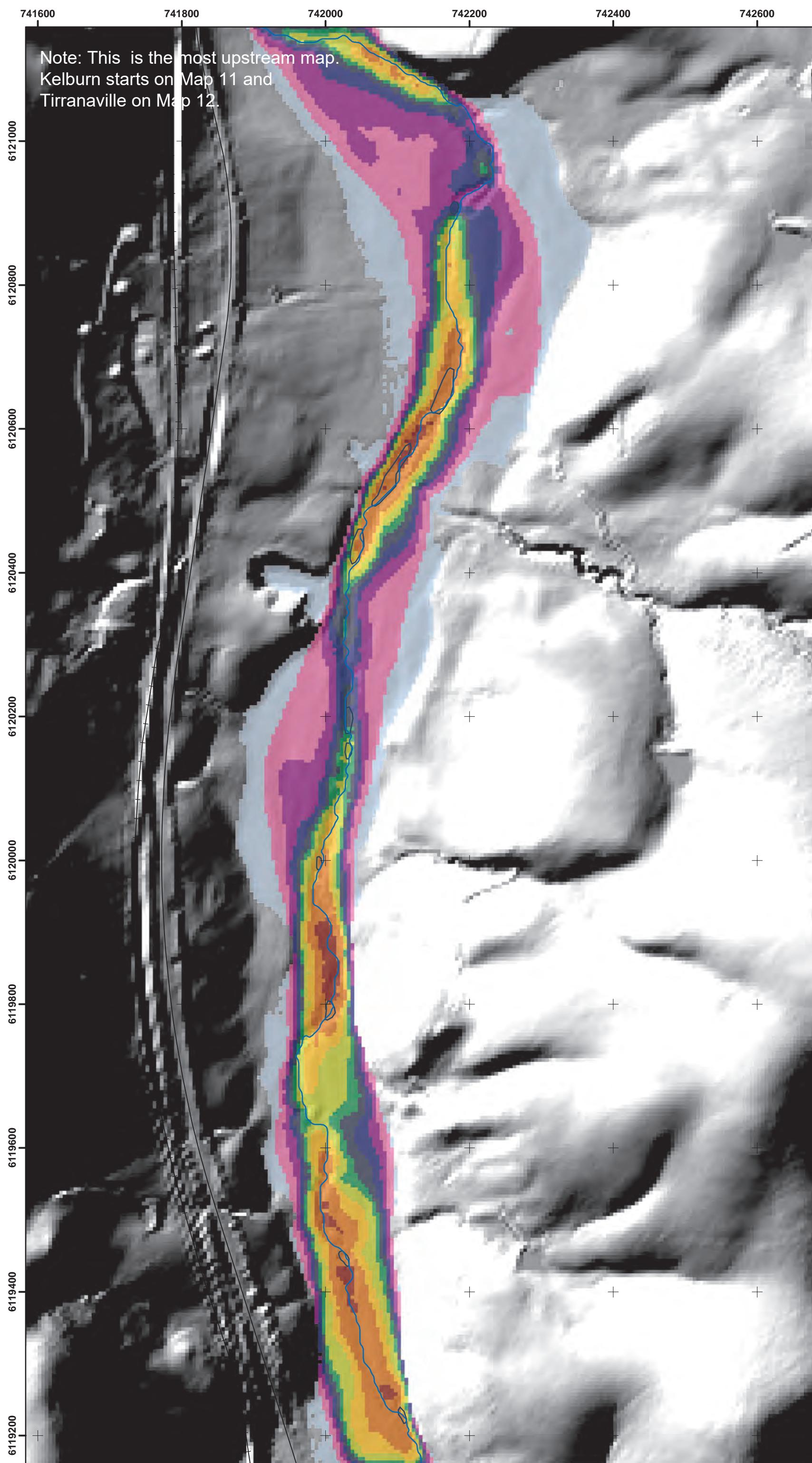


Map 21



Appendix B Hec-Ras unit stream power modelling for the 1:20 yr flood ($200 \text{ m}^3\text{s}^{-1}$) on the hillshade layer.

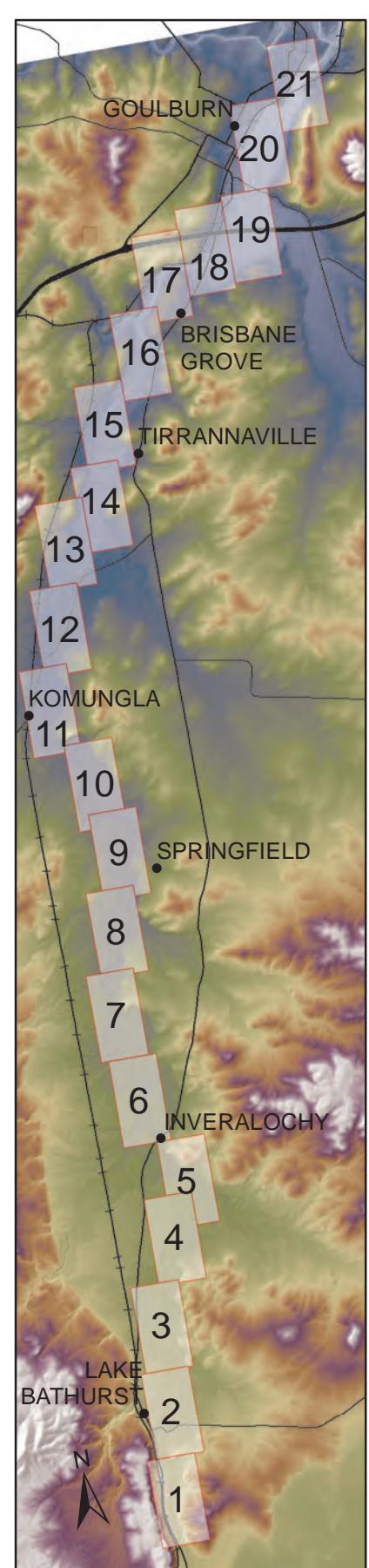
Map 1



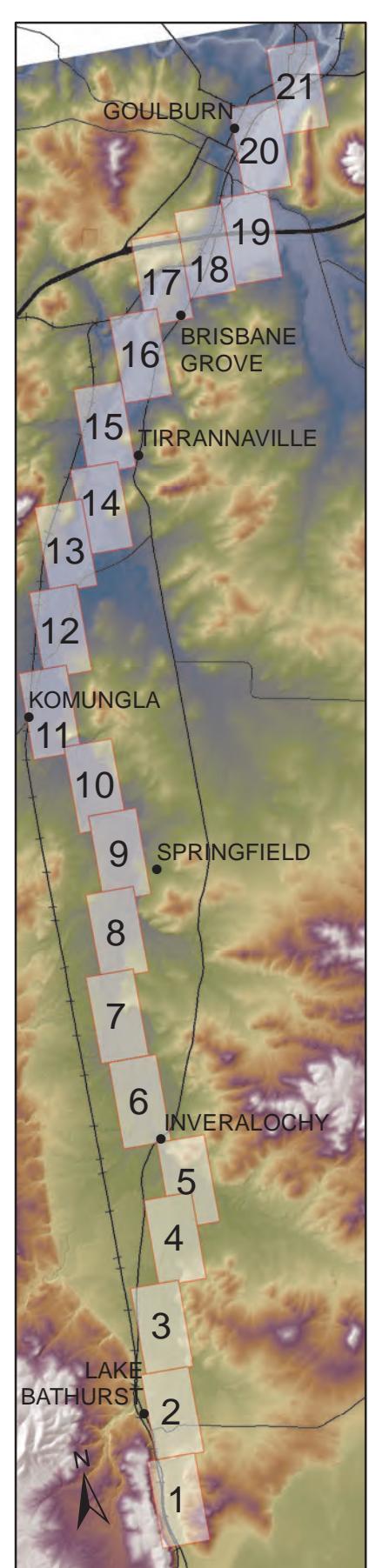
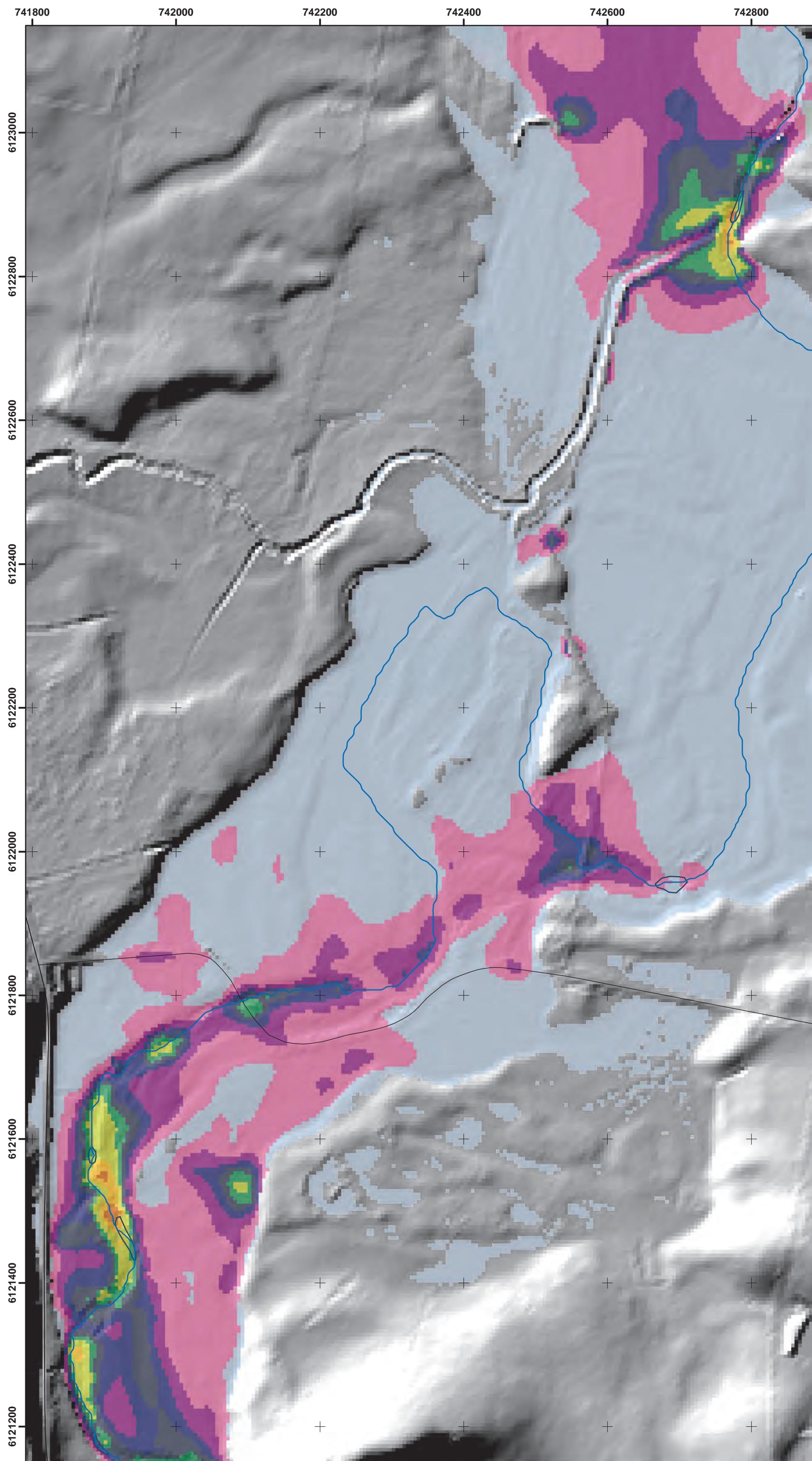
$200 \text{ m}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$

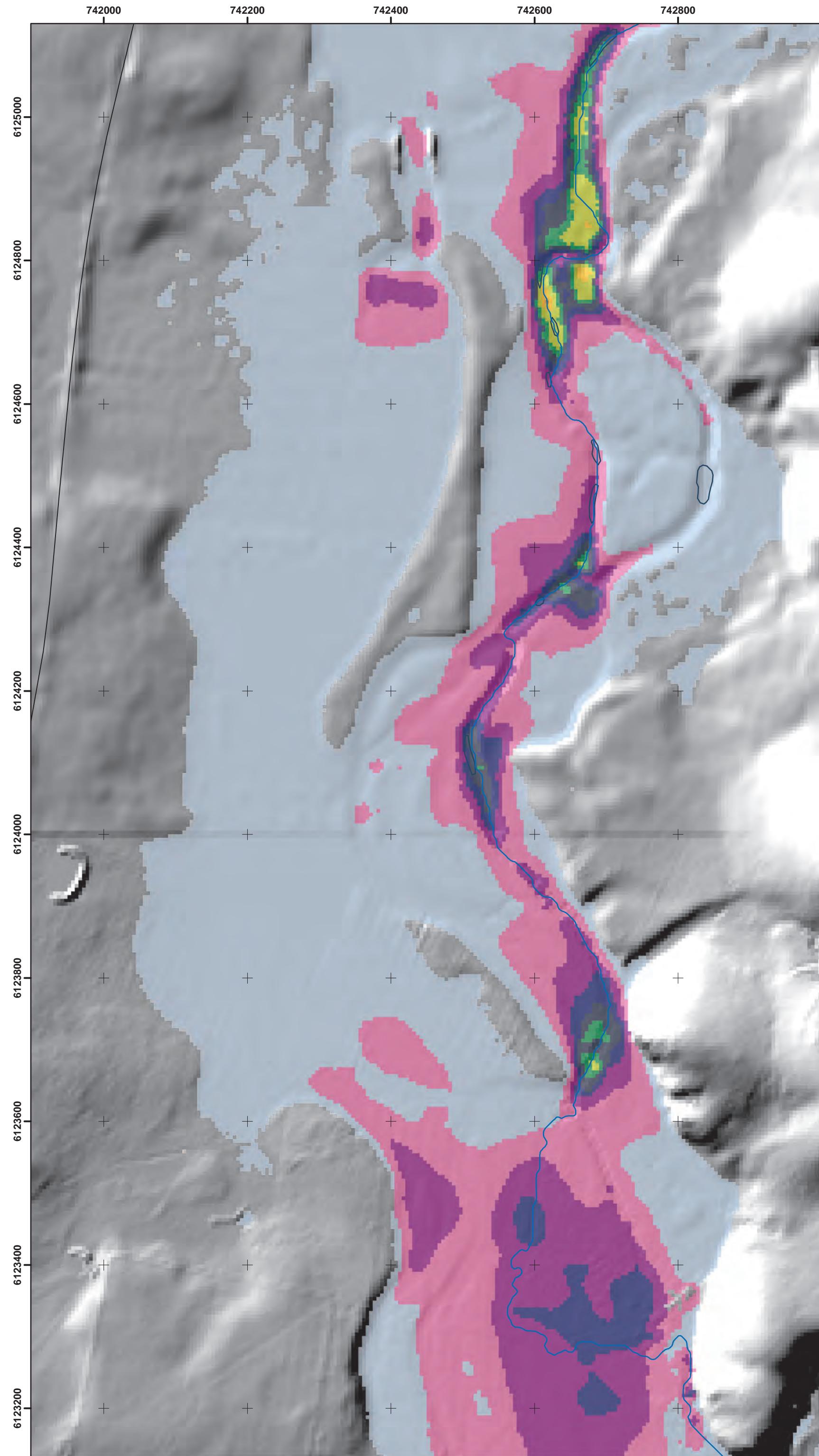
N 1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

0 100 200 m



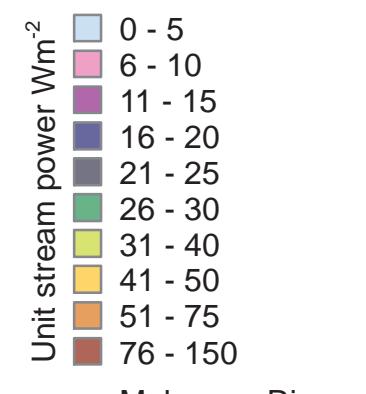
Map 2





Map 3

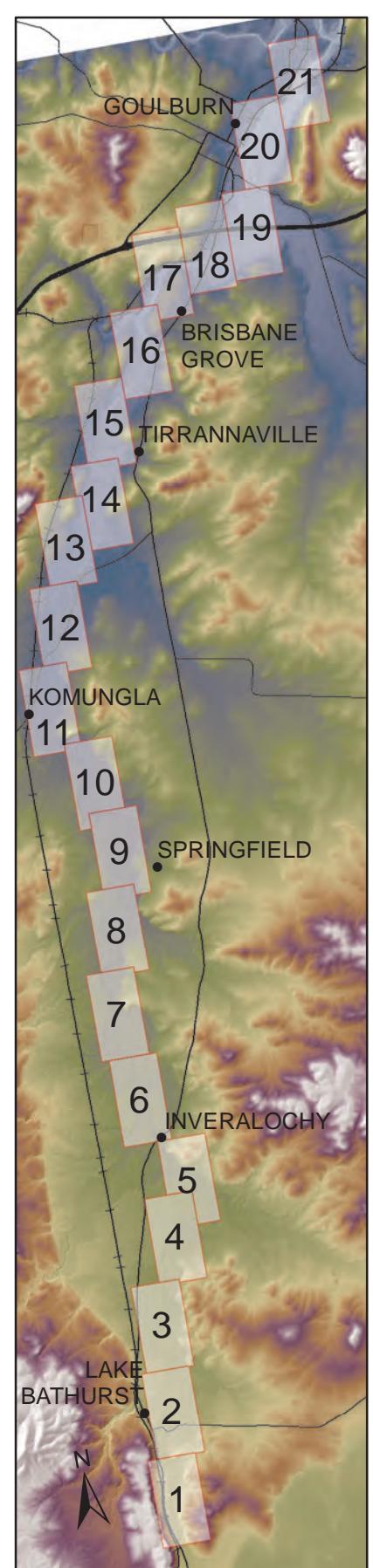
200 m³s⁻¹



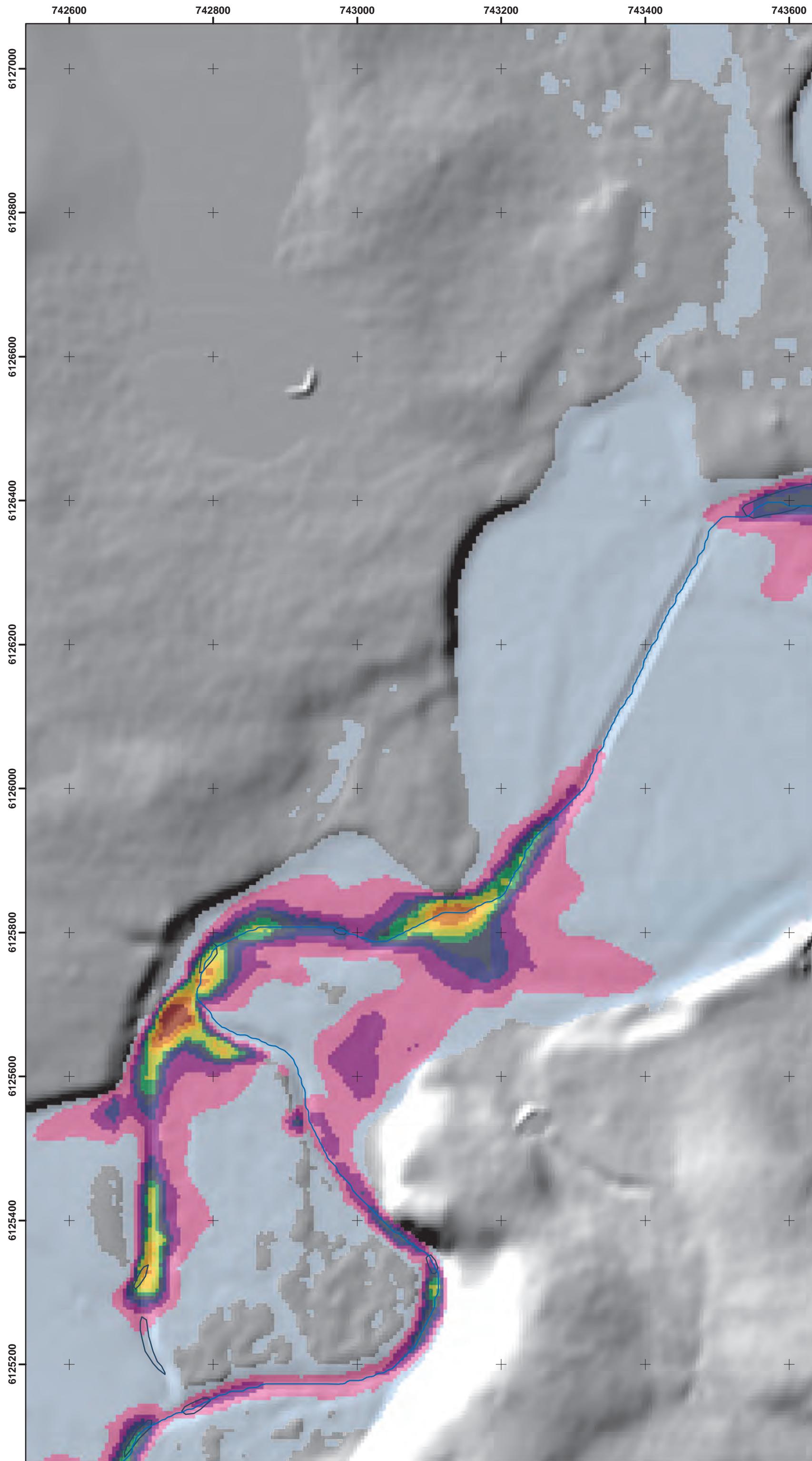
- Mulwaree River
- Ponds

N 1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

A horizontal scale bar with numerical markings at 0, 100, and 200. The segment between 0 and 100 is filled with a dark grey color, while the segments beyond 100 and before 200 are white. A small black square is located at the far right end of the bar, followed by the letter 'm'.

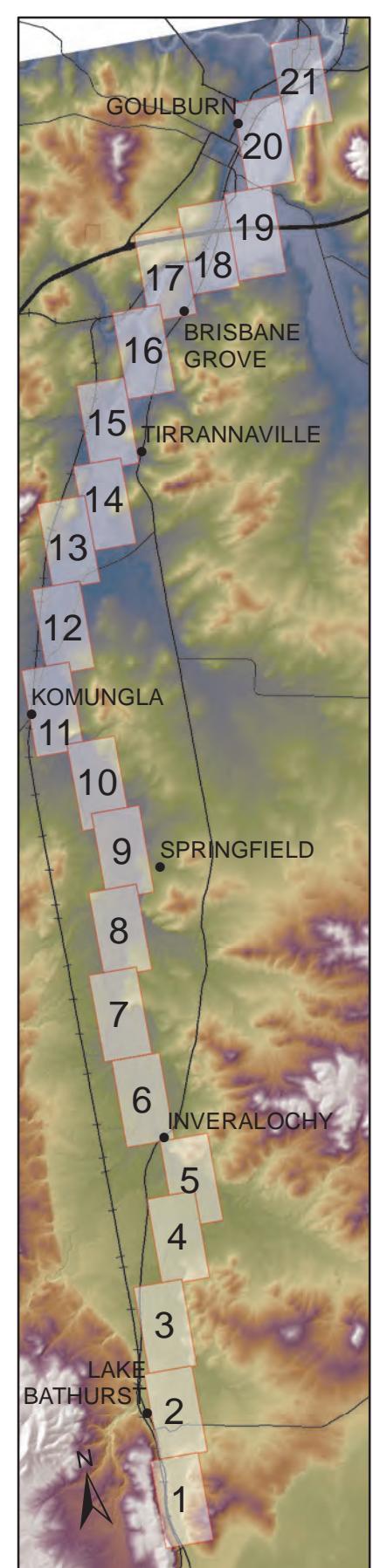


Map 4

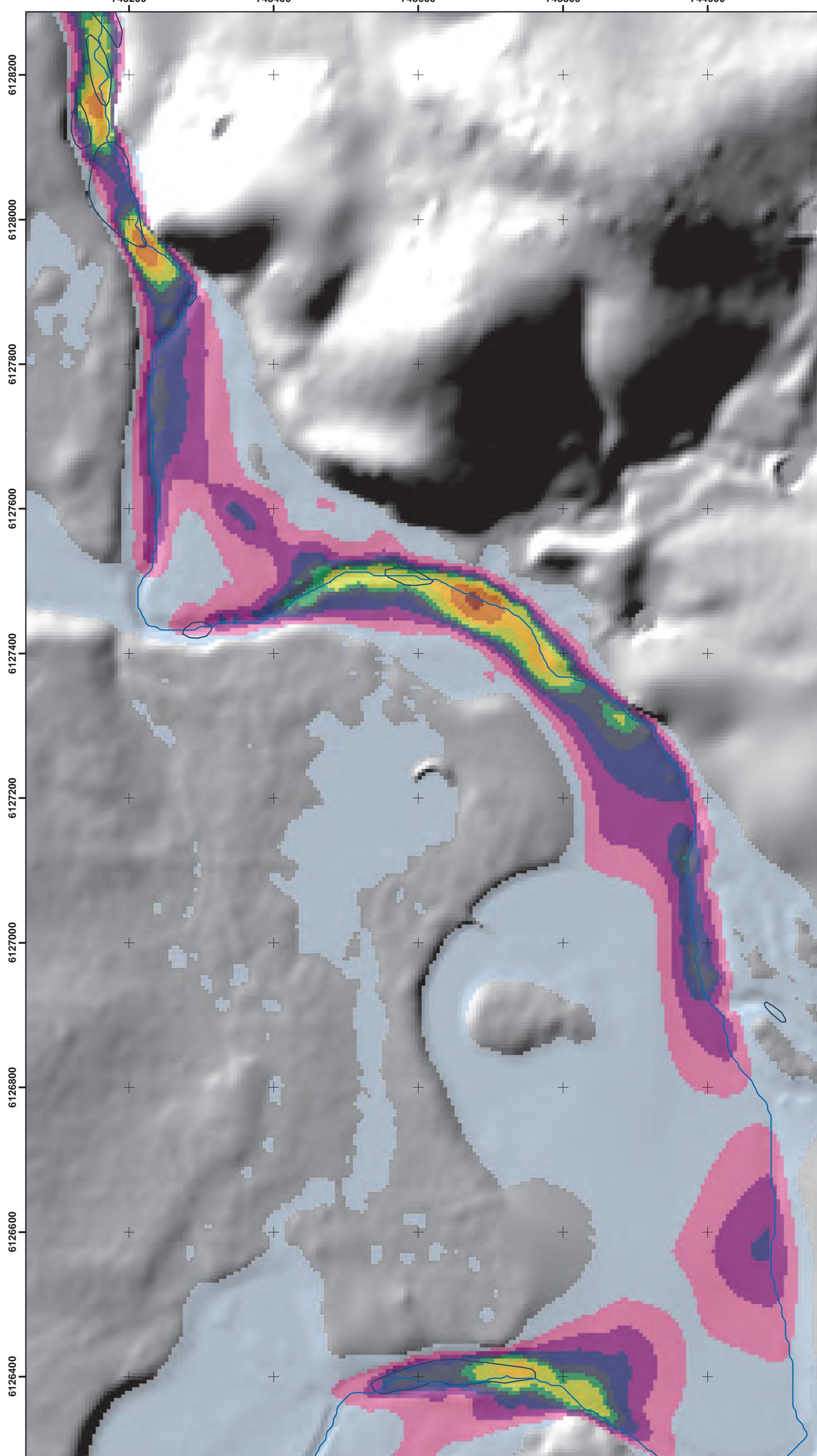


N 1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

0 100 200 m

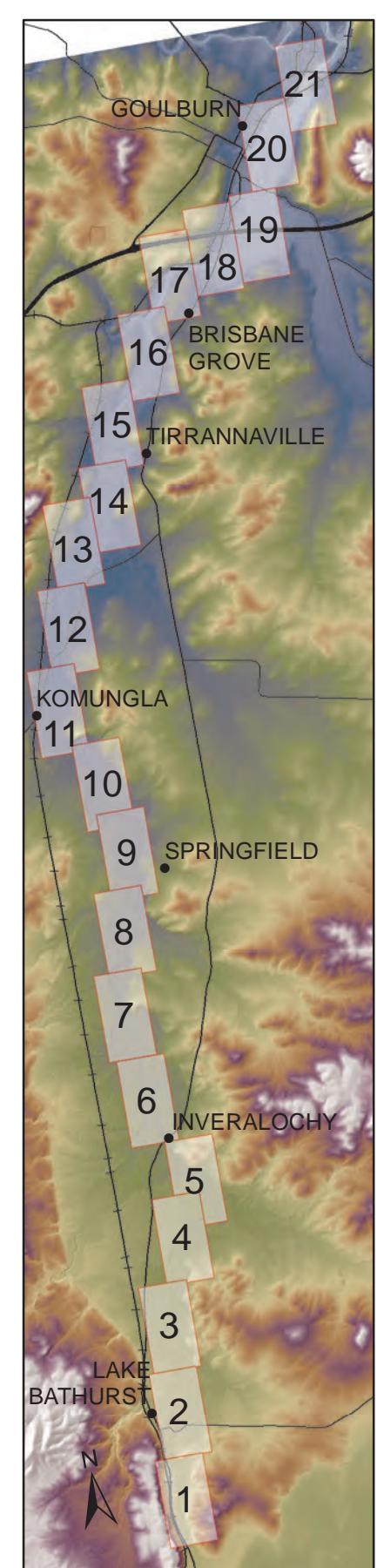


Map 5

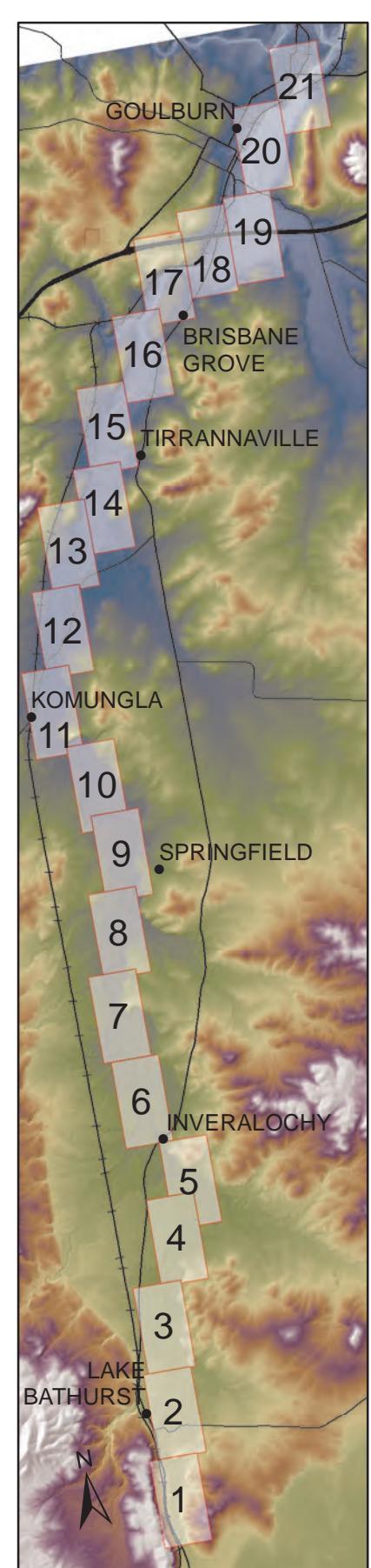
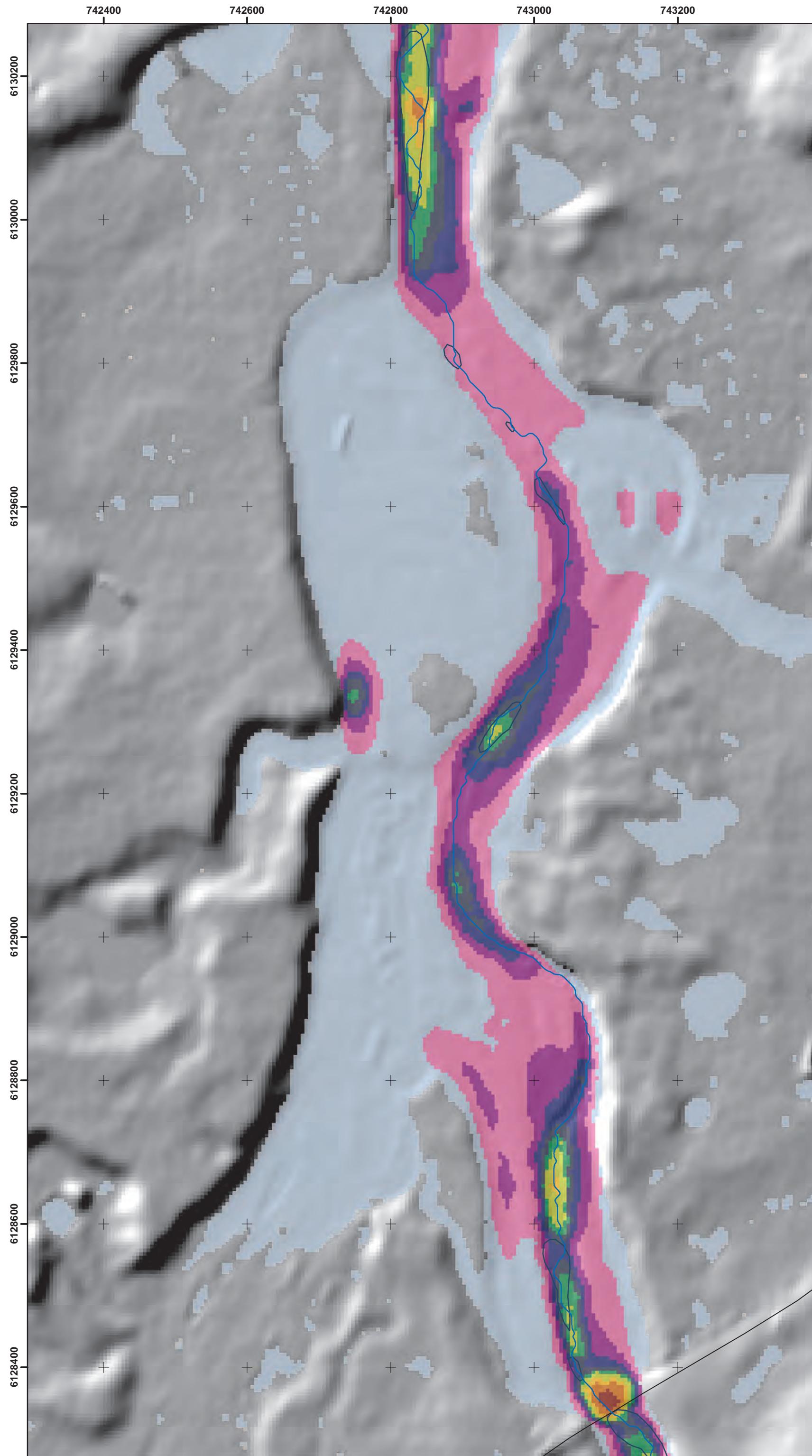


N 1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

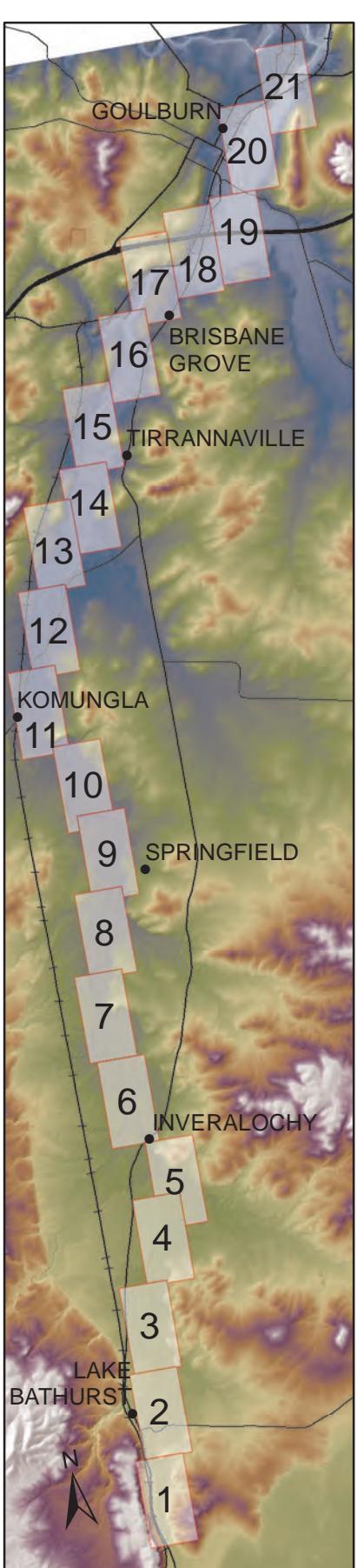
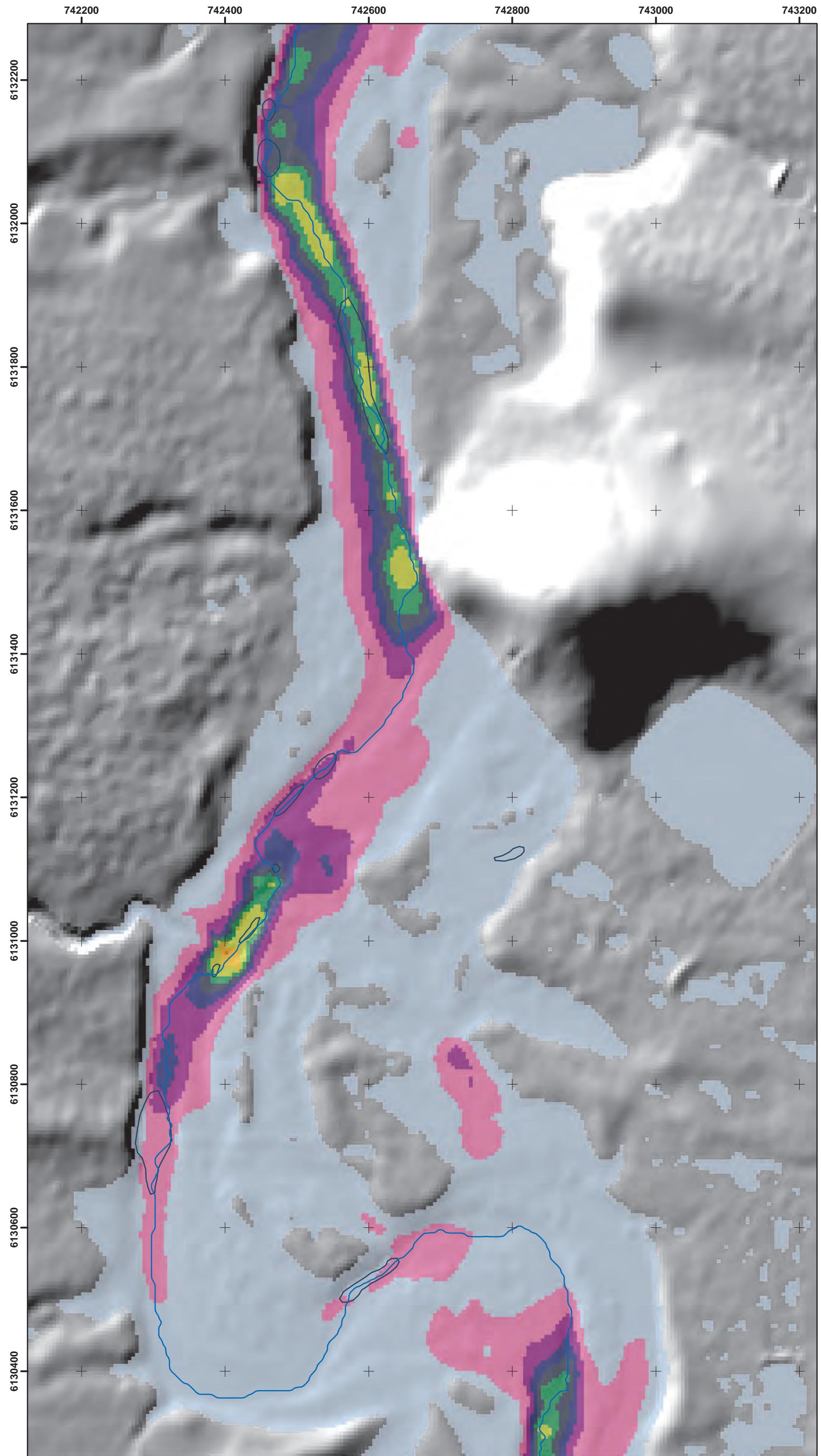
0 100 200 m



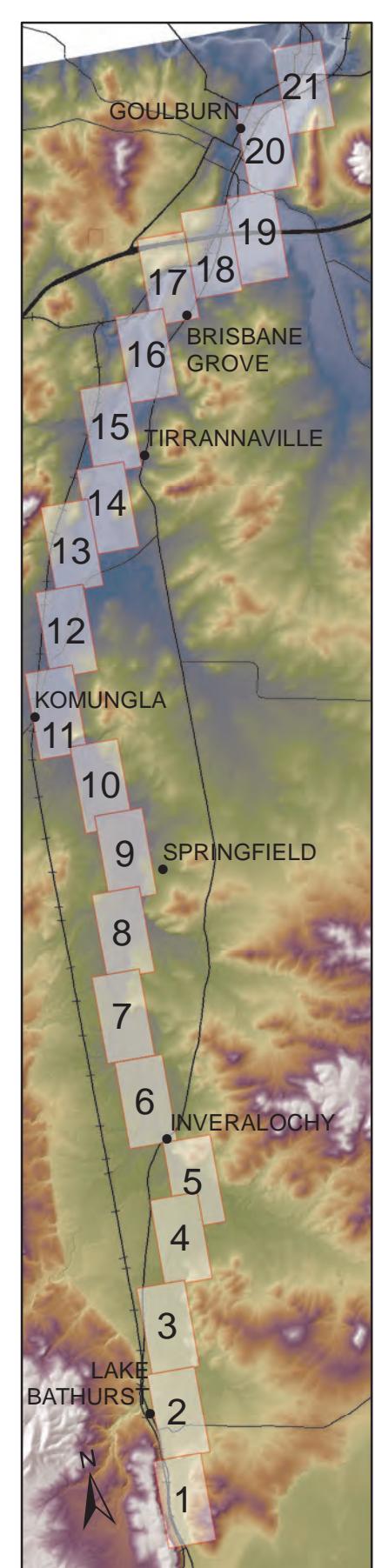
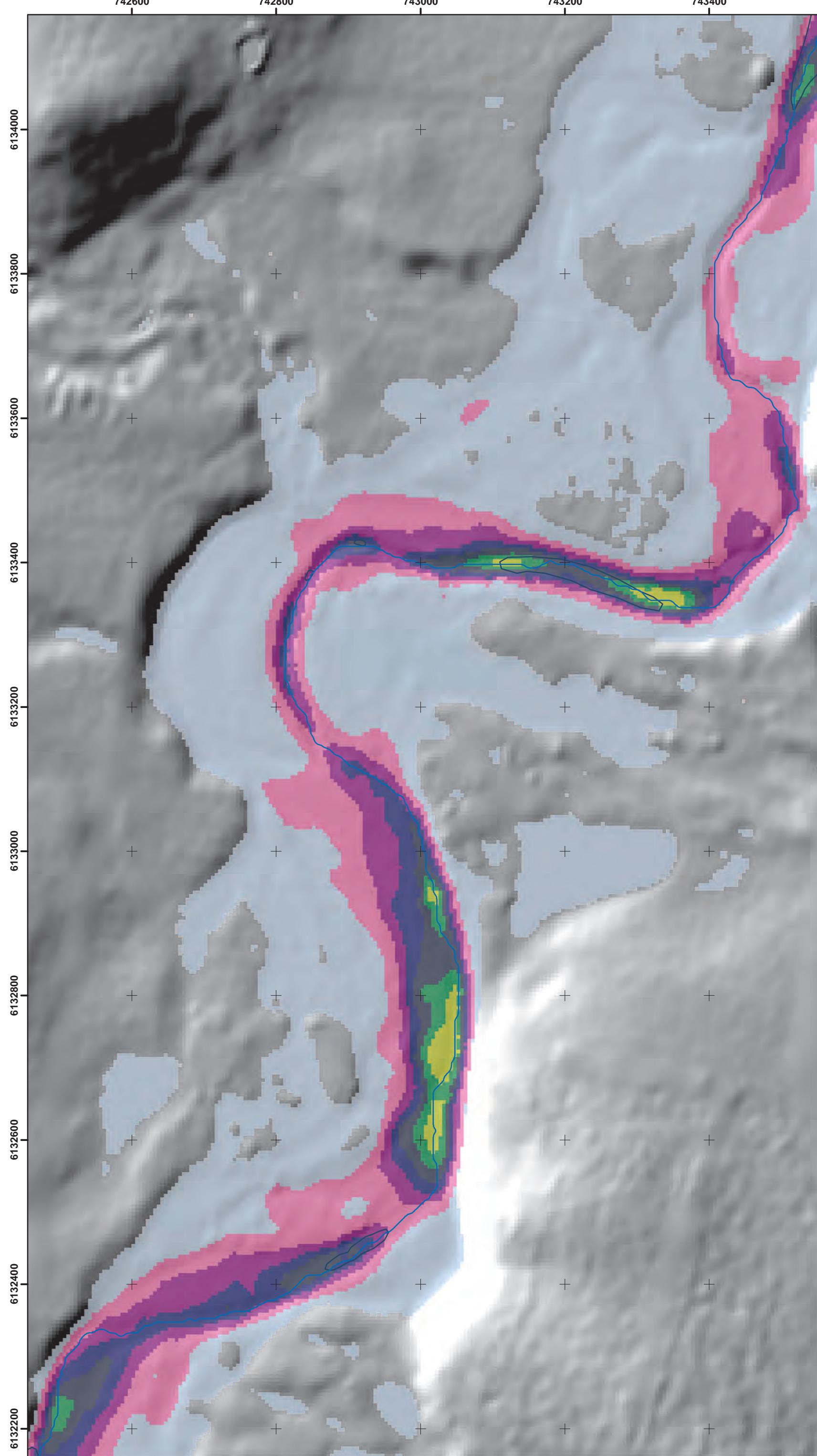
Map 6



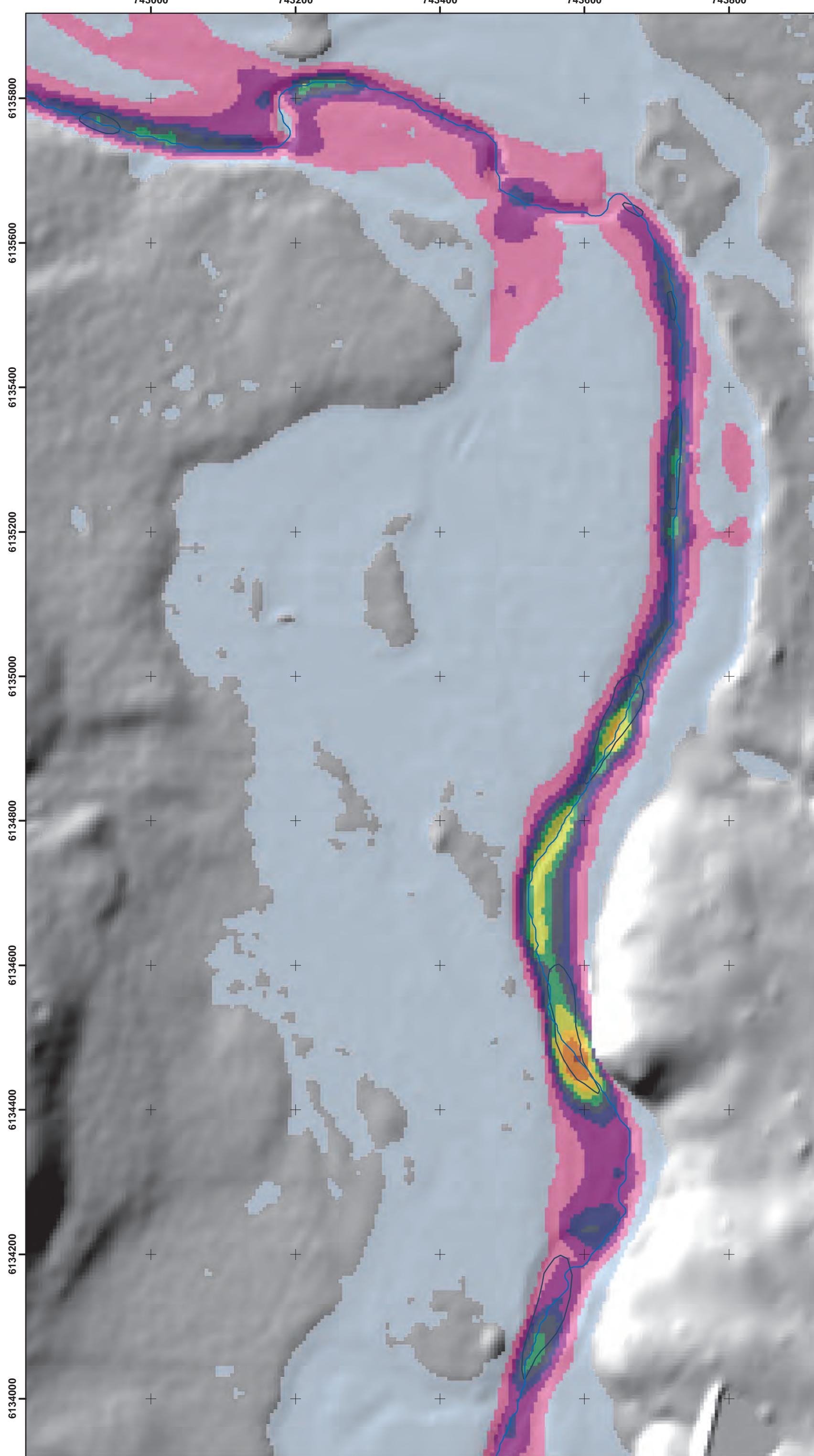
Map 7



Map 8



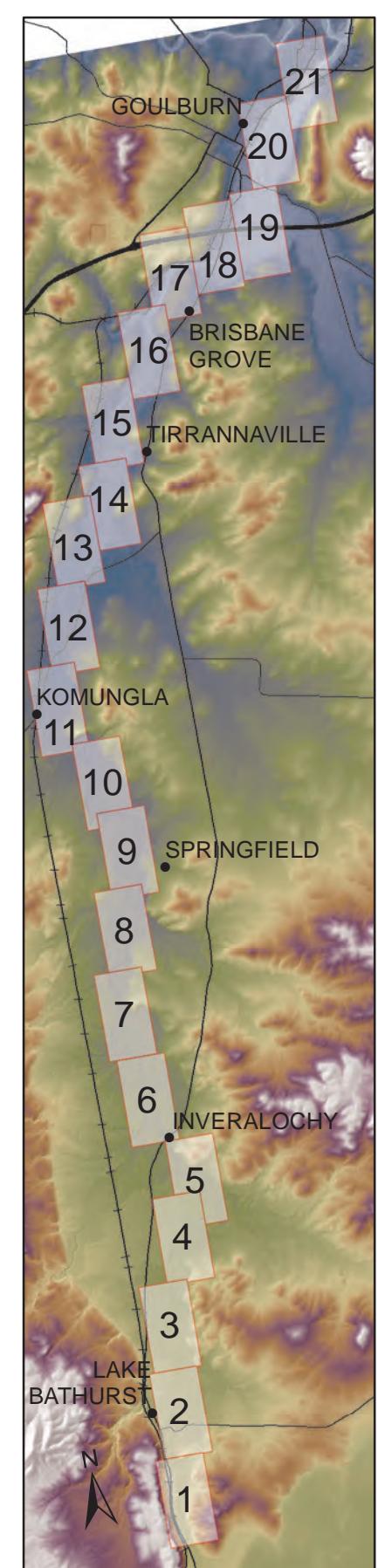
Map 9



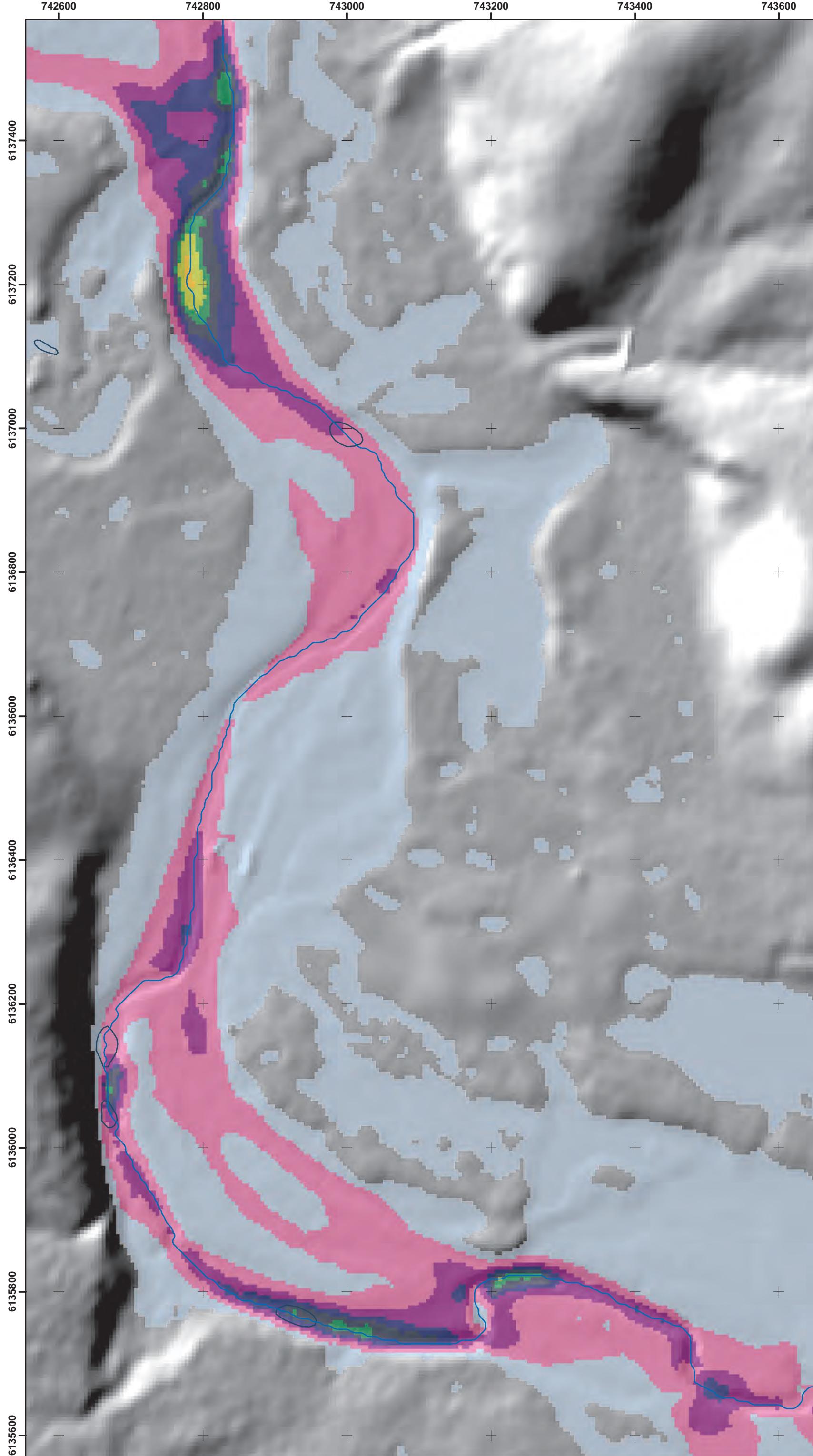
$200 \text{ m}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$

N
1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

0 100 200
m

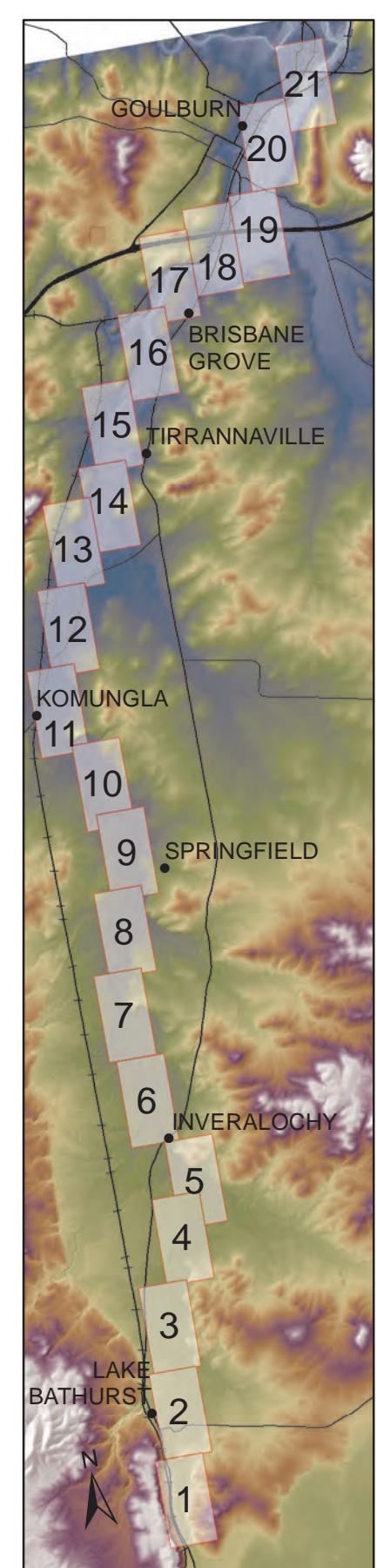


Map 10

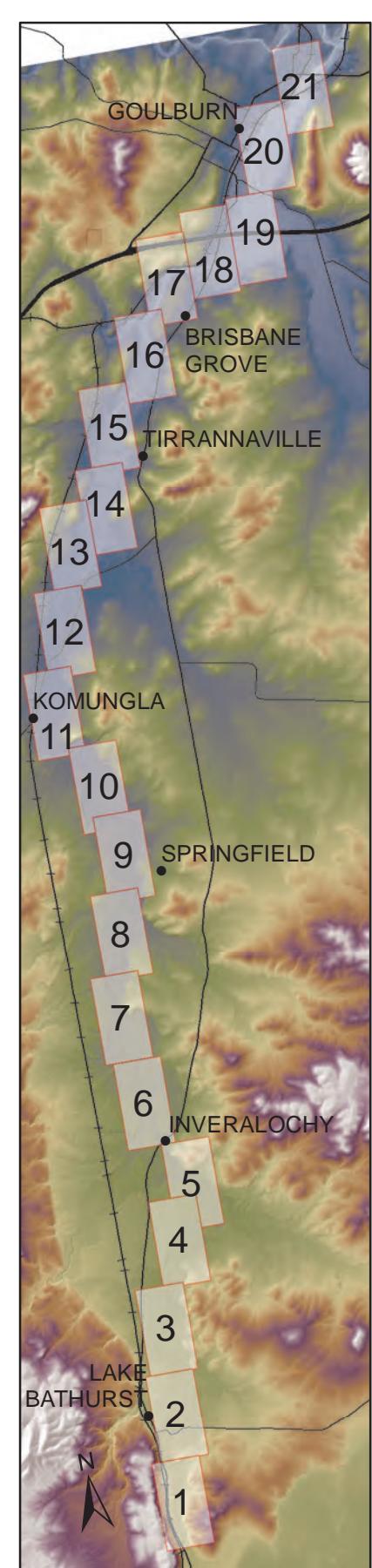
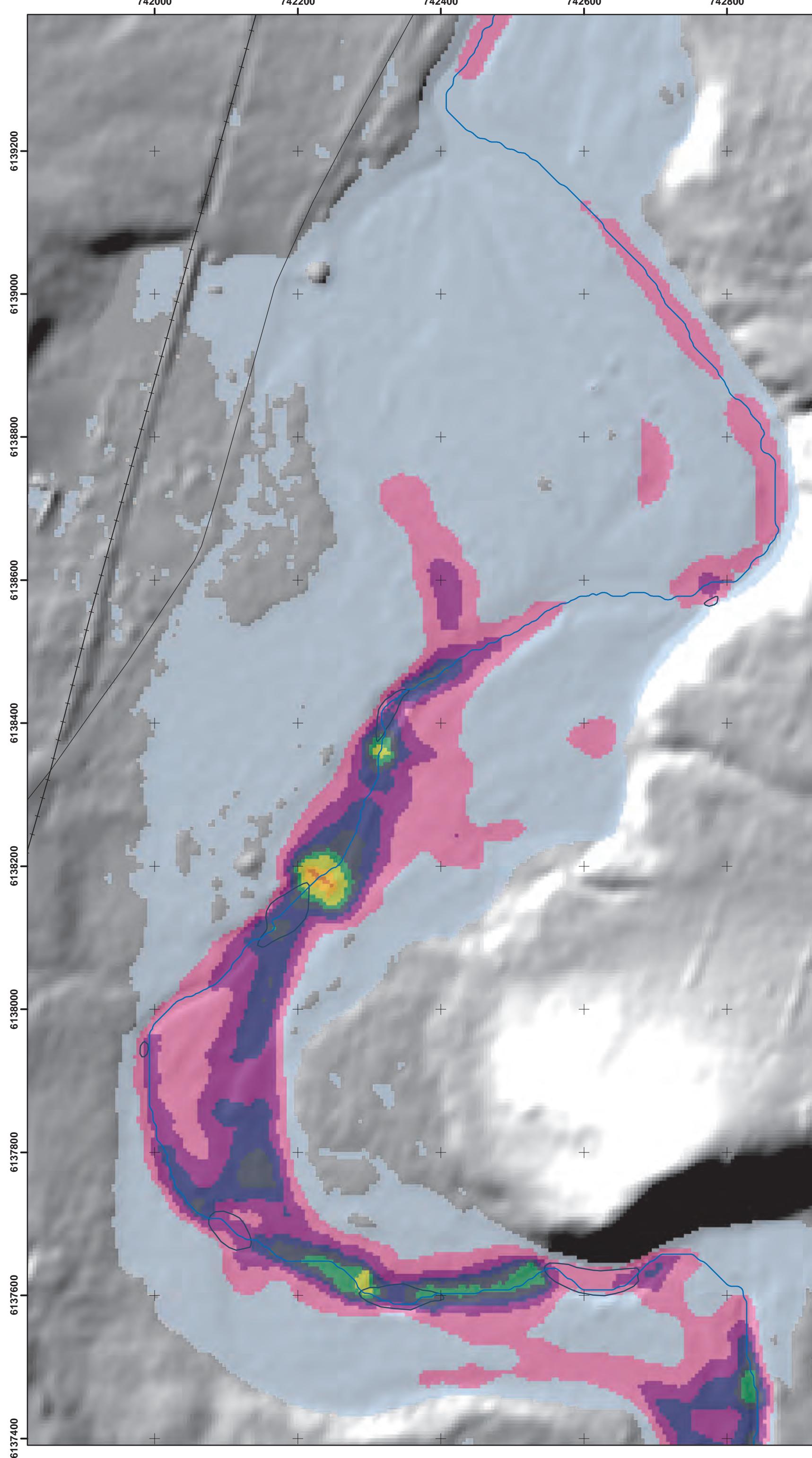


N 1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

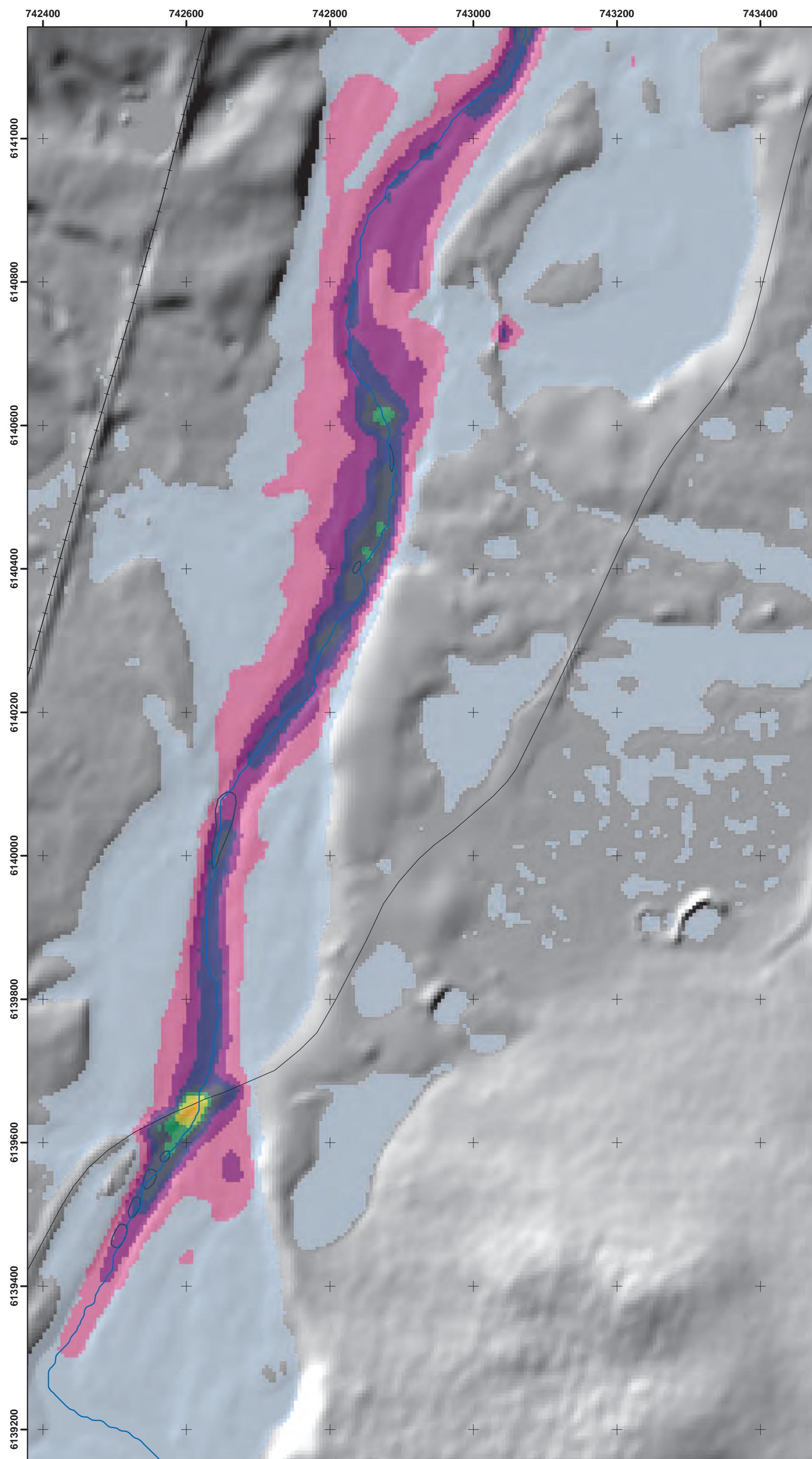
0 100 200 m



Map 11



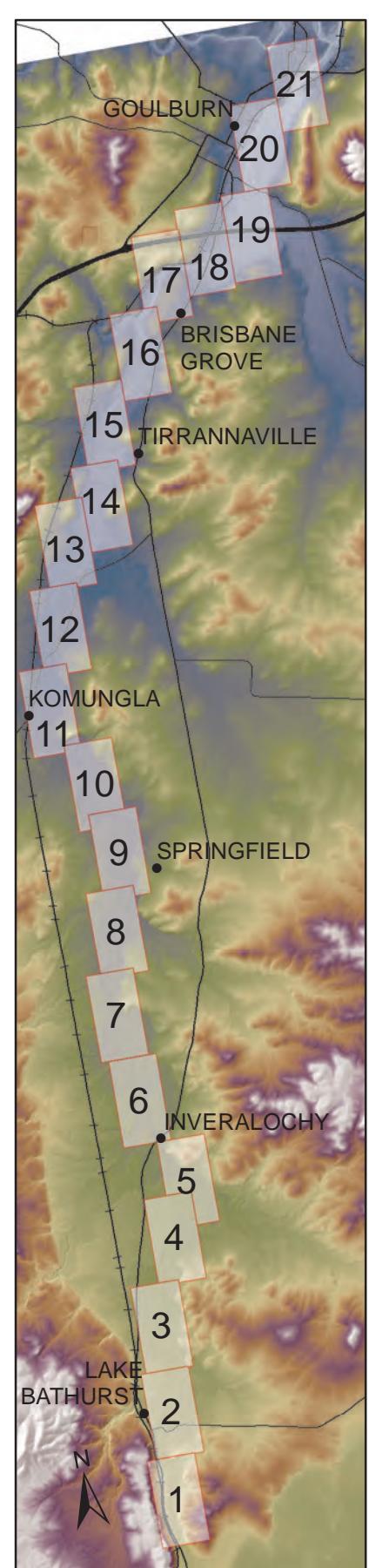
Map 12



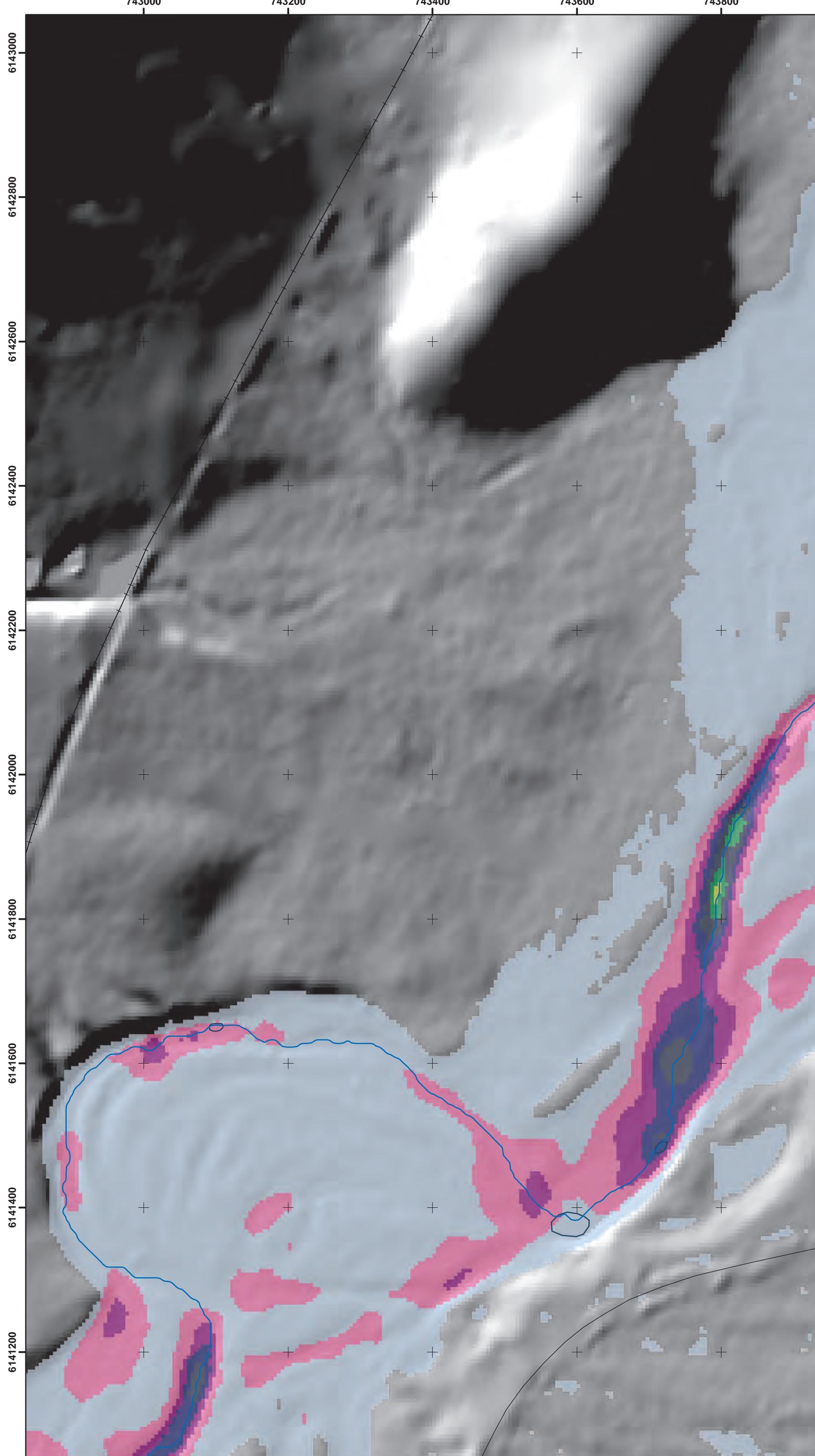
$200 \text{ m}^3\text{s}^{-1}$

N
1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

0 100 200
m



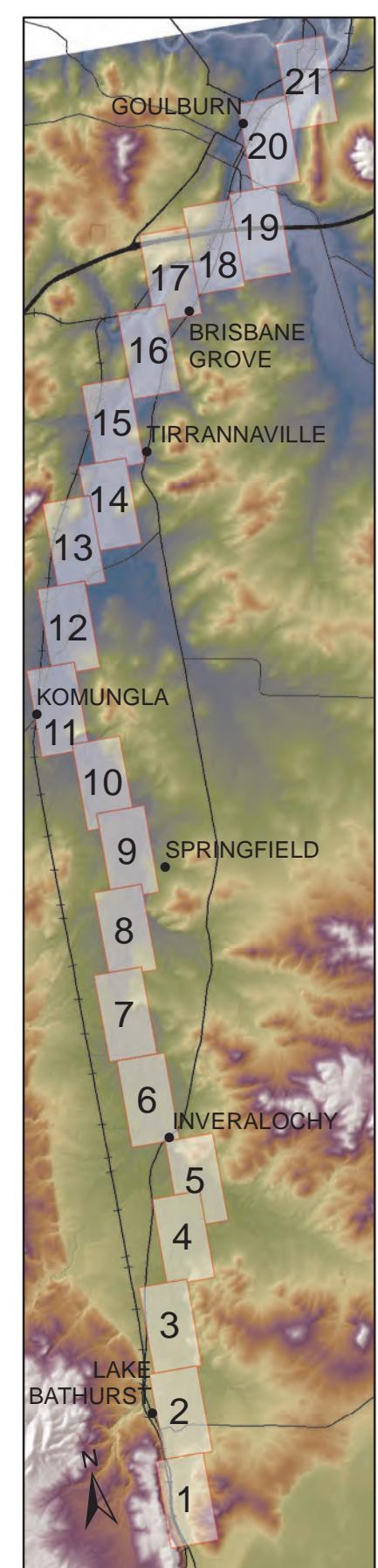
Map 13



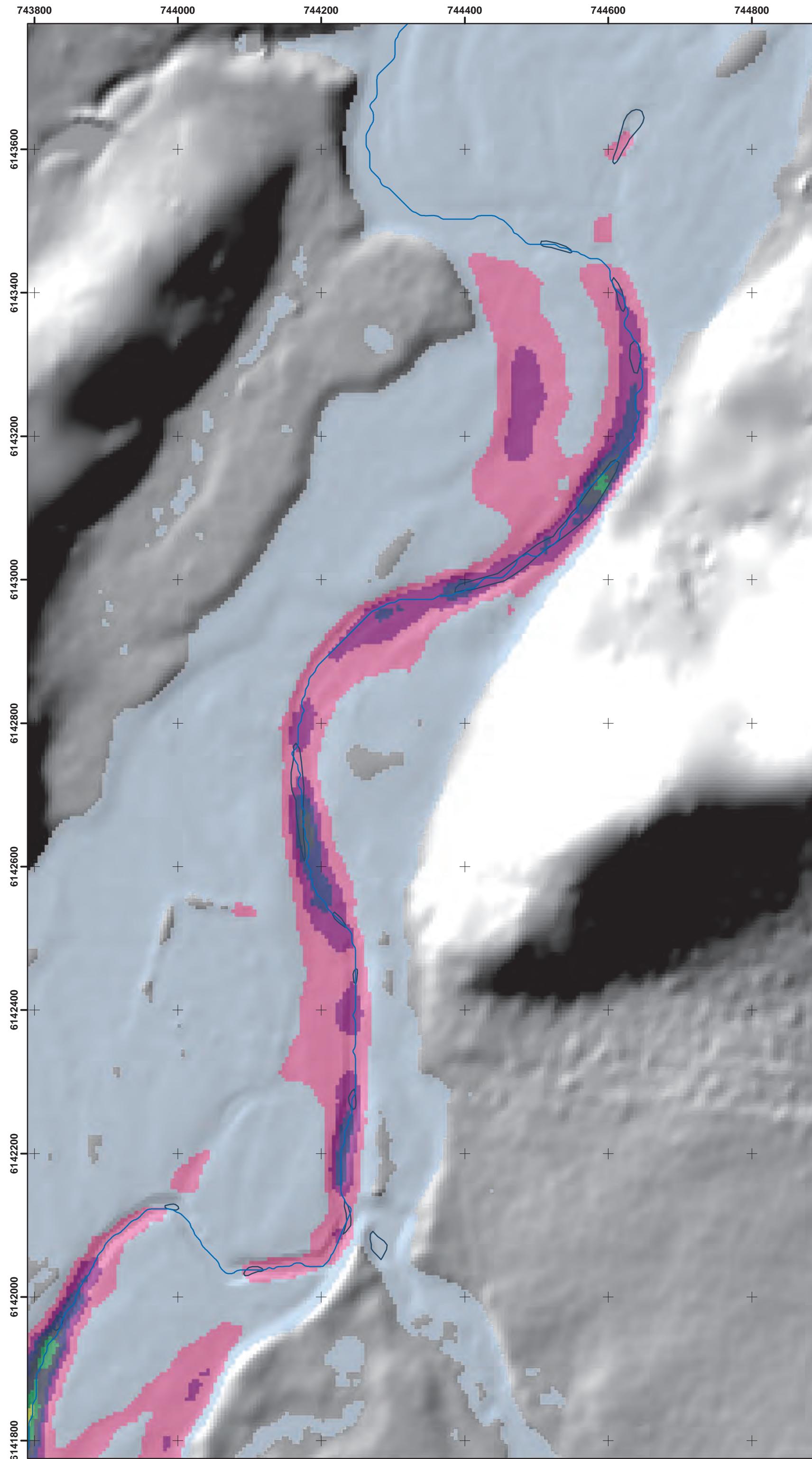
$200 \text{ m}^3\text{s}^{-1}$

N
1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

0 100 200
m



Map 14



200 m^3s^{-1}

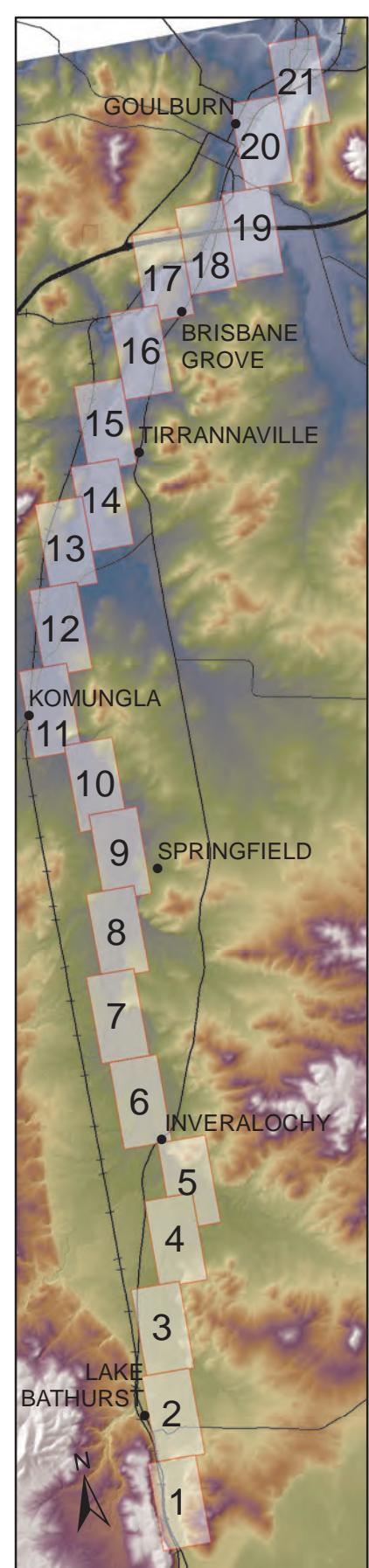
Unit stream power Wm^{-2}

Mulwaree River

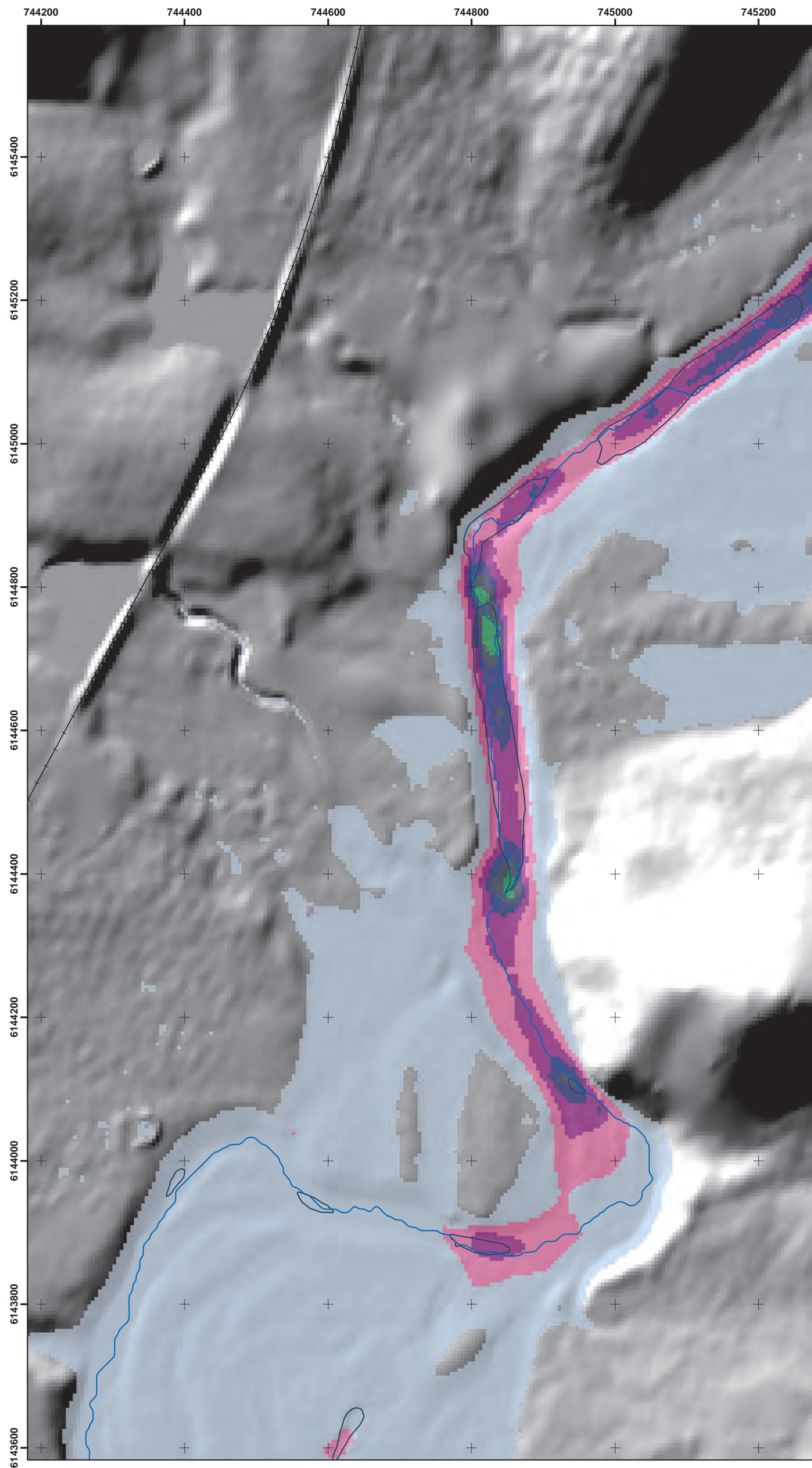
Ponds

N 1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

0 100 200
m

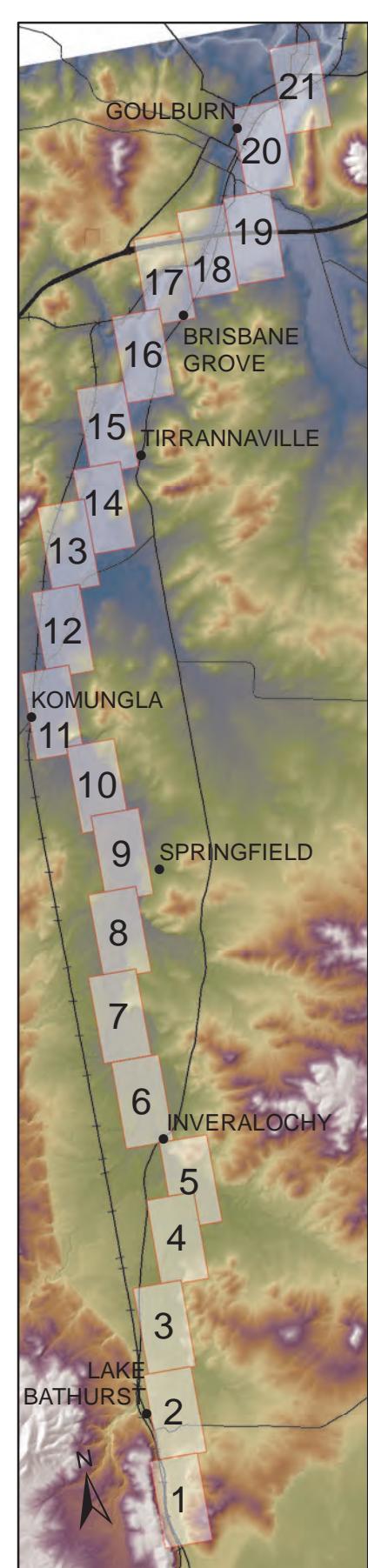


Map 15

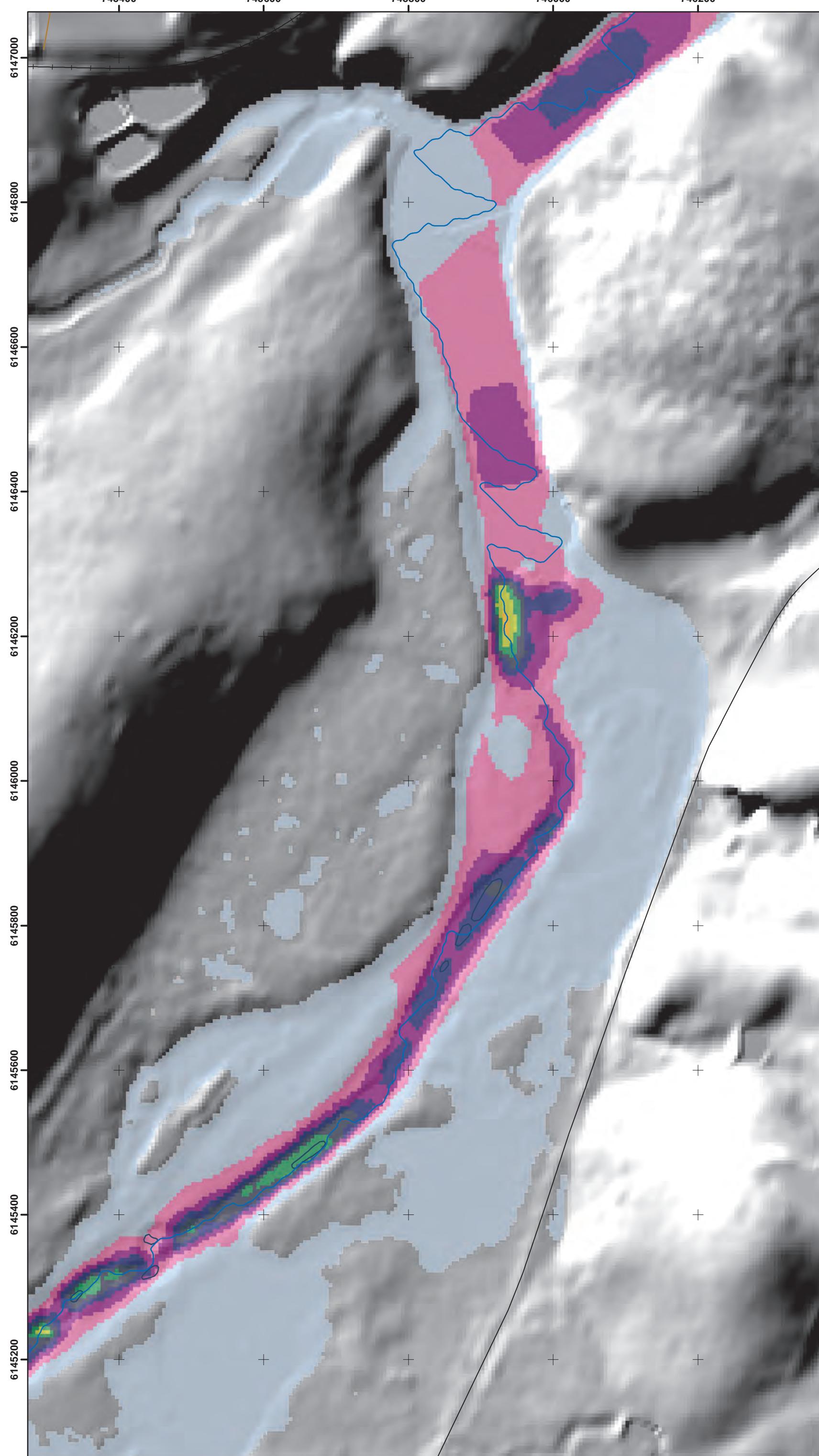


N
1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

0 100 200
m



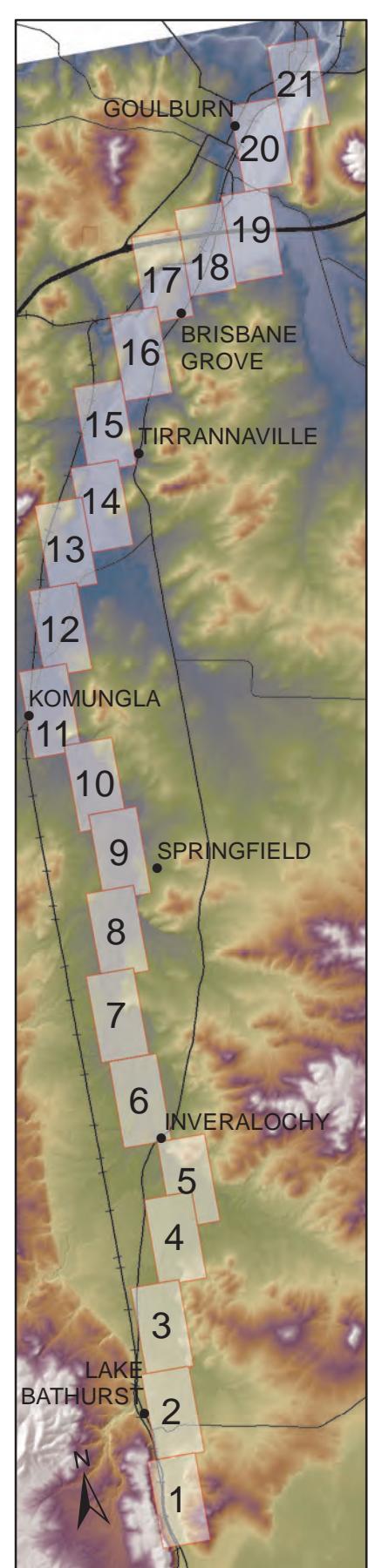
Map 16



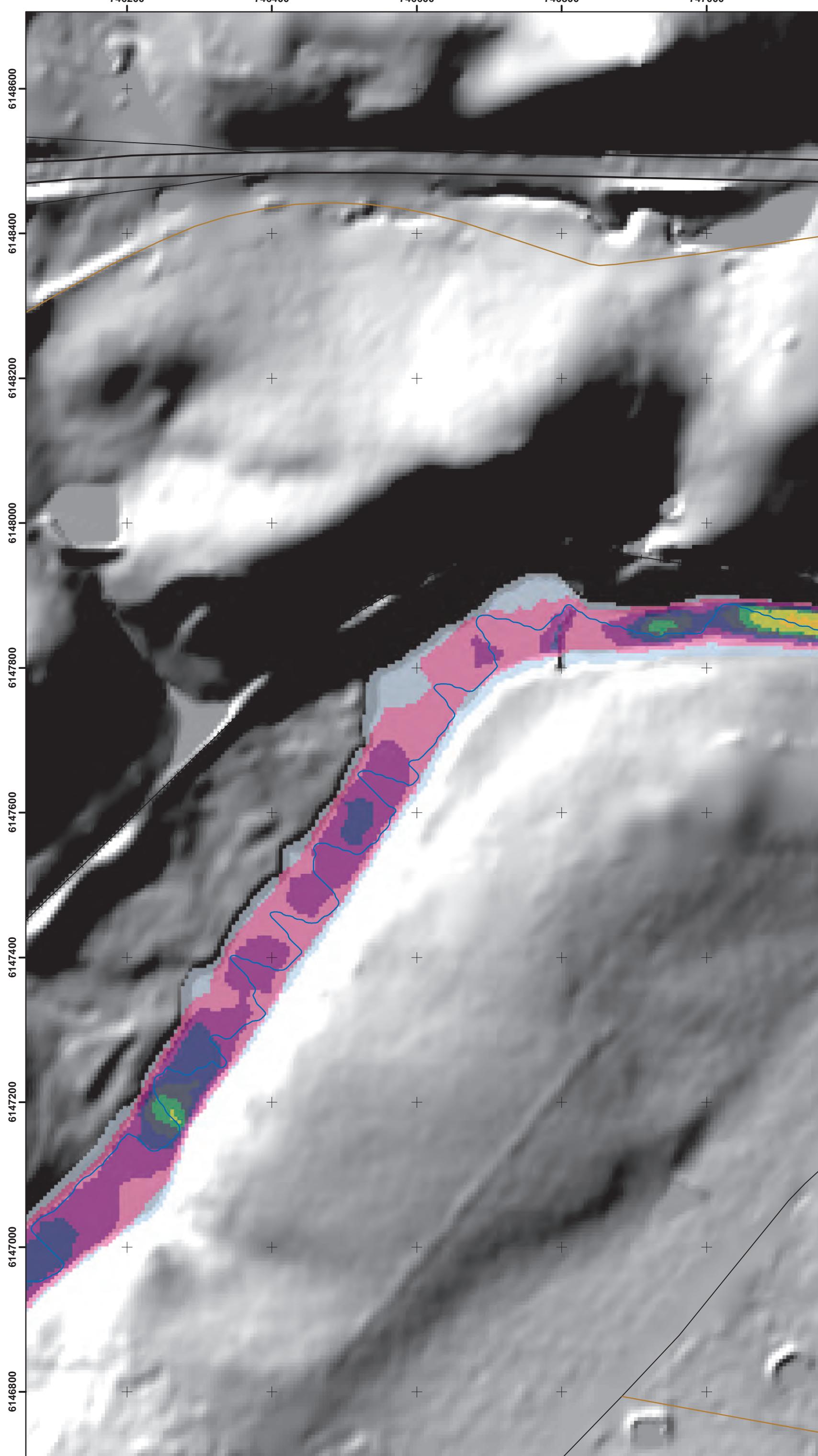
$200 \text{ m}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$

1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

0 100 200
m

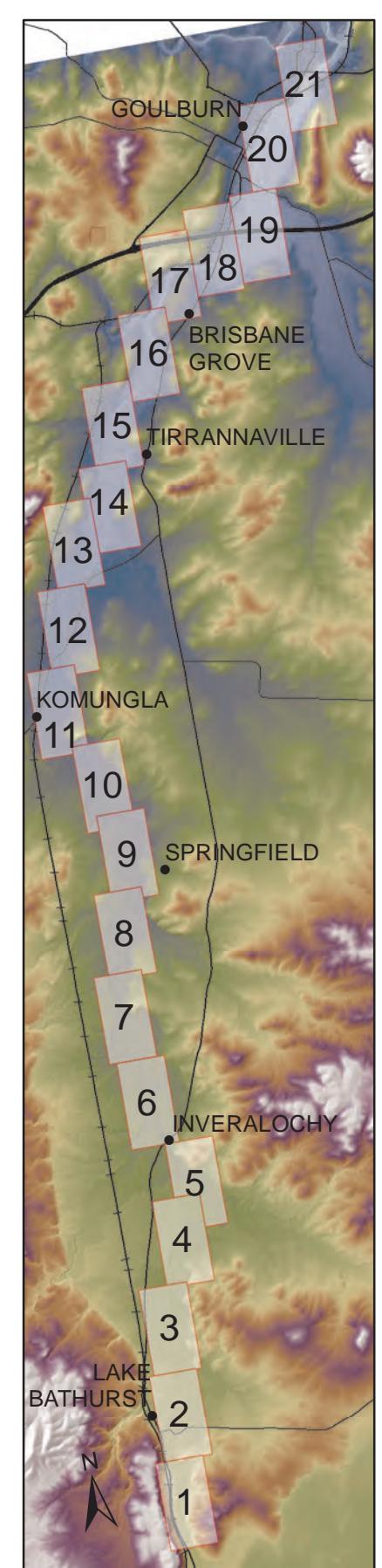


Map 17

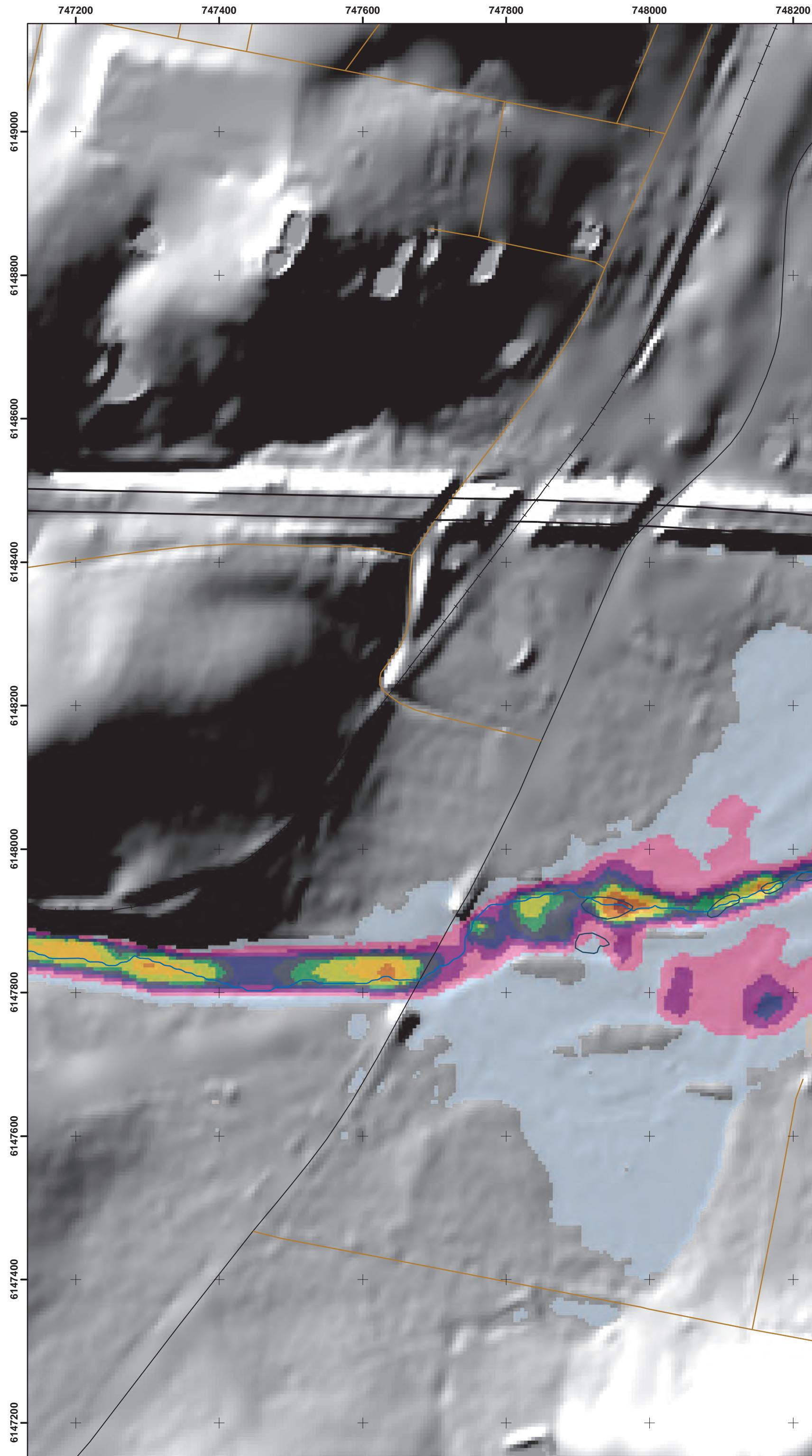


N 1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

0 100 200 m



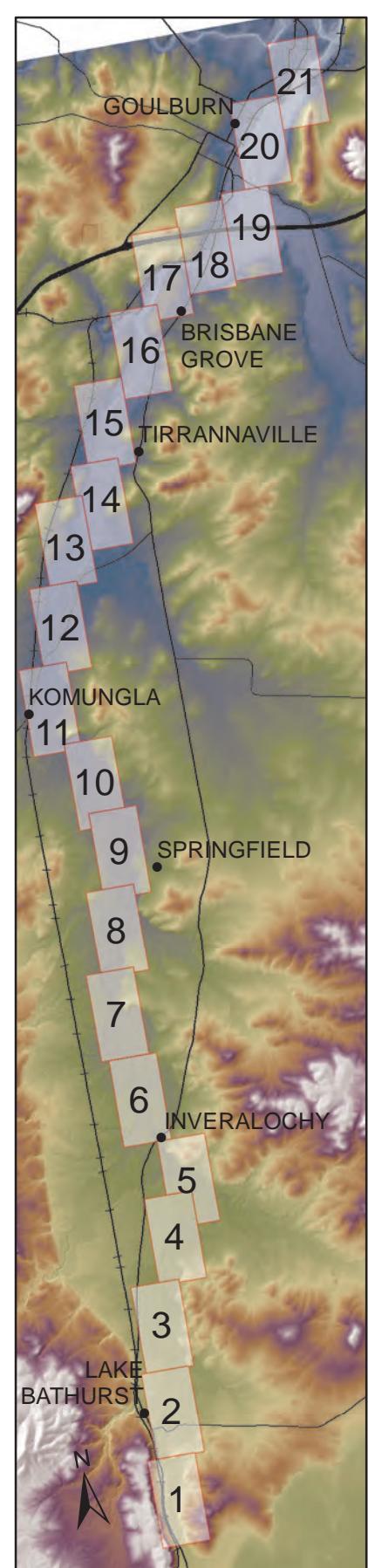
Map 18



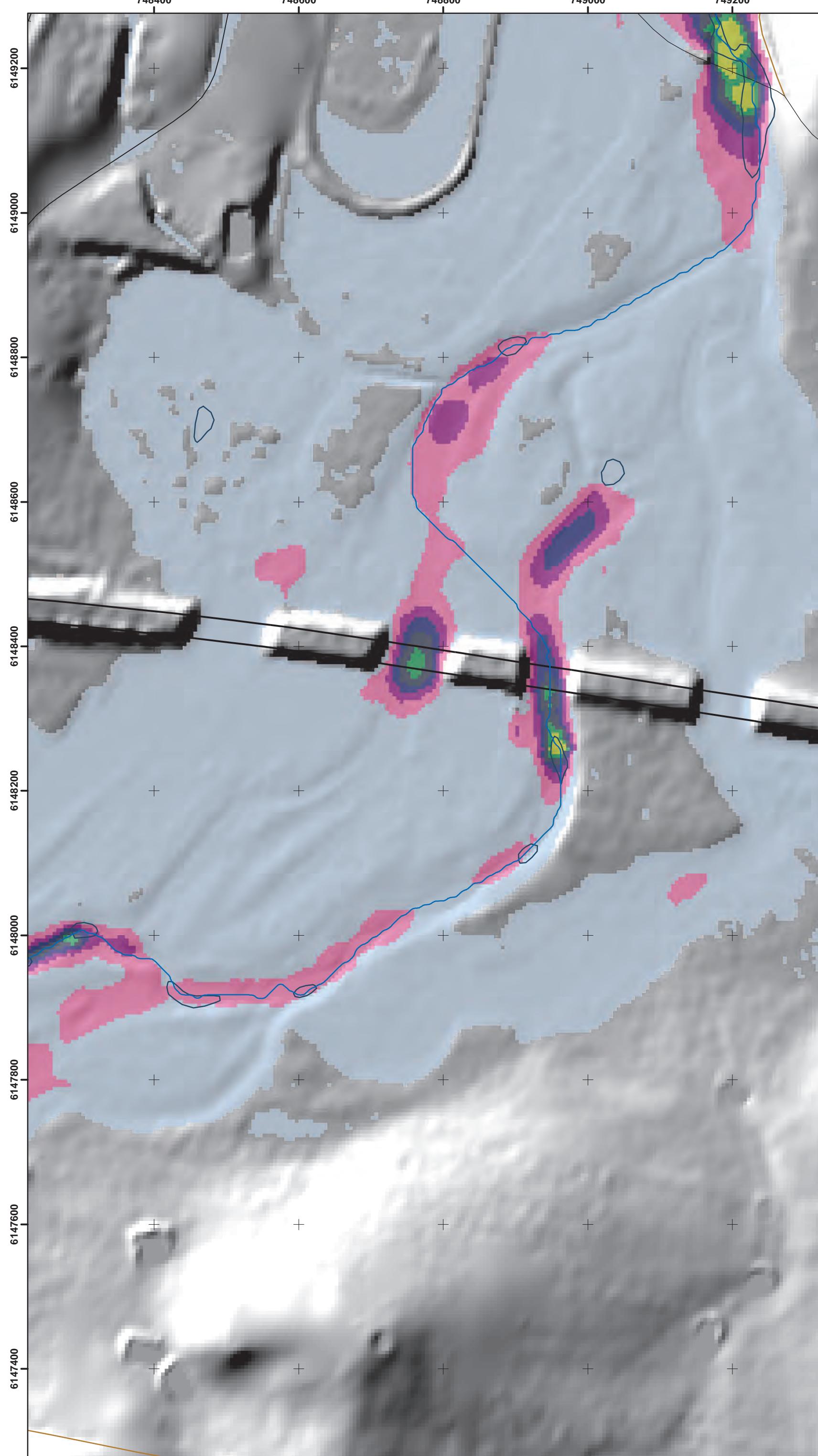
$200 \text{ m}^3\text{s}^{-1}$

N
1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

0 100 200
m



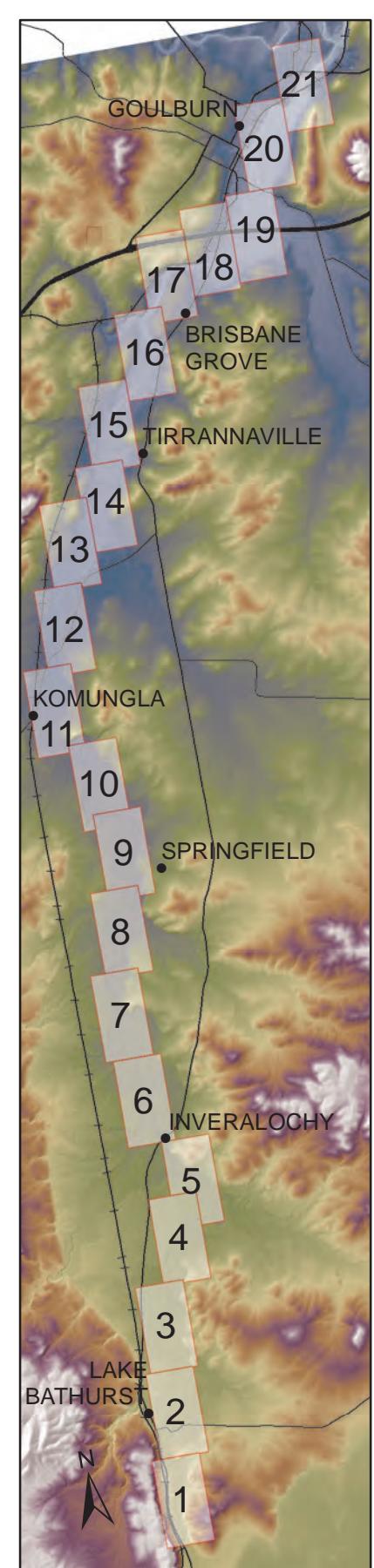
Map 19



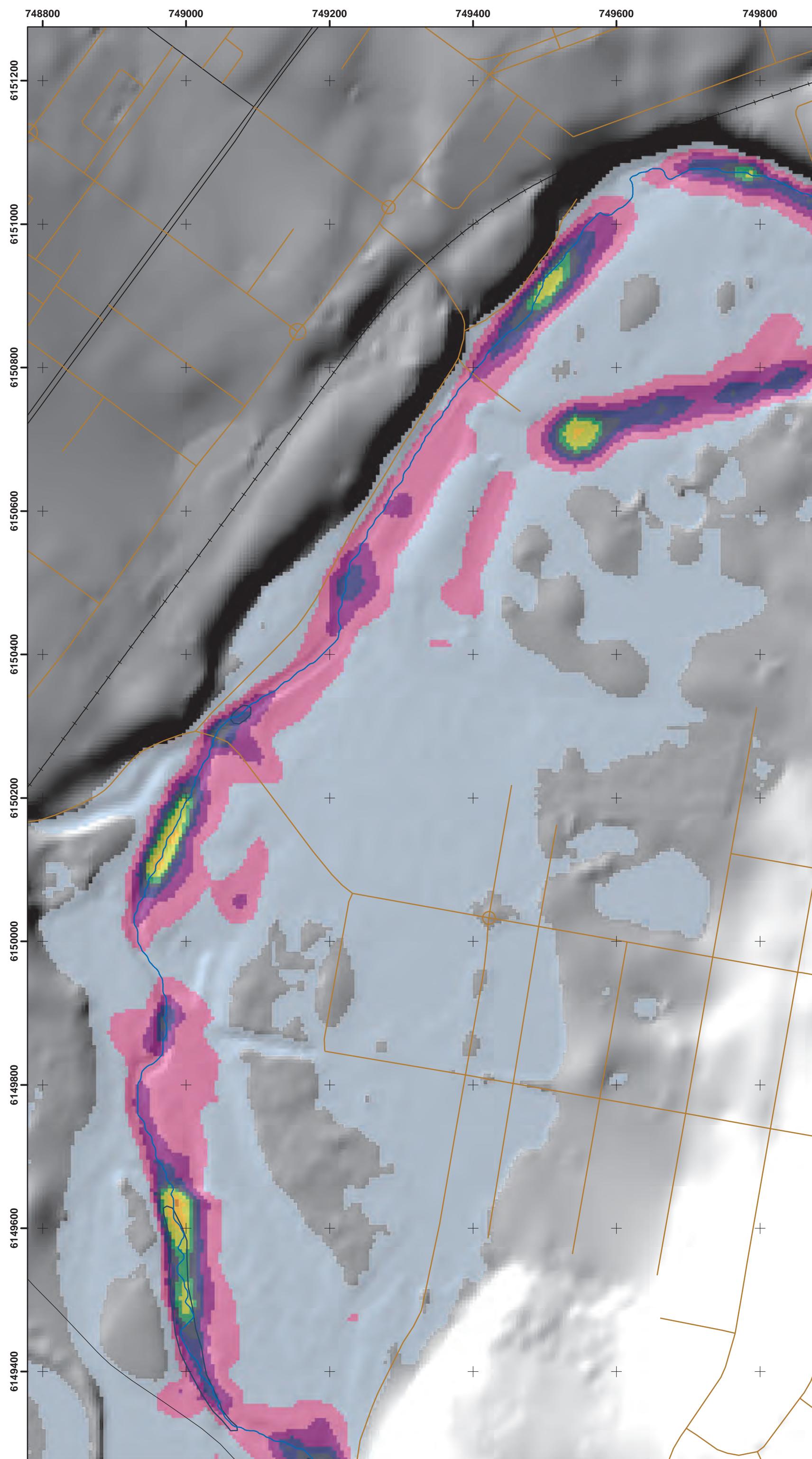
$200 \text{ m}^3\text{s}^{-1}$

N 1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

0 100 200 m



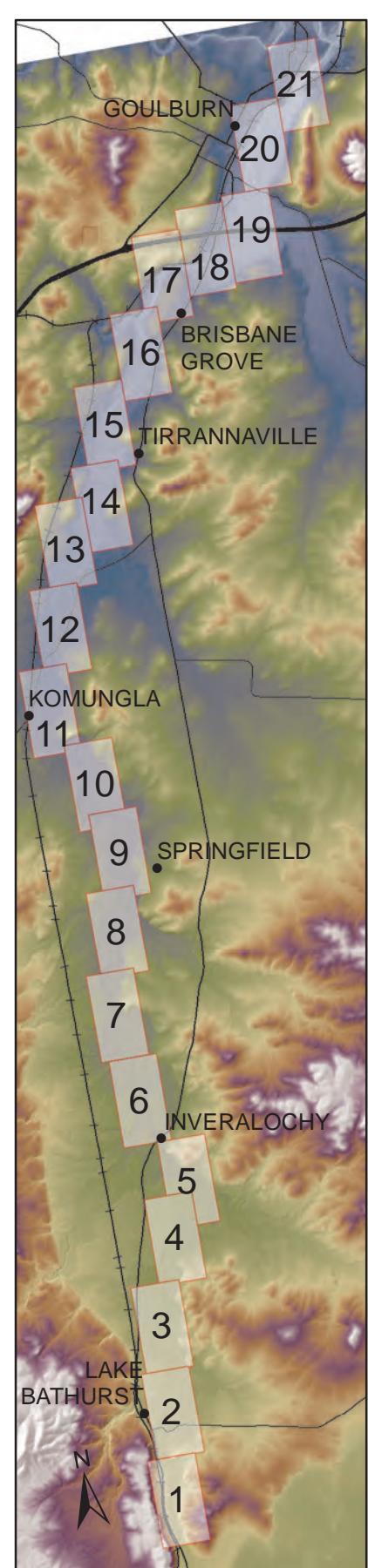
Map 20



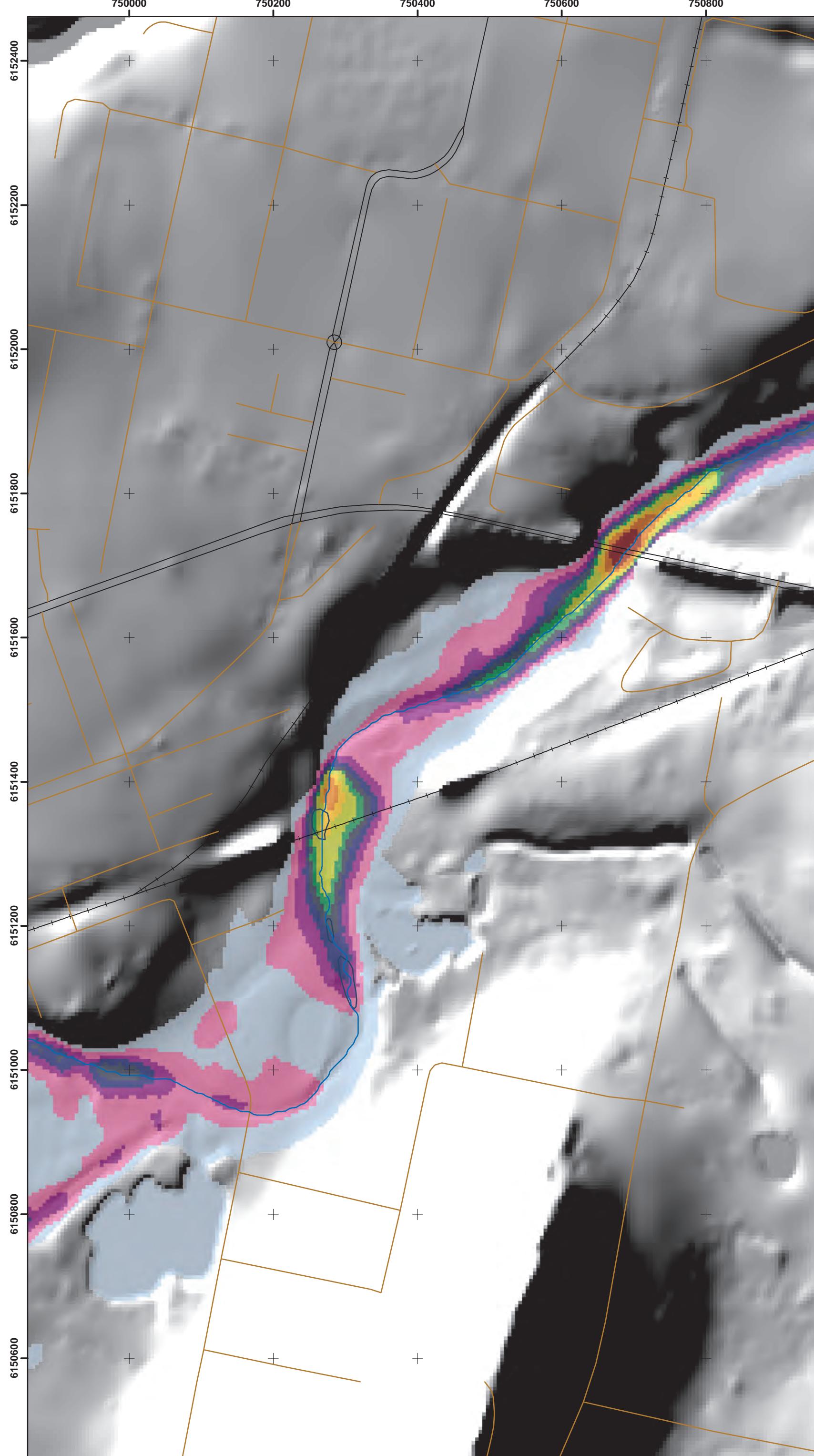
$200 \text{ m}^3\text{s}^{-1}$

N
1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

0 100 200
m



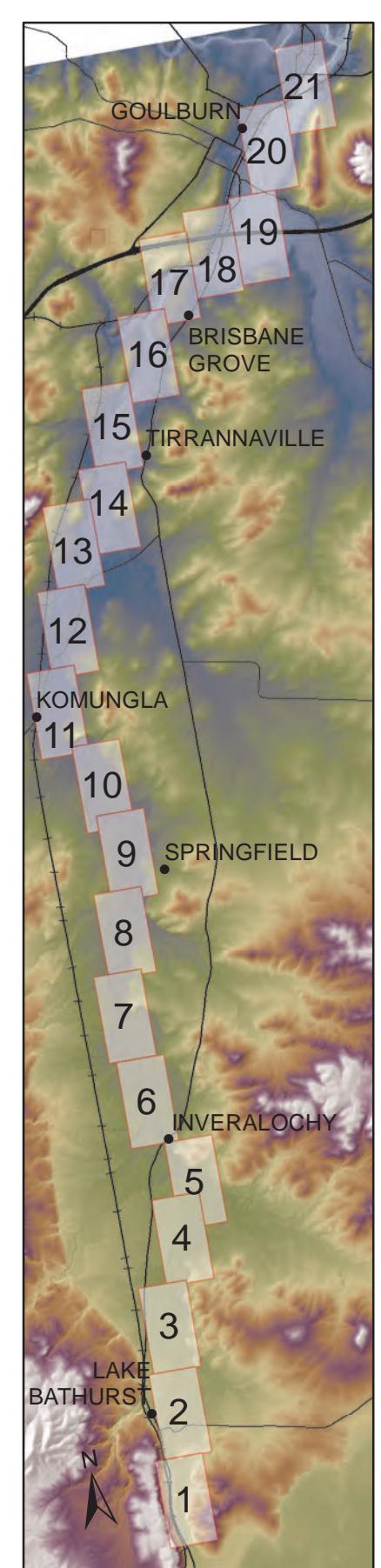
Map 21



200 m^3s^{-1}

N 1:5,000
1 cm = 50 m

0 100 200 m



Appendix C Maps and photo mosaics of reaches and condition along Mulwaree at Kelburn and Tirranaville

Kelburn Reach 1

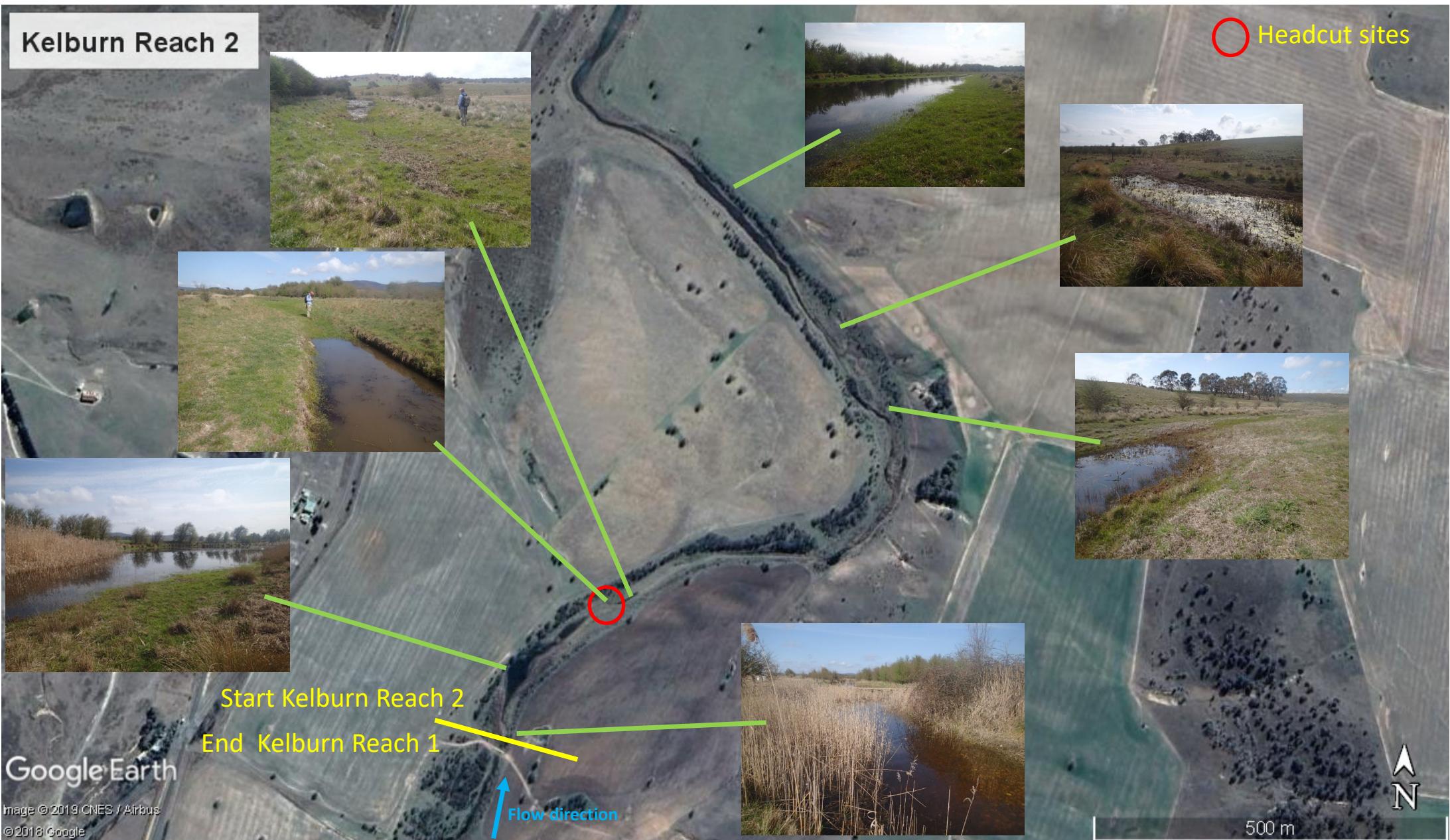
Start Kelburn Reach 2

End Kelburn Reach 1

Headcut sites



Kelburn Reach 2



Kelburn Reach 2 cont



Reach not assessed



End Kelburn Reach 2



Google Earth

Image © 2019 CNES / Airbus

©2018 Google

Kelburn Reach 2 cont



Google Earth

Image © 2019 CNES / Airbus

Image © 2019 Maxar Technologies

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Tirrana Reach 1

Start Tirrana Reach 1

Reach not assessed

Flow direction



Google Earth

Image © 2019 CNES / Airbus

Image © 2019 Maxar Technologies

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N

500 m

Tirrana Reach 1 cont



Tirrana Reach 2



Tirrana Reach 2



Tirrana Reach 2

Flow direction
↑



N

500 m

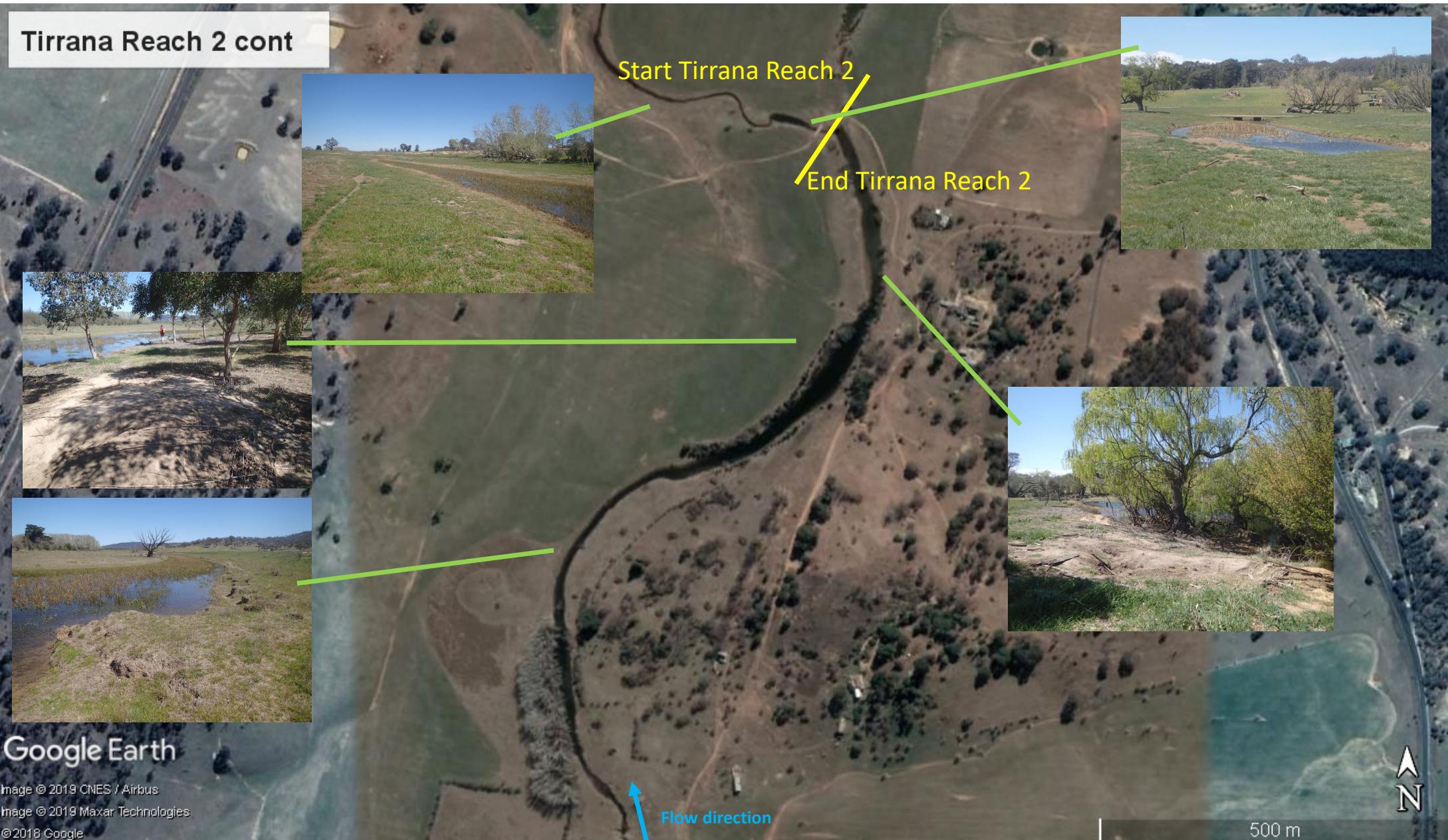
Google Earth

Image © 2019 CNES / Airbus

Image © 2019 Maxar Technologies

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Tirrana Reach 2 cont



Google Earth

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Tirrana Reach 3



Start Tirrana Reach 4 - already rehabilitated

End Tirrana Reach 3



Start Tirrana Reach 3

End Tirrana Reach 2

Flow direction

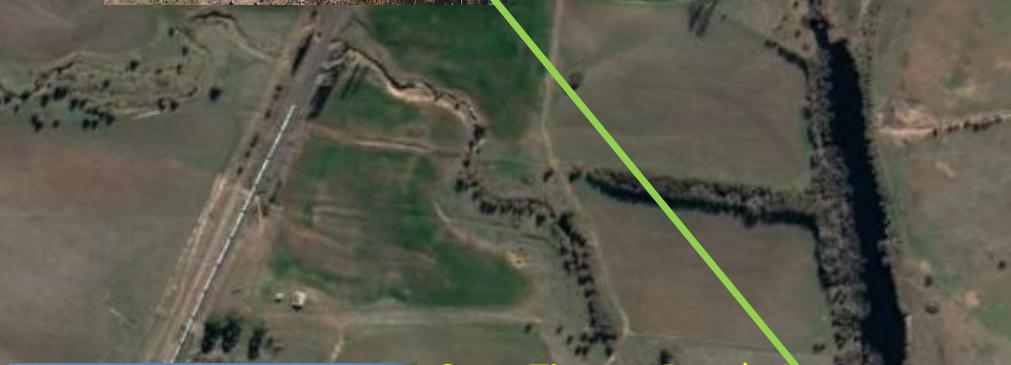


Headcut sites



500 m

Tirrana Reach 3 cont + rehab'ed



Start Tirrana Reach 4
already rehabilitated

End Tirrana Reach 3

Flow direction

Google Earth

Image © 2019 CNES / Airbus

Image © 2019 Maxar Technologies

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See previous slide

500 m



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