



Our Ref: EP-04085

12/10/2026

Rachel Bird
Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited
18 Thompson Street
BOWEN HILLS QLD 4006

Via email: clat@riotinto.com

Dear Ms Bird

Notification of Approved Exploration Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation (EPEPR)

In reference to your final submission dated 28 September 2026, the EPEPR has been approved pursuant to section 70B(5) of the [Mining Act 1971](#) (the Mining Act).

The approved EPEPR will be made publicly available on the Mining Register and the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) website. Details of the approved EPEPR are listed below.

Approval Granted to	Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited
Tenement Type & Number	<i>Exploration Licence and number EL 6729, 6730</i>
Program Number	EP-04085
EPEPR Description	The proposed RC program aims to explore primarily for iron ore in the form of magnetite Banded Iron Formation (BIF) and secondary Iron Oxide-Copper-Gold (IOCG) style mineralisation.

You are reminded that you must always implement and comply with this approved EPEPR.

This approval does not constitute endorsement of the systems that you have in place to manage the mining operations in compliance with the Mining Act. Whilst your capability to undertake this activity has been considered in this approval, the responsibility for compliance with the Mining Act always remains with the tenement holder.

The legislative requirements associated with the EPEPR are outlined below, and certain requirements must be actioned prior to commencement of operations authorised by the EPEPR.

1	Rehabilitation Bond DEM has determined the rehabilitation liability estimate to be \$36,000 based on the information you have provided. Accordingly, a bond of \$36,000 be entered into with the Minister for Energy and Mining. This bond will be formally requested through separate correspondence. The bond must be entered into before authorised operations can commence.
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2	Public Liability Insurance Pursuant to Regulation 81 of the Mining Regulations 2020 (the Mining Regulations), you are required to provide a copy of a certificate evidencing the insurance coverage over the tenement(s).
3	Compliance Reporting You are required to submit an annual exploration compliance report. The report is required to be submitted within 2 months after the anniversary of the date the licence was granted, or in accordance with joint reporting requirements agreed to with the Minister. Please refer to the DEM website for more information on the reporting requirements. You are reminded that a separate compliance report is required 2 months after the expiry or surrender of the EL.
4	Work, Health and Safety Compliance In accordance with Chapter 10 of the <i>Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012</i> (SA), you must meet the requirements for mine operators in South Australia, which include a notification for mining operations, the establishment of a Safety Management System, the identification of Principal Mining Hazards and development of a Principal Mining Hazard Management Plan. Further information on your responsibilities, including a guide to Chapter 10, and the Mine Operator Notification Form, is available on the SafeWork SA website .
5	EPEPR Timeframe The EPEPR is approved for a period of twelve months from the date of this letter. A further 3 months after expiry of the 12-month period is provided to complete all rehabilitation

Please note, proposed changes to exploration operations stated in the approved EPEPR may require a EPEPR review to be submitted for assessment. Where a EPEPR review is required, implementation of the operational changes can only occur after the revised EPEPR is approved. Further information on when an exploration PEPR review is required can be found in Departmental guideline [MG22 Conducting mineral exploration](#).

In addition to the requirements under the Mining Act, you are reminded that your operation will have other legislative requirements that you will need to comply with.

If you have any further queries, please contact DEM staff as below:

General enquiries	Jason Perry Senior Assessment Officer, Exploration Regulation DEM.exploration@sa.gov.au
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Yours sincerely



Simon Constable

DIRECTOR, MINERALS REGULATION

In accordance with delegated powers and functions

The Department's Regulatory Guidelines, Ministerial Determinations and Information Sheets are available at: <https://energymining.sa.gov.au/industry/minerals-and-mining/forms-legislation-and-guidance>

Exploration PEPR - EPEPR | 12 Month PEPR

Reference Number: **EP-04085** • Status: **Submitted**

Select Applicable PEPR

Previous MERS EPEPR?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Previous PEPR ID

—

Search PEPRs

—

Applicant and General Details

Applicant Details

Mathew Johannesen

Full Name * Mathew Johannesen Business Phone
Mobile Phone Email * mathew.johannesen@riotinto.com (mailto:mathew.johannesen@riotinto.com).

Project Supervisor

Jessika Gluchowska, Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Ltd, Senior Geoscientist
Contact: Jessika.gluchowska@riotinto.com
Mobile: +61 481 555 878
Experience: 2018-present (7.5 years), Rio Tinto Exploration, Geoscientist
Qualifications: B.Sc (Honours), Ph.D. (Geology).

General Details

Tenement Details *

Tenement Type	Tenement Name	Tenement Holder
Exploration Licence	EL 6729	Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited
Exploration Licence	EL 6730	Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited

Operating Company

Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited

If there is another Operating Company, please provide

Account Name	Entity Type	Registered Address	Registered Email
There are no records to display.			

Project/prospect name

Stony Hill

Mineral Model

The Stony Hill project is located on the Eyre Peninsula, encompassing parts of the Gilles Downs and Cooyerdoo Station, located approximately 40km southwest of Iron Knob and 49km northeast of Kimba.

The proposed program aims to explore EL 6729 primarily for iron ore in the form of magnetite Banded Iron Formation (BIF) hosted in the Upper and Lower Middleback Jaspilite, and secondarily for copper hosted by Iron Oxide-Copper-Gold (IOCG) style mineralisation. The proposed operations will involve wet Reverse Circulation (RC) drilling a maximum of twelve (12) drillholes, totalling 3,600m drill length across EL 6729 across several BIF and one IOCG target.

Primary Commodities *

Commodity Name ↑	Commodity Group	Grade
Copper	Exploration	
Iron Ore - Magnetite	Exploration	

Secondary Commodities

Commodity Name ↑	Commodity Group	Grade
There are no records to display.		

Project Description

The proposed program aims to explore EL 6729 primarily for iron ore in the form of magnetite Banded Iron Formation (BIF) hosted in the Upper and Lower Middleback Jaspilite, and secondarily for copper hosted by Iron Oxide-Copper-Gold (IOCG) style mineralisation. The proposed operations will involve wet Reverse Circulation (RC) drilling a maximum of twelve (12) drillholes, totalling 3,600m drill length across EL 6729 across several BIF and one IOCG target.

Proposed Project Schedule

Start Date

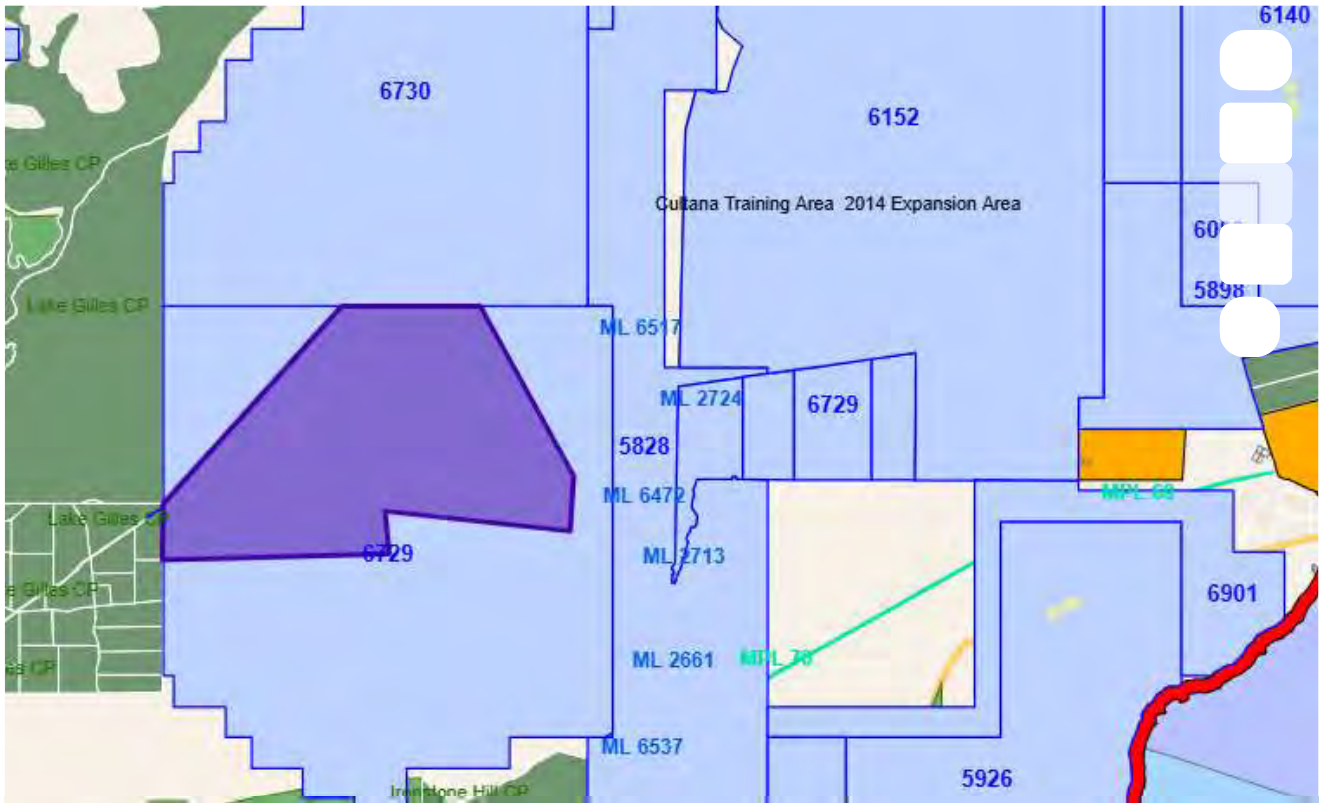
31/08/2026

End date

06/10/2026

Clearly describe why a PEPR review is required, summarise all content changes made to the approved PEPR, and provide appropriate justification where a time extension is required.

Identify Application Area



Maptaskr © 2026 10 km -33.146477, 136.723531

Powered By Esri - Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOA...



Map Layer Intersects

Application Area Details

Location Description

located approximately 40km southwest of Iron Knob and 49km northeast of Kimba.

Area (Sqkm)

256.00

Spatial Data Intersects - Summary Table

Show 10 entries

Search:

Spatial Layer Name	Category	Referral	Intersect Count
1:250K mapsheets	Other		2
Cadastral Parcels	Other		7
Determinations of Native Title	Other		1
Exploration licences (mineral/opal)	No-Go Area		1

Spatial Layer Name	Category	Referral	Intersect Count
No mineral exploration or production access (parks and reserves)	No-Go Area		1
Pastoral Lease Boundaries	Other		2
Planning and Design Code Zones - conservation	Other		1
Registered and Notified ILUAs	Other		1
Terrestrial - BOM Groundwater Dependant Atlas (GDE Atlas)	Other		26

Spatial Data Intersects - Details Table

Show

10

entries

Search:

Spatial Layer Name	Shape	Primary Attribute	All Attributes	Category
1:250K mapsheets	Shape 3	WHYALLA	View attributes	Other
1:250K mapsheets	Shape 3	PORT AUGUSTA	View attributes	Other
Cadastral Parcels	Shape 3	F250278AL104	View attributes	Other
Cadastral Parcels	Shape 3	F250278AL106	View attributes	Other
Cadastral Parcels	Shape 3	F250345QP2	View attributes	Other
Cadastral Parcels	Shape 3	F55218AL100	View attributes	Other
Cadastral Parcels	Shape 3	F250345QP1	View attributes	Other
Cadastral Parcels	Shape 3	F250278AL105	View attributes	Other
Cadastral Parcels	Shape 3	H835700SE316	View attributes	Other
Determinations of Native Title	Shape 3	Barngarla Native Title Claim	View attributes	Other

Program Preparation

Work undertaken in preparing the proposal

The following activities have been executed or will be undertaken in preparation of the proposed program:

1. Desktop Review – Research into the geology, historic drilling activities, ground water, sensitive flora/fauna and Cultural Heritage information publicly available.
2. Contractor consultation – Two Earthworks providers consulted with in-person on the 28/11/2025.
3. Field Reconnaissance – Field reconnaissance conducted across two (2) days on the 30/11/2025 and 01/12/2025.
4. Landholder – Landholder from Gilles Downs Station met with in-person on the 30/11/2025.
5. Cultural Heritage Request – Request for Cultural Heritage Survey submitted to the Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation (BDAC), Registered Native Title Body Corporate representing the Barngarla People, on the 20/01/2026.
6. Landholder Agreement – Landholder agreements currently undergoing negotiation with Gilles Down Station and Cooyerdoo Station at the time of writing.
7. Tender process of drilling and earthworks contractors – currently underway.
8. Selection of drilling and earthworks contractors – anticipated for March 2026.
9. Internal documentation and planning – Drafting and finalisation of a Integrated Project Management Plan (IPMP), Integrated Risk Register (IRR), Vehicle Management Plan (VMP), Traffic Management Plan (TMP), Data Management Plan (DMP), Project Emergency Response Plan (PERP), Technical Justification Memo, wet RC drilling & sampling procedure, detailed drill plan anticipated completion by April 2026.
10. Cultural Heritage Survey & second Field Reconnaissance – Anticipated for April/May 2026.
11. Earthworks –construction of pads and drill tracks currently scheduled for 01/09/2026 to 07/09/2026.
12. Wet RC drilling – currently scheduled for 08/09/2026 to 28/09/2026.
13. Earthworks – rehabilitation currently scheduled for 29/09/2026 to 06/10/2026.

Operator Capability

Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Ltd (RTX) is the exploration arm of the global metals and mining group, Rio Tinto. In Australia, Rio Tinto (and its predecessor, CRA) has had a sustained commitment to exploration for over 70 years and consider it to be one of our leading capabilities. Rio Tinto commits significant annual funding to exploration, with RTX having a budget of over US\$200 million, including over US\$50 million in Australia.

Some of our discoveries, such as Weipa (bauxite), the Pilbara (iron ore) and Argyle (Diamonds), remain globally significant mining operations where value is still being realised for Rio Tinto and a broad range of other stakeholders after more than 40 years of production. In Queensland, further notable discoveries of the RTX team include the Century, Mary Kathleen and Dugald River deposits. Geoscientists responsible for these discoveries including geoscientists and geophysicists responsible for the discovery at Prominent Hill in South Australia remain part of the RTX generative team. RTX has a skilled team of geoscientists, logistics and operations personnel and land access personnel for generating and operating exploration projects globally, including a significant presence in Australia. The exploration teams are supported by commodity, data and information, technical, project evaluation, HSEC and orebody knowledge specialists within RTX and Rio Tinto's operational business units. Rio Tinto have a strong commitment to maintain and enhance engagement with project partners, local communities and all relevant stakeholders.

In Northwest Queensland, RTX has been pursuing a Greenfields exploration programme focused on finding economic base and precious metals mineralisation (primarily BHT and IOCG style) principally in the Mt Isa Inlier. This has involved significant reprocessing and collating of historical data, the gathering and review of new geophysical and geochemical datasets, the application and acquisition of tenure and the drill testing of targets generated.

While in Western Australia, RTX has a recent proven track record of exploration with our Winu (Cu-Au-Ag) exploration project. Discovery followed an extensive collection of new geophysical datasets and prompt drill testing, leading to the initial discovery hole in being drilled in late 2017.

RTX activities in the South Australian during recent times include a 734m drill test of the Evelyn Dam gravity anomaly on Resource Holdings Pty Ltd licence in 2018 and a nine (9) hole (12,000m) diamond drill programme testing IOCG targets on Tasman Resources' Vulcan project 30 kilometres north of Olympic Dam in 2013.

Rio Tinto Explorations Northern Gawler Program is currently undertaking exploration for base metals on the Coober Pedy Ridge, Mable Creek Inlier and the Nawa Domain as well as magmatic nickel sulphides in the Delamerian Orogen.

Lease Conditions

N.A.

Land Access

Identify the Owners of Land and authority to access land

Land Title Reference	Plan Parcel Reference	Type of Land	Owner of Land ↑	Land Access Authorisation Method	Date of Form 21 or Agreement Signed	Instrument or Uploaded Document Id	Uncheck land not applicable to your application ar
CL 6161/265	F250278AL104	Leasee		Land Access Agreement			Checked
CL 6161/265	F250278AL106	Leasee		Land Access Agreement			Checked
/	F55218AL100	Leasee		Land Access Agreement			Checked
CL 6161/265	F250278AL105	Leasee		Land Access Agreement			Checked
CR 5775/158	H835700SE316	Leasee		Land Access Agreement	17/06/2026		Checked
CL 6166/828	F250345QP2	Leasee	James Young and Chris de Picot of Westover Holdings Pty Ltd	Land Access Agreement	17/06/2026		Checked
CL 6166/828	F250345QP1	Leasee	James Young and Chris de Picot of Westover Holdings Pty Ltd	Land Access Agreement	17/06/2026		Checked

Is any of the application area over a road, street or highway

Yes

Upload Consent to Exercise a Right ⓘ

Expand/Collapse				
File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download	
No Files Uploaded				

Woomera Prohibited Area (WPA)

Will activities be conducted within the WPA

No

In which zone will activities be conducted?

Name	Are you intending to undertake work?	Closure start date	Closure end date
There are no records to display.			

Does the tenement holder hold a valid and current Resource Exploration Permit under the WPA Rule?

—

Permit No.

—

What is the expiry date of the permit?

—

Does the Exploration Permit allow the operator to conduct exploration operations in the WPA?

—

Other Land Owned or Controlled by the Commonwealth Department of Defence

Indicate if you are intending to undertake exploration operations within the identified defence land

No

Other Commonwealth defence land

Defence Land	Applicable
There are no records to display.	

Do you have a Deed of Access with Defence?

—

Expiry date of the Deed of Access

—

Date the Range Control Officer granted permission to conduct the proposed exploration operations.

—

Describe the results of consultation and how any concerns raised were addressed

—

Native Title

Does 'Native Title land' exist within the application area?

Yes

Using the table below, describe how you have complied with the requirements of Part 9B of the Mining Act for each tenement.

Name of Determined / Claimant Group	Agreement Type	Instrument Number	Applicable
Middleback Ranges SA ILUA			No
Barngarla Native Title Claim	Native Title		Yes

Provide any additional relevant information

—

Exempt Land

Exempt Land

Has Exempt land been identified?

No

If a "Waiver of Exemption" has been reached to waive the benefit of the exemption, a notice of the agreement must be given to the Mining Registrar, either within 21 days after the agreement was entered into or when an application for the mineral tenement is made under the Mining Act.

In the table below enter the relevant instrument numbers for any Form 23C - Notice of wavier of exemption provided to the Mining Registrar.*

Land Title	Plan Parcel	Owner of Land that has benefit of exemption ↑	Why is the land exempt land?	Waiver of exemption(s) been negotiated	Instrument Number or Uploaded Document Id
CL 6161/265	F250278AL106				
/	F55218AL100				
CL 6161/265	F250278AL105				
CR 5775/158	H835700SE316				
CL 6161/265	F250278AL104				
CL 6166/828	F250345QP1	James Young and Chris de Picot of Westover Holdings Pty Ltd			
CL 6166/828	F250345QP2	James Young and Chris de Picot of Westover Holdings Pty Ltd			

Consultation

Consultation

Stakeholder ↑	Land Use	Matters raised	Stakeholder concerns raised and how addressed
	Other (e.g. historic mining)	Engagement with the Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation has been undertaken exclusively through email correspondence. The interactions have been positive, with no concerns raised to date. RTX has submitted a Heritage Survey Request to the Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation (BDAC) and is currently awaiting confirmation of the preferred survey timing.	
Department for Environment and Water	Conservation	No concerns raised so far. Notice of Entry to be sent to access project area via track within Lake Giles conservation park.	
James Young and Chris de Picot of Westover Holdings Pty Ltd			
James Young and Chris de Picot of Westover Holdings Pty Ltd	Other (e.g. historic mining)	Engagement with the Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation has been undertaken exclusively through email correspondence. The interactions have been positive, with no concerns raised to date. RTX has submitted a Heritage Survey Request to the Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation (BDAC) and is currently awaiting confirmation of the preferred survey timing.	

Stakeholder ↑	Land Use	Matters raised	Stakeholder concerns raised and how addressed
Landholder - Cooyerdoo Station	Grazing	Engagement with the Cooyerdoo pastoralist has been positive and has occurred through emails and text messages. The pastoralists have agreed to hold a face-to-face meeting to discuss the upcoming project activities. During RTX's reconnaissance field trip in November/December 2025, the station owners requested that the team avoid a specific area of the station due to mustering and shearing activities. RTX supported this request and agreed that the work would be completed in 2026 at a time convenient to the station owners. No concerns have been raised at this stage. Land access agreement is being negotiated and looking to finalise agreement in July 2026.	
Landholder - Gilles Downs Station	Grazing	Engagement with the Gilles Downs pastoralist has been positive and has occurred through face-to-face meetings, phone calls, and emails. No concerns have been raised at this stage. Land access agreement has been signed.	N/A

If any individual or group of similar affected persons were not able to be consulted, what steps were taken to consult with them?

N/A

Provide any additional relevant information.

—

Describe any council policies (or out of council) or development plans that may impact the program area and a description of any known plans for future land use changes by other parties.

None known.

Description of Environment

Proximity to Infrastructure and Housing

Provide the following information:

See attached map.
The project location is located in proximity to the Eyre Highway and Lake Gilles Conservation Park.

Attach Files ⓘ

				Expand/Collapse
File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download	
Project Area Map.jpg	0.37 Mb	23-04-2026 12:09:26	Download (MERS/EP-04085/Proximity to infrastructure/Project Area Map_2026-04-23T02-39-27.540Z.jpg)	

Landform, topography, soil and surface cover

Describe the topography and soil and surface cover (e.g. gibber) of the general area affected by the exploration program. Include details on the susceptibility to compaction, erosion, dust, runoff and visual attributes (steep or undulating slopes, plains, rocky outcrops, dunes, salt pans, clay pans etc) any other characteristics (e.g. acid sulphate soils) that may require control strategies to reduce environmental impacts during operations or rehabilitation.

The topography of the project area is largely flat to gently undulating slopes and plains. Several small rocky outcrops are present within the vicinity of Stony Hill. There are no permanent water courses in the project area, however ephemeral creeks drain into numerous small to medium-sized salt lakes to the south and east of the project area.

The region is predominantly covered by soil with numerous sand dunes to the south of the project area and minimal rocky outcrop. Calcrete occurs in some areas beneath the soil cover. The soil is largely loam; a mix of clay, silt and sand in semi-equal proportions with minimal gibber and rocky outcrop, except within the vicinity of Stony Hill, where minor gravel and rocky outcrop is present alongside soil with a greater sand component. The susceptibility to compaction is low to moderate and risk of erosion is negligible to minimal across plains, slightly increasing across undulating slopes where water runoff is expected to be higher and the soil profile contains a greater sand component. No acid sulphate soils were identified across the project area.

Compaction and erosion will be minimised during operations and rehabilitation by only using existing or constructed tracks, regular maintenance of any used tracks, avoiding clearing wherever possible (particularly blade-down clearing), watering of tracks as required to prevent bulldust and no scarification when undertaking rehabilitation unless to rehabilitate heavily compacted areas.

Attach Files ⓘ

			Expand/Collapse
File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
20260309_Exploration_PEPR_Template_12_month_Stony Hill.pdf	16.98 Mb	09-03-2026 16:24:41	Download (MERS/EP-04085/Landform, topography/20260309_Exploration_PEPR_Template_12_month_Stony Hill_2026-03-09T05-54-42.885Z.pdf)

Surface Water

Will the proposed program interfere with surface water bodies and natural drainage (e.g. drainage lines, creeks, floodplains, wetlands)?

No

Describe the potential interference and surface water bodies and natural drainage on maps.

Indicate how you will avoid disturbance

None of the proposed access tracks nor drill pads interfere or cross any surface drainage lines, creeks, floodplains or wetland areas.

Is the program area located within water protection areas defined under the River Murray Act 2003?

No

Select the name(s) of protected water areas

Is the program area located within any prescribed watercourses or prescribed surface water areas under the Landscape?

No

Select the name(s) of the prescribed watercourses or prescribed surface water areas under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019.

Attach Files ⓘ

				Expand/Collapse
File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download	
No Files Uploaded				

Name	Applicable
There are no records to display.	

Groundwater

Is groundwater likely to be intersected when conducting the exploration program?

Yes

Provide evidence or any supporting information demonstrating this.

Description of the localities/areas where different groundwater conditions may be encountered

The Exploration Licences are within the Port Augusta/Whyalla region of the South Australian Arid Lands (SAAL) National Resources Management (NRM) Region, however, do not fall within any known aquifer basin nor Prescribed Wells Area. Local bedrock aquifers, of general low productivity and high salinity (>3000mg/L) underly the project area. There is no information to suggest these aquifers are pressurized or confined. A search of Borehole Data within a 10km and 50km radius of the drilling area indicates highly variable groundwater properties.

The following table (below) details the minimum, maximum, average and standard deviation of each of the recorded borehole water properties from a total of 10,000 boreholes located within a 50km radius of the proposed drilling area.

Metric	Depth to Water (m)	Total Dissolved Solutes (mg/L)	EC (Salinity) (µS/cm)	pH	Yield (L/sec)
Count (n)	205	165	165	56	163
Minimum	0.5	202	368	3.88	0
Maximum	110	176,161	207248	8.5	16.5
Average	28	20831	30951	6.9	1.79
Mode	14	18070	29569	7.1	1
Median	17.6	17148	28204	7	0.51
Standard Deviation	24	23962	30234	0.8	3.11

The following table (below) details the minimum, maximum, average and standard deviation of each of the recorded borehole water properties from a total of 63 boreholes located within a 10km radius of the proposed drilling area.

Metric	Depth to Water (m)	Total Dissolved Solutes (mg/L)	EC (Salinity) (µS/cm)	pH	Yield (L/sec)
Count (n)	4	5	5	3	1
Minimum	2	270	491	6.8	1.26
Maximum	52	16,430	27,070	8.5	1.26
Average	19	4,369	7,360	7.8	1.26
Mode	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Median	10	1,100	1,992	8.1	1.26
Standard Deviation	23	6,822	11,173	0.9	N/A

Add the different groundwater conditions for each localities/areas to the table below.

Name ↑	Formation age and/or stratigraphic unit	Stratigraphic intervals (depth range) (m)	Aquifer formation name	Aquifer Interval/thickness (from-to) (m)	Aquifer Type	Aquifer salinity (TDS)	Depth to groundwater (m)	Comments
Port August a/Whyalla	unconsolidated Pleistocene aged regolith/colluvium most likely belonging to the Pooraka Formation	77	N/A	N/A	Unknown	~3000mg/L	19	In stratigraphic order : Soil (0- 1m) Calcrete (1- 4m) Clay/ sand/ saprock (4- 77m) Bedrock (6- 77m onwards)

Provide the environmental value of each aquifer present determined according to the current Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy.

The Total Dissolved Solutes for all boreholes within a 10km radius varies between 270-16,430 mg/L (n=5)
The Total Dissolved Solutes for all boreholes within a 50km radius varies between 202-176,161 mg/L (n=165).

Therefore, according to Schedule 1-Environment values of waters (clause 6) in the South Australia Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2015 the value of the Underground water varies in its classification.

Of the five (5) boreholes with recorded TDS values within a 10km radius of the project area:

Three (3) contain underground waters with background TDS levels of less than 1,200 mg/L and are therefore valued for 'Drinking water for human consumption', 'Primary industries – irrigation and general water uses', 'Primary industries – livestock drinking water' and 'Primary industries – aquaculture and human consumption of aquatic foods'.

One (1) contains underground water with a background TDS level of more than 3,000 mg/L but less than 13,000 mg/L, and is therefore valued for 'Primary industries – livestock drinking water' and 'Primary industries – aquaculture and human consumption of aquatic foods'.

One (1) contains underground water with a background TDS level exceeding 13,000 mg/L and is therefore of no environmental value.

Provide a description of the existence, location and value of all Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) within and immediately surrounding the project area

According to the National Assessment none of the planned drillholes occur within an Aquatic Ground Dependent Ecosystems (GDE), with the closest drillhole being 450m away from a 'Low potential' Aquatic GDE.

Is the proposed program located within a prescribed wells area?

No

Select the prescribed wells

Is the proposed program located within a prescribed water resource area?

No

Select the prescribed water resource areas

Provide any additional information

Attach Files

				Expand/Collapse
File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download	
Location of Existing Wells.jpg	0.76 Mb	23-04-2026 12:11:48	Download (MERS/EP-04085/Ground water/Location of Existing Wells_2026-04-23T02-41-48.576Z.jpg)	

Native Vegetation

Will you be working within areas of native vegetation?

Yes

Provide the following information:

According to the National Assessment for Terrestrial Ground Dependent Ecosystems (GDE), planned drillholes are either within a non-GDE or 'Low Potential' Terrestrial GDE. The drillholes that occur within the 'Low Potential' GDE are described as 'Eucalyptus Mallee Forest and Mallee Woodland'.

Vegetation outside of Terrestrial Ground Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) varies from sparse shrubland to sparse woodland. Dominant tree species identified across the project area consist of *Acacia pendula* (Weeping Myall) and *Eucalyptus brachycalyx* (Gilja or Chindoo mallee) with dominant shrub species including *Maireana sedifolia* (Bluebush), *Eremophila scoparia* (Broom Emu Bush), *Eremophila longifolia* (Weeping Emu Bush) and *Amyema maidenii* (Maiden's Mistletoe).

An assessment of the native species present on the project area, as recorded by S.A. Department of Environment and Water was compiled from the Nature Maps website. Native bush species present include: *Atriplex vesicaria* ssp. (NC) (Bladder Saltbush), *Maireana sedifolia* (Bluebush), *Senecio spanomerus* (Native Groundsel), *Beyeria opaca* (Dark Turpentine Bush), *Dampiera lanceolata* var. *lanceolata* (Grooved Dampiera), *Prostanthera althoferi* ssp. *Longifolia*, *Darwinia salina* (Salt Darwinia), *Dodonaea lobulata* (Lobed-leaf Hop-bush) and *Eremophila alternifolia* (Narrow-leaf Emubush). Native tree species include: *Acacia papyrocarpa* (Western Myall), *Acacia notabilis* (Notable Wattle), *Eucalyptus oleosa* (NC) (Red Mallee), *Melaleuca lanceolata* (Dryland Tea-tree), *Melaleuca pauperiflora* ssp. *mutica* (Boree), *Billardiera cymosa* ssp. *pseudocymosa* (Sweet Apple-berry), *Grevillea juncifolia* ssp. *juncifolia* (Honeysuckle Grevillea) and *Myoporum platycarpum* ssp. (False Sandalwood).

Indicate why you will not be working within areas of native vegetation?

Attach Files

				Expand/Collapse
File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download	
20260309_Exploration_PEPR_Template_12_month_Stony Hill.pdf	16.98 Mb	09-03-2026 16:32:57	Download (MERS/EP-04085/Native Vegetation/20260309_Exploration_PEPR_Template_12_month_Stony Hill_2026-03-09T06-02-57.476Z.pdf)	

Fauna

Describe the native and feral fauna that may be present in the application area, including feral species.

The S.A. Department of Environment and Water (Nature Maps) has recorded native bird species on the project area. These include: Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*), Inland Thornbill (Nullarbor, EP, YP, MN, upper SE; *Acanthiza apicalis apicalis*), Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (*Acanthiza uropygialis*), Western Grasswren (*Amytornis textilis myall*), Red Wattlebird (MLR, AP, YP, EP, far west, Yellabinna; *Anthochaera carunculata woodwardi*), Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis leucopsis*), Port Lincoln Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius zonarius*), White-winged Chough (Gawler Ranges, EP, southern FR, MLR; *Corcorax melanorhamphos whiteae*), Little Raven (*Corvus mellori*), Grey Butcherbird (*Cracticus torquatus leucopterus*), Singing Honeyeater (*Gavicalis virens*), White-winged Fairywren (*Malurus leucopterus leuconotus*), Hooded Robin (EP, NW; *Melanodryas cucullata westralensis*), Crested Bellbird (*Oreoica gutturalis*), Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*), White-browed Babbler (southern SA; *Pomatostomus superciliosus superciliosus*), Mulga Parrot (*Psephotellus varius*), Yellow-plumed Honeyeater (*Ptilotula ornata*), Redthroat (*Pyrrholaemus brunneus*), Brown Currawong (Yellabinna, GR, EP, YP; *Strepera versicolor intermedia*). The only fauna encountered on the project during a field reconnaissance in October 2025 includes the *Tiliqua rugosa* (Shingleback). Other species expected include Wallaroo, Kangaroos and a variety of reptiles.

No feral fauna has been recorded on the project area by the S.A. Department of Environment and Water (Nature Maps), however feral animals may include: wild rabbit, European red fox and feral cats.

Significant Habitats, Flora & Fauna

Are there any significant habitats, flora and fauna within the project area?

Yes

Use the table below to list any significant habitats and any rare or endangered flora and fauna species located or reported to have been in the area that may be impacted by the proposed program. Include known sightings of listed species on a locality plan/map.

Species name/habitat	Common name	NPW Act Rating	EBPC Act Rating
<i>Amytornis textilis myall</i>	Western Grasswren	Vulnerable (VU)	Vulnerable
<i>Corcorax melanorhamphos</i>	White-winged Chough	Rare (RA)	Conservation dependent

Attach Files

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download	
EPBC Act 1999 Protected Fauna.jpg	0.83 Mb	23-04-2026 12:12:29	Download (MERS/EP-04085/Fauna/EPB C Act 1999 Protected Fauna_2026-04-23T02-42-30.085Z.jpg)	

File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
EPBC Act 1999 Protected Flora.jpg	0.47 Mb	23-04-2026 12:12:37	Download (MERS/EP-04085/Fauna/EPB C Act 1999 Protected Flora_2026-04-23T02-42-38.272Z.jpg)

Weeds and Pathogens

Provide information of the extent the area is affected or potentially affected by weeds and pathogens (e.g. phytophthora; buffel grass *Cenchrus ciliaris*).

Several weed species have been recorded by the S.A. Department of Environment and Water (Nature Maps) on the project area. These include: *Asphodelus fistulosus* (Onion Weed), *Carthamus lanatus* (Saffron Thistle), *Dittrichia graveolens* (Stinkweed), *Carrichtera annua* (Ward's Weed) and *Marrubium vulgare* (Horehound), *Bromus diandrus* (NC) (Great Brome) and *Eragrostis trichophora* (Hairyflower Lovegrass).

To prevent the spread of weed species into and from the project area, all vehicles and equipment entering and exiting the project area will undergo a weed and seed cleaning and inspection at the commencement and conclusion of the project.

Attach Files ⓘ

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Aboriginal Heritage

Describe the steps taken to identify Aboriginal heritage sites within the proposed area of exploration. Include a statement advising if an Aboriginal heritage survey has been conducted by the proponent and if so, the results of the survey.

RTX has submitted a Heritage Survey Request to the Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation (BDAC) and is currently awaiting confirmation of the preferred survey timing.

Environmentally Sensitive Locations

Indicate if you are intending to undertake exploration operations within the environmentally sensitive locations listed.

No

Name	Applicable
	No

Are you likely to impact on the environmentally sensitive area identified in the table above?

—

Detail the likely effects the proposed program may have.

—

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Exploration Operations

Exploration Scope

Describe all exploration methods to be covered by the PEPR

—

Describe the extent of exploration operations – e.g. drillhole spacing and drill line density.

—

Describe the geographic extent of the area covered by the PEPR, including a general locality plan with tenement details, landowner boundaries and areas with environmental classifications or sensitivities.

—

Describe the specific environments where exploration operations will not be conducted – e.g. parks, reserves, salt lakes etc.

—

Equipment and Personnel requirements

Describe the maximum composition of field crews (operator, contractors, and geologists) and proposed working hours/days for each type of activity.

—

Using the table below, describe the maximum composition of field crews (operator, contractors, and geologists) and proposed working hours/days for each type of activity.

Type of Personnel	Number	Name of contractor company (if applicable)
Geologists	2	Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited
Land access/environmental	9	Rio Tinto Exploration (3), Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation (BDAC; 4), Qualified Speci
Field assistants/technicians	2	Rio Tinto Exploration (1), Euro Exploration (1)
Drilling Crew	4	Company to be confirmed
Site Preparation and rehabilitation	3	Rio Tinto Exploration (1), Earthworks (2) , company to be confirmed
Other (provide details)	2	Downhole Geophysics (2), company to be confirmed

Shifts worked per day	Hours worked per day	Days worked per week
1	12	7

Using the table below, describe the equipment (size, number and contractor details) required to conduct the proposed operations.

Name	Owner/Operator	Description/capacity	Activity/purpose
Reverse Circulation Drill Rig	To be confirmed	Make/Model TBC	Reverse Circulation Drilling
Booster Compressor	Drilling Contractor TBC	Make/Model TBC	Reverse Circulation Drilling
Support Truck	Drilling Contractor TBC	Make/Model TBC	Reverse Circulation Drilling
Water Truck	Drilling Contractor TBC	Make/Model TBC	Reverse Circulation Drilling
Support Trailers	Drilling Contractor TBC	Make/Model TBC	Reverse Circulation Drilling
Light Vehicles	Rio Tinto Exploration / Drilling Contractor	Make/Model TBC	Reverse Circulation Drilling
Prime Mover	Earthworks contractor TBC	Make/Model TBC	Earthworks.
Float Trailer	Earthworks contractor TBC	Make/Model TBC	Earthworks
Grader	Earthworks contractor TBC	Make/Model TBC	Earthworks
Dozer	Earthworks contractor TBC	Make/Model TBC	Earthworks
Excavator	Earthworks contractor TBC	Make/Model TBC	Earthworks
Front End Loader	Earthworks contractor TBC	Make/Model TBC	Earthworks
Rock Breaker	Earthworks contractor TBC	Make/Model TBC	Earthworks
Water Truck	Earthworks contractor TBC	Make/Model TBC	Earthworks
Fuel Truck	Earthworks contractor TBC	Make/Model TBC	Earthworks / Reverse circulation drilling
Backhoe	Earthworks contractor TBC	Make/Model TBC	Earthworks
Roller	Earthworks contractor TBC	Make/Model TBC	Earthworks
Light Vehicles	Earthworks contractor TBC	Make/Model TBC	Earthworks

Low impact exploration activities

Will low impact exploration operations be conducted that are not covered by the Generic program for environment protection and rehabilitation – low impact mineral exploration in South Australia, (generic PEPR)?

No

Describe each type of low impact operations proposed.

Drilling Operations

Will exploration drilling Operations be conducted?

Yes

Identify all the drilling methods that will be used.

Fill out the below table

Tenement	Drilling Types	Maximum number of drillholes	Maximum drillhole depth (m)	Number of drill pads	Maximum number of sumps required at each site	Maximum size of sumps (lenght x depth x width)	Average size of each drill pad	Number of sites requiring pad excavation	Average volume of material to be excavated
EL 6729	Reverse Circulation	12	300.00	12	2	384.00	1,674.00	4	837.00

Other Drilling Method(s)

Drillsite preparation

If exploration drilling activities are proposed, describe the methods used to prepare sites, including vegetation clearance requirements, site levelling and digging of sumps.

All access tracks and drill pad locations will be approved by the respective landholder and Traditional Owners, and will be planned to minimise vegetation removal, avoid larger trees and isolated vegetation, and any areas of importance to the local community. Following receipt of approvals, the ground disturbance will be entered into our Electronic Permitting System (EPS). The EPS is an online platform that ensures that any ground disturbance is reviewed and approved by a group of Subject Matter Experts (SME's) covering tenure management, environment, communities, and operations. Once the EPS has been approved by the respective SME's, an SNS file will be generated. The SNS file is a GPS system that provides the operator of heavy machinery with clear direction on permitted areas to clear and provides audible alarms if they approach a buffer zone.

Drill pads will be cleared to an area of 25m x 25m (excluding sumps and rill/spill) with an additional fire break of 5m width around the drill pad. Where possible, drill sites will be cleared using a minimal impact approach of blade up in order to retain rootstock, topsoil, and seed to encourage regeneration. Where vegetation is thicker, a blade down approach may be necessary with the removal of topsoil minimised as much as possible. Any removed topsoil and cleared vegetation will be kept to be respread over the area during rehabilitation in order to aid vegetation growth.

Each drill site will have up to two (2) 16m x 1.5m x 16m sump (excluding rill/spill) constructed with a large back wall to contain outside return of spray. The sump size has been proposed on the basis of existing groundwater yield data collected from within a 50km radius of the project area, and assumes a maximum groundwater yield of 2.0L/sec. However, ground water yield greater than 2.0 L/sec may be encountered.

The maximum volume of sump material expected to be excavated at any one site is therefore 384m³. Sumps will be dug using an excavator with one side ramped, a rock breaker may be required in rocky areas. Topsoil generated from sumps will be kept around the sumps as a berm. Any removed topsoil and cleared vegetation will be kept and respread over the area during rehabilitation to aid in vegetation growth.

The drill pad will have a 5m wide fire-break track pushed around the perimeter of the drill pad where possible.

The four drill pads requiring cut and fill will be designed to minimise earthworks and avoid excessive disturbance. The pad will be constructed by stripping any topsoil and stockpiling this separately from subsoil, adjacent to the disturbance area for rehabilitation, to preserve the seedbank and biological function for rehabilitation. The subsoil will then be removed and stockpiled within the approved disturbance footprint, but will avoid drainage lines, erosion pathways and unnecessary vegetation disturbance. A rock breaker will then be used to loosen any consolidated rocks beneath the surface to a maximum cut depth of 1m for half the pad footprint (1645 m²) and filled on the other half of the pad footprint to achieve a balanced earthworks outcome and prevent unnecessary transport of material beyond the pad location. Earthworks will be designed to maintain stable drainage conditions and avoid concentrating runoff or creating erosion risk during operations. Following completion of drilling activities, stockpiled topsoil and subsoil will be reinstated in the correct sequence and the drill pads contoured to blend with the surrounding landform and facilitate revegetation.

Drillhole construction and decommissioning

Drillhole construction and decommissioning

General

- Wet reverse circulation (RC) drillholes will be constructed using a track/truck-mounted RC drill rig, with an onboard compressor (1300 CFM/500 PSI) and a stand alone compressor (1100 CFM/350 PSI) and booster (2500 CFM/1000 PSI) package
- Drilling will proceed using dual-wall 4.5 inch 6metre RC drill rods, with drill cuttings returned to surface through the inner tube and directed to a cyclone and splitter system.
- Drilling will be undertaken using a downhole hammer driven by compressed air, with water injection to assist dust control.

Collaring

- Holes will be collar-drilled using air driven hammer 170mm (drill bit) water and air (wet drilling) to suppress dust and stabilise near-surface formations.
- 150mm Class 12 PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) is inserted and seated at depth, the annular of the PVC will be grouted by an A and B foam and or Rapid-setting cement grout, this is dependant on the type and depth of cover present at the time of drilling.
- A T piece/diverter will be installed on top for the PVC to control excess outside return downhole cuttings and water.

Drilling

- Once collaring has been completed, the 170mm bit will be removed and a ~143mm drill bit will be added to the hammer. The drill string will then be traversed though the stuffing box, T piece/diverter and advanced to the bottom of hole to continue drilling operations.
- Chip Samples will be taken in 2m intervals using a static cone splitter.
- During drilling sample waste and outside return waste will be managed within a designated sump adjacent to the drill pad to prevent uncontrolled runoff and monitored by both the driller and onsite Geologist.
- No additives other than water and biodegradable drilling additives are required will be used to clean and stabilise the hole as required
- During drilling, high-pressure water and drill cuttings will return to surface via the outside return pipe at high velocity and be managed through a diverter into a purpose-built sump (Back wall)

Have the personnel responsible for implementing the proposed program read and understood the Earth Resources Information Sheet M21, Mineral exploration drillholes – general specifications for construction and backfilling?

Yes

Describe how drillholes will be constructed, including the casing material to be used, depth of casing, if the casing will be cemented, cementing intervals and the class of driller that will install the casing.

General

- Wet reverse circulation (RC) drillholes will be constructed using a track/truck-mounted RC drill rig, with an onboard compressor (1300 CFM/500 PSI) and a stand alone compressor (1100 CFM/350 PSI) and booster (2500 CFM/1000 PSI) package
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- During drilling, high-pressure water and drill cuttings will return to surface via the outside return pipe at high velocity and be managed through a diverter into a purpose-built sump (Back wall)

When describing drillhole decommissioning requirements, include the materials to be used, stratigraphic intervals where cement plugs will be placed, if the casing will be removed and when decommissioning will occur after drilling is completed.

End of hole

- Hole is Drilled to End-of-hole (EOH) Depth.
- A downhole gyro/gamma survey will be completed at the end of hole. A drill hole assessment is made by the geologist before the drill string is removed.
- There is a possibility that a downhole geophysics survey (gyro/gamma/magnetics) will be completed independently by a third-party contractor and logging truck, immediately following completion of drilling.

Drillhole decommissioning

Drillholes will be decommissioned in accordance with M21 Mineral exploration drillholes – General specifications for construction and backfilling.

At completion of drilling, the driller and geologist will review the drilling record and groundwater conditions encountered to determine the appropriate decommissioning method.

Dry drillholes

Drillholes that do not intersect groundwater will be completely backfilled using suitable clean fill and/or cement. Backfill will be placed so as to minimise settlement and provide a stable long-term landform.

Single unconfined aquifer

Where a drillhole intersects a single unconfined aquifer, the drillhole will be completely backfilled using suitable clean fill containing clay and/or cement in accordance with M21. The material and method used will be selected having regard to the conditions encountered in the drillhole and the need to restore, as far as practicable, the controlling geological and groundwater conditions that existed prior to drilling.

Confined, multiple or artesian aquifers

Where drilling encounters a confined aquifer, multiple aquifers, or artesian/pressurised groundwater conditions, the drillhole will be decommissioned using the applicable M21 cement-grouting and aquifer-isolation requirements.

For a single confined aquifer, cement grout will extend from the aquifer into the overlying confining bed in accordance with M21.

Where more than one aquifer is intersected, cement grout plugs will be installed to hydraulically isolate the aquifers in accordance with M21.

Where artesian or pressurised conditions are encountered, the drillhole will be grouted and sealed so that groundwater cannot flow to the surface or between aquifers, with the grout treatment designed having regard to the pressure conditions encountered.

PVC casing

PVC collar casing will be removed during decommissioning where it can be removed safely and practicably.

Where removal is unsafe or impracticable, including where casing is wedged, secured or cannot be extracted without creating additional safety or drillhole-stability risks, the casing may remain in situ. The drillhole will be backfilled and the retained casing will be cut below ground level and securely and permanently capped or plugged.

The surface will then be reinstated with native soil/topsoil and slightly mounded where appropriate to accommodate settlement and prevent ponding.

Rehabilitation outcome

Following decommissioning:

- the drillhole will be completely backfilled and physically stable;
- there will be no open-hole hazard to people, stock or fauna;
- the drillhole will not provide a pathway for surface contamination to groundwater;
- separate aquifers will not be hydraulically connected as a consequence of drilling;
- artesian or pressurised groundwater will not discharge to the surface or other aquifers; and
- the collar and surrounding surface will be rehabilitated to a safe, stable landform consistent with the surrounding ground.

File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
Drill hole decommissioning.png	0.16 Mb	23-04-2026 12:13:54	Download (MERS/EP-04085/Drillhole construction and decommissioning/Drill hole decommissioning_2026-04-23T02-43-54.537Z.png).

Costeans and bulk sample disposal pits

Will costeans/bulk sample disposal pits be required for the proposed program?

No

Tenement	Number of costeans/pits	Size of costean (length x width) (m2)	Average depth (m)	Volume excavated (m3)	Total Volume Excavated (m3)	Total area of disturbance
There are no records to display.						

Describe site preparation methods, vegetation clearance, and safety and maintenance requirements

N/A

Sample management

Describe the size of samples collected (including drilling samples and bulk sampling), collection methods, materials used when collecting the sample, sample disposal methods (including removal of sample bags), safety management and any other sample management requirements at the exploration site (e.g. tarps or matting used to contain cuttings). Include requirements for on-site geological sample management (splitting of archive samples, bag farms, core processing and storage).

Wet Reverse Circulation samples will be composited every 2m and split three-ways into two samples comprising 8% of the total weight (A-split, B-split), with the remaining 84% rejected. Piles of rejected RC chips will be stockpiled on the ground.

A subsample of chips will be taken from the 84% reject pile, washed and placed into chip trays for logging. The two 8% splits (A and B split) will be collected in calico bags and stored in larger, waterproof plastic bags at the laydown area on a pallet, prior to final despatch to a laboratory in Adelaide for chemical analysis and mineral recovery. The reject piles will be periodically wetted, as required, to minimize the generation of dust.

RC drill cuttings – including potentially fibrous material – will be placed in the sump at the end of the programme during rehabilitation.

Access routes to work areas

Will existing tracks require upgrading and/or maintenance?

Yes

Detail the work required to upgrade/maintain existing tracks.

All existing access tracks that will be used for the duration of the program will be graded to improve their condition prior to commencement of the project. Approval from all stakeholders will be sought prior to any grading/maintenance work of existing tracks.

Will access be required across adjoining tenements?

No

Detail the method(s) for gaining access, and if an agreement is in place with all stakeholders. Include the total area of disturbance required (i.e. length (km) and width (m) of tracks) and provide on a locality map.

—

Will access off existing tracks be required?

Yes

Detail the method(s) for gaining access and if vegetation clearance is required. Details of the total area of disturbance (includes drill traverses and seismic lines) required off existing tracks (i.e. length (km) and width (m) of new tracks) must be provided in the program notification.

Tracks to each site will be designated initially via a desktop study. Established access tracks will be used where possible, access off existing tracks will be required to reach drill pads but will be minimised and designed to avoid dense vegetation or mature trees. Tracks will be verified during a reconnaissance trip and undergo a cultural heritage survey. No access will be permitted off these approved access routes anywhere on the project area.

A request for ground disturbance will be placed in the Electronic Permitting System (EPS) which will notify internal stakeholders of the proposed activities. Internal SME's will review the request and approve once all internal and external obligations have been met. Landholder approval will be sought for any proposed new tracks. A cultural heritage survey will be completed for new tracks and for each of the drill pads. Once landholder approval has been received and the cultural heritage survey completed, tracks will be updated in our GIS system to reflect any changes from the desktop planned tracks. An SNS file will be generated which will guide the earthworks operator for areas requiring blade work along the approved track and will provide an audible signal if they approach the buffer.

Wherever possible, vehicles will be driven across the unprepared terrain, particularly in areas of low or sparse vegetation, gibber, or scree surfaces. Where there are no established tracks and it is intended to traverse the same ground more than once, the same wheel tracks will be used each time. This will retain rootstock, topsoil and seeds to encourage regeneration.

In areas of low vegetation cover which can't be circumnavigated, access tracks will be cleared using a minimal impact approach of blade up in order to retain rootstock, topsoil, and seed to encourage regeneration. Where vegetation is thicker, a blade down approach may be necessary with the removal of topsoil minimised as much as possible. Any removed topsoil and cleared vegetation will be kept and respread over the area during rehabilitation in order to aid vegetation growth.

The estimated length of proposed new track to be cleared is 10.5km at a width of approximately 5m. Actual track locations and distances will be determined following a field reconnaissance trip and cultural heritage survey.

Attach Files

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download	
Stony Hill Project Map_Drill Sites_Tracks.jpg	0.7 Mb	23-04-2026 12:14:26	Download (MERS/EP-04085/Access routes to work areas/Stony Hill Project Map_Drill Sites_Tracks_2026-04-23T02-44-27.041Z.jpg)	

Campsites and equipment laydown areas

Indicate where staff and contractors will be accommodated during the exploration program.

All staff and contractors will be accommodated at public accommodation facilities in Kimba (e.g., Kimba Roadhouse) or in private accommodation at Corunna Station, as first preference.

In the event that external accommodation is unavailable, a camp will be established on the project area over the same footprint location as proposed for the laydown area, however the cleared area will be increased to 70m x 70m.

Staff and contractors will be accommodated in either four (4) or three (3) berth sleeper caravans or tents.

What is the maximum number of personnel requiring accommodation?

12

Is a campsite required to be established?

Yes

Provide a description and justification of the camp location (e.g. previously cleared areas etc.), and any other relevant information.

The proposed camp location has been specifically selected on the basis of containing minimal vegetation and no mature trees. It is located adjacent to existing tracks, preventing the requirement for additional track construction to/from the campsite. The proposed camp location encompasses the same footprint as the laydown area. It occurs on a flat area that will not require excavation (cut/fill).

What will be the total area (ha) of the campsite(s)?

0.49

Will native vegetation clearance be required?

Yes

What will be the total area (ha) of vegetation clearance for the campsite?

0.49

Describe the methods used to prepare the campsite including vegetation requirements and site levelling.

The proposed camp area will be approved by the respective landholder and Traditional Owners. It's location has been planned such as to minimise vegetation removal, avoid larger trees and isolated vegetation, and any areas of importance to the local community.

Following receipt of approvals, the ground disturbance will be entered into our Electronic Permitting System (EPS) and an SNS file will be generated. The SNS file is a GPS system that provides the operator of heavy machinery with clear direction on permitted areas to clear and provides audible alarms if they approach a buffer zone.

The proposed camp area is located on an existing open area to remove the requirement for any clearing. Where clearing is necessary, a minimal impact approach of blade up in order to retain rootstock, topsoil, and seed to encourage regeneration. Where vegetation is thicker, a blade down approach may be necessary with the removal of topsoil minimised as much as possible. Any removed topsoil and cleared vegetation will be kept to be respread over the area during rehabilitation in order to aid vegetation growth.

Will any excavations be required?

Yes

Describe the purpose of the excavation

Greywater sump

Describe the maximum volume (m3) of material to be excavated.

24.00

Provide confirmation that the proposed ablution facilities have been endorsed for use by the Department of Health or local council, where applicable.

Yes

Indicate why endorsement approval is not required by the Department of Health or local council.

—

Proposed infrastructure (includes caravans, tents, offices, hydrocarbon and water storage requirements etc)

Proposed infrastructure	Quantity	Description / capacity
Accommodation Caravan	3	3 x 4 birth caravans
Ablutions Caravan	1	Toilet and shower van, toilets will either be incinolet type where there's no waste to remove or standard type that a vac truck will take care of waste removal.
Kitchen and Caravan office	1	1 Caravan utilized as a kitchen and office
Portable Water Storage Tank	1	7500 litre onion tank
Large Gazebo	3	4m x 3m gazebos
Generator	1	Up to 60kva
Bunded storage area	1	Canvas / plastic bunded hydrocarbon storage area. Enough to hold 110% of the largest vessel in the bunded area or 25% of total volume stored.

Will laydown areas be required?

Yes

Will the laydown area(s) be located at the same location as the campsite?

Yes

Provide a description and justification of the location (e.g. previously cleared areas), and any other relevant information if required.

Yes, the proposed laydown area will encompass the same footprint, but a smaller area, as the proposed camp location. The location will be discussed and approved by the landholder.

What will be the maximum area (ha) required for the laydown area(s)?

0.25

Will native vegetation clearance be required?

Yes

What will be the total area (ha) of vegetation clearance for the site?

0.25

Describe the methods used to prepare the laydown area including vegetation requirements and site levelling.

The proposed laydown area will be approved by the respective landholder and Traditional Owners. It's location has been planned such as to minimise vegetation removal, avoid larger trees and isolated vegetation, and any areas of importance to the local community.

Following receipt of approvals, the ground disturbance will be entered into our Electronic Permitting System (EPS) and an SNS file will be generated. The SNS file is a GPS system that provides the operator of heavy machinery with clear direction on permitted areas to clear and provides audible alarms if they approach a buffer zone.

The laydown area is located on an existing open area to remove the requirement for any clearing. Where clearing is necessary, a minimal impact approach of blade up in order to retain rootstock, topsoil, and seed to encourage regeneration. Where vegetation is thicker, a blade down approach may be necessary with the removal of topsoil minimised as much as possible. Any removed topsoil and cleared vegetation will be kept to be respread over the area during rehabilitation in order to aid vegetation growth.

Will any excavations be required?

No

Describe the purpose of the excavation.

—

What will be the volume (m3) of material to be excavated.

—

Proposed infrastructure (includes hydrocarbon and water storage requirements)

Proposed infrastructure	Quantity	Description / capacity
Hydrocarbon Storage Pallet	1	Hydrocarbon Storage Pallet
Drill pipe rack and pipe	1	Drill pipe rack and pipe
Bulk Diesel Trailer	1	Bulk Diesel Trailer
Bulk Water Tanks	3	Bulk Water Tanks
Support Truck	1	Support Truck
Prime Mover and Float	1	Prime Mover and Float
Transfer pumps	2	Transfer pumps
Drilling fluids 25lt drums	10	Drilling fluids 25lt drums
Hydraulic, engine, compressor oil- 25 lt drums – coolant 25 lt drum	10	Hydraulic, engine, compressor oil- 25 lt drums – coolant 25 lt drum
Drill consumable container	1	Drill consumable container

Attach Files

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
No Files Uploaded			

Other exploration methods and/or ancillary operations

Are any other proposed exploration methods (e.g. seismic) and/or ancillary exploration operations required?

No

Describe the activity(s), site preparation, vegetation clearance, and safety and maintenance requirements.

Water supply and management

Will camp and/or drilling water be required?

Yes

Describe how and where water will be sourced for drilling, track maintenance and camping purposes (e.g. groundwater, surface water, mains). Indicate how wastewater and/or runoff water will be managed.

Water for drilling and dust suppression (approximately 10,000L per day) will be sourced from mains-supplied open-air water tanks located on Gilles Down Station and Cooyerdoo Station, pending final approval by the landholder and permission from SA Water. Failing this, main-supplied water will be trucked in from either Kimba or Iron Knob. The water will be transferred into a water truck via submersible pump with amount drawn, recorded via a water meter. The total volume drawn will be communicated to the landholder each day to ensure daily allowances, allocated to the landholder, are not exceeded. The water truck will transport the water to the drill site via a combination of existing and new access tracks. Water will be supplied for RC drilling either directly from the water truck or from a secondary tank – with a minimum capacity of 1,000L – on site.

Waste water produced during RC drilling will be stored in the unlined sumps and allowed to fully evaporate prior to final rehabilitation of the drill pad and site.

Will surface water and/or mineral drillholes be used as a water source/supply?

No

Indicate if a licence for water extraction/usage is required (refer to relevant Natural Resources Management water allocation plan available on the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) website.

No

Attach a copy of the licence or include a statement confirming that a licence will be obtained before the extraction and/or usage of water.

N/A

Groundwater investigation and water affecting activities

Will any water investigation (e.g. pump testing, water monitoring sites, water storage, turkey nests/dams) and/or water affecting activities, be undertaken (refer to s. 127 of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019)?

No

Describe the water investigation and/or water affecting activities, including site preparation, vegetation clearance, and safety and maintenance requirements.

—

Indicate if water affecting activities permits (eg well and water extraction/discharge permits) have been obtained and in accordance with the Landscape South Australia Act 2019.

No

Attached Files ⓘ

Expand/Collapse

File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
Fibrous Minerals Management Plan_RTX AAR_Australia Greenfields.pdf	0.39 Mb	07-07-2026 10:06:51	Download (MERS/EP-04085/Groundwater investigation/Fibrous Minerals Management Plan_RTX AAR_Australia Greenfields 2026-07-07T00-36-52.717Z.pdf)

Management of hazardous materials

Will activities be conducted in areas of known uranium and thorium mineralisation?

No

Attach Files ⓘ

[Expand/Collapse](#)

File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
No Files Uploaded			

Will any other hazardous material be encountered when exploring in the area?

Yes

List the types of hazardous materials and provide a management plan on how these materials will be managed.

Potentially Fibrous Material in the form of asbestiform minerals from amphibole-rich basement rocks may be encountered during the drill program. The drilling and sampling of potentially fibrous material is managed internally with the Fibrous Minerals Management Plan (FMMP) which assesses the risk of exposure to potentially fibrous material during drilling and sampling activities and identifies key controls.

As part of the FMP, all drilling and sample storage areas will be treated as Potentially Fibrous Areas with the following controls adopted:

- ensuring all project personnel, including drilling contractors, have completed Fibrous Mineral Awareness training.
- adoption of a wet RC drilling method to reduce dust during drilling activities.
- monitoring for the presence of asbestiform fibres during drilling activities by trained and competent person.
- communication to all personnel on site following positive identification of fibrous material during drilling activities, including communication of Change in Management procedure.
- physical demarcation of drilling and sample storage areas as 'Potentially Fibrous' by barricading and signage.
- dust suppression protocols including the periodic wetting of any cuttings stored in open-air at the drill site with binding agent (PVA glue).
- appropriate storage of drill samples and cuttings in airtight (plastic) sample storage bags.
- demarcation of all sample bags as 'Potentially Fibrous Material'.
- PPE requirements including implementation of respiratory protection (P2 masks) during drilling and sampling activities.
- protocols on the cleaning of clothing and footwear contaminated with Potentially Fibrous Material.
- clean clothing and footwear requirements prior to departing from the drilling area including entry into vehicles.

Rehabilitation

Detail all the activities and strategies relating to the remediation of all impacts associated with the proposed exploration operations (includes exploration camps and laydown areas, tracks). Completion of rehabilitation must be achieved within 3 months after the expiry of each program notification.

Drill Sites:

Rehabilitation of drill sites and access tracks will be conducted using a backhoe or similar equipment.

All materials and rubbish will be removed from the site.

The landform will be returned as close as possible to its original form and topsoil that has been separated during the land disturbance will be returned to aid vegetation growth; the topsoil will be spread evenly across the area.

Cleared vegetation will be returned to its original location and spread over the area. This will reduce erosion, provide fauna habitat, aid in capturing seed stock, and provide protection for young seedlings.

The land will be scoured to reduce erosion and to loosen areas which have become compacted.

Sumps will be backfilled using the material removed during ground disturbance.

Drill Holes:

- Hole is Drilled to End-of-hole (EOH) Depth.
- A downhole gyro/gamma survey will be completed at the end of hole. A drill hole assessment is made by the geologist before the drill string is removed.
- There is a possibility that a downhole geophysics survey (gyro/gamma/magnetics) will be completed independently by a third party contractor and logging truck, immediately following completion of drilling.

For drillholes that do not penetrate an aquifer or have intersected an unconfined aquifer:-

- The surface casing will be cut 30-40 cm's below ground.
- The drill hole will be plugged with a plastic plug 30cm below surface.
- The top 0.3m of fill will consist of native soil and a soil mound will be left over the hole's position to allow for any subsidence.
- A post drill pad inspection will take place after the rig has vacated the hole, in preparation of pad rehabilitation.

For drillholes that have intersected a confined aquifer:-

- Hole is Drilled to End-of-hole (EOH) Depth.
- A downhole gyro/gamma survey will be completed at the end of hole. A drill hole assessment is made by the geologist before the drill string is removed.
- The hole will then be pressure cemented from the bottom up in 100m sections. 1.5Sg cement pumped through the rod string, pull back 100m's then mix another batch of 1.5sg cement.
- Once the open hole is cemented below the casing, the Rod string will be pulled out and swapped over to casing.

If casing is free.

- Circulate and make sure hole is free of obstructions and begin cementing the hole in 100m sections again until all casing is removed out of the hole.

In the Case of Casing being stuck,

- Casing cuts will take place to free the casing, any casing left in the hole we will make extra cuts in the steel to allow cement to penetrate around the steel. Top up of hole will take place before the rig is removed.
- The top 0.3m of fill will consist of native soil and a soil mound will be left over the hole's position to allow for any subsidence.
- A post drill pad inspection will take place after the rig has vacated the hole, in preparation of pad rehabilitation.

Access Tracks:

- Spread all removed material back onto the track by pushing in any cleared material and re-spreading vegetation.

Spread cleared vegetation back out over the track. This will reduce erosion, provide fauna habitat, aid in capturing seed stock and provide protection for young seedlings.

- Some ripping may be required for compacted areas of heavily used tracks, or if the track is badly rutted.
- If ripping is required, rip lines will be spaced equal to the ripping depth, ripped along the contour, and reduce ripping depth to avoid lifting underlying rock.
- Entrances to tracks will be disguised to discourage third-party use.
- Signage may be used to discourage third-party use i.e., rehabilitated track do not use.

State the estimated budget required to rehabilitate all impacted sitesState the estimated budget required to rehabilitate all impacted sites. Include a breakdown of the cost associated with each rehabilitation component

37K

Vegetation Clearance

Will any area of cleared native vegetation be unrehabilitated after the authorised period?

No

Provide a map and description of the vegetation present in the application area, the extent of any proposed vegetation clearance and the likelihood of the presence of threatened flora.

State the estimated quantum of significant environmental benefit (SEB) to be gained in exchange for the proposed native vegetation clearance and describe how the SEB will be provided.

Tenement Name ↑	Tenement Holder	Tenement Operators	Grant Date	Expiry Date	Tenement Type	Location Description	Tenement Area	Tenement Status	Shape Identifier
EL 6729	Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited		26/04/2022	25/04/2028	Exploration Licence	Cooyerdoo area approximately 5km west of Whyalla	752.00	Active	10013299-0000
EL 6730	Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited		26/04/2022	25/04/2028	Exploration Licence	Gilles Downs area approximately 25km northeast of Kimba	949.00	Active	10013300-0000

Management of Environmental Impacts

Applicable environmental aspects and potential impacts

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Aboriginal heritage	Aboriginal heritage sites	Disturbance to Aboriginal heritage	- Project planning to incorporate/monitor medium- to long-term obligations. - Cultural heritage surveys and approvals completed prior to site works with relevant traditional owners. - Avoidance of identified areas. - RTX Electronic Permitting System and SNS (GPS system for earthworks team) for all ground clearance. - Experienced supervisor for ground disturbance including earthworks induction.	Low	No disturbance to Aboriginal artefacts or sites of significance unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained.	Maintain a database and provide a statement within the 'Compliance with approved programs' section of the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that: - Heritage sites were not impacted during the conduct of the exploration program, unless prior approval was obtained under the appropriate legislation - Work ceased on discovery of a significant site and recommenced only after authorisation. - Aboriginal heritage sites identified during the exploration program were appropriately recorded and reported to authorities, if not previously known.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Other (Hazardous Materials)	General public, employees, contractors and the environment	Potentially Fibrous Material in the form of asbestiform minerals from amphibole-rich basement rocks may be encountered during the drill program.	The drilling and sampling of potentially fibrous material is managed internally with the Fibrous Minerals Management Plan (FMMP) which assesses the risk of exposure to potentially fibrous material during drilling and sampling activities and identifies key controls. As part of the FMP, all drilling and sample storage areas will be treated as Potentially Fibrous Areas with the following controls adopted: • ensuring all project personnel, including drilling contractors, have completed Fibrous Mineral Awareness training. • adoption of a wet RC drilling method to reduce dust during drilling activities. • monitoring for the presence of asbestiform fibres during drilling activities by trained and competent person. • communication to all personnel on site following positive identification of fibrous material during drilling activities, including communication of Change in Management procedure. • physical demarcation of drilling and sample		Ensure no asbestiform fibres are released into the atmosphere or surrounding environment beyond the demarcated work zones to protect public health and prevent soil contamination.	Verification that all personnel have completed mandatory awareness training. Monitoring by a competent person shows zero detection of airborne fibres at the site boundary. Compliance is further measured by the documented use of wet drilling methods, the application of binding agents to cuttings, and the confirmation that all samples are stored in sealed, airtight, and correctly labelled bags. Additionally, site records must show that all physical barricades remain in place and that decontamination protocols for clothing and vehicles are strictly followed with zero recorded breaches.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			storage areas as 'Potentially Fibrous' by barricading and signage. • dust suppression protocols including the periodic wetting of any cuttings stored in open-air at the drill site with binding agent (PVA glue). • appropriate storage of drill samples and cuttings in airtight (plastic) sample storage bags. • demarcation of all sample bags as 'Potentially Fibrous Material'. • PPE requirements including implementation of respiratory protection (P2 masks) during drilling and sampling activities. • protocols on the cleaning of clothing and footwear contaminated with Potentially Fibrous Material. • clean clothing and footwear requirements prior to departing from the drilling area including entry into vehicles.			

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Fire	Community/landowners	Damage to infrastructure and loss of income through fire.	- Project site inductions addressing fire management. - No smoking on site unless in an approved area. - No disposal of butts except in approved site butt containers. - No open fires on drilling site(s). - Hot works permit and procedures. - Hot work includes "grinding, welding, thermal or oxygen cutting or heating and other related heat-producing or spark-producing operations. - Key Features are: - Prevent harm or injury to people, equipment or the environment - Identify any possible flammable or combustible materials in the area, including rubbish, paper or dust that could be potential fuel sources or produce dust explosions - Ensure it is not in a confined space - Remove any flammable or combustible material found, or otherwise provide non-flammable covers or screens to control sparks and flash - Ensure gas cylinders are not damaged and fitted with flashback arresters. - When not in use ensure valves are closed and cylinders are secured and stored	Low	No loss of infrastructure or income through fire as a result of exploration activities.	Provide a statement within the 'Compliance with approved programs' section of the annual exploration compliance report confirming that no uncontrolled fires* occurred. Alternatively, provide a report on the independent investigation of all uncontrolled fires* demonstrating that the licensee could not have reasonably prevented the fire through the implementation of precautionary measures.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			in an upright position · Utilise a fire watch person to monitor the hot work environment · Isolate and secure the area to prevent unauthorised access and erect appropriate signage · Conduct a post-work check for smouldering material before leaving the area · Limit personnel and vehicle traffic in the area · Fire extinguishers are available at work sites and in vehicles.			

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Weeds and Pathogens	All flora and fauna, especially listed species.	Loss/modification of the environment (biological, social and economic) through the introduction of weeds and pathogens.	- Compliance with PEPR conditions and all other regulatory requirements - RTX Ground disturbance Procedures - Compliance with RTX clearing permits - RTX weed management procedures, vehicle weed & seed inspections prior to site mobilisation and at the completion of the program. - Key features RTX weed management procedure: The following general controls to prevent the spread of weeds should be followed at all times when working in the field: - avoid undertaking work in wet conditions (as potential for mud to transport weeds is high); - avoid leaving designated tracks. - minimise ground disturbance to the minimum required for safe operation; and - imported fill material is required to be sourced from certified pest/disease free site. - The most effective way of preventing the introduction and spread of weeds into an area is to ensure that all vehicles and mobile equipment (especially earthmoving equipment),	Low	No introduction of new species of weeds and plant pathogens, nor increase in abundance of existing weeds species.	Provide a statement within the 'Compliance with approved programs' section of the annual exploration compliance report, confirming that: - Vehicle logs were kept during the exploration program, demonstrating that all vehicles are clean and free of plant and mud material prior to entering properties† within the tenement areas, unless otherwise agreed to with the relevant landowners. - Photographic evidence before and during exploration operations and after rehabilitation of disturbed sites was captured, demonstrating that no new weeds and plant pathogens were introduced, nor an increase in abundance of existing weeds recorded.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			regardless of size or design, is free of all vegetative and soil matter prior to arrival.			
Fauna	All fauna	Entrapment of fauna through open drillholes and excavations.	- Effective guarding and rig supervision. - Barricading/Fencing of excavations/drill sumps. - Rehabilitation as soon as practical post-drilling with the use of temporary plugs at the completion of the drillhole. - Drill-hole closure/capping at completion. - Provision for fauna access and egress in drill sump design.	No fauna traps created as a result of exploration activities.	Maintain before, during and after photographic evidence of all drillholes and/or excavations demonstrating that: - All drillholes were permanently or temporarily capped/plugged immediately upon completion. - No fauna and livestock became trapped in drillholes and/or excavations throughout the duration of the program. - All rehabilitation was completed within 3 months of expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. Representative photos are to be included within the annual exploration compliance report. Provide the information requested within the 'Rehabilitation' section of the annual exploration compliance report.	

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Soil	Soil	Disturbance to the soil profile and topography, and accelerated soil erosion caused by exploration activities (e.g. construction of sumps, new tracks and drill pads; ground compaction at laydown areas and camps).	· Route planning of access tracks to avoid high potential erosion zones. · RTX ground disturbance procedures. · Stock piling topsoil, adequate rehabilitation of drill pad/lay-down areas with restoration of topsoil and vegetation as required. · Follow-up monitoring of sites 12 months post-disturbance. · Topsoil (top 10 – 20cm) is the layer of the soil profile richest in seeds, nutrients and micro-organisms, therefore it is critical that it is managed and handled correctly in order to achieve successful rehabilitation after the drilling program is complete. · Stockpile topsoil and cleared vegetation adjacent to the area it has been stripped from, for use in later rehabilitation. · Handling of topsoil should be kept to a minimum, therefore planning where it will be located is important. Topsoil should not be used as a berm or bund, and it should be located such as to avoid erosion or saturation. · Vehicle speeds will be 40km/hr on established station tracks and will be	Where soil disturbance occurs as a result of exploration activities, ensure that: • topsoil quality and quantity is maintained • the soil profile and topography is reinstated to original conditions • there is no accelerated soil erosion.	Maintain before, during and after photographic evidence of all excavations, drillsites, camps, laydown areas and new tracks demonstrating that: • The soil profile and topography is reinstated to original conditions and is consistent with natural surroundings within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. • Where required, sufficient topsoil is removed (depending on soil profile), stored separately from subsoil and reinstated (in the correct order) within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. • There are no signs of accelerated soil erosion during and post rehabilitation of disturbed sites. Representative photos to be included within the annual exploration compliance report. Provide the information requested within the 'Rehabilitation' section of the annual exploration compliance report.	

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			set lower to suit local conditions on all other access tracks. · Tight corners will be avoided to minimize rutting in corners. · Access points to rehabilitated tracks will be blocked with fallen vegetation · Movement in and around drill pads will be kept to a minimum with vehicles to remain stationary after set up unless absolutely necessary. · Sumps will be allowed to dry prior to backfilling and a mound of excess topsoil laid over the excavation to allow for subsidence and compaction. Drill pads will have demarcation using high-visibility pegs or pickets at each corner before any machinery arrives Upload authorized PEPR spatial boundaries directly into the GPS guidance systems of bulldozers, graders, and excavators. Configure machine guidance software to trigger an audible or visual alarm if the blade or bucket approaches the authorized boundary.			
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	Low	N/A	N/A

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Stakeholders	Stakeholders	Interference to: • existing or permissible land use (includes loss of income, noise, dust, light and other emissions). • buildings, structures, existing tracks or other infrastructure. • aesthetic values of an area. Noncompliance with legislative requirements.	• Effective project research including stakeholder mapping. • Stakeholder engagement, including prior notification and establishment of strong relationships. • Maintain project - functional communication during execution. • Effective project planning and pre-engagement. • Single point of contact for permit related matters. • Obligations managed in Landfolio with locally established workflows and a backup failsafe - obligations summary sheet. • Landholder Communication register.	Low	Stakeholders are fully informed and satisfied with the proposed methods used to conduct exploration activities on their land, and all prescribed forms are served and agreement is obtained in accordance with the Mining Act.	Provide the information requested within the 'Complaints' section of the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that all reasonable complaints from stakeholders are resolved to the satisfaction of both parties prior to and ongoing during the course of exploration program, without the involvement of DEM. Provide the information requested within the 'Landowner details and liaison' section of the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that prescribed forms were served and agreements obtained in accordance with the Mining Act prior to the commencement of exploration activities.
Third party access	Soil/vegetation/farina	Degradation of rehabilitated access tracks caused by third party access (includes previously closed and rehabilitated access tracks).	• Restricted access to work zones, signage, and closure of access tracks upon completion.	Low	Rehabilitated access tracks remain permanently closed, unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained.	Maintain before and after photographic evidence demonstrating that all tracks are closed and rehabilitated within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. Representative photos are to be included within the annual exploration compliance report. Provide the information requested within the 'Rehabilitation' section of the annual exploration compliance report.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
General Public	General Public	Injury or death to members of the public as a result of exploration activities.	· Compliance to NORM radiation management plan. · All NORM drill cuttings to be placed in sump and covered with at least 1m of compacted clean soil.	Low	No accidents involving the public that could have been reasonably prevented by the licensee.	Provide a statement within the 'Compliance with approved programs' section of the annual exploration compliance report confirming no accidents occurred involving the public during and after the exploration program. If an accident involving the public did occur, provide a copy of the independent investigation report within the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that the licensee could not have reasonably prevented the accident through the implementation of precautionary measures.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Contamination	Soil/vegetation/farina	Soil/vegetation contamination (e.g. hydrocarbons, rubbish, drill samples/cuttings, ablutions, other sources)	Implementation of a Project Waste Management Plan. Key Features of the RTX Waste Management Plan: • Ensure environmentally sound and effective management of all wastes generated or handled on-site. • Minimise the liabilities and environmental impacts of waste management and prevent contamination of surface water, groundwater and soil. • All work areas are equipped with adequate waste disposal and recycling bins, and appropriate containers for the collection and containment of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes. • Waste storage areas constructed to prevent spills, prevent the leaching of waste and water into the ground and prevent contaminated stormwater runoff. • Waste streams shall be segregated to ensure wastes are recycled and disposed of correctly. • Hazardous Wastes (including hydrocarbons, hydrocarbon waste/wastewater, sewage, medicate waste and contaminated soil	Low	No contamination of soil and vegetation as a result of exploration activities.	Demonstrate that all domestic or industrial waste (includes general rubbish and hydrocarbons) is disposed of in accordance with the Environment Protection Act 1993 within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), and that all fuel and chemicals are stored in accordance with EPA requirements, by providing: • The name, location and contact details of the authorised waste disposal facility. • A statement within the 'Compliance with approved programs' section of the annual exploration compliance report confirming domestic and industrial waste was removed from all exploration sites and disposed of at an authorised waste disposal facility. • Photographic evidence within the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that all fuel and chemical storage facilities were managed in accordance with EPA requirements. Maintain photographs of all exploration sites and provide representative photos within the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that drill cuttings are: • removed from site and disposed of at a licensed facility • buried under a minimum of 30 cm of soil, or in accordance with EPA guideline, Radiation protection guidelines on mining in South Australia: mineral exploration, available on the EPA website, or • backfilled down the drillhole, within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. Provide the information requested within

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			etc.) must be transported via a licenced carrier in containers fit for purpose. · All waste receptacles clearly labelled and accessible in the workplace at all times. · Food wastes stored in a secure, lidded waste storage receptacle to prevent access to waste by native animals and introduced fauna species. · Site inspections. · Landholder rehabilitation approval. Site rehabilitation monitoring. · Provision of Spill kits on site at laydown area and drill site. · Use of biodegradable drilling muds. · Portable toilets with waste removed from site and disposed of by authorised serviced providers or incinerator toilets. · Any drill cuttings to be placed in sump at end of hole and rehabilitated under at least 30cm of soil unless identified as NORM, which will be placed in sump and covered with at least 1m of compacted clean soil. · Rehabilitation report. · Radiation Management Plan. · Bunding mat will be utilised for small equipment such as small generators			the 'Rehabilitation' section of the annual exploration compliance report.

and pumps. ·
 Bunding capacity will comply to the following: Bunding capacity must be able to take 110% of the largest tank/container or 25% of the total of all liquids stored – Whichever is greatest The following is the work instruction that will be in place: · Identify the spilt product if possible. · Respondent enters the spill area. · Control the spill at the source (i.e., Turn off leaking valve, stand up overturned drum, isolate burst hydraulic hose etc). · Contain the extent of the spill by using absorbent material/socks around the perimeter of the spill. · Prevent spilt product entering drains and waterways. If material enters drains or creek lines, then these should be dammed or have booms placed in them to minimise the spread of contaminant. · Clean up spill. Once contained, spillage may be soaked up using absorbent materials, including dirt, shovel contaminated dirt into spill bags, or via use of a sucker truck where required. · Soiled Kitty litter and

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			absorbent material should be placed into designated bags in bins. Contaminated soil should be removed and stored in a designated area. · Spills need to be reported immediately, in an incident report form with assigned corrective/preventive actions. · All contaminated material will be disposed at the nearest licensed and approved facility.			
Groundwater users	Groundwater users	Interference to existing water users when extracting water from existing dams, water bores or mineral drillholes.	· Consultation and engagement with landholder prior to and during project activity – land access agreement includes use of landholder water bore. · Use existing water sources following approval from owner or alternatively water sourced from nearest town. · Apply for own water permit if required.	Low	No public nuisance impacts resulting from the extraction of water for exploration purposes, unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained.	Provide the information requested within the 'Complaints' section of the annual exploration compliance report demonstrating that all reasonable complaints from stakeholders were resolved to the satisfaction of both parties, prior to and ongoing during the course of the exploration program without the involvement of DEM. Where permits are required for the extraction and/or usage of groundwater, provide copies of the licence or permit within the annual exploration compliance report.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Groundwater	Soil/vegetation/farina	Discharge of groundwater into the surrounding environment.	· Construction of sumps with large back wall to contain outside return of spray. · Construction of large sumps (25m x 10m x 1.4m; or two (2) sumps 25m x 5m x 1.4m; or 16m x 16m x 1.4m) to contain drilling fluids/muds from wet RC drilling and anticipated groundwater. · If groundwater can not be contained, drilling to stop. · Use of water truck to maintain sump water levels. · Hydrocarbon management. · Spill response and spill kit.	Low	No discharge of groundwater outside of the exploration site (e.g. drillsite) into the surrounding environment and no discharge of water into a watercourse, unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained.	Maintain photographic evidence of all drillsites demonstrating that groundwater was not discharged into the surrounding environment, unless water affecting activity permits were obtained allowing the discharge of groundwater into watercourses and/or lakes. Representative photos and water affecting activity permits (where applicable) to be included within the annual exploration compliance report.

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Groundwater	Groundwater/aquifer	Groundwater contamination: • contamination of aquifers through entry of pollutants from the surface • interconnection between aquifers • degradation of natural hydrostatic conditions (maintain pre-drilling pressures).	• Use of approved biodegradable drilling fluids/additives only. • Hydrocarbon management. • Hydrocarbon management refers to the storage of, and prevention/minimising hydrocarbon spills. • All hydrocarbons will be stored within bunds, for minor hydrocarbons, stored on pallet bunds. • Spill kits will be on hand at the drill rig should a hydrocarbon spill occur. The drill rig will have a large spill mat placed beneath them. Any contaminated soil will be bagged and transported to the nearest remediation facility or approved landfill. • Sealing of top of hole on completion to prevent surface water entering drillhole. For drillholes that do not penetrate an aquifer or have intersected an unconfined aquifer:- • The surface casing will be cut 30-40 cm's below ground. • The drill hole will be plugged with a plastic plug 30cm below surface. • The top 0.3m of fill will consist of native soil and a soil mound will be left over the hole's position to allow for any subsidence. •	Low	Drillholes restored to controlling geological conditions that existed before the hole was drilled or, where it is intended to re-enter the hole, the hole must be completed with casing of adequate strength and the casing cemented so that all aquifers are isolated to prevent the movement of any fluids behind the casing.	Maintain evidence demonstrating that drillholes are decommissioned in accordance with Earth Resources Information Sheet M21, Mineral exploration drillholes – general specifications for construction and backfilling, and/or specific conditions from DEW (Groundwater) within 3 months of the expiry of the PEPR approval (for PEPRs approved for a period of 12 months), or 3 months after the expiry of a program notification (for PEPRs approved for an ongoing period), unless otherwise authorised. Provide the information requested within the 'Groundwater' section of the annual exploration compliance report.

A post drill pad inspection will take place after the rig has vacated the hole, in preparation of pad rehabilitation. For drillholes that have intersected a confined aquifer:-

- Hole is Drilled to End-of-hole (EOH) Depth.
- A downhole gyro/gamma survey will be completed at the end of hole. A drill hole assessment is made by the geologist before the drill string is removed.
- The hole will then be pressure cemented from the bottom up in 100m sections.
- 1.5Sg cement pumped through the rod string, pull back 100m's then mix another batch of 1.5sg cement.
- Once the open hole is cemented below the casing, the Rod string will be pulled out and swapped over to casing. If casing is free.
- Circulate and make sure hole is free of obstructions and begin cementing the hole in 100m sections again until all casing is removed out of the hole.
- In the Case of Casing being stuck,
- Casing cuts will take place to free the casing, any casing left in the hole we will make extra cuts in the steel to allow cement to

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			penetrate around the steel. Top up of hole will take place before the rig is removed. · The top 0.3m of fill will consist of native soil and a soil mound will be left over the hole's position to allow for any subsidence. · A post drill pad inspection will take place after the rig has vacated the hole, in preparation of pad rehabilitation.			

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
Native Vegetation	Flora and fauna and their habitats; includes Common wealth and state scheduled species.	Loss/modification of native vegetation and associated habitats through the clearance of vegetation.	- Effective pre-planning - Environmental desktop assessment and report for threatened species. - Compliance with PEPR and established controls. - RTX Ground disturbance Procedures - Low disturbance procedures including blade-up access where possible or alternatively blade-down clearance avoiding large trees; - In order to provide a reference to site pre-disturbance conditions, photographs should be taken of every drill site prior to ground disturbance and details including aspect, easting and northing, date and time must be recorded. This information should be stored in the appropriate folders for tracking disturbance and rehabilitation in each region. - All clearing is to be conducted in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Native Vegetation Regulations 2017, being: (1) Avoidance where possible (2) if clearing cannot be avoided, minimisation of the duration and	Low	No permanent loss/modification of native flora and fauna populations and their habitats through: - clearance - fire - other unless prior approval under the relevant legislation is obtained.	Maintain before, during and after photographic evidence of all exploration sites (e.g. drillsites, new track exit/entry points off existing tracks, costeans, campsites) demonstrating that: - The area and method of disturbance is consistent with that described in the PEPR. - No uncontrolled fires* occurred as a result of exploration activities. - Representative photos to be included within the annual exploration compliance report.

intensity of the impact (3) if clearing has occurred rehabilitating the site as soon as practicable. · Where it is not possible to use existing tracks and clearing of tracks is necessary, the machine blade should be left above ground level (i.e., blade-up clearing) to minimise soil disturbance, leaving the root stock and topsoil intact. However, this is only effective where it will not create additional hazards, such as leaving rocks or stumps in the track. · Where practical, pushing over trees may be a more suitable alternative to cutting, though should be used as a last resort. Fallen logs, with roots intact, on roadsides can often assist in revegetation as they may re-sprout. · No heavy vehicle movement outside of approved tracks; No wet weather activity unless emergency. · Earthworks supervision by approved experienced personnel. · Rehabilitation of work areas and follow-up inspections/monitoring. · No open fires. · Verify

Environmental Aspect	Receptor	Potential Impact	Control Strategies	Risk	Outcomes	Outcome Measurement Criteria
			SARIG bushfire risk areas. · Utilisation of fire management maps.			

Supporting Information

Photos

Upload Photos ⓘ

				Expand/Collapse
File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download	
Photo 2_Existing Station Access Track on Giles Downs Station.jpg	0.04 Mb	23-04-2026 12:24:27	Download (MERS/EP-04085/Supporting information/Photos/Photo 2_Existing Station Access Track on Giles Downs Station_2026-04-23T02-54-27.553Z.jpg)	

File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
Photo 3_EL6729_2b.jpg	0.05 Mb	23-04-2026 12:26:43	Download (MERS/EP-04085/Supporting information/Photos/Photo 3_EL6729_2b_2026-04-23T02-56-43.301Z.jpg)
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Photo1_Existing Station Access Track on Giles Downs Station.jpg	0.04 Mb	23-04-2026 12:22:47	Download (MERS/EP-04085/Supporting information/Photos/Photo1_Existing Station Access Track on Giles Downs Station_2026-04-23T02-52-48.273Z.jpg)

Site identification	Date taken	Photo number & PEPR section reference	Easting (GDA94)	Northing (DGA94)	Zone	Details and comments	Document ID
Existing Station Access Track on Gilles Downs Station	30/11/2025	Photo 1	678689	6348114	53	Station road on Gilles Downs Station showing significant erosion on old track.	
Existing Station Access Track on Gilles Downs Station	30/11/2025	Phot 1	678689	6348114	53	Station road on Gilles Downs Station showing significant erosion on old track.	
Existing Station Access Track on Gilles Downs Station	30/11/2025	Photo 2	681607	6350877	53	Existing access track on Gilles Downs Station, most likely a pre-existing old drill access track.	
EL6729_10	01/12/2025	Photo 4	682405	6347406	53	Example of typical vegetation and ground cover on the Stony Hill project area.	

Supporting Maps

Upload Maps ⓘ

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File Name	File Size (Mb)	Created On	Download
Aquatic GDE Map.jpg	0.89 Mb	23-04-2026 12:42:26	Download (MERS/EP-04085/Supporting information/Maps/Aquatic GDE Map_2026-04-23T03-12-27.119Z.jpg)

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Stony Hill Aquatic GDE.jpg	0.89 Mb	23-04-2026 12:42:26	Download (MERS/EP-04085/Supporting information/Maps/Stony Hill Aquatic GDE_2026-04-23T03-12-26.974Z.jpg)
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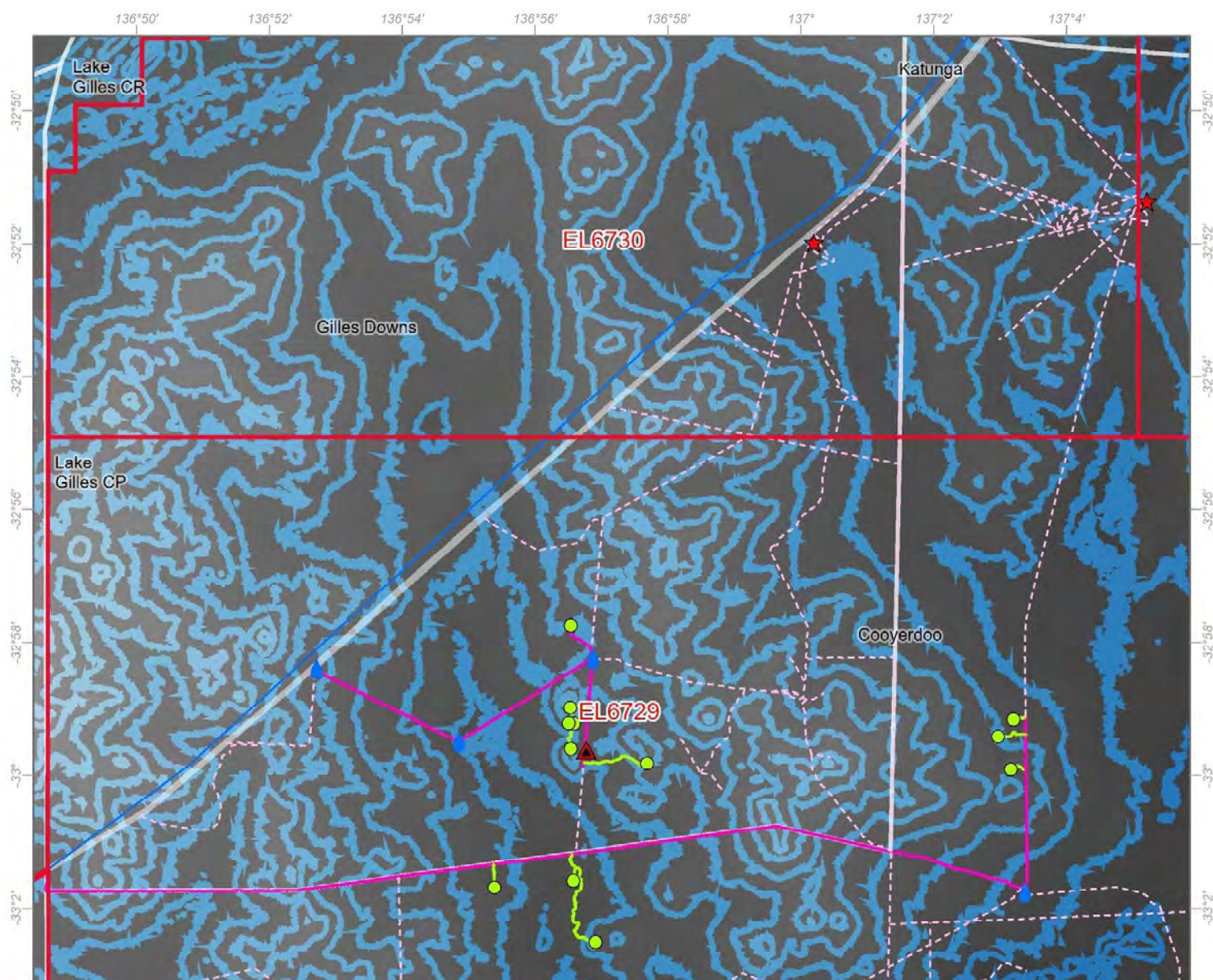
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Figure Description	Document ID
Aquatic Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Map	
Stony Hill Project Detailed Map	
Stony Hill Detailed Map 2	
Stony Hill Project Landholder Map	

Additional Information

List any other supporting information and/or documents submitted with the application, including land access approvals/permits required to conduct the proposed exploration program.

We are currently negotiating a Land Access Agreement with Cooyerdoo Pastoral Station and in the final stages of negotiation.



0 1.5 3 4.5 6 7.5 15 Kilometres

Legend

- 100% RTX
- Points of Interest
 - Bore
 - ▲ Laydown
 - ★ Homestead
- Drill Sites
 - Drill Sites
- Tracks
 - Existing
 - Proposed
 - Historic

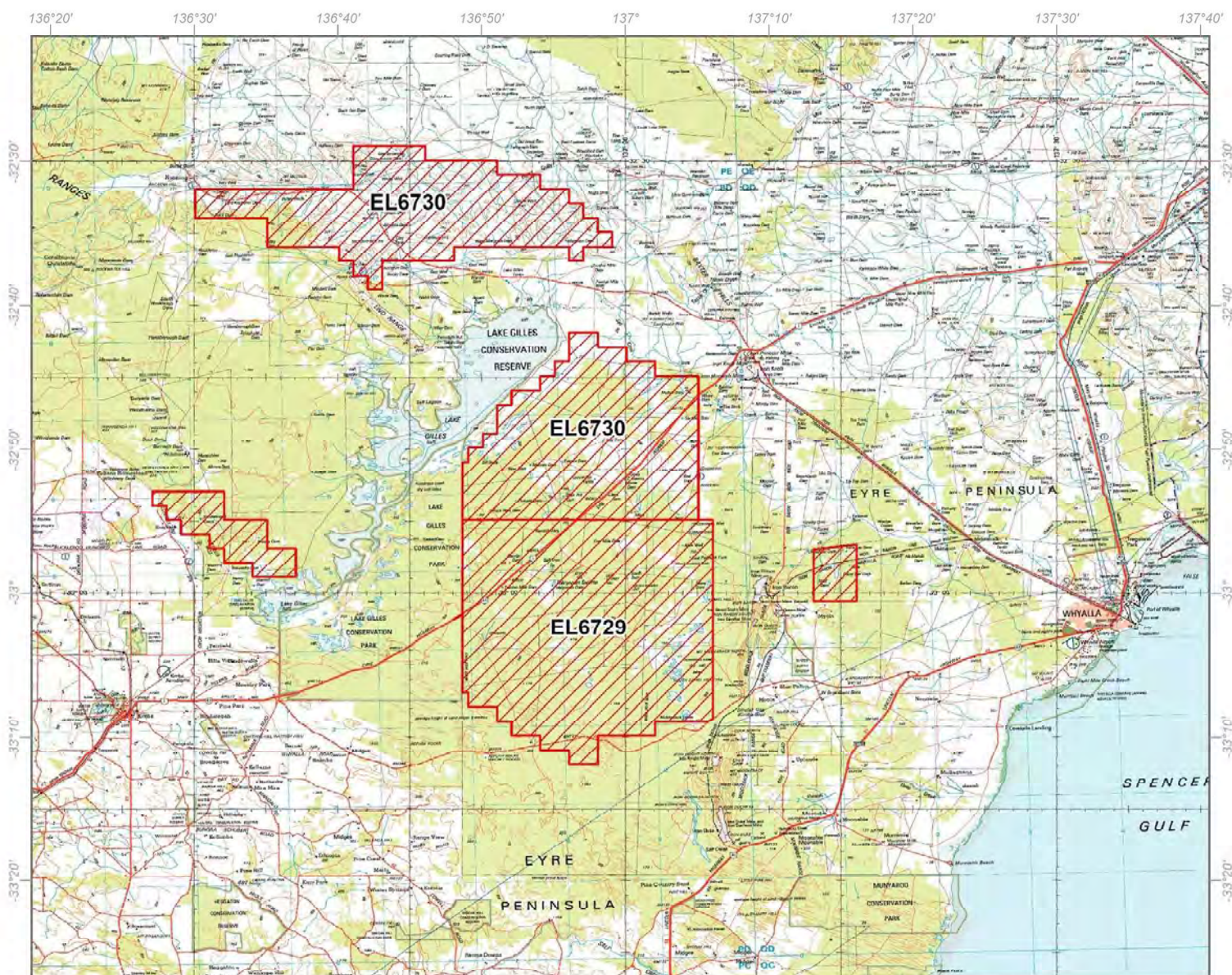
- AGSO Roads Aust 1M
- Stony_Hill_DEM_Contours_1
- Contour
 - 60
 - 390
- Esri World Elevation Topo.tif
- Value
 - 446.563
 - 54.0715

Rio Tinto Exploration Stony Hill Detailed Project Map

RioTinto

Rio Tinto Exploration (RTX)
 Publisher: Jessika Gluchowska
 Date: 3/03/2026
 Coordinate System:
 Name: GCS WGS 1984
 Datum: WGS 1984
 Scale: 1:170,000
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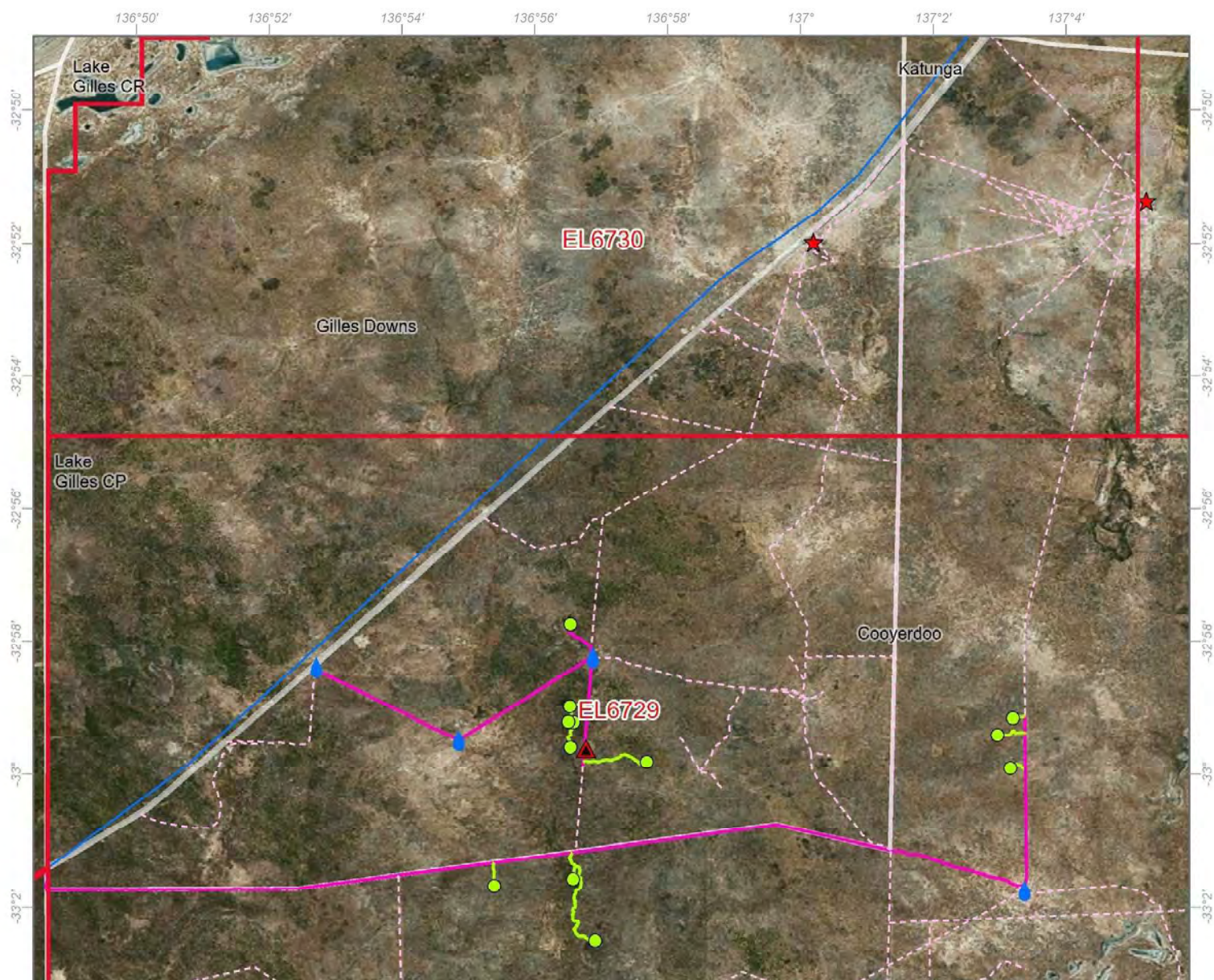
Rio Tinto Exploration Stony Hill Project Area, SA



RioTinto

Rio Tinto Exploration (RTX)
 Publisher: Jessika.Gluchowska
 Date: 16/02/2026
 Coordinate System:
 Name: GCS WGS 1984
 Datum: WGS 1984
 Scale: 1:800,000
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Rio Tinto Exploration Stony Hill Detailed Project Map

Legend

100% RTX

Points of Interest

● Bore

▲ Laydown

★ Homestead

Drill Sites

● Drill Sites

Tracks

— Existing

— Proposed

— Historic

— AGSO Roads Aust 1M

Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto Exploration (RTX)

Publisher: Jessika Gluchowska

Date: 3/03/2026

Coordinate System:

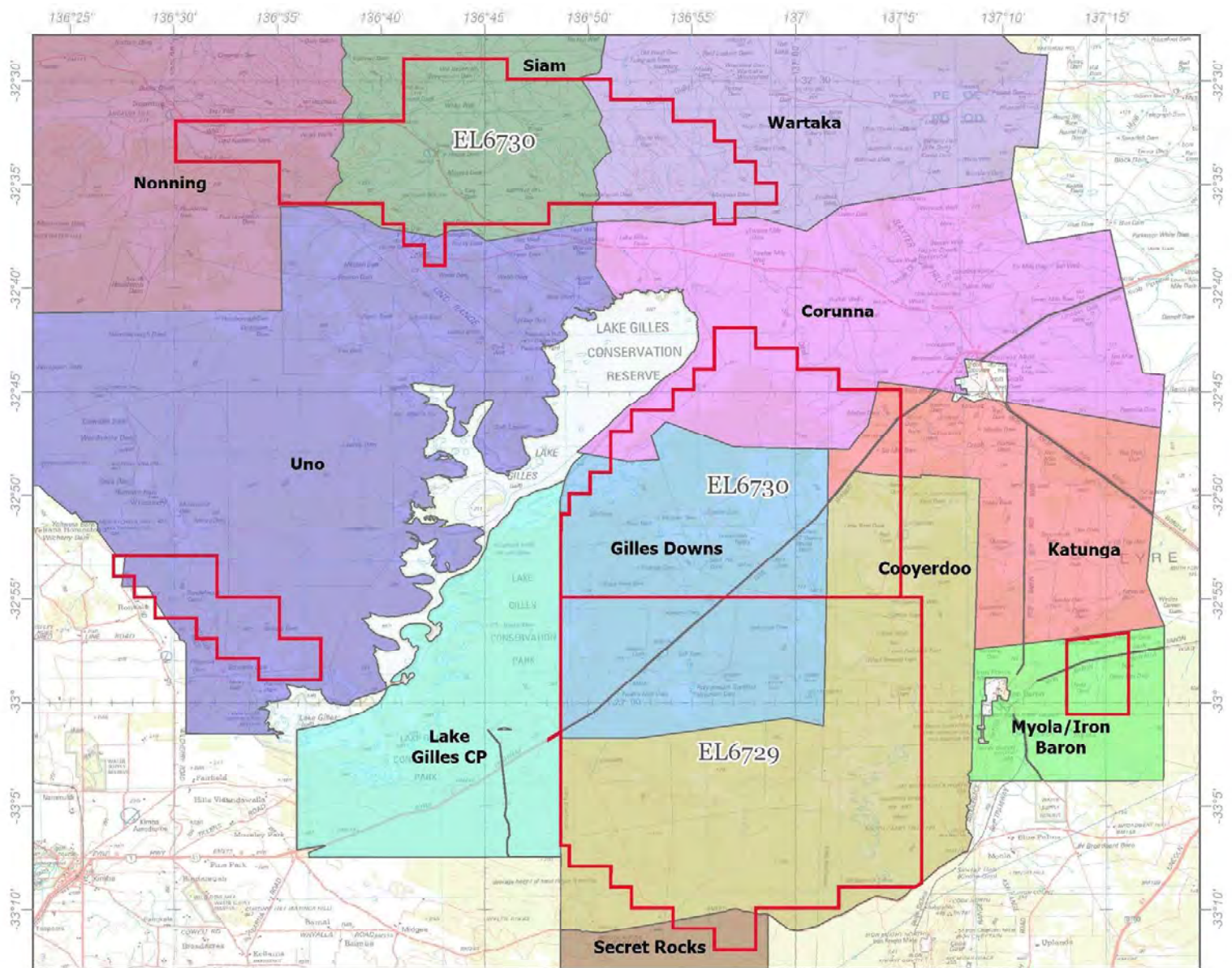
Name: GCS WGS 1984

Datum: WGS 1984

Scale: 1:170,000

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Rio Tinto Exploration Stony Hill Landholder Map

Tenement Boundary

- 100% RTX
- Cooyerdoo
- Corunna
- Gilles Downs
- Katunga
- Lake Gilles CP
- Myola/Iron Baron

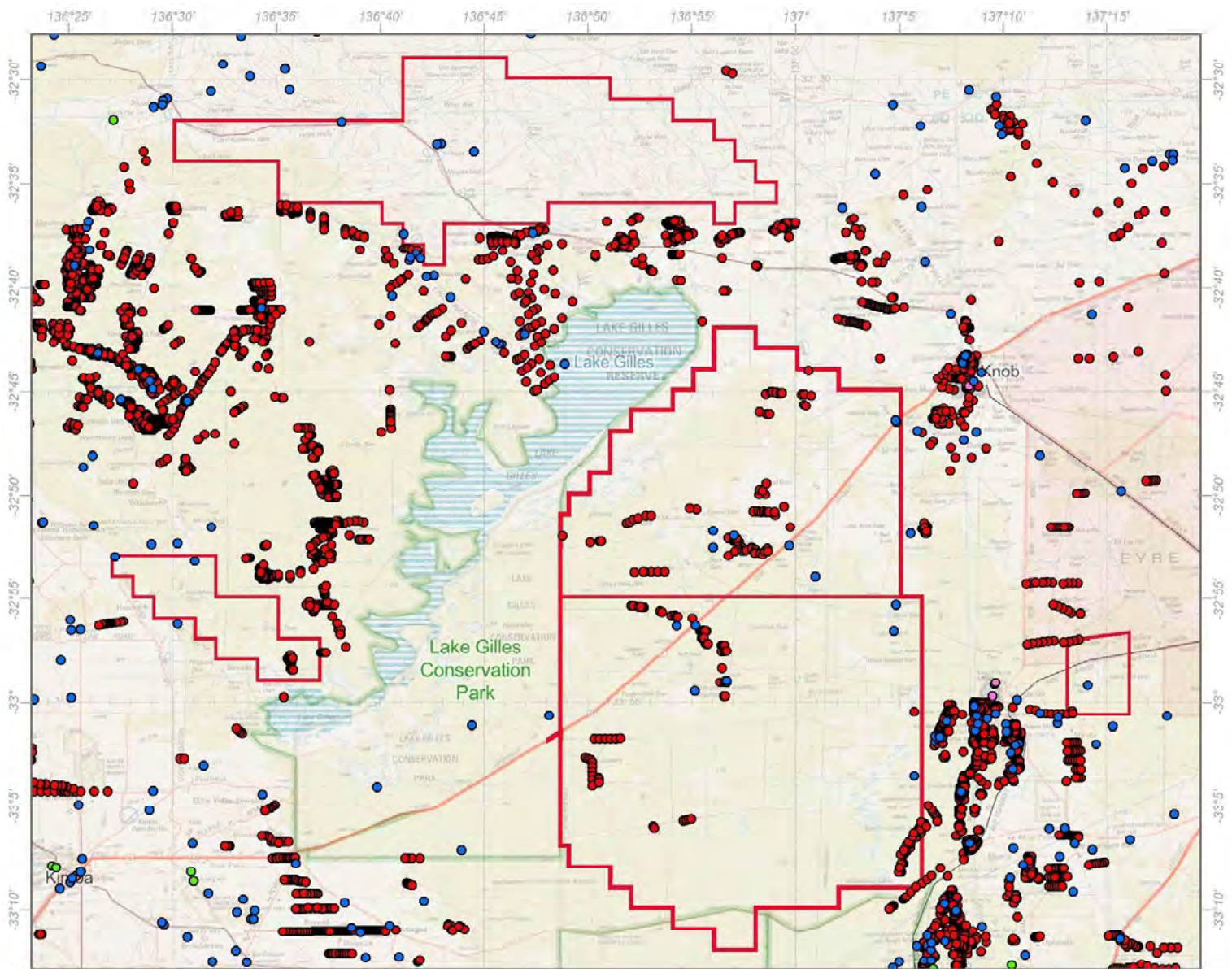
- Nonning
- Secret Rocks
- Siam
- Uno
- Wartaka
- <all other values>

RioTinto

Rio Tinto Exploration (RTX)

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Date: 17/02/2026
Coordinate System:
Name: GCS WGS 1984
Datum: WGS 1984
Scale: 1,550,000
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Rio Tinto Exploration Location of Existing Wells

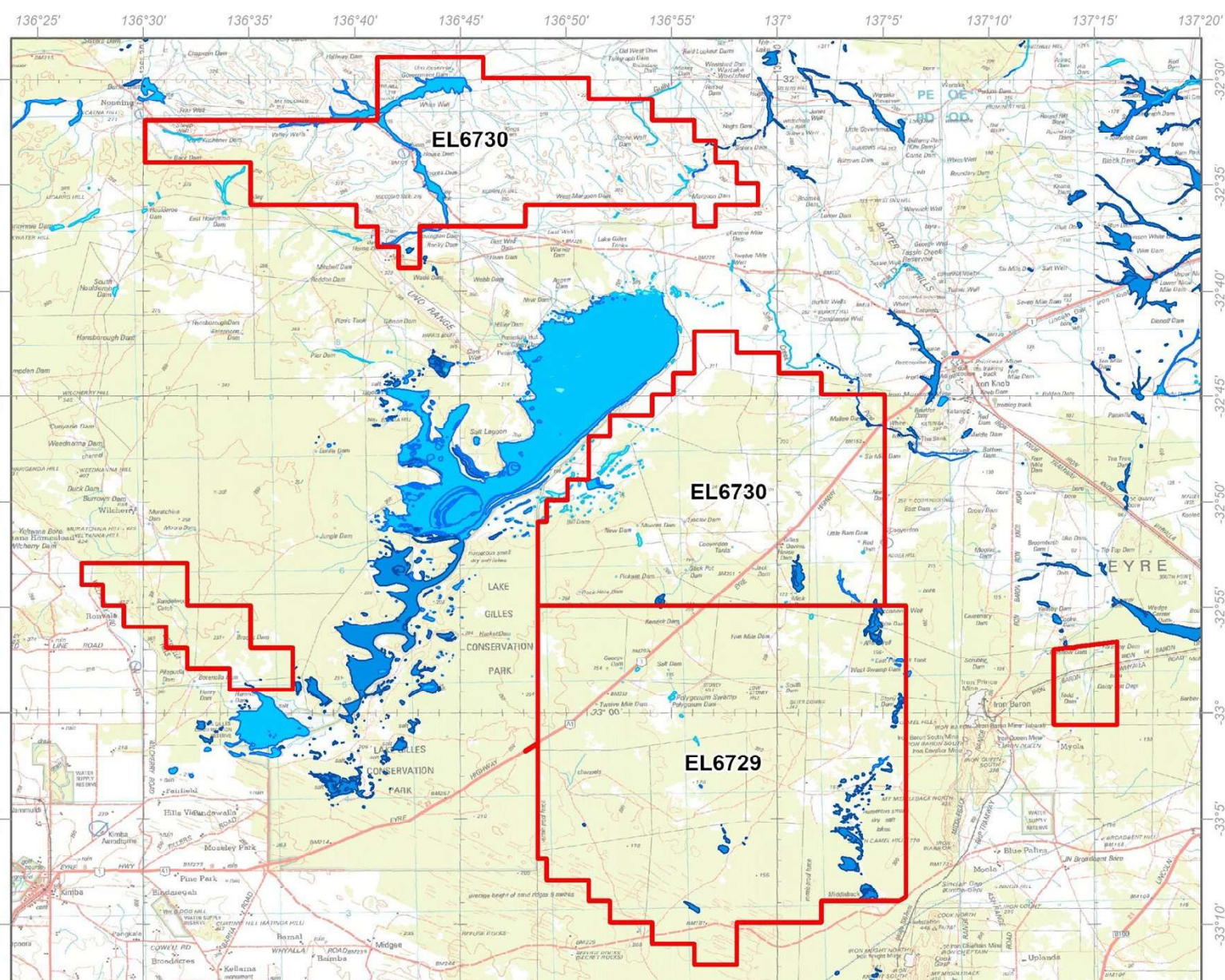
Drillhole Classification

- WW
- WP
- ENG
- MW
- MW, Strat
- Strat

Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto Exploration (RTX)
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 Coordinate System:
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 Scale: 1:550,000
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Rio Tinto Exploration Aquatic Ground Dependent Ecosystems

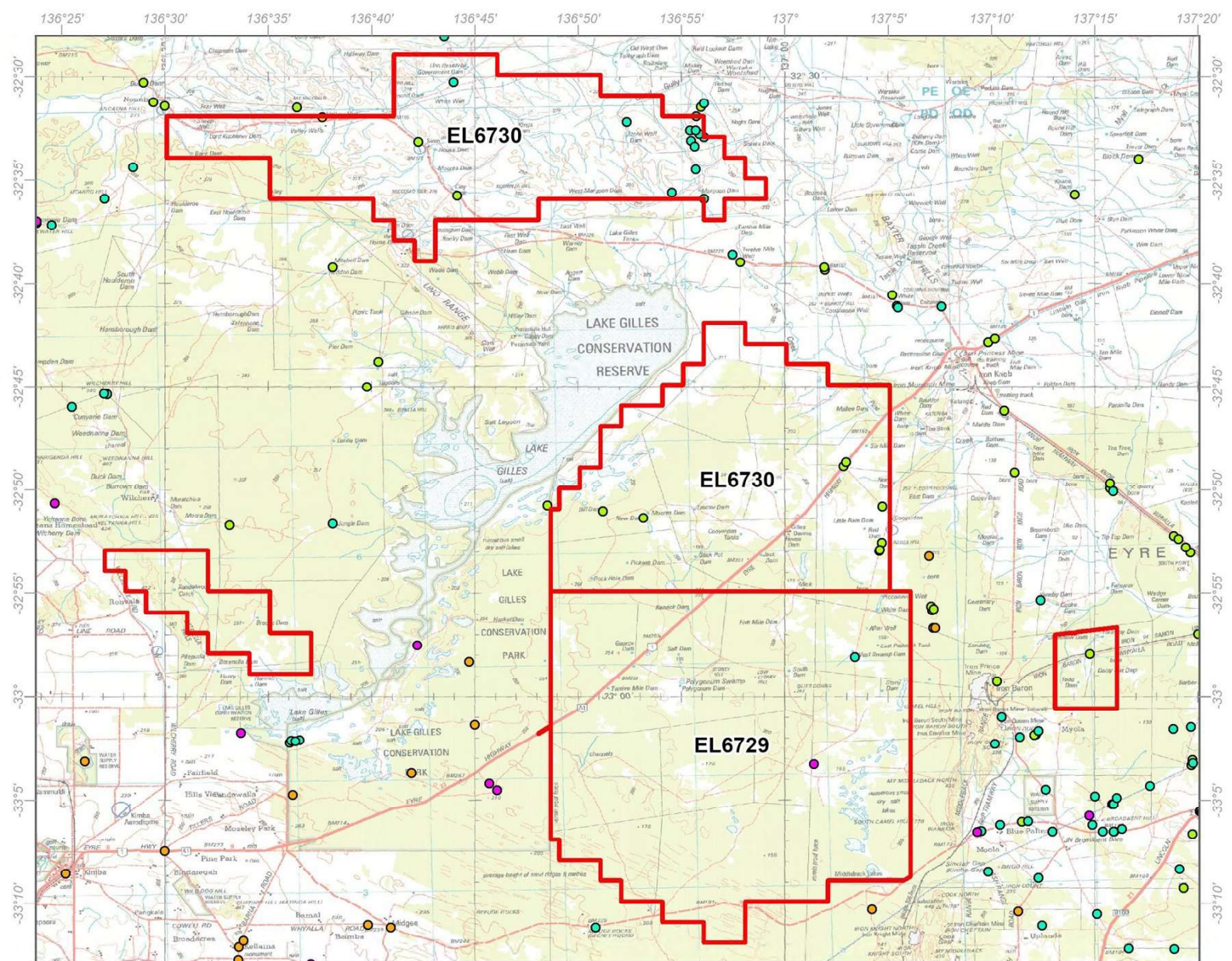
Ground Dependent Ecosystems (GDE)

- High potential GDE - from national assessment
- Moderate potential GDE - from national assessment
- Low potential GDE - from national assessment
- Unclassified potential GDE - from regional studies
- <all other values>

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Rio Tinto Exploration EPBC Act 1999 (Cth) Protected Fauna

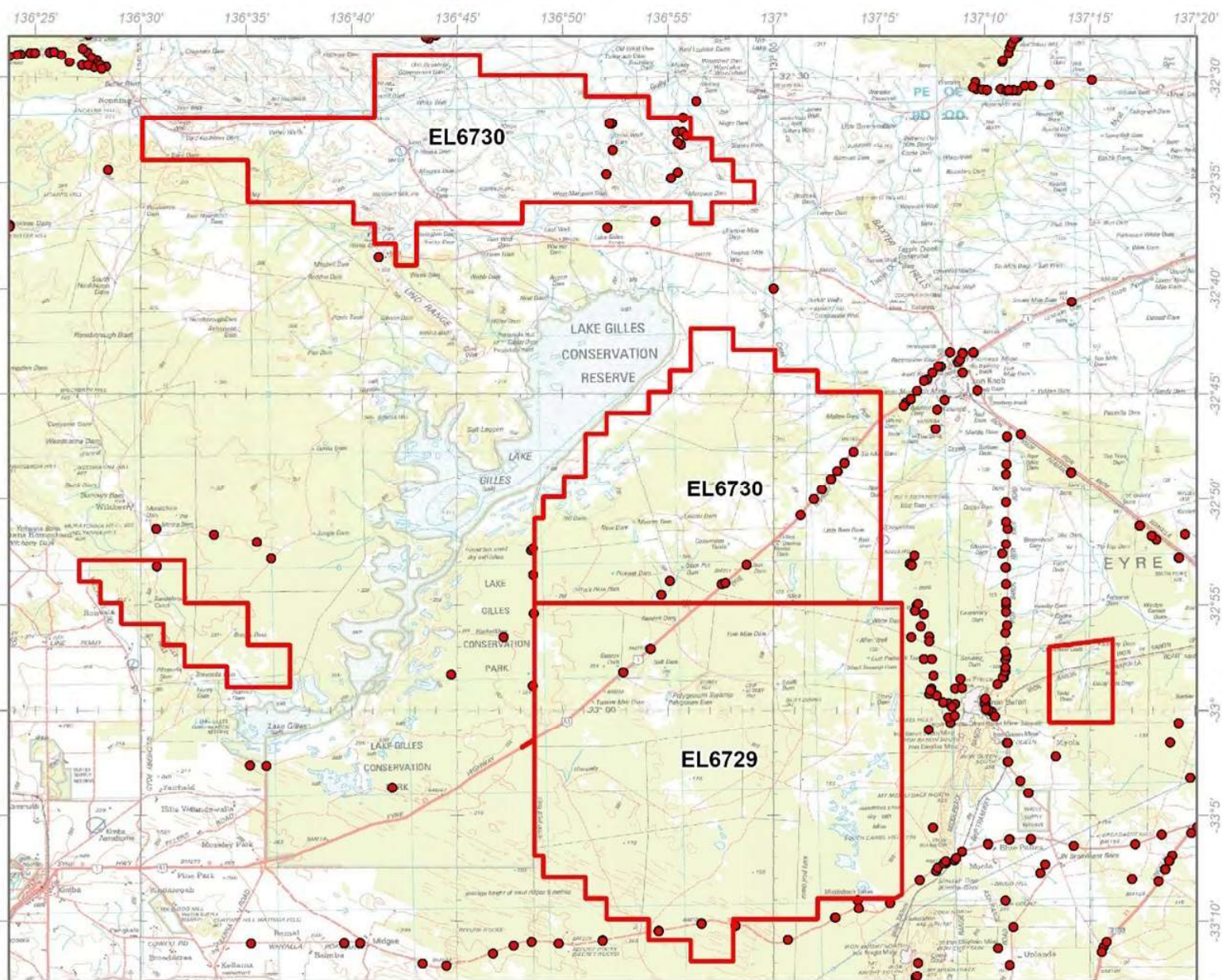
EPBC Act 1999 (Cth) - Protected Fauna

- Southern Whiteface
- Little Raven
- Western Grasswren
- White-winged Chough

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 Coordinate System:
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 Datum: WGS 1984
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0 4 8 12 16 20 40 Kilometres

Rio Tinto Exploration EPBC Act 1999 (Cth) Protected Flora

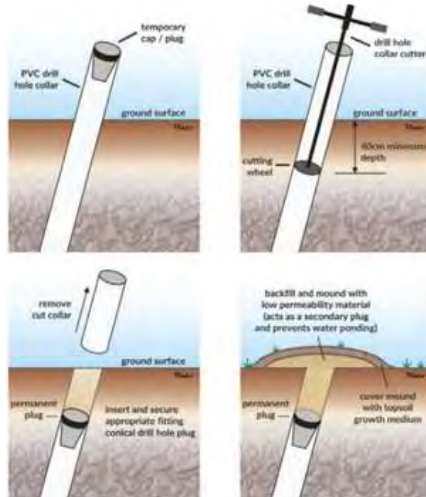
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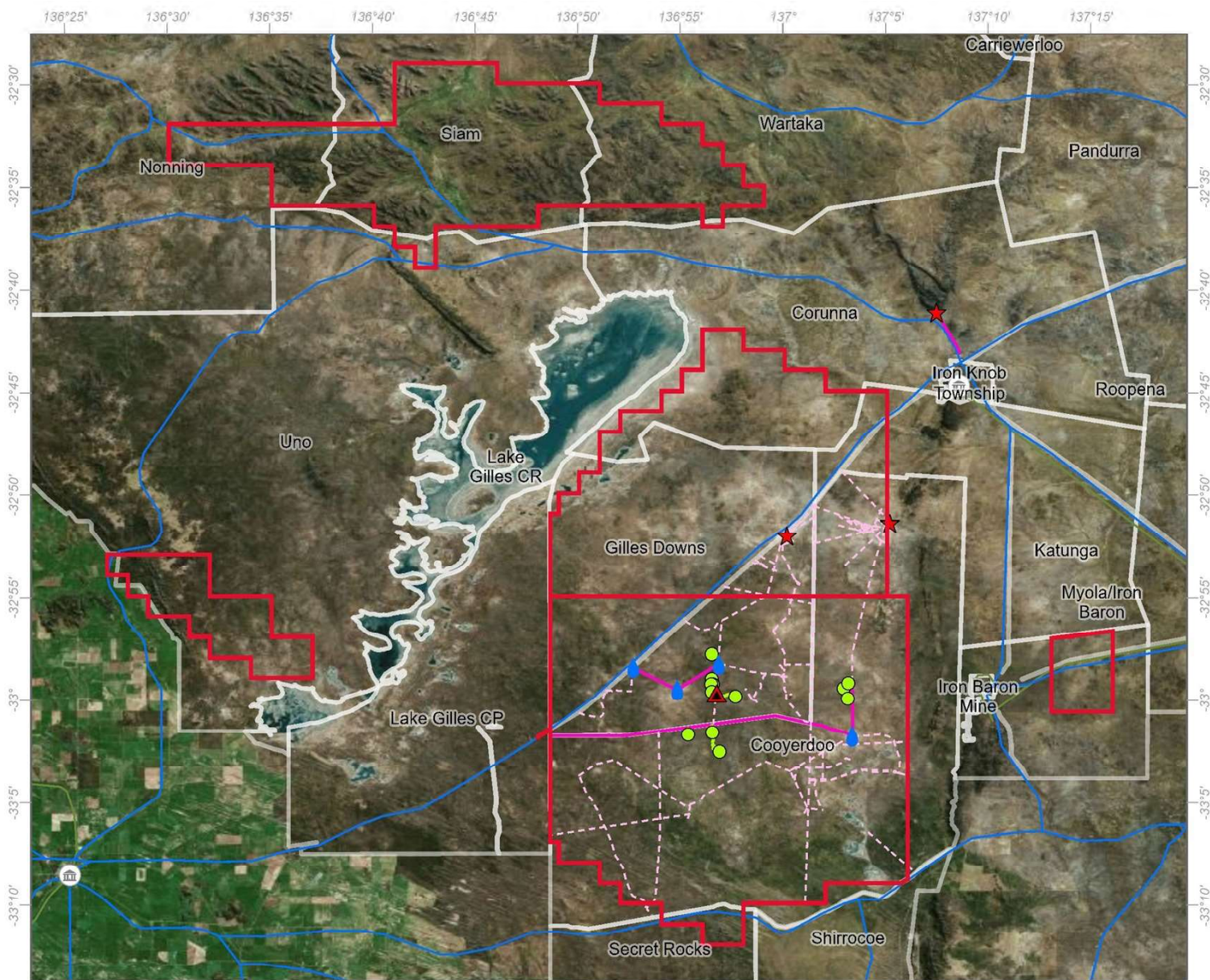
- *Maireana sedifolia*

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 Date: 17/02/2026
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 Datum: WGS 1984
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Rio Tinto Exploration Stony Hill Project Map

Legend

100% RTX

Points of Interest

- Bore
- Town
- ▲ Laydown
- ★ Homestead

Drill Sites

- Drill Sites

Tracks

- Existing
- Proposed
- Historic
- AGSO Roads Aust 1M

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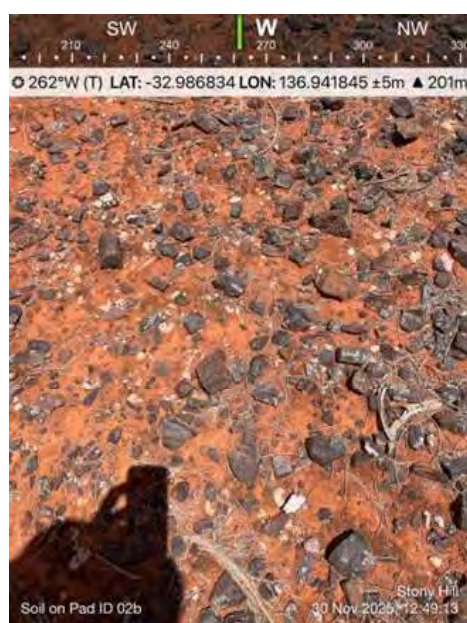


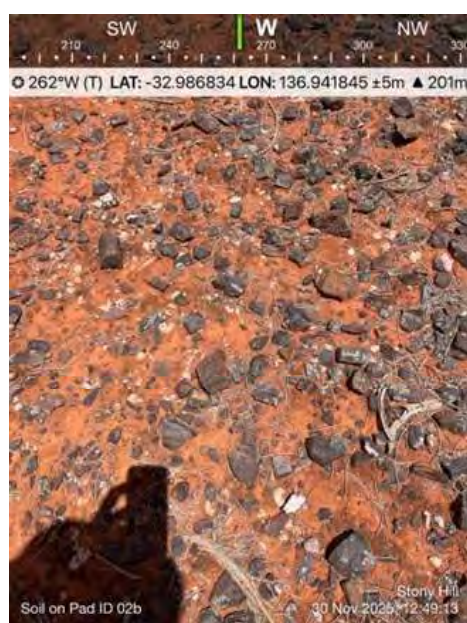














Exploration

Fibrous Minerals Management Plan (FMMP) RTX AAR Australia Greenfields

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1 Context and Scope

This management plan outlines the minimum operational requirements to protect, so far as reasonably practical, persons from the potential hazards associated with exposure to naturally occurring fibrous minerals.

Fibrous minerals are composed of parallel, radiating, or aggregates of fibres, from which fibres are sometimes separable. The word asbestos is a commercial term used to generally refer to six types of naturally occurring fibrous minerals that can be found around the world in ultramafic and some mafic rock formations: actinolite, amosite, anthophyllite, chrysotile, crocidolite and tremolite. Mineral fibres can be classified as either asbestiform or non-asbestiform. While similar in structure and shape, asbestiform mineral fibres differ in physical properties and importantly, potential health risks. Asbestiform mineral fibres have high tensile strength, chemical resistance and thermal stability, with respirable fibres presenting as thin, needle-like fibres that can easily penetrate deep into the lungs. Asbestiform mineral fibres have been linked to asbestosis, lung cancer, mesothelioma, pleural plaques and other respiratory diseases. Non-asbestiform mineral fibres may have the same crystal structure or shape, though they present a different morphology, being typically thicker and less durable. Because of this they are less likely to penetrate deep into the lungs, though can still be hazardous to health following prolonged exposure in high concentrations.

This plan applies to all Rio Tinto Exploration (RTX) Australasia Region (AAR) employees and contractors where there is the potential for encountering naturally occurring fibrous minerals during exploration operations and activities.

This plan does not cover the requirements for the management of asbestos containing building materials.

2 Accountabilities

Accountabilities relating to fibrous minerals management are detailed in the table below:

Stakeholder	Key Accountabilities
All Employees / Contractors	Comply with the controls outlined in this plan and any other controls advised by the Project Lead.
Exploration Manager / Project Manager / Project Lead	- Ensure compliance with this plan. - Ensure that during the planning stages of any drilling project or ground disturbance activities, the potential for mineral fibre hazards is considered and risk assessed in consultation with the health, safety and environment (HSE) team. - Enact the controls outlined in this plan or any other controls that are identified during the risk assessment.
Site Geologists	Be suitably experienced in identifying fibrous minerals and immediately stop work and notify the Project Lead if fibrous minerals are suspected.
Health and Safety	- Support to ensure that sufficient appropriate persons are appointed to manage workers' exposure to airborne contaminants e.g. Mine air quality officers. - Execute suitable risk-based monitoring and review and report results in accordance with legislative and Rio Tinto requirements. - Ensure that records of persons who have worked in an asbestos area are retained according to legislative requirements.

3 Fibrous Minerals Management

The Project Manager is accountable for ensuring that an integrated risk assessment is completed for each drilling project or ground disturbing activity during the planning stage to ensure that all hazards related to naturally occurring fibrous minerals have been identified, risk assessed, and adequate management controls will be implemented prior to project commencement. During planning, the geology team will review all available information to determine the likelihood of encountering fibrous minerals during exploration ground disturbing

activities, including earthworks (construction and rehabilitation) and drilling, and other supporting exploration activities such as sample collection and processing, core cutting and laboratory analysis. All available information should include a desktop review of current knowledge about the mineralogy and presence of fibrous minerals at the proposed exploration location and a visual inspection of the work area (site inspection) prior to works to identify the potential presence of fibrous minerals. Previous personal exposure monitoring results may be used to inform this assessment.

Once all available information has been considered, the geology team will make a preliminary determination of the classification of the work area as **Normal**, **Potentially Fibrous** or **Fibrous**.

Normal Area: An area for which it is unlikely that fibres will be encountered during ground disturbing activities.

Potentially Fibrous Area: An area for which there is a possibility of encountering fibrous minerals i.e. asbestiform and non-asbestiform, during ground disturbing activities.

Fibrous Area: An area where naturally occurring asbestiform fibrous minerals are present.

The outcome of this risk assessment should be documented in the Integrated Project Management Plan (IPMP). For projects with a classification of Potentially Fibrous or Fibrous, the IPMP should also contain the following additional information:

- Availability of a Competent Person in asbestiform mineral identification. A Competent Person is a Geologist or Hydrogeologist who holds the Workday qualification RTIO Identification of Asbestiform Minerals for Geologists).
- Laboratory analysis service providers available for sample analysis, laboratory control requirements and estimated time for analysis to be completed.
- Consideration for periodic laboratory sample analysis to proactively identify or exclude the presence of fibres.
- Nearest available asbestos disposal location and disposal control requirements.
- Consideration for airborne asbestos monitoring.
- Consideration of drill hole order so as not to restrict or complicate access to drill holes based on the presence of fibres in one drill hole.
- Any additional or specific local jurisdictional requirements.

For projects with a classification of Potentially Fibrous, the following additional consumables must be available for use at the work location and be in good condition in preparation that the work area might be re-classified as Fibrous:

- Disposable nitrile gloves in multiple sizes.
- Disposable coveralls / shoe covers to prevent contamination of clothing and footwear.
- Heavy duty polythene (plastic) waste bags, about 0.2 mm thick, or other approved containers for contaminated waste.
- Zip or cable ties for securing waste bags.

Once work commences, competent personnel will continue to monitor for the presence of fibrous minerals.

4 Potentially Fibrous Area

Where an area has been designated as a Potentially Fibrous Area the following controls must be in place.

4.1 General Controls

4.1.1 Worker Training

All workers that have the potential to be exposed to fibrous minerals must receive training that covers:

- The type and likelihood of the occurrence of fibrous minerals at the site.
- The potential health effects of exposure to fibrous minerals.

- The control measures / safe work practices to be adopted.
- A process to follow if previously unidentified fibrous minerals are identified and a hold point is activated.
- The proper use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment, where this has been identified as a required control.

All workers will be provided with training during the pre-start-up-workshop (PSUW) and/or project induction covering information specific to the project.

For those working in the Pilbara, Western Australia, RTIO Fibrous Minerals Awareness WBT (Online) may be required. This training has a 5-year validity.

4.1.2 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

When working in a potentially fibrous area the minimum respiratory protective device (RPD) is a P2-rated respirator. Respiratory protection is required when working in visibly dusty conditions when not in a pressurised vehicle or mobile plant cab.

Anyone required to wear respiratory equipment must have a valid fit test (RTX RPD Fit Test within the past 2 years), be clean shaven and be trained for the type of respirator being used, in line with the manufacturer's recommendations. Workers wearing PAPR (powered air purifying respirator) must be trained in the correct use, daily equipment checks and maintenance / cleaning requirements. While wearing PAPR the neck must be clean shaven where the shroud touches.

PPE used in Potentially Fibrous Areas can be discarded as general waste.

4.1.3 Signage

Entrances to drill pads or other work areas assessed as a Potentially Fibrous Area must be sign posted to alert workers to the hazard and PPE requirements (see Appendix 1).

4.1.4 Access Control

Verbal permission to enter a Potentially Fibrous Area must be obtained from the area owner. At times this may be the Driller or the Earthworks Machine Operator.

4.1.5 Mobile Equipment

All vehicles and mobile plant must be fitted with enclosed, air-conditioned cabins to isolate workers from the outside environment. All vehicles and equipment within the contamination zone shall maintain positive pressure in-cab to prevent dust ingress. This must be tested during the pre-mobilisation inspection of equipment and periodically throughout the life of the project e.g. monthly equipment inspections.

Where positive pressure is unable to be achieved or dust is visible in-cab during operation, this should be escalated to the Exploration Manager. Approval to continue use of the vehicle or mobile plant is subject to risk assessment and as a minimum, the use of respiratory protection in-cab.

Windows of vehicles and mobile plant are to be kept closed during use and when parked.

Footwear must be thoroughly checked and cleaned before entering any vehicles.

4.1.6 Dust Suppression

Where possible, dust suppression should be used to minimise and control dust at active earthworks areas and where workers-on-foot are located. Where possible, workers-on-foot are to be isolated from dust generating activities, or, located outside an exclusion zone and upwind where practical.

4.1.7 Personal Hygiene

Workers must have easy access to hygiene facilities to allow workers to wash their hands and face.

Smoking, including vaping, is prohibited in work areas where the air may contain fibrous minerals. Eating and

drinking should occur in a designated 'clean' area where respiratory protection is not required.

4.1.8 Housekeeping

The work area and ground conditions will be inspected and monitored for the presence of fibrous minerals during work. Regular housekeeping of work areas and plant and equipment will be carried out using wet methods (for example washing down equipment before leaving site). Equipment should not be cleaned using pressurised air.

4.2 Reverse Circulation (RC) Drilling

The following controls are specific to RC drilling:

- All Geologists logging samples shall be competent in identifying potentially fibrous minerals. All drilling chips should be inspected for the presence of mineral fibres.
- Wet drilling is the preferred drilling method. Dry drilling should be avoided unless local extraction ventilation is used and monitoring confirms that personal exposure is reduced to below 50% of the occupational exposure level (OEL). Water or dust-suppression systems should be used to reduce dust emissions where wet drilling is not practicable.
- When wet drilling respiratory protection is required for dust generating drilling activities e.g. collaring. If dry drilling, use of respiratory protection is required for all drilling activities. During these activities, use of RPD is required when inside the footprint of the drill pad.
- Dust and water emissions from the T-piece and cyclone shall be directed away from workers and captured in sumps.
- Dust suppression to be utilised during collaring operations.
- Ensure drill collars are sealed during drilling.

4.3 Diamond Drilling

The following controls are specific to diamond drilling:

- All Geologists logging samples shall be competent in identifying potentially fibrous minerals. All drill core should be inspected for the presence of mineral fibres.
- Respiratory protection is required for dust generating drilling activities e.g. collaring. During these activities, use of RPD is required inside the drill rig 8m (rod handling) exclusion zone.

4.3.1 Core Cutting

When cutting core potentially containing fibrous minerals the following additional controls are required:

- No cutting of core is to be undertaken until a geologist has inspected the core in the drill splits and approved that the cored section appears to be free of fibrous minerals.
- Core saws should be segregated and contained from other work areas to prevent contaminated dust dispersing throughout the work site.
- Anyone entering the core saw container must be wearing PPE in accordance with the Work Instruction - Corewise Core Saw – Cutting of Drill Core – AAR - Australia. Any worker entering the core saw work area that contains potentially or confirmed fibrous material must also wear disposable coveralls, in addition to long sleeves and pants. If the pre-start risk assessment has identified heat stress as a hazard the worker may bypass the use of coveralls.
- Slurry material from the saw should be emptied prior to cutting fibrous mineral core.
- Saw operator must always use water suppression and check this is working correctly before beginning to cut core.
- If large amounts of dust are visible while cutting, work should stop immediately and be reported to the supervisor and health and safety team member. Additional local extraction ventilation (LEV) may be required to reduce exposure to an acceptable level before continuing.
- Once fibrous mineral core cutting is complete for the day, the slurry must be managed as contaminated waste.
- All equipment should be cleaned with water only. The use of brooms, high pressure water spray or compressed air for cleaning is not permitted.
- The area outside the core container shall be set up as the 'decontamination zone'. When leaving the

core cutting container personal hygiene is very important and a decontamination process is required:

- Workers should keep their respirator on and remove coveralls first by spraying with water and rolling from top down carefully to avoid releasing any fibres.
- Remove boot covers or wet wipe boots to remove dust, including bottoms of boots.
- Remove gloves by grabbing the opposite cuff at the same time and rolling the gloves down and inside out.
- Remove respirator and wash face and hands thoroughly.

4.4 Earthworks

The following controls are specific to earthworks activities:

- Respirator protection is required if working in dusty conditions and not in a pressurised cab.
- Earthworks operators must remain within the cab while constructing or rehabilitating the site. Anyone who leaves the cab must wear respiratory protection.

Earthworks leaders and operators must immediately escalate any issues to the Project Lead or Competent Geologist.

4.5 Other Activities

Leaders and workers should be sensitive to other dust generating activities e.g. changing a tyre, maintenance work, and ensure the appropriate risk assessment and controls are in place.

5 Fibrous Minerals Identified – Use of Hold Points

Where fibrous mineral fibres are suspected or identified, work should cease (Hold Point), and the following process followed for drilling and other work activities. Ground disturbing works in high-risk locations or where asbestiform minerals have been confirmed either by a Competent Person or through laboratory analysis may also consider the following additional controls.

5.1 Fibrous Minerals Encountered During Drilling

If fibrous minerals are identified during drilling, the Site Lead will be notified, who will then inform the Exploration Manager and the HSE point of contact for the project. A Hold Point will be triggered, and the following process will commence:

- The geologist and drilling crew (and any other workers present) must wash their hands and put on the appropriate PPE and RPD for handling core or chips with fibrous materials:
 - P2-rated respirator: Disposable, half-face reusable with P2 or PAPR
 - Disposable coveralls / shoe covers: Use of coveralls must consider the risk of heat stress. If heat stress is a concern, long sleeve clothing and boots is recommended which are to be removed at the end of shift in the decontamination zone, boots are to be left at site or transported back in an open tray.
 - Disposable nitrile gloves: Nitrile disposable shall be worn when handling the core, unless other hand protection is needed such as rigging gloves to prevent other hand injury hazards. Workers shall be mindful that disposable gloves can reduce grip and cause materials to slip when deciding on their use.
- Competent Person to visually inspect and confirm or reject the presence of asbestiform mineral fibres as soon as possible/practical. If testing by a laboratory is required, the samples should be packaged as per Section 6.
- The geologist will report the occurrence and extent of the intersection to the HSE team who will determine internal and external reporting requirements.
- All equipment associated with the drilling will be decontaminated before leaving the site.

If there is a delay in confirmation of asbestiform mineral fibres i.e. Competent Person is not immediately available, the Exploration Manager will use this Hold Point to decide if drilling continues. If drilling does continue, the area will be considered a Fibrous Area, and the following additional controls will be implemented:

- All workers engaged in drilling activities for the relevant area must be alerted to the potential presence

of fibrous minerals and additional precautions necessary to minimise exposure. Ongoing training and information about the potential for fibrous minerals will be provided regularly via shift start meetings and toolbox talks.

- A designated work area will be established which includes delineated or signposted 10m exclusion zone around the drill rig area (where practicable), to warn workers and visitors of the potential presence of fibrous minerals within the workplace. This work area will be secured to limit the potential for non-authorised personnel to enter. Verbal permission shall be obtained prior to entering this exclusion zone. Entrances to drill pads or other areas potentially containing mineral fibres shall be sign posted to alert them to the hazard and identify PPE requirements (see Appendix A).
- Where practicable, the work area is to be delineated into 'clean' and 'dirty' sections to allow for a decontamination process to occur as personnel leave site. The 'dirty' area must have a decontamination area for washing hands and face as well as removing clothing; and a 'clean area' for changing into fresh uncontaminated clothing. There may also be a need for a boot wash facility. Items which may be potentially contaminated are to remain on the 'dirty' side of the site until decontaminated or contained.
- The process for the decontamination area is:
 - Workers should keep their respirator on and remove coveralls first by spraying with water and rolling from top down carefully to avoid releasing any fibres.
 - Remove boot covers or wet wipe boots to remove dust, including bottoms of boots.
 - Remove gloves by grabbing the opposite cuff at the same time and rolling the gloves down and inside out.
 - Remove respirator and wash face and hands thoroughly.
 - Disposable PPE must be placed in the asbestos waste bags provided. Disposable PPE is not to be reused.
 - Reusable PPE must remain in the contamination zone and be bagged and laundered if leaving the area.
- Vehicles used to transport personnel to and from the work location should remain on the 'clean' side of the site.
- All equipment shall be washed down before being moved from the site. The use of brooms, compressed air or high-pressure water is not permitted.
- Drill core is not to be disturbed such as breaking core, scratching, or rubbing. Sections of core identified as potentially containing fibrous minerals shall be kept wet where possible (e.g. covered with wet rags) or sprayed with a solution of PVA glue and water (5:1) and wrapped with cling film to keep the moisture within the core and prevent fibre release. Samples and core containing potential mineral fibres must be clearly marked to alert other team members.
- Drill chips and cutting piles should be periodically wetted or sprayed with a solution of PVA glue and water (5:1) to keep the moisture within the drill chips and cutting piles to prevent fibre release. Drill chips and cutting piles containing mineral fibres must be clearly marked (e.g. marker tape or spray) to alert other team members.
- All waste rock core material, mud and water resulting from the drilling process will be captured and contained and kept wet where possible until permanently disposed of. Any waste generated from activities must be disposed of according to environmental protection regulations.
- Sumps shall be treated as a fibrous waste dump and covered with 1m of clean waste material and sign posted. Sumps are to be back filled when they are wet (before becoming completely dry).

Should asbestiform minerals be confirmed, another Hold Point will be engaged to determine if drilling should continue. The Exploration Manager will make this decision. The Manager for Communities and Social Performance (CSP) should also be informed at this time.

If suspected material is not asbestiform, the area can be re-classified as a Potentially Fibrous Area.

5.2 Fibrous Minerals Encountered During Other Work Activities

Where suspected fibrous minerals are encountered by others during normal work processes, work should cease, and incident management procedures be followed. This would include assessment by the field geologist and if required, appropriate sample collection for testing. The following work practices and controls are required for work to recommence, unless testing confirms asbestiform fibrous minerals are not present:

- All workers engaged in ground disturbing / earthmoving works or drilling activities for the relevant area must be alerted to the presence of fibrous minerals and additional precautions necessary to minimise exposure. Ongoing training and information about the potential for fibrous minerals will be provided

regularly via pre-starts and toolbox talks.

- If the cabin is sealed and re-circulated air, then the operator does not have to wear RPD. If any dust generation occurs and can breach the cab seals, then the operator must wear RPD and clean the inside of the machine upon completion of work. Any work outside of the cab requires RPD.
- Consideration will be given to moving the work activity and/or substituting work practices or methods to a type that do not disturb the identified material (e.g. active dust suppression methods, avoiding use of compressed air).
- A designated work area will be established which includes delineated or signposted 10m exclusion zone around the work area (where practicable), to warn workers and visitors of the potential presence of fibrous minerals within the workplace. This work area will be secured to limit the potential for non-authorised personnel to enter. Verbal permission shall be obtained prior to entering this exclusion zone. Entrances to areas potentially containing mineral fibres shall be sign posted to alert to the hazard and identify PPE requirements (see Appendix 1).
- Where practicable, the work area is to be delineated into 'clean' and 'dirty' sections to allow for a decontamination process to occur as personnel leave site. The 'dirty' area must have a decontamination area for washing hands and face as well as removing clothing; and a 'clean area' for changing into fresh uncontaminated clothing. There may also be a need for a boot wash facility. Items which may be potentially contaminated are to remain on the 'dirty' side of the site until decontaminated or contained.
- Vehicles used to transport personnel to and from the work location should remain on the 'clean' side of the site.
- Work area to be kept wet during rehabilitation earthworks to minimise risk of contaminating surrounding areas.
- All equipment used should be decontaminated at an approved wash-down or cleaning facility before being used outside designated areas or maintenance work is undertaken.
- Procedures for cleaning air-conditioning and engine filters should minimise the emission of dust and fibre (i.e. wet scrubbing should be used where practicable). Compressed-air cleaners should not be used. Machine filters must be double bagged and disposed of, and machine to be hosed off. All waste to be double bagged and disposed of correctly.

6 Sampling and Laboratory Testing

Before sending any potentially fibrous mineral samples to a laboratory for analysis, written confirmation should be sought on the controls the laboratory requires. The laboratory should be NATA accredited and equipped to analyse and classify asbestiform minerals, with appropriate chain of custody forms. Ideally, the geologist who identified the fibrous materials should co-ordinate the sample transfer and advise the laboratory of the incoming samples and testing requirements.

Samples should be double bagged and must not be transported in the cabin of a vehicle.

Laboratory analysis to determine the presence of asbestiform minerals

Analytical testing methods must follow the approach outlined within Australian Standard 5370:2024, with initial 'screening' level analysis to be carried out via polarized light microscopy and dispersion staining techniques, and secondary confirmatory analysis (as required) via transmission electron microscopy (TEM).

On completion of testing, if the samples prove negative for hazardous asbestiform minerals, core/chip samples can be returned to site / storage facility under normal storage guidelines.

If samples are positive for asbestiform minerals or contain unknown mineral fibres, core/chip samples should be packaged and stored at the designated demarcated hazardous sample zone of the storage facility.

Diamond core trays must be stacked as per usual procedures and then the entire stack wrapped with plastic sheeting with a minimum thickness of 200um (microns) for transport and storage. The outside must be clearly marked as 'WARNING ASBESTOS'.

RC sample bags containing chips should either be double bagged and clearly marked as 'WARNING ASBESTOS' or collected and placed into sealed drums with the outside of the drum clearly marked as 'WARNING ASBESTOS'.

The receiving laboratory will need to be informed which samples submitted contain confirmed fibrous or potentially fibrous material. Submission of fibrous or potentially fibrous samples requires handling in specialised

facilities and will incur additional handling costs.

7 Decontamination, Waste Removal and Site Clearance

7.1 Decontamination

Prior to leaving the 'dirty' side of the designated area, all equipment, exterior of vehicles, drill rigs and tools that have come into contact with potential or identified asbestiform fibrous minerals shall be:

- Washed down and decontaminated, with contaminated waste collected; or
- Placed in sealed containers (and used only for asbestos handling work); or
- Disposed of as asbestos waste if cleaning cannot be undertaken.

All contaminated materials, including plastic sheeting and disposable PPE (e.g. masks, gloves, coveralls) must be disposed of as asbestos waste. Re-usable PPE, including high visibility uniforms, worn under coveralls, or where no visible fibres are present after thorough inspection, can be laundered as normal. If unable to remove all visible asbestiform fibres from re-usable PPE, it will be treated as asbestos waste.

Personal decontamination is to include a boot wash to clean footwear and washing hands and face. Regardless of whether gloves are used, workers handling core samples must clean their hands and fingernails thoroughly after work. RPD is to be worn during decontamination and removed and disposed of last. When not in use, safety footwear shall be stored upside down to minimise asbestos contamination inside the footwear.

7.2 Contaminated Waste

For the disposal of small quantities of contaminated waste (for example PPE), the following guidelines should be followed:

- Solid fibrous waste should be collected in heavy duty polythene (plastic) bags, about 0.2 mm thick, or in other approved containers and labelled as asbestos waste (i.e. '**Danger Asbestos – Do not open or damage bag. Do not inhale dust**').
- Waste should be double bagged with bags ideally filled to 50 per cent capacity (no more than 2/3 capacity). This minimises the potential for bag rupture and allows the bag to be adequately sealed.
- Bags should be sealed using the swan-neck or goose-neck method (Appendix 2) and securely fastened using a cable tie or tape.
- Fibrous material that is too large for the standard polythene bags should be placed in large double lined bins or drums.
- Bags that have held asbestos material should not be re-used for any purpose.
- Controlled wetting of waste should be employed, where practicable, to reduce fibrous dust emission during bag sealing or because of bag rupture during transportation. Over-wetting or waterlogging should be avoided because excess contaminated water leaking from the bags can create a future source of airborne fibrous dust.

Asbestos waste must be transported and disposed of in accordance with Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requirements. Asbestos waste can only be disposed of at a site licensed by the EPA, and it must never be disposed of in the general waste system.

Depending on the location, drilling muds and wastewater may be able to be encapsulated either in a buried sump or as backfill into the borehole. Such occurrences will need to be clearly identified on site and on the GIS portal to advise future workers of possible fibrous waste contamination.

7.3 Site Clearance

At the completion of drilling work and prior to the removal of warning signage all disturbed areas need to be appropriately decontaminated and/or made safe through covering and/or capping, considering the final land use and potential for future disturbance. All contaminated waste is to be disposed of in accordance with local regulatory requirements. A visual inspection of the work area should be completed to ensure the site is clear. This may be completed by the Project Leader or delegated team member and supported by the HSE team or Occupational Hygienist.

8 Air Monitoring

The need and approach for airborne asbestos monitoring should be determined on a risk basis by a competent person, such as an Occupational Hygienist in consultation with HSE personnel and the Project Manager.

- Exposure Monitoring: During work involving natural occurring asbestos, particularly if dust generation remain a potential risk.
- Control Monitoring: To ensure control measures implemented regarding the safe handling of naturally occurring asbestos are effective.
- Clearance Monitoring: To ensure the work area is free of fibres following the completion of work (clearance monitoring) due to reoccupation or future land use considerations.

Where required, air monitoring shall be performed in accordance with the Guidance Note on the Membrane Filter Method for Estimating Airborne Asbestos Fibres [NOHSC: 3003 (2005)] and be analysed by a NATA accredited laboratory.

The results of all air monitoring shall be provided to all relevant parties as soon as possible.

‘Control levels’ are airborne asbestos fibre concentrations which, if exceeded, indicate there is a need to review current control measures or take other action. These control levels are occupational hygiene ‘best practice’ and are not health-based standards (i.e. they are below the concentration set in the National Workplace Exposure Standard for asbestos).

9 Event Reporting

Laboratory confirmed presence of fibres should be recorded for trending and historical purposes.

All incidents involving unprotected exposure to fibrous minerals, must be immediately reported to the Project Manager. The Project Manager is responsible for ensuring that the work area is made safe before resuming activities and that the event is investigated with appropriate preventative and mitigating controls are put in place to prevent recurrence. All incidents and incident investigation findings must be recorded in Enablon.

Appendix 1: Example Signage



Appendix 2: Securing Bags Using the Swan-Neck Method



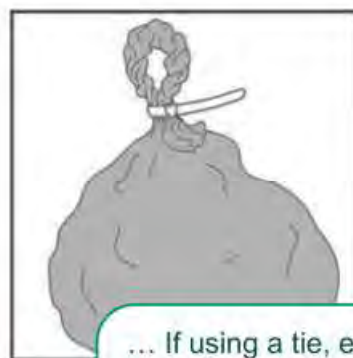
When the bag is filled to the warning line (or two thirds) twist the excess at the top of the bag ...



Double over and hold the twist firmly ...



Securely fasten the bag, either by knotting the twisted neck of the bag or by passing a tie (e.g. cable) over the twisted neck ...



... If using a tie, ensure it is fastened tightly to create an effective seal.

This is the swan-neck method.

Revision History

Version No.	Effective Date	Prepared By	Authorised by	
1	June 2026	Michael Keig	Drew Sargent	
Version No.	Revision Date	Prepared by	Authorised By	Reason for Change
2				