



NEWSLETTER

Rum Jungle Project June – July 2026



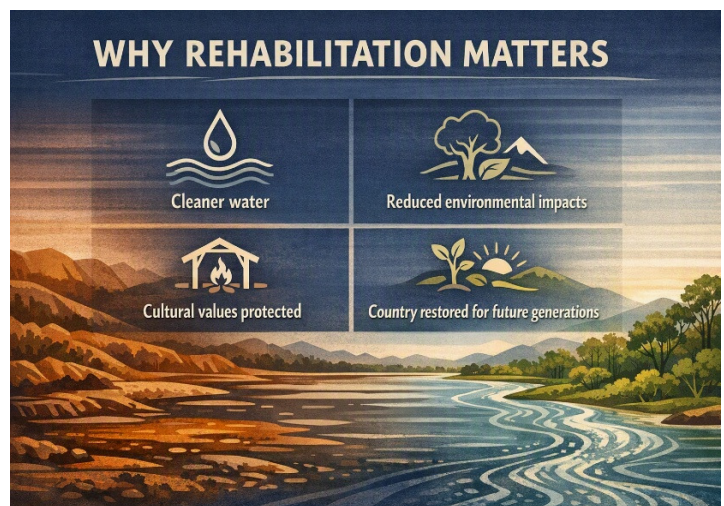
The Rum Jungle site is a special place for the Kungarakana and Warai Traditional Owners. There are many places, features and objects of cultural significance located both on the site and in the surrounding area. Mine-related contaminants continue to impact the environment and limit the ability for Kungarakana and Warai people to access and use the land.

The contamination stems largely from the waste rock stockpiled at the site which leaches into surface and groundwater.

The Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project will remediate the site by treating mine-affected water, soil and rocks to permanently control and contain the contaminants. The aim is to restore the sites natural and cultural values and enable Kungarakana and Warai people to reconnect with this land.

Acknowledgement

The Rum Jungle Project Team acknowledges the Kungarakana and Warai Traditional Owners of the Rum Jungle site, and their ongoing traditional connection to the land, waters, and community. We acknowledge their cultural knowledge and respect their obligation to care for Country. We thank the Kungarakana and Warai people for their ongoing patience, and participation in this rehabilitation project, and hope to continue working together to restore the values that have been impacted by mining.



Rehabilitation Update | Bulk Earthworks

Bulk earthworks activities continued to progress during June and July, with approximately **3.82 kilometres of haul road now constructed** across the site. Earthworks and major drainage works were completed on the Stage 2 haul roads, with the remaining work focused on placing the protective pavement layer and installing permanent erosion and sediment controls ahead of the wet season. The haul road network will provide access for the future movement of waste rock from existing stockpiles (pictured below) to the Main Pit and new waste rock storage facilities. Around **7 million cubic metres of waste rock** is expected to be moved and safely stored as part of the rehabilitation program.



Stage 2 haul road, PWTP and workshop facilities in the foreground

Work also progressed on the A9 haul road on the Finnis River Aboriginal Land Trust, which will provide access to a future source of construction material. By the end of July, approximately **800 metres of the road corridor had been cleared**, and road formation and drainage works were underway. The alignment was adjusted following engagement with Traditional Owners to avoid areas of cultural significance, and clearing proceeded with cultural monitoring. Cycad plants identified within the work area were inspected and relocated where required to protect environmental and cultural values.



800 metre corridor of the A9 Haul Road crossing the FRALT toward construction material source



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

It is estimated that approximately 7,046,420 m³ of waste rock from across the site will be moved and safely stored within the Main Pit and the new waste rock storage facilities. This is roughly 13 – 15 million tonnes, depending on the density of the material. If spread across Darwin's 1.6-kilometre-long airport runway, it would form a layer more than 70 metres high.

Rehabilitation Update | Water Remediation

The Main Pit water level is now **25 metres lower than its historical wet season level**. As the water level falls, the treatment plant is reaching deeper water that contains higher concentrations of historic mine-related contaminants. During June and July, the Surface Water Treatment Plant continued to treat this water and met the requirements for controlled release to the East Branch of the Finniss River.



Aerial shot of the Ground Water Treatment plant

Construction of the Groundwater Treatment Plant also continued during June and July. The Plant is designed to treat heavily contaminated water from the lower level of the main pit, as well as groundwater from the aquifers beneath the existing waste rock dumps.

The treatment process uses a lime treatment to remove metals and contaminants from the water before it is safely released into the East Branch of the Finniss River. The process is intended to help intercept contaminated groundwater from across the site before it reaches the nearby waterways.



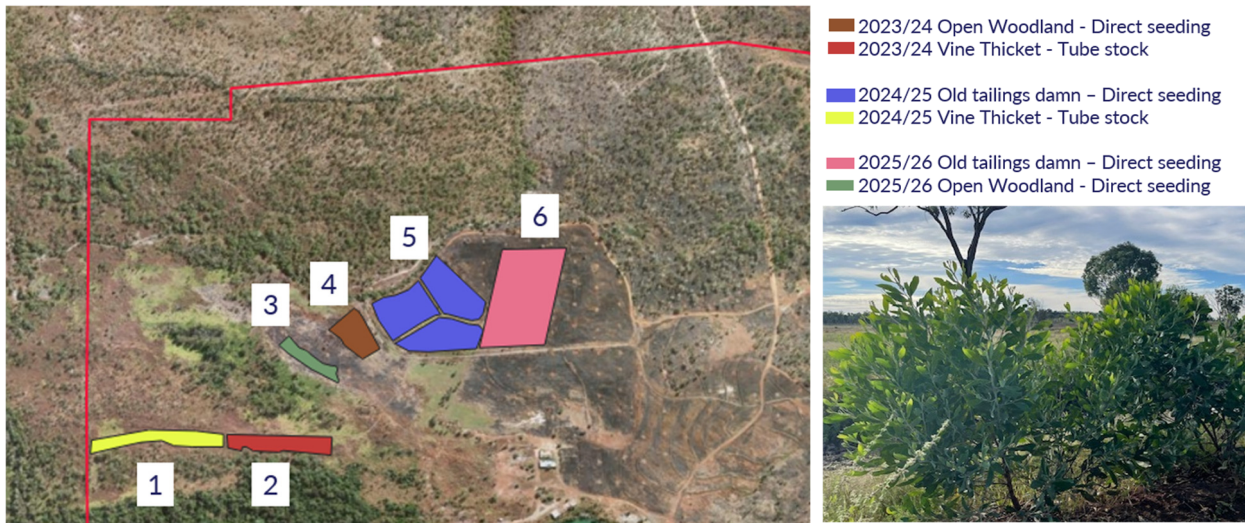
Lime Reactor Tanks



Ground Water Treatment Plant construction

Rehabilitation Update | Revegetation & Monitoring

Monitoring of the revegetation trial areas began during June and July to assess how well native plants are establishing and growing. Early results showed healthy new growth and a diverse range of native species across most trial areas. The findings will help determine which plants and establishment methods are best suited to future rehabilitation works.



Revegetation trial areas and current growth from Open Woodland

Groundwater and surface water monitoring continued across the site to track environmental conditions, check compliance with licences and approvals, and assess how water systems are responding to rehabilitation activities. The latest annual downstream assessment found conditions remained stable, with no measurable adverse impact from the controlled release of treated water during the assessment period.

The Land Management Team also carried out practical land management work during June and July, including installing vine thicket and southern boundary fence lines, maintaining firebreaks and clearing tracks, conducting regular site and boundary inspections, and monitoring the 2025 direct-seeding area.

Why land management matters – Weed Management

Good land management is particularly important in the Top End where the wet season brings rapid plant growth, and the following dry season turns this growth into fuel. Managing weeds, maintaining firebreaks and keeping access tracks clear help reduce fuel loads and improve access for fire prevention and response.

Highly invasive Gamba grass is a particular concern as can outcompete native plants and produces much heavier fuel loads than native grasses. Once dry, it can support fires that burn up to **eight times hotter than native grass fires**, increasing the risk to people, property, habitat and young revegetation.



Gamba grass, *Andropogon gayanus*

The weed management work carried out by the Land Management Team before and during the wet season is critical for managing dry season fires. Identifying and treating new infestations early helps prevent gamba grass from producing seed and spreading along roads, tracks and disturbed areas. Maintaining gamba-free buffers and firebreaks also reduces the likelihood that a fire will move into sensitive areas. The main treatment period is generally from **December to April**, when gamba grass is actively growing and most responsive to control.

This will remain an important long-term responsibility at Rum Jungle. Newly established native plants are especially vulnerable while they are developing, and a severe fire during the first **10 years** could damage or destroy revegetated areas before they become resilient. Continued weed control, fuel-load monitoring and strategic fire management will therefore be essential to protect the investment in rehabilitation and support the development of self-sustaining native vegetation. The project's Land Management Plan identifies hot gamba grass fires as a critical risk to revegetation success.

Cultural Oversight Group | Kungarakan & Warai

During June, Cultural Oversight Group members participated in:

- **one archaeological survey**
- **three days of cultural monitoring**
- **two days of cultural induction activities**

Cultural monitoring was carried out for work undertaken on the Finnis River Aboriginal Land Trust land, helping identify and protect cultural values. Kungarakan and Warai cultural inductions also helped workers understand the significance of the area, their responsibilities while working on Country, and the importance of respectful conduct.

In July, Cultural Oversight Group members delivered cultural induction sessions for members of the Rum Jungle Project Board and met with senior project leaders to share their perspectives and discuss upcoming activities. Their involvement helps ensure cultural knowledge and Traditional Owner guidance inform how rehabilitation works are planned and carried out.

Technical Working Group | Kungarakan & Warai

The Rum Jungle Technical Working Group met in June to discuss plans for backfilling the Main Pit and the role of the Groundwater Treatment Plant in the rehabilitation.

The discussion provided an opportunity for Kungarakan and Warai members to ask questions, consider technical information and discuss how upcoming works may affect Country. It also reinforced the importance of sharing information early and ensuring cultural and environmental values continue to inform planning and decision-making.

NAIDOC Week Celebrations

Congratulations to **Rikki McCallum**, a proud Kungarakan woman from Wunan Consultancy and Business Solutions, who coordinated the Batchelor NAIDOC community celebration at Batchelor Oval on **Saturday, 11 July 2026**.

The event celebrated the 2026 national NAIDOC Week theme, **“50 Years of Deadly”**, through storytelling, live music, bush tucker tasting, native animal encounters, didgeridoo making and weaving workshops. It brought community members together to celebrate Aboriginal culture, knowledge and achievement.

Members of the Rum Jungle Project workforce supported the community event on the day.



Basket weaving workshop



NAIDOC week celebration cake



Tucker from the camp oven

Another highlight during NAIDOC week celebrations saw a proud moment when a previous Rum Jungle Project's traineeship program graduate, who now works as an operator for Intract, was recognised and celebrated as the recipient of the **Intract Rising Star Award**. This award formally recognises her ongoing commitment, dedication and hard work throughout her employment with the Project.

Business | Development and Opportunity

Aboriginal Business Development Support

Business development services are available to support Aboriginal enterprises across the Northern Territory, including Kungarakana and Warai-owned businesses. Support can help businesses build capability and prepare for opportunities associated with the Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project and other government procurement.

Available support may include:

- information about upcoming business and procurement opportunities
- advice about relevant grants and funding programs
- referrals to specialist business-support organisations
- assistance to understand government procurement and tender processes

Aboriginal businesses were already providing cleaning, surveying and plant-hire services to the project during June and July. Further work packages are expected to become available as rehabilitation progresses.

To discuss potential business opportunities, contact:

rumjungleproject@nt.gov.au or lynda.coates@nt.gov.au

Local business support in the Northern Territory

Not sure where to start? Free or low-cost assistance is available for businesses at different stages—from developing an idea and registering a business to applying for grants, building capability and bidding for government work.

Business NT and Territory Business Advisors

Northern Territory businesses, Aboriginal enterprises and not-for-profit organisations can access practical advice about starting or growing a business, licences, government programs, grants and tendering.

Phone: 1800 193 111 - Email: businessnt@nt.gov.au

Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network

The Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network supports current and emerging Aboriginal businesses with business development, networking, advocacy, certification and connections to procurement opportunities. Its Indigenous Business and Employment Hub also provides business advice, tendering assistance, training and access to meeting or workspace facilities.

Phone: 1300 192 164 - Email: admin@ntibn.com.au

Aboriginal Investment NT

Aboriginal Investment NT supports Aboriginal-led business and economic development through investment, finance and grant opportunities.

Phone: 08 7906 1741 - Email: info@aboriginalinvestment.org.au

Indigenous Business Australia

Indigenous Business Australia provides workshops, business advice, capability support and, for eligible businesses, finance to help start or grow a business. - Phone: 1800 107 107

A useful first step

Businesses interested in future Rum Jungle opportunities should prepare a short capability statement outlining their services, experience, workforce, location and contact details. Kungarakana and Warai-owned businesses can also ask to be included on the Rum Jungle Project Business Register by contacting Lynda Coates on 0473 092 729 or lynda.coates@nt.gov.au.

Pathways | Employment

Congratulations and welcome to the three new Land Management Team members who joined the project in June: **Tarizma Kenyon, Rhiannon Compton and Desmond Daly**.

Together, they bring experience in conservation and land management, civil construction, work health and safety, environmental management. Their skills will support fencing, inspections, firebreak maintenance, track clearing, seed collection and monitoring activities across the site.

The civil-works contractor also continued workforce development during June and July through project inductions, cultural inductions and preparation for nationally recognised training, licences and competency assessments.

Future employment and training opportunities will be advertised through the [Northern Territory Government Careers in Government and Employment Opportunities](#) website and promoted in future Rum Jungle Project newsletters.

Behind the scenes | The Project

Take 5 with Ian Harvey

Introduction

I am the Mine Closure and Water Strategy Manager for the Rum Jungle Project and have been with the project for about 15 months. I have lived in Darwin for around 10 years after moving from the Hunter Valley with my family. My technical background is in hydrometallurgy and water treatment, and I have worked on other mine-closure projects in the Top End.

What is one thing you love about working on the RJ Project?

I enjoy investigating the site's history—from the original mining activities of the 1950s to the early 1970s and the rehabilitation works carried out in the 1980s—to understand what needs to be done today to finish the job.

What's a good piece of advice you've received?

"Don't buy that horse—no matter how good it looks."

What is something about you people might not know?

I enjoy spending time on the weekend writing FORTRAN compilers.

What is your favourite food?

Chicken tikka.



Contact Us | We'd love to hear from you

Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project contact details

For information about the Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project, or to suggest an item for a future community noticeboard, email rumjungleproject@nt.gov.au or call **0436 353 717**.

Complaints

If you have a concern or would like to make a complaint about the Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project, email rumjungle.complaints@nt.gov.au or call **0436 353 717**.

Concerns about suspected improper conduct involving Northern Territory public bodies or public officers can also be reported directly to the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption NT using its online reporting form or by emailing report.submission@icac.nt.gov.au.