



Rum Jungle Project Newsletter

December 2025 – January 2026



Acknowledgement

The Rum Jungle Project Team acknowledges the Kungarakan 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 Kungarakan 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.

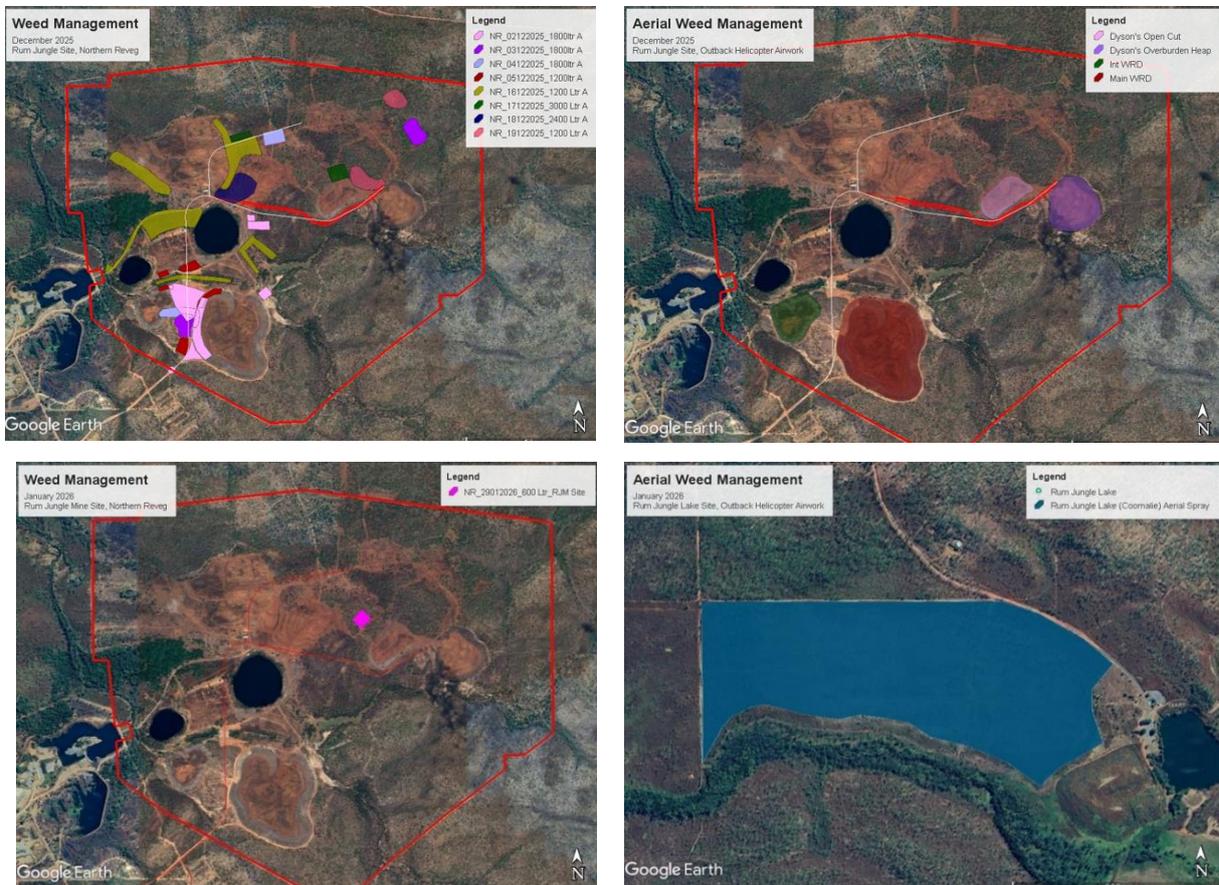
Rum Jungle Context

The Rum Jungle site is a special place for the Kungarakan and Warai Traditional Owners, and 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 on the environment and limit the ability for Kungarakan 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 site's natural and cultural values and enable Kungarakan and Warai people to reconnect with this land.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Land Management

The Land Management Team continued to undertake general land management and site maintenance activities including surface water monitoring and weed management. Aerial weed spraying was conducted at both the Rum Jungle site the Coomalie Community Government Council borrow area.



Rum Jungle Project Weed Management December 2025 and January 2026.

Water Remediation

Essential water remediation works to support the dewatering and treatment of surface water from the Main Pit continued through December and January. These activities form part of the process for preparation of Main Pit for backfilling and capping works, which are expected to commence later in 2026. As of the end of January, water levels in the Main Pit have decreased by more than ten metres, despite heavy rainfall across the region.

Construction of the Groundwater Treatment Plant commenced in January, beginning with excavation works to prepare for the concrete slab that will support the facility. Completion of the plant is anticipated in the second half of 2026.

Bulk Earthworks

Bulk earthworks program activities continue to progress on site, with Stage 1 of the Haul Road construction now 98% complete.

Construction of the bund which was designed to divert water around the Main Pit during the wet season was completed December 2025.

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- The Cultural Oversight Group (COG) met in December 2025, following a two-day meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG). The two-day meeting was to provide members of the TWG with an overview of the rehabilitation plan, including future works and environmental issues.
- Kungarakan and Warai cultural induction sessions were delivered to McMahons staff and sub-contractors, as well as project staff in December and January. These sessions ensure that all contractors, workers and visitors needing to access the site are aware of the cultural significance of the site.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Grants Directory

The Northern Territory (NT) Government provides a wide range of grants, scholarships and other forms of support for businesses, community organisations and individuals.

You should use local goods and services wherever possible if you are awarded a grant. There are specific requirements to buy local if you are receiving a [capital grant](#). Find out more about [GrantsNT](#), the management system for NT Government grants.

Visit [Aboriginal Investment](#) for details on their Business Start-Up and Business Growth Grants.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Attention Business Owners

To stay informed about current and upcoming government tender opportunities the **Northern Territory Government publishes procurement opportunities** on [Quotation and Tenders Online \(QTOL\)](#). Once you are registered, you can check upcoming tenders and contracts for anticipated procurement activities.

Please see here for a link to [QTOL](#) for register and [Business Territory](#) for information and tools to help you start, grow and run your own business.

Aboriginal Business Development

A range of support services are provided to assist Aboriginal Business Enterprises across the Northern Territory (including Kungarakan and Warai owned businesses), helping to maximise the opportunities available to them throughout the Project. If you interested in discussing any opportunities, please contact us via email rumjungleproject@nt.gov.au

Aboriginal Business Support

The Northern Territory's central hub for business support and resources, business.nt.gov.au has been upgraded to better support our local businesses. Whether you're starting out, looking to grow, or managing an established business, the refreshed website provides the tools and guidance you need for success.

Key highlights of the new site include:

- Comprehensive insights into the NT business landscape
- Practical tools and guides to help you upskill and build a sustainable business
- Step-by-step support for navigating government tendering opportunities
- Information on programs and services to boost your business

Explore the updated business.nt.gov.au and discover how it can support your business journey.

For more information on the business support services provided as part of the Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project, please contact Lynda Coates on 0473 092 729, or lynda.coates@nt.gov.au.

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Flexible Skills and Training Response Program

This program provides access to low-cost training or free training for business owners or managers. Workshops will be run in urban, regional and some remote areas between July 2025 and June 2026. More information can be found at [Flexible Skills and Training Response Program | Business NT](#), [Flexible Skills and Responsive Training Program Flyer](#).

Grant Programs

Department of Employment Workplace and Relations have rolled out a Self-Employment Assistance Program with My Pathways: <https://www.dewr.gov.au/self-employment-assistance>.

Free VET courses

Charles Darwin University has a host of free courses with limited places available to the public. If you are interested, please click on the link to learn more: [Fee-Free TAFE courses | Charles Darwin University](#).

Project Job Opportunities

Advertising has opened for two Land Management Team vacancies:

- Position 042628 - LAND MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR
- Position number 044587 - TEAM LEADER

Both positions are based in Batchelor. If you're interested in these roles you can apply online at the [NTG Employment Opportunities website](#). Applications can be submitted until 10/03/2026.

PROJECT TEAM MEMBER UPDATE

The Rum Jungle Rehabilitation team welcomed two new members to the team in late 2025.



Neryse Pugh – Senior Project Officer, Contracts and Procurement

Neryse joined the team in August 2025, bringing with her over 20 years of procurement experience and a genuine passion for getting great outcomes. Neryse made the move to the NT in early 2017, where she spent 12 months in the private sector working closely with contractors preparing tender submissions. In March 2018, Neryse joined the Northern Territory Government's Procurement Services team, where she spent around five years supporting agencies with a broad range of procurement activities. Neryse is thrilled to now be part of the Rum Jungle team and is looking forward to supporting the project.



Augustus Couldwell – Project Officer, Contracts and Procurement

Gus commenced work with the Rum Jungle project in October 2025 as part of the Procurement team. Prior to joining the Rum Jungle team, he spent 18 months within the Department of Children and Families. Although new to procurement, Gus brings a strong set of transferable skills developed before relocating to Australia from the United Kingdom.

Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project Team Contact Details:

If you would like any further information about the Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project or would like us to include anything on the next Community Noticeboard, please contact us via email rumjungleproject@nt.gov.au, or call the team on 0436 353 717.

Complaints:

If you have any concerns or would like to make a complaint in relation to the Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project, you can contact the project team at rumjungleproject@nt.gov.au.

You can also make a report to the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption NT (ICAC) through the [Make a Report online form](#), or by email to report.submission@icac.nt.gov.au. The ICAC deal with alleged improper conduct by employees of NT Government agencies, statutory authorities, local government councils, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and government owned corporations can be reported to the Commissioner.