



NEWSLETTER

Rum Jungle Project February – March 2026



The Rum Jungle site is a special place for the Kungarakan 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 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 sites natural and cultural values and enable Kungarakan and Warai people to reconnect with this land.

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.

Key Dates

- Next Cultural Induction Sessions, Monday, 8 May 2026
- Next Technical Working Group meeting, Wednesday, 20 May 2026
- Next Cultural Oversight Group meeting, Thursday, 21 May 2026

**Got an upcoming event in the region?
Contact Us at rumjungleproject@nt.gov.au**

Rehabilitation Update | Bulk Earthworks

Recent wet season rainfall has restricted the amount of on-ground work undertaken across the site. Despite these challenging conditions, essential activities have continued where possible to ensure the project remains on track and the site is safely managed.

A significant focus during this period has been on sediment and erosion control, with crews kept busy monitoring, maintaining and installing controls to manage runoff during heavy rain and protect surrounding waterways.

Where conditions have allowed, works have also included haul road development, earthworks and pad construction for the new groundwater treatment plant, and the establishment of site facilities to support upcoming construction activities.



HAUL ROAD PROGRESSION



NEW SITE FACILITIES

Rehabilitation Update | Water Remediation

Dewatering of the Main Pit is progressing, and the former ramp is emerging from the water body as levels drop. The water level has reduced by around 13 metres to date. This has removed approximately 0.65 million cubic metres of water from the pit, with a total of about 0.7 million cubic metres safely treated and discharged so far.

Ongoing monitoring of surface water, groundwater, pit water and treatment plant performance continues. The water quality monitoring network is now connected via satellite and provides real time data onsite and downstream, supporting early detection of changes and informed management decisions.

Construction of the new groundwater treatment plant has commenced. Once operational, the plant will use a lime treatment process to remove dissolved metals from groundwater. This process causes the metals to bind together and settle out as a solid sludge, allowing treated water to be safely managed.



PREPARATIONS GROUNDWATER TREATMENT PLANT



MODEL OF NEW GROUNDWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The groundwater treatment plant will operate in parallel to the existing water treatment plant, and it is able to treat water that is more heavily contaminated. Construction timelines and wet season conditions have resulted in delays to the groundwater treatment plant construction, but the project team is continuing to plan and adapt.



MAIN PIT THAT IS GETTING DEWATERED

Cultural Oversight Group | Kungarakan & Warai

It's been a busy couple of months for the Cultural Oversight Group (COG).

The COG recently delivered a series of Cultural Inductions for personnel working on the Rum Jungle Project. Led by COG members, the sessions provide workers with a deeper understanding of **Kungarakan and Warai Country**, local cultural values, and the cultural significance of the Rum Jungle site. The COG members share stories, knowledge and guidance to help workers approach their roles with respect and awareness while contributing to the rehabilitation of the site.

The Cultural Oversight Group (COG) met on 25 February 2026 in Darwin, bringing together Traditional Owners, representatives from the Northern Territory Government, the NLC and consultant archaeologist. The COG provides advice and oversight to ensure cultural heritage is respected and protected during project activities. An archaeologist attended the meeting, providing general information about stone artefacts commonly found in the region. This helped build a shared understanding of the local cultural and archaeological landscape.

A site visit for COG members is also being planned for April to support shared understanding of proposed works planned to be undertaken on the Finnis River Land Trust gravel borrow area.

Technical Working Group | Kungarakan & Warai

The Rum Jungle Technical Working Group (TWG) brings together Traditional Owner representatives, Northern Territory Government officers, project specialists and advisors to support informed discussion on the technical aspects of the Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project. The TWG provides a forum to share information, raise concerns, and discuss environmental, and construction matters related to ongoing remediation works.

At the February 2026 meeting, the TWG received detailed technical briefings on current construction activities, water treatment and environmental monitoring updates were provided with opportunities to ask questions, seek clarification and raise issues based on community knowledge and lived experience of the site and surrounding areas.

Cultural Oversight Group | Other Business

In addition to their other duties, Cultural Oversight Group (COG) members also have an important role of protecting country. In March, Kungarakan and Warai COG members and their nominated Cultural Monitors were on site during vegetation clearing for the new office facilities. The Cultural Monitors checked the land to be cleared, advised on any flora to be protected, and observed McMahons undertake the works.

Following clearing, a final sweep was completed to ensure no artefacts were present. The day was very successful, with no damage to culturally significant areas and no artefacts identified.

The Cultural Monitors were particularly impressed with the McMahons operator, noting his respectful attitude and attention to detail throughout the clearing process.



The Kungarakan people are often called the **‘Paperbark People’**. Paperbark trees are common across their country and are traditionally used for shelter, wrapping food and ceremony.

Procurement Opportunities

As the Project progresses into Stage 3, a range of procurement opportunities will be made available to support ongoing works. Businesses in the Coomalie region and across the Northern Territory are encouraged to prepare early to take part.

To stay informed about upcoming opportunities related to the Project, businesses should register on **Quotation and Tenders Online (QTOL)**, where all NT Government tenders are advertised.

Additional support is available through **Business Territory**, which offers practical guidance on tendering, a range of information, tools, and resources to help you start, grow, and manage your business with confidence.

Stay informed, stay prepared, and don't miss out on opportunities offered by the Project and the Northern Territory Government.

Supporting Local Business Capability

Preparing early is an important step for businesses wanting to take up opportunities as they arise.

Lynda Coates continues to work alongside Kungarakan and Warai individuals and businesses, providing practical, one-on-one support to help position them for current and future opportunities linked to the Project and other NT Government work.

Lynda can assist with:

- Business planning and readiness
- Understanding procurement processes and tender requirements
- Identifying opportunities suited to business capability
- Connecting with broader business support services where needed

This support is not new — Lynda has been assisting Kungarakan and Warai people over time to strengthen business foundations and build confidence in engaging with government procurement and project opportunities.

Are you a Kungarakan or Warai business?

Why not contact Lynda for additional support for your business?

Lynda Coates on **0473 092 729** or via email at lynda.coates@nt.gov.au.

Job Opportunities coming soon

As work progresses on the Rum jungle Project, several employment opportunities will soon be available. These fulltime, fixed term roles offer a chance to be part of the on-ground rehabilitation of the site and to build skills and experience while working locally.

- **T1 Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Technician**
Providing practical on-site support across health, safety and environmental programs to support the delivery of Stage 3.
- **T1 Land Management Technicians (4 positions available)**
Supporting a range of land management activities and programs through onsite, hands-on work.
- **Training Coordinator**
Provide quality advice and overall coordination and management to the Rum Jungle Project Ready Training Program (PRTP) and the Professional Skills Development Program (PSDP), both designed to provide opportunities for Aboriginal Traditional Owners and other local Aboriginal people to gain the necessary skills to be able to undertake employment on the Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project (RJRP), or other similar projects in the region.

These positions will be advertised on the **Northern Territory Government Careers in Government and Employment Opportunities** website and are expected to open for applications soon.

If you or someone you know would like more information, please contact the **Rum Jungle Project Team** on **0436 353 717** or email rumjungleproject@nt.gov.au .

Further details, including position descriptions and application instructions, will be available once the advertisements go live.

Training Opportunities – Watch this space

We're currently working in partnership with Batchelor Institute to plan the next round of traineeships for the Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project.

These opportunities are expected to support Kungarakana and Warai participants to gain hands-on experience in conservation and land management, while working towards a nationally accredited qualification.

The program is anticipated to include a mix of on-country practical work and classroom-based learning, along with mentoring and support throughout.

We will share more information soon, including how to register your interest.

Take 5 with Annabelle Rigg

Hello! I'm Annabelle, I work as the Environment Officer with the Rum Jungle Project team. I have lived in the NT for 2-and-a-bit years and I'm loving it here.

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

I really like the team I work with and the versatility of each day. I enjoy that there is a mix of field work and office work, and that I have the opportunity to connect with people in a meaningful way.

- What's a good piece of advice you've received?
Smile at strangers.
- What is something about you people might not know?
There's lots!
- What is your favourite food?
Mum's Sunday roast dinner.



Contact Us | We'd love to hear from you

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 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 rumjungle.complaints@nt.gov.au or by calling 0436 353 717.

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.