



Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited

ABN 76 000 057 125 / ACN 000 057 125

A member of the Rio Tinto Group

Mine Management Plan
EL 4170 Cato Plateau
Gove SD5304
Northern Territory

Exploration Report No. 25807

Tenement Holder:	BHP Billiton Minerals Pty Limited Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited
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LIST OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page No</u>
LIST OF CONTENTS	ii
LIST OF TABLES	iv
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	iv
LIST OF PLANS	iv
1 SUMMARY	1
2 INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1 LOCATION AND ACCESS	1
2.2 LICENCE DETAILS	2
2.3 PROJECT MANAGEMENT	2
3 STAKEHOLDERS	3
3.1 LEASE HOLDERS	3
3.2 NATIVE TITLE GROUPS.....	3
3.3 COMMUNITIES / INTEREST GROUPS.....	3
4 REGULATORY COMPLIANCE	4
4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS.....	4
4.2 UTILITY SERVICES	5
5 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS.....	5
5.1 PHYSIOGRAPHY	6
5.2 PREVIOUS EXPLORATION / MINING OR OTHER DISTURBANCES	6
5.3 QUARANTINE ISSUES	6
5.4 SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.....	8
5.4.1 Conservation Areas.....	8
5.4.2 Heritage Sites.....	8
5.4.3 Protected Flora.....	9
5.4.4 Protected Fauna.....	9
5.5 SURFACE WATER.....	9
5.6 GROUND WATER	9
5.7 CONTAMINATED LAND	9
6 WORK PROTOCOL AND REHABILITATION.....	10
6.1 TRACKS	10
6.2 CAMPSITES	10

6.3	DRILL SITES	11
6.4	DRILLING	11
6.5	SAMPLING	12
6.6	GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS	13
6.7	OTHER GROUND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES.....	14
6.7	HYDROCARBONS AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES	14
6.8	FIRE MANAGEMENT	14
7	SAFETY	15
DESCRIPTOR.....		17
KEYWORDS		17

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Tenement Summary	2
Table 2: Lease Details.....	3
Table 3: Details of Community / Interest Groups	3
Table 4: Introduced Plants and Animals	8
Table 5: Environmental Impact Management of tracks.	10
Table 6: Environmental Impact Management of the campsite.....	10
Table 7: Environmental Impact Management of drill sites.....	11
Table 8: Environmental Impact Management for drilling.	12
Table 9: Environmental Impact Management of sampling.	13
Table 10: Environmental Impact Management of geophysical surveys.....	13
Table 11: Environmental Impact Management for other ground disturbing activities.....	14

LIST OF APPENDICES

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>File Name</u>
1	EPBC Checklist	ED71SLS03.pdf ED72SLS03.pdf
2	List of Environmental Procedures	Environmental Procedures List.pdf

LIST OF PLANS

<u>Plan No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Scale</u>
WAp45644	EL 4170 Cato Plateau Work Program	1: 100 000

1 SUMMARY

This Mine Management Plan (MMP) documents the proposed work activities that Rio Tinto Exploration – Australasia Region (RTE-AR) will carry out on EL 4170 Cato Plateau. The MMP will be the management document for all planned ground disturbance activities. The exploration programme is likely to involve reconnaissance work such as rock chip and soil auger sampling, stream sediment sampling, and mapping as well as an extensive community relation's programme. It is likely that a Yellow Crazy Ant (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*) infestation occurs on EL4170. RTE-AR will implement appropriate measures to ensure that RTE-AR does not transfer ants from RTE-AR activities during the programme.

An Annual Environmental Report (AER) will document all ground disturbance and rehabilitation on this programme. At the cessation of the project, RTE-AR will complete a Final Rehabilitation Report (FRR).

2 INTRODUCTION

This Mine Management Plan covers EL 4170 Cato Plateau. Rio Tinto Exploration - Australasia Region (RTE-AR) plan to begin the field programme in the latter part of 2003. RTE-AR expects the reconnaissance programme to involve stream and rock chip sampling, and mapping. The project will involve up to six RTE-AR personnel on-site. Other RTE-AR personnel may visit the site, such as the Safety and Environmental Officers.

RTE-AR will manage environmental issues, associated with this tenement, according to the RTE-AR Environmental Management System and guidelines set in this MMP. Relevant authorities/groups will receive a digital copy of the Environmental Field Procedures at the beginning of each field season.

2.1 LOCATION AND ACCESS

EL 4170 Cato Plateau is located 25 km southwest of Nhulunbuy in northeast Arnhem Land, and is 630 km east of Darwin. Access to the tenement will be via the Stuart Highway (sealed road), and the unsealed Mainoru and Central Arnhem roads; or alternatively, via the Arnhem Highway, and the Maningrida, Ramingining, and Nangalala roads (Plan WAp45644).

2.2 LICENCE DETAILS

Table 1: Tenement Summary

Tenement No.	Tenement Name	Ownership	Applic'n Date	Grant Date	No Blocks Applied	No. Blocks Granted
EL 4170	Cato Plateau	BHP Billiton Minerals Pty Ltd (Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Ltd are managing the programme)	03-12-82	TBA	182	TBA

2.3 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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Location Address: 37 Belmont Avenue, Belmont WA 6104

Approximately four to six RTE-AR staff will be engaged in the programme, operated from Nhulunbuy. All personnel will have work-related transit and entry permits for the area obtained through the NLC system of Land Access Permits prior to work commencing. RTE-AR also wishes to employ two Traditional Owners for the programme.

Work activities will be conducted during the dry season, preferably between July and September 2003. The work programme detailed in 6.0 will take approximately two weeks to complete.

3 STAKEHOLDERS

3.1 LEASE HOLDERS

Table 2: Lease Details

Lease Name/Number	Leaseholder	Tenure Type	Contact Name	Contact Details
ARNHEM LAND 01646	Arnhem Land Aboriginal Land Trust	V	-	C/- Northern Land Council, 9 Rowling St, Casuarina NT 0810

3.2 NATIVE TITLE GROUPS

There are no Native Title Claims on this tenement. The area is under Freehold Title in the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Land Trust.

A) Work Area Clearance

The Traditional Owners for the area will conduct work area clearance surveys over the tenement before any work commences.

3.3 COMMUNITIES / INTEREST GROUPS

Table 3: Details of Community / Interest Groups

Community / Interest Group	Contact
Yudu Yudu Community	Layhapuy Home Association Inc
Galupa Community	Marngarr Community Government Council
Yanungbi Community	Layhapuy Home Association Inc
Gungangara Community	Marngarr Community Government Council
Galaru Community	Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association
Yirrkala Community	Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association
Dhalibuy Community	Layhapuy Home Association Inc
Dhimurru Rangers (Land Management)	Steve Roeger (08) 8987 3992 Mark Ashley (08) 8920 5198

4 REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS

The following is a summary of the EL conditions, pertaining to environmentally related issues, which the Schedule of Conditions attached to the EL's stipulate (Section 24a Mining Act).

- The Licensee (and contractors) shall carry out its activities in such a way as to minimise any impact to native/freehold title rights and interests in the licence area i.e. interference with culturally significant areas or sites. Must consult Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and inspect the Register of Sacred Sites.
- The Licensee (and contractors) shall carry out its activities in such a way as to minimise environment impact of the licenced area i.e. reduce land clearing; prevent noxious weed spread; establish temporary structures, facilities, survey markings, or other relate infrastructure; minimise disturbance to soil, rock, rock formations, creeks and watercourses; prevent contamination of water sources (surface and ground water); cap and report artesian groundwater encountered during drilling; cut, cap and mound over all drill-holes; rehabilitate all cleared areas (inc. replacing topsoil); do not use fire except for preparing food or heating water.
- Remove all waste material, rubbish, plastic sample bags, abandoned equipment, and temporary buildings before or at the termination of the exploration programme and, put in appropriate disposal facilities.
- No firearms or traps, and hence killing of wildlife is permitted on the licence area.
- No new tracks are to be created unless unavoidable.
- The Licensee is to meet with the Native Title Claimants/holders, on the licence area before the commencement of the programme to explain the exploration activities, and to discuss any issues/concerns. The Licensee may also invite the relevant pastoral lessees or landholders to this meeting. Appropriate notification, in accordance with the Mining Act (NT), is to be given to the group(s).
- Pursuant to s.166 (1A) Mining Act (NT), the Licensee must obtain prior approval from the Minister for all exploration activities likely to cause substantial disturbance to the surface of the licence area such as drilling, costeaning, gridding, bulk sampling, camp establishment or road constructions. The Minister may set specific conditions as to the rehabilitation requirements and audit procedures.

- If a Native Title Claimant or holder lodge a written complaint with the Minister regarding the adverse impact, to Native Title rights and interests, resulting from the conduct of activities, the Minister may:
 - a) Request a written explanation about the matter from the Licensee.
 - b) Request the Licensee attend a meeting with the Minister to discuss the matter.
 - c) Request the Licensee attend a conference with the Minister and the complainant with a view to resolving the matter.

The Minister may then:

- a) Direct the Licensee to carry out rectification work.
 - b) Carry out rectification work at cost to the Licensee.
 - c) Take any other action, including the cancellation of the licence, which the Minister sees fit.
- The Licensee is to inform the Native Title claimants or holders, in writing, if the licensee is to proceed with productive mining. This may trigger further act process, as is the procedural right.

The Licensee should employ local persons and contractors from the licence area and give them the opportunity of quoting or tendering for contract work.

4.2 UTILITY SERVICES

No utility services such as power, water, gas, and telephone are known to occur on the tenement.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

RTE-AR has considered environmental factors in the planning stages of exploration activities. This planning process has identified the potential impacts and likely environmental issues associated with the exploration activities in this tenement. RTE-AR has implemented appropriate Environmental Procedures (Appendix 2) to manage these activities. RTE-AR will conduct all its exploration activities in accordance with its Environmental Procedures.

5.1 PHYSIOGRAPHY

Cato Plateau is in the Arnhem Coast Bioregion. It has gently undulating plains and low dissected plateau on lateritised Cretaceous sandstones and siltstones, sandy red and yellow earths and siliceous sands. The Giddy River dissects the northern part of the tenement, whilst the intermittent Wonga Creek exists in the south-eastern corner of the tenement. Several swamplands, exist on the tenement, and form part of these riverine systems. Extensive mangrove mud flats occur at the ocean inlet to these drainage lines.

The dominant vegetation type is Darwin Woollybutt/Darwin Stringybark open forest with sorghum understorey.

5.2 PREVIOUS EXPLORATION / MINING OR OTHER DISTURBANCES

BHP explored north-eastern Arnhem Land during 1964-1972 for sedimentary manganese in the Cretaceous Yirrkala Formation and bauxite. Limited information (summary logs) and assay data have been located for this drilling.

BHP collected 17 rock chip samples from EL 4170 Cato Plateau in 1964. Several of these returned high Al_2O_3 values, so in 1966 BHP constructed tracks and drilled 84 auger holes over the Cato Plateau to test bauxite potential. This programme used a mechanical posthole auger mounted on a four-wheel drive utility and totalled 700 m, with holes to a maximum depth of 9 m. BHP also drilled 9 percussion holes for manganese totalling 401.3 m, to a maximum depth of 61.8 m.

5.3 QUARANTINE ISSUES

Table 4 lists the introduced species that have been recorded in the Arnhem Coast bioregion. These species may occur on the tenement. Of particular significance is the presence of the introduced Yellow Crazy Ant (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*).

So in addition to adhering to the Environmental Procedure, ENVT105 Quarantine, RTE-AR will also implement the following to prevent the spread of the Yellow Crazy Ant.

1. Notify the Dhimurru Rangers (contact as per Table 3) when RTE-AR expects to arrive at Nhulunbuy, and arrange a time to go out to site with the Rangers. This is so that RTE-AR personnel can be shown what the Yellow Crazy Ant looks like.
2. Dhimurru Rangers to survey the site and record any occurrence of the Yellow Crazy Ant, and any nest locations. RTE-AR will also record the location to avoid the nest during the programme.

3. Establish a wash-down area on the tenement. RTE-AR will wash down all vehicles, at the designated wash-down area, before departure from the tenement.
4. RTE-AR will ensure all equipment/clothing and vehicles are free of the Yellow Crazy Ant before departure from the tenement. If the Yellow Crazy Ant are found on vehicles or equipment/clothing spray with insect spray.
5. Do not stop along the road from Nhulunbuy to the tenement. If required to stop, stop greater than 100m from any culvert or creek as these are preferred nesting areas for the Yellow Crazy Ant.
6. Personnel to report any sightings during the programme to the Dhimurru Rangers.

Table 4: Introduced Plants and Animals

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
Plants	
<i>Urochloa mutica</i>	Para Grass
<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i>	Hyptis
<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i>	Bellyache Bush
<i>Mimosa pigra</i>	Mimosa
<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	Parkinsonia Thorn
<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Salvinia
Animal	
<i>Anoplolepis gracilipes</i>	Yellow Crazy Ant
<i>Bufo marinus</i>	Cane Toad
<i>Felis catus</i>	Feral Cat
<i>Equus caballus</i>	Feral Horse
<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Feral Pig
<i>Bubalus bubalis</i>	Water Buffalo
<i>Bos taurus</i>	Feral European Cattle

5.4 SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Several protected species were identified, using RTE-AR's GIS and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Database, as likely to occur on the tenement. RTE-AR will not develop special management procedures for these species as the nature of the work, that is, minor ground disturbance, and the implementation of RTE-AR's existing management procedures for activities will minimise the potential impact on these species.

5.4.1 Conservation Areas

The EPBC search did not identify any conservation areas on the tenements. Refer to Appendix 1 for EPBC checklist and search results.

5.4.2 Heritage Sites

The EPBC search did not identify any heritage sites.

A search on RTE-AR GIS identified 2 sites on the tenement. Both sites are swamps located on the Wonga Creek. The traditional owners of the country will conduct a survey over the area before any activity commences. RTE-AR will record any significant areas and discuss with the traditional owners how to address the sites.

5.4.3 Protected Flora

Whilst numerous species were identified, from the EPBC search the search is not comprehensive and the species, or their habitat, may occur on the tenement. Refer to Appendix 1 for the EPBC search results and Checklist. RTE-AR also obtained flora information from the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission. The results of this search identified one species, *Dromaius novaehollandiae* (Emu), as Lower risk-Near Threatened. Other species had a Lower Risk-Low Concern status. RTE-AR will not implement any specific management plans for these species, as the nature of the exploration activities will not cause significant impacts.

5.4.4 Protected Fauna

Refer to Section 5.4.3.

5.5 SURFACE WATER

Two riverine systems are located on the tenement. The Giddy River flows through the north part of the tenement. The Wonga Creek flows through the south eastern corner. Both systems experience intermittent flow, commonly during the wet season.

5.6 GROUND WATER

6 water bores are located within EL 4170 Cato Plateau, but none are within the area approved for exploration.

If RTE-AR commission a drilling programme and an aquifer is intercepted whilst drilling, RTE-AR will record the location and report the occurrence to the Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development (DBIRD).

5.7 CONTAMINATED LAND

No contaminated land is known to occur on the tenement. If RTE-AR locates a contaminated site, RTE-AR will record the site and notify the Department of Infrastructure, Planning, and Environment.

6 WORK PROTOCOL AND REHABILITATION

RTE-AR will conduct its activities in accordance with the RTE-AR Environmental Procedures. The completed EPBC Checklist for Cato Plateau identifies the planned activities for the programme. This section addresses the impacts associated with these activities and the appropriate management techniques that RTE-AR will implement.

The programme is likely to involve reconnaissance activities such as:

- Soil auger drilling (6.3),
- Sampling (rock chip, stream sediment, and lag (6.5), and,
- Geological mapping.

Access to the sampling sites will be by 4WD on existing tracks (where possible), four wheel motorbike, or helicopter.

Given the sensitivity of the environment in the Top End Coast Bioregion, RTE-AR seeks to realise any issues that may limit future exploration activities. By visiting and photographing the area prior to systematic exploration RTE-AR will build upon this Environmental Management Plan, and provide a better framework for any future activities.

6.1 TRACKS

Existing tracks will be used where possible. No track construction is planned, but if a track is required, it will be constructed in consultation with the traditional owners and in accordance with the following:

Table 5: Environmental Impact Management of tracks.

Action	Impact	Control
Construction of tracks and use of vehicles (heavy and light) on tracks	Compaction, vegetation destruction, heritage site damage, impact on local fauna / flora distribution, water and wind erosion, dust generation, river and creek bank damage	ENVT102 Ground Disturbance ENVT112 Flagging Tape

6.2 CAMPSITES

RTE-AR will not require a field campsite. Field operations will be based from Nhulunbuy.

Table 6: Environmental Impact Management of the campsite.

Action	Impact	Control
Establishing and utilising an area for use as accommodation and messing facilities.	Compaction, vegetation destruction, heritage site damage, pollution, water and wind erosion, visually unappealing.	ENVT103 Camp Management ENVT102 Ground Disturbance ENVT 111 hydrocarbons and Hazardous substances

6.3 DRILL SITES

RTE-AR plans to drill a traverse of widely spaced soil auger holes (approximately 1 km between holes) along an existing track through the centre of the area approved for exploration (see attached plan). At this stage, drill pads are not required for this work. This work is to be conducted by four-wheel drive utility mounted with a mechanical rotary fence post auger, or if the ground is too hard, a small high-pressure air rotary drill. Holes are up to 8 cm in diameter and are drilled to a depth of up to 12 m. Samples from this work assist in identifying soil type and would be sent to laboratory for chemical analysis. All holes would be filled in with the remaining cuttings from the drilling and the surface area rehabilitated.

If RTE-AR commissions a drilling programme, then RTE-AR will establish drill sites in consultation with the traditional owners and in accordance with the following:

Table 7: Environmental Impact Management of drill sites.

Action	Impact	Control
Tyred vehicle access, construction of access tracks Ground excavation, heavy equipment mobilisation, Soil removal and storage	Ground and surface water contamination, vegetation and soil disturbance, water erosion, dust generation	ENVT110 Sampling ENVT102 Ground Disturbance ENVT114 Monitoring and Monitoring Equipment ENVT 111 Hydrocarbons and Hazardous substances

6.4 DRILLING

As per section 6.3.

If results from auger samples are encouraging, a programme of wide spaced aircore drilling will be undertaken. This will use a four-wheel drive truck mounted with a high-

pressure air rotary drill. The aircore holes will be drilled to a depth of about 20 m. Samples (about 2 kg) are collected from cuttings recovered from the hole, and are sent to laboratory for analysis. All holes would be filled in with the remaining cuttings from the drilling and the surface area rehabilitated.

Table 8: Environmental Impact Management for drilling.

Action	Impact	Control
Construction of access tracks, tyred vehicle access Drill pad construction, heavy equipment mobilisation, drilling waste discharge, drilling	Ground and surface water contamination, vegetation and soil disturbance, water and wind erosion, dust generation	ENVT102 Ground Disturbance ENVT107 Drilling ENVT108 Drill Hole Capping ENVT109 Water Bores ENVT114 Monitoring and Monitoring Equipment

6.5 SAMPLING

At the locations shown on the attached map, RTE geologists plan to collect rock, lag, soil, or stream sediment samples, which will be sent to a laboratory for chemical analysis. This work would be carried out by helicopter and four-wheel motorbike to minimise disturbance.

A description of these sample types is provided below:

- Rock chip samples are collected from surface exposures by prising loose or chipping the rock outcrop with a geological hammer. Samples weight approximately 1 kg and are collected in small calico bags.
- Lag samples are samples of coarse-grained surficial material (commonly pisolitic gravels) representing residual material from the weathering of rocks. Samples are sieved on site and dispatched to a laboratory for analysis in small paper packets (sample weight of approximately 100-200 grams).
- Soil samples are collected from shallow holes dug to a depth of no more than 30cm. samples are sieved on site and dispatched to a laboratory for analysis in small paper packets (sample weight of approximately 100-200 grams). RTE does not plan to take soil samples at this stage.
- Stream sediment samples are collected from the fine-grained material deposited during the most recent flow of streams. Samples are sieved on site

and dispatched to a laboratory for analysis in small paper packets (sample weight of approximately 100-200 grams).

- Gravel sediment samples are larger samples (up to 40 kg in calico bags) collected from gravel traps in creek beds. The samples test major drainages for heavy minerals indicative of diamond-bearing rocks (e.g. kimberlite) in the catchment. Four field staff are normally required to undertake this work, working in teams of two and being transported to and from the sample sites in a helicopter.

RTE-AR will conduct the sampling in accordance with the following procedures and after consultation with the traditional owners.

Table 9: Environmental Impact Management of sampling.

Action	Impact	Control
Foot access Construction of access tracks, tyred vehicle access, digging of shallow (<30cm deep) trenches/pits	Compaction, minor ground (vegetation and soil) disturbance, water and wind erosion	ENVT110 Sampling ENVT102 Ground Disturbance

6.6 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

Geophysical mapping is not currently planned. However, if warranted, this will be in accordance with the following:

Table 10: Environmental Impact Management of geophysical surveys.

Action	Impact	Control
Flying aircraft	Transient noise	ENVT101 Environmental Management Plan CREL002 Community Relations Environmental Procedure
Foot access Tyred vehicle access, construction of access tracks	Minor compaction, minor ground disturbance (soil and vegetation), minor water and wind erosion	ENVT110 Sampling ENVT102 Ground Disturbance

6.7 OTHER GROUND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES

RTE-AR plans no other ground disturbing activities on the tenement. If other ground disturbing activities are required later, RTE-AR will conduct the activity in accordance to the following:

Table 11: Environmental Impact Management for other ground disturbing activities.

Action	Impact	Control
Tyred vehicle access, construction of access tracks Ground excavation, heavy equipment mobilisation, Soil removal and storage	Ground and surface water contamination, vegetation and soil disturbance, water erosion, dust generation	ENVT110 Sampling ENVT102 Ground Disturbance ENVT114 Monitoring and Monitoring Equipment ENVT 111 Hydrocarbons and Hazardous substances

6.7 HYDROCARBONS AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

The following substances are likely to be used on the programme – domestic gas, diesel, domestic cleaning products, degreaser, and engine oil. RTE-AR will have MSD sheets on site for these substances, and any other hydrocarbon or hazardous substance not listed above. RTE-AR will manage the substances according to:

Table 12: Environmental Impact Management for hydrocarbons and hazardous substances.

Action	Impact	Control
Handling, transport, storage and use of Hydrocarbons and Hazardous Substances	Soil and vegetation contamination, ground water pollution, adversely affect fauna.	ENVT111 Hydrocarbons and Hazardous Substances; SAFE 109 Hazardous Substances (Minimum Standards), and Australia District Field Operations Hazardous Materials Procedure.

6.8 FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fire is a natural part of the environment in this region. As personnel will be residing in Nhulunbuy, there will be no need for fires to be lit on the tenement. If a fire is required for some reason, RTE-AR addresses fire management in ENVT103 Camp Management. The procedure states that RTE-AR will,

- Contact the local authorities to ensure that no fire restrictions are in place.
- Only permit fires under carefully controlled conditions. They must be a safe distance from flammable materials, accommodation and work areas. Locate fires in a site cleared of dry vegetation with a radius of at least three meters.
- Adhere to procedures designed to minimise the risk of bushfires occurring. In the event that a fire does escape, RTE-AR will make reasonable attempts to extinguish it without placing unnecessarily personal safety at risk. These procedures include:
 - Using gas barbecues or other facilities where possible in preference to open fires.
 - Ensuring that all fireplaces have a barrier made of stone or other appropriate material to act as a windbreak and to prevent dispersion of heat sources. Alternatively, they can be located within a 30 cm (or deeper) excavated depression.
 - Ensuring that whenever a fire is established appropriate fire fighting equipment is available and in good working order.
 - Any fire outbreaks will be reported within the Rio Tinto incident reporting system, and to relevant Government authorities.

7 SAFETY

The Rio Tinto safe systems of work are encompassed in the Australia District Field Operations Manual. The Field Operations Manual has twenty three (23) sections. Each section guides and controls a different area of the exploration operation although some areas of work are likely to be covered in more than one section.

The sections in the manual are:

1. Introduction
2. Legislative Requirements
3. Recruitment
4. Induction
5. Contract Management
6. Change Management

7. Incident Accident Reporting and Investigation
8. Electrical
9. Communications
10. Field Camp Pre-departure
11. Field Administration
12. Field Geotechnical
13. Inspections and Audits
14. Safety and Health Committee
15. PPE
16. Work Permits
17. Drilling Operations
18. Vehicle Operations
19. Aviation Operations
20. Manual Handling
21. Training
22. Hazardous Materials
23. Isolation Procedure

Copies of the Rio Tinto Australia District Field Operations Manual have been passed onto the relevant government departments.

DESCRIPTOR

Environmental Management Plan for EL 4170 Cato Plateau. The planned reconnaissance work programme for bauxite will comprise mapping, rock chip and stream sediment sampling, and soil auger sampling.

KEYWORDS

Mine Management Plan, rehabilitation, crazy ant, ground disturbance, EL 4170, Cato Plateau, bauxite.

APPENDIX 1

EPBC Search Results and Checklist

ED71SLS03.pdf

ED72SLS03.pdf

APPENDIX 2

List of Environmental Procedures

Environmental Procedures List.pdf