

# STOCKDALE PROSPECTING LIMITED

**EXPLORATION LICENCES 6286-6301** 

ROPER RIVER AREA, NORTHERN TERRITORY

COMMON REPORT TO 31st JANUARY, 1990

M.H. PODOLSKY

CRY0/060



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ROPER RIVER

TITLE:

Exploration Licencs 6286-6301,

Roper River Area, Northern Territory Common Report to 31st January, 1990

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Inferred time relationship of principal rock units, McArthur Basin to

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# **SUMMARY**

**Exploration Licences:** 

6286-6301

Date Granted:

1st December, 1988

Area:

24,350 sq km 7,562 blocks

Occupant:

Stockdale Prospecting Limited

Operator:

Stockdale Prospecting Limited

Commodities sought:

Diamonds

Abstract:

A programme of reconnaissance, fill-in and follow-up sampling was conducted over Exploration Licences 6286 to 6301 in the Roper River area.

A total of 2,625 stream samples and 76 loam samples were collected over EL's 6291 to 6301, covering an area of 15,714km<sup>2</sup>. An overall density of about 1:5.8km<sup>2</sup> was achieved. Results are currently outstanding, and an area of 8,636km<sup>2</sup> over EL's 6286 to 6291 remains to be reconnaissance

sampled.

# STOCKDALE PROSPECTING LIMITED EXPLORATION LICENCES 6286-6301 ROPER RIVER AREA, NORTHERN TERRITORY COMMON REPORT TO 31st JANUARY, 1990

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Exploration Licences (ELs) 6286-6301 are located over the Urapunga D53-10, Hodgson Downs D53-14, Katherine D53-9 and Mount Marumba D53-6 1:250,000 map sheet areas in the top end of the Northern Territory (Map 1).

This report details all work carried out on the licences during the 1989 field season to the 30th January 1990. EL's 6287 to 6301 were granted on the 1st December, 1988. EL 6286, which falls over private land, was granted on the 10th February, 1989 after security had been lodged with the Northern Territory Department of Mines and Energy (NTDME) in accordance with the requirements of Section 16(3)(b) of the Mining Act. The above sixteen (16) licences are subject to a common annual report date of 31st January after a project classification was granted on 1st September 1989 by the NTDME (Appendix 1). This is the first common annual report for EL's 6286-6301.

During 1989 fieldwork was carried out over the southern and central portions of the licence areas, with reconnaissance stream sampling and selected loam sampling being completed over EL's 6292 to 6301, and the eastern two-thirds of EL 6291. Fieldwork was also carried out over EL's 4483, 4679 and 890 in conjunction with the 1989 programme. No fieldwork was carried out over the remaining licences (EL's 6286 to 6290).

#### 2. TENEMENTS

Currently, EL's 6286-6301 cover an area of 24,350km<sup>2</sup>. Table 1 summarizes the relevant areas and granting dates for the licences. A further three ELs are held in the Roper River area by SPL, covering an area of 1195km<sup>2</sup> (EL's 4483, 4679 and 890, Table 1). EL 890 is located in south-east Arnhem Land and held under a joint venture agreement with the Yugul Mangi Exploration Company Pty Ltd.

Five applications (ELA'S 6281 to 6285) were made in August 1988 for ground over the Cox, Beswick and Roper Bar Aboriginal reserves in the name of SPL, covering an area of 5,593km<sup>2</sup>. Consent to enter into negotiations with the Northern Land Council was granted by the Northern Territory Minister for Mines and Energy on 5th December, 1988. A consent proposal was submitted in January 1989 (Podolsky, 1989a), the outcome of which is currently awaited.

Three applications (ELA's 6685 to 6887) were lodged by SPL on 27th November 1989 over 113km<sup>2</sup> of ground previously held under EL 4483, which had to be dropped on the 1st October 1989 in accordance with statutory reduction requirements.

In summary, a total of 19 licences covering an area of 25,545km<sup>2</sup> is held in the Roper River area by SPL, with a further 8 licences covering an area of 5,706km<sup>2</sup> under application.

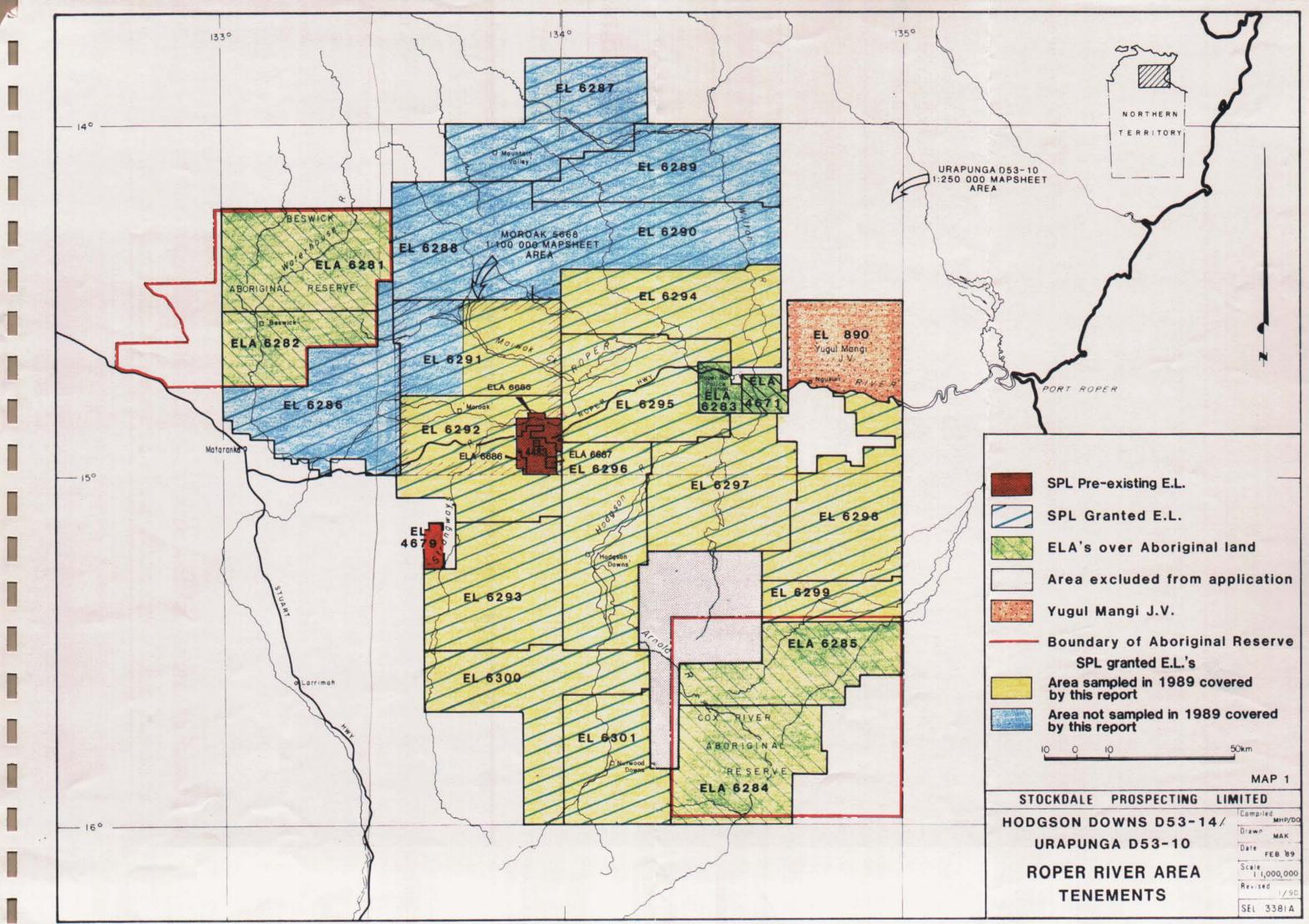


TABLE 1: GRANTED EL'S, ROPER RIVER AREA

EL NO	BLOC	KS AREA KM <sup>2</sup>	GRANTED	REPORT	COMMITMENT AS
4483	35	113	1/6/84	1/ 7/90*	50000
4679	31	100	25/10/84	1/7/90*	20000
6287	500	1610	1/12/88	31/01/90	25000
6288	500	1610	1/12/88	31/01/90	25000
6289	500	1610	1/12/88	31/01/90	25000
6290	500	1610	1/12/88	31/01/90	25000
6291	500	1610	1/12/88	31/01/90	25000
6292	500	1610	1/12/88	31/01/90	2.5000
6293	500	1610	1/12/88	31/01/90	25000
6294	500	1610	1/12/88	31/01/90	25000
6295	499	1607	1/12/88	31/01/90	25000
6296	500	1610	1/12/88	31/01/90	25000
6297	500	1610	1/12/88	31/01/90	25000
6298	500	1610	1/12/88	31/01/90	25000
6299	177	570	1/12/88	31/01/90	8850
6300	500	1610	1/12/88	31/01/90	25000
6301	386	1243	1/12/88	31/01/90	19300
6286	500	1610	10/2/89	31/01/90	25000
890	349	982	15/5/89	14/ 6/90	50000

<sup>\*</sup> Common Report Date approved.

# 3. ACCESS

Good first order access is provided by one sealed highway and two prominent gravel roads. The Roper Highway approximately bisects the licence areas and runs east-west, linking Mataranka with Roper Bar and continuing on to Ngukurr and beyond.

A prominent road runs north-east through Maranboy to Mainoru in the north if the licence area, and continues on to Bulman in Arnhem Land. A prominent gravel road runs north-east from Daly Waters to Nutwood Downs Station in the south-west of the licence area, and then north to the Roper Highway past Roper Valley Station. Access in the south-east of the licence area is provided by a gravel road which runs south-east from Roper Bar through St Vidgeon Station, and continues on to Borroloola.

A number of station tracks and others made by previous explorers provide limited dry season access only. Throughout most of the area access for stream sampling is only practical by helicopter.

# 4. **ABORIGINAL LIASON**

Prior to commencement of fieldwork information was obtained on the location of sacred sites from the Aboriginal Sites Protection Authority in Darwin.

An arrangement was confirmed between SPL and the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority whereby it was agreed that SPL would handle all the liaison with Aboriginal communities in the area using information from previous clearance work and the sacred site location maps (Appendix 2).

Sacred site, sample site and campsite clearance was conducted with the aid of the following representatives of the Traditional Owners:

Hodgson Downs Station. Thomson Roberts, Steven Roberts, Sandy August.

Bringung Outstation. Daylard.

Buddawarka. Roy Kalakundu; Bob Elizabeth and Roy Hampton.

Urapunga Station. Gilbert Jallawirra.

Ngukurr. David and Steven Daniels, Jacob Lancen, Sam Thompson, Jacob Roberts.

# 5. <u>HABITATION, CLIMATE AND VEGETATION</u>

The area is largely uninhabitated with the exception of small communities of Aboriginal and European station staff at the following stations:

Mountain Valley, Mainoru, Goondooloo, Moroak, Roper Valley, Urapunga and the Ngukurr Community in the north of the licence areas,

Mataranka, Elsey, Hodgson Downs and St Vidgeon over the central portion of the licence areas, and

Maryfield, Hodgson River and Nutwood Downs in the south of the licence areas.

The climate is monsoonal and has distinct wet and dry seasons. Most of the annual rain falls during the wet season, from November to April.

Vegetation varies from grass covered alluvial plains to open and medium-dense eucalypt scrub with sparse grass cover. Pandanus and paperbarks typically line major watercourses.

# 6. PHYSIOGRAPHY

### 6.1 <u>Drainage</u>

Most of the licence areas are drained by the Roper River and its tributaries, with the entire area draining into the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Principal drainages comprising the Roper River system within the licence areas are (Map 2):

in the west, the southerly draining West Branch Creek - Waterhouse River system, and the south-easterly draining Chambers River systems;

in the north and north-east, the south-easterly draining Mainoru River - Wilton River system and the Jalboi River;

in the south-west, the north-easterly draining Strangways River system;

and in the south, the northerly draining Hodgson River-Arnold River system.

Principal drainages in the south-east are the north-easterly flowing Towns and Cox Rivers (the Cox is a tributary of the Limmen Bight River).

# 6.2 Physiography

# 6.2.1 Regional Setting

The area between the Roper River and the Queensland border has been divided into three broad physiographic units: Barkley-Birdum Tableland, Gulf Fall, and the Coastal Plain (Dunn, Smith and Roberts, unpub.). Portions of all three physiographic units occur within the licence areas (Map 2).

Dunn (1963a) states the present topography has developed by erosion of a post-Cretaceous peneplain which was warped to form a shallow syncline, with the Roper River flowing east along its axis. Areas of Cretaceous tableland are remnants of the old peneplain, capped by a thin veneer of Lower Cretaceous strata lateritized in the early Tertiary (Randal, 1963). The secondary drainage and lower reaches of the main tributaries are largely controlled by the structure and lithology of underlying formations.

A small portion of the Daly River Basin physiographic division occurs in the extreme west of the licence areas, draining east into the Roper River system (Map 2).

#### 6.2.2 Barkly - Birdum Tableland

Part of the north-eastern margin of the Barkly-Birdum Tableland occurs in the south-west of the licence areas, and in the south-east over part of the Cox River Aboriginal Freehold area (Map 2).

The Tableland is poorly drained and mainly formed of Cretaceous sediments (which are capped with duricrust and are a remnant of the early Tertiary land surface), and Tertiary sediments (Dunn, 1963b). The margins of the Tableland are locally defined by 30m high scarps, and scarp-retreat is active in the headwaters of the upper tributaries of the Hodgson River and north of Maryfield Creek. Elsewhere, the margins are bevelled through erosion by streams developed on downwarped surfaces of the Tableland (Dunn, 1963b).

#### 6.2.3 Gulf Fall

The Gulf Fall is the predominant division covered by the licence areas, and comprises the area from which nearly all the early Tertiary land surface has been eroded (Dunn, 1963b). The Gulf Fall consists mainly of Middle Proterozoic sediments of the McArthur Basin that have been variably eroded to a mature surface generally lower than the post-Cretaceous peneplain (Dunn, 1963a). Several physiographic subdivisions have been recognized, they being mainly areas of variably dissected plateaus and tablelands.

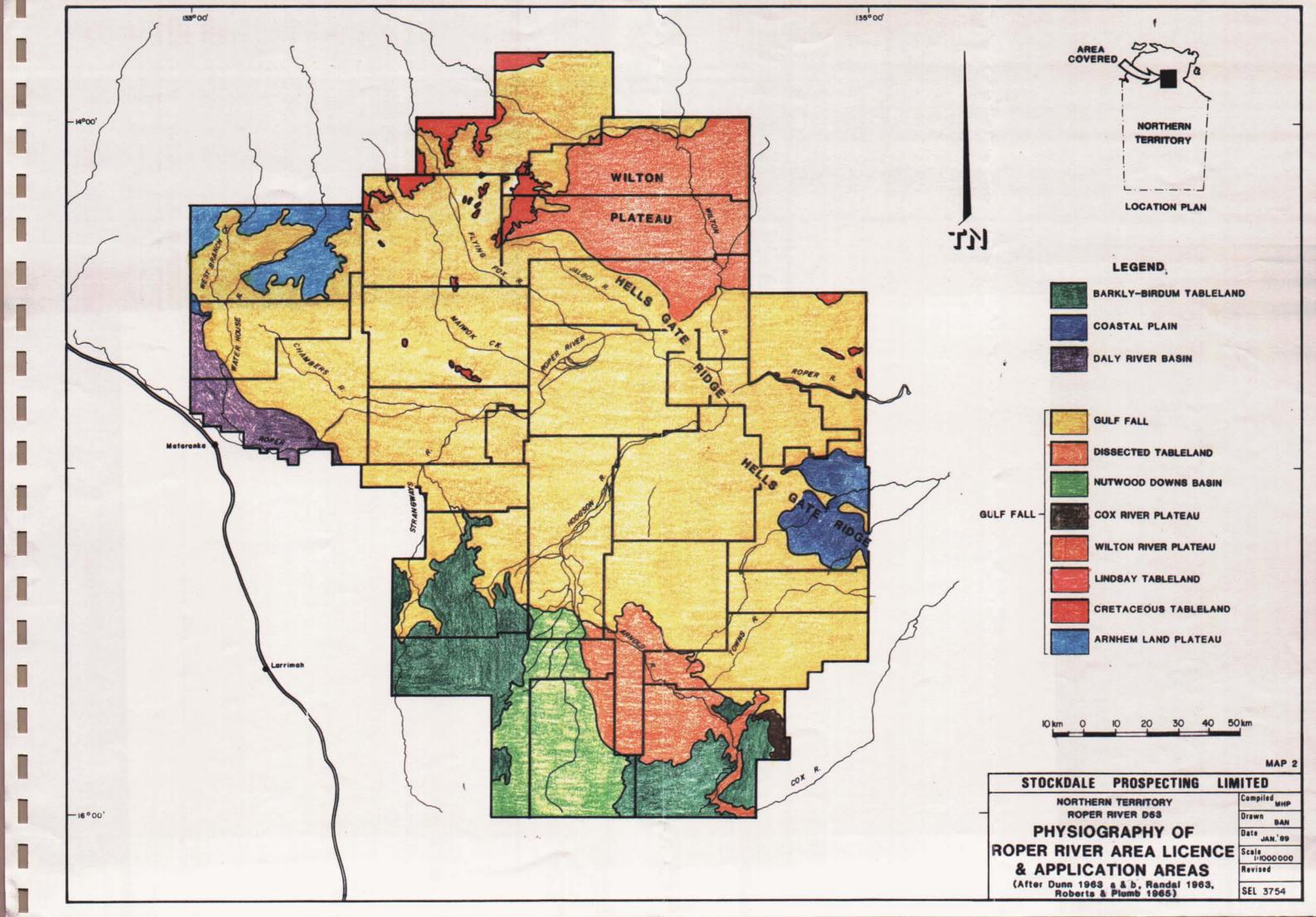
The topography has been controlled by differential erosion of Middle Proterozoic strata, and structure. It is featured by broad, flat-floored valleys formed on incomperent sediments, and by long hogback and cuesta form ridges and hills being formed of more competent sandstones. Many prominent hills are formed along strike ridges or are developed adjacent to faults.

Of note is the Hells Gate Ridge which is a prominent north-west trending strike ridge running across the central and eastern parts of the licence areas (Map 2). Only the Roper and Hodgson Rivers cut through the ridge. A local base level of erosion appears to have formed above the ridge whilst superimposed drainages were downcutting through it (Dunn, 1963a).

#### 6.2.4 Gulf Fall Division Tableland and Plateau Areas

The <u>Cretaceous Tableland</u> occurs in the north and west of the licence areas, and numerous mesas elsewhere are remnants of the old peneplain. The Tableland surface has an elevation of about 200m above sea level in the north, with some of the mesas near the Roper River now being only 70 to 100m above sea level (Map 2). The surface of the Tableland is formed of porous sediments having indistinct drainage development (Dunn, 1963a).

The <u>Cretaceous Tableland</u> appears to merge with the <u>Lindsay Tableland</u> in the north of the licence areas, and with the <u>Arnhem Land Plateau</u> in the west. Part of the south-eastern edge of the <u>Arnhem</u>



<u>Land Plateau</u> occurs across the northern half of the Beswick Aboriginal Reserve. The <u>Lindsay Tableland</u> is a mostly flat, soil covered elevated area largely underlain by flat-lying Lower Cretaceous strata and laterite (Roberts and Plumb 1965). The <u>Arnhem Land Plateau</u> is typically covered by lateritized lower Cretaceous strata deposited upon Middle Proterozoic arenaceous sediments and volcanic rocks (Randal, 1963).

The <u>Dissected Tableland</u> occurs in the south-east of the licence areas, and is mostly occupied by the Arnold River drainage basin. It is an area of Tableland which has been bevelled down exposing Proterozoic rocks, but still includes many low, scattered mesas of Lower Cretaceous rocks (Dunn, 1963b).

The <u>Nutwood Downs Basin</u> is the drainage basin of the upper Hodgson River, and is elevated about 50m above the level of the lower reaches of the Hodgson River. It is formed on Cambrian sediments and volcanics bounded by scarps of Lower Cretaceous rocks on the three sides, and drains through a narrow sandstone gorge (Dunn, 1963b).

A small area of the <u>Cox River Plateau</u> occurs in the south-eastern corner of the licence areas, over part of the Cox River Aboriginal Freehold. The Plateau is an elevated area of Cambrian sandstone which is covered by detrital sand near the Barkly-Birdum Tableland (Dunn, 1963b).

The Wilton River Plateau occurs in the north of the licence areas, and is a mature, dissected plateau of flat-lying fine-grained Middle Proterozoic sandstone locally capped by strongly jointed medium-grained sandstone (Dunn, 1963a) (Map 2). The Wilton River and its tributaries cross the Plateau in well developed valleys upto about 1.5km wide. Scarps upto 30m high locally define the margins of the Plateau, which typically grade into the rounded hills and shallow dip slopes of the dissected Gulf Fall (Dunn, 1963a).

#### 6.2.5 Coastal Plain

The Coastal Plain occupies an area in the extreme east of the licences (Map 2). The Coastal Plain forms a major unit of physiography to the east, and is formed of sand and laterite plains. Dunn (1963a) states the area represents portions of the post-Cretaceous peneplain which has been downwarped to a level protecting it from erosion.

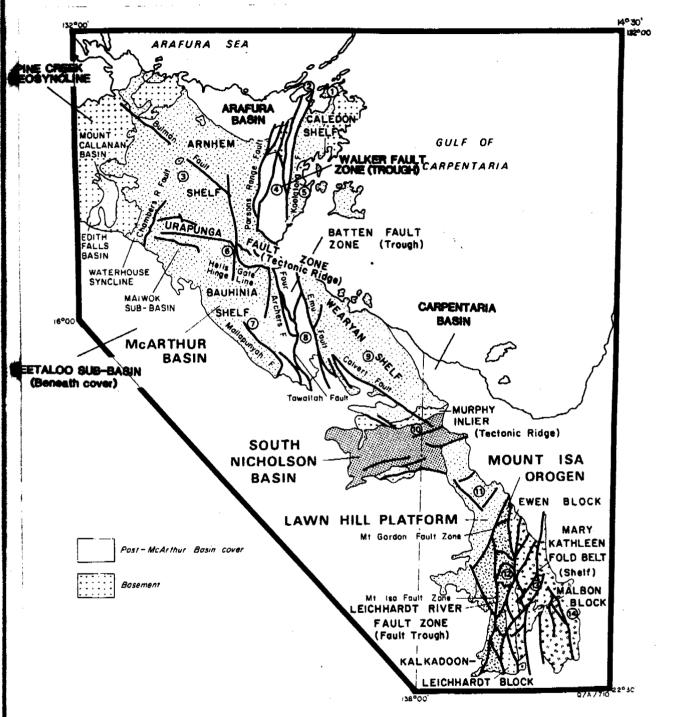
### 7. **GEOLOGY**

#### 7.1 Regional Tectonic Setting

The EL's lie almost wholly within the central south-western part of the McArthur Basin. The McArthur Basin was a large, complex depositional basin which extends from Arnhem Land in the north-west to south-east beyond the Queensland border, covering an area of about 200,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Plumb et al, 1981). Bedrock is represented by c.1700 to 1300 Ma (Middle Proterozoic or Carpentarian, Plumb 1988) platform cover sediments which are the principal element of the North Australian Platform Cover (Plumb et al, 1981).

The McArthur Basin lies near the eastern edge of the North Australian Craton adjacent to the Mt Isa Orogen, which was a penecontemporaneous continental margin belt (Plumb et al, 1981). The basin is bounded by and unconformably overlies the Early Proterozoic Pine Creek, Arnhem and Murphy Inliers. In the north, south, and east, the limits of the basin are masked by unconformably overlying covers of the Palaeozoic Arafura, Georgina, and Daly River Basins, and the Mesozoic Carpentaria Basin, respectively (Plumb et al, 1981).

The EL's occur over several tectonic elements recognized within the McArthur Basin: in the south of the Arnhem Land Shelf and the north-west of the Bauhinia Shelf, the Urapunga Fault Zone, the south-east of the Waterhouse Syncline, and the Maiwok Sub-Basin (Plumb et al, 1981) (Map 3). Regionally, the palaeogeography of the basin was dominated by the northerly-trending Batten Trough-Walker Trough which is a palaeotectonic feature, controlled by syndepositional faults, in which up to 12km of shallow water sediments accumulated, compared to 1.5-4.0km on the stable Arnhem, Bauhinia, Caledon, and Wearyan Shelves, either side. A very thin succession accumulated



Principal tectonic elements, McArthur Basin—Mount Isa Orogen. (After Plumb et al., 1980; with permission of Geological Society of Australia, Queensland Division).

STOCKDALE PROSPECTING LIMITED

HORMHORN WERNSTORY
DOG-10 MORMAN
PACKEMBOLE CHEEK
PROMESPAL TECTORIC

ELEMENTS, MCARTHUR BASIN
MY.10A 0200EM.
FROM PLUMB 01.01.(1081)

SEL 3717

on the Urapunga Tectonic Ridge. The Batten Trough - Walker Trough and Urapunga Tectonic Ridge were then deformed into the Batten, Walker and Urapunga Fault Zone tectonic features. Large vertical uplifts reversed the Batten and Walker Troughs into horst-like features, with basement rocks locally exposed within. Deformation of the stable shelves is very mild in comparison (Plumb et al. 1981).

# 7.2 Stratigraphy

The stratigraphy of the McArthur Basin is summarized in Fig. 1. The following summary covers the area of the licences.

#### 7.2.1 Proterozoic Rocks

7.2.1.1 Early to Middke Proterozoic: Transitional Domain Volcanism, Roper River Granite and ?Mt Reid Beds

A porphyritic microgranite and coarse granite is exposed along with sandstone and underlying acid volcanics of the Mt Reid Beds along the Urapunga Tectonic Ridge, about 2km north of Roper Bar (Plumb, 1988). The granite is referred to as the Roper River Granite (name not yet approved). The Roper River Granite is tentatively correlated with the 1850Ma Edith River Group which occurs in the Mount Callanan and Edith Falls Basins located to the north and east of Katherine (Plumb, 1988) (Map 3).

7.2.1.2 Middle Proterozoic (Carpentarian): McArthur Basin Succession Platform Cover

# 7.2.1.2.1 Tawallah Group

<u>Tawallah Group</u> sediments (and equivalents elsewhere) were deposited on the Bauhinia Shelf. An undivided sequence of quartz sandstone, conglomerate, subordinate siltstone, shale and dolostone are described by Plumb (1988). Locally thickened sections were deposited in marginal depressions as in the Waterhouse Syncline (Plumb et al, 1981).

#### 7.2.1.2.2 Katherine River Group and McArthur Group (Vizard Formation)

An unconformity separates the <u>Vizard Formation</u> which forms part of the McArthur Group and the stratigraphically equivalent <u>Katherine River Group</u>, with the Tawallah Group.

The <u>Katherine River Group</u> crops out over a large part of the Arnhem Shelf. Basal sediments are represented by locally pebbly quartz sandstone of the <u>Kombolgie Formation</u>, which is overlain by undivided dolomitic siltstone sandstone and dolostone, quartz and feldspathic sandstones of the <u>Katherine River Group</u>.

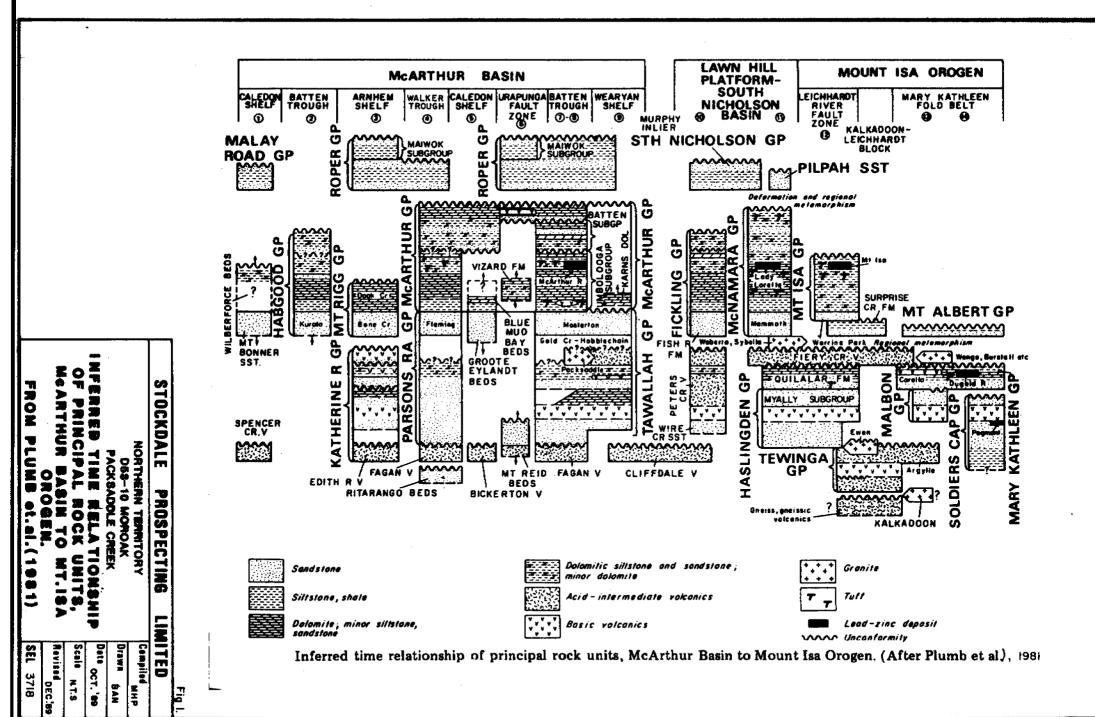
The West Branch Volcanics unconformably overlie Kombolgie Formation sediments in the Beswick Aboriginal Reserve Area, and are at the stratigraphic top of the Katherine River Group (Plumb, 1988). The volcanics are comprised of tuffaceous sandstones and amygdaloidal basalt.

Dolostone, dolomitic siltstone and quartz sandstone of the <u>Vizard Formation</u> occur along the Urapunga Tectonic Ridge south of Ngukurr.

# 7.2.1.2.3 Mt Rigg and Nathan Groups

The Mt Rigg and Nathan Groups are stratigraphically equivalent and unconformably overlie the Katherine River Group and Vizard Formation, respectively. The Mt Rigg Group is represented by dolostone, sandstone, siltstone, commonly cherty, and quartz sandstone, and crops out in the central and south-western Arnhem Shelf area.

The Nathan Group occurs south-east of Roper Bar over the Urapunga Tectonic Ridge. Sediments are comprised of an undivided sequence of cyclic dolostone, dolarenite, sandstone and siltstone (Plumb, 1988). The Yalwarra Volcanic Member is intercalated amongst the Nathan Formation, and is comprised of basic to intermediate volcanics and feldspathic sandstone.



# 7.2.1.2.4 Roper Group

Roper Group sediments were deposited with regional unconformity across the McArthur Basin, with the thickest sequence being deposited on top of the Bauhinia Shelf (Plumb et al, 1981). Hinge zones existed at the Hells Gate Hinge Line in the north, and the Emu Fault in the east (Plumb et al, 1981). Lithologies comprise an undivided series of quartz sandstones alternating with micaceous and glauconitic sandstone, siltstone and shale (Plumb, 1988).

Sediments of the <u>Maiwok Sub-Group</u>, which contain uppermost sequences of the <u>Roper Group</u>, were deposited in the Maiwok sub-basin which was formed by warping and faulting (Dunn, 1963a) (Map 3).

#### 7.2.1.2.5 Dolerite Sills

Following deposition of the Roper Group, sills of tholeitic dolerite were emplaced about 1300Ma (Plumb, 1988) into the western part of the McArthur Basin, before the basin was deformed (Plumb et al, 1981).

#### 7.2.2 Palaeozoic: Cambrian Sediments and Volcanics

Uplift and erosion of Proterozoic sediments was followed by deposition of the <u>Bukalara Sandstone</u> of the Georgina Basin in the south-west of the licence area. The <u>Bukalara Sandstone</u> is a sandstone, siltstone and shale sequence.

Massive and amygdaloidal basalts of the <u>Nutwood Downs Volcanics</u> were then extruded on the <u>Bukulara Sandstone</u> on the south-west of the licence area. The <u>Nutwood Downs volcanics</u> are equivalent to the <u>Antrim Plateau Volcanics</u> of the Daly River Basin to the west.

Carbonate deposition followed, and is represented by the <u>Daly River Group</u> of the Daly River Basin in the extreme west of the licence area.

Of note is the <u>Strangways Cryptoexplosion structure</u> (name not yet approved) tentatively placed in the Cambrian by Plumb (1988), occurring in the west of the licence area. The structure has about a 10km wide core of granite gneiss with exposures of breccia, commonly highly shocked, or melt rock, and is surrounded by a 5km wide collar of severely fractured, upturned or overturned Roper Group sediments (Ferguson et al, 1978). The latter have suggested the structure may be the result of a violently cryptoexplosive event involving a volatile enriched alkaline ultramafic magma.

# 7.2.3 Mesozoic: Lower Cretaceous, Mullaman Beds

No sedimentation is evident betweem Cambrian and Lower Cretaceous times. The Cretaceous sediments in the area are known as the <u>Mullaman Beds</u> and belong to a sequence which covers a large part of the northern half of the Northern Territory with initially terrerestrial and then later shallow marine epicontinental sediments being deposited. The bulk of the sequence is comprised of marine sediments (Dunn, 1963b). Siltstone, claystone, sandstone, and porcellanite (formed by silicification of some of the finer grained sediments during early Tertiary times), have been described (Dunn 1963a and b).

The Cretaceous sediments form a variably eroded, essentially flat-lying cover over older rocks across the southern portion of the licence areas, with scattered remnants occurring in the north.

#### 7.2.4 Cainozoic Cover

Large parts of the licence areas are covered by sand, laterite, soil, rubble, local patches of travertine and fresh water limestone, and alluvium.

The laterite, which commonly underlies the sand, is a remnant of an early Tertiary land surface developed after emergence of the Cretaceous sediments. Downwarping after laterization then occurred, with the present day drainage dominated by the Roper River developing on the warped sur-

face.

# 7.3 Structure of the McArthur Basin

According to Plumb et al (1981), deformation of the McArthur Basin has been largely in response to complex block faulting, especially along the Batten Fault Zone and to a lesser extent the Urapunga Fault Zone. Deformation of the adjoining shelves is mild in comparison.

Strikeslip movements along major pre-existing basement faults of continental proportions controlled the structural development of the McArthur Basin. The Batten Fault Zone overlies a major zone of weakness and dominated most of the basin's structure. The Urapunga Fault Zone is situated over a basement ridge which resisted the north-south horizontal movements of the surrounding blocks, resulting in the westerly trending reverse faulting.

# 8. PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

#### 8.1 General

The first systematic mapping of the area was carried out by the Bureau of Mineral Resources in 1958-1959, after which the URAPUNGA D53-10 1:250,000 map sheet was produced (Dunn, 1963a). Adjoining 1:250,000 map sheet areas were subsequently mapped: HODGSON DOWNS D53-14 (Dunn, 1963b), KATHERINE D53-9 (Randal, 1963) and MOUNT MARUMBA D53-6 (Roberts and Plumb, 1965).

Openfile literature research at the NTDME shows that the area has been prospected for iron, copper, lead, zinc and minor nickel mineralization. Uranium, manganese, bauxite, vanadium, silica sand and oil have also been explored for.

# 8.2 <u>Diamonds</u>

# 8.2.1 Ashton

A programme of reconnaissance stream sampling was completed to a density of 1:10km<sup>2</sup> to 1:15km<sup>2</sup> by Ashton during 1982 to 1984 over most of the licence area currently held by SPL. An area of 21,434km<sup>2</sup> was covered by Ashton.

The collected sample size was 25-30kg of -4mm material. Numerous non-kimberlitic chromites were recovered by this work, but no kimberlitic indicator minerals or micro-diamonds were reported.

#### 8.2,2 CRAE

A programme of reconnaissance stream sampling was completed to a density of 1:20km<sup>2</sup> by CRAE during 1985 to 1986 over the southern portion of the HODGSON DOWNS D53-14 1:250,000 sheet area. This work was carried out in conjunction with that over EL's held on the TANUMBIRINI E 53-2 1:250,000 sheet area and other EL's to the east and south-east.

The collected sample size was 20kg of -2mm material. Two microdiamonds and one picroilmenite were recovered from two western tributaries of the Arnold River. A third microdiamond occurred in a headwater tributary of Maryfield Creek to the west, and a further seven microdiamonds were recovered from the Cox River system to the east over part of the Cox River Aboriginal Freehold area. It is noteworthy that Ashton's work in the same area failed to produce similar results, but follow-up by CRAE did not repeat their original positives.

Chromites were reported from a number of samples collected in the west of the HODGSON DOWNS D53-14 1:250,000 sheet area from the Strangways River and tributaries, the Hodgson River, and tributaries, and the Cox River system in the east. It is probable that these grains derive from the Cambrian Nutwood Downs Volcanics.

8.2.3 SPL

#### 8.2.3.1 1970-1971 Fieldwork

Regional reconnaissance stream and barrage sampling over the URAPUNGA D53-10 and HODGSON DOWNS D53-14 1:250,000 sheet areas was carried out to a density of about 1:45km<sup>2</sup>.

Stream sample size was 10kg -4.75mm material with barrage samples ranging upto 300kg -4.75mm material. The collected material was concentrated by hand jigging of -1.70/0.85/0.60mm fractions, and panning of -0.60mm fraction material. Concentrates were examined in South Africa. One kimberlitic garnet was recovered from the north-eastern corner of the HODGSON DOWNS D53-14 sheet area from a tributary to the Towns River.

#### 8.2.3.2 1984 Fieldwork

Delineation of structural targets considered favourable for kimberlite and lamproite emplacement led to aquisition of 18 EL's in the Roper River area in mid-late 1984.

A first wave broad-spaced reconnaissance sampling programme was completed to a density of 1:165km<sup>2</sup> with the aim of detecting a kimberlite or lamproite province. The collected sample size was 70ltr of -1.7/0.3mm material. Three significant results were obtained:

a diamond from the Hodgson River north of Hodgson River Station,

a second diamond from a tributary to the Hodgson River west of Hodgson Downs Station, and

a kimberlitic garnet from Packsaddle Creek.

#### 8.2.3.3 1985 Fieldwork

During 1985 a bulk sampling (Steelmaster) programme took place which tested the two diamond and garnet positives. No grains of interest were recovered from the two diamond locations, but the anomalous nature of the Packsaddle Creek area was confirmed.

All EL's which did not contain any grains of interest were relinquished in 1985. The decision to withdraw the EL's was made largely on non-geological grounds. A total of six EL's covering an area of 8060km<sup>2</sup> was retained by March 1986.

# 8.2.3.4 1986 Fieldwork

During 1986 sampling was carried out over the retained portion of the target area and another target delineated in the south of the licences in three phases.

Infill stream and barrage sampling of the retained EL's was carried out to an overall density of about 1:30km<sup>2</sup>, and loam sampling of poorly drained areas in the south-west to about 1:6km<sup>2</sup>. Two significant results were obtained. A kimberlitic garnet was recovered in the south of the licence area from Anderson Creek, and a chromite of interest was recovered immediately south-east of the Pack-saddle Creek area.

Stream sampling to a density of 1:10km<sup>2</sup> and loam sampling to a density of 1:0.5km<sup>2</sup> was completed in the Packsaddle Creek area. Anomalous drainages containing kimberlitic garnets and chromite were delineated.

Follow-up to the above positive stream samples to a density of 1:0.4km<sup>2</sup> comprised the third and final phase of sampling in 1986. Further positive grains were recovered.

By March 1987 portions of three EL's having a combined area of 2298km<sup>2</sup> was retained.

#### 8.2.3.5 1987 Fieldwork

Selected infill, follow-up and check sampling was carried in the retained licence areas, with most of the fieldwork being concentrated in the Packsaddle Creek area.

Further follow-up in the Packsaddle Creek area increased the stream sampling density to 1:0.25km<sup>2</sup>, with a number of stream and barrage samples proving positive with kimberlitic garnets and chromites. A helicopter magnetic survey was flown over the area of interest which generated four subtle targets. Ground magnetometer follow-up surveys were inconclusive and two of the helimag responses proved to be of cultural origin. However, two kimberlitic garnets were recovered from check loam and handauger sampling over one of the helimag responses.

By January 1988 portions of two EL's having a combined area of 849km<sup>2</sup> was retained by SPL in the Roper River area.

#### 8,2,3,6 1988 Fieldwork

All fieldwork was focussed on the Packsaddle Creek area in 1988. Further ground magnetometer, loam, and stream sample surveys were conducted and this work is detailed in Podolsky (1989). The most important results were produced from grid loam sampling, which delineated a highly anomalous area containing abundant kimberlitic garnets, numerous chromites, and one diamond.

#### 9. 1989 FIELDWORK

#### 9.1 <u>Methodology</u>

A programme of regional reconnaissance and follow-up sampling was carried out over EL's 6292 to 6301 and the eastern two thirds of EL 6291, covering the southern and central portions of the licences. No fieldwork was carried out over EL's 6286 to 6290 in the north during 1989.

The sampling method adopted was to excavate 100ltr of stream sediment at each sample location, hand-screened on-site to -1mm or -1/0.3mm (-4.75mm if material was damp). If 20ltr of -1mm or -1/0.3mm material was collected before 100ltr of stream sediment was excavated, no further material was excavated and collected. A sample density as near to 1:5km<sup>2</sup> as possible was aimed for.

Closer-interval stream sampling at a density of about 1:1km<sup>2</sup> was used in follow-up to anomalies generated by previous SPL and opposition work. Sampling methodology was as above. Limited check sampling of features selected from enhanced Thematic Mapper imagery was carried out by stream or loam sampling.

# 9.2 Sampling

A summary of the sampling completed in the Roper River area over the relevant licences is shown in Table 2.

Sampling was conducted over the URAPUNGA D53-10 and HODGSON DOWNS D53-14 1:250,000 sheet areas, including the following nine 1:100,000 map sheets:

Throsby 5769	(Map 4)
Moroak 5668	(Map 5)
Chapman 5768	(Map 6)
Urapunga 5868	(Map 7)
Mais 5667	(Map 8)
Hodgson 5767	(Map 9)
St Vidgeon 5867	(Map 10)
Maryfield 5666	(Map 11)
Nutwood 5766	(Map 12)

TABLE 2: 1989 SAMPLING SUMMARY EL's 6286-6301, ROPER RIVER AREA

EL	AREA Sampled Km²	1:100,000 SHEET	NO. RECCE STREAM SAMPLES	NO. RECCE LOAM SAMPLES	NO. FILL-IN & FOLLOW-UP SAMPLES	KM <sup>2</sup> RECCE DENSITY	KM <sup>2</sup> OVERALL DENSITY
6291	1024*	Moroak 5668	185			1:5.5	
6292	1610	Moroak 5668 Mais 5667	224	2	235	1:7.1	1:3.5
6293	1610	Mais 5667	250	12	42	1:6.1	1:5.3
6294	1610	Chapman 5768 Throsby 5769	218	1	<del></del>	1:7.3	
6295	1607	Chapman 5768	212	3	·	1:7.5	
6296	1610	Hodgson 5767 Chapman 5768	291	3		1:5.5	
6297	1610	5767, 5867, 5768, 5868	209	4		1:7.6	
6298	1610	St Vidgeon 5867 Urapunga 5868	151	29		1:8.7	
6299	570	St Vidgeon 5867	73	3		1:7.5	
6300	1610	5666, 5766, 5667	295	2	15	1:5.4	1:5.2
6301	1243	Nutwood 5766	205	17	16	1:5.6	1:5.2
11	15714	9	2313	76	312	1:6.7	1:58

Area EL 6291 = 1610km<sup>2</sup>

Note: EL's 6286 - 6290 not sampled

A grand total of 2,625 stream samples and 76 loam samples were collected over EL's 6291 to 6301, covering an area of 15,714km<sup>2</sup>. An overall density of about 1:5.8km<sup>2</sup> was achieved. Statistics for respective EL's are provided in Table 2, and sample numbers are shown on Maps 4 to 12.

#### 9.3 <u>Treatment and Examination</u>

The collected material was bagged on-site and despatched to SPL's Darwin Treatment Plant where treatment is currently on-going. Concentrates are forwarded to SPL's Melbourne Laboratory for further treatment, and examination for diamonds and kimberlitic indicator minerals.

# 9.4 Results

Results are currently outstanding as the samples are being treated and processed at this time. All results for 1989 fieldwork will be reported in the next Common Report due in 1991.

# 10. PERSONNEL

Two field teams were utilized continually from the beginning of March to the end of October, with a third field team being utilized from late August to the end of October. Each field team consisted of:

1-2 Geologists

3-4 Field Hands

1 Cook

1 Pilot

1 Engineer

# 11. EXPENDITURE

# 11.1 Current Expenditure to Common Report Date

Expenditure for the period 1st December 1988 to the Common Report date of 31st January 1990 has been allocated as shown in Table 2, and totals \$1,246,280.

# 11.2 Proposed Expenditure for 1990

Proposed Expenditure for 1990 is based upon the assumption that two sampling teams will be employed to prospect the tenement area. This includes reconnaissance sampling of the areas not sampled in 1989 over EL's 6286 to 6301, and follow-up and in-fill sampling in the remaining licence areas. It is expected that about \$1,500,000 will be expended, and has been allocated as shown in Table 3.

EL NO.	6286	6287	6288	6289	6290	6291	6292	6293	6294	6295	6296	6297	6298	6299	6300	6301	TOTAL
Operational Staff Costs	0	0	0	0	0	20479	57480	42354	25599	25133	32580	23737	21875	8843	8610	34674	301365
General Operational Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	2088	5861	4319	2610	2563	3322	2420	2231	902	878	3536	30729
Transport and Travel	0	0	0	0	0	4973	11487	8331	5529	5428	7422	5428	4645	1792	2020	3383	60439
Air Charter	0	0	0	0	0	29571	70095	51476	38333	36691	42167	41071	30667	14786	9857	33952	398667
Tenement Costs	855	2508	2166	2827	2290	2758	2758	2735	2108	2108	2108	2108	2108	2108	2108	2108	35760
Mobile Jig Plant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central Treatment Plant	0	0	0	0	0	6794	15691	11380	7552	7414	10139	7414	6345	2448	2759	4621	82557
Lab Treatment	0	0	0	0	0	1152	2661	1930	1281	1257	1719	1257	1076	415	468	784	14000
Lab Examination	0	0	0	Q	0	3288	7593	5507	3655	3588	4906	3588	3071	1185	1335	2236	39952
Contractors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Remote Sensing	168	493	426	556	450	542	542	538	415	415	415	415	415	415	415	415	7033
Geophysics	78	229	198	258	209	252	252	250	193	193	193	193	193	193	193	193	3266
Drafting	15	44	38	49	40	48	48	47	37	37	37	37	37	37	3/	37	621
Research	0	U	0	U	0	0	U	U	Ü	U	U	U	U	0	U	U	0
Regional Administration	135	397	343	447	363	7361	18009	13344	9072	8799	10700	9143	7538	3525	2924	9494	101594
Head Office Administration	164	482	417	544	441	8946	21884	16215	11025	10692	13002	11111	9160	4284	3554	11537	123457
Capital Utilisation	62	183	158	206	167	3394	8303	6152	4183	4057	4933	4216	3475	1625	1348	4377	46840
TOTAL	1478	4336	3746	4887	3960	91646	222664	164578	111590	108373	133642	112138	92835	42558	36505	111345	1246280

TABLE 4: EL's 6286-6301 PROPOSED EXPENDITURE FOR 1990

	RECCE	FILL-IN & FOLLOW-U	J <b>P</b>
EL NO's	6286-6291	6286-6301	TOTAL
Operational Staff Costs	244,000	122,000	366,000
General Operational Expenses	24,000	12,000	36,000
Transport and Travel	48,000	24,000	72,000
Air Charter	324,000	161,000	485,000
Tenement Costs	24,000	12,000	36,000
Central Treatment Plant	66,000	33,000	99,000
Laboratory: Treatment	11,000	5,000	16,000
Laboratory: Examination	32,000	16,000	48,000
Remote Sensing	5,000	3,000	8,000
Geophysics	2,000	1,000	3,000
Drafting	500	500	1,000
Regional Administration	81,000	41,000	122,000
Head Office Administration	101,000	51,000	152,000
Capital Utilization	37,000	19,000	56,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,000,000	500,000	1,500,000

Wpodolsky.

# 12. **REFERENCES**

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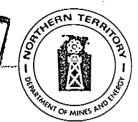
# APPENDIX 1

NTDME PROJECT CLASSIFICATION, ROPER RIVER EL's 6286-6301

# Department of Mines and Energy

CENTREPOINT TOWERS BUILDING, THE MALL, DARWIN N.T. 0800 G.P.O. BOX 2901, DARWIN, N.T. 0801, AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE: (089) 89 5511 TELEX: AA85766 MINDAR FACSIMILE: (089) 81 4806



PROMOTING GROWTH THROUGH RESOURCES

# NORTHERN TERRITORY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE EL 6286-6301

Mr I J Gordon Titles Officer Stockdale Prospecting Ltd 60 Wilson Street SOUTH YARRA VIC 3141 Martin, Project status for hoper him

SPL - 8 SEP 1989 1/C

Dear Mr Gordon

# **EXPLORATION LICENCES 6286 - 6301 ROPER RIVER**

I refer to your letter of 18 August 1989 requesting project status for this group of Exploration Licences.

A review has been carried out and I am pleased to advise that the above licences have been given a project classification.

The conditions applying to the project area will be as follows:-

- Project anniversary date of 31 December.
- Common reporting date of 31 January, report on project area as a single entity, subject to
  the prompt submission of detailed relinquishment reports covering work completed on
  areas surrendered.
- Expenditure on project area as a whole to be the measure of covenant compliance.
- Expenditures to be predicted and covenants determined on individual EL basis; actual costs estimated pro rata; with work completed and reported on individual EL basis; but project performance to be assessed primarily on the basis of summation of individual EL's.
- Reduction in area to be on a project basis and deferment to be granted in respect of particular EL's where compensating relinquishments in excess of obligations are proposed from other EL's within the project area.

Individual EL's to be considered in isolation in terms of their total life to expiry.

It is possible that contiguous EL's granted to the company in the future might be incorporated into a project area, however each application would be considered separately and on its own merits.

We look forward to a year of successful exploration.

-- orloger

Yours sincerely

C A MULDER Acting Director

# APPENDIX 2

SPL - SSPA ABORIGINAL LIAISON

AGREEMENT, ROPER RIVER AREA

# STOCKDALE PROSPECTING LIMITED MEMORANDUM

To:

JJ, MHP, DGC

From:

**GMM** 

Subject:

ABORIGINAL LIAISON - ROPER RIVER

Date:

29th MARCH, 1989

Index: Yes No

Project:

Map Sheet No(s) 1:250,000:

On 15/3/89 I visited the SSPA to discuss clearance work for the Roper River project. Bob Ellis introduced me to Mike Southen, an anthropologist who is currently doing a clearance survey for an oil company near Nutwood Downs.

I explained to Southen that SPL had previously sampled the area and all Aboriginal Communities had been visited then and it is our intention to contact them again prior to the commencement of further work.

It was agreed that we would do the liaison and clearance ourselves, however, should any problems occur we would contact him for assistance. I also suggested that he should visit the field camp when he is in the area to familiarise himself with the people and the operation. MHP should therefore contact him in Darwin and make an arrangement to meet him at the camp.

Aprilia

G.M. MARTIN ABORIGINAL LIAISON OFFICER

**GMM-051.MEM** 



Registered Office: 60 Wilson Street South Yarra Victoria 3141 Australia STOCKDALE PROSPECTING LIMITED

Incorporated in the State of Victoria

5 Searcy Street, Darwin NT 5790 Australia Telephone (089) 81 1644 Fax (089) 81 5572

29th April, 1989

The Director Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority PO Box 1890 DARWIN NT 0801

Dear sir,

I wish to confirm an arrangement made between Glen Martin and your Anthropologist, Mike Southen, on 15/3/89 regarding Aboriginal liaison in the Roper River area.

It was agreed that Stockdale will handle all the liaison with Aboriginal communities in the area using information from previous clearance work and the sacred site location maps. However, should any problems arise or are forseen we will call on Mike for assistance.

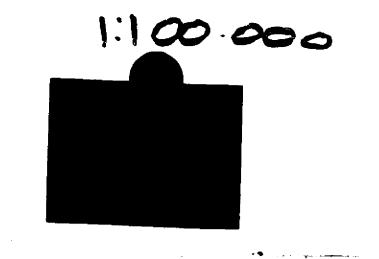
In the meantime our District Geologist, Martin Podolsky, will contact Mike and advise him of the location of our field camp so that when he is in the area he can visit the camp to familiarise himself with our people and type of operation.

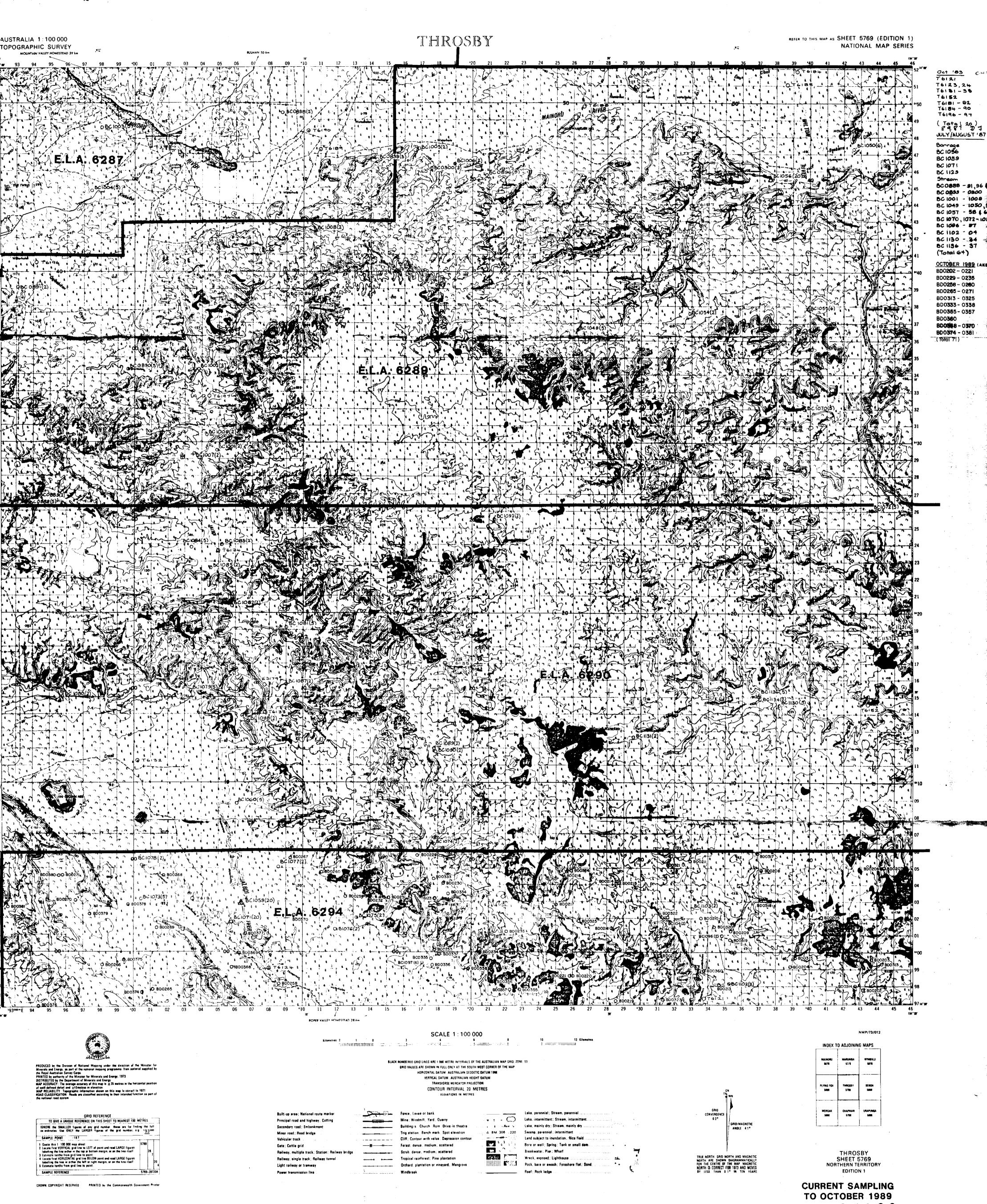
Thank you for your continued co-operation.

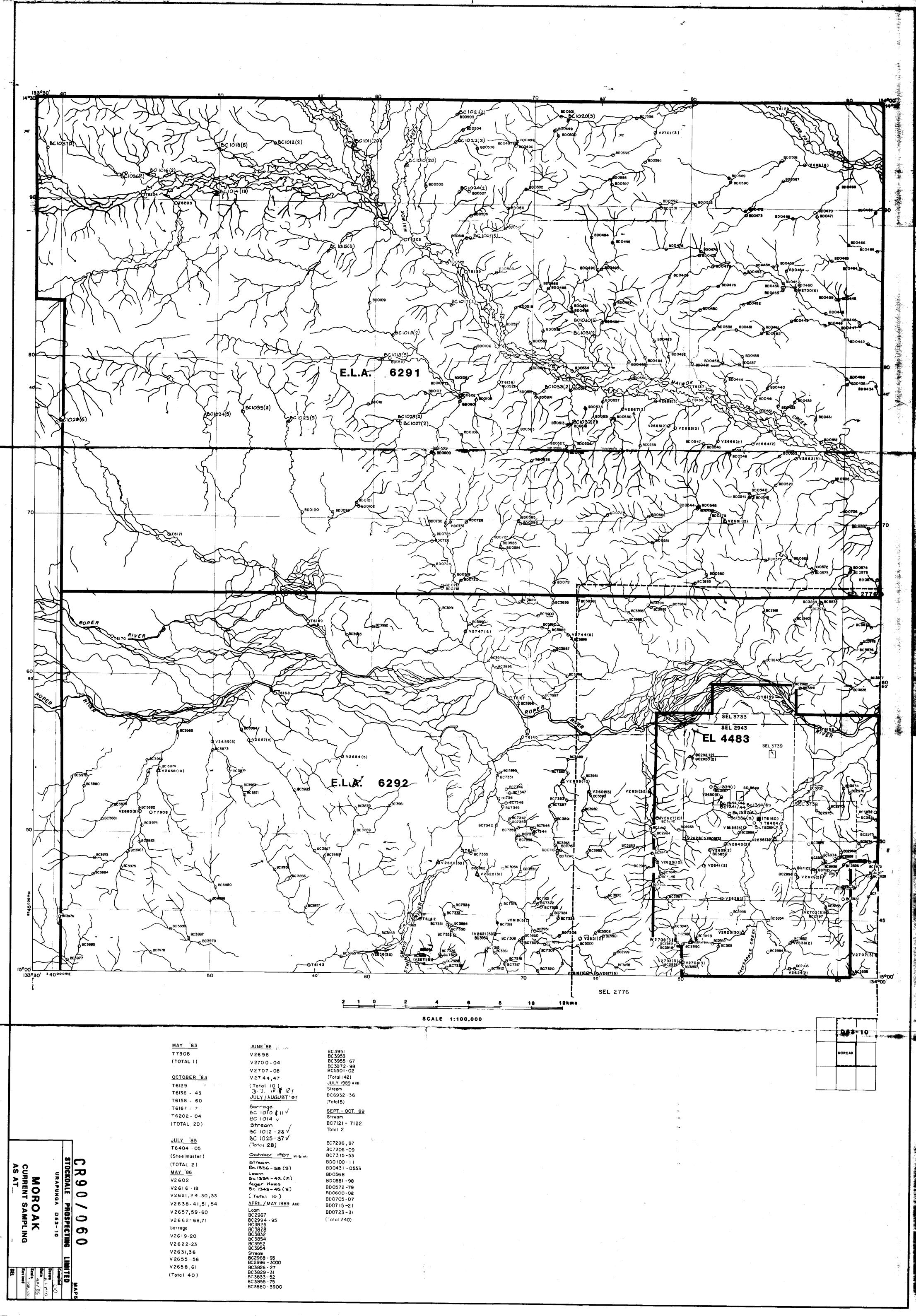
Yours faithfully,

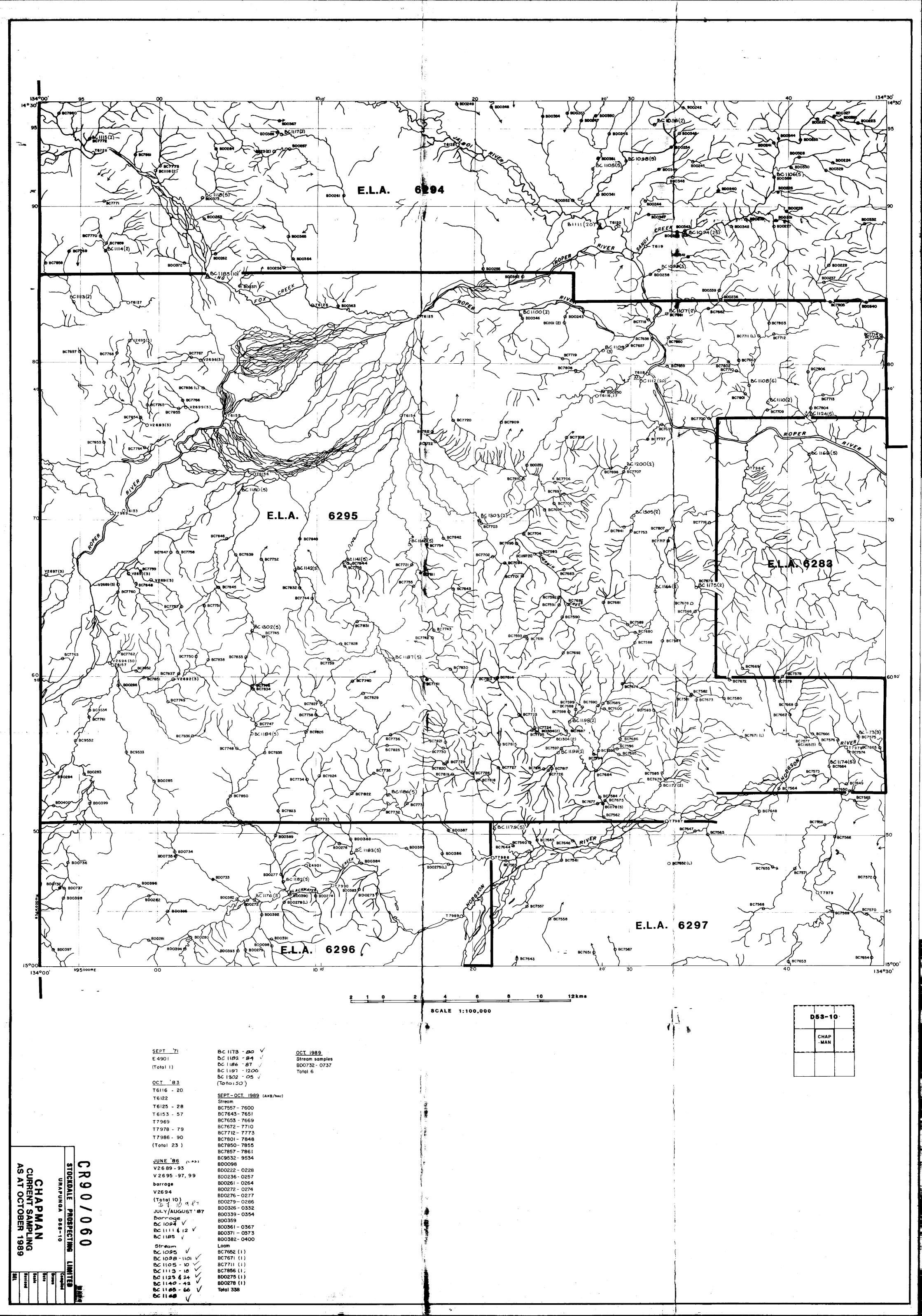
J. JOYCE SENIOR DIVISIONAL GEOLOGIST DARWIN, N.T.

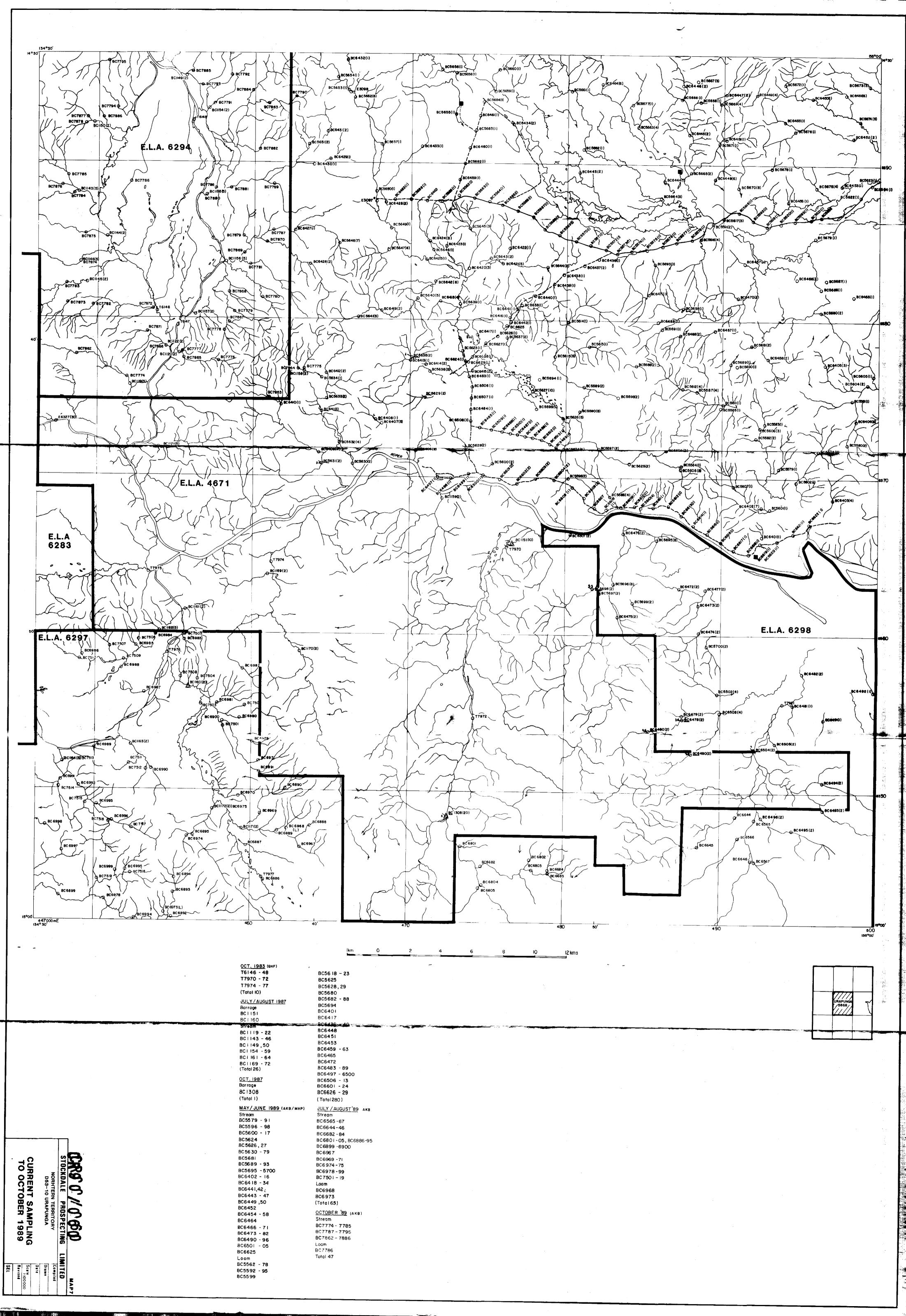
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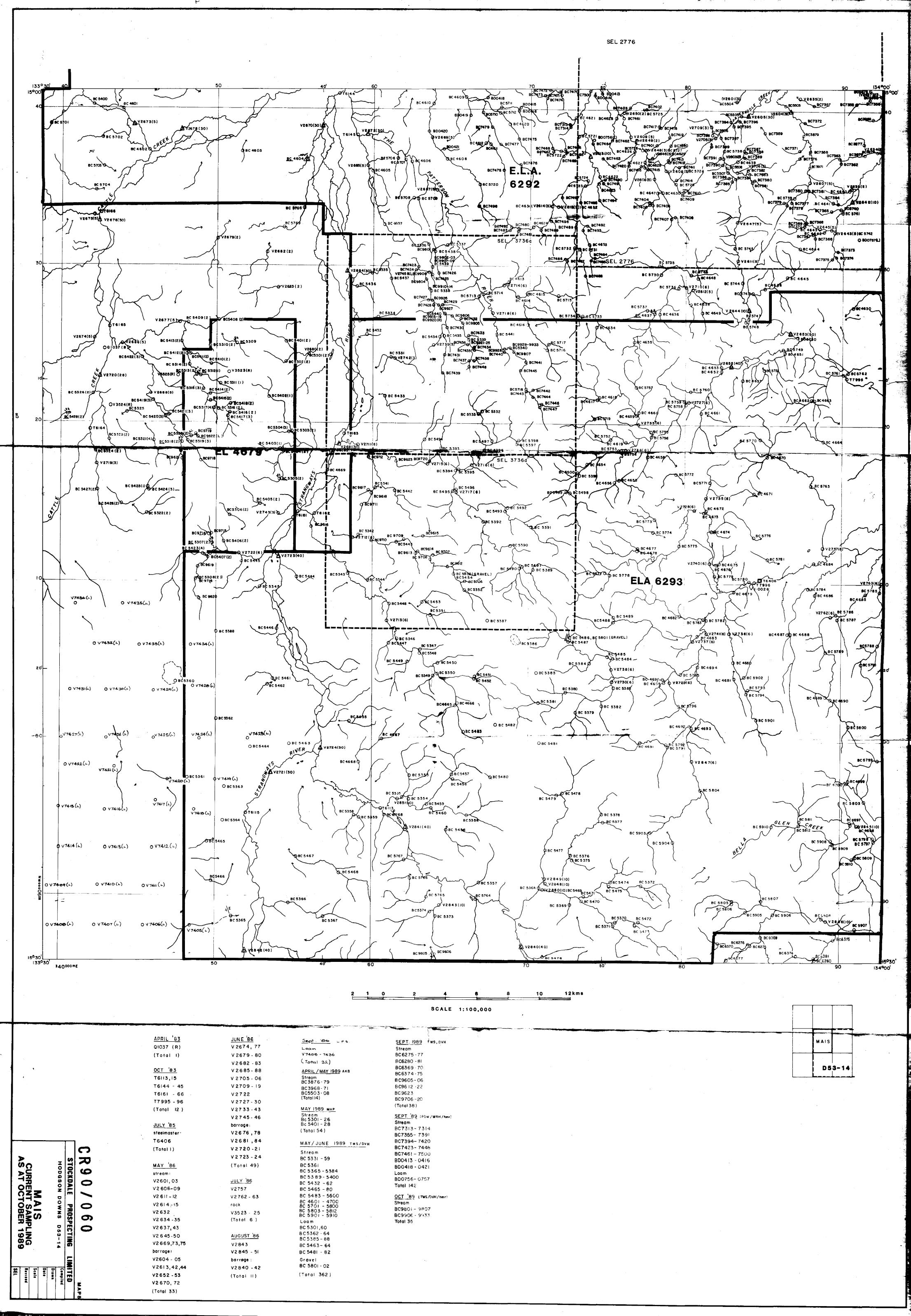


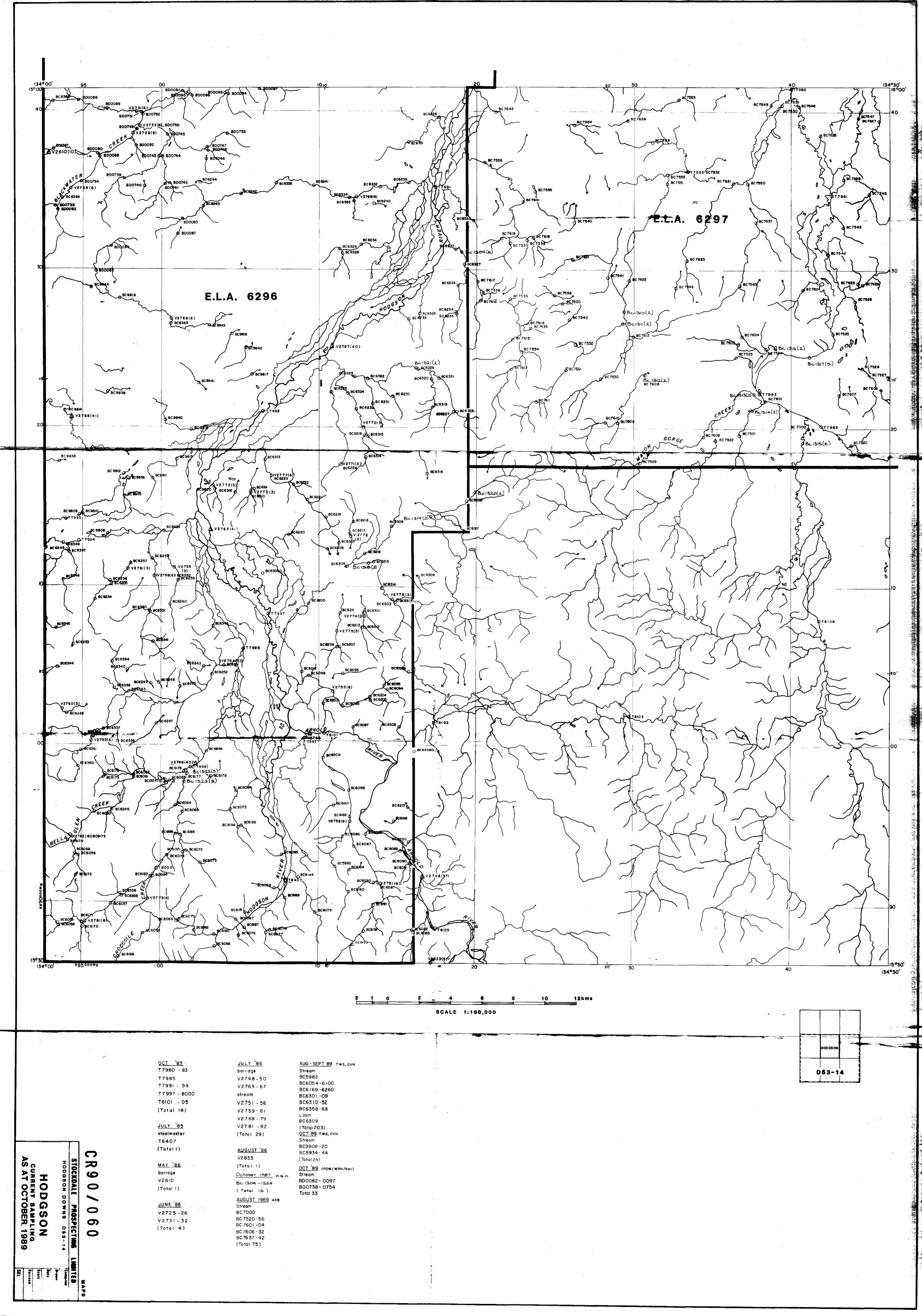


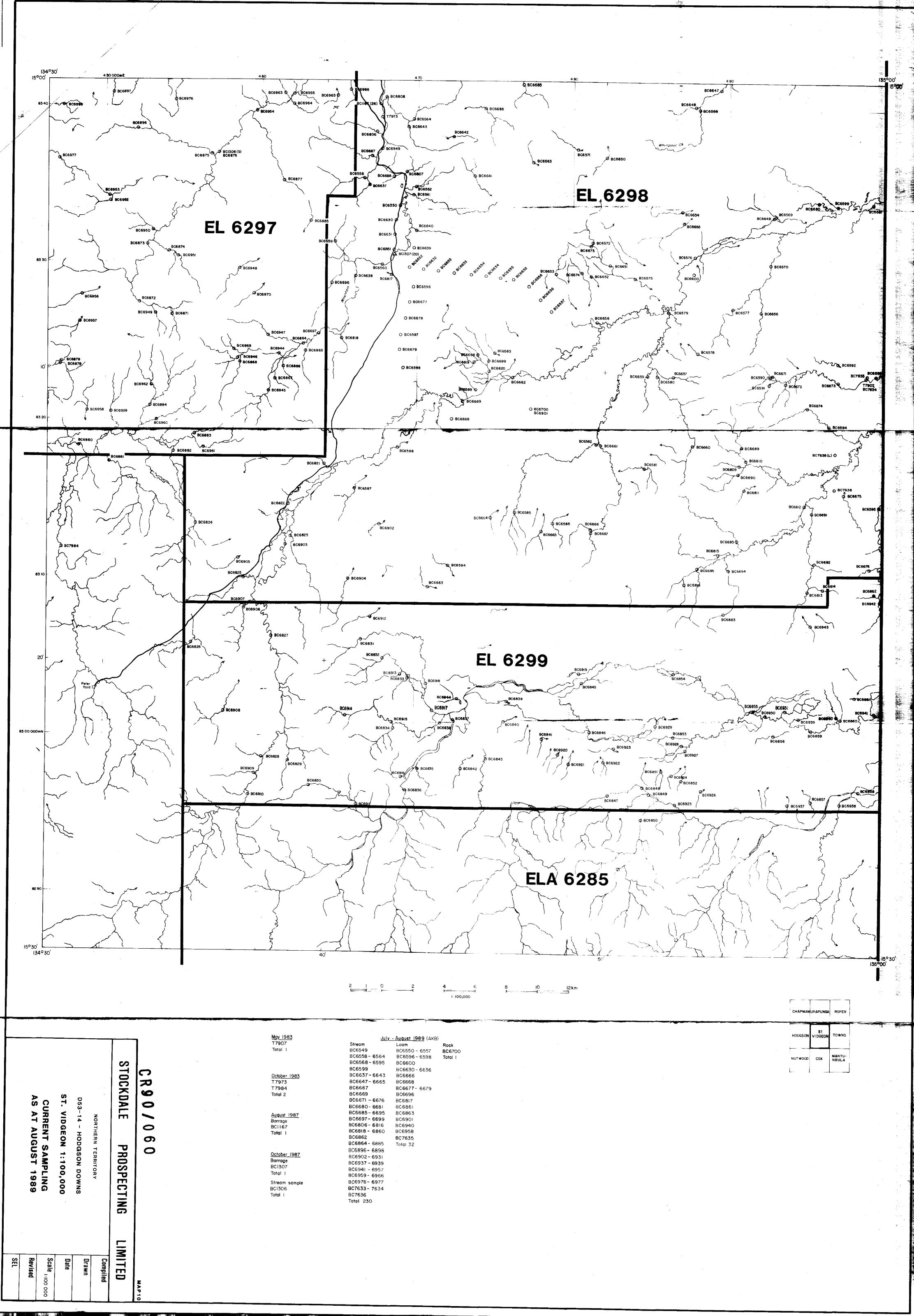


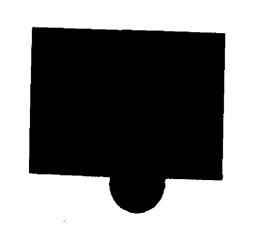


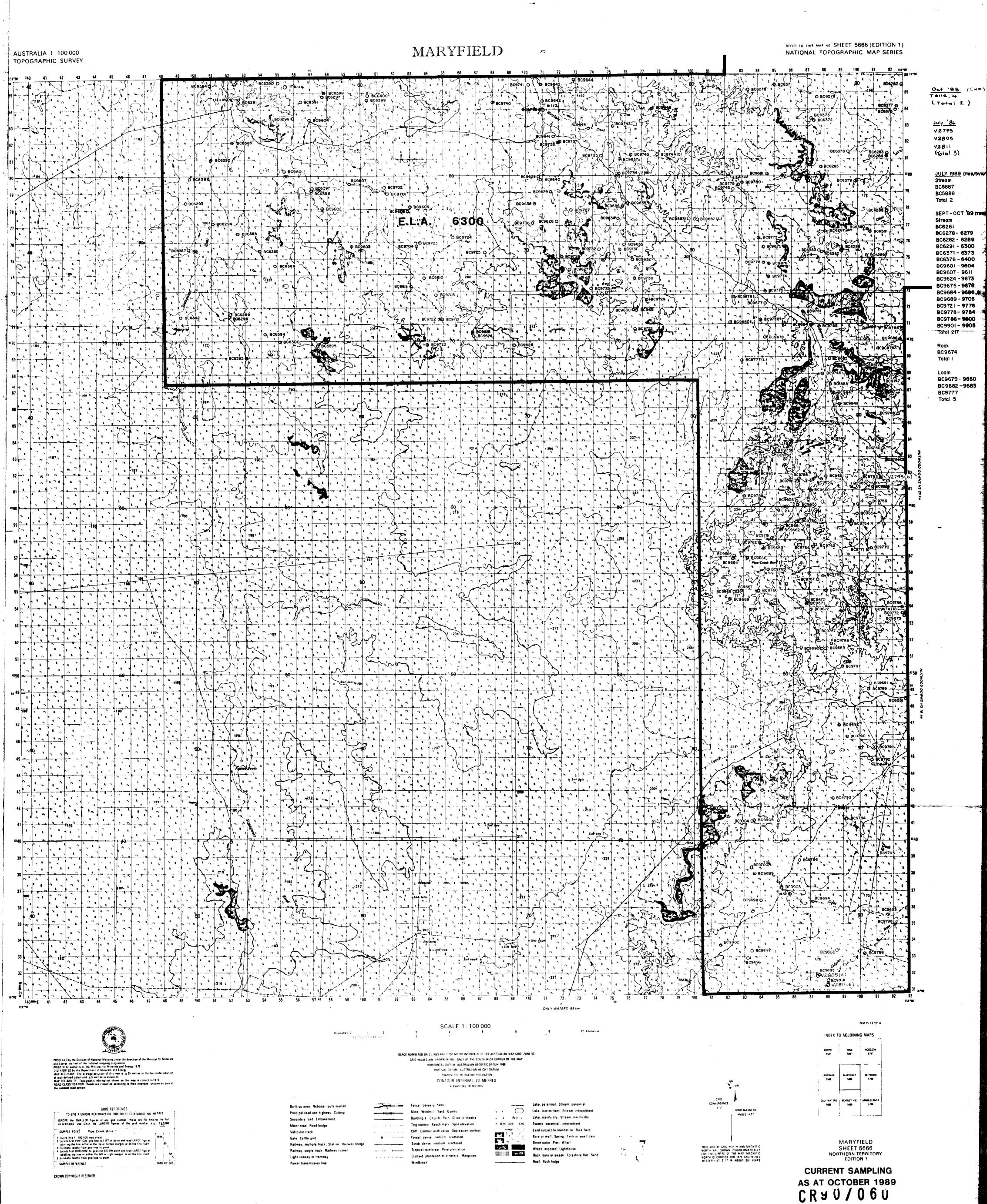












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