



## **Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited**

ABN 76 000 057 125 / ACN 000 057 125

A member of the Rio Tinto Group

Final Rehabilitation Report  
for the Period Ending 1<sup>st</sup> January 2003  
EL's 6566, 6903 and 6904, Snake Creek,  
Calvert Hills SE53-08,  
Northern Territory,  
Australia

**Exploration Report No. 25631**

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### **File Name**

- |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| 25631 Appendix 1.pdf              |
| Hogan Family Track Agreement.pdf  |
| Holt Pastoral Track Agreement.pdf |

## **1. SUMMARY**

This Final Rehabilitation Report is for the period 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2002 to the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2003 or till tenement surrender. It covers Exploration Licences (EL) 6566 (Benmara), 6903 (Nicholson River) and 6904 (Calvert Hills). The rehabilitation completed this year included all drill holes, tracks, sumps and camp sites.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

The Snake Creek programme commenced in May 2002 and finished in October 2002. Table 1 lists the tenements that comprise the programme. The exploration work carried out as part of the programme on these tenements included,

- Track construction
- Drill pad and sump construction
- Drilling
- Camp site construction

RTE-AR completed the following rehabilitation,

- Exploration tracks have been ripped to redistribute soil and to allow seed capture.
- Drill collars were cut and capped with concrete plugs thirty centimetres below the surface.
- Drill sumps were filled in with the drilling samples and then the original topsoil. This occurred after the drilling sumps had naturally drained all contained water.
- All drill pads were ripped to allow seed capture and rapid regrowth. Drilling chip piles created by the geologist or the driller's cyclone were blended into the drill pad to discourage acidic build up.

This Final Rehabilitation Report details the adopted environmental management and rehabilitation activities that RTE-AR completed on this programme. RTE-AR undertook all activities in accordance with the RTE-AR Environmental Policy and Procedures, and the Environmental Management Plan for this programme.

Before ground disturbing activities commenced, RTE-AR set-up Environmental Monitoring Stations on site. RTE-AR will retain the photographs from the monitoring stations as a record of the ground disturbance from its activities on site.

Table 1: Tenement Details

Tenement Number	Tenement Name	Application Date	Grant Date	Area Current	Ownership
EL 6566	Benmarra	12/04/89	02/06/97	91 blocks	North Ltd.
EL 6903	Nicholson River	24/07/89	02/06/97	55 blocks	North Ltd.
EL 6904	Calvert Hills	24/07/89	02/06/97	67 blocks	North Ltd.

### 3. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Rio Tinto Exploration – Australia Region (RTE-AR) Environmental Policy and Procedures provides the guidelines by which the exploration activities of RTE-AR are conducted. RTE-AR conducted the planning, operation and rehabilitation of this project in accordance with these documents.

RTE-AR compiled this Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for Snake Creek at the beginning of this programme. The EMP addresses aspects associated with stakeholders, the environment, work programme (ground disturbance) and rehabilitation, and general operational details for the proposed programme.

### 4. EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES AND GROUND DISTURBANCE

Table 2 summarises the ground disturbance and rehabilitation of the Snake Creek project.

Table 2: Summary of Ground Disturbance and Rehabilitation

Tenement	Ground Disturbance	No. of Sites	Area Cleared (ha)	Area Rehabilitated (ha)	Comments
EL 6903 Nicholson River	Tracks	2.2 Line km's	0.66	0.66	Track ripped and soil redistributed.
	Drill Pads	2	0.005	0,005	Drill Pads ripped.
	Sumps	2	N/a	N/a	Sumps filled in with drilling chips then original topsoil.
	Drill holes	2	N/a	N/a	Drill collars cut 30cm below surface and capped with a concrete plug.
EL 6566 Benmara	Tracks	37.5 Line Km's	11.25	11.25	Track ripped and soil redistributed.
	Drill Pads	8	0.020	0.020	Drill Pads ripped.
	Sumps	8	N/a	N/a	Sumps filled in with drilling chips then original topsoil.

	Drill holes	8	N/a	N/a	Drill collars cut 30cm below surface and capped with a concrete plug.
EL 6904 Calvert Hills	Tracks	30.8 Line Km's	9.24	9.24	Track ripped and soil redistributed.
	Drill Pads	6	0.015	0.015	Drill Pads ripped.
	Sumps	6	N/a	N/a	Sumps filled in with drilling chips then original topsoil.
	Drill holes	6	N/a	N/a	Drill collars cut 30cm below surface and capped with a concrete plug.

#### 4.1 REHABILITATION

##### 4.1.1 Completed

At the completion of the field program rehabilitation commenced on the Snake Creek project. All drill collars were cut 30 cm below the surface and capped using a concrete plug. This stops any small animals from entering the collar and getting trapped. The drill collars were then covered with the original topsoil and a small mound created on top of the hole to discourage surface water build up. All refuse was removed from site and deposited at the Benmara station rubbish tip.

Drilling samples not retained for analysis were placed into the sumps, which were then filled in using the original topsoil. The drill pads have been ripped using harrows to encourage seed capture and regrowth. All drilling hole identification pegs have been removed from the project area.

All tracks created by RTE-AR have been ripped using harrows. A Track agreement was signed with the Holt Pastoral Company (Benmara Station) (Appendix 2) to allow the track created on the pastoral property to be left open for their use. This allows the station access to the their eastern boundary. The track upkeep will be at the Holt Pastoral Company's expense. Another track agreement was signed with the Hogan Family (Wanyi-Garawa Traditional Owners) (Appendix 2) allowing certain tracks to be left open (not rehabilitated), giving the traditional owners further access to their land.

#### 4.1.2 Machinery Used

A Caterpillar 14G Grader was used to push the tracks in and clear the drill pads. A Caterpillar 426 Backhoe Loader was used to dig the sumps for the drill pads. This machinery was supplied by the Holt Pastoral Company and operated by a Holt Pastoral Company representative under the direction of an RTE-AR employee. RTE-AR used a Toyota Landcruiser to drag the harrows over the tracks and drill pads.

#### 4.1.3 Follow-up Work

No follow up work is required to be completed on the Snake Creek program.

#### 4.1.4 Agreements

As detailed in section 4.1.1 Track agreements were signed with both the Holt Pastoral Company and the Hogan Family representing the Wanyi-Garawa peoples (Appendix 2).

### **4.2 MONITORING**

Environmental Monitoring Stations were set up at each drill hole site and at various sensitive locations within the Snake Creek Project area. These sites are mainly used to determine the extent of clearing created by RTE-AR and the subsequent rehabilitation of the area. The photos therefore depict the drill sites before the vegetation has been removed and then when the drill pad has been scarified (Appendix 1). MSSC004 (Photo 1) shows the condition of the old Council road present on Benmara station. This was used as an access road to the project area and is subject to the track agreement. Photo 2 shows an average drill site before disturbance with Photo 3 showing the same site after rehabilitation. This same process of rehabilitation is also shown in photos 4 & 5. Photo 6 shows the campsite after rehabilitation. No pre disturbance photo was taken due to Ashton Exploration Pty Ltd having previously disturbed the area in 2000.

### **4.3 SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

No significant environmental issues exist within the Snake Creek project area.

### **4.4 FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

RTE is withdrawing from its exploration commitments to the tenements.

### **KEYWORDS**

Final Rehabilitation Report, Snake Creek, EL 6903, EL 6904, EL 6566, Calvert Hills SE53-08, Rehabilitation, Monitoring Stations.

### **DESCRIPTOR**

This Final Rehabilitation Report for the Snake Creek Programme is for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2002 to the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2003. It includes EL 6566, 6903 & 6904. Calvert Hills SE53-08, Northern Territory, Australia. NT. Report 25631.

**APPENDIX 1**  
**Environmental Monitoring Stations Photo Log**

25631 Appendix 1.pdf

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Stakeholder Agreements**

Hogan Family Track Agreement.pdf

Holt Pastoral Track Agreement.pdf