CORONATION HILL JOINT VENTURE

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

FOR THE DIRECTORS OF BHP GOLD LTD

AUGUST 1987

8295n
LIST OF CONTENTS

Location Maps

Project Personnel at Site 30th - 31st August 1987

1. Summary
2. Current Status and Overview
3. Present Programme of Investigations
4. Project Description
5. Exploration History
6. Aboriginal Aspects
NOTES
SCALE 1:35000
HORIZONTAL DATUM: AUSTRALIAN MAP GRID
VERTICAL DATUM: AUSTRALIAN HGHT DATUM
CONTOUR INTERVAL: 20.0m
CAD DESIGN FILE: E1290360IXCONT.DGN

POINT EASTING NORTHING
A  238402.4  8498157.6
B  242586.8  8496326.9
C  244223.5  8493032.2
D  237329.2  8497191.3
E  242544.1  8500774.2
F  243961.9  8499225.0
G  243617.0  8498909.4
H  242207.7  8500461.0

BHP Engineering - PERTH
BHP MINERALS LIMITED
CORONATION HILL
PROJECT AREA WITH MINING FACILITIES
DATE: MAY, 1997
DRG NO: EP-R495-49
PROJECT PERSONNEL AT SITE 30TH - 31ST AUGUST 1987

BHP - CHJV

Bill Hewitt Project Manager
Foy Leckie Principal Development Geologist
Dean Carville Project Geologist
Alan Durbin Project Geologist
Zane White Camp Manager ES & CH
Larry Ah-Lin Aboriginal Liaison Supervisor
Colin Moorhead Geologist
Jeff Rayner Geologist
Jim Pengelly Carpenter
Don Flanagan Chef El Sherana
Guy McNaughton Chef Coronation Hill
Ian Longmore Field Assistant
Mike Perkins Field Assistant
Bruce Gibson Field Assistant
Gordon Anderson Utility Worker
Peter Byers Utility Worker
Joseph Marapunya Utility Worker
Mick Moreen Utility Worker
Enny White Utility Worker
Joe Williams Utility Worker
Johnny Williams Utility Worker

GADEN DRILLING PTY LTD

Peter Heffernan Driller
Greg Eupene Drill offsider
Craig South Driller
Chris Pont Drill Offsider

BHP EXPLORATION

Tony Rossback Geophysical Technician
1. **SUMMARY**

The Coronation Hill Joint Venture is carrying out a feasibility study to develop an open cut mine at Coronation Hill in the South Alligator Valley. Other nearby prospects are also being explored.

Exploration and mining will be permitted only under strict controls within the South Alligator Conservation Zone, which lies inside Kakadu III National Park. Final Government approval to develop a mine at Coronation Hill will also depend on Aboriginal agreement.

Evaluation of the Coronation Hill ore body is currently underway and has not yet defined the ore body size.

The initial development stage assumes an open pit mining operation supplying up to 500,000 tonnes of ore per annum for treatment at a plant in the Back Valley, with recovery of gold, platinum and palladium.

A second stage, underground mining to recover deeper sections of the ore body, may be economically viable. The possibility of treating ore from other deposits in the South Alligator Valley at Coronation Hill is also being investigated.

It is envisaged that the feasibility study and Draft EIS will be completed by the end of 1987.
2. CURRENT STATUS AND OVERVIEW

The Coronation Hill Joint Venture (CHJV) is made up of the following co-venturers:

BHP Gold Ltd 45%
Noranda Pacific Limited 45%
Norgold Ltd 10%

CHJV interests include the Coronation Hill deposit and other similar prospects in the South Alligator Valley over which mining leases are held. The CHJV commenced gold exploration at Coronation Hill in 1984.

By the end of 1986, 29 diamond drill holes had outlined a zone of potentially economic gold-platinum-palladium mineralisation at Coronation Hill; the Government had announced its decision that the Kakadu Stage III National Park would be declared but that exploration and mining would be permitted within part of it, including Coronation Hill; and access had been negotiated to the Registered Sacred Site over Coronation Hill.

With these uncertainties at least partly resolved, the Coronation Hill Joint Venture (CHJV) decided to proceed with a full feasibility study as quickly as possible. Mr W.V. Hewitt was appointed Project Manager (from 1st March 1987, reporting to the Manager Gold Operations, Mr J.A. Linke) and a Project team was assembled.

About 15,350m of diamond drilling in 80 holes now test the Coronation Hill deposit and open pittable reserves are now being calculated. Some very good intersections have been obtained at depth pointing to the possibility of underground mining operations after the open pit reserves are mined out.

Metallurgically, the gold could be recovered by a conventional cyanide leaching process and the platinum group metals (PGM's) could be recovered from the tailings stream by a suitable process. However it is possible that some other process route could give more cost effective recovery of gold and PGM values. Therefore the parameters and costs to achieve optimum recoveries by way of various process options are being investigated before making a final process route selection.

It is now planned to complete a "preliminary draft EIS" by the end of September, as a working document for discussion with the relevant Government authorities. This document will be essentially complete in many respects, eg. environmental data base, tailings and waste management, infrastructure planning. However, in several vital areas more work is required, especially to define ore reserves, both opencut and underground, and to select the optimum ore treatment process route. The final feasibility study and Draft EIS should be complete by the end of this year.

A factor having a bearing on the project schedule is the evolving political situation surrounding exploration and mining in the Kakadu III area. A Government statement has committed the Government to approving mining at Coronation Hill subject to the Project being of National significance, to acceptable environment safeguards, and to
agreement being reached with Aboriginal interests. National significance was not defined, but it is believed that this would require a plant capacity of at least 500,000 tonnes per annum, with recovery of PGM's as well as gold. What will be environmentally acceptable to the Government is also hard to predict, but will be dependent on the perceived political clout of the environmental lobby as well as on technical and financial grounds.

"Agreement with Aboriginal interests" is understood to mean that before Government approval to proceed is given, the CHJV must have negotiated a terms and conditions agreement with the Northern Land Council (NLC) acting on behalf of the traditional custodians (the Jawoyn people). In the past, in negotiating such agreements, the NLC has required full details of planned production, training and employment opportunities; environmental management and impacts; and royalty payments to the Aboriginal interests. Hence it is clear that before such negotiations could commence, the Joint Venturers need to have completed a full feasibility study and development plan, and EIS, and to have decided what Aboriginal-related costs could be borne by the Project.

An additional consideration is the so called "Conservation Zone" (CZ). This is the one third part of Kakadu III in which exploration will be permitted (under strict controls). It is understood that the Government's intention is to split the CZ into 7 blocks and allocate them to exploration companies using some sort of non-financial tendering procedure. CHJV is confident of obtaining exploration rights in at least part of the CZ.

Companies would be allowed 5 years to explore this area. Arrangements and procedures to achieve this allocation and to administer the exploration are being drawn up by COZAC (Conservation Zone Advisory Committee). COZAC consists of representatives of the Department of Primary Industries and Energy (including the Bureau of Mineral Resources), the Department of Arts, Sports, Environment Tourism and Territories (including the Office of the Supervising Scientist, and the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service), the Department of Administrative Services, and the Aboriginal Affairs Commission (being all Commonwealth departments) and the N.T. Department of Mines and Energy. The government's present schedule is to allocate out the CZ by 1st January 1988, but since the Commonwealth is yet to acquire the Gimbat and Goodparla pastoral leases for full establishment of Kakadu III National Park, there must be some doubt this date will be achieved.

The CHJV Project Team is well set up to progress exploration and development at Coronation Hill and in the CZ as Government and Aboriginal approvals are obtained.
3. PRESENT PROGRAMME OF INVESTIGATIONS

3.1 Coronation Hill Project Team

Project Manager - Bill Hewitt (full time, based in Melbourne)

Project Geologist - Foy Leckie (full time, based at Site and Brisbane)

Project Mining Engineer - Richard Flanagan (part time, based in Melbourne)
  - Eduardo Valenzuela (part time, based in Perth)

Project Metallurgist - Peter Whincup (part time, based in Melbourne)

Project Engineering Co-ordinator - Peter Combes (BHP Engineering - part time, based in Perth)

Environmental Co-ordinator - Alan Kearns (Dames and Moore - part time, based in Darwin)

Aboriginal Affairs Advisor - Peter Rush (part time, based in Melbourne)

3.2 Expenditure

Expenditure Summary for Calendar 1987 is shown below. Considerable attention has been placed on cost control. Monthly expenditure reports are now available during the first week of the following month, and are included in the monthly activity report. Joint Venture partners are billed at the same time.

The expenditure summary is divided into Coronation Hill (for which there is an approved budget as shown, and a provisional budget) and Regional, for which activities are approved by CHJV on an ad hoc basis.

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY CALENDAR 1987

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORONATION HILL</th>
<th>BUDGET ($)</th>
<th>COMMITTED TO 31/7/87 ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>189,700</td>
<td>23,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camps</td>
<td>652,800</td>
<td>422,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geology</td>
<td>1,743,800</td>
<td>1,079,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine engineering</td>
<td>148,000</td>
<td>45,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metallurgy</td>
<td>159,500</td>
<td>24,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project engineering</td>
<td>507,500</td>
<td>219,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td>297,600</td>
<td>138,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal affairs</td>
<td>74,900</td>
<td>13,699</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGIONAL</th>
<th>3,773,800</th>
<th>2,065,988</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

|                 |            | 74,827                   |
3.3 Field Operations

Present operations in the South Alligator Valley are carried out from two camps, one at El Sherana and one at Coronation Hill under the overall control of Foy Leckie.

The El Sherana camp is located on the old El Sherana Mining Township lease and was the main accommodation site for the United Uranium NL operations in the valley in the 1950s and 1960s. Subsequently the camp was used by the South Alligator Joint Venture exploration parties in the 1970s. The camp has been in use by the CHJIV exploration party since 1984. This year the camp has been upgraded with construction of two accommodation units and commissioning of a power supply, and will currently accommodate 30 persons. This camp will be the exploration base for CHJIV work in the Conservation Zone over the next 5 years.

The Coronation Hill camp is constructed of demountable units and was put in during November 1986. The camp can be run entirely independently of the El Sherana camp. The Coronation Hill camp supports wet season exploration at Coronation Hill as the constantly flooded South Alligator River and poor road conditions isolate Coronation Hill from El Sherana and Pine Creek. The camp will accommodate 15 persons and has been used this season by drilling crews, geotechnical staff and groundwater survey and testing crews.

The drilling this season has been supported by 3 diamond drilling rigs on Coronation Hill to end June, 2 thereafter. A third rig is being contracted to carry out exploration percussion drilling (1500m). Approximately 5,000m of diamond drilling is proposed to complete the current programme by November 1987.

Drill-core is transported to El Sherana camp where it is measured up, photographed, logged and sampled. Samples are shipped to Analabs, Darwin, for crushing and sample pulps are shipped to RDG Laboratories in Perth for gold/platinum/palladium analysis. Selected samples are analysed for other elements including uranium. Check analysis is carried out at one other Australian laboratory, currently Classic Laboratories, Perth, and at a Canadian laboratory, X-Ray Laboratories, Dan Mills Ontario. Gold/platinum/palladium results are passed on line from RDG Laboratory Perth to BHP's Resource Department computer centre in Perth. The data is stored on computer and can be presented on sections and plans for interpretation, and ore resource calculations and mining engineering.

3.4 Mine Engineering Studies and Ore Reserves

Preliminary planning only has been carried out so far, based on a preliminary geological interpretation. The final geological interpretation of ore zones within the proposed open pit will be available by end September, and detailed open pit planning will follow. This work is mostly performed in Perth by the BHP Resource Planning and Development Mine Planning Section under Eduardo Valenzuela.
Several old adits at El Sherana were cleaned out, made safe and sampled in June, co-ordinated by Richard Flanagan.

3.5 Metallurgical Investigations

Peter Whincup is managing various metallurgical investigations into Coronation Hill ore, process design, plant site selection and layout, and plant manning and operations. The main studies include:

- Process route determination (CSIRO research work)
- Mineralogy (Dave Gilbert of BHP Exploration)
- Determination of design parameters (E.L. Bateman Pty Ltd)
- Platinum and palladium adsorption studies
- Crushing plant investigations.

It is intended to have sufficient data to complete the feasibility study and Draft EIS by the end of 1987, even though metallurgical investigations may have to continue after that date.

3.6 Project Engineering

In March 1987, BHP Engineering, Perth were commissioned by the CHUW to undertake the project engineering part of the Feasibility Study and cost estimates for the Project, as follows:

- Geotechnical Studies - these have involved carrying out geotechnical site investigations necessary for the design of the tailings dam and possible catch-all dam, the identification of borrow areas, establishing foundation conditions and undertaking pit slope and waste dump stability studies. Due to the environmental sensitivity of the site, the design of the tailings dam is of particular importance and this will be completed prior to the issue of the Draft EIS.

- Water Supply Study - this was subcontracted to Australian Groundwater Consultants of Darwin who have undertaken geophysical investigations and water bore drilling in the area of the minesite to prove up suitable borefield areas for the provision of process water and potable water requirements. This work has been completed.

- Infrastructure Studies - these have involved undertaking the necessary investigations to produce a conceptual general arrangement for the mine and process plant facilities, accommodation area, services, buildings, airstrip and access roads. The studies have included investigating the fly-in/fly-out options, the logistics of keeping the mine and plant running during the wet season, and looking into alternative fuels for running the power station.

- Water Management Studies - hydrologic studies and flood analysis are being carried out to develop a water balance model for the Project.
These studies are extremely important due to the environmental restrictions being placed on the project and due to the high rainfall experienced in the area during the wet season.

- Cost Estimates – finally, on completion of the studies mentioned above, capital and operating cost estimates will be prepared to establish the economic feasibility of the Project.

BHP Engineering are also providing planning and cost control services to the Joint Venture for the overall Project.

3.7 Environmental Investigations

Dames and Moore Pty Ltd have been commissioned to co-ordinate all necessary environmental studies (other than those undertaken by BHP Engineering) and to prepare the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). Mr Alan Kearns of Dames and Moore is a member of the Project Team, as Environmental Co-ordinator.

He will soon be replaced in this role by Mr Garry Johnston, as CHJV Environmental Superintendent. Mr Johnston, an environmental scientist, is presently with Ok Tedi Mining Ltd.

Some of the environmental studies completed, underway or planned, include:-

- Biological (flora, fauna, aquatic),
- Water quality,
- Climate,
- Dust,
- Revegetation,
- Archeological,
- Socio-economic,
- Ethnographic,
- Occupational health.

3.8 Aboriginal Affairs Programme

The Federal Government has indicated that for the project to proceed approvals relating to aboriginal matters will be required. The current programme therefore has as its overall objective the obtaining of all necessary approvals for development and mining to take place including the final clearance for the project area, especially with respect to the registered sacred site at Coronation Hill.

Various components of the programme are designed to consolidate and develop our relationship with both the aboriginal custodians of the sacred site and the broader Jawoyn community, and include recruitment, training and employment of aboriginal workers; liaison with the Jawoyn community on a regular ongoing basis, including both site visits and formal presentations; and community aid, especially for the Eva Valley out-station which the Jawoyns are trying to establish as a viable cattle operation.
4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

4.1 Geology

The Coronation Hill mine is one of 13 uranium gold mines in the South Alligator Valley. The uranium ore consisted of massive veinlike and disseminated pitchblende and secondary uranium minerals developed in a rock previously described as a volcanic agglomerate (a rock infilling an old volcanic vent) but now recognised as a debris flow conglomerate (a rock which is a consolidated mud and rock flow or landslide).

Gold mineralisation at Coronation Hill occurs in a zone essentially south of the old uranium open cut, and occurs over a width of 80-100m over a strike length of 250m (as known at present). Rocks which are mineralised include sediments, consolidated ash flows, lava flows and intrusive porphyries and diorites which have intruded into the pile of sediments and volcanics. All these rock types are mineralised. Mineralisation is controlled by cross-faults which cut across major regional faults, trending NW-SE along the South Alligator Valley.

Capping sandstone and conglomerate overlies the mineralised suite of rocks at Coronation Hill. These sediments which have a fairly horizontal attitude do not host mineralisation.

Other uranium/gold mines in the area are usually located in carbonaceous, siliceous and haematitic siltstones (Koolpin Formation) which have beenfaulted and which are overlain by sandstone. Uranium/gold mineralisation is usually located in the faulted zones or on the siltstone/sandstone contact or unconformity. Minor mineralisation has been located in the sandstone.

4.2 Mining

The shallow portion of the Coronation Hill resource will initially be mined by standard open pit mining methods using selective mining techniques. Mining will involve drilling and blasting of ore and overburden and their removal from the pit by conventional heavy duty front end loaders and trucks. Evaluation of underground mining methods will be carried out in the future to examine alternatives to recover the deep parts of the ore body.

Current planning has defined a pit to extract 2.2 million tonnes of ore grading 3 to 4g/t gold plus 20 million tonnes of waste. Further infill drilling may increase the ore and decrease the waste tonnage estimates in this preliminary pit.

Preliminary planning anticipates a staged project development with the initial open pit producing approximately 500,000 tonne per year of ore, and approximately 4 million tonnes per annum of waste. With the introduction of underground mining the rate of overburden removal will be greatly reduced.
The initial stage one open pit mine is expected to create an excavation about 400 metres long by 170 metres wide and about 120 metres deep. Initial rock mechanics studies indicate an overall final wall angle of 55° will result in stable pit walls.

The initial open pit development will require some pre-stripping of overburden rock, which will be used to construct the haul road, the pad for the process plant and the initial tailings dam.

4.3 Metallurgy

The ore will be trucked to the metallurgical process plant, located in the Back Valley south west of the open pit.

Test work so far completed on samples of the Coronation Hill ore have included gravity and flotation investigations as well as cyanidation tests. Results to date show that cyanidation will play a major role in any process plant with recovery of gold most likely to be by conventional carbon-in-pulp technology.

Processes for the recovery of PGMs are still under investigation. The final process route will result in the production of:-

- Gold doré free of PGMs (for disposal through an Australian gold refiner) plus a PGM concentrate by-product (for disposal through a specialist refinary), and/or

- A gold/PGM doré (for disposal through a specialist refinary).

4.4 Tailings and Waste Rock Disposal

Tailings will be pumped to a tailings dam located in the Back Valley, upstream (ie. south), of the process plant.

The location of the tailings dam was selected so as to minimise the natural catchment of the dam, have a suitable foundation, and also limit both the surface area of the dam and its visual impact. Geotechnical and hydrological investigations have confirmed the selected site meets these criteria.

A dam at the selected site would be 40m high at completion and could contain around 9 million tonnes of tailings. Further capacity could be provided in a second dam downstream if required.
The initial dam wall will be a low structure and the dam wall and decant tower will be progressively raised as the volume of stored tailings increases. All water from the tailings dam will be contained for re-use. There will be no release of water from the tailings dam.

Some of the waste excavated from the open pit may be used in haul road, tailings dam and other construction. Most waste will, however, be placed in dumps along the eastern walls of the Back Valley downstream of the process plant. Drilling results indicate that waste from the open pit will contain negligible sulphide, base metals or uranium, and rainwater runoff from the waste will not pose any long-term threat to the environment. This aspect is still being investigated so as to convince the regulatory authorities that waste dump water run off need not be contained.

4.5 Water Management

Water management for the project has two separate, but inter-related aspects, namely the supply of water for the process plant, mine and infra-structure, and the minimisation of the impact of the operation on the South Alligator River system.

Of the potential water sources for the project, groundwater is preferred as being the most cost effective and having the least potential environmental impact. Groundwater investigations have confirmed that an adequate supply could be obtained from an aquifer east of Coronation Hill.

During the design of the project facilities close attention will be given to water management. "Clean" water on the project site will be defined as rainfall runoff from natural catchments adjacent to work and mining areas and fresh water imported to the site in undiminished quality such as the process and potable water. During the mining operation catchdrains to intercept and direct rainfall runoff away from operations will be constructed to protect the mine and other facilities during large rainfall events. This will ensure that this "clean" water remains uncontaminated and can run off in the current manner.

Run off from physically disturbed areas and waste dumps will be diverted through sediment traps to remove silt, and will then be discharged into the natural drainage, subject to approval from the regulatory authorities.

Tailings, spills from the plant and tailings line, and water from the pit will be pumped to the tailings dam, never to be discharged.

4.6 Manning and Accommodation

It is planned to work two 12 hour shifts, with about 50 on day shift and 30 on night shift (assuming mining operations at night, and support staff in Darwin). Given the size of workforce, the finite life of mining operations and environmental considerations, it is planned that the mine will
operate on a fly-in/fly-out basis, on a 7 or 14 day cycle. The existing Fisher airstrip, 6 km from Coronation Hill, will be upgraded to "all weather" status and used to commute the workforce from Darwin and Katherine. A site has been selected for single person accommodation, approximately 4 km north west of Coronation Hill. This site has all-weather access to Coronation Hill, is sufficiently far removed to minimise noise and dust, has very pleasant views, and is reasonably flat for economy of construction.
The first record of mining and exploration in the South Alligator Valley came in 1947 with the application for a mineral lease over Callanan's Prospect, for copper. The application was made by Joe Callanan who had taken up the Gimbat area for pastoral purposes in the early 1930s. Callanan had the BMR examine his lease in 1953 and the geologist (B.W. Walpole) recognised secondary uranium minerals as well as copper on the lease.

Subsequently the BMR explored the lease for uranium by excavating three costeans, putting in two drill-holes and carrying out surface work. They were unsuccessful in exploration. However United Uranium N.L. (UUNL) took over the area in 1956 and discovered the Coronation Hill uranium/gold orebody. UUNL carried out extensive wagon drilling and established a reserve, which was subsequently extracted by open cut and glory hole.

Also in the early fifties a number of other uranium-gold mines were discovered in the South Alligator Valley and were developed to supply Australian Government uranium contracts. The table shows production (quoted in imperial units):

**SOUTH ALLIGATOR VALLEY ORE DEPOSITS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPOSITS</th>
<th>Tonnage (long ton)</th>
<th>Grade (lb/ton U₃O₈)</th>
<th>Content (lb U₃O₈)</th>
<th>MINING PRACTICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>El Sherana</td>
<td>38,437</td>
<td>12.42</td>
<td>477,419</td>
<td>Cut and fill then open cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Sherana West</td>
<td>21,316</td>
<td>18.35</td>
<td>391,263</td>
<td>Open cut, open stope, and cut and fill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scinto V</td>
<td>5,713</td>
<td>8.22</td>
<td>46,979</td>
<td>Open cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saddle Ridge</td>
<td>29,862</td>
<td>5.51</td>
<td>164,533</td>
<td>Open cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coronation Hill</td>
<td>25,711</td>
<td>5.93</td>
<td>152,600</td>
<td>Open cut and glory hole to adit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palette</td>
<td>4,773</td>
<td>55.00</td>
<td>262,522</td>
<td>Open stopes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koolpin Creek</td>
<td>2,290</td>
<td>3.02</td>
<td>6,926</td>
<td>Open cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scinto VI</td>
<td>1,723</td>
<td>3.47</td>
<td>6,015</td>
<td>Open cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skull</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>11.10</td>
<td>5,805</td>
<td>Open cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockhole</td>
<td>13,207</td>
<td>25.17</td>
<td>332,445</td>
<td>Open stopes and cut and fill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teagues</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sliesbeck No. 4</td>
<td>627</td>
<td>7.62</td>
<td>4,775</td>
<td>Open cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>144,193</td>
<td>12.87</td>
<td>1,851,279</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. **ABORIGINAL ASPECTS**

In October 1985 the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority (ASSPA) registered a large area near the South Alligator River Valley as a sacred site complex on behalf of the Jawoyn people whom the Authority nominated as the Aboriginal custodians. Coronation Hill lies at the eastern edge of this large area of approximately 240 sq. km. When Aboriginal concerns were brought to the attention of the CHJV the planned investigation programme at Coronation Hill was held in abeyance.

With the assistance of the ASSPA, CHJV personnel met representatives of the Jawoyn people at a series of meetings commencing in February 1986, in order to discuss the proposed activities at Coronation Hill and the implications of the proposed mining operation. As well as informing the Jawoyn people about the project, the CHJV also learnt of the aspirations and concerns of the Jawoyn people, and gained their support for the project's development.

Resulting from these meetings, the Jawoyn community gave permission early in July 1986 for the programme to resume at Coronation Hill. Drilling and other on-site activities recommenced in August. Consultations and continuing visits to the project area have taken place since then, both by senior Aboriginal custodians and the broader Jawoyn community, to observe the CHJV's ongoing work. In October and November 1986 and June 1987 approval was given by the custodians to carry out investigations on additional areas of the sacred site complex surrounding Coronation Hill which may be required for infrastructure development. Permission to use small quantities of explosives at Coronation Hill was given by the custodians on 18th August 1987 but formal approval has not yet been granted by the Sacred Sites Authority (as at 27th August 1987).

The project commenced an employment and training programme for Jawoyn people in October 1986, when 3 Jawoyns were employed as field assistants as well as Mr Larry Ahlin as supervisor. An additional three Jawoyns and one Aboriginal high school graduate from Queensland have been employed in the 1987 field season. They are currently being trained to obtain truck drivers licences.

Based on BHP's experience at its Groote Eylandt mine, the CHJV expect and hope for continuing dialogue and direct involvement by the Jawoyn people in the project throughout its life.