

# FINNISS RANGE PROJECT, NT

# EL 26399 (MILNE INLET)

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

## FOR THE PERIOD

7th September 2010 to 6th September 2011

Tenement : EL26399

Owner : Altura Exploration Pty Ltd
Operator : Altura Exploration Pty Ltd

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Distribution : Altura Mining Ltd (1)

Department of Resources NT (DoR) (1)

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#### 1. SUMMARY

Work completed on EL26399 consisted of a review of all rock chips taken by Altura Exploration with the focus on lithium.

#### 2. INTRODUCTION

This report covers exploration work carried out by Altura Exploration Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Altura Mining Limited during the reporting period 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010 to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

#### 3. LOCATION AND ACCESS

The Finniss Range Project is located approximately 50 km south of Darwin; roughly 20 km southwest of Berry Springs/Tumbling Waters. Access is via the all-weather Litchfield National Park and Fog Bay Roads, and various dirt tracks.

The Licence lies on the Darwin 1:250,000 (SD52-4), and Bynoe (5072) 1:100,000 scale topographical and geology sheets.

#### 4. TENEMENT STATUS

EL26399 was granted to Altura Exploration Pty Ltd on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2007 for a period of six (6) years.

The tenement is part of a project which also includes EL24773, EL24774, EL24639, EL25603, EL25521, EL25604, EL26467, EL26469 and EL 26932. Figure 1.

Tenement	Holder	Grant Date	Expiry	Area	Rent \$	Commitment \$
EL26399	Altura Exploration Pty Ltd	07.09.2007	06.09.2013	3 blocks	\$33	\$7,000

Table 1. EL26399 – Tenement Details.

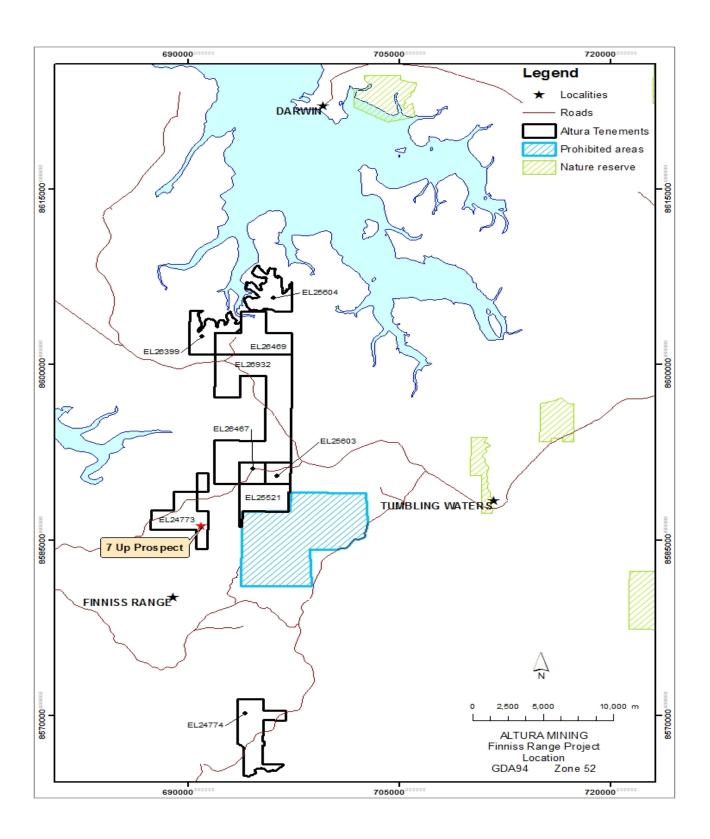


Figure 1. Finniss Range Project - Tenement Location Plan

#### 5. LOCAL GEOLOGY

The project area consists primarily of the Early Proterozoic Burrell Creek Formation which comprises an interbedded sequence of lutite, arenite and rudite. The sediments form undulating hills, low ridges and prominent strike ridges, particularly where more resistant arenite predominates in outcrop. Sandstone units, often metamorphosed to quartzite, typically form blocky beds between 0.2-2.0m thick, are strongly jointed and fractured, and often quartz veined. Much of the area is covered by ferricrete, which varies between massive and pisolitic.

The formation conformably overlies the Mount Bonnie Formation, the contact being defined by the top of the uppermost unit of argillite, tuff, banded iron formation, or shale containing chert bands, lenses or nodules.

To the west, the Burrell Creek Formation is intruded and contact metamorphosed by the Two Sisters Granite. Metamorphic grade increases westward from sub-greenschist facies siltstone and sandstone in the east, to upper greenschist facies gneiss and schist in the west.

The Two Sisters Granite forms a discordant irregular batholith, and consists of moderately to non-foliated granite, adamellite, granodiorite and minor porphyritic granite.

The Archaean Rum Jungle Complex, where it is exposed, occurs as scattered low pavements and boulder-strewn outcrops protruding through a thin veneer of Cainozoic sand.

Rare element pegmatites that outcrop in the area form the Litchfield pegmatite belt. The Litchfield belt is divided into the more prominent Bynoe Pegmatite Field, and the less significant Wingate Mountains pegmatite district.

The Bynoe pegmatite field is 70km in length and 15km in width. All pegmatites are believed to have been derived from the Two Sisters Granite (Ahmad 1995), which is considered to dip to the east under the Burrell Creek Formation, below the exposed pegmatites.

The pegmatites typically occur in clusters, and six pegmatite groups are recognised within the Bynoe field; The Kings Table, Observation Hill, Walkers Creek, Labelle, Leviathan, River Annie Group. The last two groups lie within the Project Area.

The Leviathan and River Annie Group pegmatites occur within the Burrell Creek Formation. The pegmatites are irregularly distributed, concordant with the main metamorphic foliation, and interfinger in places mostly along bedding planes (Frater, 2005).

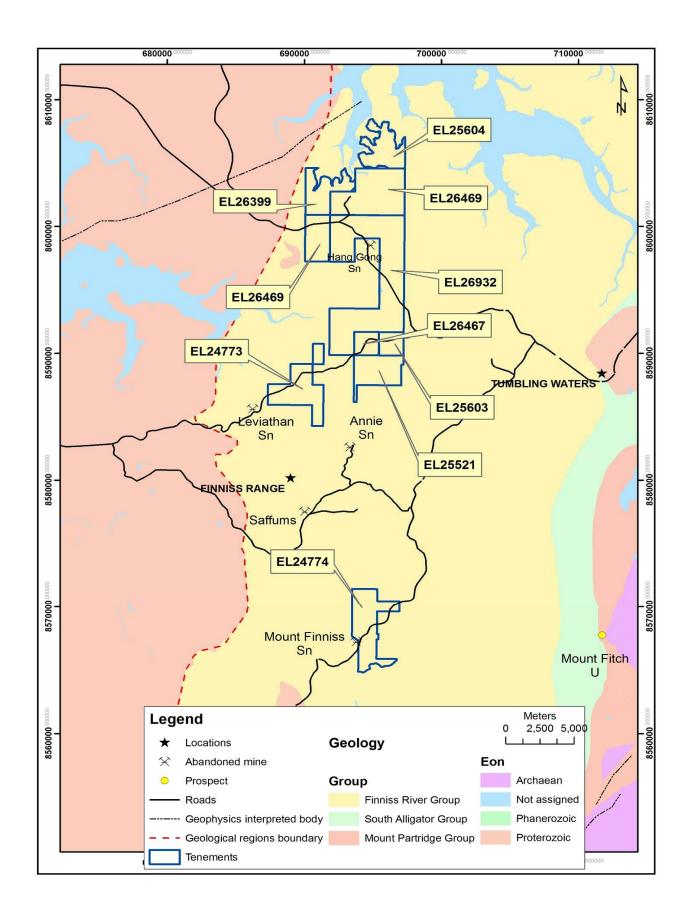


Figure 2: Finniss Range Project – Regional Geology and Tenements

#### 6. PREVIOUS EXPLORATION

Previous exploration has centred on the Leviathan Group pegmatites, mainly the Leviathan Mine, and the area surrounding the Annie Mine.

The Leviathan mineralisation was discovered by C. Clarke in 1886, and a mine and battery were established shortly after. By 1890, three shafts had raised 406 tonnes of ore to produce 2.03 tonnes of Sn oxide (Frater, 2005). The tin mineralisation proved to be patchy and the leases were abandoned in 1909.

Following this initial discovery, numerous mineralised pegmatites were discovered and worked in the area by Chinese and European prospectors. Mining was short lived and virtually all leases were abandoned by 1910, with no record of location or production.

The Leviathan area was explored by Greenex, a division of Greenbushes Ltd – later to become Sons of Gwalia, between 1983 and 1990. By 1987 ground reconnaissance and aerial photographic mapping Greenex had rediscovered over 20 of the pegmatites that had been worked at the turn of the century.

Leases covering the Leviathan pegmatites passed to Corporate Development and in 2000, Julia Corporation Ltd negotiated an option to explore the Leviathan ground. They carried out an RC drilling program, targeting several of the larger Leviathan pegmatites. In total, over thirty pegmatites have been discovered in the Leviathan area.

Greenex mapped the Annie area in 1984, and sampling of the Annie pegmatite showed it to be tin-rich. Outcrop was restricted to prominent quartz ridges and old workings. According to Frater (2005), one 25 metre section of pegmatite averaged approximately 666g/t  $Ta_2O_5$ , the highest individual sample assaying 2360g/t.

Further exploration work including auger drilling and trenching, and pegmatite was intersected over a strike length of 325m and a width of up to 35m. Auger drilling indicated a resource in the order of 0.098Mt at 156g/t SnO<sub>2</sub>. Exploration continued until 1988, when Corporate Developments acquired the Annie lease. Softwood Plantations Pty Ltd, acting for Corporate Development, mined the Annie pegmatite in the period 1995 to 1999. 11 tonnes of tantalite and 28 tonnes of tin were produced between 1995 and 1997, and a further 69 tonnes of combined tantalum-tin concentrate was parcelled in 1997-1999.

8.

#### 8.1. Year 1: 07/09/07 - 06/09/08

Exploration during the reporting period consisted of a brief literature review prior to reconnaissance mapping and rock chip sampling. A work program for new EL's 25604, 26399 and 26469 was planned.

The initial program involved reconnaissance mapping across the tenements along 400m spaced east-west traverses with rock chip sampling of prospective targets.

In August 2008, a total of 43.2 line km of reconnaissance mapping was completed over adjoining tenements EL26399 and 26469 and 26504. 10.8 km of mapping was completed over EL26399, and 9 rock chips were taken.

Rock chips were sent to KalAssay Laboratories in Perth for analysis.

No anomalous results for Sn, Ta or U were returned.

#### 8.2. Year 2: 7/09/08 – 6/09/09

The Company believes that the pegmatites of the Bynoe pegmatite field may be prospective for lithium.

Work completed on EL26399 consisted of a review of all rock chips taken by the Company during Year 1, with a focus on Lithium (maximum 118ppm Li). Rock chip samples from the adjacent tenement EL24773 have returned encouraging lithium results of up to 0.69% Li.

Work proposed by Altura Exploration Pty Ltd for Year 3 of EL 26399 will comprise mapping and rock chip sampling of lithologies which are prospective for lithium and tin mineralisation.

#### 8.3 Year 3: 07/09/09 – 06/09/10

Exploration studies during reporting period mainly comprised ongoing desk top studies and data base compilation. No field exploration studies were undertaken.

Altura Exploration underwent staff and management changes in the latter part of 2009 and into 2010. These changes resulted in priority field work being allocated to other tenements in the Finniss Range project area. The work that was planned for the reporting period will be undertaken in the forth coming reporting period.

## 8.4 **Year 4: 07/09/2010 – 06/09/2011**

Exploration studies for the reporting period were confined to desk top studies. No field activities were carried out. In 2010 management and staff changes within Altura meant that limited resources were available to undertake planned field programs.

## 9. **CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS**

Altura Exploration Pty Ltd is undertaking studies of the Finniss Range projects for lithium and tantalum bearing pegmatites. Prior exploration has primarily targeted pegmatites previously discovered in the region however these were mainly looked at for tin and were never looked at for their prospectivity for lithium or tantalum. Altura will continue its studies and assessment of the tenement for pegmatites.

#### 10. REFERENCES

Ahmad, M., 1995, Genesis of tin and tantalum mineralisation in pegmatites from the Bynoe area, Pine Creek Geosyncline, Northern Territory. Economic Geology 42, 519-534.

Chrisp, G.M., and Earthrowl, J.A., 1992. Finniss range project, Northern Territory. Annual and supplementary annual reports, SEL7439. Corporate Developments Pty Ltd. *Northern Territory Geological Survey, Open File Company Report* CR1993-0533.

*Frater, K.M.,* 2005, Tin-tantalum pegmatite mineralisation in the Northern Territory. *Northern Territory Geological Survey,* Report 16.

# APPENDIX 1

## **2011 EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**