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#### **MAJOR PROJECTS**

Ammaroo Rock Phosphate Karinga Lakes Brine Potash

Titleholder:	Rum Jungle Resources Ltd
Operator:	Rum Jungle Resources Ltd
Titles Agent:	Complete Tenement Management
Tenement:	EL 28272
Project Name:	Karinga Lakes Potash
Report Title:	Partial relinquishment report on EL 28272, Karinga Lakes Potash, 14/04/2011 to 11/03/2016

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Target Commodity:	Potash / schoenite
Date of Report:	31/03/2016
Datum/Zone:	GDA94/ Zone 53
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#### **SUMMARY**

EL 28272 is one of seven contiguous granted ELs in Rum Jungle Resources' Karinga Lakes Potash Brine Project. EL 28272 was originally part of a 50%/50% joint venture, but has been 100% owned by Rum Jungle Resources since 2014. The Karinga Lakes project has advanced beyond exploration with a JORC 2012 brine potash resource of 8.4 million tonnes  $K_2SO_4$  including over 70% in the Measured and Indicated category. A Scoping Study has been completed. The project awaits further approvals and funding. A voluntary partial relinquishment of 34 blocks from EL 28272 reduces it to 19 blocks. No on-ground work was conducted on the area being relinquished and these blocks are considered the least prospective area of EL 28272. The relinquishment also includes a narrow strip of land on Angus Downs Station. Although the station is a NT Perpetual Pastoral Lease, it is also an Indigenous Protected Area under Commonwealth legislation granted on 10 June 2009 as part of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country scheme. The retained portion of EL 28272 may contain brines contiguous with the established JORC brine to the south.

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## **PHYSIOGRAPHY, ACCESS AND LOGISTICS**

## Location

EL 28272 is located in isolated, sparsely populated, desert country 300 km southwest of Alice Springs on Kulgera 1:250 000 and Angas 1:100 000 map sheets. It is one of the northern-most ELs in the project.



Figure 1. Location of EL 28272 in relation to the other ELs in the project. The JORC brine resource is shown in light blue.

## Habitation and Land Use

EL 28272 overlaps portions of four perpetual pastoral leases: Angas Downs, Lyndavale, Curtin Springs and a tiny corner of Mount Ebenezer (Figure 2). Few cattle are run in the area generally, but this does vary from season to season. This is the only major land use of the EL.

Angus Downs Station is private NT Por 620 Perpetual Pastoral Lease. However, this Station is also an Indigenous Protected Area under Commonwealth legislation granted on 10 June 2009 as part of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country scheme. The property forms part of Australia's National Reserve System. The Traditional Owners wish to use Angas Downs as a homeland. The narrow northern strip of EL 28272 on Angus Downs Station is being relinquished to avoid any possible complications with access. The tiny portion of Mount Ebenezer is also being relinquished.

Apart from the pastoral stations, the nearest points of habitation are Aboriginal communities, the largest of which is Imanpa (population between 180 and 250), 7 km north of the Lasseters Highway and about 17 km from Mount Ebenezer Roadhouse which is owned and run by the community. The community is predominantly Pitjantatjara and Yankunyatjara although Walpiri, Luritja and Arrernte people also live there. Imanpa has a clinic with an ambulance and a visiting nurse.



Figure 2. EL 28272 shown in relation to pastoral leases and cadastral boundaries. The area being relinquished, outlined in red, includes a narrow strip of Angus Downs Stataion and a tiny corner of Mount Ebenezer Station.

## **Access and Logistics**

Access is from the Lasseter Highway which runs east-west north of the project area. Access within EL 28272 is restricted to unmarked and poorly maintained station tracks (Figure 3). In the past, Curtin Springs Station and roadhouse and Mount Ebenezer roadhouse were used as logistic bases. From June 2103 until mid 2014, work was conducted from a transportable camp located in the south of the project area. This camp has now been removed from site.



Figure 3. Highway access is to the north of EL 28272. There are only a few unmapped pastoral tracks in EL 28272 as shown black.

## Climate

The climate is classified as semi-arid with long hot summers and relatively mild winters. A feature of the winter months is the marked diurnal fluctuations in temperature, which can range from sub-zero overnight to mid twenties (°C) or higher during the day. Daytime summer temperatures rarely fall below 30°C and there are often long periods with days in excess of 40°C. On the salt lakes themselves, temperatures can be even higher because of reflected heat.

The average rainfall is about 250-300 mm, most of which falls in the mid to late summer, and the average annual evaporation is 3,000-4,000 mm.

#### Land Systems, Flora and Fauna

Several flora and fauna studies have been undertaken and were reported under the Mining Management Act.

### Heritage and Archaeological Sites

A search of the NT Heritage Register held by NRETAS shows no Declared Heritage Sites in EL 28272. Individual archaeological surveys have also been conducted by specialist contractors on behalf of Rum Jungle Resources and have been reported elsewhere. No archaeological work was conducted specifically on the area of EL 28272 being relinquished.

### **EXPLORATION AND PROJECT RATIONALE**

The Karinga salt lakes and sub-surface aquifers have a defined resource of potassium- and magnesium-rich sulfate brines. Potash and/or schoenite fertiliser can be produced by simple staged solar evaporation and flotation and /or other onsite treatments.

Australia has no producing potash mines. Around 350,000 tonnes of potash is imported into Australia annually from Canada and is worth around \$200 million. Potash of sulfate and schoenite are utilised as high-end fertiliser products globally, as they have a lower salt index than muriate of potash and are often preferred in crops sensitive to chloride or susceptible to fertiliser burn. Sulfate of potash and schoenite attract premium pricing in comparison to the more common muriate of potash. The Karinga Salt Lake Project is strategically well located adjacent to the Lasseter Highway and within reasonable proximity of the Central Australian Railway line, providing access north to the port of Darwin and proximity to Asian markets and south to domestic markets.

## HISTORY OF TENURE AND MINERAL TITLES ACT REPORTING

Rum Jungle Resources' Karinga Lakes Project consists of multiple granted tenements along a string of salt lakes from Curtin Springs to Mount Richards Dam, having previously tested as far east as Erldunda. Newly granted ELs and applications extend the project to the western end of Lake Amadeus, making a total length of 280 km of the Central Australian Groundwater Discharge Zone.

EL 28272 was granted to Rum Jungle Resources Ltd (50%) and Reward Minerals (50%) on 14/04/2011 for a period of six years, but has been 100% owned by Rum Jungle Resources since 2014. The tenement originally covered 74 blocks or 229.7 square kilometres. As part of a major rationalisation of the Karinga Lakes tenure in May 2015, Year 5 of its tenure, EL 28272 was reduced to 53 blocks. All the titles in the Karinga Lakes project were transferred into a single company name so group technical reporting can be applied for. The latter was approved as GR360 on 04/02/2015. The relinquishment described in this report further reduces EL 28272 by 34 blocks to only 19.

#### **MINING MANAGEMENT ACT**

The Karinga Lakes Project is being worked under DME Authorisation 0565-02 and the associated MMP.

#### **NT WORKSAFE**

As part of an NT-wide move by Worksafe to improve its monitoring and inspections of exploration and mining projects, Worksafe required Rum Jungle Resources to redo its Safety Management System and update its Risk Management Plans for each project including Karinga. Consultants Switched on to Safety were engaged to completely update Rum Jungle Resources WHS&E. The most recent NT Worksafe inspection of the Karinga Lakes Project was conducted by Nigel Butler on 12-13/12/2013.

#### **CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL**

Despite being on pastoral land, the Central Land Council has become involved. On 13 November 2014, an oncountry courtesy meeting was held with Traditional Owners and the Central Land Council at Imanpa.

## **GEOLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL SETTING**

EL 28272 overlies the southwestern sector of the Amadeus Basin in the Northern Territory. The Amadeus Basin covers approximately 150,000 km<sup>2</sup> and extends into Western Australia. It is comprised of a Neoproterozoic to mid-Palaeozoic succession of predominantly shallow marine sedimentary rocks and attains a thickness of up to 14,000 m. The siltstones of the central Amadeus Basin have weathered into a modern topographic low. This depression contains a chain of Cenozoic playa salt lakes. Quaternary sand dunes, up to 30 m high, encroach onto the depression. The dunes are mostly vegetated and stable. The playas presently occupy only the lowermost topographic depressions in swales between dunes. Quaternary calcrete and silcrete duricrusts (of vadose origin) are characteristically superimposed on Amadeus Basin outcrops, forming escarpments, several metres high along the margins of some of the playa lakes. Low-relief gypsum-sand "islands" are also present in some of the playas.

The sediments in the modern playa lakes and their palaeo-drainages contain brines formed by the evaporation of surface and near-surface water from infrequent and largely unpredictable rain and flooding events.

Most importantly, the lakes are also fed from groundwater discharge in the Central Australian Groundwater Discharge Zone as described below.



Figure 4. Regional view of the Central Australian Groundwater Discharge Zone (outlined in light blue) running from Lake Hopkins in WA through to Karinga Lakes, nearest the railway. The blue arrows indicate sub-surface flow.



Figure 5. Schematic diagram of how the Central Australian Groundwater Discharge Zone works.

The Devonian Horseshoe Bend Shale forms low mesas around many of the lakes and constitutes the lake "floor". Where it is fractured and/or deeply weathered, the Horseshoe Bend Shale is a brine aquifer in its own right; being the local discharge point for the Central Australian Groundwater Discharge Zone. It is hydraulically connected to the brine in the modern lake sediments, to collectively form a single brine aquifer. The Horseshoe Bend Shale was/is evaporitic, containing sulfate and chloride evaporites. It also contains locally abundant detrital biotite. The evaporites have been leached out over geological time and have almost certainly contributed to the brine, both within the shale and within the lake sediments. These migrating brines have also liberated additional potassium from the weathering biotite.

## **JORC 2012 RESOURCE**

On 20/02/2104, the Karinga Lakes brine potash resource estimate was increased to a total of 8.4 million tonnes  $K_2SO_4$  including over 70% in the Measured and Indicated category. This is equivalent to 19 million tonnes of schoenite.

Resource Category	Potassium (tonnes)	K₂SO₄ (tonnes)	Schoenite (tonnes)					
Measured	2,600,000	5,800,000	13,000,000					
Indicated	210,000	460,000	1,100,000					
Inferred	950,000	2,100,000	4,900,000					
Total	3,800,000	8,400,000	19,000,000					

Table 1. Karinga Lakes Brine Resource (entries have been rounded).

The Karinga Lakes Potash Resource is a brine hosted resource. The potassium is dissolved in brines that are contained in aquifers below the dry salt lake surface. The JORC code was not designed for use in connection with minerals that are dissolved in brines. It is generally accepted that geological uncertainties are greater when dealing with the estimation of brine resources.

The sulfate of potash tonnage represents the in-situ brine with no recovery factor applied. It will not be possible to extract all of the contained brine by pumping of trenches; the amount which can be extracted depends on many

factors including the permeability of the sediments, the drainable porosity, and the recharge dynamics of the aquifers.

Brine is hosted within two stratigraphic units:

- Modern lake bed sediments , and
- Devonian weathered siltstone of the Horseshoe Bend Shale

Potassium tonnage was calculated individually for each stratigraphic unit at each lake. Potassium tonnage was calculated as:

• Bulk volume x porosity x brine concentration.

Ordinary kriging interpolation was used for resource estimation at a cut-off of 3,000 mg/L potassium. The average potassium grade of the lakes using this cut-off is 4,760 mg/L.

Porosity values were assigned to each stratigraphic unit on the basis of measured porosity in 142 samples obtained from the 2013 sonic drill core samples. 71 porosity samples were sent to E-Precision laboratory in Perth and 71 porosity samples were sent to the British Geological Survey Hydrogeological Properties and Processes Laboratory in Wales. Median porosity values for each stratigraphic unit were determined as follows:

- Modern lake bed sediments 33%
- Devonian Horseshoe Bend Shale 36%

The total resource is contained beneath 25 lakes with a total area of 132 km<sup>2</sup>. The average thickness of the identified resource is 17 m.

The potash brine resource is based on data acquired over four years, including:

- 93 brine samples from hand dug pits
- 4 small backhoe trenches which were pump tested
- 8 vibracore drill holes
- 73 sonic drill holes
- 200 aircore drill holes
- 42 installed 50 mm piezometers around drill holes and 48 piezometers around trenches
- 47 installed 100 mm wells
- 10 pumping tests from 100 mm wells
- 4 long term pump tests from 3 trenches and a well
- 142 porosity samples

The brine resource has been estimated by Ben Jeuken, consulting hydrogeologist from Groundwater Science Pty Ltd. The full JORC 2012 Resource Statement, the ASX announcement and all the relevant JORC reporting tables have been supplied to DME previously.

#### **SCOPING STUDY**

The Karinga Scoping Study was announced 14 December 2014. A review of the extractable brine resource, chemical composition and processing analytics, process flow sheet design, mass balance work and general brine extraction and processing facility layout was completed by China International Chemical Consulting Corporation (CICCC). GHD Australia completed estimates of Australian capital and operating costs, based on the CICCC design. Baseline regional market studies for both sulphate of potash and potassium magnesium sulphate were also conducted.

Two development scenarios were studied to a scoping study level of accuracy (+/- 40% capital and operating costs): Scenario 1

- 125,000 tonnes per annum of sulphate of potash (SOP) for a minimum of 10 years of production. 75% of the in-situ potash brine resource is in the Measured and Indicated JORC (2012) categories.
- Scenario 2
- 100,000 tonnes per annum of potassium magnesium sulphate (schoenite) for a minimum of 15 years of production. For scenario 2, it is considered that there are sufficient recoverable brines in the known insitu resource and without recharge to support the 15 year operation envisaged.

Schoenite is an intermediate product of the sulphate of potash process. Scenario 2 is approximately one fifth the size of scenario 1 and represents the potential to develop a small scale start up, using a smaller number of lakes thus decreasing the environmental footprint and significantly lower energy usage due to lower volumes of brines being pumped smaller distances and avoiding the need to create steam that is used to convert schoenite to SOP.

The following table summarises the scoping study level economic assumptions for the project:

	Units	Scenario 1	Scenario 2
SOP Sold	tpa	125,000	-
Schoenite Sold	tpa	-	100,000
Minimum Life	years	10	15
Estimated wholesale market price	\$A/t	\$700-\$800	\$400-\$450
Estimated operating costs including transport	\$A/t	\$300-\$370	\$140-\$160
Estimated Total Capex	\$AM	340	93
Contingency included in Total Capex	\$AM	50	14

tpa – tonnes per annum

\$A/t – Australian dollars per tonne \$AM- millions of Australian dollars

#### Table 2. Scoping study results.

The Opex range provided in the table above is determined by the gas supply scenario. The upper bound is when gas is delivered by CNG from Alice Springs and the lower bound assumes gas supplied via pipeline from emerging regional production. In order to take one of the development scenarios forward to a bankable feasibility study, it will be necessary to secure funding through the establishment of a joint venture. As previously announced to the ASX, Flagstaff Partners have been engaged to facilitate a formal investment process.

### **BLOCKS BEING RELINQUISHED**

34-blocks are being relinquished from northern EL 28272, leaving 19 blocks. The block ID map below shows those blocks being relinquished outlined in red.

SG531010L	SG531010M	SG531010N	SG531010O	SG531010P	SG531011L	SG531011M	SG531011N	SG5310110	SG531011P	SG531012L	SG531012M	SG531012N	SG531012O	SG531012P	SG531013L	SG531013M	SG531013N	SG531013O	SG531013P	SG531014L	SG531014M	SG531014N	SG531014O	SG531014P	SG531015L
SG531010Q	SG531010R	SG531010S	SG531010T	SG531010U	SG531011Q	SG531011R	SG531011S	SG531011T	SG531011U	SG531012Q	SG531012R	SG531012S	SG531012T	SG531012U	SG531013Q	SG531013R	SG531013S	SG531013T	SG531013U	SG531014Q	SG531014R	SG531014S	SG531014T	SG531014U	SG531015Q
SG531010V	SG531010W	SG531010X	SG531010Y	SG531010Z	SG531011V	SG531011W	SG531011X	SG531011Y	SG531011Z	SG531012V	SG531012W	SG531012X	SG531012Y	SG531012Z	SG531013V	SG531013W	SG531013X	SG531013Y	SG531013Z	SG531014V	SG531014W	SG531014X	SG531014Y	SG531014Z	SG531015V
SG531082A	SG531082B	SG531082C	SG531082D	SG531082E	SG531083A	SG531083B	SG531083C	SG531083D	SG531083E	SG531084A	SG531084B	SG531084C	SG531084D	SG531084E	SG531085A	SG531085B	EL282 SG531085C	272 SG531085D	SG531085E	SG531086A	SG531086B	SG531086C	SG531086D	SG531086E	SG531087A
SG531082F	SG531082G	SG531082H	SG531082J	SG531082K	SG531083F	SG531083G	SG531083H	SG531083J	SG531083K	SG531084F	SG531084G	SG531084H	SG531084J	SG531084K	SG531085F	SG531085G	SG531085H	SG531085J	SG531085K	SG531086F	SG531086G	SG531086H	SG531086J	SG531086K	SG531087F
SG531082L	SG531082M	SG531082N	SG531082O	SG531082P	SG531083L	SG531083M	SG531083N	SG531083O	SG531083P	SG531084L	SG531084M	SG531084N	SG531084O	SG531084P	SG531085L	SG531085M	SG531085N	SG531085O	SG531085P	SG531086L	SG531086M	SG531086N	SG531086O	SG531086P	SG531087L
SG531082Q	SG531082R	SG531082S	SG531082T	SG531082U	SG531083Q	SG531083R	SG531083S	SG531083T	SG531083U	SG531084Q	SG531084R	SG531084S	SG531084T	SG531084U	SG531085Q	SG531085R	SG531085S	SG531085T	SG531085U	SG531086Q	SG531086R	SG531086S	SG531086T	SG531086U	SG531087Q
SG531082V	SG531082W	SG531082X	SG531082Y	SG531082Z	SG531083V	SG531083W	SG531083X	SG531083Y	SG531083Z	SG531084V	SG531084W	SG531084X	SG531084Y	SG531084Z	SG531085V	SG531085W	SG531085X	SG531085Y	SG531085Z	SG531086V	SG531086W	SG531086X	SG531086Y	SG531086Z	SG531087V
SG531154A	SG531154B	SG531154C	SG531154D	SG531154E	SG531155A	SG531155B	SG531155C	SG531155D	SG531155E	SG531156A	SG531156B	SG531156C	SG531156D	SG531156E	SG531157A	SG531157B	SG531157C	SG531157D	SG531157E	SG531158A	SG531158B	SG531158C	SG531158D	SG531158E	SG531159A
SG531154F	SG531154G	SG531154H	SG531154J	SG5311		kilome	tres	_	SG531155K	SG531156F	SG531156G	SG531156H	SG531156J	SG531156K	SG531157F	SG531157G	SG531157H	SG531157J	SG531157K	SG531158F	SG531158G	SG531158H	SG531158J	SG531158K	SG531159F
SG531154L	SG531154M	SG531154N	SG5311540	SG531154P	SG531155L	SG531155M	SG531155N	SG5311550	SG531155P	SG531156L	SG531156M	SG531156N	SG5311560	SG531156P	SG531157L	SG531157M	SG531157N	SG531157O	SG531157P	SG531158L	SG531158M	SG531158N	SG531158O	SG531158P	SG531159L

Figure 6. Blocks being relinquished from northern EL 28272 outlined in red.

#### WORK ON BLOCKS BEING RELINQUISHED

Only remote-sensed and desk-top studies using publically-available data have been conducted on the area being relinquished. No on-ground work was conducted on the blocks being relinquished. These blocks of EL 28272 are considered the least prospective for brine potash.

One salt lake of interest is within the southern boundary of the area being retained and another impinges across the southern boundary of the EL. Possible palaeodrainages and the aquifer responsible for the Central Australian Groundwater Discharge Zone may also occur in the shallow subsurface in the southern part of EL 28272. This prospective area is being retained.

There is no drilling, or other sampling, on the blocks being relinquished as confirmed by the plot below.



Figure 7. No drilling has been undertaken on the area of EL 28272 being relinquished. Drillholes plotted as dark blue dots.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Only a narrow strip of southern-most EL 28272, contiguous with other Rum Jungle Resources titles, is being retained. This ground is considered the most prospective for potash brine and may contain an extension of the existing JORC brine resource. The relinquished blocks include land on Angus Downs Station which is an Indigenous Protected Area under Commonwealth legislation granted on 10 June 2009 as part of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country scheme. There has been no sampling or drilling on the blocks being relinquished.