

## **Appendix I-2**

# **A report on field surveys to determine the existence of any European cultural sites for a proposed mineral extraction venture, Melville Island, NT**

*A Report on Field Surveys  
to Determine the Existence  
of any  
European Cultural Sites  
for a  
Proposed Mineral Extraction Venture, Melville  
Island, Northern Territory*



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**January 2005**

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Cover image: Melville Islanders and RAAF guard at the Zero which force landed near Snake Bay (Milikapiti) on 19 February 1942. Photo Bob Alford collection.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Consultant was commissioned by URS Australia Pty. Ltd. to undertake field work and provide documentation of those sites identified for the possible mining of zircon and rutile by Matilda Minerals Ltd. at Lethbridge Bay (Lethbridge West Prospect) and Andranangoo Creek (Andranangoo West Prospect) on Melville Island, a part of the Tiwi Islands.

In order to gain the relevant Commonwealth and Northern Territory approvals, the company anticipates that an *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) referral and Notice of Intent (NOI) for the proposed operations. URS was requested to undertake the preparation of these documents and in turn the Consultant was engaged to report on any European heritage issues including sites of cultural significance.

Accordingly the report has been prepared as a requirement of the provisions of Section 28 of the Commonwealth's *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and those definitions at Section 528 of the *Act*, viz:

Section 28 of the *Act* includes

(1) The Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency must not take inside or outside the Australian jurisdiction an action that has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on the environment inside or outside the Australian jurisdiction...

Section 528 of the *Act* defines, *environment* includes:

- (a) ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and
- (b) natural and physical resources; and
- (c) the qualities and characteristics of locations, places and areas; and
- (d) the social, economic and cultural aspects of a thing mentioned in paragraph (a), (b) or (c).<sup>1</sup>

1. Extract, Sections 28 and 528 of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Commonwealth of Australia, 10 April 2002.

## 2. SCOPE of WORKS

The Scope of Works issued by URS Australia Pty. Ltd. included the following guidelines in relation to European heritage issues:

### 1. Preparation of EPBC Referral

#### *Important Features*

Description of important features of the environment affected by the proposal.

#### *Land Use*

Current land use.

#### *Likely impacts*

Nature and extent of likely impacts on European heritage sites such as:

- ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities;
- natural and physical resources;
- the qualities and characteristics of locations, places and areas; and
- the social, economic and cultural aspects of these things.

#### *Measures aimed at avoiding impacts*

Any specific measures aimed at avoiding or mitigating significant impacts on the matters protected by the EPBC Act should be listed with a description as to why they are expected to be effective.

#### *Information sources*

Information sources should be listed and include, how recent the information is, how reliable it is and what uncertainties there are (if any) regarding the information.

### 2. Preparation of Notice of Intent

#### *Description of existing environment*

Heritage sites

#### *Identification of Issues*

Issues listed include:

- Land use at the site and adjacent to the site.
- Potential impacts of mining.
- Socio-economic issues including heritage issues.

#### *Management of Impacts*

Recommendations to manage or mitigate impacts. 2

2. Correspondence, *Scope of Works - Preparation of EPBC Referral and NOI for Matilda Minerals - European Heritage Issues*. URS Australia Pty. Ltd. to Consultant, 10 December 2004

### 3. LOCATION

#### 3.1. Administrative details

The area under study lies in the traditional lands of the Tiwi Aboriginal people and more specifically within the area of the *Turapula* group. The Tiwi Islands including Bathurst and Melville Islands are administered by an elected body, the Tiwi Land Council.

Access to the islands is provided under approval of the Tiwi Land Council and is authorised through the issuing of permits under the provisions of the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Act 1980*.

#### 3.2. General

The sites proposed for mining are located at the northern coast of Melville Island, Northern Territory. Melville Island lies approximately 100 kilometres north by air from Darwin and is one of the two major islands of five that form the Tiwi Islands - the other being Bathurst Island. Melville Island comprises an area of some 3,700 square kilometres and is the largest island in Australia outside Tasmania.

More specifically the area of the exploration lease lies east of Snake Bay and is situated on the central north coast of Melville Island. The area under study is generally bounded by Jessie River in Lethbridge Bay to the east and south of Andranangoo Creek to the southwest of Radford Point some sixteen kilometres to the west of the Lethbridge Bay site.

#### 3.3. Environment

The vegetation community within the area under study can be categorised as both coastal woodland and open tropical woodland. A very brief description of both is provided as a guide in terms of the accessibility provided to the field team.

The coastal woodland extends from the coastal dunes south to the northern extremity of the escarpment at both sites. The dominant species include *Casuarina equisetifolia* (Casuarina) on the coastal fringe and *Melaleuca* sp. Inland from the coast. Other species noted include *Crinum* sp., *Calytrix exstipulata* (Turkey Bush), a thus far unidentified sedge grass, and what is suggested to be either *Syzygium eucalyptoides* ssp. *bleeseri* or *Syzygium fibrosum* - featuring edible large white/pink fruit.

The tropical woodland extends south from the edge of the escarpment at both sites. The dominant species include, *Eucalyptus* sp., predominately *E. Tetradonta* (Darwin Stringybark) and *E. miniata* (Darwin Woollybutt). Other species noted include *Pandanus spiralis* (Screw Palm), and *Cicas* sp. (Cycad). A number of other species were also noted and include *Livistona humilis* (Sand Palm), *Grevillea* sp. and *Calytrix exstipulata* (Turkey Bush). *Crinum* sp., *Passiflora foetida* (Wild Passionfruit) and *Smilax australis*.

Visibility in both environments was good, generally to 40-50 metres, and thus facilitating wider coverage of the areas being surveyed. Leaf litter and large areas of sedge grass in the lower coastal woodland and seasonal growth on the escarpment partly obscured ground features, however these were not considered limiting factors in completing the survey.

## **4. METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1. Preliminary research via known sources**

As part of normal practice, the Consultant undertook preliminary research into the subject as a component of the formulation of the fee proposal to URS Australia Pty. Ltd. This research included available files, publications and articles held within the Consultant's own collection.

Following commissioning by URS more extensive research was undertaken of those resources available within the NT Library system and through National Archives, Northern Territory Archives Service, and the Consultant's own collection.

### **4.2. Review of archival material**

As has been found to be the case in a number of projects undertaken by the Consultant, relevant archival material available through the National Archives is generally not accessible, either through the material being located interstate or 'Not yet examined'.

This project was no exception. In accessing the National Archives database 201 files pertaining to Melville Island were noted, however a majority of these are held outside the Northern Territory and were not considered for access. Time constraints imposed by the project saw the local Darwin repository database accessed and whilst there are 35 records held, none that were accessible were of relevance to the project.

Accordingly any archival material that was available was generally in the form of copies held in the NT Library's ephemeral files, on microfilm, or in the Consultant's own collection.

### **4.3. Physical survey and recording**

As detailed at section 6, the site surveys were carried out on 20 and 21 January 2005, with transport to and from the site via Jayrow Helicopters. These surveys were carried out in conjunction with the archaeological surveys undertaken by Christine Crassweller.

### **4.4. Documentation**

The report was documented based on the Scope of Works, previous experience and the material obtained during the research phase of the project. The report was prepared under the guidelines of the *Australian ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance* and in James Kerr's *The Conservation Plan*.

## 5. BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### *The original inhabitants*

The Tiwi islands are home to one of Australia's most remarkable Aboriginal groups whose isolation over thousands of years has helped them preserve their unique language and culture. The Tiwi people have a strong sense of identity and are proud and outgoing in the way they maintain their lifestyle.

The name *Tiwi* means 'we, the only people', and to them the Tiwi islands were 'the world'. Norman Tindale describes the Tiwi as *Tunuvivi*, the ancient and proper name for the Tiwi, as described to him by Father E. A. Worms. <sup>3</sup>

Sometimes, however, the Tiwi ventured out into 'the other world', across Clarence Strait, to do battle with the mainland Aboriginal people and take women back to the islands. John Morris has written of the relationship between the Larrakia and the Tiwi islanders, relating that the Tiwi encroached as far as the future site of Palmerston (Darwin) in raids to kill the men and steal lubras - even in the early days of European settlement of Palmerston.

The Larrakia reversed the situation on occasions, paddling across the Clarence Strait in stringybark canoes and raiding Melville Island. Morris suggests that the last raid by the Tiwis appears to have been around 1870, when a Larrakia, Tuninngalum, was treated in a makeshift hospital in the new settlement at Port Darwin. <sup>4</sup>

### *The Macassans*

The 'other world' came to the Tiwi people when the Macassans sailed from the Indonesian island of Sulawesi in search of the sea cucumber, or trepang, from possibly the early-1600s. It seems however that, unlike the Aboriginal groups along the north coast of Australia who had quite positive associations with the Macassans, the Tiwi people were consistently hostile to them and outsiders in general, and a number of deaths were reported at the hands of the Tiwi. Indeed, the Macassans considered

...their misfortune to be great if their praos were wrecked on the coast...blown in to the homeland of the Tiwi, [they] had little chance of surviving, for the Tiwi normally speared such poorly armed intruders... <sup>5</sup>

C. C. McKnight has written extensively on the Macassans and in his work *The Voyage to Marege*, cites a number of incidents relating to contact with the Tiwi, one in which the master of a prau wrecked on the north coast of Melville Island in December 1886

...kept the niggers at bay with an old carbine while four canoes were launched and fitted out. <sup>6</sup>

3. Tindale, Norman. *Aboriginal Tribes of Australia*. University of California Press. 1974. Page 236.
4. Morris, John. *A Brief Study of Tiwi-Larrakia Feuds*. Historical Society of the NT. c. 1965. Pages 1-3.
5. Hart, C. W. M. and Pilling, Arnold R. *The Tiwi of North Australia*. Holt Rinehart and Winston. USA. 1966. Page 98.
6. McKnight, C. C. *The Voyage to Marege. Macassan trepangers in northern Australia*. Melbourne University Press. 1976. Page 32.



McKnight also writes that the most frequent landfall for the Macassans was on the north coast of Melville Island, with many  
...accounts of praus foundering in rough weather, many of them being driven onto Melville Island. 7

In 1881-2 one prau was wrecked on Melville Island and a further two in 1886-7, though many more were reported in the early days of the trade prior to records being kept by the Government Residents in Darwin and the statistics being included in their annual reports to South Australia. 8

### *Maritime exploration*

The first written account of the sighting of the Tiwi Islands was made by Dutch navigator, Pieter Pieterszoon, on 13 June 1636. Pieterszoon was in command of two ships, the *Cleen Amsterdam* and the *Wesel* and had sailed from Batavia to follow up previous Dutch discoveries in the Gulf of Carpentaria to confirm or otherwise any connection between New Guinea and the 'southland'.

Pieterszoon wrote of sighting land and of a division of the land mass by "...fully 12 miles". According to Forrest this was Dundas Strait separating Melville Island from Cobourg Peninsula. 9 From there Pieterszoon sailed along the north coast of Melville Island, sighting smoke but no signs of habitation. He named the land Van Diemensland, established that it comprised two islands and then turned north for Batavia on 22 June 1636.

Eight years later Abel Tasman sailed into the region after navigating the Gulf of Carpentaria. He sailed through Dundas Strait and along the north coast of the islands but failed to establish them as separate land masses.

On 2 April 1705 three Dutch ships, the *Vossenbosch*, *Nova Hollandia* and *Waijer*, under the command of Maarten van Delft sighted the Tiwi Islands. The Dutch spent some weeks surveying the north coast of Melville Island and Apsley Strait and the west coast of Bathurst Island. They met with the Tiwi, let them aboard their ships and landed on the coast but were met by Tiwi spears. A Tiwi man was wounded by a musket ball and the Dutch treated him and gave gifts. In turn they were given crabs and fish.

Frenchman, Captain Nicholas Baudin, recorded the islands in 1803 and fifteen years later Phillip Parker King sailed around and through them on the *Mermaid*, in what is considered to be of momentous significance for north Australia and the catalyst for British settlement.

From March 1818 King sailed along the coast of Arnhem Land. The following month he named Cape Don and then surveyed Van Diemen Gulf, naming the Alligator Rivers and Cobourg Peninsula before heading north through Dundas Strait to the north coast of Melville Island on 11 May.

7. McKnight. Op cit. Page 34.

8. Ibid. Page 115 and Appendix 3.

9. Forrest, P. *An Outline of the History of Bathurst and Melville Islands*. 1993. Page 5.

Three days later in the evening, King “anchored at a picturesque bay...”, sheltered from the prevailing southeasterly wind. King wrote further of the site, recording that the

...beach is sandy...the country appeared verdant, and the hills are thickly wooded: at the bottom of the bay a shoal opening trends in between two hills, over which, in the evening, seven natives were observed to cross in a canoe. This was called Lethbridge Bay. 10

In his work *King of the Australian Coast*, Horden Marsden writes that King, ...feeling it deserved a name with happy associations...called it Lethbridge bay for his father-in-law, Christopher Lethbridge, Deputy Recorder of Launceston. 11

On 21 May 1818 King named Bathurst and Melville Islands and six years later on 23 September 1824 the British established Fort Dundas on Melville Island. After five years of battling the hostile Tiwi and the elements, Fort Dundas was declared a failure and the British moved to Raffles Bay on Cobourg Peninsula.

#### *Portuguese slavers?*

In their work *The Tiwi of North Australia*, Hart and Pilling contend that following contact with the Europeans the Tiwi became extremely hostile towards outsiders, writing that the

...distrust of foreigners probably stemmed from these decades when the Portuguese on Timor were raiding Melville Island for slaves...From what little is known we may conclude that the Portuguese stopped capturing Tiwi as slaves about 1800. 12

The authors cite George Windsor Earl’s *The Native races of the Indian Archipelago: Papuans* (London: Hippolyte Bailliere, 1853. Page 210) in which he writes that “...According to...the older inhabitants of Timor, Melville Island was only less a source of slavery than New Guinea, in proportion to its smaller extent of surface, at the period in which the slave-trade was encouraged or connived at by the European authorities...” They then suggest that when the relevant records are made available at the Portuguese Archives will the existence or indeed extent of a thus far unconfirmed trade be revealed. 13

#### *European intrusion*

The nineteenth century heralded a dramatic decrease in the isolation of the Tiwi, with European visitors and settlers encroaching onto the islands. Following the Dutch and British navigators, and the aborted settlement of Fort Dundas, came a party in 1887. *The Observer* in Adelaide reported the visit when

...Melville Island, “a terra incognita” and in a sense an “island of romance,” was paid a short visit of three days by a party

10. King, Phillip Parker. *Narrative of a Survey of the Intertropical and Western Coasts of Australia performed between the years of 1818 and 1822*. (First published by John Murray, London, 1827). Facsimile edition published by Libraries Board of South Australia. 1969. Pages 107 -108.
11. Horden, Marsden. *King of the Australian Coast. The Work of Phillip Parker King in the Mermaid and Bathurst 1817-1822*. Melbourne University Press. 1997. Page 124.
12. Hart and Pilling. Op cit. Pages 97-8.
13. Ibid.

which consisted of 11 white men including the then Government Resident (the late Hon. W. L. Parsons), six Chinese carriers and six Port Darwin aborigines. They landed...on the south-east coast of Melville Island...and walked across to Brenton Bay on the north coast...and the steamer met them at Lethbridge Bay. The blacks dogged them all the time. Their leader (Mr. Saunders) was speared in the arm, and finally when they arrived on the beach at Lethbridge Bay to get into the boats, spears were thrown among them..." It appears quite clear that the natives regard the landing of white men on the island as an invasion, and they are determined to murder all who venture on what they consider their territory..."<sup>14</sup>

The Tiwi people maintained their independence even when shooters came to the islands in 1895 to open up a market for the legacy of British settlement, the Asian Buffalo. After initial hostility including the spearing of Joe Cooper, the shooters were gradually accepted by the Tiwi and set up camps on both islands. Joe Cooper went on to earn the respect of the Tiwi and became known as 'The King of Melville Island'.

In April 1911 Father Francis Xavier Gsell arrived at Paru opposite Bathurst Island and the future settlement of Nguiu on the fringe of Apsley Strait. He stayed with Joe Cooper at his camp until 8 June, when he and four Filipino men moved across the strait into a prefabricated house at Nguiu.

The arrival of the missionaries was the start of a dramatic change to the Tiwi way of life, though Father Gsell was accepted as "Whiskers" or *Tirnima*. His presence was also of use to the Tiwi in controlling Joe Cooper's *Taroola* (Cape Don) Aboriginal employees after a Tiwi man was shot in a dispute over a Tiwi woman and Father Gsell helped calm the situation.

From the 1930s the independence of the Tiwi was again under threat, by Japanese and European pearling lugger crews who traded in young Tiwi women, though it seems the main source of concern was at Bathurst Island. Complaints from Father Gsell, and from Tiwi women themselves saw the patrol boat, *Larrakia*, under Captain C. Haultain, enter service in 1935. Haultain provides a detailed account of the operations of the *Larrakia* and her crew in his work *Watch off Arnhem Land*, though there is little mention of any operations around the area under study.

The *Larrakia* used Bathurst Island and Garden Point on Melville Island as bases from which to patrol the north coast and attempt to curb the trade until the pearlers moved on to the Arnhem Land coast in 1937. Despite the difficulties, not least of which were the politics of Japanese and Australian relations, inaccurate charts and a lease granted over Melville Island to Vestey's, Haultain and his crew managed to at least let the pearlers know they meant business - notwithstanding offenders being released by the courts and breakdowns resulting in the *Larrakia* being towed to port by the Japanese themselves.

14. *The Observer*. Adelaide 25 January 1908. A Happy Hunting Ground Melville and Bathurst Islands. A Visitor's account  
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### *Wartime*

On 19 February 1942 war came to the Tiwi Islands. A coastwatcher, John Gribble was based at Snake Bay and reported the aircraft over Melville Island. Father John McGrath relayed his message to Darwin from the radio shack at Nguuu, however the warning was ignored and Darwin was devastated by 188 aircraft in a morning raid. A further 54 aircraft bombed the RAAF Station at noon. Following the raid a damaged carrier-borne Japanese Mitsubishi A6M 'Zero' piloted by Seaman 1c, Hajime Toyoshima, force landed near Snake Bay (Milikapiti). Toyoshima was captured by local Aborigines the following day, becoming Australia's first POW.

A detailed history of the role of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in World War II, including those on Melville Island, is provided by Robert A. Hall in his comprehensive work, *The Black Diggers*. These and other roles evidenced by anecdotal and documentary material are paraphrased below.

The Melville Island Tiwi formed a coast watching service under John Gribble and considered themselves in the employ of the Royal Australian Navy - Gribble himself was an officer in the RAN's Volunteer Reserve. Others worked at radar stations, acted as pilots on small craft, joined submarine operations, crewed luggers resupplying coastal defences, and rescued downed pilots, among other roles.

One, 'Old Johnny' and another man took an injured American fighter pilot, Captain Robert van Auken, across Clarence Strait by dugout canoe to Darwin, whilst others rescued Lieutenant James Martin after he ditched his P-40E at Cape Gambier on Melville Island and the mixed Australian Dutch crew of a Dutch B-25 Mitchell bomber which force landed east of the area under study at Point Jarlheel.

Patrols were mounted over the north coast of Melville Island by Gribble's Aboriginal volunteers, and following recommendations by American pilots of the 49th Fighter Group in 1942 food and supply caches were established at points along the coast. Local Aboriginal volunteers watched over the caches and Allied pilots were issued maps showing their locations.

In early 1944 personnel of 6 Aust. Army Topographical Survey Coy. based in Darwin carried out astro fixes for mapping the Tiwi Islands. Transported by the small vessel "*Southern Cross*", Captain Tait and seven Other Ranks (ORs) carried out the task from 31 January to 1 May. From 20 to 25 March they were involved in fixes at Lethbridge Bay, Radford Point, Point Jual and Cape Fleeming.<sup>15</sup>

15. Hunt, J. F. *Military Map Makers in North Australia 1943-1945*. Corporate Bigprint. 1998. Pages 84-85.

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Despite misgivings by authorities that the Tiwi might side with the Japanese during war, the myth was put to rest by the actions of the Tiwi people during World War II. Indeed in light of the misgivings many islanders were evacuated south to camps at Adelaide River, Mataranka and elsewhere where they performed extremely well and earned the respect of Australian servicemen.

Those Tiwi who remained and volunteered for service were paid in rations or tobacco, with payment in money made by the RAN as late as the 1960s. Acknowledgment of their wartime role took until the mid-1990s. By then the war was forgotten but for the dance depicting that first attack by the Japanese, which is now a part of Tiwi culture.

#### *Postwar*

Following the cessation of hostilities on 15 August 1945 the evacuees returned to the islands and despite some concerns the Native Affairs Branch decided to keep Snake

Bay settlement going and put former Superintendent of Delissaville settlement on Cox Peninsula, Jack Murray, in charge. He was later joined by the renowned Bill Harney.

A sawmill was established to provide employment and houses were erected to replace bark huts. A timber milling venture was also commenced in the 1950s. The local Tiwi people have continued to maintain their culture and independence in the years since.

In 1978 title deeds were handed back to the Tiwi people by the then Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Ian Viner, on 7 September. The Tiwi people have a land council, local government and traditional groups who are also responsible for ceremony and care of country.

Business enterprises on the Tiwi Islands include aquaculture, forestry, tourism, barge operations, and arts and crafts. More recently mining and forestry projects have been proposed, with initial mineral exploration carried out at the Lethbridge Bay sites in the 1900s and more recently by Matilda Minerals Ltd.

## 6. SITE SURVEYS

### 6.1 Lethbridge Bay site (Lethbridge West Prospect)

Access to the site was provided by chartered helicopter on 20 January 2005, with the survey conducted by the Consultant and Archaeologist Christine Crassweller. The prospect areas, proposed access road and camp area as provided by Matilda Minerals Ltd. were traversed on foot over the day before returning to Darwin. The areas surveyed are detailed at Figure 1.

As previously detailed, visibility was good, generally to 40-50 metres, and facilitated wider coverage of the areas being surveyed. Leaf litter and large areas of sedge grass in the lower coastal woodland and seasonal growth on the escarpment partly obscured ground features, however these were not considered limiting factors in completing the survey. The survey was further facilitated in having two operatives each with a working knowledge of the other's discipline.

Despite extensive traverses over and in excess in some cases of the areas detailed, no items of European material culture were noted that would be of heritage significance. Those items that were noted included a 200 litre fuel drum, two Victoria Bitter aluminium beer cans and a partly corroded wheel barrow. A number of orange footed scrub fowl (*Megapodius riemwardt*) mounds of varying sizes were recorded and the plots for these are available as required.

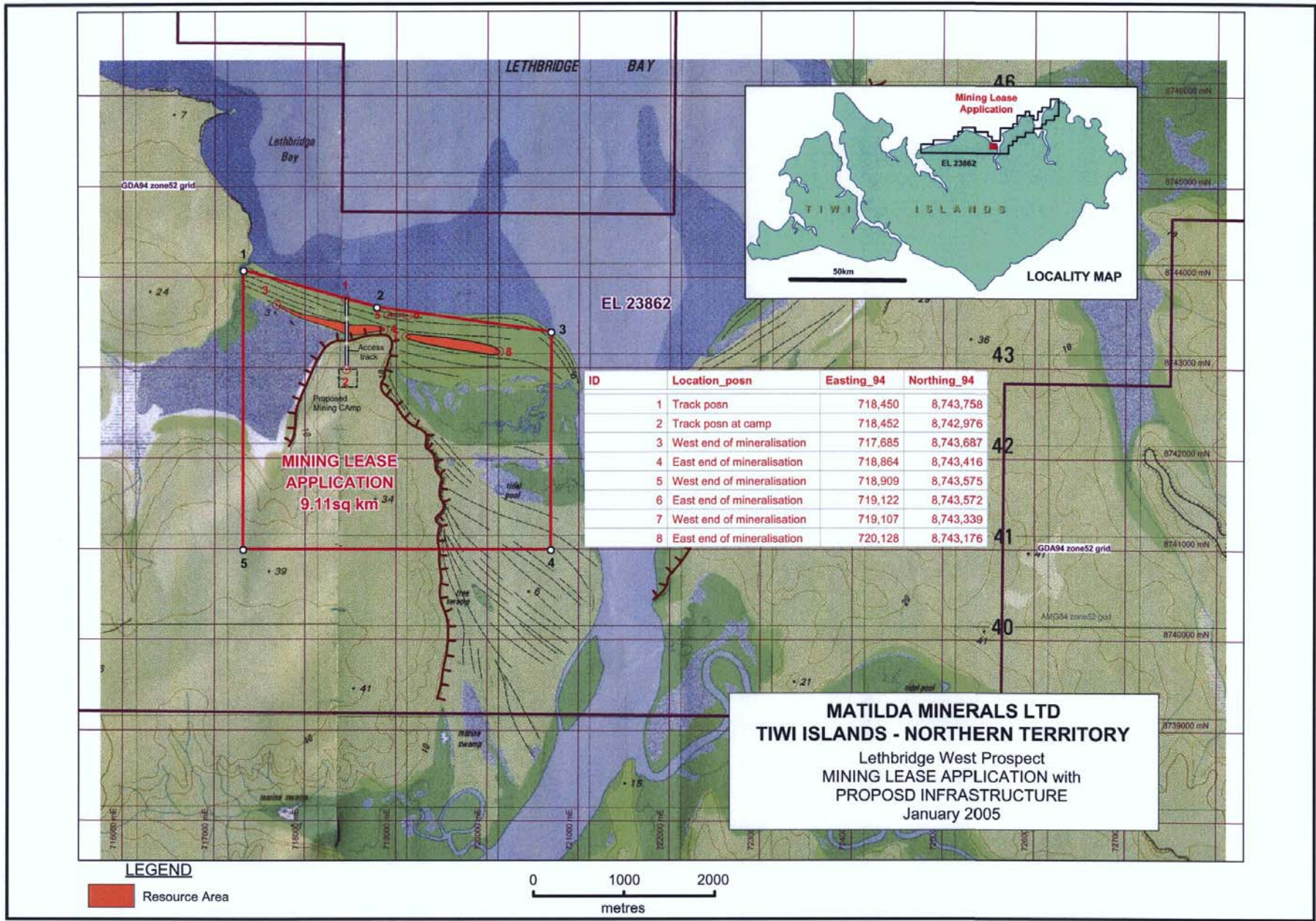
### 6.2 Andranangoo Creek (Andranangoo West Prospect)

Access to the site was provided by chartered helicopter on 21 January 2005, with the survey conducted by the Consultant, again in conjunction with Archaeologist Christine Crassweller. The prospect areas, proposed access road and camp area as provided by Matilda Minerals Ltd. were traversed on foot over the day before returning to Darwin. The areas surveyed are detailed at Figure 2.

As previously detailed, visibility was good, generally to 40-50 metres, and facilitated wider coverage of the areas being surveyed. Leaf litter and large areas of sedge grass in the lower coastal woodland and seasonal growth on the escarpment partly obscured ground features, however these were not considered limiting factors in completing the survey. The survey was further facilitated in having two operatives each with a working knowledge of the other's discipline.

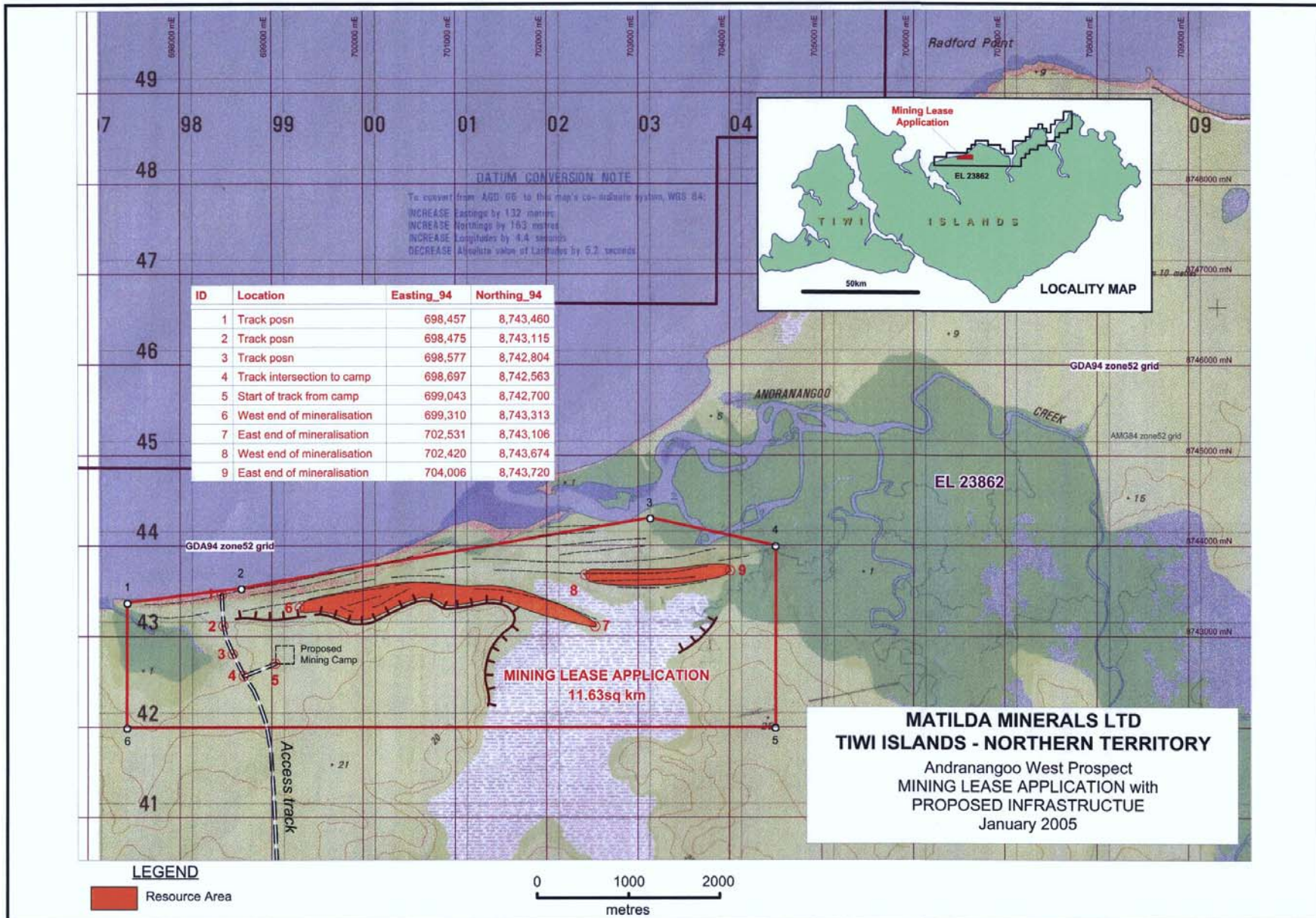
Despite extensive traverses over and in excess in some cases of the areas detailed, no items of European material culture were noted that would be of heritage significance. The one item noted was an AFL football jersey of recent origins. As with the previous day's survey a number of orange footed scrub fowl (*Megapodius riemwardt*) mounds of varying sizes were recorded and the plots for these are available as required.





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**7. CONCLUSION**

Despite the historical associations of the area under study, the ephemeral nature of European activities in the vicinity suggested that very little if any remaining European material culture would have survived.

The survey of the proposed mining sites failed to reveal any sites that could be identified as historic European occupation or cultural heritage sites. This was not in variance to initial assessments made by the Consultant based upon preliminary research and previous experience.

Reference to a number of historical records failed to confirm the presence of European occupation on the northern extremities of Melville Island east of Snake Bay. There are no records thus far accessed by the Consultant that record permanent or semi-permanent European occupation of the area identified for the proposed mining venture.

Based upon those observations and the environment itself, it is the opinion of the Consultant that there are no historic European occupation sites or European cultural heritage sites located within the defined boundaries of either the Lethbridge West or Andranangoo West Prospects.

**8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Notwithstanding the conclusions above, it is recommend that during further exploratory and initial operations associated with the venture, that Matilda Minerals Ltd. establish protocols to:

- a. alert personnel, and plant operators in particular, of the historical associations of the area and the possibility, no matter how remote, of the existence of items that might relate to European material culture; and
- b. report the location by GPS plot of any finds of possible European or material culture for further investigation.

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