

## APPENDIX 3

# memorandum

**To:** File  
**From:** Francess Perrett  
**Subject:** Site inspection Frances Creek Mine

**Date:** 18/10/2006  
**Ref:** EPA2006/0119

A site inspection was conducted on Tuesday 17 October 2006 to assess areas of concern raised during the EIA process of the proposed Frances Creek Project by Territory Iron Limited.

### Attendees:

- |     |                  |                         |
|-----|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.  | Francess Perrett | EPA                     |
| 2.  | Wendy Hutchison  | EPA                     |
| 3.  | Craig Hempel     | Biodiversity            |
| 4.  | Jane Edwards     | Biodiversity            |
| 5.  | Cyrus Edwards    | DPIFM                   |
| 6.  | Brian Cluney     | DPIFM                   |
| 7.  | Ashley Night     | DPIFM                   |
| 8.  | Warren Clarris   | Manager Ban Ban Springs |
| 9.  | Duncan Beggs     | Territory Iron Limited  |
| 10. | Karl Park        | Territory Iron Limited  |
| 11. | Adam Roach       | Territory Iron Limited  |

### Areas of interest:

1. TSF;
2. Rehabilitation;
3. Ghost Bats in old conveyor tunnel;
4. *Cycas armstrongii*;
5. Dams;
6. Ochre Hill; and
7. Waste rock stockpiles.

Low Ecological Services identified the TSF as a good quality wetland. While on site this wetland was observed to be degraded with weed species. In particular Candle Bush (*Senna alata*), which formed dense stands around the margins of the wetland (Photo 1). Although this wetland is providing habitat for fauna species, it is not considered to be of high regional value due to the prominent weed presence.

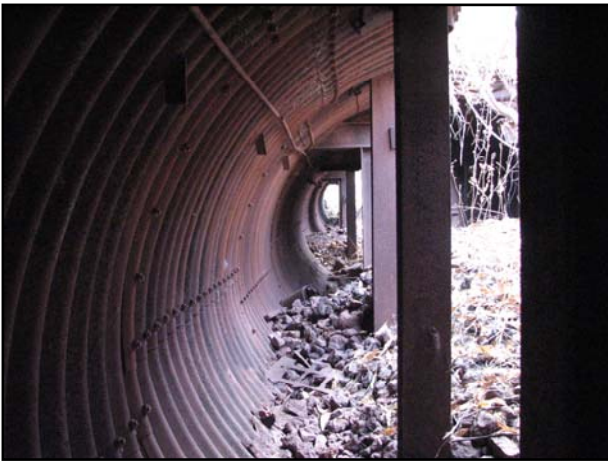


**Photo 1:** Candle Bush (*Senna alata*) around margins of TSF.



Discussion was made regarding the use of topsoil for rehabilitation. It was suggested that a trial area be initiated at the beginning of the operation so that it can be determined if this form of rehabilitation is successful, or whether or not more active involvement is required. Territory Iron representatives consider this to be an exercise that can easily be achieved.

Ghost Bats (*Macroderma gigas*) and another species of micro bats were seen in the conveyor tunnel (Photo's 2 & 3). The tunnel has two openings. If the work proposed by Territory Iron only impacts on one end on the tunnel, the Ghost Bats could still roost in the tunnel. However mining activities such as noise, vibrations and dust may adversely affect the bat colony. A management strategy for this NT Near Threatened species needs to be provided. It should include opportunities for removal and relocation of the colony with consideration to the best time to carry out the work i.e. night time or day time and making sure that the bats are not interfered with during the breeding season. Expert advice should be sought when developing these management strategies.



**Photo 2:** Old conveyor tunnel.



**Photo 3:** Ghost Bats in the old conveyor tunnel.

A small patch of *Cycas armstrongii* is located near the haul road to Ochre Hill (809 082E, 849 8323N GDA 94 Zone 52). Any widening of this route should only occur to the east as some plants are only 12m west from the existing road alignment (Photo's 4 & 5).



**Photo 4:** *Cycas armstrongii* adjacent to the haul road.



**Photo 5:** *Cycas armstrongii* adjacent to the haul road.

The proposed mining site at Ochre Hill was visited. Warren Clarris, the manager of Ban Ban Springs, highlighted that plans were to develop areas around this site for eco-tourism. Preliminary work had been undertaken and several areas had been identified as suitable for this purpose. These plans are not progressing until the outcome of the proposed mine has been reached. The lease holder of Ban Ban Springs has put in an objection to re-opening the mine as it is in conflict with his plans for the station.

Several waste rock stockpiles from previous mining operations were visited. The vegetation cover over the stockpiles varied. Most stockpiles were reasonably vegetated (Photo 6), however the Thelma 2 stockpile had no vegetation cover due to the rocks being oxidised (Photo's 7 & 8).



**Photo 6:** Waste rock stockpile with vegetation cover.



**Photo 7:** Thelma 2 waste rock stockpile with no vegetation cover.



**Photo 8:** Thelma 2 waste rock showing acid leaching caused by sulphide oxidation.