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Glossary



7 GLOSSARY

The following terms are commonly used throughout this *Environment Protection Act 2019* (NT) Referral. Further explanation or description may be provided in the main report or appendices.

| TERM | DEFINITION |
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| Aboriginal Freehold Land | Land declared under <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth)</i> (ALRA) to be Aboriginal Land, held as freehold tenure. On Groote Eylandt, this land is held by a Land Trust as established under ALRA |
| Aquifer | Rock or sediment in a formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that is saturated and sufficiently permeable to transmit economic quantities of water to wells and springs |
| Archipelago | A group of many islands in a large body of water |
| Biodiversity | The diversity of different species of plants, animals and micro-organisms |
| Catchment | The surface drainage area from which a river, stream or reservoir receives its water |
| Clan | A group of people generally related by blood or marriage. It is an important unit in Aboriginal society, having its own name and territory, and is the land-owning unit |
| Cretaceous | Relating to or denoting the last period of the Mesozoic era, between the Jurassic and Tertiary periods |
| Diamond drilling | A method of drilling which uses a diamond impregnated (hollow) core bit to obtain core samples for detailed geological analysis |
| Ecosystem | An interacting system of animals, plants, other organisms with non-living parts of the environment |
| eDNA | Environmental DNA is genetic material shed by organisms into the environment that can be collected and studied to understand biodiversity and ecosystem changes |
| Ephemeral | Relating to a waterway with defined bed and banks, which flows only intermittently after rain |
| Erosion | The wearing away of land surface by wind or water |
| exploration program | The Southern Lease Exploration Program (2023-2025), including exploration drilling, geotechnical investigations, the development of new tracks and the use of tracks from previous exploration programs. The indicative layout of the exploration program is shown on Figure 1-2 |
| GEMCO | Groote Eylandt Mining Company Pty Ltd, the proponent |
| Geological | Relating to the earth, the rocks of which it is composed, and the changes which it has undergone or is undergoing |
| Geotechnical investigations | Investigations, including diamond drilling and the development of test pits, undertaken to obtain information about the physical, mechanical and chemical properties (i.e. the geotechnical properties) of soil and sub-surface materials |
| Groundwater | Water found beneath the surface of the ground |
| Habitat | The native environment where a given animal or plant lives or grows, often described in terms of geography, climate and vegetation |
| Indigenous | Defined as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander |



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| Infill drilling | A form of drilling, commonly used in exploration programs to provide information on the manganese mineralisation (i.e. depth, thickness and quality). Infill drilling is to be undertaken using a Reverse Circulation drill rig |
| Laterite | A soil type rich in iron and aluminium, formed in hot and wet tropical areas |
| LiDAR | Light Detection and Ranging, is a remote sensing survey method |
| LIQUI POL | An organic polymer used to aid in the diamond drilling process, which is non-toxic to waterways and the environment |
| Mitigation | The act of lessening in intensity, to prevent or make less severe |
| MNES | "Matters of National Environmental Significance" that are listed under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth) (EPBC Act) |
| Moiety | A descent group that coexists with only one other descent group within a society |
| Naïve Occupancy | The proportion of surveyed sites in which the species is detected (assuming perfect detectability) |
| Nunggubuyu | One of the aboriginal cultures that traditionally own the Groote Eylandt Archipelago |
| Open cut mining | Process used to remove minerals found over a large area, close to the surface. The mine is dug downward in benches or steps |
| Outstation | Small remote Aboriginal settlement with varying levels of occupation |
| Perennial | Relating to a waterway with defined bed and banks, which flows all year |
| Potential exploration area | The maximum extent of future exploration within the Southern Lease, as shown on Figure 2-7 |
| Potential mineralised area | Area in which manganese mineralisation is possible, as shown on Figure 2-7 |
| Proterozoic | Noting or pertaining to the latter half of the Precambrian Era, from about 2.5 billion to 570 million years ago, characterized by the appearance of bacteria and marine algae |
| Quaternary | The period of geological time beginning two to three million years ago and extending to the present |
| Regional exploration holes | Holes drilled initially to provide information on whether any manganese mineralisation is present, as well as the potential extent of mineralisation |
| Rehabilitation | The process whereby the ground surface in a disturbed area is made safe and stable, enabling natural regeneration to then occur |
| Riparian | Pertaining to, or situated on, the bank of a body of water, such as a river |
| Sacred sites | Places in the landscape that have a special significance under Aboriginal tradition |
| Sediment | Solid particles which tend to settle in a liquid |
| Socio-economic | Of, or relating to, both social and economic considerations |
| Southern Lease | Area within the Exploration Licence (EL2455) shown on Figure 2-4 |
| Stage 1 Exploration Program | Exploration drilling program undertaken in the Southern Lease between 2019 and 2020, including aircore drilling, infill drilling, diamond drilling, and the development of access tracks |



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| Stage 2 Exploration Program | Exploration drilling program undertaken in the Southern Lease between 2020 and 2022, including infill drilling, diamond drilling and the development of access tracks |
| Stratigraphy | The arrangement and succession of rock layers and layering (stratification) |
| Tertiary | The period of geological time from 63 million to 2 million years ago |
| Topography | The surface features of an area of land |
| Topsoil | The upper most layer of soil where the highest concentration of organic matter and micro-organisms are found. Often referred to as the "A" horizon |
| Traditional Owners | People recognised as the Traditional Aboriginal Owners of the land based on their traditional and cultural associations with the land |
| Warnindilyakwa | One of the aboriginal cultures that traditionally own the Groote Eylandt Archipelago |
| Waste | An unwanted by-product or surplus product, including a gas, liquid, solid or energy, from an industrial, commercial, domestic or other activity |
| White rock | Areas of sandstone outcropping that may be considered to be culturally sensitive in places |