



Argyle

Mine Closure

Updates on the
Argyle Mine Closure

Quarter 3 & Quarter 4 – 2023

RioTinto

Welcome to the third edition of the Argyle Diamond Mine Newsletter.

I would like to start by acknowledging the Miriwoong and Gija people from the seven Dawang/Daam groups who are the Traditional Owners of the Barramundi Dreaming – the Tiltuwam, Mandangala, Yunurr/Yalangga, Neminuwarlin, Balaburr, Bilbildjing and Upper Jimbila people.

I have been learning a lot about the history of the Argyle operation and would like to pay my deepest respects to your elders past and present who worked so hard over many years negotiating on your behalf, making agreements and holding Rio Tinto to account to uphold their part in those agreements.

I would like to sincerely thank all Traditional Owners for working with the Argyle team during the Cultural Freeze, visiting site for the Cultural Heritage survey and Boab blessing visits and joining us for the combined Traditional Owner and Regulator visit at the beginning of September. These visits really help to build our knowledge and teach us about Country and culture and I hope that you also find them beneficial.

I was also fortunate to join many of you at the Revegetation information session in Kununurra in August and the Infrastructure information session in September.

I learned a lot about Gelganyem Seed Operations (GSO) and your concerns regarding plant species selection. We were listening to your questions and concerns raised during these visits and the information session and we're working with the Gelganyem Trust to organise more information sessions as well as other written communications to provide you with information about the things that you want to know.

As you will see in this edition of the newsletter, as the wet season approaches, all our contractor teams are working hard to spread as much growth media (soil) as we can before the rain starts. On the 1st of September, we started ripping the growth media to prepare for the seeding season. We're all hoping for another strong season for rehabilitation growth.

Take care, stay safe and enjoy the holidays.



Melissa Cundy
General Manager
Argyle Closure

2024 milestones

2023

December:
Commence work on TSF West

2023

October 2023 –
February 2024: 2023
revegetation season

November:

- Containment Cell C2 closed
- Final cross culture sessions for the year

2023



Project Progress Information

Overall project completion - 46%
 Bulk Earthworks = 39%
 Balance of Land Form = 29%
 Revegetation = 10%

We are here

2024

February/March:
 Commence Completion
 Camp works

2024

January: Commence
 Main Dam
 Embankment work

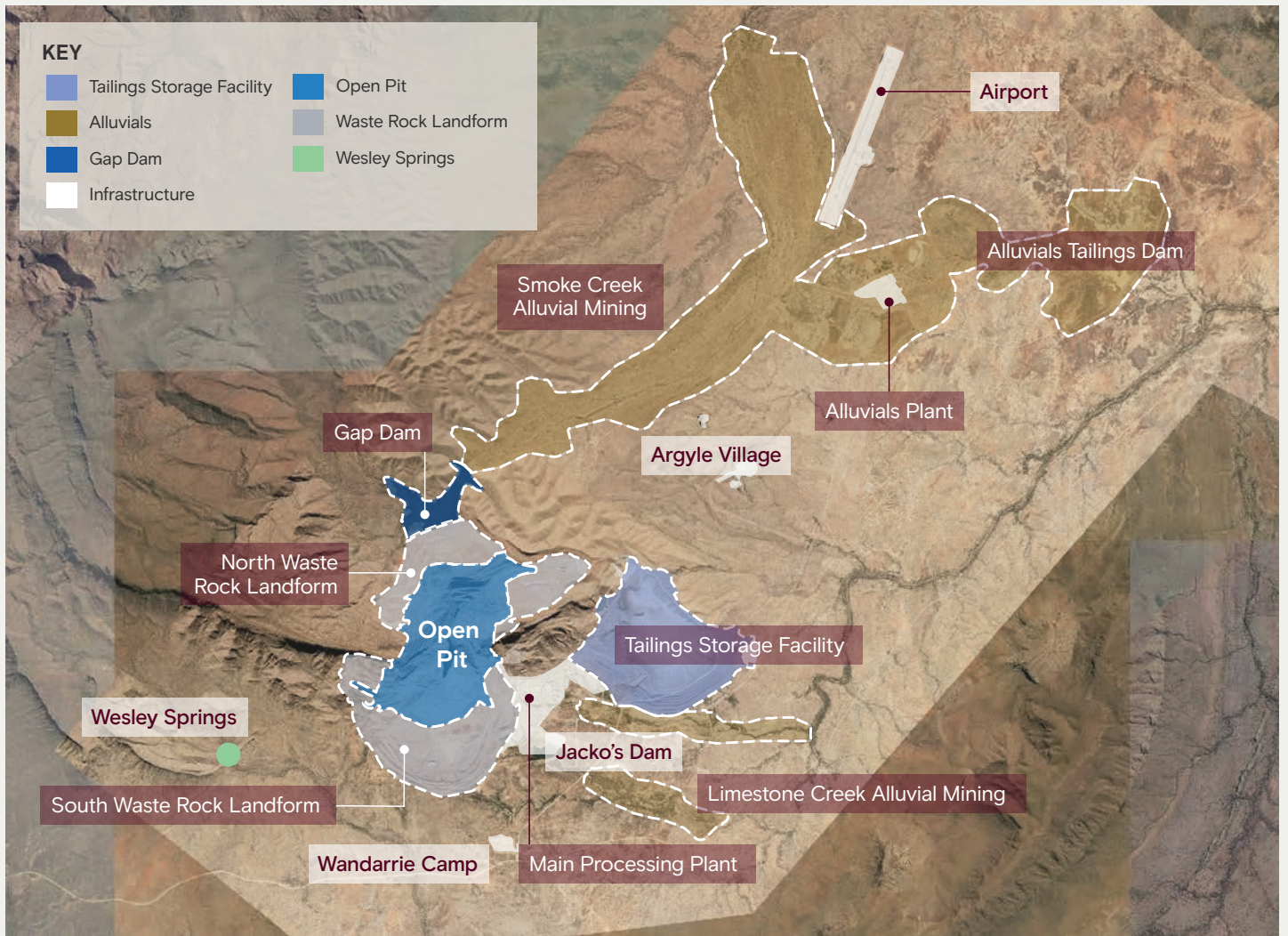
2024

2025

November:
 Completions
 Camp finished

2024

Argyle Diamond Mine Closure Work Area Domains



Demolition

What we've done Q3 2023

Completed infrastructure removal works

Liberty Industrial have completed removing infrastructure in the former processing plant, Orica yard and Light Industrial Area (LIA) areas. The final clean-up involved the removal of small pieces of debris leftover from the demolition works, management of contaminated soil and making sure that the areas are thoroughly inspected before handover including verification of underground services removal.

All metal kept in the scrapyards has been cut into manageable sizes using oxy cutting equipment. The final loads of metal will be loaded and hauled offsite for recycling before these areas are handed over to Goring Jimbila Contracting (GJC) to commence Balance of Landform (BoLF) works.

Approximately 16km of bitumen coated pipes have been removed from the Argyle pipeline over the 3rd quarter and transported to the Wandarrie containment cell for disposal. Small pieces of remaining pipe fragments have been manually removed from the pipe trenches. **About 33.5km of bitumen coated pipe have been removed** from the Argyle pipeline to date. Approximately 90 Boab trees have been identified along the Argyle pipeline removal work area and are currently in the process of being relocated by Traditional Owner Business MDM.



Cleared Light Industrial Area (LIA)



Scrap steel stockpile before



Scrap steel stockpile cleaned up



MDM relocating a Boab tree along the Argyle pipeline

Independent assessment on rock anchor removal to inform Traditional Owner engagement

In progressing the removal of buried services in the AK1 Plant Area, **rock anchor cables that were used to secure and stabilise the Heavy Mobile Equipment (HME) workshop were assessed as too deep to safely remove** without significant impact on the land, groundwater and the environment.

As an outcome of the Technical Working Group (TWG), **Gelganyem engaged an independent expert, Wade Dodson from EMM Consulting, to undertake a review of the options** and assessment of the risk for the complete or partial removal of the rock anchors.

A draft report was received in August and **outcomes of the assessment were presented to Traditional Owners** during the Infrastructure Information Session in September.



A rock anchor located in the Heavy Mobile Equipment (HME) workshop area



What we're doing next Coming up in Q4 2023

- Complete all below ground services removal and clean up in the processing plant area.
- Complete the bitumen coated pipeline removal at Lake Argyle. An estimated 44km of bitumen coated pipes are to be removed. The pipes will be disposed of at the Wandarrie Landfill Cell C2.

Earthworks



Tailings Dam

What we've done Q3 2023

Rock piles retained as animal habitats on the Tailings Dam

We conducted baseline surveys on the animals across the Argyle lease area over many years; pre, during and post-mining. As part of these surveys, assessments were completed to understand the preferred habitats of various animals such as birds, kangaroos and goannas.

The rock capping material taken from the South Waste Rock Dump (SWRD) for the Tailings Dam fines surface contained rock boulders. These boulders were retained on the surface of the Tailings Dam to create piles to form habitats for various animals.

These rock piles will provide shelter and crevices that are known to be the preferred habitats of animals such as goannas and other lizards. With the help of other revegetation techniques such as spreading retained soil and vegetation to establish a vegetation litter layer over time, these animal habitats are expected to attract fauna to the rehabilitated areas. **The presence of native animals is a key indicator of a functioning and self-sustaining ecosystem.**



Animal shelters across the Tailings Dam surface



A closer look at the rock shelter habitats



Night shift successfully completed to prepare for 2023 revegetation season

Piacentini & Son commenced night shift operations to complete the spreading of growth media across the surface of the Tailings Dam to prepare for the upcoming revegetation season. They made great progress and completed the work on 12th November.

What we're doing next

Coming up in Q4 2023

- Piacentini & Son will continue reprofiling works on the North East Upper (NEU), North West Upper (NWU), South Central (SC), South Lower (SL) and Run of Mine (ROM) areas along with application of rock armouring on the Fines Tailings Surface, along with application of growth media and ripping in these areas in preparation for seeding.
- GJC will be completing the historical landfills (Bentway, Old and Quarry) including capping, growth media spreading and ripping, applying rock armouring at Alluvial Tailings dams 3, 4 and 5 (ATD3, ATD4 and ATD5) spillways, completing weeding and ripping on Alluvial Tailings Dams 4 (ATD4) to enable drone seeding, progressing profiling in the Process Plant Area, and backfilling vent shafts ES1 and ES2.

Revegetation

What we've done Q3 2023

A look at the Boab trees that were relocated in late 2021

In late 2021 we relocated a few Boab trees with the support of a Boab specialist and the MDM team. The trees were sprouting new growth in less than a month after relocating and are doing well.



Annual seed harvest review workshop in August

The annual Seed Harvest Review workshop was undertaken on Thursday 10th August where both of the Seed Collection Contractors, Gelganyem Seed Operation and Top End Seeds, in collaboration with Rio Tinto, worked together to review the successes and challenges of seed collection over the last 12 months and planned for the next 12 months harvest of seed.

Some challenges discussed included; challenges with meeting collection targets due to seasonal difficulties, widespread fires impacting scouted locations of some species and limited staff for the collection teams.





There were challenges meeting the target volumes. However, **a great success of the last 12 months of collection, is the vast diversity of seed species collected in comparison to earlier years.** This is a huge improvement for the project's seed collection. The session focused on the target volumes for the next 12 months of collection and later, the remaining volumes required for the rest of the revegetation. This highlighted that **we already have plenty of tree species (such as Boab, Bauhinia and Ironwood) in stock,** however we are falling short on the grasses and herb plants such as, Gulf Feathertop Wiregrass, Kerosene Grass and Spider Grass.

Third weed control campaign of the year by Territory Weed Management

Environmental Contractor Territory Weed Management visited Argyle for their third weed control campaign this year. They completed a successful trip conducting weed control in recently rehabilitated areas on the South Waste Rock Landform and Alluvial Mined Areas and along creek lines. With weed control being a large aspect of environmental management at Argyle, an expression of interest for an additional weed control team was issued.



Biannual weed survey completed by Dendra

The Dendra Weed Survey team were on site with their drone team to undertake the biannual weed survey and returned a few weeks later with their field ecologists to complete field verification. Rio Tinto and Gelganyem arranged for **Gelganyem's technical adviser and Traditional Owners to join the Dendra team** on the ground to get an understanding for what is involved in the weed survey work and provide input into identification of species.

What we're doing next

Coming up in Q4 2023

- Weed Control Campaign 4 by Territory Weed Management as well as development of scope for an additional weed control contractor (this will be a Traditional Owner Business)
 - The revegetation works go full throttle with ripping and seeding starting in Q4.
 - We will be ordering seed based on hectares ready for seeding this rehabilitation season. Once the seed order has been placed, the two seed collection teams (Gelganyem Seed Operation and Top End Seeds) will be very busy removing the correct individual volumes of each of the seed species from the seed stores, before the teams then get to work on scarifying the seeds and preparing them for the smoke treatment ceremony.
- Once the smoke treating of the seeds (seed scarification) has been completed, a lot of time and energy goes into mixing the seeds in to the correct seed mixes and then bagging and labelling them ready for delivery to the Argyle site.
- Dendra Systems will mobilise to site to begin this year's drone seeding in the South Waste Rock Landform (SWRL), North Waste Rock Landform (NWRL), Tailings Dam and historic landfill areas.
 - Pre wet season pit lake water quality monitoring will take place in the next quarter.

General Update

Fires successfully managed

During the last week of September, we had some fast-spreading fires across the Argyle lease that posed a threat to the airfield, some infrastructure and some of the rehabilitated areas. There was no threat to neighbouring communities. The fires were successfully managed by the Emergency Response Team (ERT) on site with no damage to any areas of concern. The monitoring continued until the threat has completely subsided. At present there is no fire risk on the Argyle lease.

Christmas wind-down period

22 December – 2 January



Communities

What we've done Q3 2023

Traditional Owner Business workshop

A Traditional Owner Business workshop was held on the 14th of September. This was an opportunity for the Traditional Owner Businesses, Gelganyem and Rio Tinto to discuss the progress of actions from previous meetings and to progress contracting opportunities and business development/transition plans for the remainder of the project.

Annual Government Regulator and Traditional Owner site visit

On the 5th and 6th September, Argyle hosted representatives from Government regulatory agencies, Gelganyem and Traditional Owners.

The regulators and Gelganyem Trust representatives did an extensive site tour visiting our Waste Rock Landforms, Tailings Storage Facility and a few other key locations including the proposed location for the completion camp, the pit lake and Gap Dam.

The regulators also shared information with the Traditional Owners about Native Title during the visit while the Argyle Closure team addressed several outstanding questions from the Traditional Owners. There was some great discussion and feedback provided on our progress to date.

What we are doing Q4 2023

- As a part of the Traditional Owner Cultural Heritage Management Plan (TO CHMP) the Argyle Closure Communities and Social Performance (CSP) team has been gathering the remaining information, materials and photos collected through the life of Argyle for storage and handover in the coming months.
- The CSP team are busy preparing an inventory list of items (whitegoods and furniture, etc.) in preparation for the next round of the gifting and disposals programme. The programme will be delivered in partnership with Gelganyem in the second half of 2024.

Feature Story

Animals spotted in the rehabilitated areas

We are already seeing some animals at some of our rehabilitated areas. Here are a few photos taken in May 2023, by Jemma King from Stantec.



Frog
at the Alluvial Tailings Dam 3



Yellow butterfly
at historical rehab at the
Alluvial Tailings Dams



Caterpillar,
North West Rock Landform



Baby bush pigeons,
North West Rock Landform



Butterfly,
from one of the Analogue sites

The Rio Tinto Team

Melissa Cundy
General Manager - Argyle Closure

RT Closure

Tegen Scott
Communities & Social Transition

James Norman
Closure, Rangers & Transition

Michelle Ryan
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Steve Sharpe
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Amanda Fernando
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Colm Harkin
Site HSE

RT Projects

Alex Toleman
Project Manager -
Argyle Closure Execution

Samantha Sturgess
Environment

Matt Renkert
Engineering & Execution

Kevin Kavanagh
Construction



Employment opportunities at Argyle Closure

Company	Position
Piacentini & Son (Bulk Earthworks)	Operator positions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 x Dozer Operators (CAT D6 to D11)• 3 x Truck Operators (CAT 777 and/or CAT 745)• 1 x Grader Operator (CAT 16 H or M)
MDM Mining and Civil (Earthworks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 x Experienced final trim excavator operator• 1 x Service truck operator• 1 x Articulated Dump Truck operator• 1 x Project Manager• 1 x Civil Project Engineer• 1 x Surveyor
Sodexo (Site services)	Service attendant/Handyman

If you are interested in employment with Argyle or any of our contract partners, please contact Steve Sharpe: steve.sharpe@riotinto.com



Contact us

If you'd like more information or if you have any queries about the closure, please get in touch enquiries.argylediamondmine@riotinto.com

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RioTinto