

Argyle

Mine Closure

Updates on the
Argyle Mine Closure

Issue 4

RioTinto

Welcome to the fourth 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.

It was fantastic to receive the Miriwoong and Gija artwork polo shirts and hi-vis shirts which we distributed to our workforce in time for Christmas. Our workforce would like to pass along their most sincere thank you and many compliments to the artists and the team that worked for two years to design and complete these shirts. It's wonderful to see them being worn with pride at the airport, on site and whenever we visit Kununurra and other local communities.

With 2023 now in the rearview mirror and the Argyle Closure project at 50% completion, we are now working with Gelganyem on a plan for Traditional Owner visits and other engagement activities throughout 2024. This year we would like to extend invitations to any interested TOs to visit site to witness some of our activities such as drone seeding, fish testing and revegetation monitoring. Details on the dates of upcoming activities can be found in this newsletter and please get in touch with Gelganyem if you would like to be involved.

We are also looking forward to holding more information sessions with you, sharing information and answering your questions about water, infrastructure and contaminated sites as well as working with you to plan for the Monitoring and Maintenance phase, financially supporting you to develop your Healthy Country Plan and working together to determine the most appropriate Ranger model to support this work.

We are very pleased to share that Liberty International completed the demolition of the Processing Plant and associated infrastructure in 2023. They have demobilised from site at the end of February and will return at the end of the year to commence demolition of the Argyle village, power station, airport and any other remaining infrastructure. More details and photos of the Processing Plant demolition can be found in this newsletter.

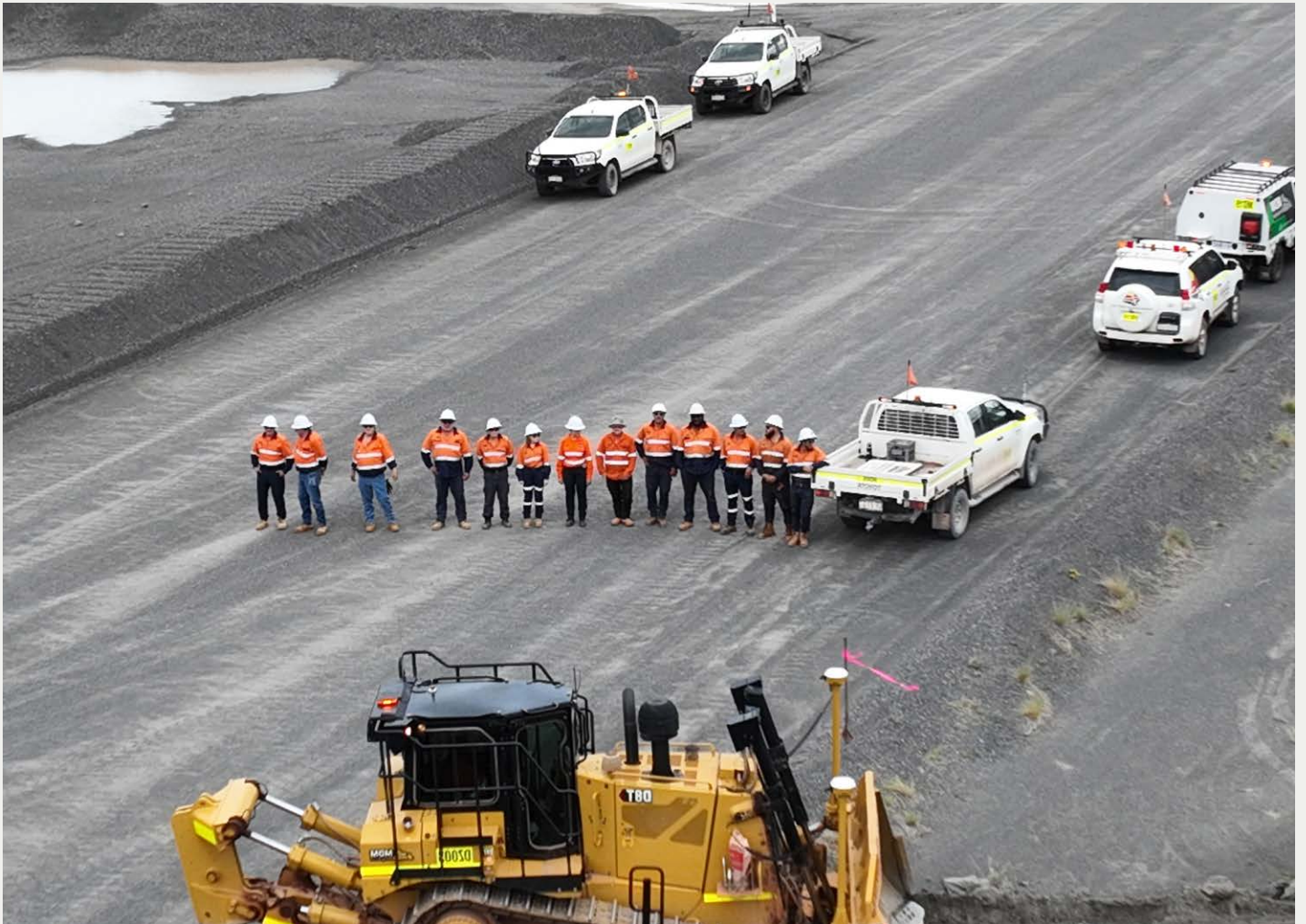
We held a special Manthe in honour of Mr RJ in early February and want to thank everyone involved for their kind support.



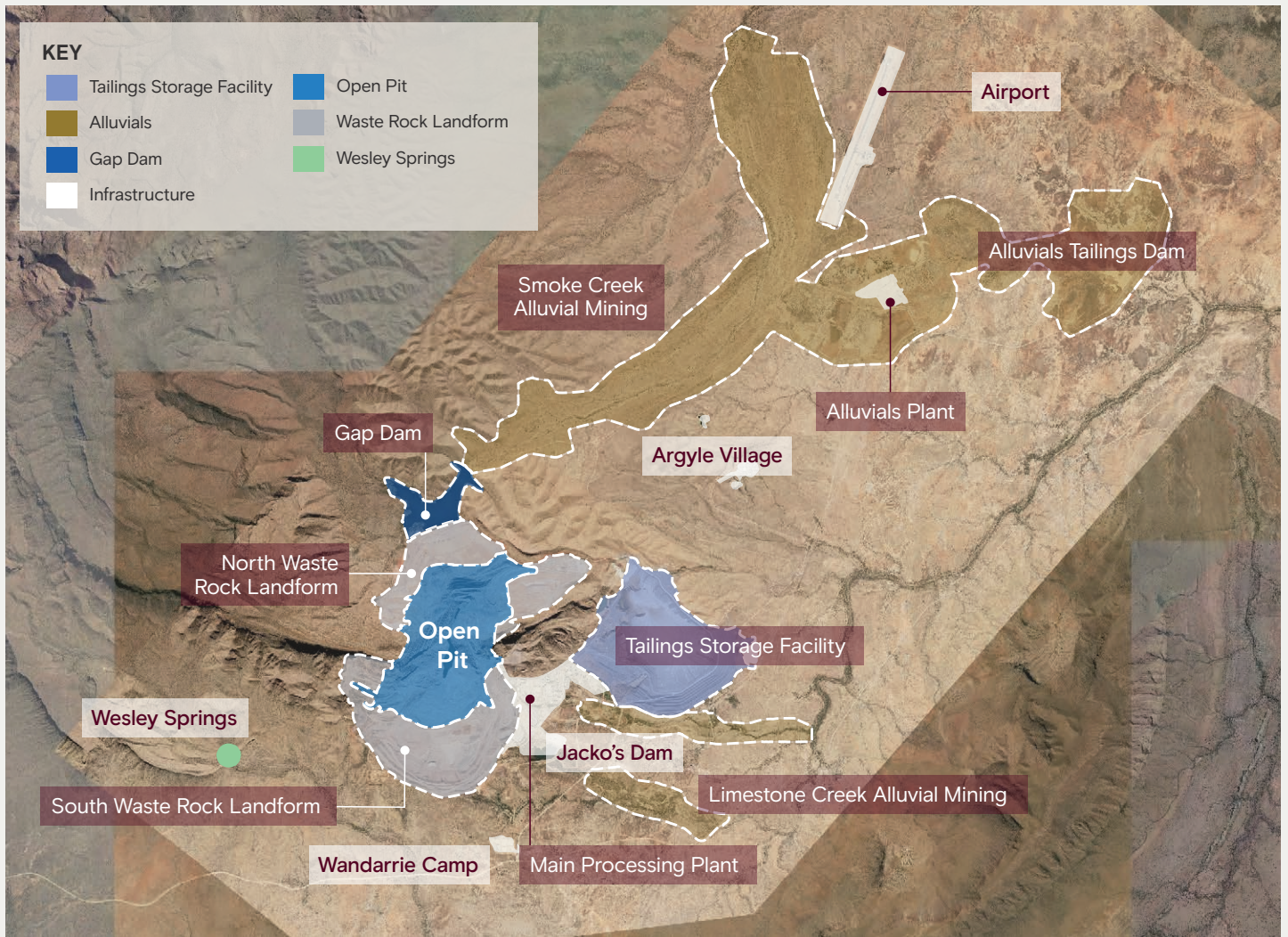
Melissa Cundy
General Manager
Argyle Closure

2024 Milestones





Argyle Diamond Mine Closure Work Area Domains





Infrastructure

Liberty team photo

What we did in Q4 2023/Q1 2024

Completed infrastructure removal works

To celebrate the end of 2023, Liberty achieved the practical completion for SP1 scope of works which includes all of the Argyle Diamond Mine processing plant infrastructure, the primary and secondary crusher, tertiary crushing plant, HMS plant and other ancillary buildings HME workshop, ORICA yard, and fuel storage facilities.

Liberty Industrial have provided full time opportunities to three local trainees from the Rio Tinto and Gelganyem Traineeship Program. This has provided them with ongoing on the job training and valuable work experience to kickstart their career in mining.



Rio Tinto and Gelganyem Traineeship Program trainees

Liberty's success would not have been achieved without partnering with a number of traditional owner business onsite including the Balance of Landform contractor and Traditional Owner Business, Goring Jimbila Contracting (GJC), ARC Electrical and DJ Rivers Electrical for electrical testing and tagging, Clay Rivers for plumbing services at Liberty's mobile crib hut, Daam Survey for surveying services, Dowell Mechanical Services for service truck and mechanic, D & H Contracting for their water cart and grader hire and MDM Mining and Civil for Moxy and operator hire.

Turn to page 20 to see progress pictures from the processing plant.

Liberty has now demobilised from site. The remaining infrastructure (village, airport, power station) will continue to be utilised over 2024 for the earthworks team carrying out reshaping and rehabilitation works. Infrastructure removal works for the village, airport and other support structures will recommence in early 2025 once the workforce have successfully transitioned into the new completion camp.

Aerial shot of the Argyle Village





Limestone Laydown

Above: The camp will be located in the Limestone laydown area on pre-disturbed land.

Below: Photos from a comparable camp. The Argyle Completion Camp will also feature walkways between rooms and centrally located lockers to store belongings when employees are off-site.

Update on the Completion Camp

We are in the process of tendering the completions camp construction for later this year. The tenderers are working with interested TO Businesses to support the delivery of the installation and maintenance of the camp.

Construction of the camp should commence mid-year in 2024 and be ready for use by the end of the year.

Camp facilities will include self-contained rooms with ensuite, Rio Tinto safe village facility standards (double locks on the doors, privacy, lighting, CCTV and access to medical care, etc.), café, gymnasium facility, medical centre and office facilities.



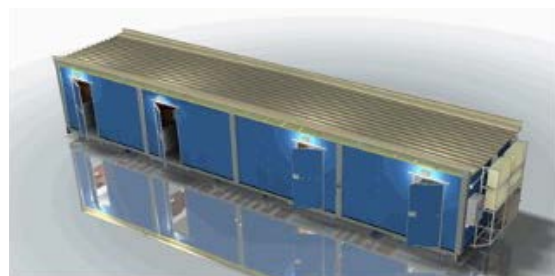
Comparable camp – aerial view



Comparable camp – walkways between rooms



Modular accommodation building – overview



Modular accommodation building

Landforms



What we did in Q4 2023/Q1 2024

Over 300 hectares of land prepared for the revegetation season

Piacentini & Son commenced work on the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF/Tailings Dam) Main Dam Embankment in January, opening up another large work front on site.

This work involves load and haul of material for dozers to cut and fill existing benches and smoothing off the embankment to a natural look in preparation for the next step of rock armour placement.

Piacentini have commenced hauling rock armour materials sourced from the Hensman stockpile in anticipation for the dozers

to spread 1m thick over the entire Main dam embankment. This will be executed in partnership with Traditional Owner Business, MDM Mining & Civil. Rock armouring reinforces the structural integrity of the dam wall and adds a layer of protection against erosion ensuring the formation remains secure and stable. This will also encapsulate and cover the blue course tailings material that will no longer be visible under the 1m rock armour coverage. This work is done in preparation to place the growth media to promote revegetation before ripping and seeding can commence.

MDM started work at the TSF West Dam embankment in January.



MDM have commenced the reprofiling of the West Dam Embankment area on the Tailings Dam (TSF). This work involves load and haul of material for dozers to cut and fill existing benches and to smooth off the embankment to look more natural and to allow for placing rock armour. MDM have commenced hauling rock armour and spreading 0.5 metres thick over the work area. This reinforces the strength of the west dam wall and adds a layer of protection against erosion. The coarse tailings material will be covered by the rock armour and then have growth media placed on top to prepare for the next revegetation season at the end of this year.



Main Dam Embankment rock armour stockpiling



West Dam Embankment rock stockpiles being spread over profiled surface

What we're doing next

Coming up in Q2 2024

In the next quarter, Goring Jimbila Contracting (GJC) will progress work on Alluvial tailings dams 4 and 5.



Rehabilitation

Drone seeding

What we did in Q4 2023/Q1 2024

At the end of Q1 2024, the 2023 rehabilitation season came to a close with the completed rehabilitation numbers below:

Total rehabilitation

346 hectares
across 4 different areas
with rehabilitation consisting of

272ha
of ripping
and seeding

0.5ha
of ripping (roads
not using seed)

74ha
of weed control on
historical rehabilitation



Ranger visit drone seeding

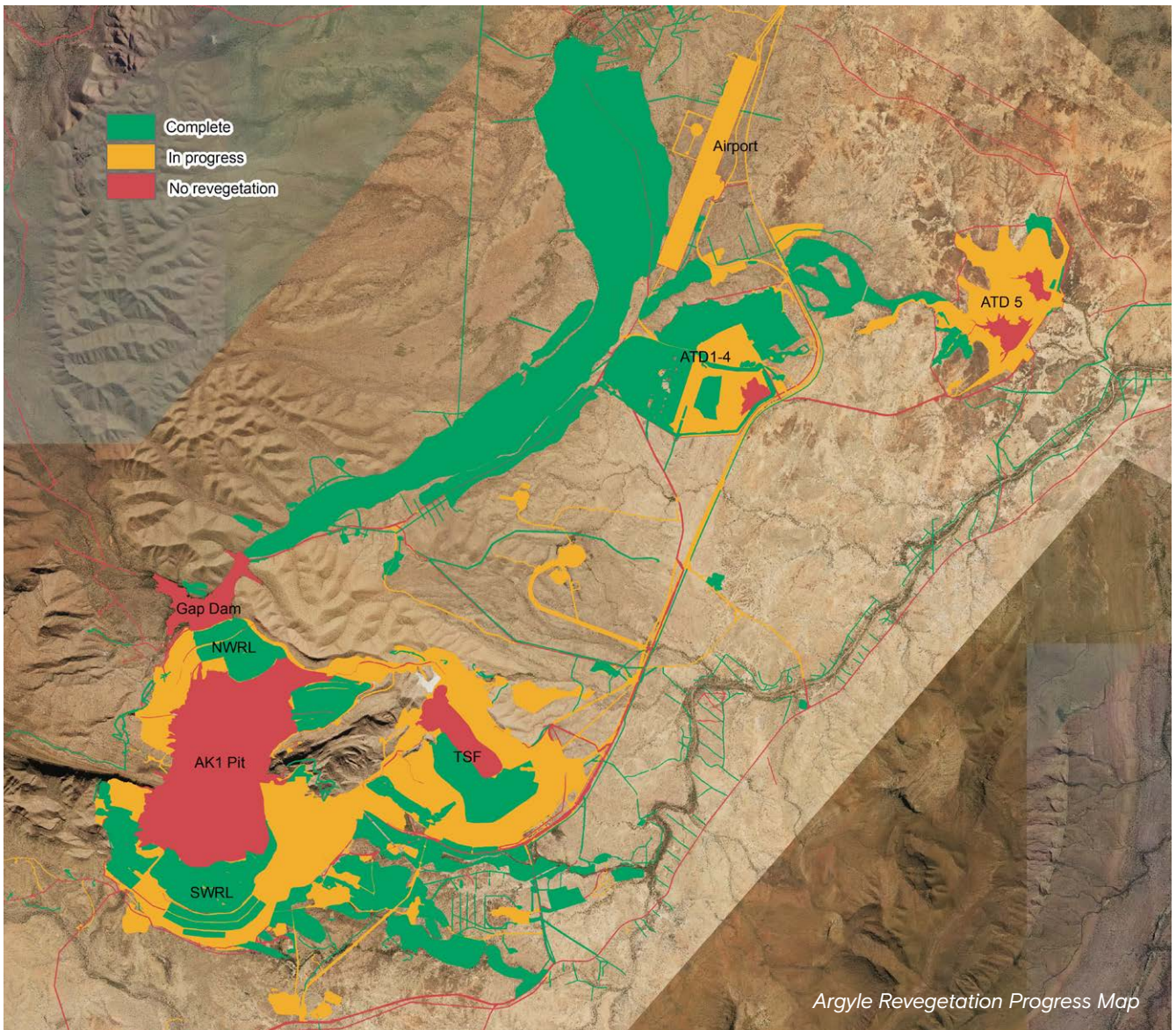


GSO team site visit

On 10th January, the Gelganyem Technical Advisor accompanied Traditional Owners and Argyle Rangers to visit the drone seeding taking place.

On 18th January, 8 members of the Gelganyem Seed Operation (GSO) team visited Argyle to

observe drone seeding and visit some of the previously seeded sites. They were very proud to see the fruits of their seed collection labour in action and were particularly impressed with the species diversity in the revegetation.



Seed collection update

Over 927kg of seed has been collected by the two seed collection teams with an overall target of 2647kg in Q4 2023 and Q2 2024. The Savannah Stripper Grass Harvester build was completed and the harvester was delivered to Kununurra in February 2024 which is expected to increase the seed collection quantities particularly with grass seeds when available.

- **Eucalypts & Corymbias** – currently 62kg collected against 535kg in the harvest schedule. Small collection totals in 2023/24, however there is a large reserve of these seeds already collected and in the seed store.
- **Other Trees** – 102kg against an annual total of 185kg including *Cochlospermum fraseri* (Kapok tree).
- **Acacia Shrubs collections** have exceeded annual targets against the harvest schedule, with over 600kg collected so far – well above the targets of 405kg. Some species including *Acacia acradenia*, *Acacia colei* and *Acacia retivenea* have met the collection targets for the project overall.
- **Other Shrubs** – 39kg against a target of 193kg. Have had good collections of *Grevillea refracta*, *G. heliosperma* and *G. agrifolia* as well as *Dodonea polyzyga* (hopbush).



Aristida latifolia
(Feathertop wiregrass)



Aristida inaequiglumis
(Feathertop threeawn grass)



Dolichandrone occidentalis
(Lemonwood)



Petalostigma quadriloculare
(Quinine tree)

- **Triodia species** also had good early collections reported, with 85kg collected so far against a target of 405kg, with the addition of the GSO grass harvester to help increase collecting efficiency.
- Both **Short-lived and Long-lived grasses and herbs** will require more collections – so far 69kg of Short-Lived Grasses and Herbs has been reported against a 413kg target, with collections including *Ptilotus calostachyus*, *P. exaltatus* (mulla mulla) and *Pteracaulon serrulatum*.
- No collections of **Long-Lived Grasses and Herbs** reported to date against a target of 476kg.

Opportunistic species collections have included 18kg of *Pterocaulon sphacelatum* and 44kg of *Triodia burbridgeana*. Opportunistic species don't have a set collection kilogram target and are difficult to collect in large quantities due to being seasonal or only being ready for collection every few years. This list of species has continued to increase – the 10 most recent additions were requested by Gelganyem and shown below.

A selection of these species are proposed to be used in a bush tucker propagation trial which we are currently planning with Gelganyem.

Note: These photos are taken from various online sources.



Flueggea virosa
(Snowball bush)



Streptoglossa decurrens



Grewia savannicola
(Emu berry)



Buchanania obovata
(Green plum)



Persoonia falcata
(Milky plum)



Ventilago viminalis

2023 Q4 and 2024 Q1 weed control trials

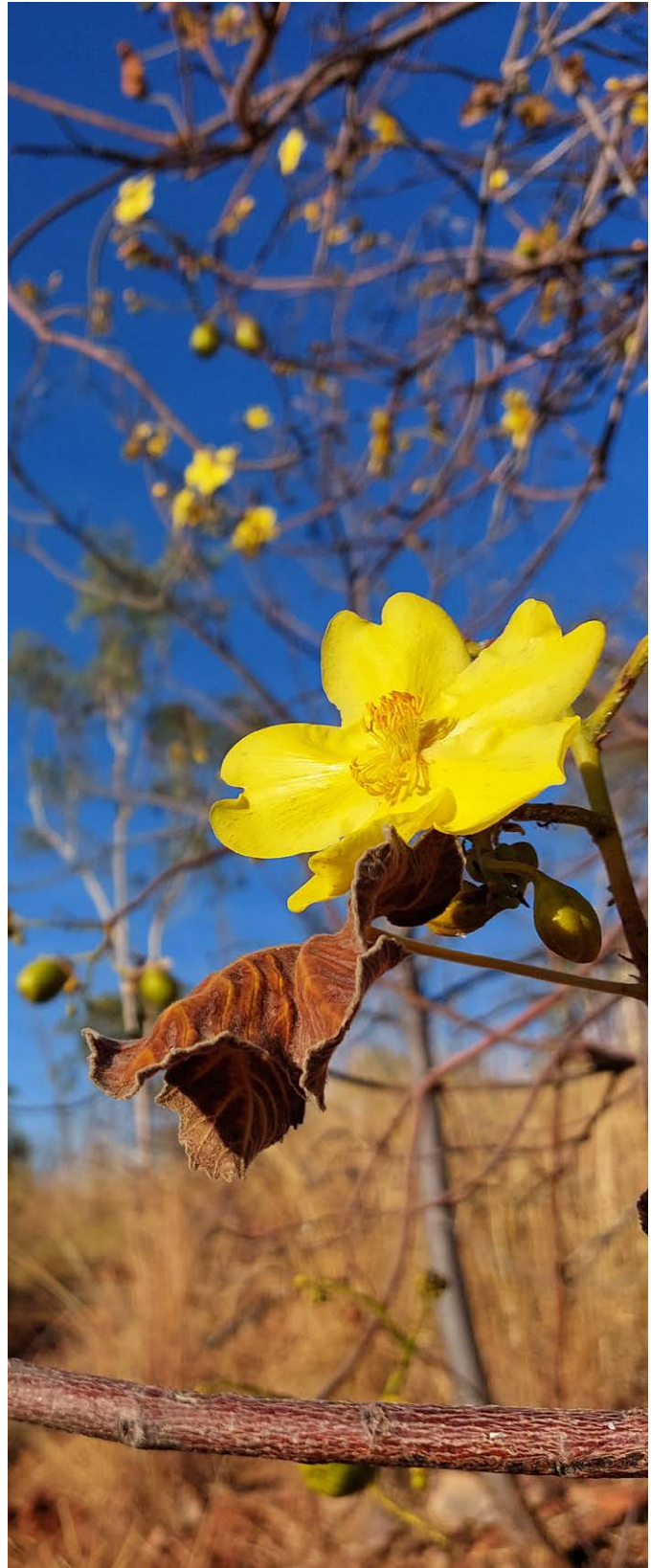
Weed control campaigns continued with Territory Weed Management at Argyle in Nov/Dec 2023 and Jan 2024 at the ATDs, Alluvial Mined Areas, at the TSF and along the Limestone and Wesley Creeks.

In Q4 2023 and Q1 2024, a weed control trial took place to try and combat weed growth. Residual herbicide was tested in one area and an altered seed mix in another area containing large numbers of early colonising species. These trials were done next to a control area which did not have residual herbicide sprayed and was seeded with the original Plains seed mix. This trial will be monitored by regularly by the site environment team and during the 2024 rehabilitation monitoring program in May 2024.

We used two types of residual herbicides for the trial area at ATD4 (Payload and Triclopyr/PIC). These herbicides were selected based on their ability to knock down multiple weed species. Payload was specifically selected for its stability (very little to no leaching) and it is considered safe to trees and surrounding vegetation. Payload has a half-life in the soil of approximately two weeks and considered not persistent.

Triclopyr/PIC is not to be sprayed on native vegetation, however the trial was conducted in a completely disturbed/cleared area to combat weed seed bank. Triclopyr/PIC has a half-life of 30-90 days, however more likely less than this in warmer/wetter environments like the Kimberley.

It should also be noted that the trial area sprayed with the above, was not seeded with native species this rehab season. The plan is to monitor the area and assess prior to future seeding of this area. We will be conducting soil testing in the area to ensure that there is no contamination once rehabilitation is complete.





Cane toad tadpole lure setup

Cane toad tadpole baiting programme commences

We have ordered in four bucket traps and hundreds of lures to start trapping cane toad tadpoles across site. We have ordered enough traps to set four daily traps in waterbodies around Site for the next 3 months.

We have asked people to report cane toad tadpole sightings around site to target large infestations. We have also been doing spot checks of known water bodies where infestations could be expected.

The lures and traps are from WaterGum, and they are an effective and humane way of catching and euthanising hundreds of tadpoles at once.

We have been deploying the traps for 3–8 hours in puddles/streams where there are cane toad tadpoles. We take care to remove any native fish or tadpoles from the traps at the end of this period. We then filter the water out and humanely euthanise the tadpoles via freezing.

The program is quite new, but we have so far captured and euthanised a couple of hundred in various water monitoring spots around site, including a sump in the GJC work area and downstream Wesley Springs.

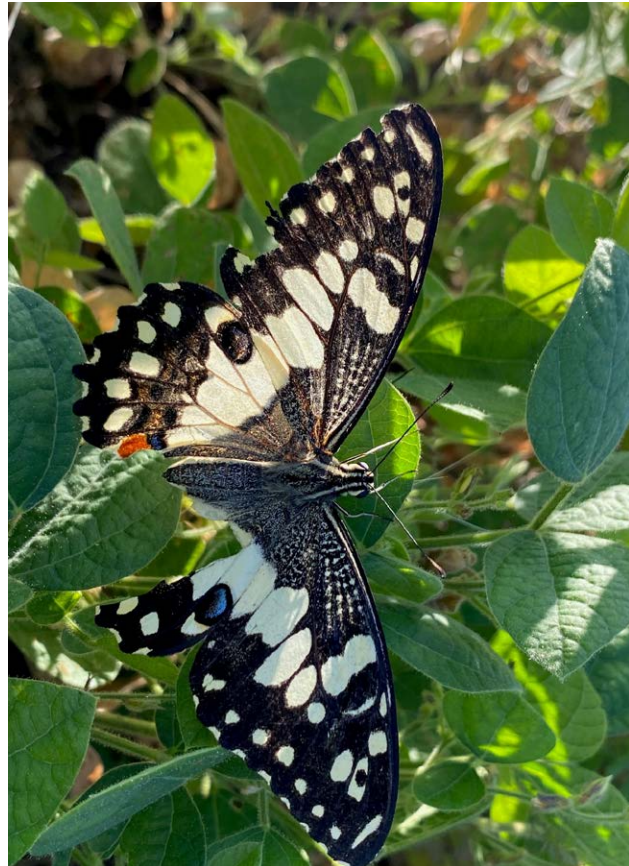
We will be tracking the success of this trapping system over the next couple of months.

Update on animals

The most recent rehabilitation monitoring showed evidence of Kangaroo visitation at all rehab areas, with evidence of more frequent visitation at North East Upper, ATD3, and ATD5. Other animals noted across the rehab areas either by indirect evidence or direct sightings included birds, lizards, emus, as well as a wide range of insects, flying ants, and termites.

In addition, the 2021 Drone survey undertaken for weeds, also picked up several animal sightings including termite mounds, animal tracks ducks, macropod tracks, skeletons, kangaroos (Red / Antilopine), birds, wallabies, turtle and more.

The site team also register some fauna sightings and interactions and include several interactions with wallabies, kangaroos, crocodiles, different bird species and different snake species.



What we're doing next

Coming up in Q2 2024

In Q2 2024 there will be many monitoring events taking place including;

- Biannual pit lake monitoring (April 2024)
- Annual Aerial Imagery and LiDAR Fly over (April 2024)
- Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring (March 2024)
- Rehabilitation Monitoring (May 2024)
- Stantec annual fishing event (March 2024)

If Traditional Owners wish to observe any of these monitoring activities, please contact the Gelganyem team to organise a site visit.

Weed control will continue in to Q2 2024, with the intention of increasing the weed control in Q2.

Seed collection will continue in Q2, with a focus on herb and grass species to meet the high seed demand for the 2024 seeding season.



Communities



We said goodbye to Tevita Naroba, CSP Advisor after two years with the Argyle team. We wish Tevita all the best.

Changes to the CSP team

Nancy Davis will be assuming the role of Superintendent Communities and Social Performance as she continues to guide and support the CSP team and Ranger Programme, reporting to Tegen Scott, Manager Social Transition, Argyle Closure.

In order to further support Traditional Owner participation in our monitoring activities, the Argyle Closure Ranger Programme will

transition into the CSP team. Reporting to Nancy Davis, the Argyle Ranger team, Blandina Barney, Domino Bidwee, Clinton Thomas and Zereth Thomas will continue their valuable contribution to the Argyle Closure Project through undertaking closure monitoring, land management activities and protecting cultural heritage sites.

Completed TO books

In 2019 discussions began between Rio Tinto, Gelganyem and the Argyle Traditional Owners about projects we could undertake to document the important relationship between the Argyle Diamond Mine and the Argyle Traditional Owners. Argyle and Traditional Owners were having these conversations because of the impending mine closure in 2020. We planned lots of events to commemorate the mine closure and recognise the importance of the land on which Argyle operated to Traditional Owners. This included a closure celebration as well as a special manthe ceremony to ensure the closure of the underground portals was undertaken in a culturally appropriate way. At the same time we also discussed having something that could document the story of Argyle for the Traditional Owners that could be shared with current and future generations.

The Traditional Owners suggested they develop a book which could explain the story of Argyle from their perspective. The book was to be mainly made up of photos with some text. A committee of Traditional Owners was established in 2020 to decide on the content and structure for the book.

Over the next three years there was a lot of work done by Gelganyem and Traditional



Owners to develop the content for the book. Gelganyem organised numerous meetings of the Traditional Owners to ensure everyone was able to provide input into the book and to share their stories and pictures.

Now that the books as well as the shirts have been completed, Gelganyem is working on videos to tell the story about the work that went in to creating them.

Rio Tinto is very proud to have been able to support the development of this important book as well as the closure shirts. We hope that both will be looked back on in years to come.

What we're doing next

Coming up in Q2 2024

The Argyle Closure CSP team are making plans for the first Traditional Owner information session of the year. The session will be all about Water at Argyle, including how seasonal ponding, permanent water sources and groundwater on site is tested, monitored and managed in closure.

Feature Story

Progress photos from the start of the project in 2020 and at the end of 2023 / start of 2024

Process plant 2020/2021



Process plant 2024



North Waste Rock Dump – North East Upper (NEU) area (below)

2022



2024



South Waste Rock Landform

2021



2023



Tailing Storage Facility

2021



2024



The Pit lake

2021



2024



The Rio Tinto Team

Melissa Cundy

General Manager - Argyle Closure

RT Closure

Tegen Scott

Communities & Social Transition

James Norman

Closure, Rangers & Transition

Michelle Ryan

HR Closure

Steve Sharpe

Regional Business Development

James Petch

Site Services

Amanda Fernando

Communications

RT Projects

Alex Toleman

Senior Project Manager
WA Closures

Matt Renkert

Project Manager Argyle Closure (Acting)

Samantha Sturgess

Environment

Simon Ety

Senior Project Engineer
(Lead)

Kevin Kavanagh

Construction

Colm Harkin

Site HSE



Employment and Contracting

Increased Traditional Owner Business spend on the Argyle Closure project

Currently, there are 27 Traditional Owner Businesses on the Argyle Closure Project register. 17 of these businesses are engaged to offer a range of services from electrical, labour hire and road maintenance all the way to bulk earthworks, seed collection and cultural awareness training.

During the feasibility study phase for the Argyle Closure project, it was estimated that the total spend with these Traditional Owner Businesses would be approximately \$65 million. We have been able to meet this target as at Q1 2024. Through collaboration with Traditional Owner

Businesses, head contract partners, Traditional Owners and Gelganyem, we have so far, awarded contracts worth \$121 million.

The project will begin to wind down in the latter half of 2025 and a pipeline for other contracting opportunities beyond Argyle will be critical for the sustainability of these businesses. In addition to the contract spend, we have also engaged an independent consultant to support Traditional Owner Business development with a focus on transitioning on to other contracting opportunities outside of Argyle.

Employment opportunities

Employment opportunities such as machinery operating and hospitality, are regularly available at Argyle. If you are interested in employment with Argyle or any of our contract partners, please contact Steve Sharpe:
steve.sharpe@riotinto.com
0417 181 119



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

Grievances and complaints phone number
1800 674 774

RioTinto