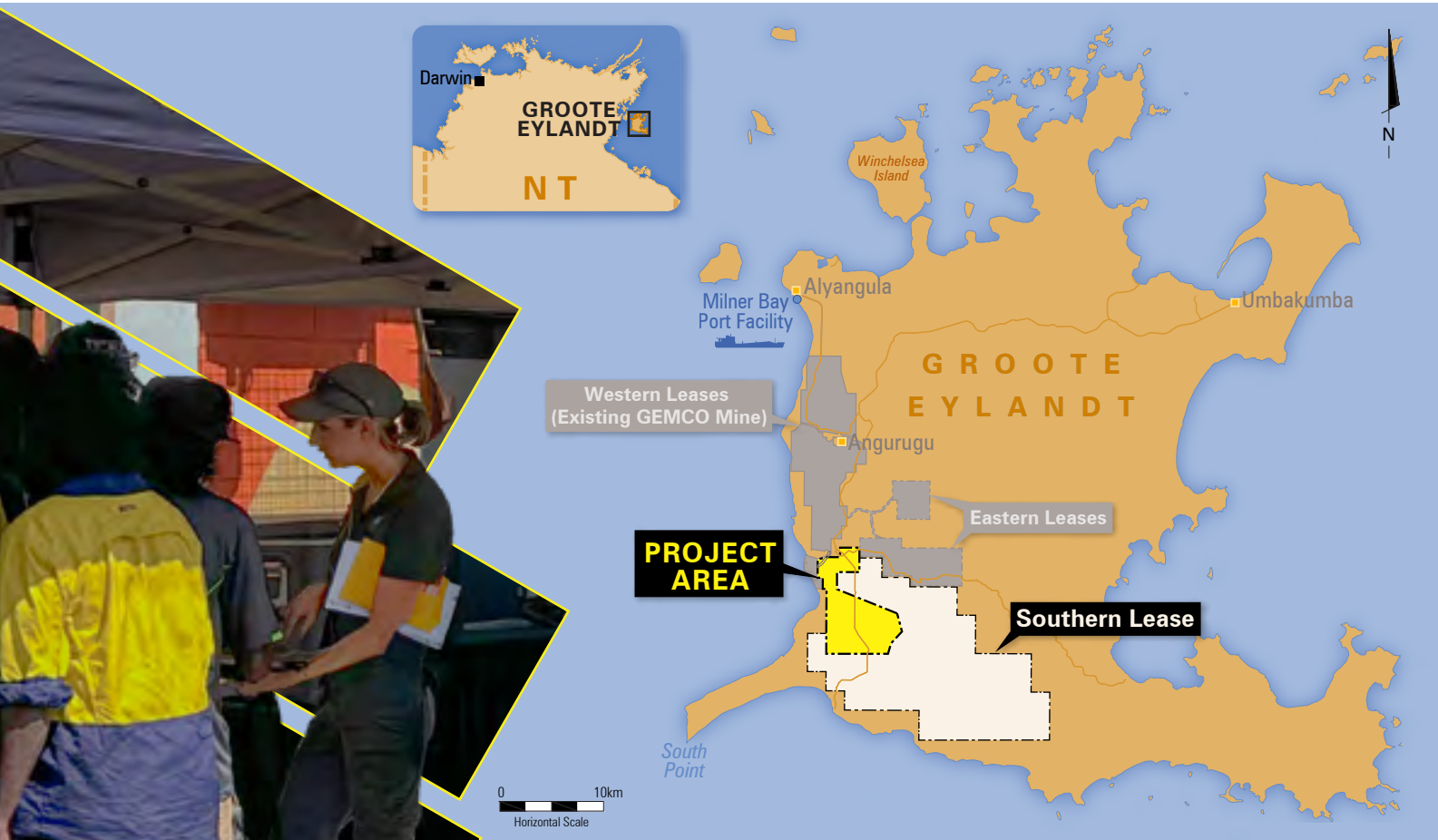


# GEMCO Southern Lease Mining Project



## COMMUNITY INFORMATION SHEET

ISSUE 02 | SEPTEMBER 2025



The Groote Eylandt Mining Company Pty Ltd (GEMCO) plans to extend the life of its manganese mine by developing the Southern Lease Mining Project (the project). This project is located in the Southern Lease exploration licence, south of the existing GEMCO mine on Groote Eylandt.

Our current mining activities take place in areas known as the Western and Eastern Leases. The project will add another mining area, which will be integrated with these existing operations. Ore from the Southern Lease will be mined using the same open cut mining methods, then trucked to the existing mine to be washed and blended with ore from our other quarries.

Mining in the Southern Lease will extend the life of our operations by about three years.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared for the project to support applications for environmental approval from the Northern Territory and Australian governments. A team of experts will prepare the EIS, considering factors such as how the project might affect water, plants, animals, culture, heritage, and the community. The EIS will explain these possible impacts and how we plan to avoid or manage them. It will also describe the project's benefits, such as economic opportunities, and how we will maximise benefits for the community.

BRIGHTER  
FUTURES,  
TOGETHER

# 2023 ENGAGEMENT

As part of the EIS process, GEMCO engaged with the community and stakeholders in May and June 2023. We provided information about the project, answered questions, and listened to people's feedback on what was important to them and what they were concerned about.

Stakeholders asked questions about the project, including the EIS process, engagement with

Traditional Owners, dust and water management, and rehabilitation and closure planning. We took note of people's questions and concerns and will ensure that the EIS addresses them. Once the EIS is prepared, we will meet with stakeholders to explain how these issues will be managed.

We would like to thank all stakeholders for their valuable input during this process.



## The important issues

**We engaged with the Traditional Owners who speak for the Southern Lease Project Area, as well as residents of Angurugu, Umbakumba, Milyakburra, and surrounding outstations. This is what Anindilyakwa people told us is important to them:**

### SPIRITUAL CONNECTION TO COUNTRY AND CULTURE

**People talked with us about the sacred sites, songlines and important cultural areas in the Southern Lease.**

The project has been designed to ensure that sacred sites and culture will be protected. Buffers have been placed around sacred sites to ensure that these areas will not be disturbed or impacted by GEMCO's mining operations.

The Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC), working with the Traditional Owners, identified the location of sacred sites and determined the size of the buffers needed to protect them. People were happy to hear that the sacred sites and songlines identified as part of the cultural heritage studies will be registered with the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority to ensure that these sites will be protected and not disturbed by mining.

**We heard from many stakeholders that culture and preserving culture for future generations is important to Anindilyakwa people.**

Traditional Owners will still be able to access their sacred sites while mining operations occur. People will still be able to access all outstations, culturally sensitive areas, recreation areas and the coast. We will talk to the ALC and Traditional Owners to understand if there are other measures that could help to preserve and protect culture.

**People told us about how important country is to them and the connection they have with the land, the animals and plants on Groote Eylandt.**

We have undertaken extensive studies and planning since 2016 to ensure the project is developed in a socially, culturally and environmentally responsible way. As a result of this planning, we have located the project to avoid the most sensitive environmental and cultural values of the Southern Lease.



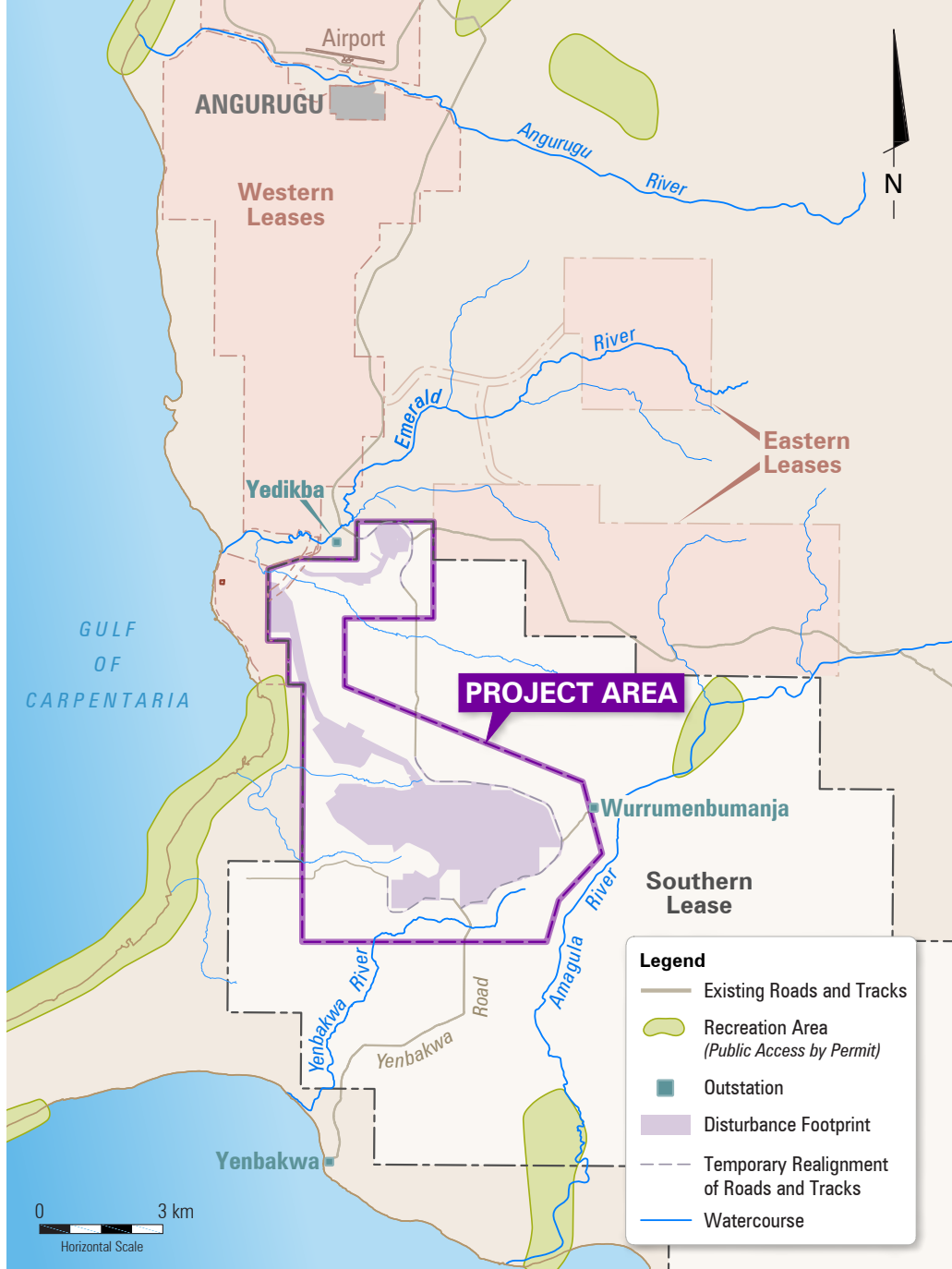




## REHABILITATION

**Stakeholders told us how important it is for them that GEMCO rehabilitates the land quickly after mining.**

We will start rehabilitation in each area as soon as mining is completed. We will backfill each quarry with overburden, spread topsoil, and grow native plants to ensure that the vegetation is similar to surrounding areas. We will also monitor the native animals that return to the area and report on this.



## WATER

**Anindilyakwa people told us it is very important to them that the project doesn't impact rivers, water sources and food sources such as fish and crabs.**

We understand that rivers and creeks are very important to Anindilyakwa people and have designed the project to avoid impacts as much as possible. Mining areas will be set back from the rivers and creeks. Water that collects in the quarries in the Southern Lease will be pumped to storage dams so that it can be used for dust control. Any excess water will be pumped through a pipeline to the Western Leases for use in the concentrator.

## GETTING APPROVAL FROM THE RIGHT PEOPLE

**People told us it is important to talk to and obtain permission from the right people who can speak for that country.**

We will work with the ALC to develop a Mining Agreement for the project. This is a process governed by the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth). As part of this process, the ALC will engage with the Traditional Owners who can speak for the country and make sure they understand what is being proposed. GEMCO will not mine in the Southern Lease unless the Traditional Owners for that country agree that mining can proceed. If the Traditional Owners agree, then a Mining Agreement will be signed.

# PROJECT UPDATES

Since we first engaged with stakeholders and the community about the project, additional studies have been completed to better understand the area and the manganese resource. As a result, we have made some small changes to the project disturbance footprint to reduce the amount of clearing to approximately 1,500 hectares.

In 2024 Cyclone Megan led to significant disruptions to GEMCO's mining operations, resulting in some changes to the proposed mining schedule. Project construction was originally planned to start in 2027 but is now planned to begin in 2029, with ore to be mined between 2031 and 2033.



## NEXT STEPS

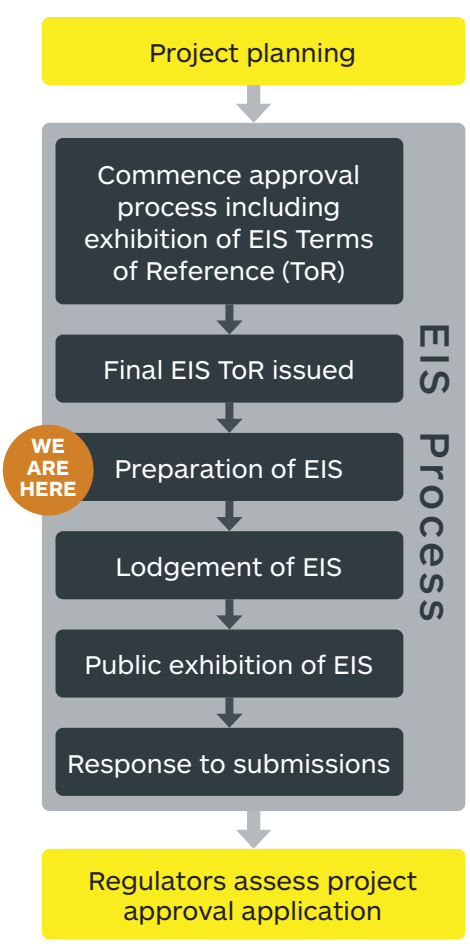
### EIS Approval Process

An EIS is being prepared and we expect this will be submitted to the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) in late 2026.

Once the NT EPA has reviewed the EIS and confirmed it has all the necessary information, it will place the EIS on public exhibition. When the EIS is on public exhibition, GEMCO will share the results of the EIS studies with stakeholders and ask for their feedback. People will also be able to make formal submissions to the NT EPA about the EIS. The NT EPA will consider these submissions when deciding whether to approve the project.

### Mining Agreement

Separate to the EIS process, we will engage with the ALC about a Mining Agreement for the project. It is the responsibility of the ALC to engage with Traditional Owners who speak for the country within the Project Area. The project will not proceed unless the Traditional Owners have agreed to the project by signing a Mining Agreement.



## CONTACT

If you have any questions or feedback about the project, please contact:

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Email: [GEMCOcommunity@south32.net](mailto:GEMCOcommunity@south32.net)

For more information about the project, visit [www.south32.net/gemco/slmp](http://www.south32.net/gemco/slmp)

