

OVERVIEW

The Groote Eylandt Mining Company Pty Ltd (GEMCO) operates the existing manganese mine on Groote Eylandt in the Northern Territory.

GEMCO is proposing to extend the life of its manganese mine by developing the Southern Lease Mining Project (the project).

The project will be located in the north-western part of the Southern Lease exploration licence.

The project has been located to avoid the most sensitive environmental and cultural values of the Southern Lease.

GEMCO's existing mining operations include the areas known as the Western and Eastern Leases. The project will involve developing an additional mining area that will be integrated with the existing mining operations and will extend the mine life by around three years.

GEMCO plans to mine up to 15 million tonnes of manganese ore from the

project area, using the same methods as the existing operations.

The project requires environmental approval from:

- The Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) under the *Environment Protection Act 2019* (NT) (EP Act)
- The Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act).

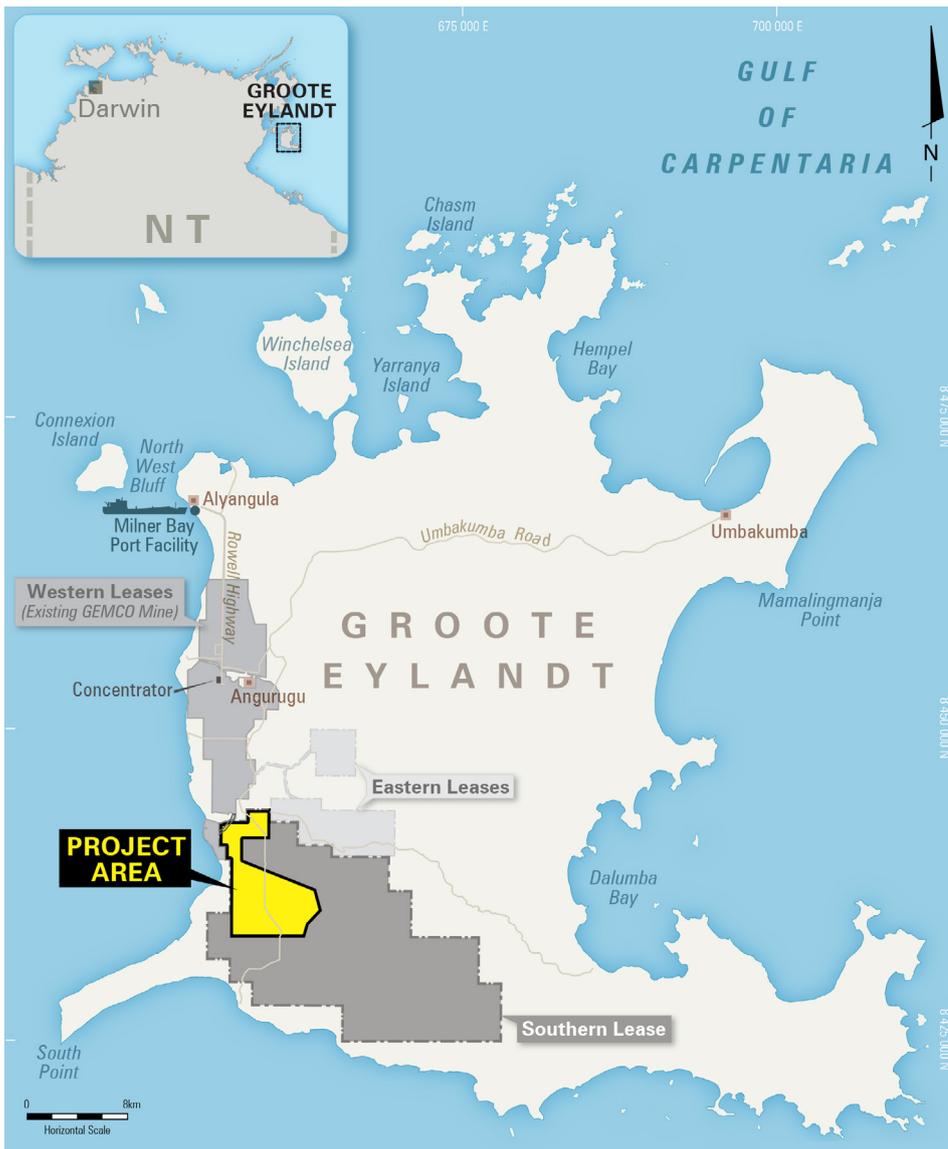


Figure 1 Location Plan



GEMCO is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to support applications for these environmental approvals. As part of the EIS process, GEMCO is consulting with stakeholders and the community about the project.

GEMCO will also engage with the Traditional Owners through the Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC) to seek their approval for the project in the form of a Mining Agreement under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) (ALRA).

Scan the code for more information.





PROTECTING CULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

GEMCO has 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 process, GEMCO has reduced the size of the project disturbance area to 1,620 hectares, or 6% of the total Southern Lease area. It has also designed the project to avoid the most sensitive areas in the Southern Lease, including:

- sacred sites
- large perennial rivers and their floodplains

- significant wetlands
- monsoon vine thicket
- coastal areas and estuaries.

There will be 100 metre buffers (areas where there can be no mining) placed around watercourses.

There will also be buffers around sacred sites so that these areas are not disturbed or impacted by GEMCO's mining operations. The location of the sacred sites and the size of the buffers was determined by the ALC, in consultation with the Traditional Owners. Traditional Owners will still be able to access their sacred sites while mining operations occur.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The project will use existing mine infrastructure and equipment from the Western Leases, including the concentrator, tailings storage facilities, and the fleet of mining equipment such as dozers and trucks.

The project will also use the recently constructed bridge and haul road that crosses the Emerald River. As a result, limited new infrastructure will be required for the project.

Key new infrastructure and utilities will include:

- workforce facilities (a crib hut, ablution facilities and equipment park up areas)
- water management infrastructure, such as dewatering pipelines and pumps, water storage dams, and water fill points
- a groundwater bore and water treatment plant for supplying potable water
- a remote haul truck refuelling station and fuel storage facility
- a modular sewage treatment plant
- radio communication tower(s).

No changes or upgrades to the existing GEMCO mine processing and port facilities are required for the project.

MINING ACTIVITIES

Proposed mining activities include:

- clearing vegetation
- stripping topsoil for direct placement on rehabilitation or stockpiling for later use
- removing overburden to access the ore. This would either be temporarily stockpiled or placed directly within previously mined quarries
- drilling and blasting ore so it can be easily handled
- mining ore using excavators and trucks
- loading trucks and transporting the manganese along a designated haul road and across the bridge that has been built over the Emerald River
- washing the manganese at the existing concentrator
- placing tailings in the existing tailings storage facilities
- transporting the washed manganese ore by road train along the Rowell Highway to the port at Milner Bay so it can be shipped to customers around the world.

Groundwater and surface water runoff will collect in mining quarries. This water will be pumped to water storage dams and then used for dust suppression. Any excess water will be pumped via an above ground pipeline to the Western Leases for use in the concentrator.

MINE REHABILITATION

The project mining areas will be progressively rehabilitated. Once mining is complete:

- each quarry will be backfilled with overburden
- topsoil will be spread over backfilled areas
- native plants and seeds will be planted.

At the end of the mine life, all infrastructure and equipment will be removed (including water storage dams). GEMCO will leave the bridge over the Emerald River (part of the J Quarry Haul Road) for the community to use.

COMMUNITY TRACKS

Some of the existing community tracks in and around the project area will need to be temporarily realigned for safety reasons when mining takes place. See the map for proposed temporary realignments to community tracks.

Access to all outstations, culturally sensitive areas, recreation areas and the coast will be maintained.

Community tracks will be re-established after mining.



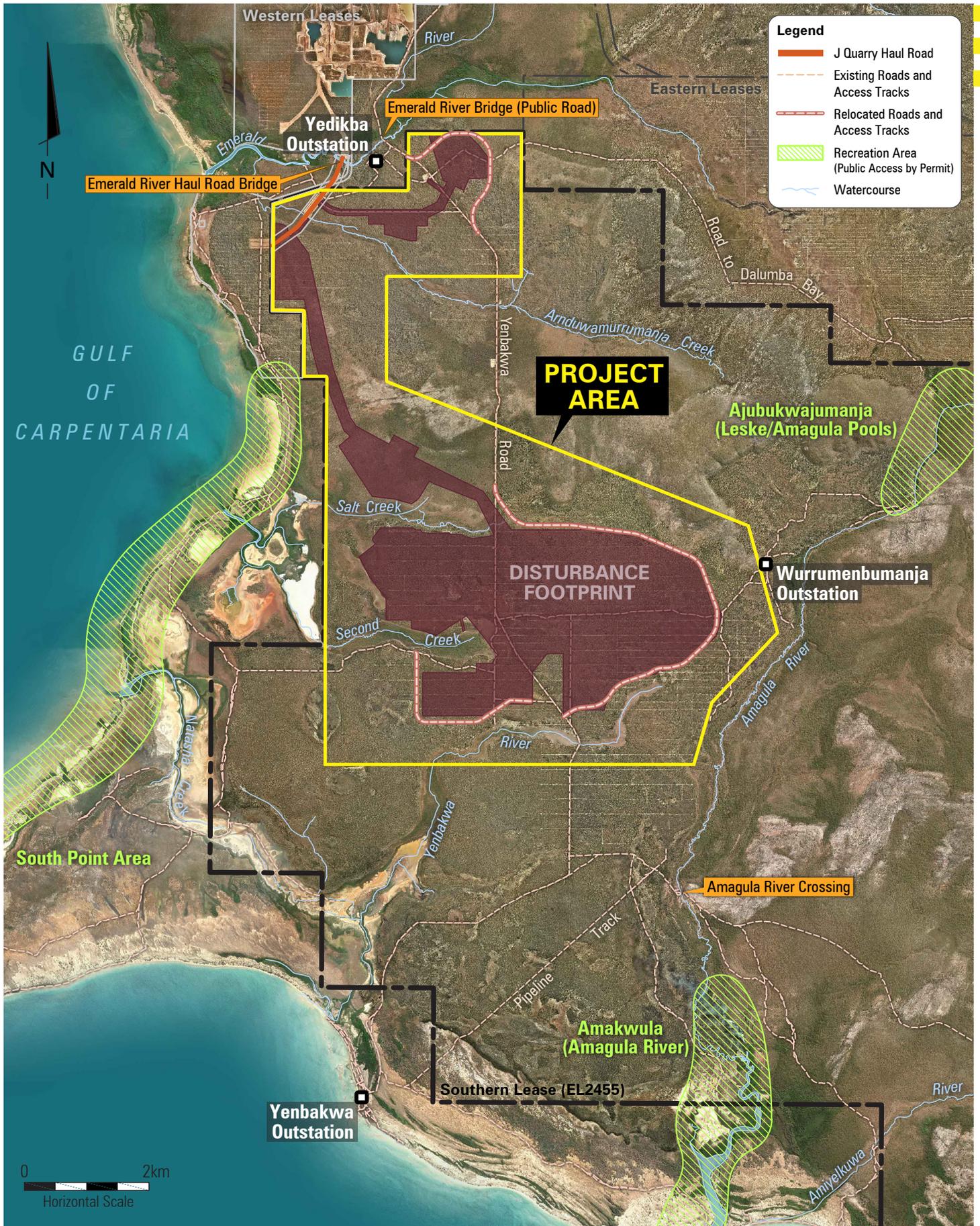


Figure 2 Local Setting

EMPLOYMENT

The project will require a construction workforce of approximately 80 people. GEMCO will draw on its existing workforce (currently approximately 1,100 people) for the project operations workforce. The project will extend GEMCO's mine life and associated employment benefits by around 3 years.



SOUTHERN LEASE MINING PROJECT TIMELINE

2016

Exploration Agreement under ALRA signed

Exploration licence granted

GEMCO undertook exploration, environmental and cultural studies

2022

Southern Lease Mining Project area defined

2023

EIS community consultation, prepare EIS

GEMCO engages with the Traditional Owners through the ALC to seek approval in the form of a Mining Agreement

2024

Other approvals (e.g. Mineral Lease) obtained

Government environmental approvals process

2025

2026

Subject to approvals, project construction would start in 2026

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Throughout the EIS process GEMCO will consult with stakeholders and the community about the project. During this first phase of EIS consultation, GEMCO is providing information about the project and welcomes any feedback or questions.

This community consultation will include briefings and meetings with the Traditional Owners and other stakeholders. It will also involve visiting Angurugu, Umbakumba, Milyakburra and outstations to talk with people about the project.

After this round of engagement, GEMCO will provide an update to

stakeholders about the feedback received, answers to frequently asked questions, and the next steps for the project.

People can also make formal submissions to the government (NT EPA) as part of the EIS process. To make a formal submission, please visit the NT EPA website.



CONTACT

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

Phone: 1800 870 766

Email: GEMCOcommunity@south32.net

For more information, visit www.south32.net

