



## **Rio Tinto Exploration Pty. Limited**

ABN 76 000 057 125 / ACN 000 057 125

A member of the Rio Tinto Group

**Environmental Management Plan**  
EPM13949 Archer 1, EPM13951 Archer 2, EPM13952 Archer 3,  
EPM13953 Archer 4, EPM13956 Archer 5, EPM13950 Archer 6,  
EPM13955 Holroyd 1, and EPM13957 Holroyd 2,  
Cape York Project,  
Aurukun SD5407, Holroyd SD5411,  
Queensland

**Exploration Report No. 26470**

Tenement Holder: Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited

Date: Sept 2004

Author: G M Anderson, G J Lilley, G. Hartshorn

Submitted: I M Clementson

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**LIST OF CONTENTS**

	<b><u>Page No</u></b>
LIST OF CONTENTS .....	ii
LIST OF TABLES .....	iv
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	iv
LIST OF PLANS .....	iv
1 SUMMARY.....	1
2 INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1 Location and Access .....	2
2.2 Licence Details .....	2
2.3 Project Management .....	3
3 STAKEHOLDERS.....	3
3.1 Lease Holders .....	3
3.2 Native Title Groups.....	3
3.3 Communities / Interest Groups.....	4
4 REGULATORY COMPLIANCE.....	4
4.1 Environmental Approvals.....	4
4.2 Utility Services .....	5
5 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS.....	5
5.1 Physiography .....	5
5.2 Previous Exploration / Mining or Other Disturbances.....	6
5.3 Quarantine Issues .....	6
5.4 Significant Environmental Issues.....	6
5.4.1 Conservation Areas .....	7
5.4.2 Heritage Sites .....	7
5.4.3 Protected Flora .....	7
5.4.4 Protected Fauna .....	7
5.5 Surface Water.....	7
5.6 Ground Water .....	8
5.7 Contaminated Land .....	8
6 WORK PROTOCOL AND REHABILITATION.....	8
6.1 Work Program .....	8
6.1.1 Proposed Exploration Methods.....	8

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6.1.2.	Expected Project Life and Schedule .....	10
6.1.3	Workforce .....	10
6.2	Tracks .....	10
6.3	Camp Sites .....	10
6.4	Drill Sites .....	11
6.5	Drilling.....	11
6.6	Surface Sampling .....	12
6.7	Geophysical Surveys .....	12
6.8	Other Ground Disturbing Activities .....	12
6.9	Hydrocarbons And Hazardous Substances.....	12
6.10	Fire Management .....	13
7	SAFETY .....	13
	REFERENCES.....	14
	DESCRIPTOR.....	14
	KEYWORDS .....	14

**LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1: Tenement Summary.....	2
Table 2: Lease Details.....	3
Table 3: Details of Community / Interest Groups .....	4
Table 4: Introduced Plants and Animals.....	6
Table 5: Environmental Impact Management of the Campsite. ....	11
Table 6: Environmental Impact Management for Drilling. ....	12
Table 7: Environmental Impact Management for Hydrocarbons & Hazardous Substances. ....	12

**LIST OF APPENDICES**

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>File Name</u></b>
1	Code of Environmental Compliance	Code_of_environmental_compliance_for_exploration_and_mineral_development_projects.pdf
2	Low Impact Exploration Activities	Low impact exploration activities.pdf
3	Threatened Regional Ecosystems and Fish Habitat areas as defined by the EPA	Of concern ecosystem.pdf Fish habitat.pdf
4	List of Environmental Procedures	Environmental procedures list.pdf
5	EPBC Checklist and Search Results	Cape York EPBC checklist.doc Search results.pdf
6	Map Coordinates for the Proposed Drill Hole Locations	Drill hole locations.pdf Drill hole locations.txt

**LIST OF PLANS**

<b><u>Plan No.</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Scale</u></b>
WAp45952	Location Plan	1:400 000
WAp46139	2004 Work Programme and drill hole locations	1:250 000

## **1 SUMMARY**

This Environmental Management Plan (EMP) documents the proposed work activities that Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Ltd (RTE) will carry out on the Cape York Bauxite Project under the *Low Impact* Exploration Permits. The EMP will be the management document for all planned ground activities on EPM/13949 Archer 1, EPM/13950 Archer 6, EPM/13951 Archer 2, EPM/13952 Archer 3, EPM/13953 Archer 4, EPM/13955 Holroyd 1, EPM/13956 Archer 5 and EPM/13957 Holroyd 2.

The exploration programme will involve drilling holes using both a Toyota mounted auger rig along existing tracks and a hand portable wacker machine supported by a helicopter. All activities will be *Low Impact* as defined in Sections 482, 538 of the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and are planned to fully comply with the *Code of Environmental Compliance for Exploration and Mineral Development Projects*. All vehicles and equipment will be cleaned in accordance with RTE procedures (ENVT105 Quarantine) prior to entering the project area. Some areas of the tenements may be covered under the Queensland EPA Protection Act 1994 as Category B environmentally sensitive areas. There is a requirement that no activities involving machinery take place within 500 metres of a Category B environmentally sensitive area. Threatened, migratory and listed marine species may occur within the area and RTE will liaise closely with the EPA and other stakeholders in regards to managing these and any other environmental issue that occur in the work area.

An Annual Environmental Report (AER) will document all ground disturbance and rehabilitation on this programme. At the cessation of the project, RTE will complete a Final Rehabilitation Report (FRR).

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

This Environmental Management Plan (EMP) covers EPM/13949 Archer 1, EPM/13950 Archer 6, EPM/13951 Archer 2, EPM/13952 Archer 3, EPM/13953 Archer 4, EPM/13955 Holroyd 1, EPM/13956 Archer 5 and EPM/13957 Holroyd 2. The tenements were granted as *Low Impact* under the Alternative State Provisions. The tenements have been conditionally surrendered in favour of tenement applications under the Commonwealth Provisions. This EMP only applies to the *Low Impact* permits and a new EMP will be produced for any substituted licences. Field personnel are expecting to mobilise to the project in late September 2004 to conduct site clearance followed by the low impact drilling programme as approved by the Traditional Owners. The project will involve 10-15 RTE

personnel on site at any one time, which will include project geologists, field technicians, helicopter crew and locally employed labour. Other personnel may visit the site such as the safety and environmental officers.

RTE will manage environmental issues associated with this program according to the RTE Environmental Management System and guidelines set in this EMP. Relevant authorities/groups will receive a digital copy of the Environmental Field Procedures.

## 2.1 Location and Access

The Cape York Bauxite Project area is located south of Aurukun between the Archer and Holroyd Rivers. Access from the southern section of the lease may be from existing station roads off the Cape York Development Road at Ebagoola pending permission from Station Owners and Traditional Owners. Barge access may be available from Aurukun but RTE does not intend to use this due to the current poor condition of the barge. A barge from Karumba could be considered.

A location plan is attached (Wap45952)

## 2.2 Licence Details

This project is 100% owned and managed by Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Limited.

Table 1: Tenement Summary

<b>Tenement No.</b>	<b>Tenement Name</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Grant Date (Alternative State Procedure)</b>
EPM13949	ARCHER 1	RTE 100%	15/9/2003
EPM13950	ARCHER 6	RTE 100%	15/9/2003
EPM13951	ARCHER 2	RTE 100%	15/9/2003
EPM13952	ARCHER 3	RTE 100%	15/9/2003
EPM13953	ARCHER 4	RTE 100%	15/9/2003
EPM13955	HOLROYD 1	RTE 100%	15/9/2003
EPM13956	ARCHER 5	RTE 100%	15/9/2003
EPM13957	HOLROYD 2	RTE 100%	15/9/2003

## 2.3 Project Management

Project Geologist: Graham Lilley  
 Phone: (08) 9270 9215  
 Fax: (08) 9270 9223  
 Project Geologist: Greg Hartshorn  
 Phone: (08) 9270 9230  
 Mailing Address: PO Box 175 Belmont, WA 6984  
 Location Address: 37 Belmont Avenue, Belmont WA 6104

## 3 STAKEHOLDERS

### 3.1 Lease Holders

The tenements are located wholly on a Local Government Lease operated by the Aurukun Shire Council.

Table 2: Lease Details

Lease Name/Number	Leaseholder	Contact Name	Contact Details
1/SC211	Aurukun Shire Council	Shire Chairman	(07) 4060 6800

### 3.2 Native Title Groups

RTE have been involved in negotiations with the Traditional Owners, the Wik and Wik Way People, and their legal representatives, the Cape York Land Council (CYLC), and the CYLC legal representatives Ebsworth and Ebsworth for an Access and Heritage Protection Agreement. The agreement was signed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2004.

RTE project staff visited Aurukun and the project area between 7<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2003. RTE consulted with Cape York Land Council anthropologist Mr David Martin. RTE staff and Traditional Owners flew over the proposed work area discussing areas of cultural significance and the planned RTE work program. The Traditional Owners for the area will conduct Work Area Clearance Surveys over the tenement prior to commencement of any work.

Table 3: Details of Native Title Group for the Area.

NNTT No.	Group/Holder Name	Legal Representative	
		Name	Contact Details
QC941003	Wik Wik and Way	Ebsworth & Ebsworth	Phillip Hunter 123 Eagle Street Brisbane QLD 4001 (07) 3303 8888 <a href="mailto:brisbane@ebsworth.com.au">brisbane@ebsworth.com.au</a>

### 3.3 Communities / Interest Groups

The following Communities/interest groups have been identified by RTE. RTE will liaise with these Communities/interest groups when it is perceived that exploration activities will have any significant impact, records of correspondence will be maintained by RTE.

Table 3: Details of Community / Interest Groups

Community / Interest Group	Contact
Holroyd River Station	D'Arcy Byrnes
Kendall River Station	Jim Crick (Riversleigh Pastoral Co.) Shayne Young (Kendall Manager)
Aurukun Shire Council	(07) 4060 6800
Cape York Land Council	(07) 4053 9222
Aurukun Land and Sea Management	(07) 4060 6831

## 4 REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

### 4.1 Environmental Approvals

RTE will conduct its operations in accordance with conditions of the Environmental Authority for the exploration tenements (EA No. MIM500108603). RTE will comply with the Code of Environmental Compliance for Exploration and Mineral Development Projects.

A copy of the Code of Environmental Compliance is attached as Appendix 1.



## 4.2 Utility Services

No utility services such as power, water, gas, and telephone are known to occur on the tenements. Some communities and outstations may have satellite phones and generators. RTE staff will identify the location of any utility services during the reconnaissance stage of the project and also seek information from the local community groups.

## 5 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

RTE has considered environmental factors in the planning stages of exploration activities. This planning process has identified the potential impacts and likely environmental issues associated with the exploration activities in this tenement. RTE has a suite of 42 Environmental Procedures that will be used to manage project activities.

### 5.1 Physiography

The project area is located in the Cape York Peninsular Bioregion, and more specifically the Northern Holroyd Plain subsection where the local relief is less than five metres. The area is described below as:

Landform: a range of landform elements occur throughout: closed depression (lake, oxbow and swamp), open depressions (drainage depression, stream channel, stream bed, levee and swamp) and flats (valley flat, backplain and floodout); uplands comprise gently sloping plains and low plateau.

General geology: extensive plain mantled by colluvial quartzose sand derived from underlying Cainozoic formations. Low rounded sandy interfluves of Tertiary-Quaternary sands contain numerous oval closed depressions and are separated by shallow swampy valleys with Quaternary valley and floodplain alluvium. The plain overlies a siliceous hardpan in places.

Soils: varied, red and yellow earths on rises and upper slopes of shallow valleys; uniform sandy soils on lower slopes; texture contrast soils in valleys and floodplains.

Climate: the site falls mainly within the 990-1397 isohyets, with rain falling mostly in December-April.

Vegetation: Open woodland of *Eucalyptus tetradonta*, *Melaleuca*, bloodwoods and open grassland

## 5.2 Previous Exploration / Mining or Other Disturbances

Pacminex conducted shallow hand auger drilling between the Archer and Kendall rivers (ATP 870) in the early 1970's. Within the current Rio Tinto Exploration EPM application area there are 73 auger holes from this programme, to a maximum depth of 4.5 m. There has also been some shallow scout drilling of coastal sediments conducted by the Bureau of Mineral Resources.

## 5.3 Quarantine Issues

Discussions with representatives from the EPA in Queensland indicate that there are no evasive plant species in the area. The area is recognised as being "Pristine" and RTE are required to clean down all vehicles and equipment, in accordance with ENVT105 Quarantine, whenever entering the project area. Each vehicle is to carry a checklist and record of cleaning procedures. Feral pigs, cattle, horses, cats and cane toads may also inhabit the area.

Table 4: Introduced Plants and Animals

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<b>Plants</b>	
Mimosa	Common Sensitive Plant
Senna Alata	Candle bush
Tribulus cistoides	Caltrap
<b>Animals</b>	
<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Feral Pig
<i>Bufo marinus</i>	Cane Toad
<i>Felis catus</i>	Feral Cat
<i>Equus caballus</i>	Feral Horse

## 5.4 Significant Environmental Issues

Several threatened, migratory and listed marine species which were identified using RTE and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) databases, are likely to occur in the area. The implementation of RTE's existing management procedures for the "low impact" activities will minimise the potential for adverse affects on these species. A copy of the EPBC search results and checklist is attached.

#### 5.4.1 Conservation Areas

A search of the RTE GIS shows no conservation reserves within the tenement area. There are three wetlands listed on the Department of Environment and Heritage Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia that either lie adjacent or partly overlap the tenement areas. These wetlands are, Archer Bay Aggregation (QLD056) and the Archer River Aggregation (QLD057) which lie to the north of the tenements and the Northern Holroyd Plain Aggregation (QLD068) which mostly lies to the south but does in part cover the tenement area. The EPA supplied RTE with a map showing there is one "Of Concern Regional Eco-system" number 3.5.17. and a "Fish Habitat" area (see Appendix 3). These areas will be avoided during the exploration work. Some areas of the tenement area may be covered under the Queensland EPA Protection Act 1994 as a Category B environmentally sensitive area however these are not formalised. Areas that may fall into this category include permanent water holes on streams and swamps. There is a requirement that no activities involving machinery take place within 500 metres of a Category B environmentally sensitive area. Plan WAp46139 shows the exploration drill holes with respect to all of the drainage lines, wetland and swamps. RTE staff will identify and avoid Category B environmentally sensitive areas in cooperation with the EPA. RTE will follow its environmental management policies and procedures over the project and consult with interested stakeholders and regulators.

#### 5.4.2 Heritage Sites

A visit to the area with representatives of the Traditional Owners for the area has indicated there are a number of significant sites. The Traditional Owners of the country will conduct a Cultural Clearance Survey over the area before any exploration activity commences. The programme will be amended, if need be to avoid any sites.

#### 5.4.3 Protected Flora

See Appendix 5 for the EPBC checklist.

#### 5.4.4 Protected Fauna

See Appendix 5 for the EPBC checklist.

### **5.5 Surface Water**

A number of rivers including the Archer, Holroyd and Kendall occur within or adjacent to the tenement area.

There is a dendritic drainage pattern with isolated pools and waterholes. These drainage systems become swamps in wet season and mostly dry up in the late dry season. Intertidal marine swamps are located along the coast outside of the tenement area.

The camp site will be at the Blue Lagoon resources centre which has water on tap.

## **5.6 Ground Water**

A number of water bores were identified in the tenement area during the reconnaissance visit. No water bores will be drilled in this work programme.

## **5.7 Contaminated Land**

Discussions with representatives from the EPA in Queensland indicate that the area is free of any contaminated land. If RTE locates a contaminated site, RTE will record the site and notify the Department of Environmental Protection.

# **6 WORK PROTOCOL AND REHABILITATION**

RTE will conduct its activities in accordance with the RTE Environmental Procedures. This section addresses the proposed work programme; impacts associated with these activities, and the appropriate management techniques that RTE will implement.

## **6.1 Work Program**

RTE completed an initial programme of airborne reconnaissance and community liaison in October 2003. This has assisted in logistics planning for the drilling programme, increased understanding of the physiography and vegetation patterns and assisted environmental management planning for the area.

RTE will conduct wide-spaced, shallow drilling to test the potential for bauxite to occur below unconsolidated sandy sediment. The programme plan is for 65 wacker holes and 15 auger holes widely spaced across the seven tenements (Plan WAp46139).

### **6.1.1. Proposed Exploration Methods**

RTE's primary aim is to test for bauxite within the project area by drilling a series of shallow auger and wacker holes across the seven tenements (Plan WAp46139).

The map coordinates for the proposed drill hole locations are also provided in Appendix 6. Helicopter access will determine which of these sites are actually drilled. Some

modifications to this work programme might be required following consultations with Traditional Owners and the work area clearance survey.

Proposed activities are described as follows:

**Auger drilling.** The auger drilling will involve using an auger drill machine mounted on a six wheel Toyota. The drilling will be to a maximum depth of 15 metres, however it is anticipated that most of the drill holes will be only 5 to 10 metres. The drilling will be done at approximately 2 km intervals along existing tracks and where possible along traverses through open bushland. Approximately 35 auger holes are planned.

The drilling will involve making a hole about 8 cm in diameter and collecting several 1 kg samples per hole depending on the material type. The holes will be filled in immediately after drilling with the drill cuttings from the hole.

**Wacker drilling.** Due to the large area and lack of access tracks it is planned to complete a series of drill holes using a wacker machine. This small jack hammer-style drill allows the collection of a geological sample up to 10 metres deep depending on the ground conditions. It can be carried by hand or easily moved by helicopter. This drill will be used to investigate the isolated areas of the project to decide if it is worth constructing a track to test an area more thoroughly in a future follow-up programme.

The wacker drilling would involve a team of 4 people being dropped in the field by helicopter and brought back to camp each day. The drilling is generally slow and only two or three holes a day can be expected. The team would be dropped in an area suitable for the helicopter to land (an open grassy area) and then walk to the site. The wacker drill would be moved to the site by helicopter using a sling if the vegetation cover allows it. If not the wacker may need to be carried by the team for one to two kilometres in some places.

The proposed drill locations (Plan Wap46139) are based on geological merit however these may need to be modified due to the limited availability of helicopter landing sites which will be assessed during the clearance survey prior to commencement. Approximately 65 wacker holes are planned.

### 6.1.2. Expected Project Life and Schedule

The work programme will be conducted between the end of September and the end of October 2004. The start date is linked to the signing of the Agreement with the Traditional Owners.

### 6.1.3 Workforce

Up to six RTE staff, two to four locally employed people and a helicopter contractor team of two will be engaged in the programme. Other RTE personnel may also visit the site, such as Safety and Environmental Officers, and senior management. All personnel will have permission to enter the area obtained through the Aurukun Council's system of liaison with local residents.

## **6.2 Tracks**

There are existing tracks along the Archer River and the coastal floodplains. Access to the area is by barge from Aurukun, or by un-gazetted track from Ebagoola through Holroyd River and Kendall River stations.

The 2003 reconnaissance indicated that the scrub in the area might be too thick for easy access by 4WD. The programme that this EMP covers ("low Impact work") may include the Toyota mounted auger rig driving through the open forest to drill holes. There are a series of holes marked on the drill plan (Plan WAp46139) that may be completed with either the wacker or auger depending on the thickness of the bush.

No tracks will be constructed in this programme.

## **6.3 Camp Sites**

RTE will use the Blue Lagoon resource centre as a camp base (Plan WAp46139). Diesel and Avtur will be stored at the site for use during the programme. The wacker will be run on unleaded petrol. Permission to store and use a small amount of petrol will be requested from the Aurukun Council. This will be stored in a secure way.

The Project Geologist is the designated Site Manager and will be responsible for ensuring that all appropriate Environmental Procedures are known to site personnel and are adhered to. Representative photographic records of any campsites established will be maintained and an inspection carried out by RTE prior to the relinquishment of the tenement.

Table 5: Environmental Impact Management of the Campsite.

<b>Actions</b> (Exploration activity)	<b>Potential Impacts</b> (Without controls)	<b>Controls</b> (Relevant RTE procedures)
Temporary field camp	Compaction, vegetation destruction, impact on local fauna / flora, introduction of weeds, pollution, water and wind erosion, dust generation, river and creek bank damage.	ENVT103 Camp Management ENVT102 Ground Disturbance ENVT 111 Hydrocarbons and Hazardous Substances

#### 6.4 Drill Sites

Drill pads are not planned for this work, as the auger and wacker holes can be drilled directly without drill pad construction. Sumps are not required.

#### 6.5 Drilling

RTE plans to drill approximately 35 auger and 65 widely spaced wacker holes as shown on Plan WAp46139.

Some modifications to the planned drill locations might be required following consultations with Traditional Owners and the Work Area Clearance Survey. During the work programme, some of the sites may not be drilled if they are unsuitable for either technical (e.g. no suitable helicopter site) or cultural reasons.

The auger holes are up to 8 cm in diameter and are drilled to a depth of up to 15 m. Samples from this work are sent to laboratory for chemical analysis.

All holes will be filled in with the remaining cuttings immediately after drilling and the surface area rehabilitated. Significant flows of groundwater are not anticipated on this programme.

If this drilling programme is successful, then any follow-up work will be conducted on the new Exploration Permits under a new Environmental Authority and a revised EMP.

RTE will conduct the drilling operations in accordance with the following procedures and after consultation with the Traditional Owners.

Table 6: Environmental Impact Management for Drilling.

<b>Actions</b> (Exploration activity)	<b>Potential Impacts</b> (Without controls)	<b>Controls</b> (Relevant RTE procedures)
Drilling equipment mobilisation, drilling waste discharge, and drilling of holes.	Vegetation and soil disturbance, water and wind erosion, dust generation.	ENVT107 Drilling ENVT104 Site Monitoring

## 6.6 Surface Sampling

As the area lacks outcrop and has poorly defined drainage no other sampling is planned.

## 6.7 Geophysical Surveys

Geophysical surveying is not currently planned.

## 6.8 Other Ground Disturbing Activities

RTE plans no other ground disturbing activities on the tenement.

## 6.9 Hydrocarbons And Hazardous Substances

Domestic gas, diesel, aviation turbine fuel (Jet A1), unleaded petrol, domestic cleaning products, degreaser, and engine oil are likely to be used by RTE for the programme. RTE will have Material Safety Data (MSD) sheets on site for these substances and any other hydrocarbon or hazardous substance. RTE will manage hydrocarbons and hazardous substances according to:

Table 7: Environmental Impact Management for Hydrocarbons &amp; Hazardous Substances.

<b>Actions</b> (Exploration activity)	<b>Potential Impacts</b> (Without controls)	<b>Controls</b> (Relevant RTE procedures)
Handling, transport, storage, and use of Hydrocarbons and Hazardous Substances.	Soil and vegetation contamination, ground water pollution, adversely affect fauna.	ENVT111 Hydrocarbons and Hazardous Substances. SAFE 109 Hazardous Substances.



## 6.10 Fire Management

Camp fires within the camp area are the only fires foreseen. The RTE procedure for campfires (ENVT103 Camp Management) is to:

- Contact the local authorities to ensure that no fire restrictions are in place.
- Only permit fires under carefully controlled conditions. They must be a safe distance from flammable materials, accommodation and work areas. Locate fires in a site cleared of dry vegetation with a radius of at least three meters.
- Adhere to procedures designed to minimise the risk of bushfires occurring. In the event that a fire does escape, RTE will make reasonable attempts to extinguish it without placing unnecessarily personal safety at risk. These procedures include:
  - Using gas barbecues or other facilities where possible in preference to open fires.
  - Ensuring that all fireplaces have a barrier made of stone or other appropriate material to act as a windbreak and to prevent dispersion of heat sources. Alternatively, they can be located within a 30 cm (or deeper) excavated depression.
  - Ensuring that whenever a fire is established appropriate fire fighting equipment is available and in good working order.

Any fire outbreaks will be reported within the RTE incident reporting system, and to relevant government authorities.

## 7 SAFETY

The RTE safe systems of work are encompassed in the Australia District Field Operations Manual. The Field Operations Manual has twenty-three (23) sections. Each section guides and controls a different area of the exploration operation although some areas of work are likely to be covered in more than one section.

## **REFERENCES**

Revision of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) and Development of Version 5.1 - Summary Report. *Environment Australia, November 2000, ISBN 064254803X.*

## **DESCRIPTOR**

Environmental Management Plan for EPM/13949 Archer 1, EPM/13950 Archer 6, EPM/13951 Archer 2, EPM/13952 Archer 3, EPM/13953 Archer 4, EPM/13955 Holroyd 1 EPM/13956 Archer 5 and EPM/13957 Holroyd 2.

## **KEYWORDS**

Environmental Management plan, rehabilitation, ground disturbance, , EPM13949 Archer 1, EPM13951 Archer 2, EPM13952 Archer 3, EPM13953 Archer 4, EPM13956 Archer 5, EPM13950 Archer 6, EPM13955 Holroyd 1, and EPM13957 Holroyd 2, Cape York Project, bauxite.

## **APPENDIX 1**

**Code of Environmental Compliance .pdf**

## **APPENDIX 2**

**Low Impact Exploration Activities. pdf**

**APPENDIX 3**

**Of Concern Ecosystem.pdf**

**Fish Habitat.pdf**

## **APPENDIX 4**

**Map Coordinates for the Proposed Drill Hole Locations. pdf**

## **APPENDIX 5**

### **EPBC Checklist and Search Results**

## **APPENDIX 6**

**Drill hole locations. pdf**