

Gove Futures Community Update PowerPoint Presentation Notes

Slide 11: Land Tenure – Map of Gove Peninsula

Summary

- Land tenure arrangements in East Arnhem are complex and involve extensive planning and negotiation.
- The Traditional Owner (TO) Vision provides clear guidance that the TOs want existing Yolju and Balanda businesses and investors to stay and to attract new industry and businesses. The Vision also says that land should be able to be bought and sold in a commercial way (like other cities and towns around Australia). The full TO Vision is available [here](#).
- The TO Vision makes clear that we need to provide an early and clear pathway for transition of tenure from the current town leases to an agreed new tenure so it is ready when needed.
- The Land Tenure workstream of the Gove Peninsula Futures Reference Group (GPFRG) is working to provide a strong foundation for existing and new businesses and residents to invest with certainty.

Context

- In the late 1960s, the Gove Mining Operation was established with the then-mine operator being granted a Special Minerals Lease covering the Mine, Refinery and Conveyor.
- This Minerals Title, which is now owned by a Rio Tinto subsidiary, is one big lease represented on the map in the light 'pink/orange' colour.
- Rio Tinto also holds a number of Special Purposes leases, including one for the Nhulunbuy Township and one over the Industrial Estate. These are marked in 'green'.
- All of East Arnhem Land is Aboriginal Land, granted to the TOs in 1976 via the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act (ALRA)*, held by the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Land Trust and administered by the Northern Land Council. This Aboriginal Land is shown on the map in 'yellow', surrounding the Minerals Title (light Pink/Orange) and Special Purpose Leases (Green).
- When the 1976 grants of Aboriginal Land were made to TOs, Nhulunbuy and the surrounding mining areas were granted to TOs under ALRA. However, because of the pre-existing Minerals Title and Special Purpose Leases on these parcels of land, the deeds to the 'green' and 'pink' areas are held 'in escrow' until the current Minerals Title and leases expire or are agreed to end earlier.
- The current Minerals Title expires in 2053. However, mining and remediation is anticipated to end in approximately 2030. The GPFRG anticipate the current leases will be agreed to be returned to TOs when it is agreed that mining and remediation works are complete.