

Gove Futures

March 2024 Community Update



**NORTHERN
LAND COUNCIL**
Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life



Australian Government
National Indigenous
Australians Agency



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts

RioTinto



**NORTHERN
TERRITORY
GOVERNMENT**

Agenda

1 Welcome

2 TO Vision

**3 Socio-Economic Impact
Assessment**

4 TO Corporation Updates

5 Project Updates

Traditional Owners' Vision

The Gove Peninsula is one of the most special places in Australia.

Our vision is to rejuvenate the region. It will be a place for us to share our culture, and a business and services hub for all of Arnhem Land.

We will work together to create a stronger and more secure future for generations of Yolŋu and Njapaki (non-Aboriginal people) to come.

Gove Peninsula-nydjä dhuwala dhapirrk wänja dhuwala Australia.

Njilimurrungunju nhänharanydjä njilimurru yurru sharing njilimurrunguwuy culture, business ga services dhiyala Arnhem Landjuru.

Marr njilimurru yurru djäma rrambanji njurikina bala yalalanjimirri wu Yolŋuwu ga Njapakiwu.



Traditional Owners' Vision

Recognition of Traditional Owners.

Dharaṅan wāṅa-waṭaṅunha malanha.

Yolṅu and Njāpaki together.

Yolṅu ga Njāpaki rrambaṅi.

Connecting with culture and country.

Rrambaṅikuma bala wāṅalili, Romlili, ga Culturelili.

A diverse economy.

Yaka yurru djāma waṅganygala miṭṭjiwala marr
ṅilimurru yuru djāma rrambaṅi ga wiripu-wiripu
djāma

Rejuvenating Nhulunbuy.

Djāma Nhulunbuyinha yuṭakuma

Nhulunbuy as a services hub.

Nhulunṅura base yurru djingaryun
yalalawu marr yurru gungga'yun Yolṅunṅha.

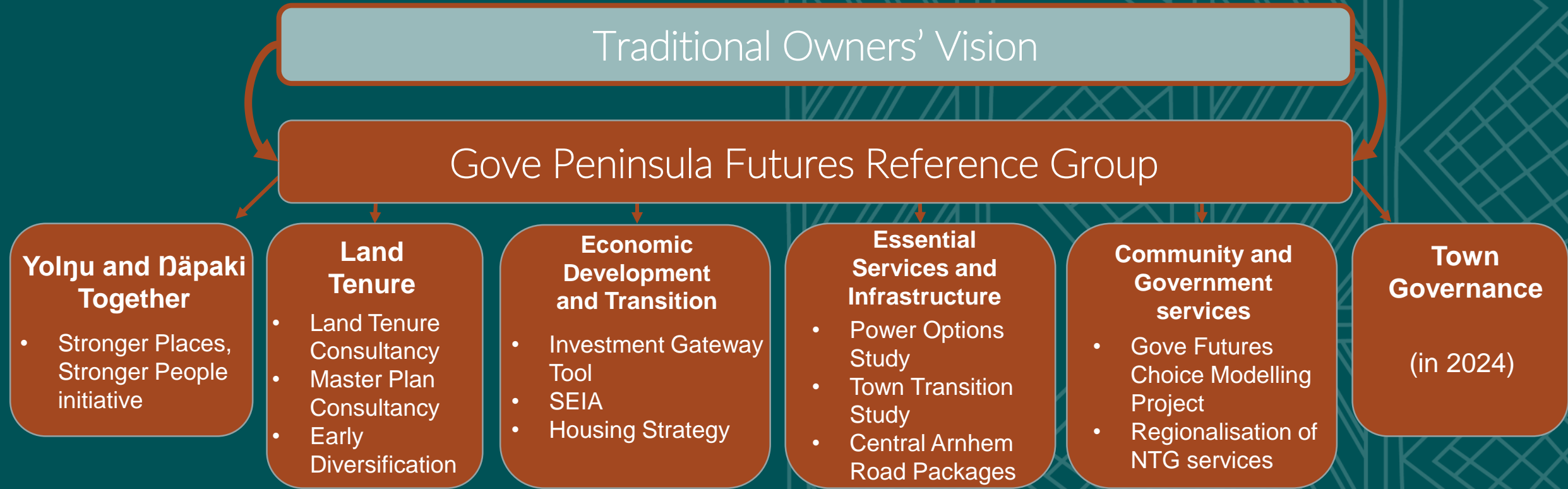
Infrastructure ready for the future.

Djāma Nhulunbuyinha latju ga
ṅāthilmirriyama yalalawu marr yurru
wāṅa djāma manymakkuma balanyara
bitjan dhukkar, bāwa, houses, airport.

Town, communities and
homelands strong together.

Nhulunbuy, Yirrkala, Gunyaṅara ga
Homeland yurru djāma rrambaṅi.

Planning Ahead



Planning for transition:

- The Reference Group was formed in 2019 as a robust and collaborative approach to decision-making in order transition away from mining successfully. A large amount of work has occurred over the past couple of years, with many projects still to be undertaken into the future.

Gove Mine Closure Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

A WSP Report prepared at the request of Rio Tinto

Overview

What is an SEIA?

Social impacts

Economic impacts

Considerations

What is an SEIA?

- A formal study for understanding potential social and economic consequences from a significant change
- Identifies changes that people may experience – changes to jobs, community, culture, connection, health and wellbeing
- Economic impacts quantify the direct and indirect effects of an investment or withdrawal of a spend
- Includes considerations to reduce negative effects and maximise opportunities for better outcomes.

Introduction

The Gove Peninsula is entering a period of significant change, with the closure of Rio Tinto's Gove Mine planned for later this decade.

Rio Tinto commissioned WSP Australia Pty Limited (WSP) to undertake a Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) to investigate the potential community impacts and benefits associated with the closure of the Gove Mine. The Gove Peninsula Futures Reference Group (GPFGR) have been closely consulted throughout the SEIA process, and findings will provide evidence and guidance for GPFGR decision making and future planning around the closure of the mine and the future of the region.

"[I] want to ensure the Peninsula is a viable hub for the whole East Arnhem Region post mining."
— Nhulubuy Resident

The GPFGR was formed to coordinate and facilitate planning for a positive future for Nhulubuy and the Gove Peninsula through the transition beyond mining. The group includes representatives from the Northern Territory Government, Australian Government, Ntintjanga Aboriginal Corporation, Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation, Northern Land Council and Rio Tinto.

What is an SEIA?

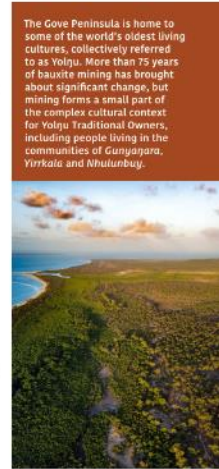
A Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) is a formal study for assessing, measuring, and minimising potential social and economic consequences which can happen with a specific project or development.

Socio economic impacts can be understood as the consequences people will experience when there is significant change. Social impacts consider the social elements valued by people in the community. These include livelihoods, surroundings, decision making systems, quality of life, community, accessibility, culture, and health and wellbeing.

Economic impacts consider the direct and indirect effects of an investment or withdrawal of spend on a region's employment and output.

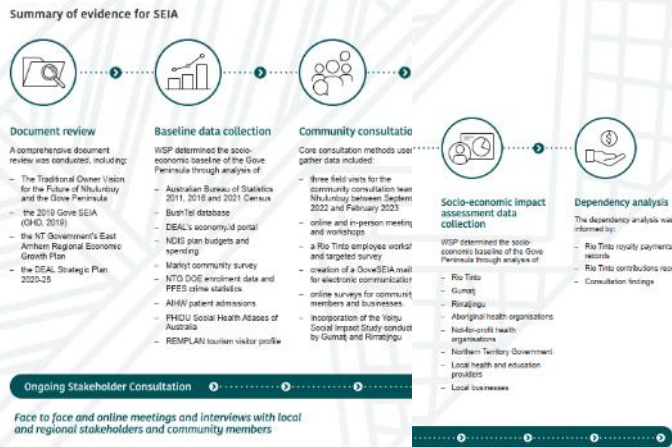
This study has assessed and rated potential socio-economic impacts and benefits from the mine's closure. It has also provided considerations for community leaders to reduce the negative effects and maximise the opportunities to make things better.

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The Gove Peninsula is home to some of the world's oldest living cultures, collectively referred to as Yolngu. More than 75 years of bauxite mining has brought about significant change, but mining forms a small part of the complex cultural context for Yolngu Traditional Owners, including people living in the communities of Ganyjarraru, Yirrkala and Nhulubuy.

How the forecasts were developed



Consultation



Current State

Uncertainty and mistrust

Lack of accessible closure information

Land tenure and real estate

Varied understanding of closure



Perceptions of the Future

Essential services

Food security

Labour market constraints

Reduced freight and movement

Diminished liveability



Opportunities for the Future

Tourism

Yolngu economy

Health and human services

Heavy industries



Future State

Closure communications and feedback opportunities

Local business support

Housing and commercial real estate

Availability and quality of services and infrastructure

Social impacts

Categorised by TO vision for the future key elements:

- Uncertainty about the future
- Town infrastructure
- Housing
- Population changes
- Economic changes
- Yolŋu decision making
- Rehabilitation
- Transport
- Social programs
- Tourism

Social impacts and insights

Uncertainty

Participants expressed a general mistrust and high level of uncertainty about the mine closing, saying a lack of information was making it hard to plan for the future. This may lead to diminished health and wellbeing associated with stress and uncertainty.

Town infrastructure

Diminished maintenance and upkeep of town infrastructure and services following closure may impact the attractiveness and liveability of the Gove Peninsula for residents and visitors, potentially impacting way of life and reducing accessibility and visitors coming to the region.

Housing and accommodation

Access to affordable, appropriate housing is critically impacting both Yolŋu living conditions and economic growth. The current demand for housing significantly exceeds supply in Nhulunbuy. Post closure the condition and maintenance of housing stock may deteriorate.

Changes to population

Forecast changes to community composition, with some people leaving and new people arriving, may result in loss of knowledge, value, and respect for Yolŋu culture.

Reduced economic activity

Changes to local employment opportunities, business and workforce availability may reduce economic activity, leading to flow-on effects, like loss of local business and increased out migration from the region.

"I am unsure of the future of the town after Rio shuts down and feel that there could be negative implications in terms of access to services for my family."

– Local resident

Services

The sustainability of Nhulunbuy as regional communities will depend on essential services – including health and community support.

The availability, or lack of quality, of social services may impact health outcomes for local and regional residents.

Yolŋu decision making

It is anticipated that Yolŋu could play a role in decision making processes regarding the future of the Gove Peninsula, with a desire for them to be more involved.

Rehabilitation

Yolŋu are also seeking a more active role in rehabilitation, with priority rehabilitation projects, protection and access to country potentially affected by mine closure.

Transport

The social fabric of local communities could be impacted by diminished access to transport infrastructure such as barge services, air travel and increased cost of freight.

Social programs

The loss of Rio Tinto support for local programs and community groups may reduce opportunities for existing social activities – including the loss of volunteers for sporting clubs and local groups. The impact of this could reduce the sense of community among those remaining in the region.

Tourism

Tourism, arts and culture are seen as key strengths and potential growth opportunities for the Gove Peninsula, potentially bringing positive social benefits with the development of new streams of activity and initiatives.

The SEIA identifies the potential impacts associated with closure, with **no interventions** or activities to reduce impact.

Impacts were identified and categorised against the key elements outlined in the Traditional Owners' Vision.

Traditional Owners' vision

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Gove Peninsula-nytja dhuwala dhapirrk wäpa dhuwala Australia.

Dilimunguuy nyänharanydja gilmuru yuru sharing gilmunguuy culture, business ga services dhiyala Arnhem Landyuru.

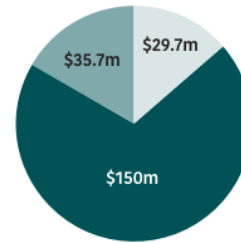
Marr gilmuru yuru djäma rrambari nyikina bala yalalanummi wu Yolŋuwa ga Däpakivu.

- Recognition of Traditional Owners
- Yolŋu and Däpaki together
- Connecting with culture and country
- A diverse economy
- Nhulunbuy as a services hub
- Rejuvenating Nhulunbuy
- Infrastructure ready for the future
- Town, communities and homelands strong together

Economic impacts

Key forecast effects:

- Mine closure may lead to a loss of up to 917 jobs (500 direct and 417 indirect) and almost 2,000 residents
- New non-mining jobs may lead to an increase of 777 jobs and 765 residents from mine closure levels by 2028
- Population is expected to decline to 2,385 people by 2028 (includes people leaving and new people arriving)
- This will remove up to \$215m per annum from the local economy
- By 2037, population of Nhulunbuy is expected to be 2,367
- Future scenario 1: Stabilisation
- Future scenario 2: Possible Growth



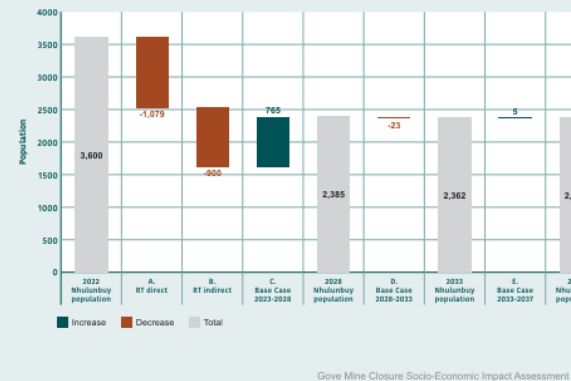
■ Rio Tinto residential employee spend
■ Rio Tinto local contract spend
■ Rio Tinto royalties and local contributions



1,200
fewer people by 2028

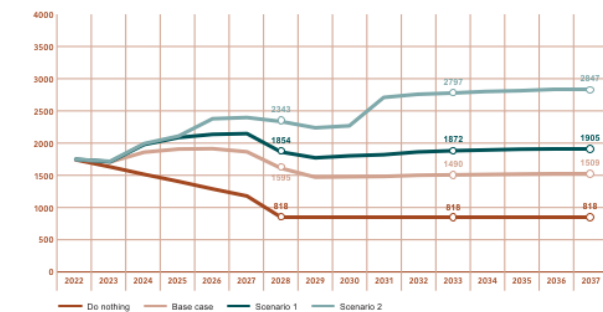


Local spend
reduction around
\$215 million
per annum

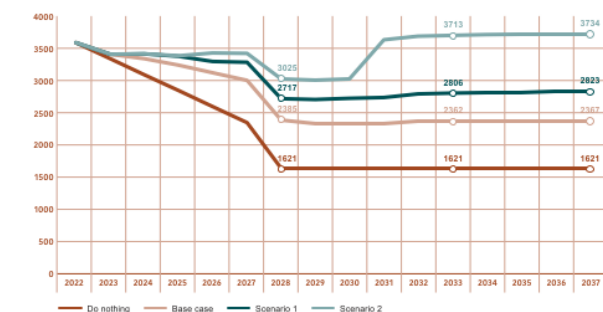


Gove Mine Closure Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

Total estimated employment



Total estimated population



Considerations

Future planning:

- Communication and engagement
- Supporting population – strengthening economy in the lead up to closure
- Upskilling to prepare for closure
- Regionalisation of government services
- Effective transition of essential services
- Community wellbeing
- Cross-cultural collaboration

Considerations

Stakeholder management and planning through transition



- Increase Yolŋu engagement and communication activities
- Provide clarity about the social transition plan
- Implement a communication and engagement strategy targeted at local businesses
- Develop an integrated plan for mine closure

Transitioning the economy to support a sustainable population



- Develop a blueprint for retention, development, management and use of residential housing in Nhulunbuy
- Work with Yolŋu and local businesses to strengthen local tourism
- Drive innovation to diversify Nhulunbuy's economy
- Advance the town operating cost model

Upskilling the population to sustain services and supply of future investments



- Targeted Yolŋu worker transition plan with focus on redeployment
- Upskill Yolŋu to maximise uptake of future employment opportunities

Sustaining and strengthening community and government services



- Detailed strategy for regionalisation of government services
- Development of Nhulunbuy as services hub

Providing essential services and infrastructure



- Consider outcomes of Town Transition PFS to maximise effective transition of essential town infrastructure
- Negotiate to maintain regional access to aviation services
- Collaborate with Groote Eylandt Steering Committee to understand potential cumulative impacts of GEMCO closure

Promoting community wellbeing





- Develop strategy targeted at community members experiencing vulnerable conditions to improve health and wellbeing
- Targeted counselling and mental health services for Rio Tinto employees

Improving the level of cross-cultural respect, partnership and collaboration



- Collaborate with Traditional Owners on development and determination of post mining land uses (PMLUs)
- Explore ways to heal Country with Traditional Owners
- Promote Yolŋu culture and arts

GPFRRG Response to the SEIA

Gove Peninsula employment (number of jobs) 	Current situation	Rio Tinto closure	Base Case (by 2037)	Scenario 1 (by 2037)	Scenario 2 (by 2037)
Nhulunbuy population (number of residents) 	Current situation	Rio Tinto closure	Base Case (by 2037)	Scenario 1 (by 2037)	Scenario 2 (by 2037)
	1,735	818 (-917)	1,509 (-226)	1,905 (+170)	2,847 (+1,112)
	3,600	1,621 (-1,979)	2,367 (-1,233)	2,823 (-777)	3,734 (+134)

Traditional Owner Business Update

Investment Gateway Tool

The Gove Peninsula Investment Gateway Tool (IGT)

- A landing page for proponents to engage with TO corporations at project initiation stage.
- Traditional Owner corporations will:
 - Review proposals that come through the Gateway Tool
 - Make a preliminary assessment
 - Conduct initial due diligence
- Traditional Owner corporations will then:
 - agree to assess the project further or engage directly with the project proponent, *or*
 - decide a project is not consistent with their aspirations for development on their land and decline further engagement



Land Tenure Workstream

TO Vision Objectives:

- Put in place suitable land tenure that supports investment attraction now and into the future.
- Develop a masterplan for the Nhulunbuy township which aligns to the TO Vision.

Long Term Land Tenure Arrangements – Consultancy

- Nhulunbuy Land Tenure Options Survey is currently underway.
- KPMG working with TOs to identify land tenure options and select a preferred model which aligns with post-mining TOs aspirations.
- KPMG to provide a full report to the GPFRG on the process undertaken and options considered.

Nhulunbuy Master Plan – Consultancy

- Consultancy scope and funding settled with members.
- Procurement will take approx. three months and will award in Q2 2024 with TO consultations and workshops to follow.

Legend:



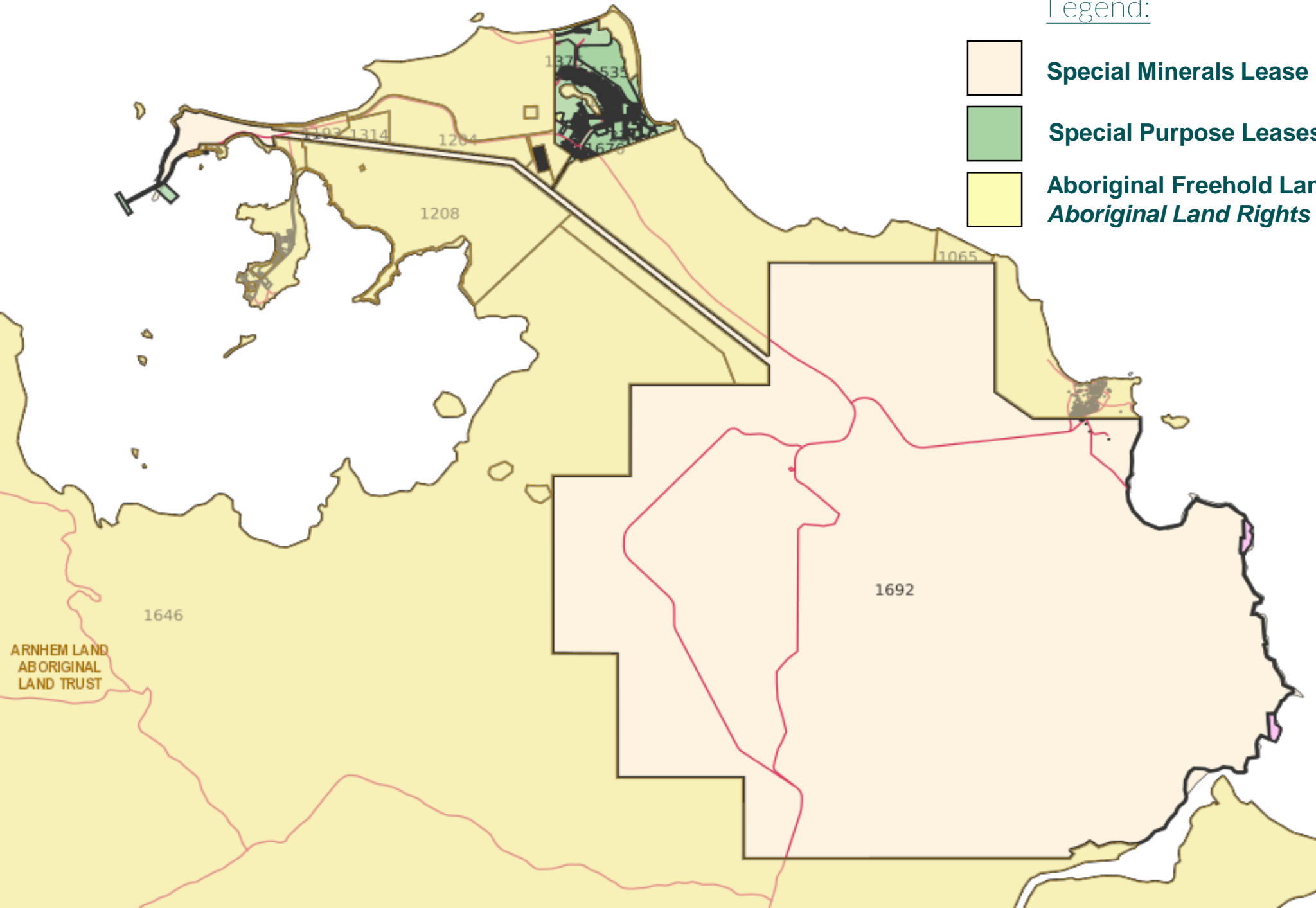
Special Minerals Lease held by Rio Tinto



Special Purpose Leases held by Rio Tinto

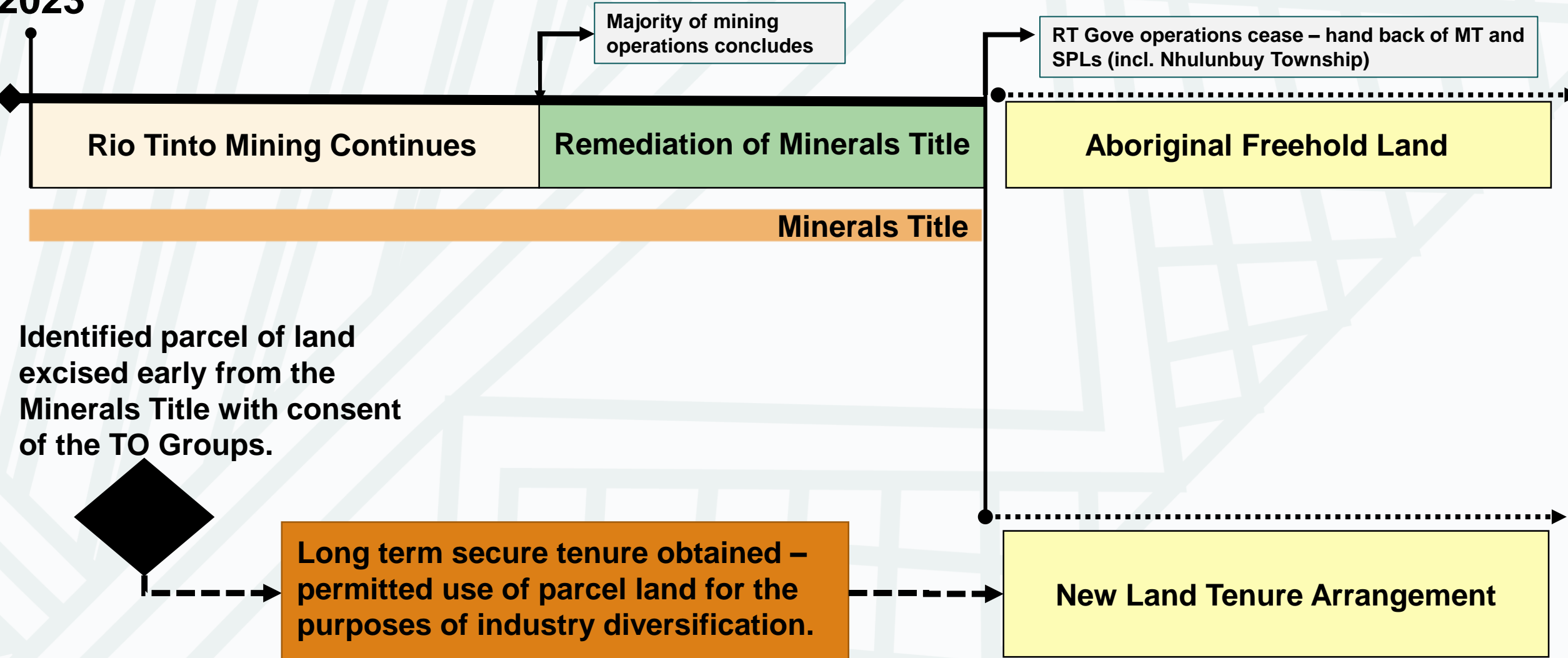


**Aboriginal Freehold Land granted under the
*Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976***



Early diversification of land/assets on minerals title leases

2023



Majority of mining operations concludes

RT Gove operations cease – hand back of MT and SPLs (incl. Nhulunbuy Township)

Rio Tinto Mining Continues

Remediation of Minerals Title

Aboriginal Freehold Land

Minerals Title

Identified parcel of land excised early from the Minerals Title with consent of the TO Groups.

Long term secure tenure obtained – permitted use of parcel land for the purposes of industry diversification.

New Land Tenure Arrangement

Town Transition

TO Vision Objectives:

- Transition of essential services to new authorities, including power generation and distribution, water and sewage.

2024
January to July

Study Finalisation
Q3 2024

- Pressure monitoring and SCADA data potable water
- Power Distribution Network Review
- Finalise Asset Investigation Reports



- Engineering design for each assets class
- Develop Asset Management Plans for each class



Early works Kick-off

- Potable-water Relining / relaying based on study/ burst maps
- Waste-water Relining
Rising main to gravity



2025 Asset works underway

Housing

TO Vision Objectives:

- Existing and new businesses are supported by removing barriers and facilitating enablers

Actions Underway:

- Development and implementation of a housing strategy to meet demand across the Gove Peninsula.
- The NT Government has commenced the Accelerated Regional Accommodation project to leverage government employee accommodation requirements in the regions to stimulate the development of new residential accommodation.
- Rio Tinto has:
 - Commenced expressions of interest with residential employees to consider 'Fly-in Fly-out' roster to enable Nhulunbuy housing relief. Additional options on immediate relief rely on residential to FIFO transition to progress.
 - Secured funding to demolish RT houses that are not suitable in the long-term to allow for serviced vacant lots to be redeveloped to address supply.
 - Identified a number of serviced vacant lots in Nhulunbuy for developers of new housing.

Community & Government Services

Gove Futures Choice Modelling Survey

- The survey asked about the level and type of services that are important to residents, business owners and service providers in Nhulunbuy.
- It showed different service options to identify how these would influence peoples' decision to stay, go or grow their investment in Nhulunbuy following the closure of the Rio Tinto Gove Mine towards the end of the decade.

267 Survey Responses



42%

Almost half of Nhulunbuy residents intend to stay over the next ten years.



39%

Many who plan to leave sooner were always intending a short-term stay.



59%

More than half of business owners intend to stay over the next ten years.



77%

Over three quarters of service providers feel invested in Nhulunbuy and reported that it would take a lot for them to walk away.

IT'S AN AMAZING PLACE TO LIVE WITH MY FAMILY. THE COMMUNITY AND REGION ARE STUNNING. THE YOLNGU CULTURE IS AMAZING. THE WORK IS FULFILLING AND CHALLENGING. MY KIDS LOVE IT HERE!

WHAT MATTERS TO RESIDENTS?



Housing construction and affordability



Physical infrastructure



Health and quality of life amenities

WHAT MATTERS TO BUSINESS OWNERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS?



Commercial and residential property availability



Economic stability and future growth



Physical infrastructure

WE HAVE BEEN OPERATING A LARGE BUSINESS HERE FOR OVER 20 YEARS AND WOULD LOVE TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE TOWNSHIP AND REGION. IT HAS A LOT OF OPPORTUNITY AS A REGIONAL HUB!

Getting information

- The Reference Group invites attendees to visit Gove Futures website for further information or to submit any questions – govefutures.nt.gov.au
- The Reference Group will be hold another Community Update in late 2024 and welcomes community members and businesses to engage with live surveys in advance of the future community updates.

