



McArthur River Mine (MRM) is situated on the traditional lands of the Gurdanji, Binbinga and Yanyuwa people. Today, these lands continue to be important to these and other local traditional language groups including Garawa, Mara and Alyawa people.

MRM is an active member of the community and works closely with Traditional Owners to preserve the cultural heritage of the local Aboriginal people. We respect local customs and values and safeguard sacred sites within the footprint of our operations.

MRM's commitment to cultural heritage management is guided by Xstrata plc's Business Principles, which uphold and promote human rights within our areas of influence and respect the cultural heritage, customs and rights of communities.

The way in which we deliver on this commitment is articulated in our Cultural Recognition Policy. This policy provides a mandate for cross-cultural respect and awareness through which MRM has established valued relationships with local Aboriginal people and Traditional Owners. It also ensures our workforce understands the traditional rights and culture of Indigenous people and oversees a number of systems and processes to ensure sites of cultural significance, and matters of cultural interest, are identified and preserved.

MRM's policy to contribute to the social and economic development of the communities in which we operate also defines our commitment to working openly, closely and transparently with our stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of our operations.

Cultural Heritage Management

August 2011

17 sites of cultural significance

Extensive studies, including archaeological and ethnographic surveys, have been undertaken to identify and protect culturally significant sites within MRM's lease area. These studies have identified 17 sites of cultural significance that either have a direct link to dreamtime stories or are important to the history and culture of the local Aboriginal people.

These sites are registered with the Aboriginal Area Protection Authority. This statutory authority of the Northern Territory Government was established under complementary NT legislation in accordance with the *Commonwealth Land Rights Act 1976*. The AAPA has issued authority certificates for all of the mine's operational areas in accordance with the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*.



MRM takes its responsibility seriously for the care and protection of sacred sites or sites of significance located within its operations. These areas are fenced and sign posted, as shown in the image above.

CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

Management initiatives

MRM preserves and manages the identified sites in line with AAPA conditions. These call for:

- Entry to sacred sites to be prevented
- No works that will disturb the ground at sacred sites
- Prevention of damage to any vegetation at sacred sites other than for specified purposes
- No material to be stored or machinery parked near the sacred sites
- Protective fences and signage to be erected around sacred sites
- Aboriginal custodians of the sacred sites to be notified and provided with the opportunity to supervise any restoration works carried out on the site
- Access to the sites to be permitted for cultural purposes.

Clearing permits are required by any employee or contractor undertaking works which may disturb the ground or vegetation.

This requires workers to complete an 'Application and Authorisation for Proposed Land Clearance' form, which then requires approval from MRM's Community Relations, Environment and Survey Departments. As a further safeguard, sacred and significant sites are clearly signposted throughout the lease area.

Cultural awareness training

All staff at MRM have an important role to play in cultural heritage management. Cross Cultural Awareness Training is mandatory for all employees and contractors.

This specially designed course developed by the mine, in consultation with Gurdanji Traditional Owners, provides information on the history, beliefs, traditions, music and sacred sites, in addition providing cultural awareness of the other three language groups within the region. To ensure we provide the best possible training our course is delivered by a local Indigenous person from Borroloola. It also clearly outlines the expectations and responsibilities of all employees and contractors in managing cultural heritage, respecting and understanding cultural norms of their Indigenous workmates and their relationships within the local community.

As part of this program, MRM commissioned a DVD production which recorded three senior Gurdanji Traditional Owners telling stories of the 'Kudjiga' – the Dreamtime – for their country. This DVD is an intergal part within the training program.

Site access for cultural purposes

MRM understands that access to these sites is an important part of preserving the cultural heritage of the local Aboriginal people and we work closely with Traditional Owners to organise regular site visits.

As an operational mine, the health and safety of all employees and visitors is our highest priority. Therefore, anyone seeking access to the mine site for cultural purposes is asked to provide at least 48 hours notice of the visit to the MRM Community Relations department. That way, we can make sure it is safe to enter the area nominated or can make arrangements when necessary.

Cultural heritage management initiative	2010 results
Number of employees undertaking Cross Cultural Awareness Training	38
Number of incidents of disturbance of cultural heritage sites	0
Number of meetings with mine executive and Traditional Owners including site visits	8
Requests (and approvals) for access for cultural purposes	0
Sponsorships and donations supporting cultural heritage activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NAIDOC Week celebrations• Boonu Boonu Cultural Festival• Women's Business trip.	

BARRAMUNDI DREAMING

Barramundi Dreaming is one of the sacred sites located on the mine site. Its story is shared with all staff and contractors through our Cross Cultural Awareness Training so they better understand, and respect, the cultural and historical significance of the area to the local language groups.

This dreaming story about the Barramundi begins in a location known by its bush name as Kamkamka. In the story, the Barramundi travelled down to Damalani, Bibibi and Iligidini, before arriving at the place where he now rests.

The Barramundi held a ceremony on the site, and afterwards he said; "I've got a ceremony here, and I will stay here to protect it." So the Barramundi stayed, as did the ceremony.

When people visit the location they must sing and dance the Barramundi ceremony - they must follow that dreamtime story for the Barramundi.

Extract of the story told by Traditional Owner, Billy Coolibah, on Gurdanji cultural heritage DVD.

Contact Details

Xstrata Zinc Australia, GPO Box 1421 Brisbane, Queensland Australia 4001, Telephone: +61 7 3295 7588
McArthur River Mine, PO Box 36821 Winnellie, Northern Territory Australia 0821, Telephone: +61 8 8975 8149

Website

www.xstrata.com
www.mcarthurrivermine.com.au

For further information contact MRM on:

mrmprojeng@xstratazinc.com.au
Telephone: 1800 211 573