



Rainforest Action Group

Committed to the defence of rainforests worldwide

# HANCOCK PROSPECTING

**PROFITING FROM IRON ORE - FUELING CLIMATE CHANGE**



**REPORT:  
SPRING  
2019**



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# HANCOCK PROSPECTING GROUP (HPPL)

To understand Hancock Prospecting Group and Gina Rinehart it is necessary to look at their activities in two parts. Rinehart's wealth and influence was undeniably created by her father Lang Hancock, who between 1952-1992 generated massive profits through mining iron ore in Western Australia, set up in the early 1960's with international mining company, Rio Tinto. After Lang passed away, Gina then set about building a mining empire on top of Lang's initial legacy with her ruthless business tactics and acumen.

## DEALS WITH RIO TINTO

*For further information go to Rinehart Background information (p17)*

In 1962, the Hamersley Iron Ore royalty agreement was signed between Rio Tinto and Hanwright (Hanwright was owned by Lang Hancock and Peter Wright). It guaranteed Hancock and Wright 2.5% of royalty on every tonne of iron ore exported from the Hamersley Ranges. Rio Tinto would build the mines and railway from Mount Price to Dampier, a distance of over 330km. Hanwright would remain as an administration company. These deals fuelled the Hancock legacy and were the financial “backbone” that ensured HPPL's success after Lang passed away.



*Rio Tinto's Mt Tom Price Mine. Hancock Prospecting has received a 1.25% royalty of every ton of iron ore mined from this site since the 1966. The royalty deals also now apply to the Channer Mine and Brockman mines. In October 2015, the High Court ordered Rio Tinto to pay \$200m for royalties not paid from Channer mine (For more information see Channer Mine)*

# HANCOCK PROSPECTING (HPPL) SUMMARY

Gina Rinehart became Executive Chairman of Hancock Prospecting Group (HPPL) in 1992. Her prime focus at HPPL was the establishment of four iron ore mines at Hope Downs. Hope North (commenced operations in 2007), Hope South (in 2008) and Hope 4 mine (in 2013). Baby Hope Mine was opened in October 2018. (Rio Tinto Iron Ore is a 50% joint partner at Hope Downs).

Soon after Rinehart became Chair of HPPL, she applied for iron ore tenements at Roy Hill in Western Australia (after BHP let it go). In January 2012 HPPL formed a strategic partnership with South Korean steelmaker POSCO (15% stake) in the Roy Hill project. This was followed in April 2012 when Marubeni Corporation purchased a 12.5% stake and STX Corporation a 2.5% stake. The first shipments of ore left Roy Hill in December 2015.

HPPL also had plans for Alpha and Alpha West coal tenements in Queensland. Rinehart initially increased HPPL's holding in Kevin's Corner (coal tenement) in Queensland. A shipment of coal, the first from the Galilee Basin was exported in June 2011 and a joint partner found, GVK of India who purchased a 79% majority stake in Alpha and Alpha West and 100% ownership of Kevin's Corner for \$1.2 billion.

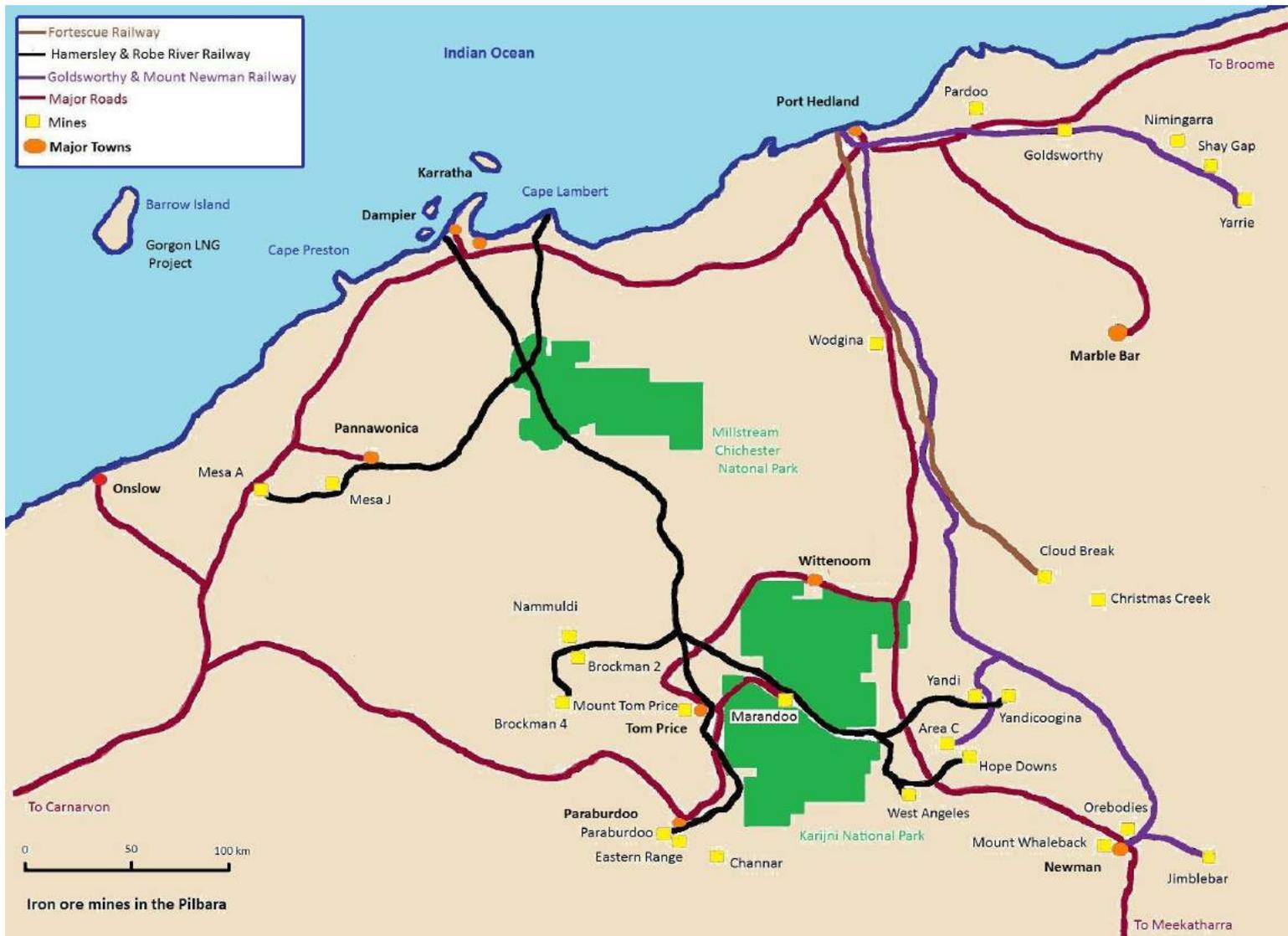
In 2007 HPPL managed the Jacaranda Joint Venture Alliance, which holds tenements across Australia in uranium, lead, zinc, gold, diamonds, molybdenum and petroleum). By 2012 HPPL increased its interests in further coal tenements in Queensland.

HPPL is 76.6% owned by Gina Rinehart with the remaining 23.4% owned by the Hope Margaret Trust. The Hope Margaret Trust was established by Lang Hancock in 1988. It has been mired in a series of legal disputes between members of the Rinehart family. HPPL owns iron ore leases across the Central Pilbara covering 500 square kilometres (850 million tonnes) and the Eastern Pilbara (2 billion tonnes), as well as a mysterious Manganese "mine" called Nicholas Downs which is a joint venture with Mineral Resources Limited. The company also receives a 1.25% royalty from iron ore from Rio Tinto subsidiary Hamersely Iron, in a deal set up by Lang Hancock in the early 1960's.

Since 2014 Hancock has begun diversifying into the cattle industry and in 2016 acquired 67% of the famous Australian pastoral company, S.Kidman and Co. Hancock Prospecting has also donated significant funds (between 30-50% of its entire revenue stream in 2016/17) to conservative think tank, the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA), where Gina Rinehart was made a life member in November 2016. Gina Rinehart also became a shareholder and board member of Channel 10 in 2010, until 2014 and was also a shareholder and board member of Fairfax media company between 2012 and 2015.

# CURRENT MINES/PROJECTS

## Iron ore mines and railways in Pilbara Region (Western Australia)



## HOPE DOWNS IRON ORE MINES (WA)

In December 1992 the WA State Government announced Iron Ore (Hope Downs) Agreement Bill. Hope Downs include a number of iron ore mines in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. They have been a major focus of Gina Rinehart, since she took over Hancock Prospecting (HPPL) in 1992 when exploration started.

In 1998 Hancock struck a deal with Iscor for a 51/49% split in the Hope Downs and then with South African company Kumba. However, in July 2005 Rinehart decided to develop Hope Downs as a \$1.5 billion joint venture in conjunction with Rio Tinto, who would build and operate the mines as well as construct the railway. After an outlay of \$1.3 billion Hope Downs 1 moved into production in November 2007. It has an annual production capacity of 25 million tonnes.

# HOPE DOWNS IRON ORE MINE

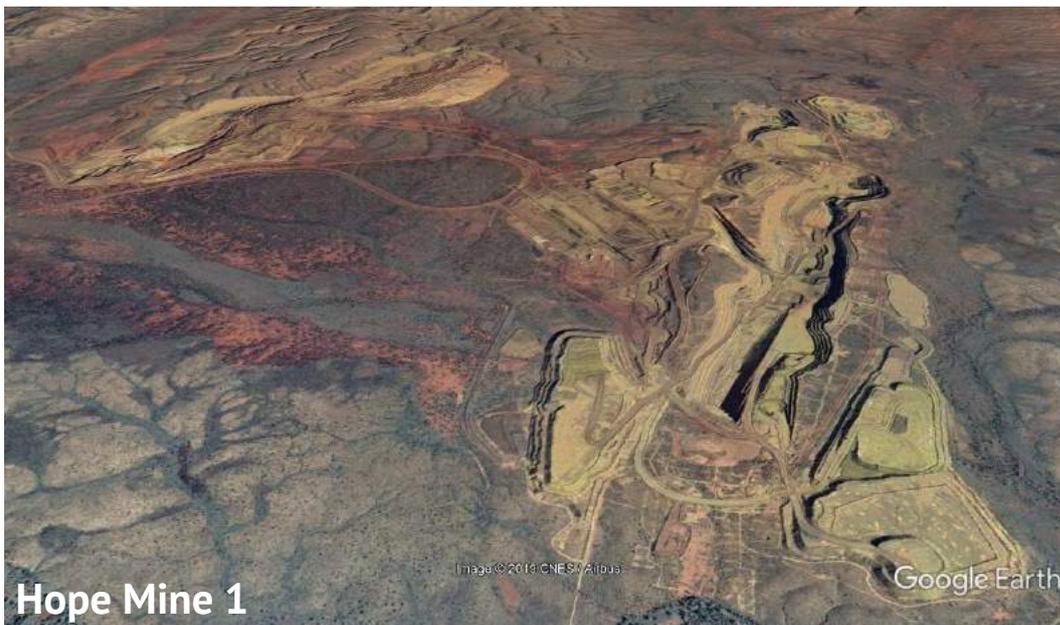
Following the success of Hope 1, work began on Hope South in 2008. Completed in 2009, the second stage further increased the capacity to 31.4Mtpa.

Hope South is located 5km south of Hope 1.

Hope Downs 4 had an initial capital cost of almost \$1.2bn (later 1.6bn), with Rio Tinto contributing \$425m for connecting the mine to existing rail, power and port infrastructure. Construction of Hope Downs 4 commenced in February 2011 and by the first half of 2013, production had started.

Construction on Hope Downs 4 commenced in February 2011 and production began in the first half of 2013. Hope 4 is located 35km south east of Hope North/South. There is also Hope Downs 2, 3, 5 and 6 prospects. In September 2012 Angela Bennett Wright Prospecting took HPPL to the Supreme Court of Western Australia. Wright accused Rinehart of a breach of trust for selling the Hope Downs property without Wright Prospecting's consent and breaches of fiduciary obligations. Peter Wright and Lang Hancock jointly discovered Hope Downs in the 1960's. Bennett and Wright Prospecting sought 50% of Hancock's stake in the Hope Downs 4, 5 and 6 tenements.

In April 2015 the dispute had widened with the heirs of Don Rhodes also requesting \$100m (a 1.25% royalty) over Hope Downs. In February 2016 HPPL won a Supreme Court hearing which binded Rio Tinto in liability for a portion of the damages if claimed against the Gina Rinehart-owned company by Wright Prospecting. In May 2018 the Wright/HPPL court battle resumed after private arbitration failed. The parties were back in court in January 2019. The Wrights were also in dispute with HPPL over the assets of Rhodes Ridge Iron Ore for a number of years. This dispute was resolved in 2013/14 with the Wrights taking HPPL's 25% share, meaning that Rhodes Ridge would be 50% owned by Rio Tinto and 50% Wright Prospecting.



The Baby Hope mine opened in October 2018. Located 4km southwest of Hope 1, the combined operation would produce 47 million tonnes of ore. In 2019, Hancock's 50/50 joint venture with Rio Tinto Hope Downs also continued to operate at capacity, producing more than 46 million tonnes for the year.

# ROY HILL IRON ORE MINE (WA)

The \$10bn Roy Hill Iron Ore mine is located 340 km south east of Port Hedland. It consists of a conventional open pit, bulk mining operation from multiple production benches. It has a 55Mtpa wet processing plant, a 344km heavy haul, single line railway. It also has a two berth iron ore port facility at Port Hedland. The first shipment of ore from Roy Hill was exported on the 10th of December 2015.

Exploration licences for the mine were first approved in 1993. In 2010 HPPL was joined by POSCO (15%), Marubeni Corporation (12.5%) and STX Corporation (2.5%) for a 30% equity in the project. China Steel Corporation then purchased 2.5% of Posco's shares and in July 2012 Marubeni purchased STX's share.

**2013 February:** In 2012 Gina Rinehart courted some controversy, claiming that due to a shortage of workers, imported labour may have to be used at the mine. This raised the hackles of the union movement and in February 2013 HPPL claimed that the mine could be built using Australian workers.

**2013 December:** Local pastoralists resist offers from HPPL to buy them out. They were particularly concerned about 80km of powerlines required for the mine that would have to be constructed through their property. The powerline would be built by Alinta Energy.

**2015 December:** Roy Hill's first shipment of ore leaves Port Hedland for POSCO in Korea. 90% of the ore is already set in long term contracts, leaving little for the spot market.

**2017 October:** Roy Hill iron ore mine shores up its mining leases after Andrew Forrest's High Court victory over mining on Minderoo pastoral station. The High Court found the applications did not meet the requirements of the West Australian Mining Act because a document that needed to be submitted with the applications, a mineralisation report, was not filed at the same time but two months later. The decision created immediate uncertainty for other mining companies operating in the state, where about 10 to 15 per cent of the mining leases granted since 2006 were found to have the same "flaw".



**Over the year 2019,** Roy Hill reached 55 million tonnes of production for the year, its maximum capacity. The project has been approved to expand its production to 60 million tonnes per annum.

# ALPHA COAL PROJECT & KEVIN'S CORNER COAL PROJECT (QUEENSLAND)

*“Talk of coal development in the area is not new. With one of the first Galilee Basin exploration licences under his belt, the late Lang Hancock eagerly pursued potential Swedish buyers in the late 1970s and a decade later tried to secure a deal with Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu”.*

The Alpha coal project is a thermal coal deposit within the Galilee Basin in Central Queensland. It is a planned 32 million tonne per annum open cut coal mine with an expected mine life of 30 years. The proposed mine will consist of 6 open cuts 4 x 4 km in area, stretching over 24km. A bulk coal sample pit was completed in November 2010, however Alpha Coal and Kevins Corner projects appear to have stagnated since that time due possibly to the poor market for thermal coal and have not been constructed as yet.



Combined with Kevin's Corner the combined resource is 7.9 billion tonnes of thermal coal. Kevin's Corner (estimated resource 4.2 billion tonnes) is another thermal coal deposit located immediately to the north and adjacent to the Alpha Coal Project. Kevin's Corner is owned by Hancock Galilee Pty Ltd (HGPL), which since 2011, is a wholly owned subsidiary of the GVK Group. The Alpha Coal West Project is a thermal coal deposit located west of the Alpha Coal Project. It has an estimated resource of 1.8 billion tonnes.

# ALPHA COAL PROJECT & KEVIN'S CORNER COAL PROJECT

Rail and port facilities for Alpha and Kevin's Corner were being developed by Hancock Coal Infrastructure Pty Ltd ("HCIPL"). The proposed port planned to use the existing Abbot Point coal port. In March 2013 it was announced that Aurizon and GVK would progress the development of rail by acquiring HCIPL. HCIPL had received both State and Federal EIS approval for the 500km rail corridor. North Queensland Bulk Ports were nominated by HCIPL as the preferred developer of the proposed Terminal 3 at Abbot Point. The project and associated dredging gained approval by the Commonwealth Government on 4th October 2012.

Interestingly, in October 2010, Adani Group Executive Gautam Adani, ruled out investing in HPPL's Queensland coal assets, but was interested in sharing rail links from the Galilee Basin to Abbot Point.

Objectors to the mine included graziers who were concerned about impacts on groundwater. A number of environment groups also opposed the mine including Coast and Country Association of Queensland Inc who also objected about the mine's contribution to climate change. Objections were heard in the Land Court of Queensland in 2013 who recommended that the applications for the mine be refused or that impacts on groundwater impacts be further assessed.

CCAQ challenged the validity of the decision as the decision did not include impacts of climate change. CCAQ also challenged the Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage. The Supreme Court dismissed the application in September 2015. CCAQ appealed this decision in relation to greenhouse gas emissions and that appeal was also dismissed. CCAQ then appealed the decision in the High Court and in April 2017 the High Court dismissed the application.

Controversy has also followed the project, most notably when Gina Rinehart flew coalition MP's including the deputy leader Julie Bishop and National Leaders Barnaby Joyce to the 3 day wedding of the owner of GVK, GV Krishna's, grand daughter's wedding in Hyderabad, India in June 2011. Three months after the wedding, GV Krishna paid Hancock Prospecting, \$1.3 billion for Alpha, Kevin's Corner and Alpha West.

When Barnaby Joyce decided to run against Tony Windsor for the seat of New England in 2013, Gina Rinehart contributed \$50,000 directly to his campaign (though some reports had the contribution at \$700,000.)

# ALPHA COAL PROJECT & KEVIN'S CORNER COAL PROJECT



*Gina Rinehart and Barnaby Joyce at wedding in Hyderabad June 2011*

Rinehart also personally handed Joyce a cheque for \$40,000 at an Agricultural dinner in November 2017 in Canberra, again causing some embarrassment for the Leader of the National Party.

**April 2019:** Reports suggest that Barnaby Joyce lobbied for a phone tower on land owned by Gina Rinehart in Kingston northern NSW (Sundown Valley Pastoral Company). Reception from the tower is rumoured to be very poor.

**June 2019:** GVK Singapore, the dominant partner in the Kevin's Corner, Alpha and Alpha West projects, was effectively "bankrupt" with more than \$US1 billion debt and no revenue or equity. Gina Rinehart, who is owed \$US750 million by GVK, could bankroll Galilee Coal if the new Adani mine goes ahead.



# HPPL IN ECUADOR

- *Hanrine Investments Pty Ltd was incorporated in 2010 and is based in West Perth, Australia. Hanrine Investments Pty Ltd operates as a subsidiary of Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd*
- *Hanrine Ecuadorian Exploration and Mining SA (HEEM) are the HPPL subsidiary operating in Ecuador*

**Sep 5 2016:** Representatives from Hancock Prospecting visit Ecuador. Agreement between Hancock and Enami (National Mining Company of Ecuador).

**Nov 8 2016:** Reports in Melbourne that Hancock have held talks with Ecuadorian Government about making investments and mining exploration. Hancock reported to have visited Ecuador 4 times in past year.

**July 25 2017:** Hancock sets up offices in Ecuador - admits renting an office in Ecuador (Oct 2017)

**October 2017:** President of the Republic, Lenin Moreno, ordered, in December 2017, that no more mining concessions be delivered. But Deputy Minister Troya explained that the adjudication some concessions, such as those near the town of Buenos Aires took place in October of 2017 and in January of 2018, the administrative process of registration in the mining registry was carried out.

**November/December 2017:** Authorities in Imbabura working on the initial stages of building a road to the parish of Buenos Aires uncover a gold vein that experts say could be one of the continent's largest. Within 24 hours 700 people descended on the area.

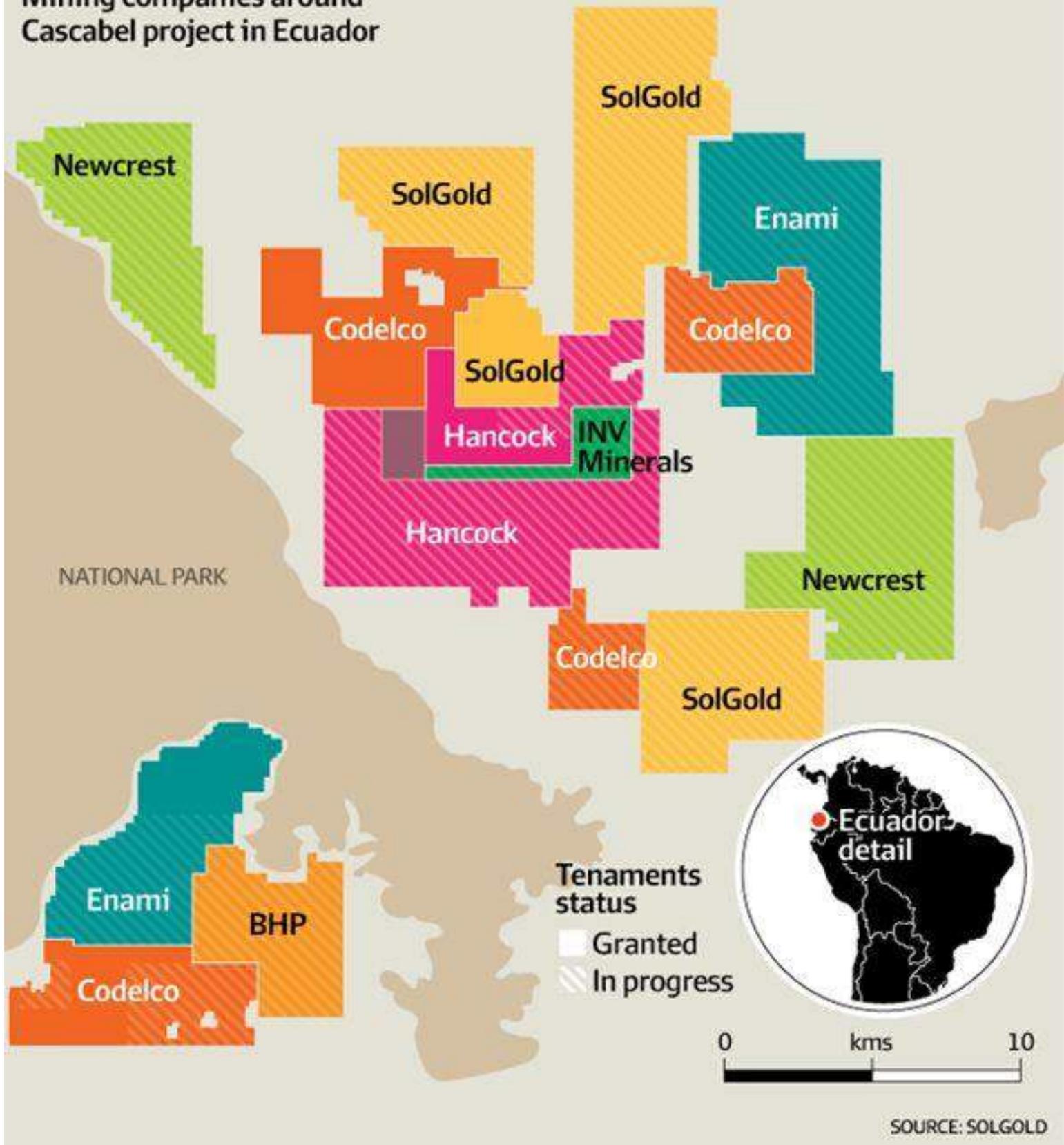
**December 2017:** As many as 12,000 Illegal miners enter Buenos Aires Parish mostly inside the new HEEM concession. Ecuadorian Government creates a Council headed by the Ecuadorian Ministry of the Interior with representatives of the Defence, Mining and Environment portfolios, as well as the Prosecutor's Office, the Mining Regulation and Control Agency, and the Police, to deal with problem.

**January 28 2018:** Venezuelans, Peruvians, Colombians and Ecuadorians are reported to have come to the community known as El Triunfo to illegally mine. Miguel Tirira, president of the Parish Council of Buenos Aires, explained that he never thought that a mine of this type existed in his parish, "*Some people published everything they had found on the internet and people started to arrive, not only from Imbabura, but from Esmeraldas, Carchi, Venezuela, Colombia, Zaruma, Machala, Intag ... they are everywhere,*" he said.

Organised crime is also rumoured to be involved.

## Everybody needs good neighbours

Mining companies around Cascabel project in Ecuador



# HPPL IN ECUADOR

**Jan 30 2018:** Ecuadorian Television picks up El Triunfo issue (See Youtube: 'Oro en Imbabura')

**February 2 2018:** Confiscation, by police and military of about 55 tons of mining material from the Buenos Aires parish of Urcuquí canton. People detained.

**March 5 2018:** Hundreds of people request the release of detainees for transporting mining material, in Imbabura. About 500 people, gold prospectors, arrived from the Buenos Aires parish, Urcuquí canton, to demand the legalization of their activity and the release of their comrades.

**March 26 2018:** Hundreds of miners march in Quito (photo below). The miners demand the President of the Republic, grant the pardon to more than 56 miners who are being detained in the province of Imbabura and which they say add up to 100 people prosecuted for this case of illegal mining.



**April 2018:** First death reported at mine site and 5 members of local police charged with taking bribes from miners.

**June 12 2018:** 400 people demonstrate La Concepcion against illegal miners moving minerals to San Lorenzo

**June 19 2018:** Buenos Aires residents demand eviction of miners, *"The settlers say that from their arrival they are victims of micro-trafficking of narcotics, illegal prostitution and other crimes"* Buenos Aires population went from 1500 to 4000.

The anger of residents, for the death of a 14 yr old child, led them to burn down a clandestine brothel.

**June 26 2018:** First sentences imposed for illegal mining activity in Imbabura

**August 24 2018:** Proposal to form the National Union of miners in Ecuador at El Triunfo. Proposal to regularize mining and approach made to the President for acceptance. Miners want Hanrine to consider a distribution of 300 hectares in each of the five mining blocks located in the north of the country, including El Triunfo, and that the activity be recognized as small mining

**September 17 2018:** Vicente Cayambe, national leader of ECUAMINEROS, proposes mediation. First meeting of organisation of informal miners.

**September 18 2018:** A total of 300 miners from Buenos Aires reported to have been arrested.

**September 27 2018:** The assemblyman for Imbabura, Marcelo Simbaña, formalized a complaint before the General Comptroller of the State about alleged inconsistencies in the mining concession to the company Hanrine Ecuadorian Exploration.

**October 24 2018:** The company Imbabura Carchi Esmeraldas (I.C.E.) also has a proposal regarding illegal miners stationed in Buenos Aires. ICE want miners to sign an agreement with their company and not Ecuamineros. Tensions emerge between ICE and Ecuamineros. ICE claim that they are dealing with Hanrine.

**November 10 2018:** In order to work legally in the El Triunfo mine in Buenos Aires (Urucuquí), the ICE company (Imbabura, Carchi and Esmeraldas) seek to sign an agreement with Hanrine, an Australian company that has concessioned the area...According to Reyes, the partners of the company have been working on this proposal since last year. The manager explained that they have already presented this project to the Hanrine company.

**December 7 2018:** Body of Colombian miner, Luis Enrique Criollo, found in mine shaft. Missing since November 21.

**December 13 2018:** At least 200 soldiers advanced to the town of Buenos Aires. Jan 19 2019: 22 people arrested for illegal mining in Imbabura, 350 police conduct raids. February 12 2019: Revelations that profits of up to \$500,000 per month are generated illegally from Buenos Aires mines. Organised crime and ex FARC members from Colombia involved. Rocks are transported 800km to the Southern Province of El Oro. The military made an effort to bring the area under control in December, but the miners are well armed and control a large amount of territory.

# HPPL IN ECUADOR

**February 18 2019:** Reports that two rival mafia groups are battling for control of the illegal mines on Hanrine land.

**April 1 2019:** More reports suggesting that armed men now patrol the town of Buenos Aires, located near the illegal mines. Local residents are scared.

**April 9 2019:** 200 military officers enter Buenos Aires.

**April 10 2019:** Hanrine request, through the ARCOM (Ecuadorian Government Mining Dept), to intervene, evict illegal miners and seize their machinery and material and, in addition, it is requested, within a maximum period of 5 days, to prepare a report on the matter.



**El Triunfo in the heart of the HEEM concession in northern Ecuador**

**May 27 2019:** Buenos Aires residents blockade main road going to illegal mines after locals are shot at.  
**June 23 2019:** Armed confrontation between illegal miners with some people killed and at least 19 injured. The confrontation is for control of illegal mines.

**June 29 2019:** Some illegal miners in Buenos Aires constitute a company and ask for a concession for an area of exploitation. A company is formed called Minbuenarsa

**July 1 2019:** President Moreno decreed the State of Exception in Buenos Aires, Imbabura, for illegal mining; he says that there are crimes, labor and sexual exploitation. The President also decided to mobilize public institutions, especially the Armed Forces, Police, Ministry of Energy and Non-Renewable Natural Resources and the Mining Regulation and Control Agency to carry out actions and to *"control the situation of insecurity and violence, restore order and guarantee the rights"* of the inhabitants.

**July 2 2019:** A total of 1,200 police officers and 1,500 soldiers accompanied by at least 20 prosecutors enter the La Merced parish of Buenos Aires.

# HPPL IN ECUADOR

**July 5 2019:** Minbuenarsa meet with 31 organisations to discuss further discuss agreement with Hanrine over access to a portion of Hanrine's concession.

**July 7 2019:** 5000 people evicted from the concession. Reports also suggest that 70% of the gold from the concession was processed in Colombia, Venezuela and Peru.

**July 30 2019:** Minbuenar claim that they have a verbal agreement that stipulates the delivery of 300 hectares or part of the 4,800ha Rinehart concessions.

**August 6 2019:** The government of Lenín Moreno announces that with the area in emergency and the uniformed controlling the parish of Buenos Aires, where the Imba-2 concession is located, illegal mining has stopped.

**August 7 2019:** Dozens of police officers were arrested on charges of receiving bribes from those in charge of illegal mining.



*Ecuadorian troops enter Imba 2 concession, controlled by Hancock Prospecting July 2019*

# RINEHART BACKGROUND

Gina Rinehart is considered to be Australia's wealthiest person.

In April 2012 when iron ore was worth \$US157 a tonne, her wealth was estimated at \$28bn. Gina, is the daughter of Lang Hancock and was born in February 1954. Lang is an extremely controversial figure. His main claim to fame was the discovery of iron ore, which he first observed when flying an aeroplane, in the Hamersley Ranges in Western Australia in November 1952.

He was also caught being overtly racist on many occasions, one on Today Tonight (5/10/81)... saying that, *'All the 'half castes' should be enticed to Karratha by sending their pay cheques there. The water would then be poisoned so that they would become sterile and breed themselves out'*

Prior to the Hamersley discovery, Lang was also involved in the mining of asbestos at Wittenoom. Lang discovered asbestos in Wittenoom Gorge in the 1930's. Production at Wittenoom mine commenced in 1946. CSR took over the Wittenoom Mine in 1948. Between the 1950's and 1960's Wittenoom was Australia's only supplier of asbestos and produced 161,000 tonnes between 1943 and 1966.

In 1978 the Western Australian Government decided to phase down activity at the nearby town of Wittenoom, due to contamination concerns. Asbestos causes the incurable lung disease Asbestosis.

*"The blue-asbestos mine that Hancock ran in the nineteen-thirties and forties at Wittenoom is thought to have caused hundreds of asbestos-related deaths, many of them among its largely Aboriginal workforce, but Hancock never accepted the medical connection, let alone responsibility."*  
(The New Yorker March 25 2013)



***Mine Tailings Wittenoom Gorge. In 2008, a "Wittenoom Asbestos Contaminated Area" of almost 470 square kilometres was declared and listed by the WA Health Department as "not suitable for any form of human occupation or land use". It borders Mulga Downs station to the north and Karijini National Park to the west, south and east. The Youngaleena Banjima Aboriginal community lies 15 kilometres east.***

# RINEHART BACKGROUND

In early 1953 Lang and his business partner, Peter Wright, revisited the Hamersley Ranges and found the largest iron ore deposit in the world, containing an estimated one billion tonnes. Lang then had to work at obtaining pegging rights and to lobby the state and federal Government's to remove iron ore embargoes, which were eventually done December 1960.

Hancock Prospecting was created in 1955. When Gina was the born, the structure of the company was 33.3% Lang, 33.3% Hope (Lang's wife) and 33.3% Gina. Lang also had a life governor share which left him with ultimate decision making in the company.

In late 1961, the Chairman of Rio Tinto, Val Duncan was invited to the Pilbara. Hancock was to be granted title over the ore areas by the state Government if he built a steel mill in the Pilbara. Duncan agreed to build the mill and the State Government granted Hancock pegging rights. The mill was never built.

In 1962, the Hamersley Iron Ore royalty agreement was signed between Rio Tinto and Hanwright, (Lang Hancock and Peter Wright). It guaranteed Hancock and Wright 2.5% of royalty on every tonne of iron ore exported from the Hamersely Ranges. Rio Tinto would build the mines and railway from Mount Price to Dampier, a distance of over 330km. Hanwright would remain as an administration company.

By 1972, the structure of Hancock Prospecting was changed by the creation of the Hancock Family Memorial Fund, which was established as a charitable foundation, which meant that the fund could receive dividends without incurring tax.

By the mid 1970's Gina was taking an active role in the company. Gina married John Hayward in 1975 and were separated in June 1978. Two children were born during the marriage, John and Bianca. The couple officially divorced in March 1981.

In January 1983 Gina married Frank Rinehart, a New York oil company consultant. They had two children: Hope, born in 1985 and Ginia, born in 1986.

**“Both Lang and Gina supported use of nuclear bombs for mining, to create dams and excavate harbours. In the late 1960's Lang and Wright lobbied the government to set off an underground nuclear bomb 12 km outside of Wittenoom to mine resources.”**

*SEE VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWY1SMvcz5E>*

*"Lang Hancock asked a young Gina Rinehart to explain the use of thermonuclear ex"*

# RINEHART BACKGROUND

Shortly after Gina's mother Hope died in April 1983, Rose Lacson was employed as a housekeeper for Lang. Lang fell in love with Rose. This relationship caused many problems and soured the family relationship between Lang and Gina. Lang dismissed Gina from Hancock Prospecting in late 1984 (Gina however remained on the board). Lang married Rose in July 1985. Gina was removed from the Board in November 1985 and replaced with Rose. A truce of kinds, between Lang and Gina was signed in 1988 with the creation of two Trusts which in essence meant that Gina and family would be beneficiaries on his death and receive royalties from mining royalties. Rose would be looked after by a separate fund, although problems remained with her excessive spending.

Lang also fell out with his long term business partner Peter Wright and they eventually split their assets including the iron ore deposits in the Pilbara and coal assets in Queensland. Wright died in September 1985, leaving Lang as the managing partner. This led to increasing acrimony between Lang and the Wright family. A legal case was started by the Wrights in 2001 for iron ore at a deposit called Rhodes Ridge. The case was eventually decided in 2008 with the Wrights succeeding in getting access to 50% of royalties worth ~\$1bn.

In the late 1980's Lang headed a trade delegation to Romania, then under the rule of dictator Nicolae Ceausecu, to discuss a \$1.3b deal exchanging iron ore for Romanian made railway stock. The deal fell through however, due to the execution of Ceausecu in 1989.



***Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu. Nicolae was the General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party from 1965 to 1989. Both Husband and Wife were found guilty of genocide and shot.***

Frank Rinehart died in March 1990. Gina joined the Hancock Prospecting Board in early 1992. More legal controversy ensued before and after Lang's death in March 1992. Gina removed Rose from the board of Hancock Prospecting in April 1992 then followed up with a case over lost assets. Rose then countersued. Rose married Willie Porteous in August 1992. Gina also embarked on a campaign to get an inquiry into Lang's death, which she believed was caused by poisoning.

# RINEHART BACKGROUND

In **December 1998**, WA's Coroner decided to hold an inquest. The Coroner found in April 2002 that Lang had died of natural causes, however controversy dogged the inquiry.

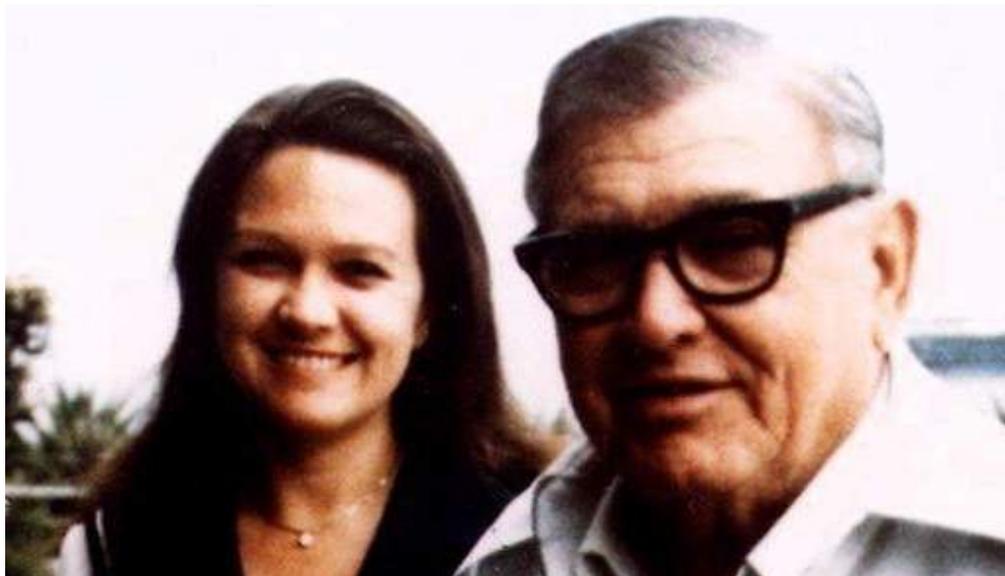
Attorney General McGinty wrote: *“what occurred brought the legal proceedings into disrepute, stained the reputations of many people and damaged private confidence in the justice system.... I have grave reservations about the propriety of the actions of everyone involved in those payments – Gina Reinhart, Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd, lawyers, private investigators and witnesses”*.

In **2012** McGinty added *“the greatest abuse of taxpayer's money for private purposes' that has ever been seen in the history of the judicial system.”*

In **September 2003** Gina and Rose signed a peace deal. Gina retained the iron ore royalties and the business side of the estate, whilst Rose held onto about \$50 million worth of assets, including the recently constructed mansion Prix d'Amour, which later was bulldozed and the land sold off.

Relationships between Gina and her children remained “delicate”. In **2005** John sued his mother and in **2011** all of the children, except Gina took legal action against the Hope Margaret Trust and wanting to remove Gina as the Trustee. By **2018** all four children were listed by Forbes Magazine as being billionaires.

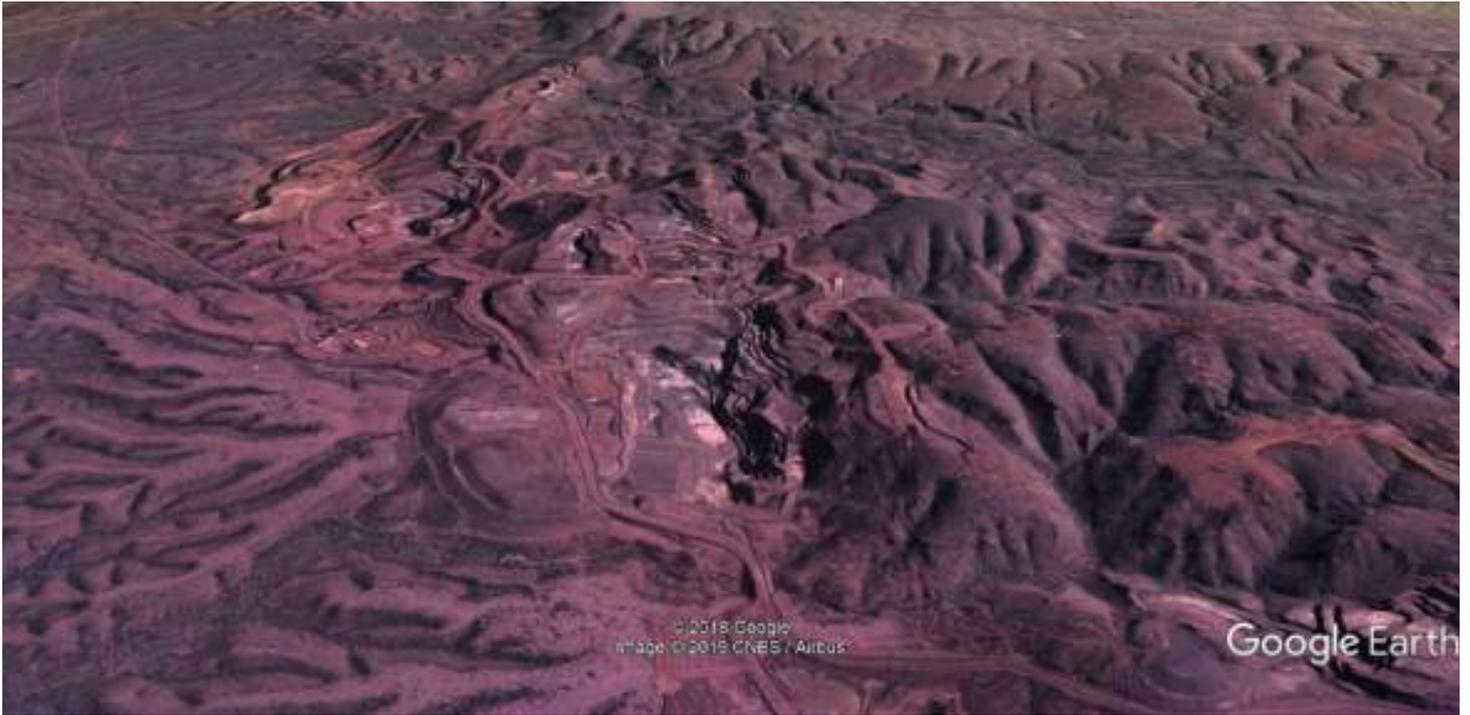
**September 2009**: HPPL and Wright Prospecting take legal action in the NSW Supreme Court against Rio Tinto. The case was to determine whether HPPL and Wright Prospecting were entitled to payments of \$136 million from a 1970 deal which allowed Rio Tinto to create the Channar and Eastern Range Mines. They argue Rio owes them royalties dating back more than 20 years to an agreement struck on May 5, 1970 by Lang Hancock and Peter Wright. Channar started production in 1970 and the Eastern Range mine started in 2004.



The NSW Supreme Court ruled in the favour of Wright and Hancock in 2013, but that decision was partially overruled by the NSW Court of Appeal in 2014. The High Court ruled in favour of HPPL and Wright in October 2015 with Rio Tinto ordered to pay \$200 million

*Photo: Gina Reinhart with father, Lang Hancock*

# RINEHART BACKGROUND



*Channar Mine located 17km SE of Paraburdoo in Western Australia*

In **2010**, Rinehart led “axe the tax” chants at a rally to oppose government plans to introduce a “carbon tax”.

In late **2011** the Australian Securities and Investment Commission denied a request from HPPL to be exempt from lodging financial reports. HPPL appealed the decision in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. It was suggested that part of the reason for wanting to be exempt was to keep her business affairs secret.

In **April 2014** three Rinehart companies: HPPL, Hancock Minerals Pty Ltd and Hope Downs Iron Ore Pty Ltd appeared in the Perth Magistrates Court for failure to lodge annual reports on time. All companies were convicted and fined in August 2015 for these breaches and fined \$10,000 for each of the 13 breaches, equalling \$130,000.

**May 2012:** Billionaire and property developer Stan Perron (SP Investments) settled a legal battle over Pilbara iron ore royalties, with billionaires Gina Rinehart (HPPL) and Angela Bennett (Wright Prospecting). Perron claimed that due to a 500 pound investment that he made in 1964 entitled him to 15% from mines located in the Tom Price region of WA. These mines included Tom Price and Brockman and the royalties that will be paid to Perron could amount to ~\$4 million/year.

# RINEHART BACKGROUND

**October 2013:** The “Entitlements Fiasco” highlighted how Rinehart paid for the travel and hospitality expenses of senior Coalition figures including acting Prime Minister Warren Truss and Immigration Minister Scott Morrison, Bronwyn Bishop, Michaelia Cash. Frontbencher Bob Baldwin was to flown to visit one of her mines and she donated \$50,000 to Barnaby Joyce’s election campaign. Minister Gambaro and Warren Truss were flown to Queensland to see the first shipment of coal exported from the Alpha Project.

In **2015** Channel 9 aired ‘House of Hancock’ a mini-series about the Hancock Family which also ended up in legal disputes.

**November 2018** Accounts lodged with the corporate regulator on Wednesday show profit for Mrs Rinehart’s Hancock Prospecting Group was \$1.37 billion for the year to June 30 up from \$1.07 billion the previous year. HPPL paid \$860 million in tax.

**2019 March:** Rinehart loses bid to dismiss court orders to produce court documents relating to \$4 billion family trust. **2019 May:** High Court rules that the dispute between Rinehart and two of her children can be heard in private.

# CLIMATE CHANGE DENIAL

In **2010**, Rinehart co-sponsored the Australian speaking tour of Lord Monkton and offered a member of her staff to co-ordinate the Perth leg of the tour. In 2011, Rinehart invited Lord Monckton back to deliver a lecture at the beginning of another Australia-wide speaking tour.

**January 2012:** Climate change skeptic Ian Plimer was appointed to boards of Roy Hill Holdings and Queensland Coal Investments on January 25. Professor Plimer is an experienced mining geologist and a professor of mining geology at the University of Adelaide, as well as being on the boards of a couple of mining companies. Plimer first came to the attention of climate change campaigns in 2009 with the release of his controversial book ‘Heaven and Earth’. Plimer is also listed as a member of Australians for Northern Development and Economic Vision (ANDEV), which has taken strong positions on corporate taxation and climate change initiatives.

**February 2012:** Ian Plimer appointed to Board of Hope Downs Iron Ore (HDIO) Pty Ltd. In January 2013 Plimer was also appointed as a non-executive director of Lakes Oil, exploring for gas and oil in Victoria.

Rinehart has dismissed the problem of climate change and the scientific expertise of climate change experts. It was also clear in 2012 that her media purchases into Channel 10 and Fairfax would also be used as a vehicle to promote the views of climate change deniers (eg “Andrew” Bolt Report).

# RINEHART BACKGROUND

In June 2012 ABC's 4 Corners interviewed Gina Rinehart on a variety of issues including climate change. The climate change discussion was not aired but a response to 4 Corners from a company spokesperson follows:

*"To lessen the fear the media have caused over these issues, Mrs Rinehart suggests that the media should also permit to be published that climate change has been occurring naturally since the earth began, not just the views of the climate extremists. It is a fact that there have been ice ages, then periods of global warming to end the ice ages, for thousands of years, and these have occurred naturally, including due to the earth's orbit, and not due to mankind at all.*

*Mrs Rinehart points out that some people received notoriety claiming only a few decades ago that the earth was about to enter an ice age and understands some of those same people are now claiming, global warming instead. Mrs Rinehart admires people like Ian Plimer who have independently chosen on their own accord to stand up against this tidal wave, which has caused fear, and despite substantial attacks by some of the media and extremists for so doing. It is noted Professor Plimer had his own views on climate change long before he knew Mrs Rinehart and had given many such informative speaking tours prior to meeting Mrs Rinehart."*



Rinehart is also a major funder of the leading climate change institution in Australia, the Institute of Public Affairs donating \$2.3 million to the IPA in 2016 and \$2.2 million in 2017. The IPA's 2017 Annual Report declared \$6.1 million of income but said that "86 percent" had come from individuals. HPPL's \$2.2 million donation constituted more than a third of the IPA's income that year.

# RINEHART BACKGROUND

In 2016, the IPA reported that 91 percent of donations were from individuals, but that year HPPL's \$2.3 million donation constituted almost half the IPA's income of \$4.96 million that year. The IPA has long pushed climate science denialism – publishing books and sponsoring speaking tours of prominent climate science deniers.

*She wrote, in one of her columns, "I am yet to hear scientific evidence to satisfy me that if the very, very small amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere (approximately 0.83 per cent) was increased, it could lead to significant global warming. I have never met a geologist or leading scientist who believes adding more carbon dioxide to the atmosphere will have any significant effect on climate change."*

She didn't mention which leading scientists she had met, but she has helped host a series of speaking tours by Christopher Monckton, a British hereditary peer and professional climate-change denier. Monckton, in a meeting at a Rinehart-backed free-market think tank in Perth, was filmed advising the group on media strategy: *"Is there an Australian version of Fox News? No. . . . Frankly, whatever you do at street level—which is what you are talking about here—is not going to have much of an impact compared with capturing an entire news media."*

The New Yorker -- The Miners Daughter (March 25 / 2013)

## CLIMATE IMPACTS OF MINING IRON ORE AND THE STEEL INDUSTRY

In **2002**, China was the first country in the world to exceed producing 200 million tonnes of steel. Growth has continued unabated. The iron and steel industry consumes vast amounts of energy.

In **2013** CO2 emissions from the Chinese iron and steel industry accounted for approximately 12% of all of China's CO2 emissions. (By 2018 that amount had increased to 16%). China accounted for almost 30% of Global emissions during that year, meaning that the iron and steel industry in China could possibly account for between 3 to 4% of Global CO2 emissions that year.

Much of the iron ore feeding this rapacious demand was sourced from Australia. Australia supplies approximately 40% of the world's iron ore. The use of coke and coal produces the largest carbon emissions, which accounts for 99.1 % in the iron and steel industry.

The carbon emissions generated by coke accounted for 60%, and the carbon emissions generated by coal accounted for 39.1%

20% of China's thermal coal comes from Australia.

# CLIMATE IMPACTS OF MINING IRON ORE AND THE STEEL INDUSTRY

**2019 February:** Rio Tinto publish 'Our approach to climate change', Rio Tinto says it will take action in four areas: supply essential metals and minerals for the transition to a low-carbon economy; reduce emissions from its own footprint; identify and assess physical risk exposures; and partner to advance climate goals. The report acknowledged its iron ore price might become less attractive due to the energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) intensive steel-making process. While there is scope to significantly decarbonise its iron ore mining operations to maintain cost-competitiveness, there is large uncertainty around how the steel production sector will do so in the long run, the report stated.

**2019 March:** Activist investors put WA's lucrative iron ore industry on notice, demanding the State's big miners take responsibility for the emissions generated when their product is turned into steel. Friends of the Earth-backed group Market Forces begins a shareholder campaign against WA's biggest iron ore miner, Rio Tinto, for failing to set targets for greenhouse gas emissions "including those downstream from iron ore production".

**2019 March:** Producing a single metric tonne of steel in a blast furnace typically releases around 2.3 tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, not much less than you'd get from burning a tonne of thermal coal for energy.

**2019 July:** BHP Group's CEO states miners need to tackle their role in global warming through the products they sell. BHP's business includes digging up iron ore in Australia which is converted to steel, an energy-intensive process that accounts for about 7% to 9% of all man-made carbon emissions.



*Chinese coal mine at Anshan, Liaoning Province*

# BUSINESS/PROJECT SUMMARIES

## Atlas Iron/Redstone

In **August 2018**, Rinehart's company Redstone announced that it had a 56% stake in Atlas Iron, by October 2018 this stake had increased to 90% in the junior miner and would compulsory acquire full control.

Fortescue Metals Group\*\* had also been in the race to take control of Atlas and the two companies were in an acrimonious battle for the company since June 2018, with FMG claiming that Redstone had made misleading statements and material omissions and lodged a complaint with the Takeover Tribunal. In April 2018, Mineral Resources had initiated a \$280m takeover bid for Atlas, as Atlas was vulnerable to takeover due to the low prices of iron ore prices.

**2019 June:** Development of iron ore project 33km south of Marble Bar rumoured to be starting. Hancock Prospecting recently applied to the EPA for Corunna Downs iron ore project. Ore would be trucked to Port Hedland. One of Atlas's projects is the Mt Webber mine which is not expected run past 2022.

In **2019**, Atlas Iron positively impacted Hancock's results in its first year as part of the group, contributing \$144 million to the company's net profit after tax.

*\*\*This is not the first time that Rinehart and FMG have found themselves in opposition. She had previously tried to block five key mining leases at FMG's proposed Cloudbreak mine, which lies on her Mulga Downs pastoral station. She lobbied state and federal govt to protect land at Mulga Downs for conservation purposes.*



***Atlas Iron's Abydos Mine, 65km west of Marble Bar in Western Australia.***

***Abydos Mine has production rate of 3 million tonnes of iron ore per year.***

***The other Atlas Iron mine is located at Mt Webber and has a production of 9 million tonnes a year.***

# BUSINESS/PROJECT SUMMARIES

## **Carabella Resources/Timeview Resources**

2011 September: Timeview Resources (a 100% owned subsidiary of HPPL) buys 917,434 shares in Carabella Resources. Carabella Resources holds a number of coal exploration interests in Queensland, covering a total exploration area of approximately 4,404km<sup>2</sup> in the Bowen, Mulgildie, Clarence-Moreton and Adavale Basins in Queensland. In October 2012 Carabella announced the creation of a new coal mine 'Grosvenor West' located west of Moranbah. The company planned to export the coal via Abbot Point.

In December 2013, Carabella was then threatened with a takeover by Wealth Mining, a subsidiary of China Kingho Energy Group.

## **Catalyst Minerals (operating in Victoria)**

HPPL spend \$4.2 million between 2016-18, gaining a 50% in the Four Eagles joint gold project between Bendigo and Cohuna , led by Catalyst Minerals

2019 March: Rinehart buys 11% direct stake in Catalyst Minerals, one week after Catalyst announced it had found gold at 1380 grams/tonne.Four Eagles is a joint venture with Catalyst's wholly subsidiary Kite Gold.

## **Clover Cattle Co Pty Ltd**

2008: Proposal to clear 2425ha of native vegetation in good condition, Eremophila longifolia and seed to native pasture.



# BUSINESS/PROJECT SUMMARIES

## Jacaranda Alliance 2007

Jacaranda Alliance employs Rio Tinto's former global head of exploration to advise on expanding mining interests into diamonds, uranium, and oil and gas. Jacaranda is a joint venture between Rinehart's Minerals Australia and a group of ex Rio Tinto veterans. The company also has base metal and oil and gas prospects in the Northern Territory and WA. Under the terms of the 50/50 Joint Venture, Hancock as the JV Manager will progress exploration and evaluation work on mineral and petroleum prospects which so far include prospects in Uranium, Molybdenum, Lead / Zinc, Gold, Diamonds and Petroleum.

**2007 December:** Canarco Minerals enters joint alliance with Jacaranda Alliance to carry out exploration on all Canarco tenements, 130km south south west of Cape Crawford in the Northern Territory. No anomalous uranium, molybdenum or vanadium were reported.

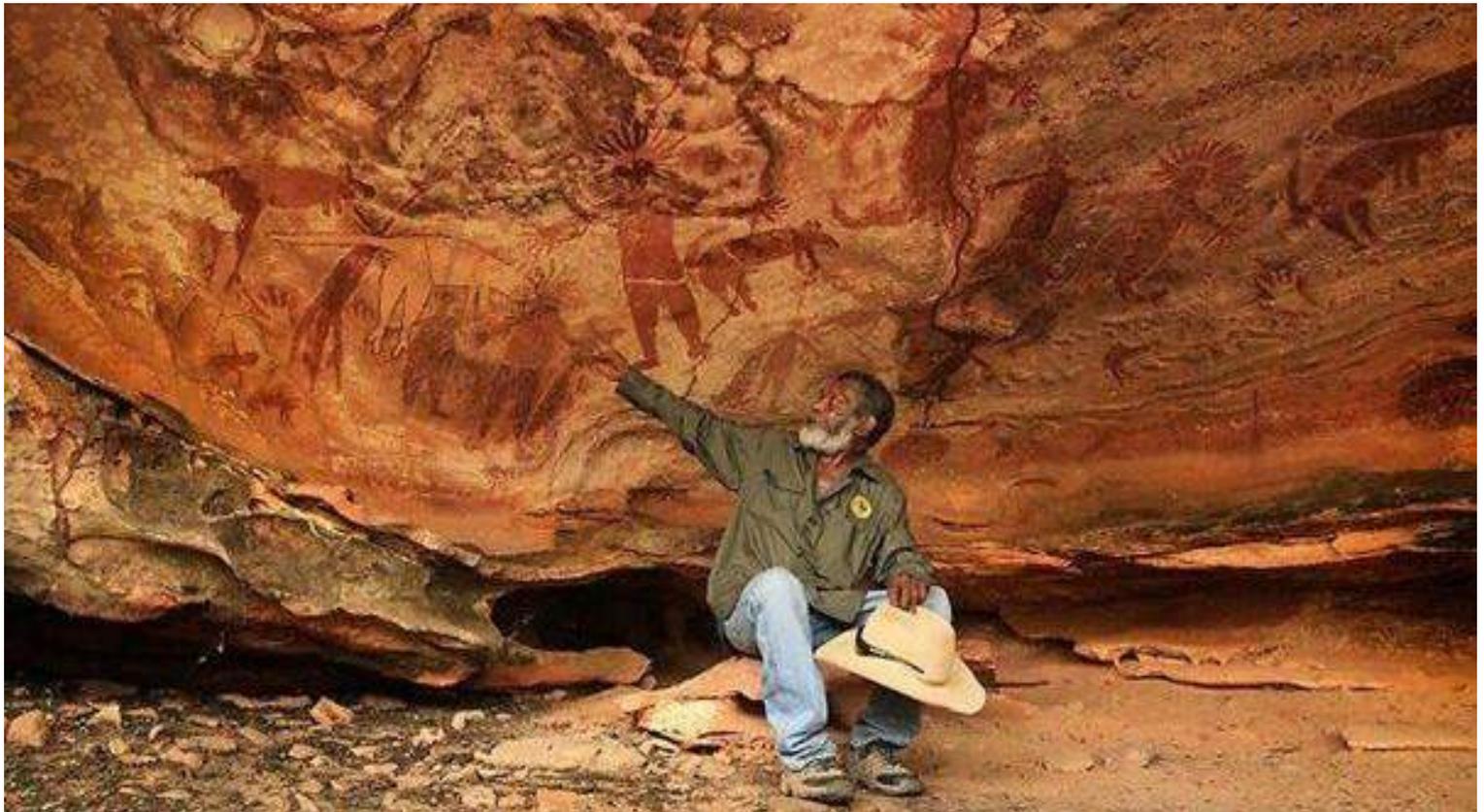
**2008-2010:** Exploring for gold and copper in the Riverina District of NSW, joint venture between Hancock Exploration Management Services Pty Ltd and the Jacaranda Alliance (120km NW of Albury).

**2008 October:** Concerns raised near Malanda in Queensland's Atherton Tablelands about diamond exploration by the Jacaranda Alliance. Exploring also near Cooktown and Mt Surprise (200km south west of Cairns).

**2012 January:** Jacaranda Alliance employs Rio Tinto's former global head of exploration to advise on expanding mining interests into diamonds, uranium, and oil and gas. Jacaranda is a joint venture between Rinehart's Minerals Australia and a group of ex Rio Tinto veterans. The company also has base metal and oil and gas prospects in the Northern Territory and WA. Under the terms of the 50/50 Joint Venture, Hancock as the JV Manager will progress exploration and evaluation work on mineral and petroleum prospects which so far include prospects in Uranium, Molybdenum, Lead / Zinc, Gold, Diamonds and Petroleum.

**2013 March:** Jacaranda Alliance courts controversy in Cape York with two exploration permits which include the Quinkan Rock Art Galleries which contain rock art 34,000 years old. The sites are located 50km west of Cooktown and cover an area ~230,000ha in size. The Quinkan have been listed by UNESCO as one of the top 10 rock art sites in the world. These permits were apparently later withdrawn with Jacaranda saying it had not known about the significant rock art of the region.

## Jacaranda Alliance cont.



**Thomas George, a spokesperson and Quinkan rock art tour guide at one significant site on Quinkan country, Cape York**

**2015 March:** NT Government grant Jacaranda Minerals petroleum exploration licences for Aboriginal and pastoral land including the Bitter Springs region and Elsey Station despite concerns of Aboriginal people and pastoralists. The Jacaranda Alliance licences include EP 144 (east of Tennant Creek), EP 153 (close to Larrimah) and EP(A) 154

**2016 June:** Traditional Owners in the Katherine and Ngukurr regions threaten legal action to halt gas exploration deal involving Gina Rinehart's mining companies in the NT. Alawa, Kelweyi and Mangarrayi land trusts discuss legal action. Hancock Prospecting's Jacaranda Minerals and Minerals Australia have licences over 6500sq km of Aboriginal-owned land in the McArthur Basin.

**2017 January:** Former Territory Chief Minister Adam Giles promoted as a general manager in Gina Rinehart's Hancock Prospecting. Chief Minister Giles was roundly criticised by pastoralists, traditional owners and rural landholders for his open slather approach to land access for mining companies where he failed to win support for his controversial fracking access reforms.

**2019:** Jacaranda applies to NT Government to undertake coal seam gas exploration on land owned by North Star Pastoral, which owns five stations across the territory and Queensland.

# BUSINESS/PROJECT SUMMARIES

## Lakes Oil

**02/2012:** Nick Mather from Solgold and Armour Energy appointed to Lakes Oil board. Lakes Oil is a Victorian based oil and gas exploration company searching for tight gas and shale oil and gas. In 2019 Lakes Oil have onshore exploration licences in Gippsland and the Otways (Victoria), Queensland, South Australia and California.

**01/2013:** A subsidiary of HPPL invests \$6.3 million into Lakes Oil via a Convertible Note Issue. As part of the deal, Ms Rinehart's ally Professor Ian Plimer has been appointed as a non-executive director of Lakes Oil. Lakes Oil was targeting tight gas in the Gippsland Basin Victoria. These notes were converted into \$3.5m of shares in November 2013, giving Rinehart a 19.53% ownership of the company.

**2014/15:** As a majority shareholder of Lakes Oil, through Timeview Resources, Rinehart selected two appointees to the Lakes Oil board Ian Plimer and Kyle Wightman. Wightman replaced another Rinehart appointee Alexander Downer, who was replaced on 4/8/14.

**16/7/15:** Armour Energy (Nick Mather), Lakes Oil's largest shareholder, issues a notice wanting to replace Chairman Rod Annells and board member Barney Berold.

**6/8/15:** "Armour-nominated directors Nick Mather and Bill Stubbs have dug their heels in and want Hancock's attempt to expand its influence on the board stopped".

**23/5/16:** Rod Annells resigns and is replaced by Chris Tonkin  
**30/8/16:** Victoria announces bans on fracking (onshore unconventional gas)

**8/9/16:** Lakes Oil, looks to overturn the Victorian government's ban on onshore gas exploration in the state, investigating potential legal action.

**6/12/16:** Lakes Oil seeking \$2.7 billion in damages from the Victorian Government after the state moved to ban fracking, saying the decision was "unlawful"... seeking to recover the losses it suffered by the ban.

**7/2/17:** Victoria will become the first state in Australia to permanently ban fracking, after the Opposition party room agreed to support legislation introduced by the Andrews Government.

**11/10/17:** "Peace Deal" offer by Lakes Oil to State Govt claiming it believes it can produce \$700 million worth of gas a year from 2019 if the government is willing to lift its exploration ban. The gas would be prioritised for Victoria's domestic and industrial market and the company has vowed not to use the contentious fracking method of extraction, which has been outlawed.

**21/10/2018:** Lakes Oil loses court battle to sue Victorian Government for lost future earnings because of its ban on unconventional gas.

# BUSINESS/PROJECT SUMMARIES

## Mineral Resources Limited (also see section on Aboriginal Land)

*Does this mine even exist? If not, then where did the Manganese come from that was exported?*

Nicholas Downs manganese mine in Western Australia was formerly known as Balfour Downs. It is reported to contain over two billion tonnes of manganese ore described as high grade. The Nicholas Downs deposit also contains more than 500 million tonnes of ferruginous manganese.

**1982:** Mining Leases first granted. 8/8/08: MRL sign a 7 year agreement with Hancock Prospecting to jointly develop the HPPL owned Nicholas Downs manganese operation in the Pilbara.

**2009** October: Mineral Resources announce that operations were to commence at Nicholas Downs mine from March, 2010. A processing plant would be constructed and Mineral Resources would mobilise all the necessary equipment. Initial production figures were to be 60,000 tonnes of iron ore a month containing 38 percent ferruginous manganese. The first shipment was booked out of Port Hedland for July 2010.

**August 2010:** HPPL become a major shareholder in Mineral Resources Limited by exercising five million options worth about \$30m. HPPL hold 3% of MRL. Mrs Rinehart, Chairman of HPPL, added, "We are pleased to see the commencement of work at Nicholas Downs to commission and ramp-up the operation, and look forward to seeing the expansion of this project, together with the assistance of MRL."

**December 2010:** "It is claimed the first manganese shipment left Port Hedland in December 2010, and shortly after the largest manganese shipment to leave an Australian port to that point. Whether the mining occurred on the mesa is unclear, as no mining evidence can be seen, and it is assumed the conditions placed on operations discouraged any development."  
<https://www.mindat.org/loc-274659.html>

**February 2011:** 'Bulk Pangaea' loaded with 51,847 tonnes of manganese ore from the Nicholas Downs mine. This loading was part of a record 71,343 tonne shipment to leave the port. This event made the North Downs mine one of Western Australia's premier manganese mines.

**2013:** HPPL quietly sell off stock in MRL.

**2014/15:** While mining operations have been suspended since late 2011, the sale of manganese ore stockpiles occurred on an ad hoc basis during 2014-15.

## Queensland Coal Investments

**2011:** Rinehart offloads the bulk of her coal assets to India's GVK Group for \$1.26 billion, but set about re-investing some of the proceeds in smaller projects in the Galilee and Maryborough basins.

**2011 November:** Queensland Coal Investments Pty Ltd (QCI) is a wholly owned subsidiary of HPPL, and was granted the Exploration License (EL) 28772 for a period of 6 years. The tenement has a total of 410 sub-blocks covering 1278.11 km<sup>2</sup> of the eastern part of the Pedirka Basin. The Pedirka Basin straddles the Northern Territory and South Australian borders in Central Australia, with the majority of the basin located in the Northern Territory.

**2012:** Queensland Coal Investments, strikes a deal with International Coal in which QCI will spend \$3 million on exploring tenements in the Maryborough Basin in exchange for a potential 51% interest in the project.

**2012 July:** Guildford Coal enters into a Farm-in and Joint Venture Agreement with QCI (Coking) Pty Ltd (QCI), a wholly owned subsidiary HPPL at its Kolan Coal Project in the Maryborough Basin in Queensland. QCI will manage and operate the two tenements at Kolan (EPCs 1872 and 2003) near Bundaberg over the 3 years. 23,700 hectares of coal exploration permit contained in two tenements.

**2013:** Other listed companies to enter exploration ventures with QCI are Cuesta Coal and Tiara Coal (EPC 1262 located approximately 20 kilometres southwest of the township of Clermont. It consists of 218 sub-blocks (654 sq km)).

**2013:** QCI with Global Ore Discovery, a subsidiary of Ebony Coal Ltd, exploration of tenures in the Hale River region, central Australia (Northern Territory), 190 km south east of Alice Springs.

**2013 February:** Cuesta Coal Ltd/HPPL receives approval to explore tenements in Queensland. QCI (Galilee) Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of HPPL, have 51% interest in the Snake Creek Joint Venture for its two-stage, \$3 million investment.

**2013 December:** International Coal announce that drilling operations at Bundaberg Project located about 120km north of Maryborough and 40km west of Bundaberg would yield 37.9 million tonnes.

**2015 April:** Tiara Coal enters voluntary administration

## Riversdale Resources (Alberta Canada)



**12 square kilometres on the top of Grassy Mountain in southwestern Alberta near Blairmore turned into a terraced coal mine by Riversdale Resources.**

**2015 September:** Benga Mining (subsidiary of Riversdale Resources) begins regulatory process for a mine that would see 12 square kilometres on the top of Grassy Mountain in southwestern Alberta near Blairmore turned into a terraced coal mine.

**2018 August:** Riversdale Resources proposes a 2,800-hectare open-pit coal mine near the town of Blairmore in the Crowsnest Pass (Canada). Conservationists warn the project would destroy critical habitat for a threatened fish species. The coal mine would cover 2800ha and could be operational by 2021. Riversdale Resources is an Australian based coal development company.

Riversdale Resources is not publicly listed and is best known for its development of the Grassy Mountain coal project in Alberta, Canada. The project is projected to produce 93 million tonnes of coking coal over a 24-year mine life.

**2018 August 29:** HPPL agrees to write a \$68.9 million cheque in return for a 19.9 per cent stake in Riversdale Resources.

**2019 February 27:** HPPL launch \$740 million buy-out of privately owned Australian coal explorer Riversdale Resources.

**2019 May:** Rinehart gains control of Riversdale Resources. Made buyout offer of \$645m in early May. Construction at Grassy Mountain is due to start in 2020.

## Sirius Minerals (United Kingdom)

### *North York Moors Potash Mine*

**2015 July:** A portion of one of Britain's most stunning national parks will be dug up to make way for a £1.7bn potash mine. The mine will be owned by Sirius Minerals, via its subsidiary Yorks Potash. The company will mine Polyhalite, a type of potash fertiliser. The minehead will lie on an old farm near the village of Sneatonthorpe, between Whitby and Scarborough, with underground tunnels extending about 16km inland from the coast and up to 14km offshore. Within this area, surrounded by nationally and internationally protected moorland, lies the thickest and highest grade polyhalite ore reserve in the world over a "mineable area" of 25,200 hectares

**2016 March:** £2.4bn potash mine on the North York Moors will be operational within the next 5 years. A 23-mile (37km) tunnel will be built, so minerals can be transported to a processing plant on Teesside. An opened letter signed by 29 groups including the RSPB and the Campaign for National Parks, had urged the rejection of plans for the mine. **2016 October:** HPPL purchases a \$300 million stake in Sirius Minerals. The deal gives HPPL the right to purchase up to 20,000 tonnes of product per annum for use on HPPL's Australian agricultural operations.

**2018 September:** Sirius Minerals warns that funding for its huge new mine in Yorkshire would take longer to arrive and the project may cost more than thought. The cost of digging the mile-deep mine would rise by \$400m-\$600m (£309m-£464m), on top of the previously estimated \$3bn it still needs to raise in debt funding. Sirius admitted a deal for the \$3bn funding was likely to slip into the start of 2019.

**2019 August:** London-listed Sirius Minerals, which was conceived by executives involved in the successful development of Andrew Forrest's Fortescue, forced to pull a \$US500 million (\$A736 million) bond offering last week which was crucial to the funding of the \$US5 billion project.

**2019 September:** Sirius Minerals stands on the brink of collapse. \$US500 million (\$736 million) junk bond offering, which would have unlocked a further \$US2.9 billion worth of funding - including a further cash injection from billionaire Gina Rinehart - failed for the second time in as many months.

**2019 October:** 300 workers lose jobs at Sirius Minerals

## Sun Resources

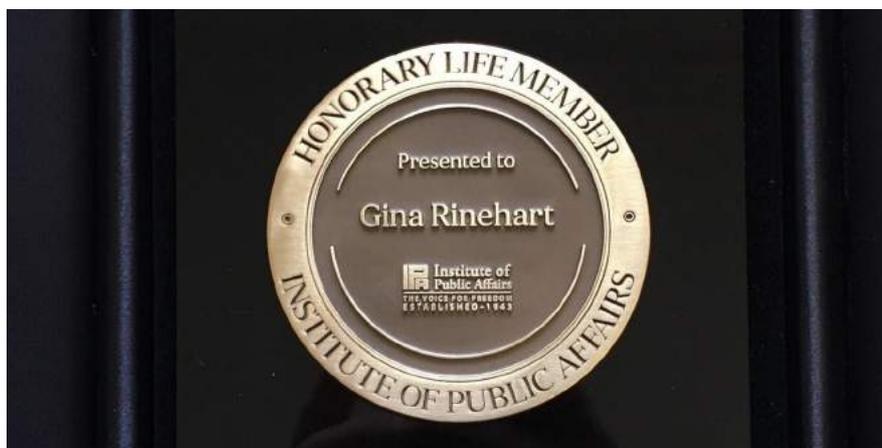
**2013:** Sun Resources NL is an oil and gas development company exploring in Louisiana and Texas USA. In 2013 their largest shareholder was Winform Nominees a subsidiary of HPPL

# PHILANTHROPY

In 1993 Rinehart provided Seed Funding for the Hancock Family Breast Cancer Foundation, but the Foundation shut down a few years later after. She also lobbied the Victorian and Federal Government to provide funding. In 2009 Gina also donated money to stop the sex trade in Cambodia. She also donates to SISHA (South East Asia Investigations into Social and Humanitarian Activities). In 2015 Ms Rinehart became Australia's largest sponsor of the Australian Swimming Team. In February 2016 Ms Rinehart pledged \$600,000 to the Lady Florence Bjelke-Petersen Community Hospital in Kingaroy.

# POLITICS

Gina Rinehart imbibed her father's right wing beliefs, similar to the views expressed by Ayn Rand. Laissez Faire capitalism backed by economists such as Friedrich Hayek and Milton Friedman. She has links to right wing think tanks in Australia and overseas, such as the Institute of Public Affairs, the Atlas Economic Research Foundation and the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation.



In 2010 Rinehart helped create a new political lobby group with Ron Manners called ANDEV (Australians for Northern Development and Economic Vision) that proposed that the top half of Australia, should be treated as a special economic zone. Set up between Gina and Ron Manners. In June 2010 Gina spoke against the Rudd Government's proposed mining tax at a 2000 strong rally at Langley Park in Perth . "Axe the tax". Her image used in the media and symbolic in war of words of mining company and Rudd government. Gina donated \$750,000 to AMEC the group lobbying against the super profits tax (3 contributions of \$250,000 each) . Rudd resigned 15 days later and the Gillard govt agreed to take billions of dollars a year less than the original tax. Rudd's mining tax was an impetus for Gina to buy a stake in Channel 10 and Fairfax Media.

In late 2010 Rinehart, for \$170m, bought a 10% stake in National Television Broadcaster Channel 10 and received a seat on their Board. Six months after her involvement, the network launched the conservative Bolt Report, which pushed right wing philosophy.

Rinehart resigned from the Board in November 2014, but former Liberal Party president Andrew Robb was appointed as a non-executive as Ms Rinehart's "representative".

By 2012 Rinehart also became a board member of Fairfax (\$165m for 10% stake) and became their largest shareholder (18.67%) in June 2012. Rinehart wanted at least two of the nine board seats at Fairfax, but refused to sign on to the company's charter of editorial independence. As a result, she was offered no seats. She eventually sold her stake in Fairfax in early 2015 but her friend John Cowin remained on the board. Gina is friendly with Alan Jones, Ray Hadley commentators on radio 2GB and its owner John Singleton.

Gina supported the abolishing of the Carbon Tax and has been very active in challenging the science of climate change. In 2015, Professor Ian Plimer spoke at the IMARC conference.

In August 2016 Rinehart employs ex-Federal Government Minister and Melbourne lawyer Sophie Mirabella as General Manager of Government and media relations.



*Gina Reinhart with Scott Morrison and Donald Trump*



*Alan Jones spruiking Rinehart's cookbook*

# AGRICULTURE

In **2011** Qld cattle graziers opposed building a 29km railway line through Frankfield Station for the \$1.9 billion GVK project.

**July 2014:** Hancock Prospecting buys a 50 per cent stake, \$40 million, in Liveringa and Nerrima cattle stations in the West Kimberley Western Australia and the Waroona abattoir south of Perth. Rinehart is targeting the Asian food market. Milne AgriGroup is joint owner and the Kimberley Properties are 470,000ha in size and the cattle herd amounts to approximately 40,000 animals. Corn and sorghum crops would also be planted. Calves (weaners) would be sent 2000km south to be fattened up for live export or local processing.

**November 2014:** Hope Dairies (based in Queensland) formed after HPPL buys a large stake in Bannister Downs, with a goal to sell milk powder to China. 5000ha of surplus Government land would be included in the deal which in turn would produce 30,000 tonnes of milk powder/infant formula a year. It was rumoured that the partner in the project would be China National Machinery Industry Corporation.

**December 2014:** Rinehart becomes the second largest Wagyu beef producer in Australia through two properties, “Boogadah” and “Kagan”, near Dubbo in NSW. Pastoral Properties (NSW), a subsidiary of Hancock Prospecting.

**April 2015:** Four way partnership formed between the Moxey and Perich families, Chinese private company New Hope Dairy Holdings and ASX listed food processing company Freedom Foods. The consortium plans to produce 75 million litres of milk in NSW and Victoria, mainly for the Chinese market. New Hope Dairy is part of the New Hope Group based in Chengdu. It is one of the largest suppliers of meat, egg and dairy product in China.

**July 2015:** Fossil Downs, a 400,000 hectare cattle station in the Kimberley, 30km south of Fitzroy Crossing, is purchased by Rinehart. The purchase brings Rinehart’s cattle numbers to over 60,000. The Gooniyandi people were granted native title over a large section of the station in 2013 after a 15-year campaign. Muludja, a remote Aboriginal community of about 100 people, is located on the station about 2km from the homestead.

**August 2015:** Hope Dairies stalls its \$500 million Mary Valley powdered milk project, in order to focus on beef production. Wagyu beef more profitable than powdered milk.

**November 2015:** Gina Rinehart buys the 10,000ha Glencoe Station in NSW for Wagyu beef operation in a deal worth \$30 million

**April 2016:** Treasurer Scott Morrison knocks back Chinese bid for S.Kidman & Co Pastoral Company covering 101,000 sq/km. Applicant is Dakang Australia Holdings Pty Ltd, a Shenzhen-listed company controlled by the conglomerate Shanghai Pengxinin, in turn owned by Zhaobai Jiang, a billionaire property developer based in Shanghai.

**July 2016:** HPPL buys two Northern Territory cattle properties, south west of Katherine. The properties cover 550,000ha and have 40,000 cattle.

**2016 August:** HPPL purchases 3433ha property Phoenix Park in the Northern Territory near Katherine.

**2016 October:** Rinehart and Chinese company, Shanghai CRED make a joint \$365 million offer for the Kidman cattle empire. If successful Rinehart would control 66% of the company. The sale is subject to the Foreign Investment Review Board and Chinese Government approval. Average herd size at Kidman is 185,000 cattle.

**2016 December:** Treasurer Scott Morrison approves Rinehart bid for S.Kidman & Co. The purchase now means that HPPL own 300,000 head of cattle around Australia. The consortium is called Outback Beef.

**2017 January:** HPPL purchase Aroona, a 147,500ha property with 15,000 cattle, 100km west of Katherine. **2017 February:** Ms Rinehart launches her premium Wagyu Beef Brand 2GR in Warwick. The wagyu is from two stations in western New South Wales - Caigan and Glencoe, near Dubbo. Speaking at the ceremony Mrs Rinehart said, *“Chinese consumers will be the first to try 2GR’s boxed wagyu, which will make its way to a variety of high-end restaurants and food services in the cities of Shanghai and Beijing, where premium steaks can be sold for as much as \$400.”*

**2017 May:** Reports suggest that HPPL is planning to ship 800,000 cattle to China every year for slaughter and processing. Rinehart also listed as Australia’s wealthiest farmer.

**2017 June:** HPPL intend to export live cattle from Adelaide. This is on top of the 150,000 cattle, worth \$230 million exported out of Darwin to China.

**2017 June:** HPPL sig a non-binding agreement is with Zhejiang Aozhou Cattle Industry Co Ltd which will develop a feed-lot and processing centre for imported cattle on Jintang Island in north-eastern China. Up to 300,000 live cattle could be exported per year.

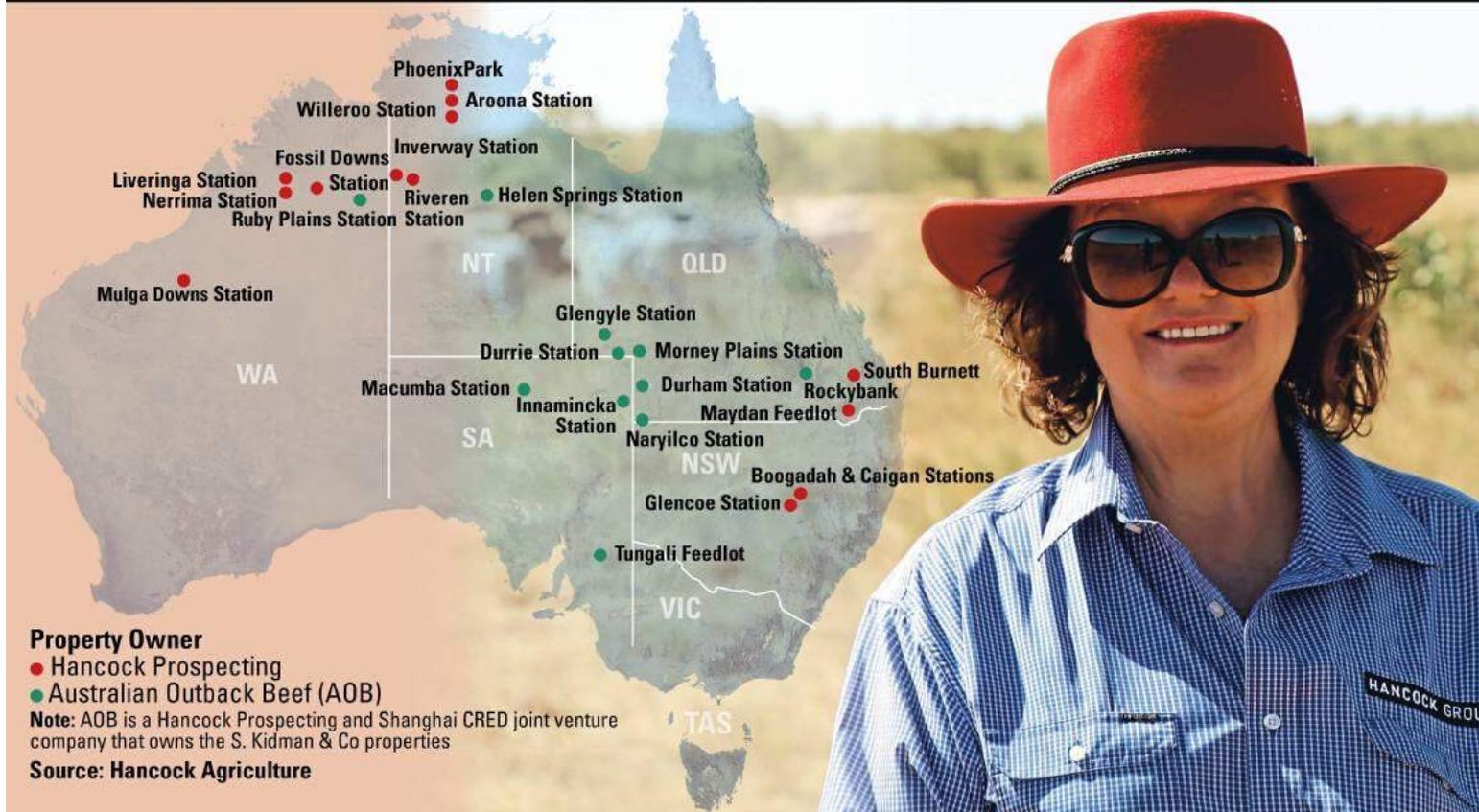
**2017 June:** HPPL want to draw more water from the Fitzroy River in WA. Current licence for Liveringa is 6GL/yr. The Kimberley Land Council raises concerns about the plans.

HPPL buys Maydan, a 10,000-head feedlot property near Warwick in Queensland where the nation's best wagyu cattle are grain-fed before processing.

**2017 October:** HPPL buys Willeroo Cattle station in the NT. Willeroo is a large breeding property, south west of Katherine. It spans 171,000ha and carries 20,000 head of cattle.

**2017 December:** HPPL buys Hollyrood and South Maffra properties at Roma as well as Forestvale at Mitchell in Queensland for \$50 million. Hancock Prospecting’s agricultural arm estimated to be running 370,000 cattle.

## RINEHART'S RURAL PORTFOLIO



**March 2018:** Zenith Australia Investment Holdings, the local arm of Shanghai CRED accused by small miners and prospectors of having to sign access deeds to access land, causing delays and legal objections.

**May 2018:** Twelve native title groups who own Fitzroy River vote to form the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council. One goal is to lobby for a comprehensive management strategy before any further allocation is guaranteed, particularly in terms of allocating water to pastoralists including Gina Rinehart.

**June 2018:** Hancock Agriculture claim that they have no plans to dam the Fitzroy or Margaret Rivers for pastoral expansion. That was stated at a meeting with pastoralists, native title groups and local businesses which formed a steering group with Government over its vision for the river.

**August 2018:** HPPL buys Sundown Valley west of Armidale, cattle property and the Gunnee feedlot near Inverell (NSW).

**November 2018:** HPPL purchases the 3234ha grazing property Glendon Park, New England NSW. Located 40km north east of Armidale.

**October 2019:** Rinehart purchases Warrabah Station in New England. Pastoral Properties is the entity that purchased the farm.

# ABORIGINAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER ISSUES

Lang Hancock and Peter Wright negotiated a 2.5% royalty payment from Rio Tinto (Hamersley) in the early 1960's, despite not having property right. Generally speaking, if a pre-1975 mining (or pastoral) lease expressly grants exclusive possession rights on the lessee, then the lease will extinguish native title. This means that the Lang Hancock/Rio Tinto deal of the early 1960's, which generated much of the initial income garnered by HPPL in royalties, will be exempted from native title claims.

There was an absence of any land rights legislation in Western Australia until the passing of the Native Title Act in 1993. Indigenous people were largely excluded from the Pilbara mine economy in the 1960's and 1970's. The Yandi Land Use Agreement (YLUA) signed in 1997 by the Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) on behalf of the Yinhawangka, Banyjima and Niyaparli people, was one of the first agreements to be reached between Indigenous people and the industry in the region.

Under native title, exploration or mining activity invokes the 'right to negotiate'. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement, either party may then apply to the Native Title Tribunal for a determination.

In Western Australia however, exploration titles are processed through an expedited process, which is an exception to the right to negotiate. Another process is voluntary agreements such as Indigenous Land Use Agreements which can bind all parties to the terms of an agreement.



# ABORIGINAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER ISSUES

**December 5 2002:** Native Title Agreement covering 7,276 sq km around Tom Price signed between Hamersley Iron, Rio Tinto and the Eastern Garuma people.

**July 5 2004:** Wangan and Jagalingou native title claim for all land HPPL want to later mine for Alpha Project in Queensland.

**April 27 2006:** Reports suggest that Rio Tinto and HPPL are committed to negotiate land use agreements with indigenous groups, despite the Hope Downs State Agreement pre-dating the Native Title Act.

**April 2008:** HPPL enter into interim heritage agreement with Wangan and Jagalingou people. The two proposed rail routes mean negotiating with either 5 active native title groups or eight native title groups, depending on which route is selected.

**2008:** Discussions between HPPL and Nyiyaparli native title claimants over Roy Hill development in WA.

**2009:** Nicholas Downs Manganese Mine WA:

*“Elders of the local Nyiyaparli tribe were invited to the site as part of the required Aboriginal heritage survey needed for any mine to be approved in Western Australia. The elders were under the impression the operation would be a small mechanical digger, employing six men. When informed of the industrial scale mining planned, involving the removal of the entire top two metres of the mesa, they became greatly agitated, as the mesa had cultural significance being part of a song line. The subsequent report recommended the mining of the surrounding detrital scree, but no mining of the mesa itself.”*



***Nicholas Downs Manganese Mine  
Where is it? Apparently ore was exported from this mine in 2010,  
but the mine doesn't appear to even exist.***

# ABORIGINAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER ISSUES

**2010:** HPPL and Palyku native title agreement regarding proposed heavy haulage line to connect Roy Hill project with Port Hedland.

**2010 August:** HPPL and Kariyarra native title group announced native title agreement over proposed heavy haulage line from Roy Hill project to Port Hedland.

**2012 August:** HPPL included in Indigenous Land Use Agreement with Ngarlawangga people for 1420 square kilometres of land west of Newman in WA. HPPL developments under this agreement include Rhodes Ridge and Hope Downs. Rio Tinto also included.

**2013 March:** Jacaranda Alliance courts controversy in Cape York with two exploration permits which include the Quinkan Rock Art Galleries which contain rock art 34,000 years old. The sites are located 50km west of Cooktown and cover an area ~230,000ha in size. The Quinkan have been listed by UNESCO as one of the top 10 rock art sites in the world. These permits were apparently later withdrawn with Jacaranda saying it had not known about the significant rock art of the region.

**2013 August 29:** Banjima people of the Pilbara Region win Native Title claim over 10,000 sq km (the “engine room” of the iron ore industry) after 15 year court battle against the West Australian Government. The land rights will coexist with existing iron ore operations held by BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto, Hancock Prospecting and Fortescue Metals Group. The decision would not overrule the rights granted to these companies by mining tenements or pastoral leases, but could result in some changes via negotiations.

**2015 March:** NT Government grant Jacaranda Minerals petroleum exploration licences for Aboriginal and pastoral land including the Bitter Springs region and Elsey Station despite concerns of Aboriginal people and pastoralists. The Jacaranda Alliance licences include EP 144 (east of Tennant Creek), EP 153 (close to Larrimah) and EP(A) 1542015

**2015 November:** Rio Tinto criticised by Tony Bevan, a director of Wintawari Guruma Aboriginal Corporation, for not paying native title royalties over mines established before the introduction of native title rights in 1994. Wintawari Guruma Aboriginal Corp holds the native title for the Eastern Guruma people, whose land covers more than 6500sq km around Tom Price.

*“Rio Tinto has mined its flagship Mt Tom Price mine for 50 years – 50 very lucrative years – but has not paid 1c in royalties to the Eastern Guruma, who are recognised by this nation’s highest court as the rightful owners of this land,”* Mr Bevan said. *“Do you believe it is right for Rio Tinto, which often trumpets its relationship with indigenous Australia, to continue to ignore this injustice?”*

Note that HPPL receives royalties from Mt Tom Price Mine.

**2015:** Roy Hill has negotiated with the Kariyarra, Palyku and Nyiyaparli People to enter into Native Title Agreements which outlines a range of commitments.

# ABORIGINAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER ISSUES

**2016 June:** Traditional Owners in the Katherine and Ngukurr regions threaten legal action to halt gas exploration deal involving Gina Rinehart's mining companies in the NT. Alawa, Kelweyi and Mangarrayi land trusts discuss legal action. Hancock Prospecting's Jacaranda Minerals and Minerals Australia have licences over 6500sq km of Aboriginal-owned land in the McArthur Basin.

**2016 August 3:** Northern Territory Traditional Owners (Alawa and Mangarrayi Aboriginal land trusts) seek legal injunction to reverse fracking approval near Mataranka. The exploration permits held by Minerals Australia (a HPPL subsidiary) and Jacaranda Minerals (50% owned by HPPL). First shale gas permit to be approved in the NT

**2016 November 15:** Kimberley Traditional Owners pledge to work together to protect the Fitzroy River and tributaries through the signing of the Fitzroy River Declaration.

**2016 November 20:** Banjima traditional owners reach deal with Rio Tinto after 10 years of negotiation.

**2017 July 20:** Federal Court recognises Yindjibarndi have exclusive native title rights and interests over a large area of land that contains Fortescue, Rio Tinto and HPPL mining and pastoral leases.

**2018 June 17:** Pastoralists including Gina Rinehart meet to discuss greater access to Fitzroy River for irrigation purposes. Rinehart owns Liveringa Station.

**2018 June 20:** Twelve Kimberley Native Title Groups form Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council to urge scientific approach to management of Fitzroy River as Pastoralists lobby for increased access to water.

**2019 May 26:** Rinehart could "hand-over" tens of thousands of hectares of land in the Fitzroy Valley, so that the WA Government can develop a National Park, as part of a \$285 million plan to develop the cattle industry in the region. Mrs Rinehart's proposal requires 325GL of water. Water access would focus on off-stream storage that would fill when the river floods. Water could be used to grow 21,200ha of high-protein fodder crops, including sorghum, hay and corn. Bunuba and Gooniyandi traditional owner groups apparently being consulted. Plan criticised by Environs Kimberley.

*"The proposed water license of 325 GL would turn Gina Rinehart's iconic pastoral stations into one of the biggest irrigation properties in the Southern Hemisphere: close to the largest at Cubbie Station in the Murray-Darling Basin that uses an annual average of 200 GL. Mrs Rinehart's proposal would put the Fitzroy River on a pathway towards the fish kills and irretrievable damage we see on the Murray-Darling rivers."* Environs Kimberley

**2019 May 31:** 40 dead Critically Endangered Sawfish in drying pools on Rinehart's Liveringa Station in WA's Kimberley region, found in December 2018, but information released 5 months later. Fitzroy River regarded as stronghold for the species. Largest fish kill of sawfish ever seen. Rinehart wants to harvest 325 GL from the Fitzroy, when the river is in flood. This would supply enough water for 20,000 cattle.

# ABORIGINAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER ISSUES

**2019 May 31:** 40 dead Critically Endangered Sawfish in drying pools on Rinehart's Livingina Station in WA's Kimberly region, found in December 2018, but information released 5 months later. Fitzroy River regarded as stronghold for the species. Largest fish kill of sawfish ever seen. Rinehart wants to harvest 325 GL from the Fitzroy, when the river is in flood. This would supply enough water for 20,000 cattle.



*Critically Endangered Sawfish in the Kimberly. Photo credit: Michael Taylor*



# Rainforest Action Group

Committed to the defence of rainforests worldwide

## ABOUT

The Rainforest Action Group (Melbourne) is a research, education, action and advocacy group committed to undertaking well-informed, non-violent direct actions in the defense of rainforests worldwide.

We are committed to securing the earth's ecological future and a sustainable and equitable society.

We are entirely volunteer-run.

Our current campaign focus is halting the massive expansion of mining and oil and gas exploration currently underway in Ecuador.

Our principal partners are the Rainforest Information Centre and the Caminantes Collective.

The Caminantes Collective is made up of thousands of Ecuadorians representing the entire nation and the Indigenous and Campesino communities that form its soul, and includes DECOIN, CEDHU, ECUARUNARI, CONAIE, CASCOMI and many more tribal confederations, Campesinos and environment groups.

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