



Cox Peninsula Remediation Project

A case study of effective community engagement

EIANZ Conference, Friday 2nd November 2018

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Acknowledgement of Country

- We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation and their Elders past, present and emerging. We would also like to acknowledge the Gadigal as the traditional custodians of the land we are upon today and extend our respect to other Indigenous Australians present here today.
- We recognise the Larrakia people as the custodians of the Cox Peninsula land where this project was carried out
- WARNING, some slides in this presentation may contain images of and/or reference to deceased persons.

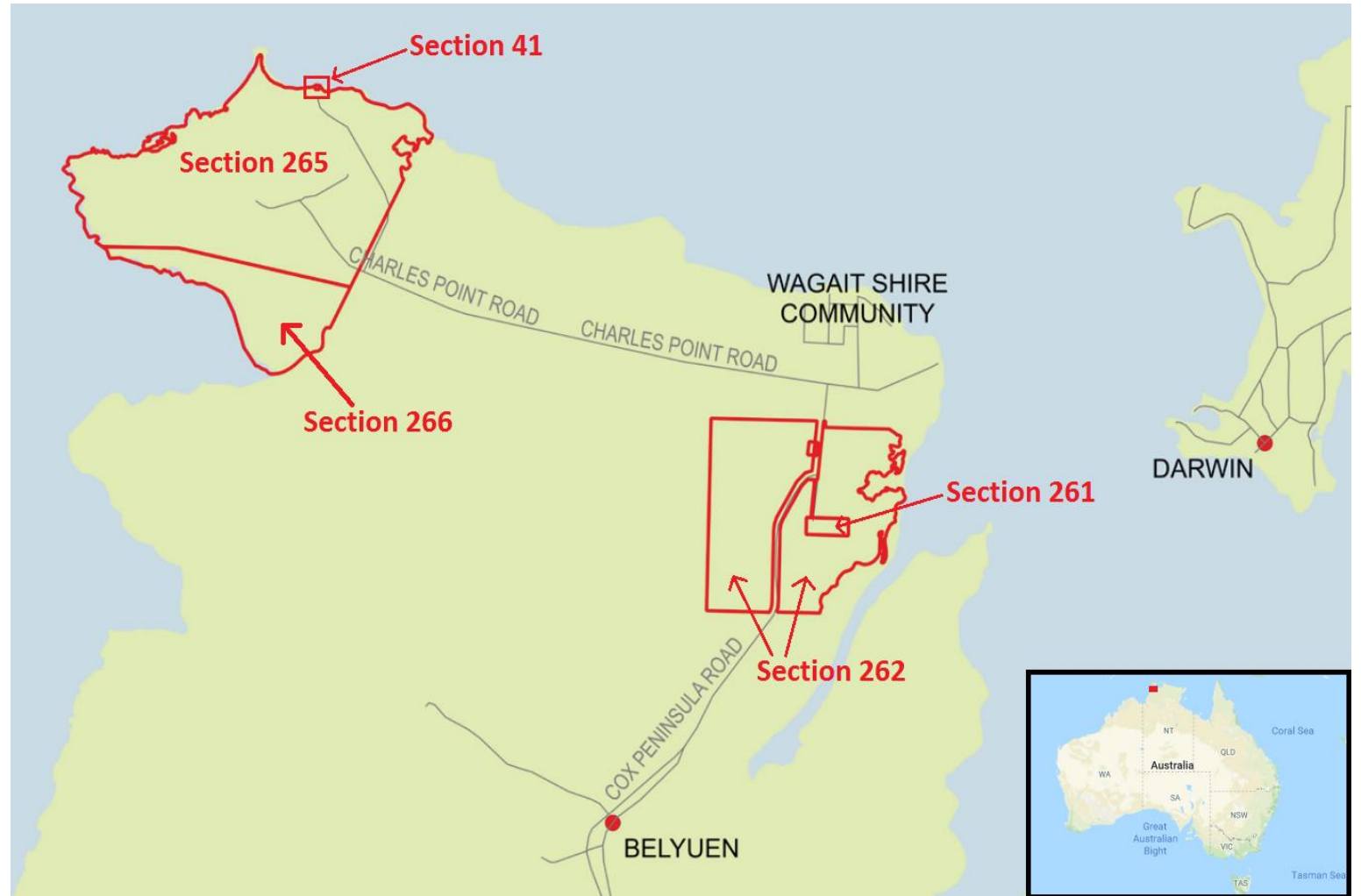
Agenda

1. Project background
2. Overview of stakeholders
3. History of community perception
4. Responding to the challenge
5. Early works
6. Main remediation works
7. Key project outcomes



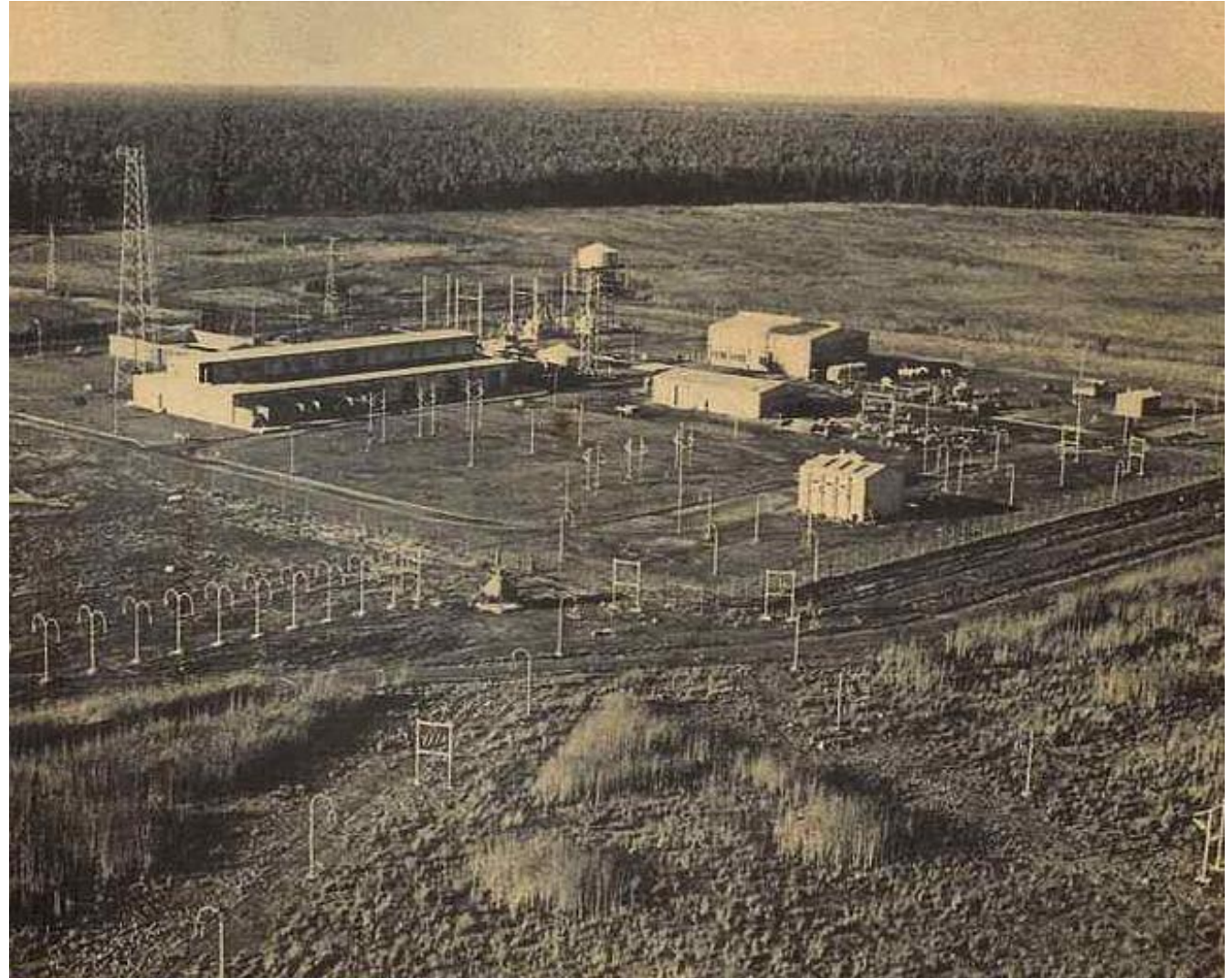
Project background - location

- Where is Cox Peninsula?
- Nearby communities
- Remote location



Project background – historical use

- Charles Point Lighthouse for guiding marine vessels
- World War 2 radar station
- Radio receiving and transmission stations
- Before this, thousands of years of history of the first Australians



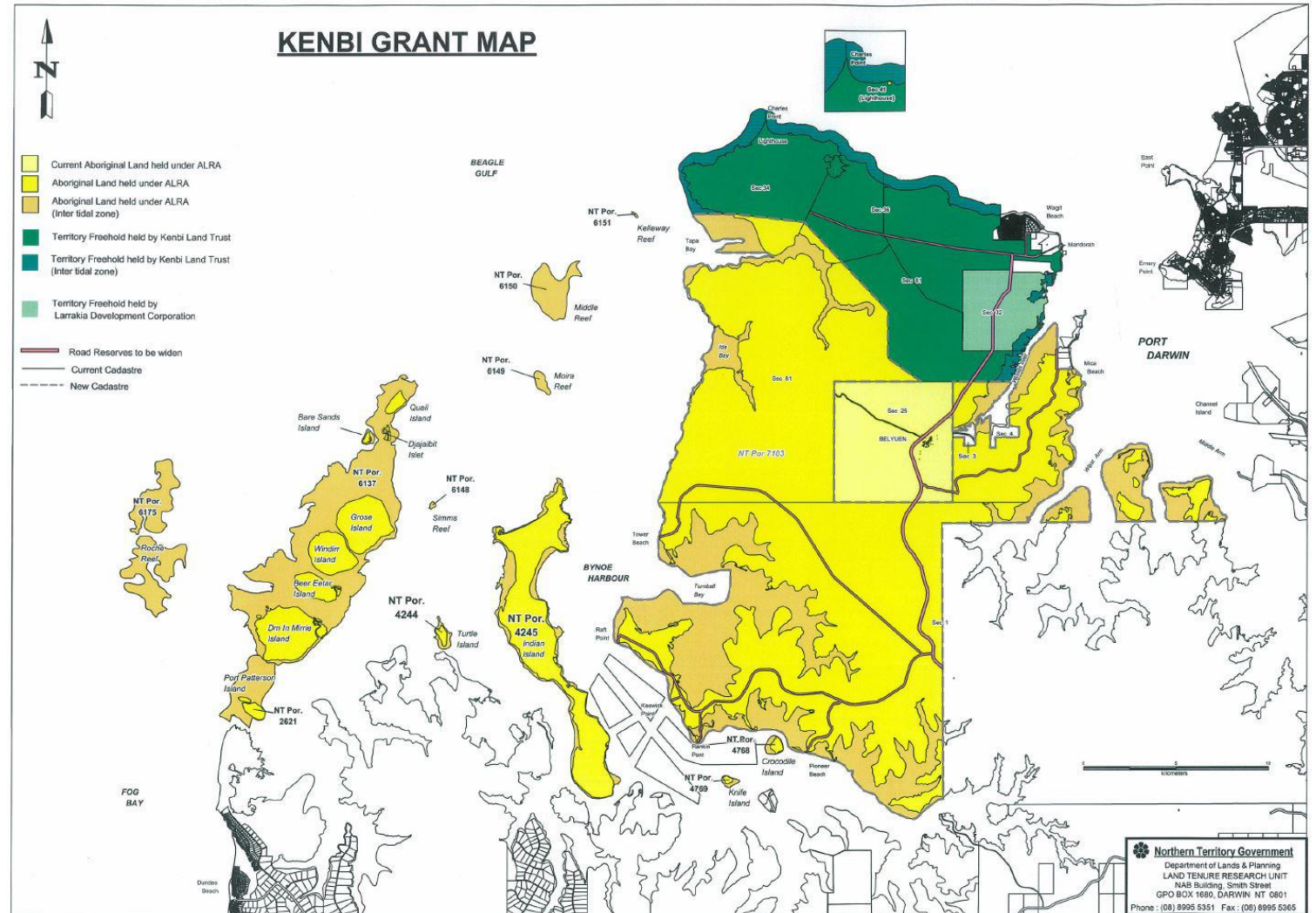
Project background - contamination

- Asbestos
 - Fines in soils
 - Underground services
 - Within buildings
- Soils contaminated with:
 - Lead
 - Pesticides
 - Hydrocarbons
 - Polychlorinated bisphenols
- Informal tip sites
- Remnant infrastructure
 - Old buildings
 - >15km underground services
 - Antenna footings



Project background – Kenbi Native Title Land Claim

- Initiated in 1979
- One of the longest running claims in Australian history
- Approximately 52,000 hectares
- Remediation of the land required before hand over possible to the Traditional Owners



Stakeholders



Traditional Owners Raylene Singh (left) and Zoe Singh (right) with Steve Brown (centre) working as part of the Kenbi Rangers inspecting a new fence on site.

- Larrakia People
- Traditional Owners
- Belyuen Community
- Wagait Shire Community
- Kenbi Rangers
- Northern Land Council
- Northern Territory Government
- Northern Territory EPA
- Ventia (remediation contractor)
- Nation Partners (technical advisor)
- AECOM (auditor)
- Department of Finance (project sponsor)

History of community perception

- Unsuccessful earlier remediation attempt that had to be terminated prior to completion
- 2010 an extremely wet season
- Eroded trust amongst the community

Responding to the challenge

- Jacobs began working on project in 2013
- Detailed business case submitted 2014
 - Project cost > \$15million hence Public Works Committee approval required
 - Remedial options assessment with early stakeholder consultation
 - Planning for how to undertake the works to consider all the potential risks to the environment, heritage and cultural values.

Early works – 2015

- Risk mitigation works to manage items of immediate risk to the project
- Displayed intent and retained community contact during works approvals
- Allowed for upskilling and testing of the market for the larger remediation project

Main remediation works – 2017



Main remediation works – community involvement

- 30% of delivery workforce were indigenous people
 - Heritage protection monitors
 - Flora and fauna surveys
 - Security services
 - Transport
 - Suppliers of Personal Protective Equipment
 - Civil earthworks
- Extensive training opportunities for workers

Land Transfer Ceremony - 2016



Key project outcomes

- Remediation of the Cox Peninsula
- Contributed to resolving of the Kenbi Native Title Land Claim
- Community engagement and buy-in was essential
- Training legacy, work groups can carry forward experience to use on future projects

Thankyou

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