

## Rehabilitation Project Balfour

The second stage of rehabilitation at Balfour began on 31 January 2005.

The main area was Peter Ridge, a hill covering 3.2 ha, that was mined in the 1970's and left as eroding bedrock with about 5% vegetation existing on the hill.

We employed Peter Purdy from Smithton who operated a 20 tonne excavator. Peter recovered and relocated all the original soil back onto the ridge. Peter also dug approximately 60 holes that would stop erosion and catch moving top soil and eventually will become very healthy areas of vegetation. Peter caused minimal disturbance to existing vegetation and moved across the ridge very quickly.

Peter then helped with construction of a new bridge at Tin Creek that with the cooperation of Brian Nibbs (Forestry, Smithton) and John Pemberton (MRT) was able to be completed very quickly, much to the benefit of our job as we needed a new bridge to bring in some concrete caps that were to cover an old shaft in the vicinity of Murrays Reward of which we completed on 22 February.

Peter Purdy then moved onto Tin City, another former mining site. He buried corrugated tin, old vehicles and other rubbish that existed in this area. Peter also rehabilitated old cut lines that were on a hill behind Tin City recovering old top soil and placing back on top of exposed bedrock. Peter Purdy was moving so quickly we were able to go back to last years area (Specimen Hill) and recover all remaining costeans bulldozed by BHP as well as the costeans moving north from Murrays Reward. Peter repaired the road into Balfour as well.

Peter Purdy and his twenty tonne excavator were finished in four weeks at Balfour. Peter came highly recommended to us and was a full credit to our project.

I employed five locals for the job of laying jute down the slope of Peters Ridge including myself and found that a team of six men at a time completed this job much more thoroughly than a team of four men. Four men became tired quickly and the work became sloppy as to the nature of climbing up and down a steep hill all day. We completed three hectares of hill with jute pegged, rocked and lapped. We brought the jute into Balfour by tandem trailer, two pallets at a time, from the Arthur River twice a week, a distance of 120 km a round trip. It took us approximately 30 working days to complete juting on Peters Ridge.

Interesting note: we found approximately 12 Sassafras and Celery Top Pines growing on Peters Ridge which were retained and are still growing.

Once all of the maintenance was completed by the end of April, we began the task of fertilizing. We used superphosphate on last year's area (Specimen Hill) and kelp granules on this year's area (Peters Ridge, Tin City, North Murrays Reward) as well as Specimen Hill. All areas were well fertilized; some bare areas were fertilized more heavily than others.

In early May we began sowing seed across Peters Ridge, Tin City, Specimen Hill as well as North Murrays Reward. There was 17 kg mixed with a combination of Blackwood and Eucalyptus sawdust spread over all areas with a combination of 13 varieties of local seed. Sowing later than earlier in Autumn hopefully proved worthwhile as of the dry conditions due to the drought of Summer, 2005. May 2005, was spent cutting, transporting and covering slash over Peters Ridge. We cut along road side, close to Peters Ridge itself cutting slash with a close plant origin to those seeded on Peters Ridge. This was done thick in areas easy to access and only thin unfortunately in areas hard to access due to wet, boggy conditions we received due to wet weather in mid May. It would be nice to continue slashing in some areas next year or later this year as to time restraints and wet conditions, we did not cover all areas thick enough with slash. Heavy slash will reduce browsing and add to humus build up.

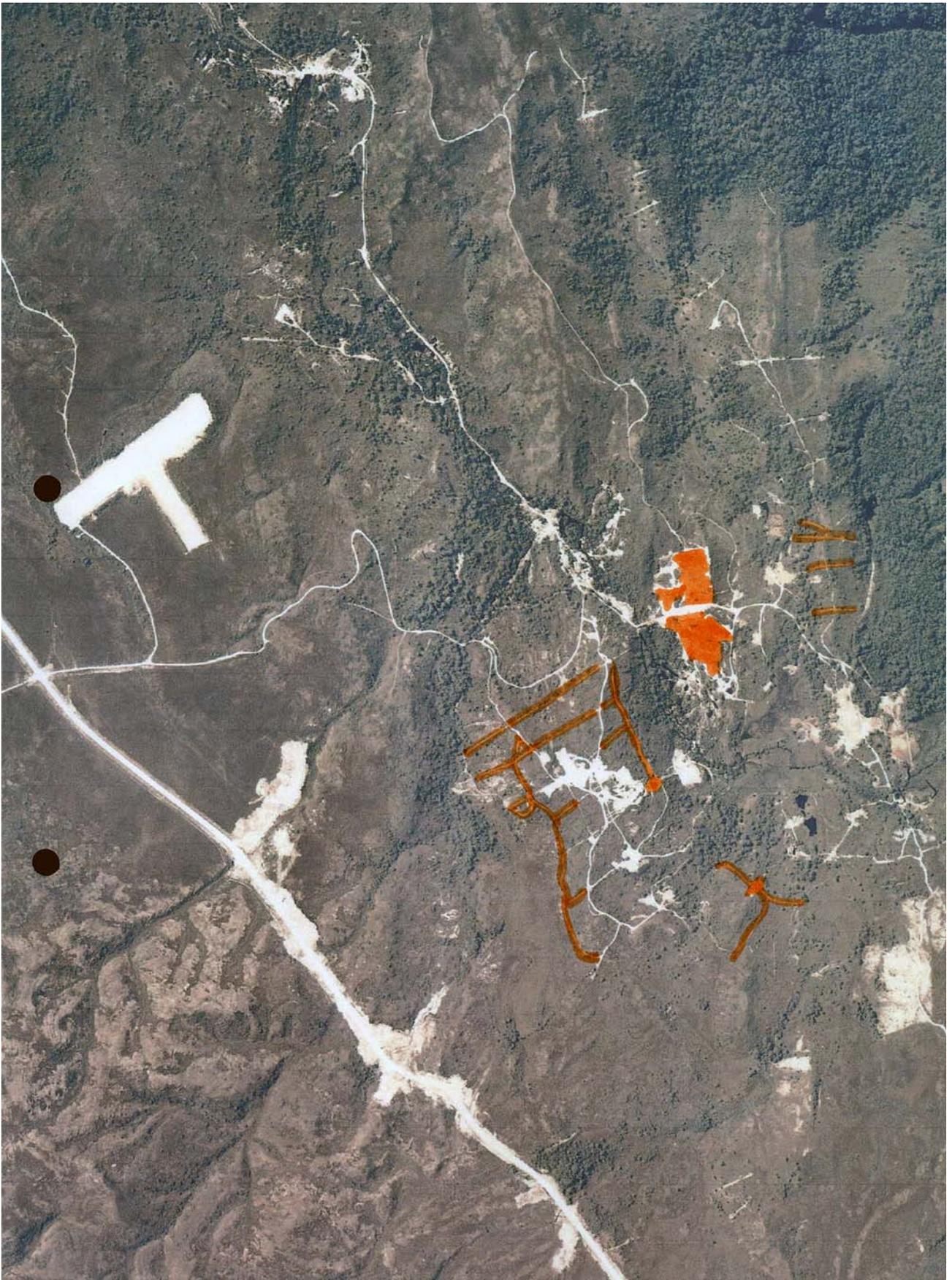
All work was completed by 14 June 2005. I gratefully appreciate the job we were entrusted with and look forward to seeing the results of our labour in the future.

**Areas worked**

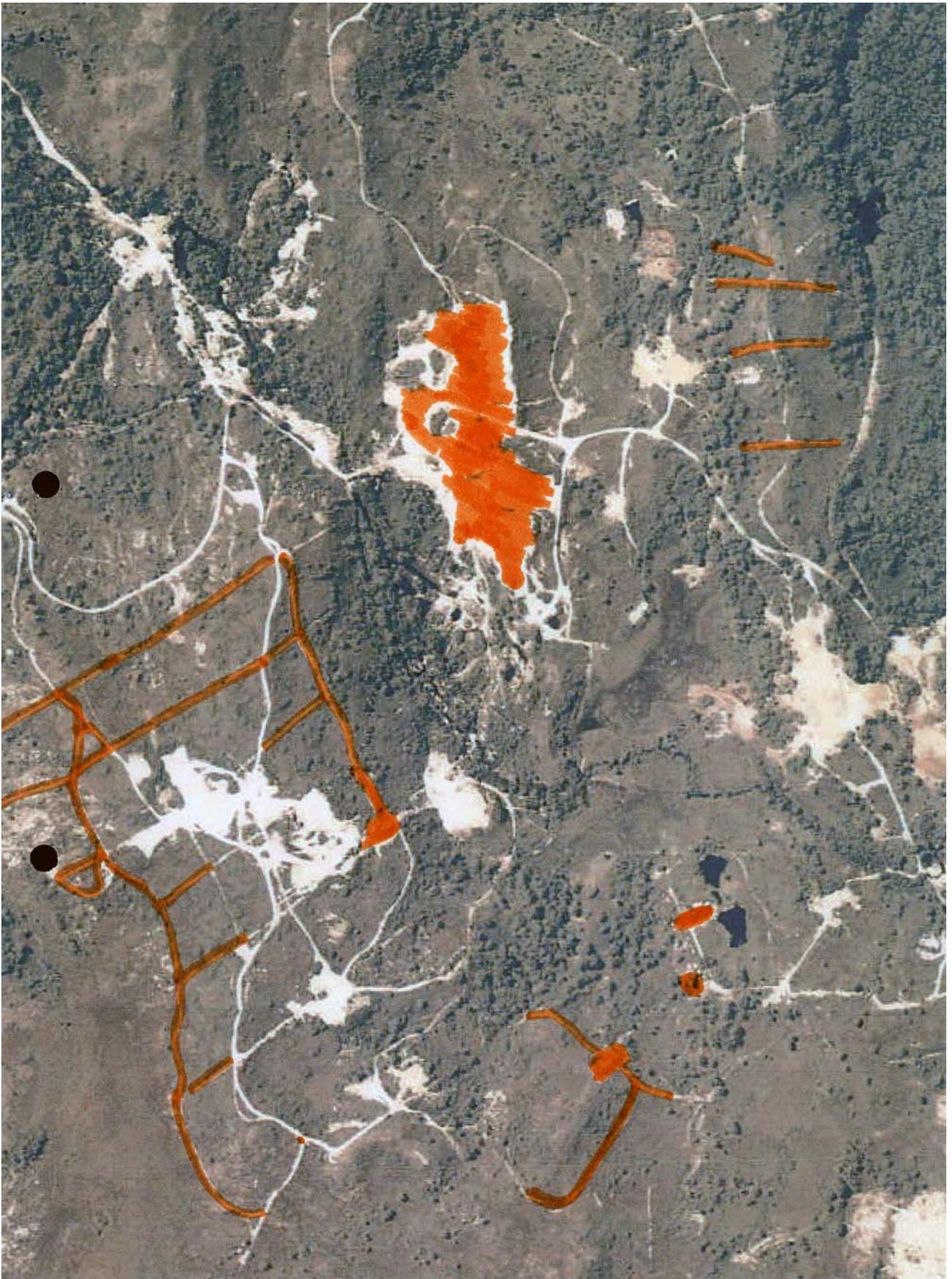
Peters Ridge	1000 kg kelp 8.5 kg seed
Tin City, Specimen Hill, BHP Costeans	8.25 kg seed
ACI Costeans adjacent to central mine	1000 kg kelp
Murrays Reward	

***Robert Saltmarsh***

***11 July 2005***



*Balfour — Area seeded and kelp granules, Autumn 2005*



*Balfour — Area seeded and kelp granules, Autumn 2005*