Undermining the Outback? No boundaries in race to mine Northern Territory's special places.

Recently released government maps show that huge areas of the Northern Territory currently have no or very limited protection from mining. Further analysis shows this includes some of the most special and loved natural places of the Northern Territory including:

- National Parks, including major tourist destinations such as Litchfield National Park.
- Areas of national and international conservation significance such as the recently declared Limmen National Park.
- Major rivers and wetlands such as the Daly River.

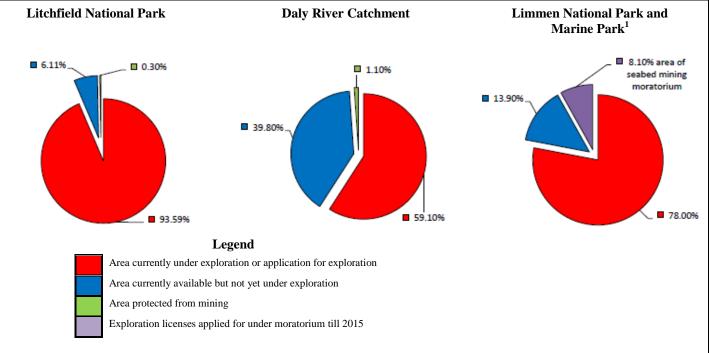
The following examples are an illustration of the high current levels of proposed mining activity in the special places of the Northern Territory. These figures and graphs do not include area coverage of petroleum and gas interests, which has also grown extensively in the last few years (see Map 2.)

For a Northern Territory overview see the attached Northern Territory government maps of current mining interests for both minerals (Map 1.) and Petroleum (including gas and oil Map 2.)

Table 1. Mining interests by % area coverage in selected NT special places (excluding Petroleum, oil and gas interests).

	Litchfield National	Daly River	Limmen National Park
	Park	Catchment	and Limmen Marine Park
Area currently under mineral exploration or under	93.59%	59.10%	78.00%
application for exploration			
Areas currently protected against mineral exploration	0.30%	1.10%	N.A.
or mining			
Areas under no protection and not yet under	6.11%	39.80%	13.90%
exploration			
Area where applications to explore have been made but	Not Applicable	Not	8.1%
currently under seabed mining moratorium until 2015		applicable	

Figure 1. Mining interests by % area coverage in NT special places (excluding petroleum oil and gas interests).



^{*} Excludes coverage of Petroleum (including Oil and Gas) exploration applications, leases or mines. ¹The marine area of Limmen Marine Park is currently under a 3 year moratorium while the NT Government considers its response to applications for seabed mining and exploration. The applications have not been rescinded however and are maintained as potential mining areas under a range of Mineral Authorities issued by the NT Government. Mining exploration and lease data is updated periodically by the Northern Territory Government. This analysis was prepared by Pew Environment Group, Environment Centre of the Northern Territory and the Wilderness Society from publicly available NT government datasets.

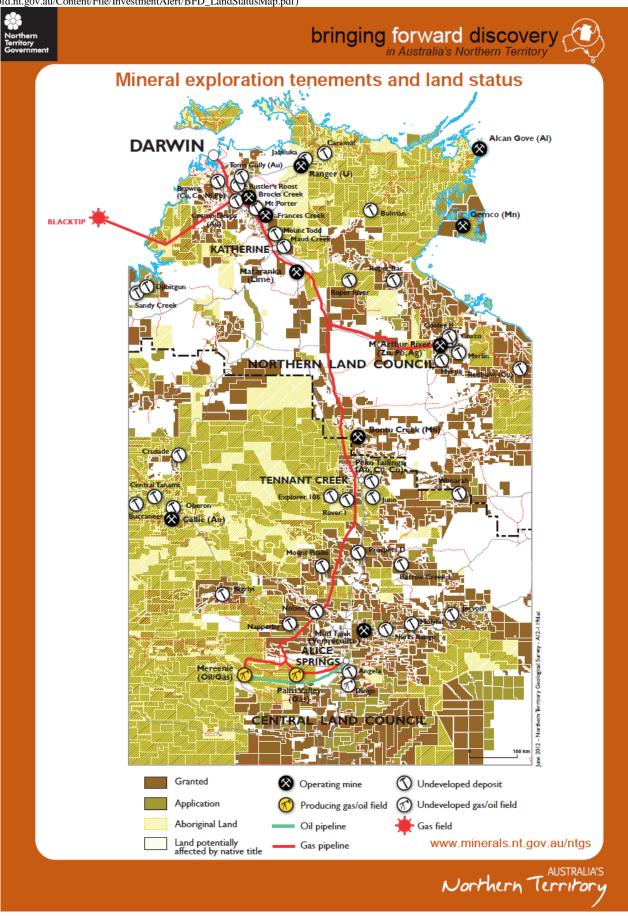






Map 1. Mineral Exploration in the Northern Territory 2012. (downloaded from

http://www.bfd.nt.gov.au/Content/File/InvestmentAlert/BFD_LandStatusMap.pdf)



Map 2. Petroleum exploration and mining (includes gas) in the Northern Territory 2012 (downloaded from http://www.bfd.nt.gov.au/Content/File/InvestmentAlert/BFD_Petroleum.pdf)

