

Ranger's Pit 1 marks 2-year revegetation success



Pit 1 revegetation, Eucalyptus tetradonta and Eucalyptus miniata co-dominated savanna woodland

The Pit 1 revegetation trial has reached an exciting 2-year milestone. As part of the Ecosystem Establishment Strategy, the trial aimed to explore various propagation and planting seasons, including the wet season, dry season, and build-up, while also experimenting with different propagation methods and materials. Moreover, we sought to gain invaluable experience with new plant species not previously utilised for revegetation at Ranger.

These trials achieved success and provided insights for improving our work processes, particularly in relation to the survival of young plants. Specifically Pit 1 as it was ERA's first opportunity to execute a large-scale revegetation initiative. By implementing innovative irrigation techniques and refining our methods for growing plants, we have increased our capacity to plant more trees and vegetation for future Closure revegetation.

Overcoming Challenges and nurturing growth

The project encountered its fair share of challenges, most notably the absence of topsoil, which further complicated the revegetation task. The solution was to incorporate native species adapted to rocky substrates from the surrounding Kakadu National Park into our revegetation species mix. The input of our long-time partners, Kakadu Native Plants (KNPS), was critical to both the planting and propagation success of this project.

The species planted have shown both survival and stable growth, with some plants reaching a height of seven metres. We have observed the early signs of fauna

returning to the landform, and new plant species from the surrounding landscape have established on Pit 1 on their own. Importantly, some of our species are also successfully reproducing and establishing in the harsh waste rock substrate.

The progress made in Pit 1 revegetation inspires us to continue pushing boundaries in ecosystem restoration. Together, we are making strides toward *proudly restoring landscapes for those that walk after us*.