

interest in uranium to continue. In order to ensure that traditional Aboriginal owners are fully informed when making decisions in relation to exploration licence applications, the Central Land Council organised a visit to BHP Billiton's Olympic Dam mine.

Although an exceptionally large polymetallic mine, the visit provided a focus for Aboriginal people to consider the particular issues associated with uranium mining on their country.

### Agreement implementation

Where agreements are entered into with mining companies the CLC assumes a range of obligations and responsibilities which are required to be undertaken diligently.

As at 30 June 2006 the Central Land Council has 53 current exploration agreements in respect of 179 exploration tenements and 10 mining agreements relating to a total of 12 mineral leases or production licences. These include agreements for the Production Licences (PLs) for both the Mereenie Oil and Gas Field and the Palm Valley Gas Field, as well as mineral lease (ML) agreements for mining gold at The Granites, Dead Bullock Soak, Tanami Mine, Groundrush as well as two mining agreements for gold in the Tennant Creek area.

The agreements provide for, among other things, sacred site protection entry permits and access conditions work program approval environmental protection and rehabilitation Aboriginal employment, training and contracting liaison, reporting and inspection.

### EP 93 Central Petroleum

The CLC and Central Petroleum Ltd (formerly Merlin Energy) signed an agreement for the grant of EP 93 on 15 April 2004 and the permit was granted on 1 November 2004.

The permit area is located in the Simpson Desert south east of Alice Springs.

In February 2006 Central Petroleum advised the CLC of its proposals for access to drilling sites planned within the permit by a route different from that specified in the agreement.

In the Central Land Council's assessment the route proposed by the company would involve an unacceptable risk to the cultural interests of sacred site custodians and the traditional landowners of the proposed access route outside the permit area.

The CLC did not agree to access via that route and has proposed a viable route consistent with the route specified in the agreement with the company.

A number of meetings with the company's representatives, and exchange of correspondence, has not resolved the issue.

The CLC has also consulted traditional landowners and undertaken other fieldwork in connection with this issue.

### Tanami Mining Agreements – Newmont Australia

Newmont's Tanami Operations mine the world class Callie deposit at its Granites and Dead Bullock Soak operation, which is the third largest producer of gold in Australia.

Ongoing monitoring of the agreements and, in particular, environmental and rehabilitation aspects occurred during the year.

The Tanami Biodiversity Strategy is a cooperative project between the CLC, Newmont and Aboriginal Ranger groups which is aimed at identifying environmental impacts at a regional level and over time.

It is a strategic approach to enable a more scientifically rigorous monitoring process based on the biodiversity of the area.

While satisfying Newmont's environmental commitments, a large amount of biological data is being collected and collated which is of interest to the scientific community concerned with preserving biodiversity.

Mining at the Tanami Mine and at Groundrush is complete and Newmont has a prepared a detailed closure and rehabilitation plan, which the CLC is assisting with.

An important aspect identified with the rehabilitation project is the potential for using Aboriginal contractors and businesses to undertake a significant amount of the rehabilitation work as well as the ongoing environmental monitoring.

In April 2006 Newmont and CLC officers visited the relevant communities to ascertain interest

### SUMMARY OF EXPLORATION AND MINING AGREEMENTS

	Completed 2006	Current at 30 June 2006	Total
Exploration Agreements (no. of ELs & EPs)*	7 (31)	53 (179)	104(377)
<b>(Area of EL agreements)</b>		<b>43,745 sq km</b>	
Mining Agreements (no. of MLs & PLs)**	nil	10 (12)	14 (17)

Note: \* includes S.48A Agreements

\*\*includes mineral leases and petroleum licences