

# **Consultation paper: Proposed reserved blocks (no-go zones) for petroleum activities in the Northern Territory**

24/05/2019

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## 1 Introduction

The Northern Territory Government will protect certain areas of the Territory from being subject to petroleum exploration or production activities. This will be achieved by declaring areas of land as reserved blocks (no-go zones) under the *Petroleum Act*.

Protected areas will include national parks, areas of high ecological value, towns and residential areas. The Northern Territory Government has used the recommendations of the Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory to determine which areas should be declared reserved blocks.

This consultation paper is an opportunity for the community to comment on the areas proposed to be protected from petroleum activities. Consultation will be open for a period of four weeks. The consultation period closes on 20 June 2019.

## 2 Context

The Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory (the Inquiry) determined that there are some areas in the Northern Territory that should never be available for exploration or production activities related to onshore petroleum.

Government accepted this finding and all 135 recommendations from the Inquiry in April 2018.

There is an existing provision in the *Petroleum Act* for government to prevent any onshore petroleum exploration or production on designated areas of the Northern Territory.

Section 9 of the *Petroleum Act* gives the Minister for Resources the authority to declare an area a reserved block (no-go zone). Once declared, these areas are registered on title and published in the Northern Territory Government Gazette.

A reserved block is land that is not able to be considered as part of a land release for exploration, and companies are not able to apply for an exploration permit or licences for these areas.

The Inquiry categorised the types of areas which would inform the government's policy in declaring reserved blocks.

The Inquiry's criteria were set out in Recommendation 14.4, which states:

*That prior to the grant of any further exploration approvals, the following areas must be declared reserved blocks under section 9 of the Petroleum Act, each with an appropriate buffer zone:*

- *Areas of high tourism value;*
- *Towns and residential areas (including areas that have assets of strategic importance to nearby residential areas);*
- *National parks;*
- *Conservation reserves;*
- *Areas of high ecological value;*
- *Areas of cultural significance; and*
- *Indigenous Protected Areas.*

The Inquiry also recommended that exploration permits should not be granted in areas that do not contain petroleum potential in Recommendation 14.3, which states:

*That Government not approve any application for an exploration permit in relation to areas that are not prospective for onshore shale gas or where co-existence is not possible. Priority must be given to the areas identified in Recommendation 14.4.*

### 3 Current reserved blocks in the NT

There are already 15 reserved blocks in the Territory that prevent any petroleum exploration and production from occurring on such areas. These reserved blocks were in place prior to the Inquiry occurring and are listed below:

- RB2 West MacDonnell National Park
- RB4 Town of Katherine
- RB5 Town of Tennant Creek
- RB6 Town of Alice Springs
- RB51 Port of Darwin
- RB53 Marrakai Dam
- RB54 Bynoe Harbour
- RB55 Bradshaw
- RB56 Greater Darwin Area
- RB57 Dulcie Range National Park
- RB60 Warrai Dam
- RB66 Elsey National Park
- RB67 Nitmiluk National Park
- RB68 Darwin River Dam - Manton Dam Extension
- RB69 Watarrka National Park.

### 4 Consulting on proposed reserved blocks

The government has worked to identify areas of the Territory that align to the categories listed in the Inquiry's recommendations for reserved blocks and areas of no geological prospectivity for petroleum activities.

In detailing these proposed reserved block areas the government has considered a number of other existing factors such as granted exploration permits that have potential reserved block areas within them and Aboriginal Land and the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act (ALRA)*.

These areas have been marked in red on Map 1 to give an overview of potential reserved blocks in the Territory. The total area of these proposed reserved blocks is 654,900km<sup>2</sup> or 48.44% of the Northern Territory.

By releasing detail of which areas government proposes to be declared reserved blocks allows Territorians to identify which areas could be 'no-go zones', which areas will be available for exploration and which of these areas are on Aboriginal land that will be the decision of Traditional

Owners under the ALRA to determine what activity (if any) can occur. There are a series of maps as part of this consultation that assists in providing further detail on what areas are proposed reserved blocks.

Territorians can now have their say on potential reserved block areas for a period of four weeks. Comment can be made via the government's *Have Your Say* website at <https://haveyoursay.nt.gov.au/> or via email at [info.dpir@nt.gov.au](mailto:info.dpir@nt.gov.au)

All submissions received will be made public and published online. Requests for exemptions to a submission being published will be considered for either commercial in confidence or cultural reasons.

Post consultation and following government's consideration of comments received, the declaration of reserved blocks will require a staged approach due to the complexities associated with various land tenure, the Inquiry's criteria for declaring reserved blocks and granted exploration permits and exploration permit applications.

## 5 Granted Exploration Permits

The Inquiry stated that Recommendation 14.4 is prospective in nature and does not apply to land already the subject of a granted exploration permit. However, the Inquiry also detailed in Recommendation 14.5: *That the Government immediately considers and implements mechanism to retrospectively apply Recommendation 14.4 to granted exploration permits.*

Potential reserved block areas identified by the criteria in Recommendation 14.4 on granted exploration permits will likely need to be dealt with on a case by case basis. There are existing mechanisms within the *Petroleum Act* to remove exploration areas from exploration permits on renewal of existing exploration permits. Petroleum companies with granted exploration permits can also relinquish the holding of areas within their exploration permit that have potential reserved blocks identified within them.

### 5.1 Aboriginal Land as determined by the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act*

Some of the areas identified in Map 1 as potential reserved blocks, as outlined by the Inquiry, are on Aboriginal Land under the ALRA. This legislation gives Traditional Owners the sole right to make decisions as to if and how they use their land for development.

The Northern Territory Government cannot grant an exploration permit over an area on ALRA land where Traditional Owners have exercised their right to say no to petroleum activities.

If the Northern Territory Government declared any part of ALRA land a reserved block without Traditional Owner approval, it would be undermining the existing control that Aboriginal people have over their country. The government will respect the provisions of ALRA and allow Traditional Owners to determine what activity (if any) occurs on their land.

The Northern Territory Government will consult with Traditional Owners through the relevant Aboriginal Land Councils to determine whether or not they would like to declare areas within Aboriginal Land as reserved blocks. This will be a process that occurs as applications for exploration permits progress to allow appropriate consultation to occur through the land councils.

### 5.2 Non prospective areas

The government will not approve any application for an exploration permit in areas that are not prospective for onshore petroleum, as recommended by the Inquiry at Recommendation 14.3.

The government is able to determine whether or not an area is prospective for petroleum through surveying and assessment work undertaken by the Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS).

The NTGS undertakes a range of geoscientific projects including collaborations with Geoscience Australia, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and Universities to improve the understanding the Territory's geological framework, and mineral and petroleum potential. Areas deemed as not prospective for onshore petroleum is based on the definition of areas with crystalline basement rocks exposed at or near surface.

The NTGS has published information that provides information on all NT geology (basins and provinces) and this includes the geological provinces that would have no petroleum potential. This is *NTGS Special Publication 5 Geology and mineral resources of the Northern Territory 2013* and is available at <https://geoscience.nt.gov.au/gemis/ntgsjspui/handle/1/81446>

*NTGS Report 22 Petroleum geology and potential of the onshore Northern Territory 2014* is a subset of the above exclusively focussed on NT onshore basins and provides more detailed information on the petroleum geology and potential of these basins. This publication is available at <https://geoscience.nt.gov.au/gemis/ntgsjspui/handle/1/81558>

The maps associated with this consultation paper detail the areas that are not prospective for onshore petroleum which are proposed to be declared reserved blocks.

## 6 Proposed reserved block areas

Below is detail of areas for proposed reserved blocks that has been collated through collaboration with other government agencies in accordance with the Inquiry's criteria of Recommendation 14.4.

### 6.1 Areas of high tourism value

The tourism industry makes an important and valuable contribution to the Territory economy. The Territory is home to many national parks, reserves and conservation areas that are a key driver for attracting tourists to the NT. These areas have been identified as being of high tourism value by the Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture. Equally, these areas can also hold significant environmental and cultural values.

The Inquiry recommended that onshore petroleum activity should not occur in 'areas of high tourism value' and therefore these areas should be declared reserved blocks.

The Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture's Parks and Heritage Division undertook analysis of the national parks, reserves and conservation areas, defining which of those areas are of 'high tourism value'. All the areas identified by the Parks and Heritage Division are proposed to be declared reserved blocks under the Inquiry's criteria of 'national parks and conservation reserves' and are listed in section 6.3 of this consultation paper.

'Areas of high tourism value' is arguably a subjective term. The Inquiry did not define what 'areas of high tourism value' are. It is reasonable to conclude that there are a number of areas within towns that attract tourists and visitors, and these also represent destinations that are of 'tourism value'. As defined by the Inquiry's recommendation, towns and residential areas are proposed reserved blocks, and through that criteria, many 'areas of high tourism value' will be captured in reserved block declarations.

Other areas the Territory community considers to be of 'high tourism value' that are not captured within the proposed reserved block areas at Map 1 (and not on ALRA land) can be nominated through this consultation process. These nominations should be supported with rationale and

quantifiable evidence e.g. visitor numbers and information that underpins claims of 'high tourism value'.

## 6.2 Towns and residential areas (including areas that have assets of strategic importance to nearby residential areas)

There are currently reserved blocks in place for major towns across the Territory based on boundaries for major centres and zones under the NT Planning Scheme.

Reserve blocks over towns are detailed below:

- RB4 Town of Katherine
- RB5 Town of Tennant Creek
- RB6 Town of Alice Springs
- RB56 Greater Darwin Area

The government proposes to declare reserve blocks over smaller regional towns, including as examples: Mataranka, Larrimah, Daly Waters and Elliott. As the boundary of these smaller towns are generally not large areas in comparison to say the Greater Darwin Area, the protection of these towns and residential areas from petroleum activities will also include a buffer of 2km from the town boundary through the proposed reserved block. This proposed activity will apply to towns and residential areas. Towns and residential areas on ALRA land can have a reserved block established on them, subject to the decision of Traditional Owners through land councils.

The Inquiry found that a setback distance of no less than 2km should be established through the implementation of Recommendation 10.2, which states:

*That in consultation with the gas Industry, landholders, Land Councils, local government, and local communities, the Government mandates an appropriate setback distance from all gas well heads, pipelines and gas processing facilities to a habitable dwelling (including all buildings of premises where people reside or work, schools and associated playgrounds, permanent sporting facilities and hospitals or other community medical facilities) in order to minimise risks identified in Human Health Risk Assessment reports, including potential pathways for waterborne and airborne contaminants. Such setback distances should not be less than 2km and should apply to all exploration and production activities.*

Changes to the *Petroleum Act* (section 111) will also be made to give effect to Recommendation 10.2, regarding protection of residential areas. Section 111 currently prohibits petroleum activities within 50 metres of land that is being used as a residence, yard or garden. This will be amended to reflect the 2km setback or buffer as recommended by the Inquiry.

The draft *Code of Practice: Onshore Petroleum Activities in the Northern Territory* also stipulates a 2km setback as described by the Inquiry in Recommendation 10.2. This draft Code will be legally enforceable once consideration of the feedback received on the draft Code is considered by government and it is finalised. Public consultation on the draft Code closed on 2 May 2019 after a four week consultation period.

The *Petroleum Act* (section 58) currently provides protection to prevent petroleum activities taking place over or near infrastructure through General Conditions of a permit or licence issued under the *Petroleum Act*, namely:

*Petroleum activities cannot interfere with existing roads, railways, telephone or telegraph lines, power lines and cables, water pipelines or dams or reservoirs or energy pipelines or tailing pipelines or storage containers situated within the permit or licence area, except in accordance with approval from the Minister.*

Other areas that have assets of strategic importance to residential areas, such as airports and future town water supplies, will also be declared a reserved block. As stipulated in the Inquiry's Recommendation 10.2, a 2km buffer will be established around these areas.

Roe Creek bore field is the current town water supply for Alice Springs and will be protected as a reserve block. The Rocky Hill bore field is already identified as the future town water supply for Alice Springs by the Power Water Corporation and it will also be a reserved block. The protection of known future town water supplies, particularly in arid areas is in line with the Inquiry's recommendation.

The government invites further comment on reserved blocks for towns and residential areas, including areas of strategic importance to such towns and residential areas, through this consultation process.

### 6.3 National Parks and Conservation Reserves

There are 85 National Parks and Conservation Reserves as declared under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976* in the Northern Territory. As detailed earlier in this consultation paper, these areas are also considered as areas of high tourism value. These areas have been marked in green on Map 2.

A reserved block has previously been declared over five of these areas: Dulcie Range National Park, Eley National Park, Nitmiluk National Park, Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park and Watarrka National Park.

The government proposes to declare a reserved block on all national parks and conservation reserves. Where exploration permits have previously been granted on national parks and conservation reserves (not on Aboriginal Land), government will negotiate with the permit holders to ensure protection of these areas as reserved blocks. These negotiations may take some time to resolve, however government is committed to protecting national parks and reserves from petroleum activities.

There are already some existing measures for protection of national parks and conservation reserves that are subject to a granted exploration permit, under the *Petroleum Act*. A petroleum company that holds a granted exploration permit that includes a national park or conservation reserves within its boundary cannot carry out activity which may cause substantial disturbance to the surface of land of a park without notifying the Minister for Resources, who is then able to provide directions in relation to the protection of the park as per section 15 of the *Petroleum Act*.

Below is a list of all national parks and reserves in the Northern Territory.

#### 6.3.1 National Parks and Conservation Reserves in the NT:

1. Adelaide River Foreshore Conservation Area
2. Alice Springs Desert Park
3. Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve
4. Anna's Reservoir Conservation Reserve
5. Arltunga Historical Reserve
6. Attack Creek Historical Reserve
7. Barranyi (North Island) National Park
8. Barrow Creek Telegraph Station Historical Reserve
9. Berry Springs Nature Park



10. Black Jungle/ Lambells Lagoon Conservation Reserve
11. Blackmore River Conservation Reserve
12. Buffalo Creek Management Area
13. Bullwaddy Conservation Reserve
14. Butterfly Gorge Nature Park
15. Caranbirini Conservation Reserve
16. Casuarina Coastal Reserve
17. Central Mount Stuart Historical Reserve
18. Chamber's Pillar Historical Reserve
19. Channel Island Conservation Reserve
20. Channel Point Coastal Reserve
21. Charles Darwin National Park
22. Connells Lagoon Conservation Reserve
23. Corroboree Rock Conservation
24. Cutta Cutta Caves Nature Park
25. Daly River (Mt Nancar) Conservation Area
26. Djukbinj National Park
27. Douglas River/Daly River Esplanade Conservation Area
28. Dulcie Range National Park (RB57)
29. Elsey National Park (RB66)
30. Finke Gorge National Park
31. Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve
32. Frew Ponds Overland Telegraph Line Memorial
33. Garig Gunak Barlu National Park (Cobourg Marine Park)
34. Garig Gunak Barlu National Park (Gurig National Park)
35. George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens
36. Giwining/Flora River Nature Park
37. Gregory's Tree Historical Reserve
38. Harrison Dam Conservation Reserve
39. Heavitree Gap Police Station Historical Reserve
40. Henbury Meteorites Conservation Reserve
41. Holmes Jungle Nature Park
42. Howard Springs Hunting Reserve
43. Howard Springs Nature Park
44. Illamurta Springs Conservation Reserve
45. Ilytwelepenty/Davenport Ranges National Park
46. John Flynn Historical Reserve
47. John Flynn's Grave Historical Reserve

48. Judbarra/Gregory National Park
49. Karlu Karlu/Devil's Marbles Conservation Reserve
50. Keep River National Park
51. Kintore Caves Conservation Reserve
52. Knuckey Lagoons Conservation Reserve
53. Kuyunba Conservation Reserve
54. Leaning Tree Lagoon Nature Park
55. Limmen Bight Marine Park
56. Limmen National Park (inc mine area)
57. Litchfield National Park
58. Mac Clark (Acacia peuce) Conservation Reserve
59. Manton Dam Recreation Area
60. Mary River National Park
61. Melacca Swamp Conservation Area
62. Napwerte/Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve
63. Native Gap Conservation Reserve
64. N'dhala Gorge Nature Park
65. Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park (RB67)
66. Ooloo Crossing Conservation Area
67. Owen Springs Reserve
68. Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve
69. Ruby Gap Nature Park
70. Ryan Well Historical Reserve
71. Shoal Bay Coastal reserve
72. Stray Creek Conservation Area
73. Tennant Creek Telegraph Station Historical Reserve
74. Territory Wildlife Park
75. Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park (RB2)
76. Tjuwaliyn (Douglas) Hot Springs Nature Park
77. Tnorala (Gosse Bluff) Conservation Reserve
78. Tree Point Conservation Area
79. Trepkina Gorge Nature Park
80. Umbrawarra Gorge Nature Park
81. Victoria River Depot Historical Reserve
82. Watarrka National Park (RB69)
83. Windows on the Wetlands
84. Woodgreen Conservation Reserve
85. Yperenye/Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park

Kakadu National Park and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park are protected via Commonwealth legislation and are not listed above. For more information on Parks and Conservation Reserves in the Northern Territory go to: <https://nt.gov.au/leisure/parks-reserves/find-a-park-to-visit>

## 6.4 Areas of high ecological value

Northern Territory Government scientists have identified 67 sites which have biodiversity conservation values that require protection.

These Sites of Conservation Significance (SOCS) need protection from the impacts of development. In total, 42 of the 67 sites are considered to be of international conservation significance and 25 sites are of national conservation significance. These areas have been marked in Map 2.

The government proposes to declare the SOCS that are not on ALRA as reserved blocks. There are 25 SOCS that are on Aboriginal Land, which under the ALRA, Traditional Owners can determine what activity is permitted to occur on their land.

There are two Ramsar sites in the Northern Territory, Cobourg Peninsula and Kakadu National Park. Ramsar wetlands are rare or unique wetlands, or are important for conserving biological diversity. Ramsar wetlands are also recognised as a matter of national environmental significance under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (Cwth)*. Cobourg Peninsula is within Garig Gunak Barlu National Park and is proposed to be declared a reserved block.

The Inquiry also recommended a strategic regional environmental baseline assessment be conducted in the Beetaloo-sub basin. This recommendation detailed that baseline studies of the environmental, social, health and cultural features of areas be undertaken before applications for production approvals are considered by the Northern Territory Government. The completion of these baseline studies in the coming years and the evaluation of the information collected may identify other areas of ecological value that need to be considered for protection as a reserved block in the future.

### 6.4.1 List of Sites of Conservation Significance (SOCS) in the NT:

1. Hyland Bay and associated coastal floodplains
2. Daly River middle reaches
3. Fog Bay
4. Howard Sand Plains
5. Tiwi Islands
6. Croker Island group
7. Mary River coastal floodplain
8. Alligator Rivers coastal floodplains
9. Maningrida coastal habitats
10. Castlereagh Bay and associated islands
11. Buckingham Bay and associated coastal floodplains
12. Wessel and English Company island groups
13. Blue Mud Bay and associated coastal floodplains

14. Legune coastal floodplain
15. Victoria River middle reaches and Gregory area
16. Mataranka thermal pools
17. Sir Edward Pellew islands group
18. Borroloola area
19. Birrindudu wetlands
20. Lake Woods
21. Tarrabool lake
22. South-west Tanami Desert
23. Mud Hut Swamp
24. Wood Duck Swamp
25. Frew River floodout swamp
26. Dulcie Range and surrounds
27. Newhaven Lakes
28. Greater MacDonnell Ranges
29. Cleland Hills and surrounds
30. Lake Amadeus and Lake Neale
31. Uluru and surrounds
32. Karinga Creek paleodrainage system
33. Rodinga Range and adjacent ranges
34. Beddome Range and Wilyunpa Tablelands
35. Anson Bay and associated coastal floodplains
36. Finnis Rive coastal floodplain
37. Darwin Harbour
38. Shoal Bay
39. Cobourg Peninsula
40. Adelaide Ricer coastal floodplain
41. Chambers Bay
42. Western Arnhem Plateau
43. Boucaut Bay and associated coastal floodplains
44. Arafura Swamp
45. Elcho Island group
46. Gove Peninsula and north-east Arnhem coast
47. Groote Eylandt group
48. Keep River area
49. Yinberrie Hills
50. Limmen Bight and associated coastal floodplains
51. McArthur River coastal floodplains

52. Woollogorang and China Wall sandstone ranges
53. Nongra Lake
54. Eva Downs Swamp
55. Lake Sylvester system
56. Lake Surprise and the Lander River floodout swamps
57. Anmatyerr North
58. Davenport and Murchinson Ranges
59. Elkedra River floodout swamps
60. Lake MacKay
61. Lake Lewis and surrounds
62. Mount Liebig and surrounds
63. George Gill Range and surrounds
64. Petermann Ranges and surrounds
65. Mount Conner and surrounds
66. Waterhouse Range
67. Andado and Snake Creek lakes

For more information on SOCS in the Northern Territory go to:

<https://nt.gov.au/environment/environment-data-maps/important-biodiversity-conservation-sites/introduction>

## 6.5 Areas of cultural significance and Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs)

The *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act* protects sacred sites on all land in the Northern Territory and is administered by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA).

AAPA issues Authority Certificates under the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act* in consultation with the custodians of the sacred sites. These Authority Certificates determine where and what activity can be carried out in proximity to these sacred sites. Sacred sites will be protected by the requirements of Recommendation 11.1 of the Inquiry, which states:

*That gas companies be required to obtain an Authority Certificate prior to the grant of any exploration and production approvals.*

If a petroleum company does not adhere to the conditions set out in an Authority Certificate, or otherwise enters, damages or desecrates sites, they can be prosecuted under the *Northern Territory Sacred Sites Act*.

The processes legislated in the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* also requires negotiations for petroleum activity to occur in areas of the Northern Territory where Native Title has been determined. This provides the opportunity for native title holders to identify areas that are off limits for exploration and have those details contracted into an agreement with a permit or licence holder.

The ability for Traditional Owners on native title land, through the Aboriginal Land Councils, to protect areas of cultural significance by contractual agreement with petroleum companies is a key mechanism to ensuring certain areas are 'no-go zones' for petroleum activities.

The *Northern Territory Heritage Act 2011* is another existing mechanism that protects areas of cultural significance by providing for the conservation of the Territory's cultural and natural heritage. The NT Heritage Register lists all declared heritage places and objects and those which have been nominated but not yet considered.

Many of the proposed reserved blocks within this consultation paper will protect heritage places and objects that are declared under the *Heritage Act*. However, for areas outside the proposed reserved blocks, the *Heritage Act* must be adhered to by companies proposing to undertake petroleum activities. All Aboriginal and Macassan archaeological places and objects are heritage places and objects under the terms of the *Northern Territory Heritage Act 2011* and are automatically protected, whether they are known about or not. It is an offence to disturb, damage or destroy an Aboriginal or Macassan archaeological place or object without permission.

An Environment Management Plan (EMP) submitted to the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources for assessment of proposed petroleum activities requires the proponent to identify any heritage listed or proposed places and objects in the application and ensure the objectives of the *Heritage Act 2011* are met. The Northern Territory Heritage Branch will also comment on Environment Management Plans as part of the Northern Territory Government's review and assessment process of EMPs. This provides a mechanism to ensure heritage places and objects will be protected from petroleum activities.

Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) are areas where Traditional Owners have entered into an agreement with the Australian Government to promote biodiversity and cultural resource conservation. Most, but not all, IPAs are on Aboriginal land. IPAs in the Northern Territory have been identified in Map 2. Traditional Owners of ALRA land will determine whether IPA's on Aboriginal Land are declared reserved blocks.

### **6.5.1 Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) in the NT:**

1. Dhimurru
2. Anindilyakwa
3. Laynhapuy
4. Northern Tanami
5. Angas Downs
6. Warddeken
7. Djelk
8. Marri-Jabin (Thamurrurr)
9. Yanyuwa (Barni-Wardimantha Awara)
10. Southern Tanami
11. Wardaman
12. Katiti Petermann
13. Ganalanga-Mindibirrina
14. Marthakal
15. South-East Arnhem Land

For more information on IPAs go to:

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<https://www.pmc.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/environment/indigenous-protected-areas-ipas>

## 6.6 Declaring reserved blocks

Comments received from the public during the consultation will be considered by government before it finalises reserved block areas where onshore petroleum activity will not occur in the Northern Territory.

There will be some areas that can be declared reserved blocks very quickly, while other areas will take some time, and likely require negotiation with exploration permit holders.

It is anticipated areas that have been identified by the criteria set out in the Inquiry's Recommendation 14.3 and Recommendation 14.4 that have no direct impact with granted exploration permits or are on Aboriginal Land will be declared a reserved block later this year.

The Northern Territory Government will negotiate with petroleum companies who hold granted exploration permits and have applications for exploration permits (that are not on ALRA land) to ensure the areas the Inquiry identified should be declared reserved blocks are removed from existing permits and not be considered during the permit application process.

The Northern Territory Government will consult with Traditional Owners through the relevant land councils to determine whether or not they would like to declare areas within Aboriginal Land as reserved blocks.

## 7 Have your say

Comment on this consultation paper and areas government has identified as proposed reserved blocks is open for a period of four weeks.

Consultation commenced on 24 May 2019 and will close on 21 June 2019.

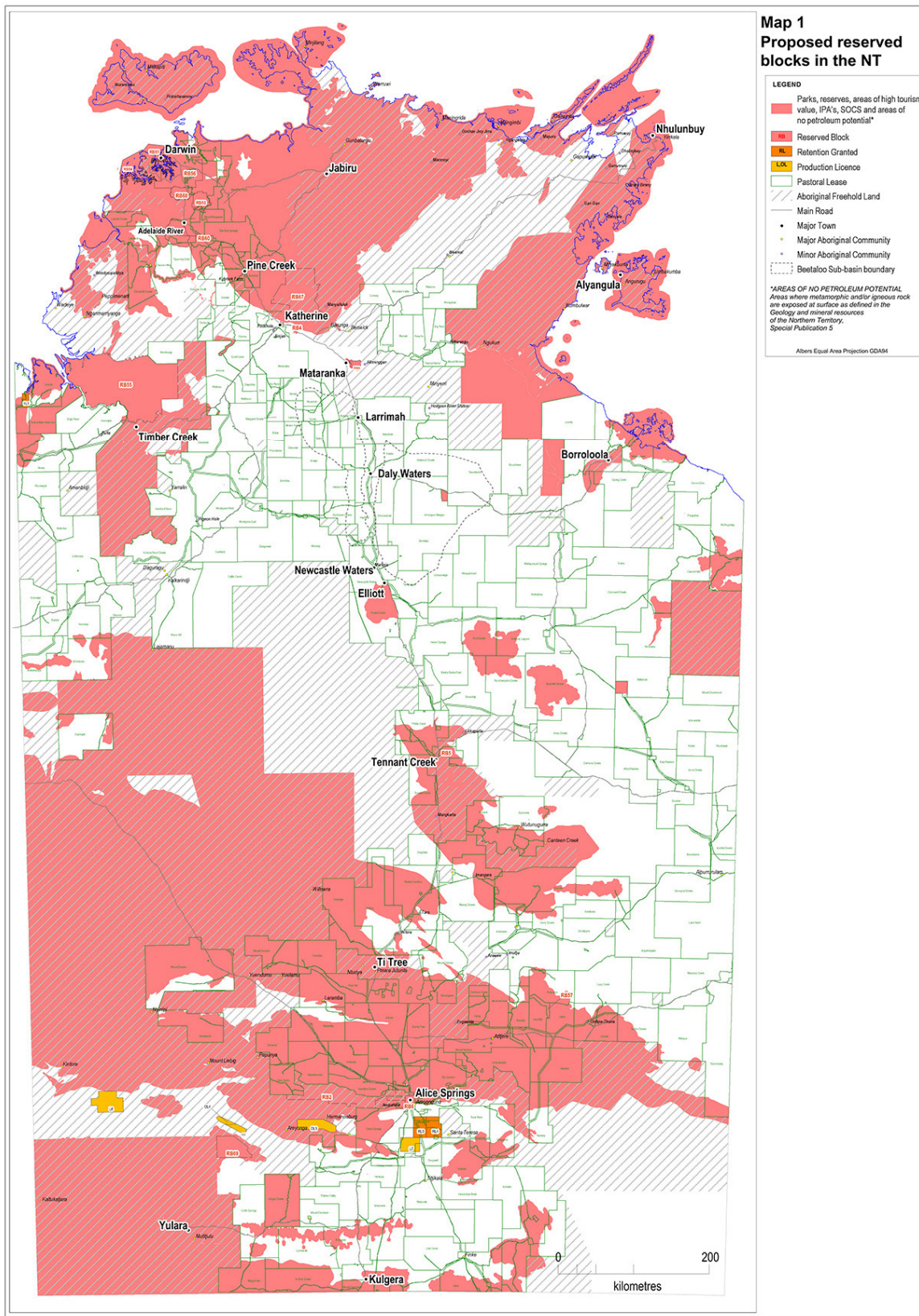
Comment can be made via the Northern Territory Government's *Have Your Say* website or via email:

W: <https://haveyoursay.nt.gov.au/>

E: [info.dpir@nt.gov.au](mailto:info.dpir@nt.gov.au)

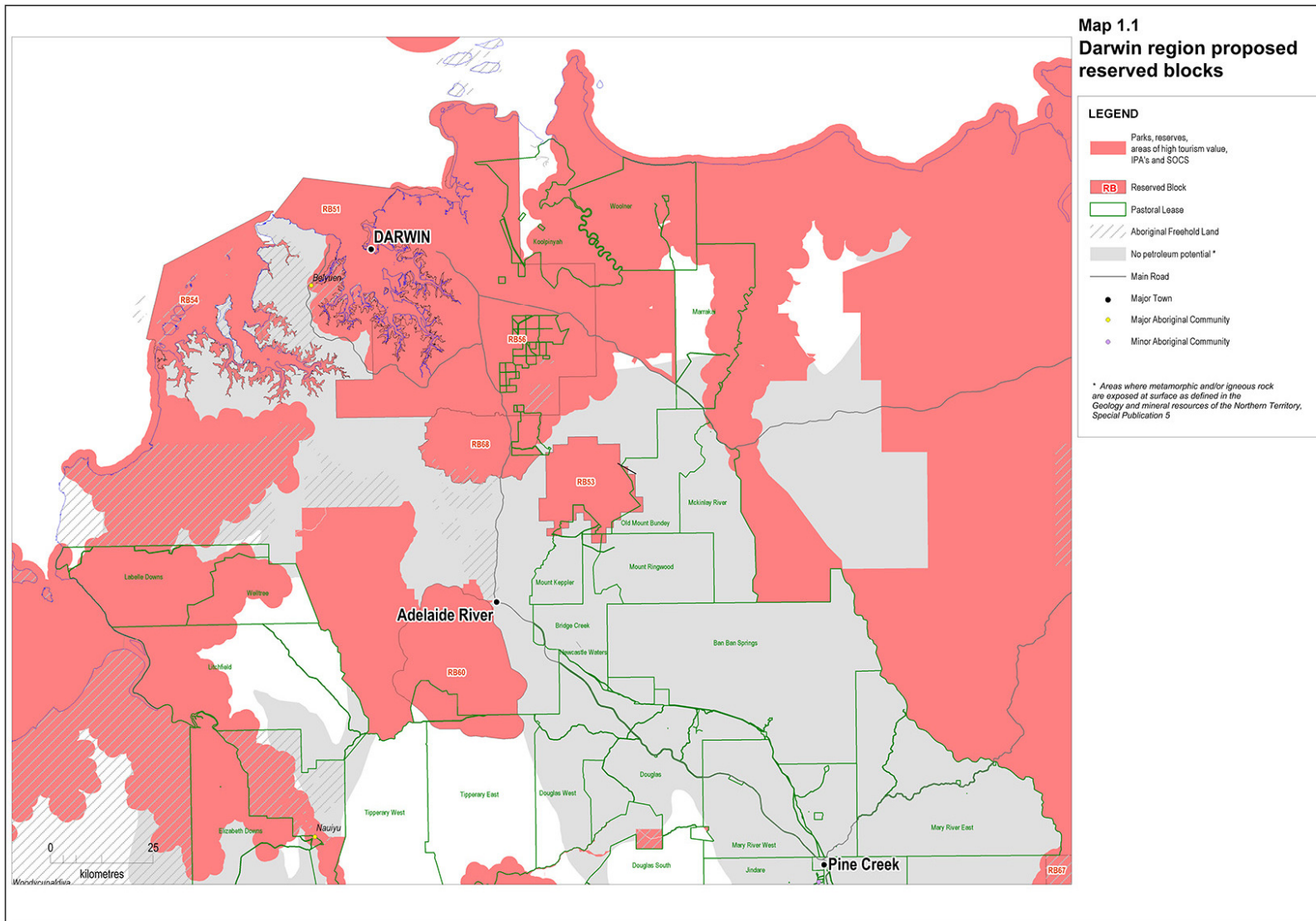
All submissions received will be made public and published online. Requests for exemptions to a submission being published will be considered for either commercial in confidence or cultural reasons.

# 8 Maps



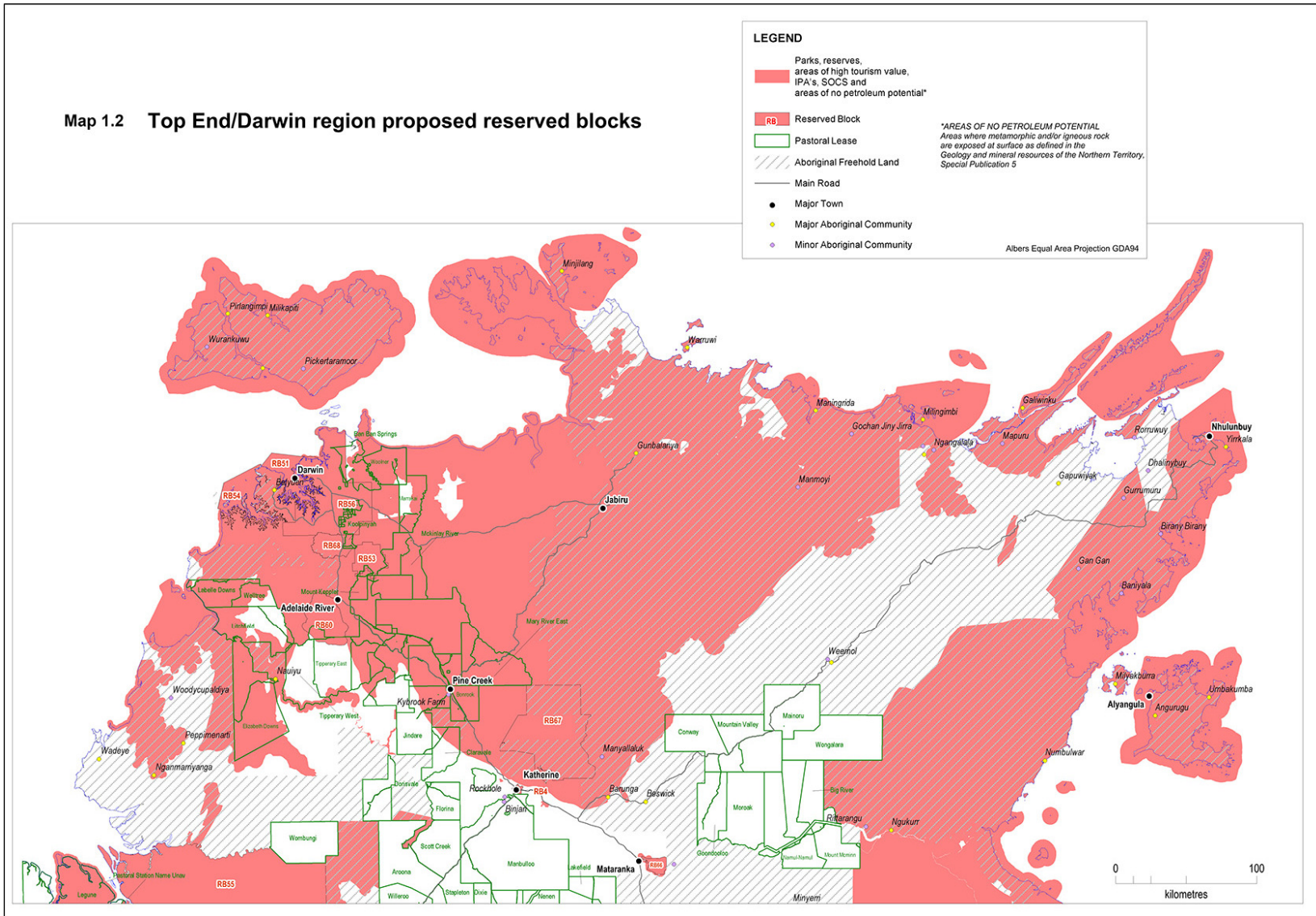


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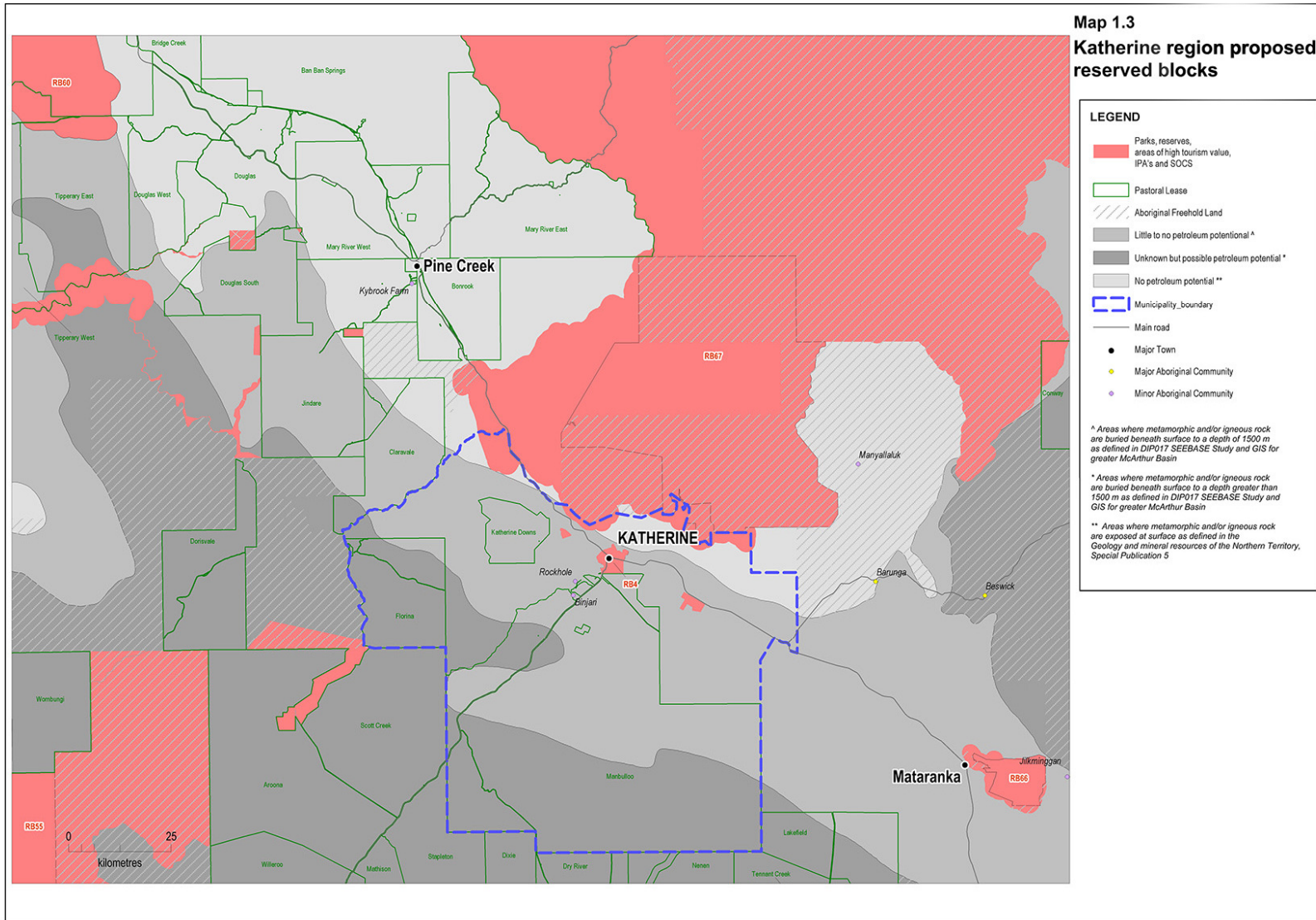


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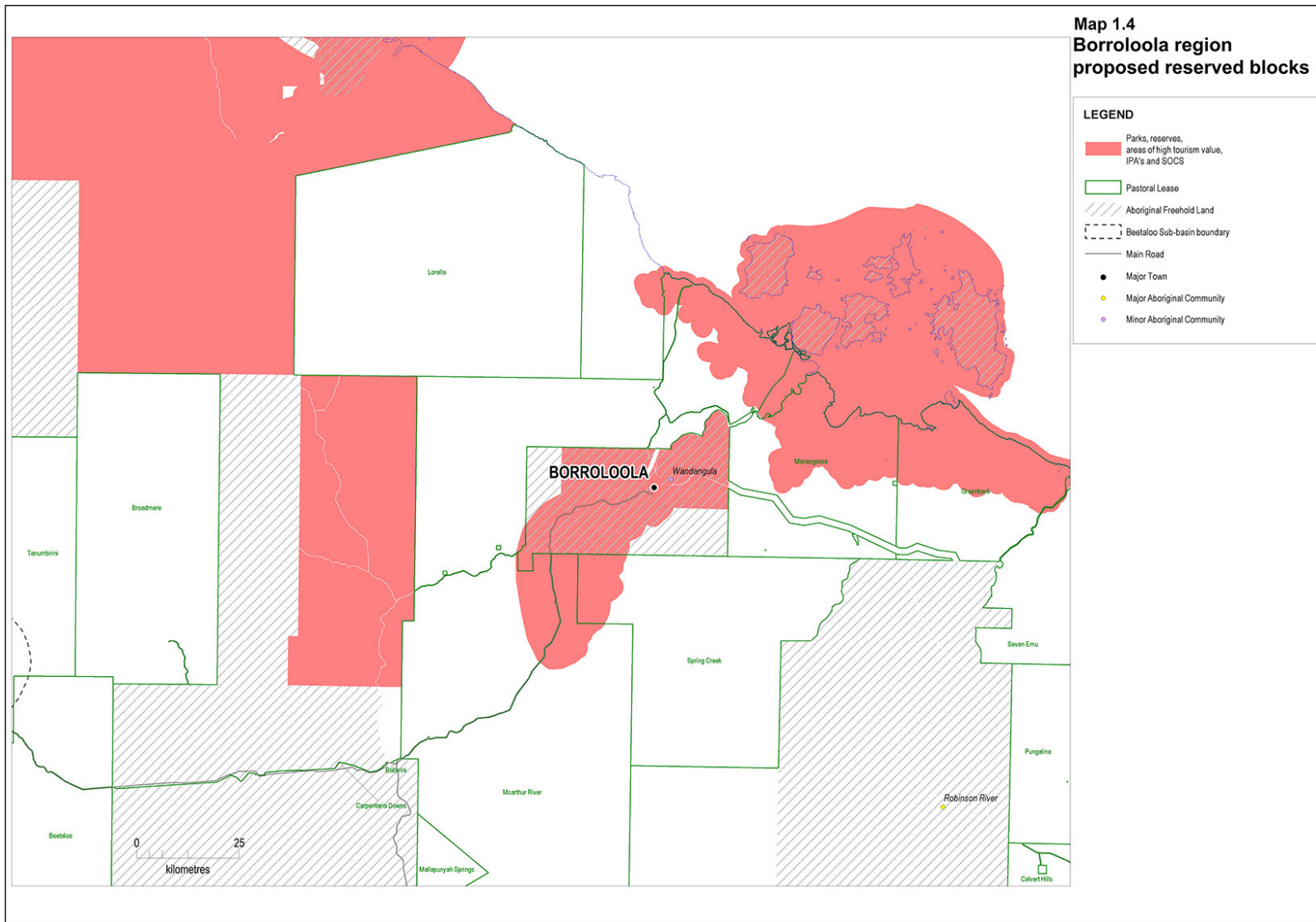
Map 1.2 Top End/Darwin region proposed reserved blocks



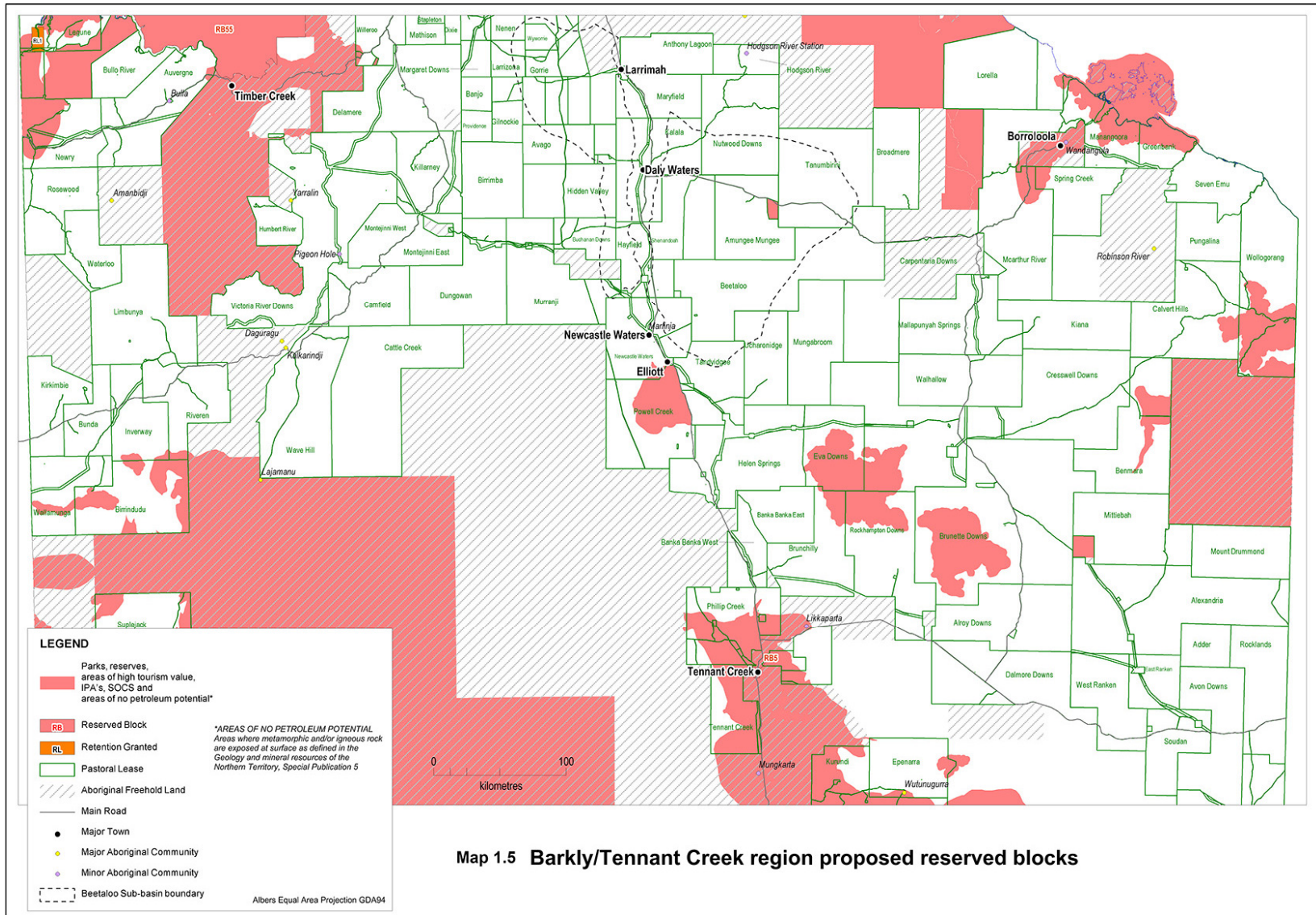
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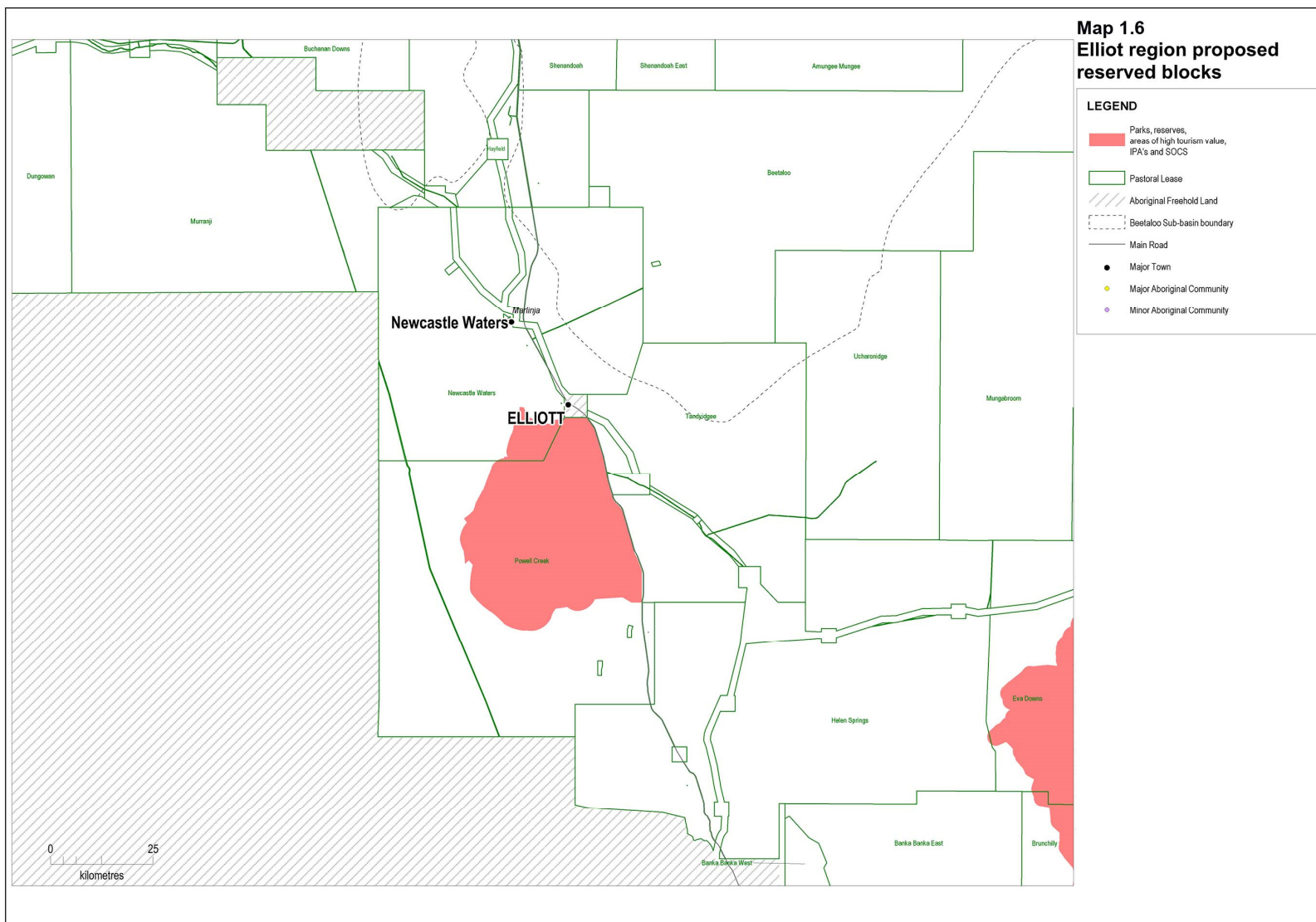


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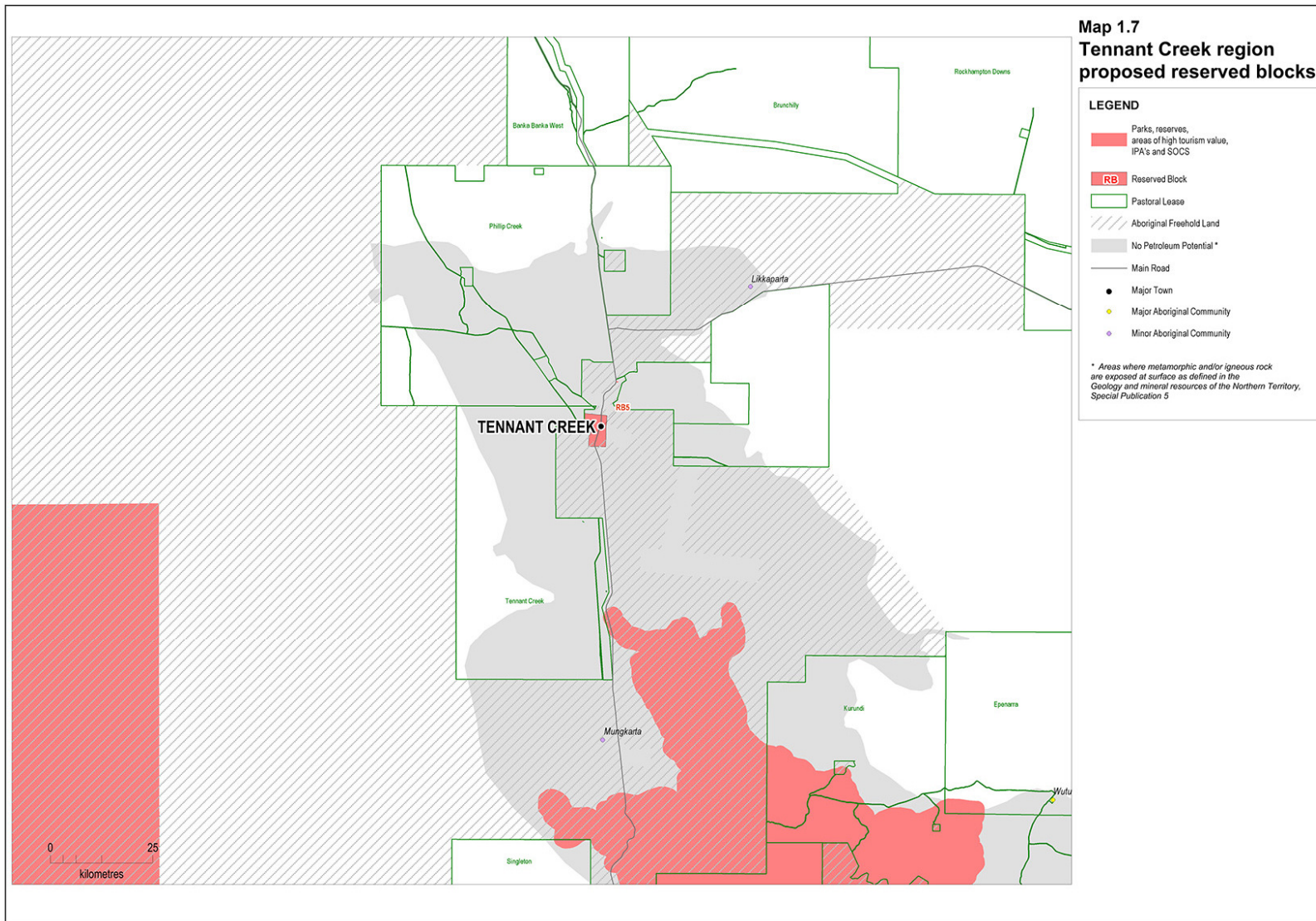


Map 1.5 Barkly/Tennant Creek region proposed reserved blocks

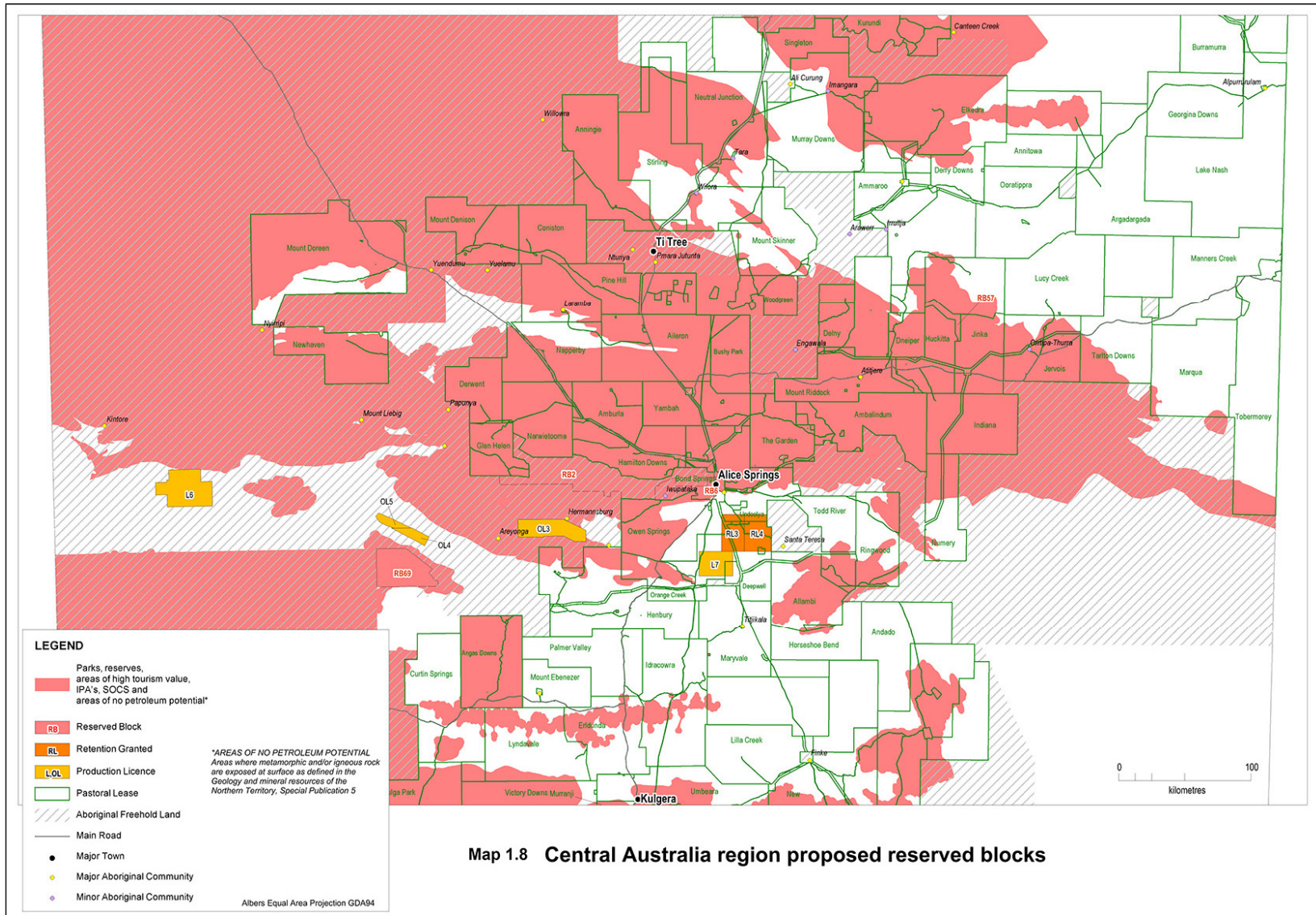
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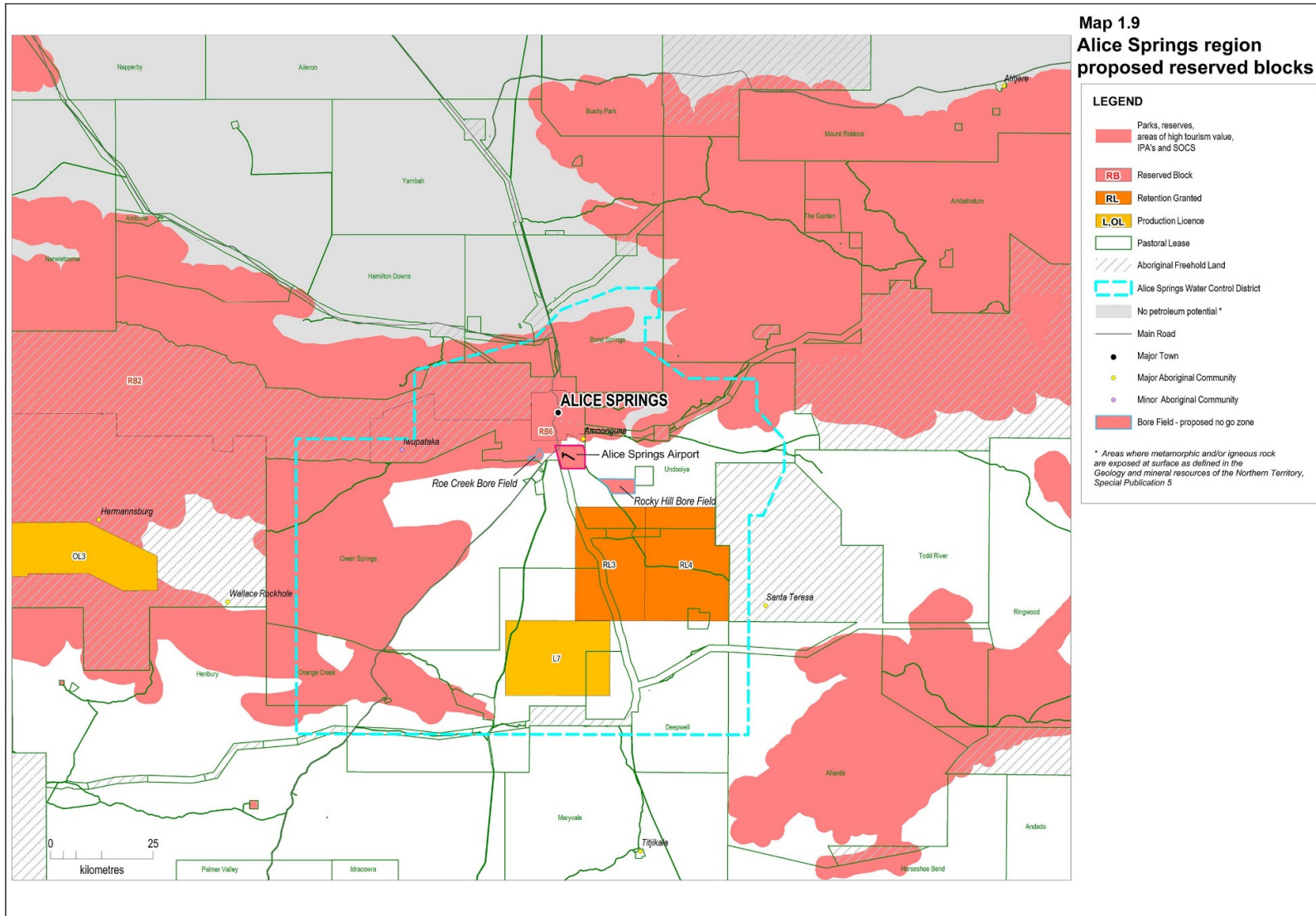


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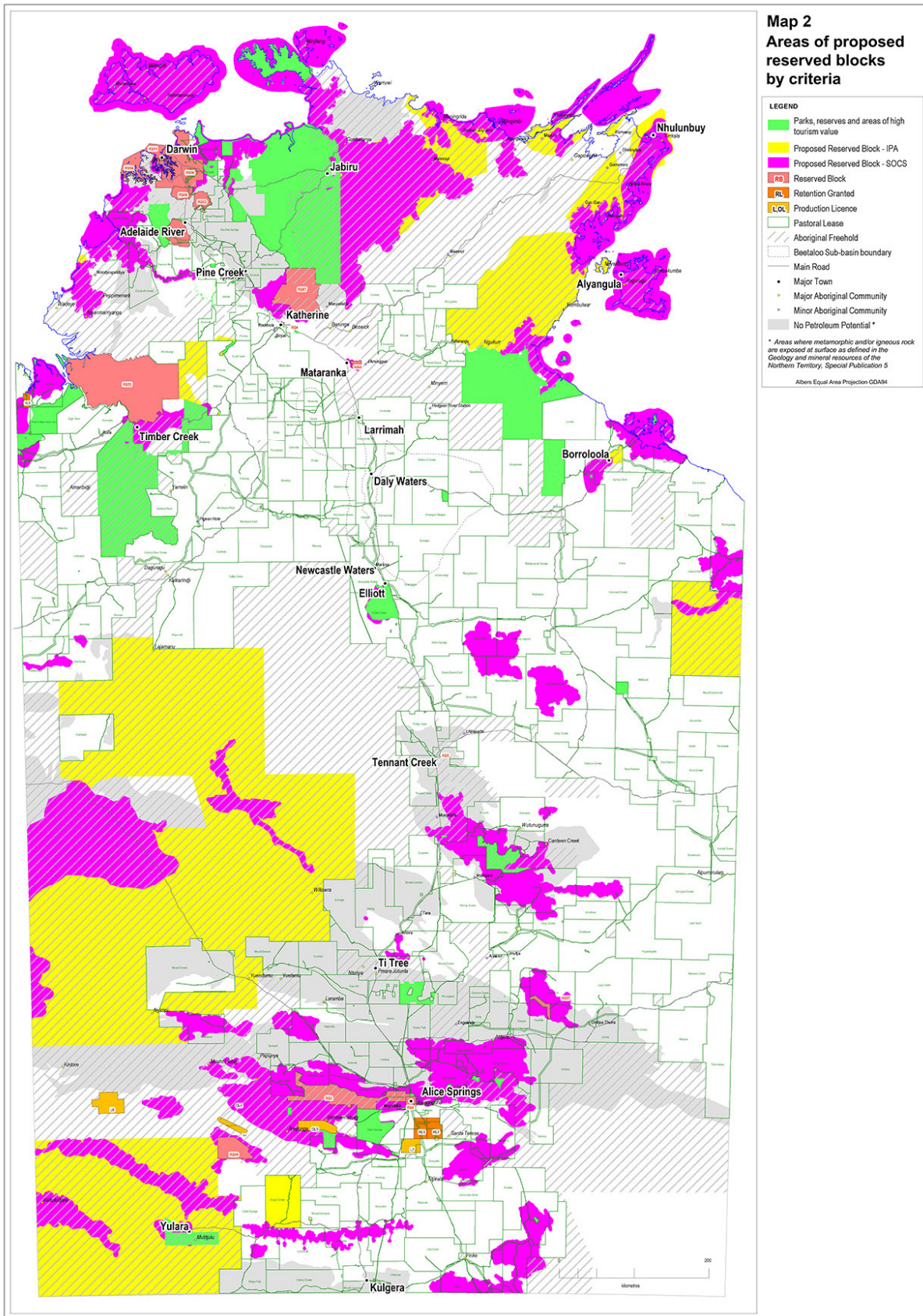




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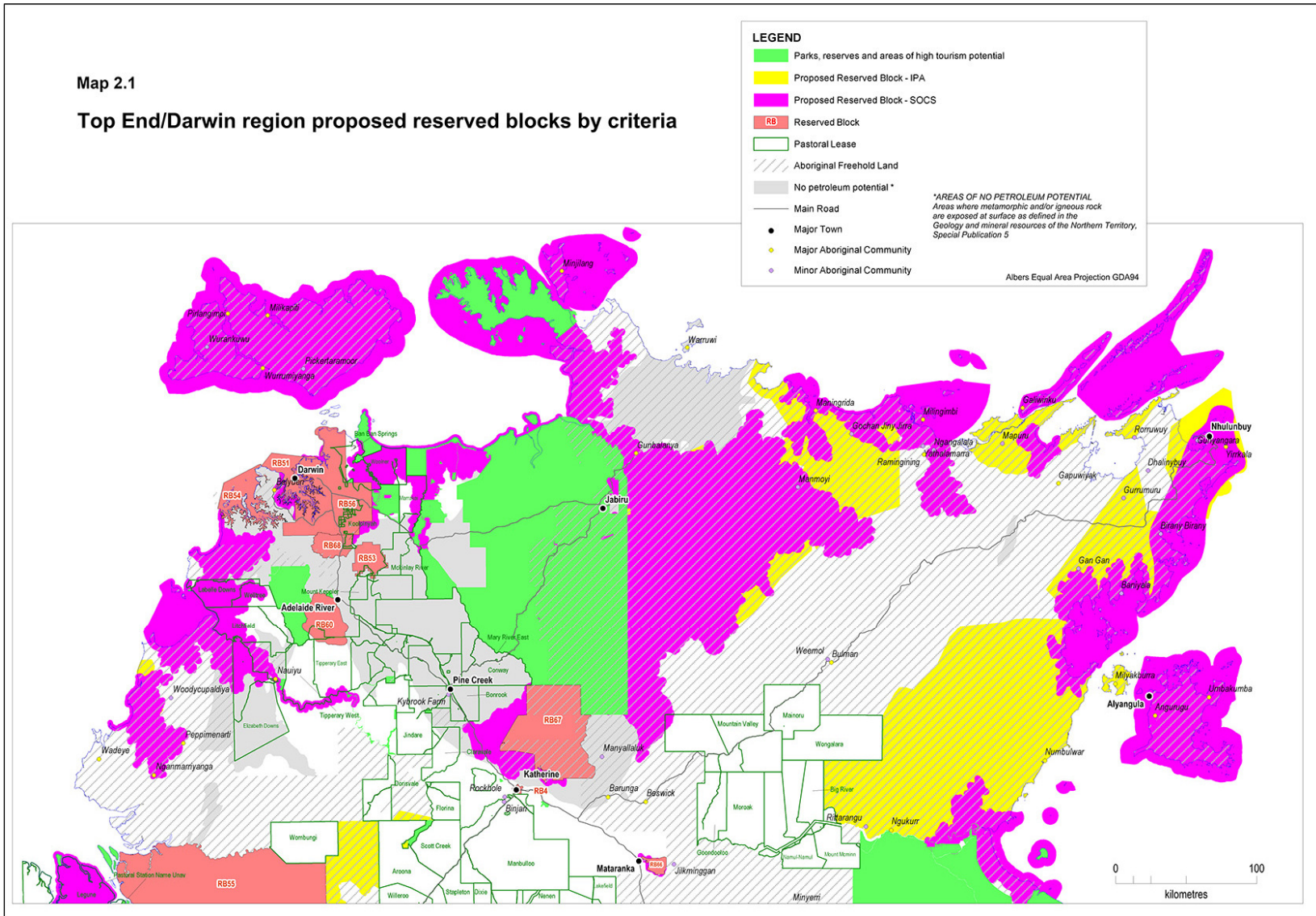
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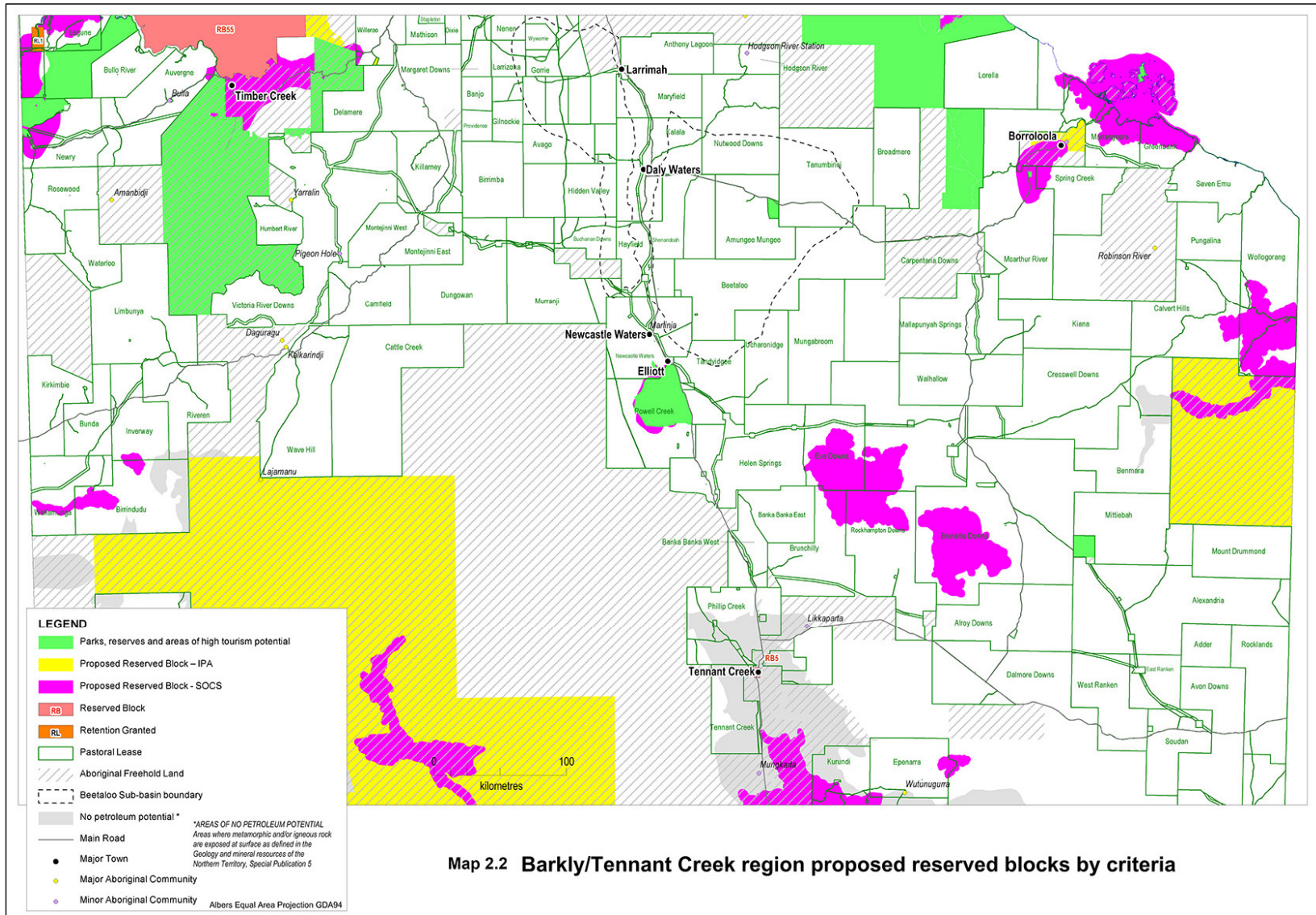
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Map 2.1

Top End/Darwin region proposed reserved blocks by criteria



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