



Robyn LAMBLEY MLA

Member for ARALUEN

Mr Clinton Howe
Chair
Public Accounts Committee
NT Legislative Assembly
Via Email: Clinton.Howe@nt.gov.au

Dear Chair and Members of the Public Accounts Committee,

**Referral to the Public Accounts Committee:
NT Government Road Works in the Alice Springs CBD**

I refer a matter of public importance for inquiry or investigation by the Public Accounts Committee of the NT Legislative Assembly.

There has been a rapid and serious deterioration of a network of newly re-sealed roads in the Alice Springs central business district (CBD). These roads were sealed in mid-2024 (see *Attachment 1*) and were a part of the NT Labor's Government's "Alice Springs CBD Revitalisation Program". These roads have literally come unstuck. Significant patches on all stretches of this CBD road network have turned into liquid tarmac.

It raises one critical and obvious question: **How can this happen?**

Other questions have been raised around:

- the original procurement of the work
- the scope and costing of the work
- the specifications of the work
- the decision-making, management and supervision of this work
- exactly who is responsible for the poor product that was delivered
- and who pays

Whilst I am not proposing a witch hunt, the lines of accountability within the NT Government for this poorly executed and even more poorly delivered NT Government funded project must be identified. Public scrutiny of this project is essential.

It is pleasing to note that this infrastructure disaster has been given the serious consideration it deserves by the new government, and I understand that they are planning to repair the roads in the coming weeks (see *Attachment 2*).

Background

The former NT Labor Government funded a project to “revitalise” the Alice Springs CBD. This project commenced in early 2020 and was apparently completed in July 2024. This was *three years* later than the planned date of completion. The whole project has been an extremely drawn out process for the Alice Springs community. People are fed up by the incompetent way in which many aspects of this entire project have been managed, something the Public Accounts Committee might also wish to investigate.

The roads within the Alice Springs CBD started to deteriorate in August 2024. A problem called “bleeding” with the tarmac started to effect significant portions of these newly sealed roads. Under intense public scrutiny it was revealed by local experts in road construction that these roads had been re-sealed incorrectly. Apparently, the roads should have been resealed using “hot mix” but a much cheaper option was used called “spray pave”. Questions have been raised about the quality of the emulsion product used by the contractors, possibly being low grade or faulty.

The impact of this debacle

This botched project has had a major impact on the usability of the roads and the whole amenity of the Alice Springs CBD. Pedestrians have been literally walking through liquid tar on the roads of Alice Springs. In trying to ameliorate the impact of this mess, we now have trucks spraying water on the roads every day and gravel has been spread on the bleeding tar to try to minimise the damage. It looks terrible. We have signs throughout the CBD warning people about the risk of gravel flying up from the road and breaking windscreens (*see Attachments 3 - 6*).

The extensive further works required to fix this mess will be to the detriment of CBD businesses and at enormous inconvenience to the public, not to mention at great expense to the government.

This problem is very public and very disappointing. It is also completely unacceptable.

I request that the Public Accounts Committee make their own inquiries into this debacle on behalf of the people of Alice Springs. We must ensure that this type of gross mismanagement does not occur again. Alice Springs deserves better.

Yours sincerely,



ROBYN LAMBLEY MLA
Member for Araluen
28th November 2024

Attachment 1 - NT Government Stakeholder Notice, April 2024
Attachment 2 - NT Government Stakeholder Notice, November 2024
Attachment 3 – 6 - Photographs of the CDB Roadworks

April 2024

Alice Springs CBD Revitalisation Project

Project update

Dear Stakeholder,

As part of the finalisation of the Alice Springs CBD Revitalisation project, several intermittent road closures will be in place in the CBD for road reseal and line marking works, commencing late April and finishing in mid-May 2024.

The road reseal will mark the completion of the cooling and shading contract. The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics appreciates the community's patience and support during this project.

The schedule for the road closures has been developed to minimise disruptions to all road users. Road closures will be staged and roads will be subject to two closures. This is to enable line marking once the bitumen has cured.

To assist stakeholders to plan for the closures, the schedule is provided below by road and date of closure. The stages are shown on the map below. Additional notes include:

- Pedestrian access will be maintained to all business shopfronts. If required, alternative crossings will be established as close as possible to minimise the disruption to pedestrians and businesses.
- Vehicle access to businesses along Bath Street, Hartley Street and Gregory Terrace will be temporarily disrupted and motorists are asked to follow traffic management in place.
- Various car parking spaces will be temporarily unavailable on Bath Street, Hartley Street and Gregory Terrace for the duration of these the works.
- Access to the Yeperenye Centre carpark will be maintained via either Gregory Terrace or Bath Street throughout the closures, with traffic management in place.
- Bus routes 100, 101, 200, 300, 301, 400, 401, and 500 will be affected on Hartley Street during works on 1 May and on 15 May, and on Gregory Terrace during works on 2 May and on 16 May. Taxi rank locations will be temporarily relocated to Parsons Street, opposite the Police Station during the Bath Street closures (between 28 April-1 May and on 14 May).

Upcoming closures – by road:

Closures are scheduled for 6am–6pm and will be in both directions unless otherwise indicated.

Bath Street

- Stage 1 28 April – 1 May
- Stage 6 14 May (single lane closures)

Hartley Street

- Stage 2 29 April – 2 May
- Stage 7 15 May (single lane closures)

Gregory Terrace

Between Bath Street and Hartley Street

- Stage 3 1 May – 3 May
- Stage 8 16 May (single lane closures)

Between Hartley Street and Todd Street

- Stage 4 30 April – 4 May
- Stage 9 17 May (single lane closures)

Between Todd Street and Leichhardt Terrace (including Tuit Lane)

- Stage 5 2 – 4 May
- Stage 10 18 May (single lane closures)

Upcoming closures – by date:

Closure date	Affected road
Sunday 28 April	Bath Street
Monday 29 April	Bath Street Hartley Street
Tuesday 30 April	Bath Street Hartley Street Gregory Terrace (Between Hartley and Todd Streets)
Wednesday 1 May	Bath Street Hartley Street Gregory Terrace (Between Bath and Todd Streets)
Thursday 2 May	Hartley Street Gregory Terrace (Between Bath Street and Leichhardt Terrace including Tuit Lane)
Friday 3 May	Gregory Terrace (Between Bath Street and Leichhardt Terrace including Tuit Lane)

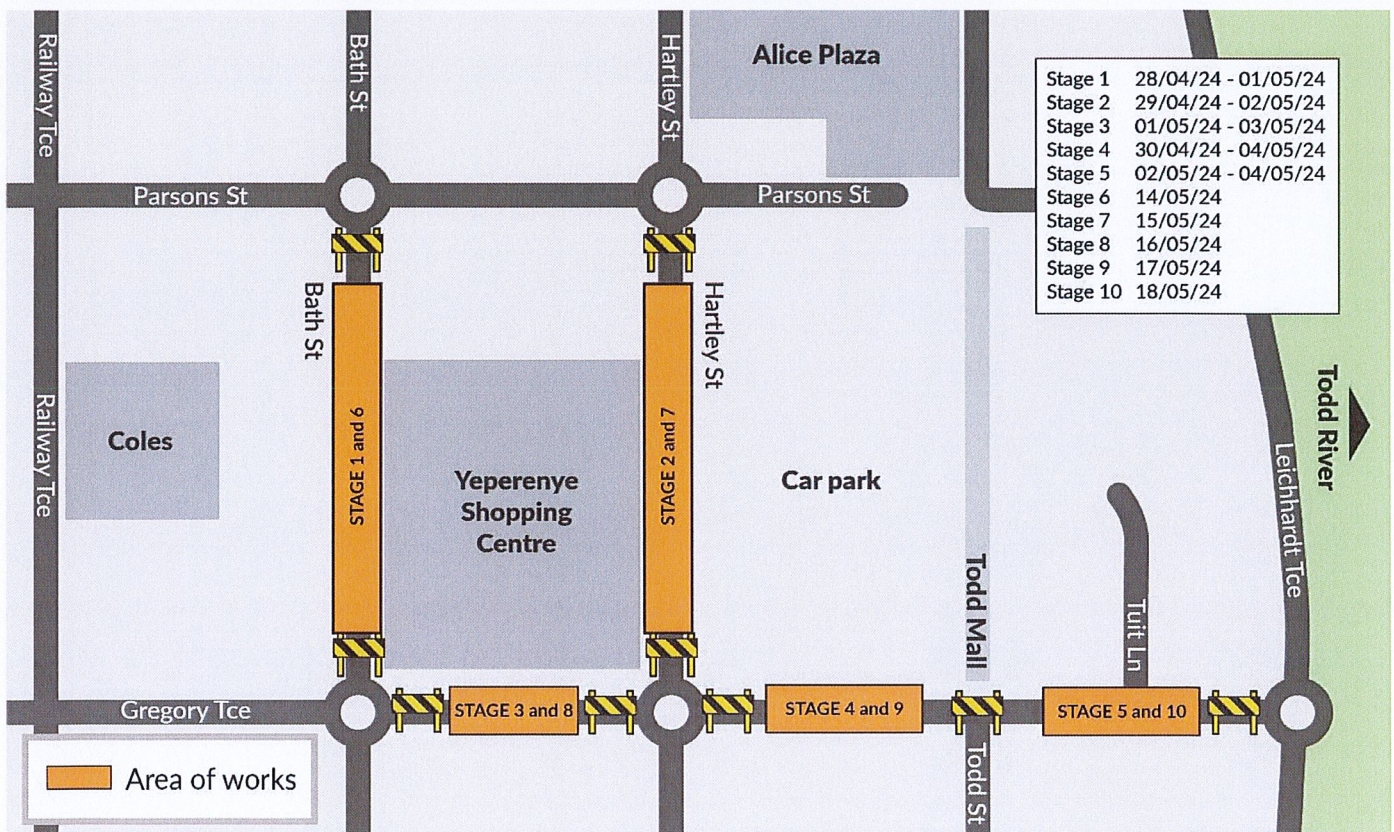
Saturday 4 May	Gregory Terrace (Between Hartley Street and Leichhardt Terrace including Tuit Lane)
Tuesday 14 May	Bath Street
Wednesday 15 May	Hartley Street
Thursday 16 May	Gregory Terrace (Between Bath and Hartley Streets)
Friday 17 May	Gregory Terrace (Between Hartley and Todd Streets)
Saturday 18 May	Gregory Terrace (Between Todd Street and Leichhardt Terrace)

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics appreciates your patience while these works are undertaken and will provide regular project updates to stakeholders as the project progresses.

While this is the final element of this contract, the department is working with the Alice Springs Town Council to augment median strip landscaping.

Contact

For more information contact the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics via email communications.dipl@nt.gov.au or visit dipl.nt.gov.au/projects.



November 2024

Alice Springs CBD Asphalt repairs

Dear Stakeholder,

The Department of Logistics and Infrastructure will be undertaking road repair works utilising asphalt on:

- Hartley Street
- Bath Street
- Parsons Street
- Gregory Terrace.

These repairs are required due to the recent extreme heat in Central Australia that has contributed to road damage.

Road repair works will take place in a staged approach as follows:

- Leichhardt Tce roundabout and approaches - Sunday 8 December 2024 – 6 am to 9 pm.
- Gregory Tce between Leichhardt Tce and Todd St - Monday 9 December 2024 – 6 am to 9 pm
- REST DAY - Tuesday 10 December (domestic violence march)
- Gregory Tce between Todd St and Hartley St - Wednesday 11 December 2024 – 6 am to 9 pm
- Hartley St/Gregory Tce roundabout - Thursday 12 December 2024 – 6 am to 9 pm.
- Gregory Tce between Hartley St and Bath St - Friday 13 December 2024 – 6 am to 9 pm.
- Hartley St between Gregory Tce and Parsons St – 14-15 December 2024 – 6 am to 9 pm.
- Bath St between Gregory Tce and Parsons St - Monday 16-17 December 2024 – 6 am to 9 pm.
- Bath St/Gregory Tce Roundabout - Wednesday 18 December 2024 – 6 am to 9 pm.
- Parsons St between Bath St and Hartley St - Thursday 19-20 December 2024 – 6 am to 9 pm.

Motorists and pedestrians are asked to comply with all traffic management and signage in place.

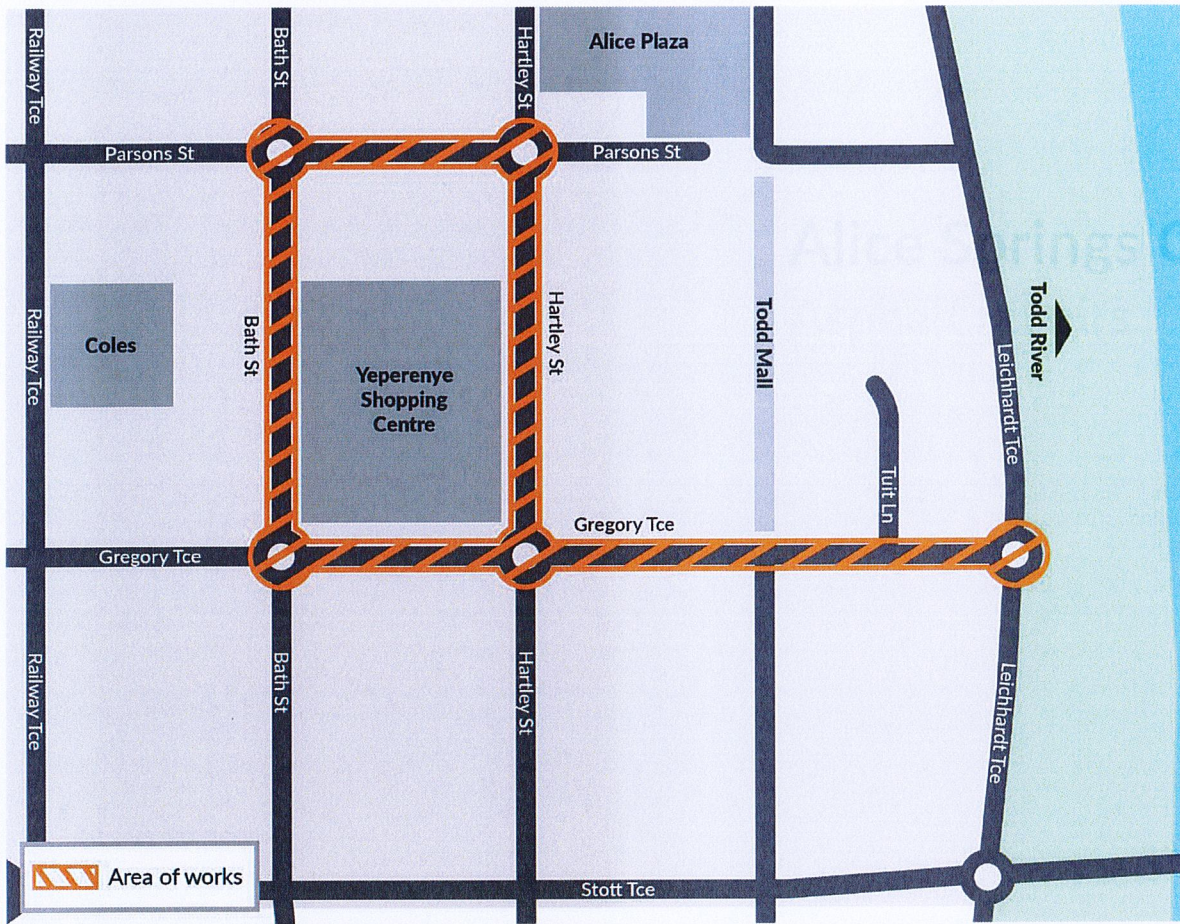
Public transport will be impacted during these works. Alternate stop locations will be provided.

Pedestrian access will be maintained to all businesses through dedicated access points.

Keep up to date with the latest information on road conditions in the Northern Territory, follow facebook.com/RoadReportNT or visit roadreport.nt.gov.au.

Contact

For more information about Department of Logistics and Infrastructure projects, visit dli.nt.gov.au/projects or email communications.dli@nt.gov.au.



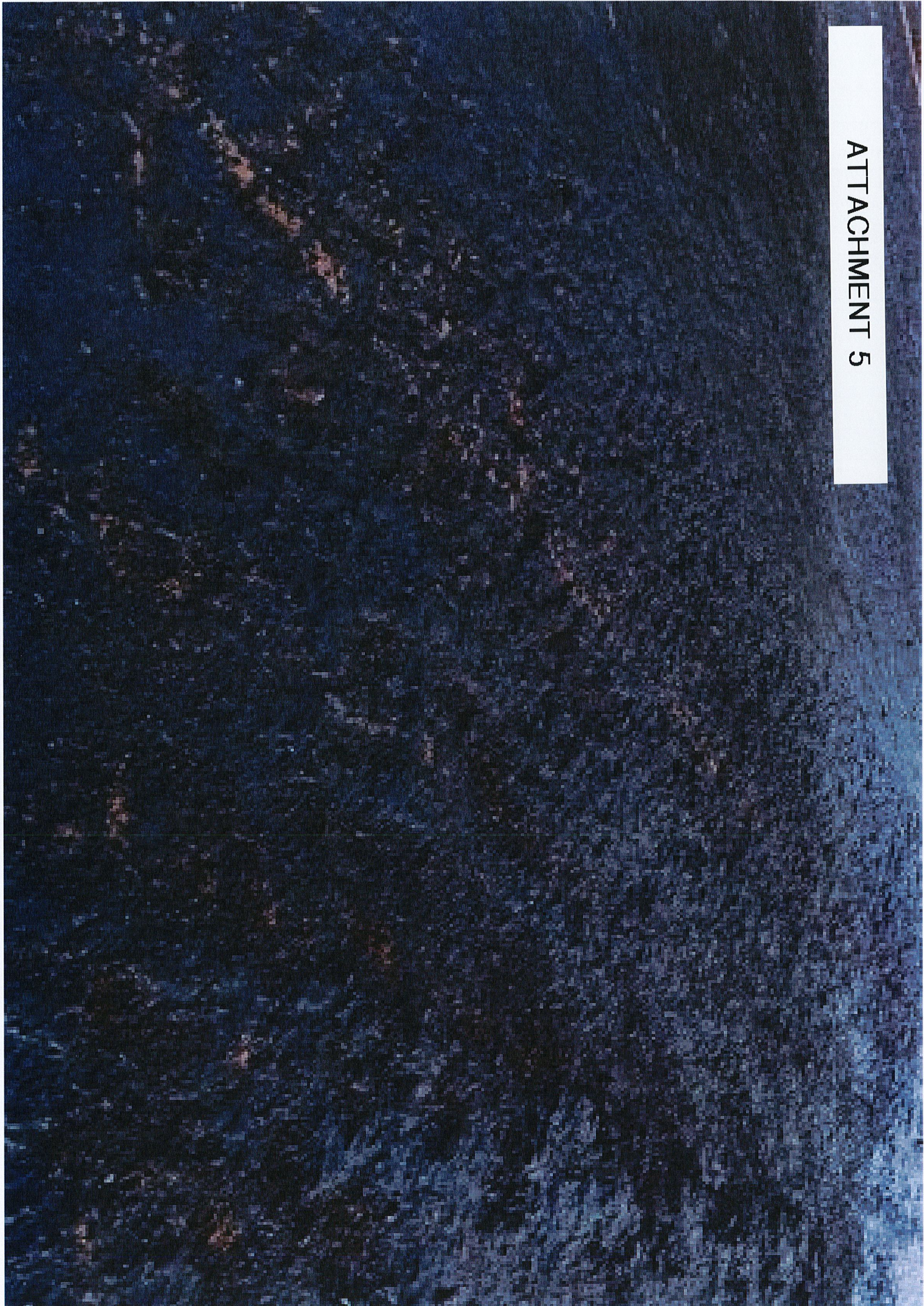
ATTACHMENT 3



ATTACHMENT 4



ATTACHMENT 5



ATTACHMENT 6

