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Department of the Northern Territory

P.O. BOX 5150 DARWIN N.T. 5794.

Tel. address
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In reply please quote

Attention : 902

Land Conservation Section,
Animal Industry & Agriculture Branch.

26 October, 1977.

Mr. G. Richard Stonesifer,
Technical Monitor,
Missions Utilization Office,
Applications Directorate,
N.A.S.A.,
Goddard Space Flight Centre,
GREENBELT. MARYLAND. 20771. U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Stonesifer,

With reference to the Landsat follow-on Investigation of Australia No. 2896F.

FINAL REPORT :

In 1973 the LandConservation Section of Animal Industry & Agriculture Branch presented a proposal to use Erts "B" (now Landsat) imagery to monitor large scale clearing and development programmes in the Daly Basin, Northern Territory, and to assess the value of this imagery in land evaluation survey work. Imagery was required mid-December, mid-February, late April and late September for 36 months.

This proposal was subsequently selected for inclusion into the Erts "B" (Landsat II) programme, being allotted proposal number 28250.

In February 1973 we were notified that the Landsat II programme had been delayed by approximately 2 years and the now probable date of launch was early 1975.

Notification of a successful launch was received on 6 February, 1975.

We have been sent imagery to cover the period November 1975 to May 1976. Since our proposal was to monitor the Daly Basin for 36 months this would give an estimated time of completion in 1978.

On September 6, 1977 we received notification that the final report for this project was due on 19 January, 1977.

From a review of events it now seems that our proposal to monitor the Daly Basin over a 36 month period can no longer continue due to the completion of the Landsat II programme.

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With this in mind we are finalising our project as it now stands, using the Landsat imagery we have on hand. This of course means that progressive monitoring can no longer take place but we are able to make the following observations:

1. The quality of the 4th generation imagery received was poor, with respect to enlargement and subsequent delineation of cleared and developed areas.

2. Of the 4 M.S.S. bands, M.S.S.7 appeared to be most responsive to cleared and developed areas.

3. The use of high level aerial photography at scales of approximately 1:80 000 to 1:90 000 are superior for land evaluation and mapping at the scales we require. The quality of the 4th generation imagery does not allow the accurate delineation of areas at scales greater than 1: 400,000.

Yours sincerely,

Blair G. Wood.

(Blair G. WOOD)