

Do I have to “cookie-cut” large datasets for partial relinquishment or final surrender reports?

Strictly speaking, the *Mining Act* requires that all data relevant to the ground being turned over is supplied to the Department. Thus, it is a requirement to “cookie-cut” data from large surveys to provide those portions of the data over areas partially relinquished or surrendered. However, in the case of geophysical surveys or other remotely sensed data, the subset is often meaningless if only a sliver or discontinuous areas have been relinquished. If that is the case, the leaseholder needs to send an email to geoscience.info@nt.gov.au with a map showing the extent of the survey and the area(s) relinquished and ask the Department to waive the need to cookie-cut the data. Irrespective of any waiver, the partial relinquishment report must contain stand-alone georeferenced derived images of that portion of the survey. This can be easily achieved, without actually subsetting the underlying data, by masking those areas not relevant.

In the case of final surrender of a title (irrespective of size), the Department will require the data over the original extent of the title (before any relinquishments) to be cut from any larger survey. This data then becomes open-file for the use of others.

Some leaseholders opt to prematurely open-file (publicly release) the whole regional survey, rather than bother with cookie-cutting.