

Inspection of Varanus Island

By WALLY EDGECOMBE

VARANUS Island is the largest of the Lowendal Group and is situated about 15km east of Barrow Island and 120km west of Dampier.

The islands are Nature Reserves and important breeding locations for sea birds and marine turtles.

Bond Oil have a 28ha lease on Varanus Island (82ha) for their tank farm and operational support for the Harriet Oilfield.

They fly out from Kar-ratha on an amphibious Gruman Mallard which is a World War II vintage aeroplane.

The day after we travelled out a wing broke off when an engine failed during a return journey from the island, but no one was injured.

Hawksbill Turtles began laying at the end of July 1988, and currently (September), the male mutton-birds are cleaning out burrows in preparation for nesting.

Ospreys have chicks (September) in large stick nests which are built on the rocks.



BOND'S tank farm with three 250,000 litre barrel tanks and the large emergency bund. To the top of the photo can be seen the pipe-line heading out to the rig.

Bond Oil are planning the establishment of a propane extraction plant and the building of an enclosed flare tower to utilise some of the

gas which is currently all flared.

Bottled gas will be taken by barge for sale in the north-west region.