#### **Alcoa Australia**

# Forest rehabilitation





Aluminium is vital to our everyday lives and a renewable future. The process to make it begins with mining bauxite, which occurs in certain locations globally including Western Australia's Northern Jarrah Forest. When our mining is complete, we embark on extensive forest rehabilitation.

We only mine in areas that have been previously logged, and avoid old growth forest, national parks and areas of high conservation value.

Working collaboratively with government, research institutions and others, we have developed a leading rehabilitation program that strives to ensure optimal return of plants and animals where mining has finished.

More than 75 per cent of the land we have mined has been rehabilitated to date and is at different stages of development. We monitor progress over many years to ensure forests become self-sustaining and to inform a process of contiuous improvement.

Our leading expertise and commitment has resulted in healthy and resilient jarrah forest ecosystems being returned.

### Our committment and record

+75% of mined areas rehabilitated and at different stages of development

Since 1988, only local native species have been used in our rehabilitation

+500 hectares rehabilitated annually with plans to double that rate by 2027

Commitment to cap clearing at 800ha per annum across our two mines

+650,000 people have toured our mining and rehabilitation areas

First mining company to achieve 100% plant species richness return

First Australian miner to **successfully hand back** a significant parcel of rehabilitated land and commitments to hand back more rehabilitated areas

First miner listed on the United Nations Global 500 Roll of Honour for rehabilitation excellence





Del Park mining area, north of Dwellingup, in 1980 and then in 2001.

# Forest to forest

## **Protecting value**

Extensive studies are undertaken to identify environmental, cultural and social values and plan how potential impacts can be avoided or minimised.

Mining does not occur in old growth forest or national parks.

Disturbance to stream zones and steep slopes is minimised.

Critical wildlife habitat is identified and protected.

# **Enhancing value**

Research and development are core to our success and inform continuous improvement.

We collaborate with government, research organisations and others to study, understand and implement best-practice rehabilitation.

Since 1975 we have supported the publication of more than 250 refereed journal papers, 80 technical studies, and 60 research theses.

Research topics include optimising understorey growth, best practice seeding and fertilising, and enhancing flora and fauna return.



# **Creating value**

In preparing and then mining an area, we take great care to maximise value.

Timber is harvested and used for a range of purposes including building, furniture making and industrial products.

The bauxite we mine is turned into aluminium, which is essential to our everyday lives and a decarbonised, sustainable future.

# **Maintaining value**

Ongoing monitoring and remedial work is conducted to ensure rehabilitation meets government criteria and evolves with best practice.

Our commitment to continuous improvement was instrumental in ensuring only WA native species have been returned to our mined areas since 1988.

We were the first miner in Australia to successfully hand back a significant area of land after rehabilitation.

Densities of trees and understorey, as well as selection of species and planting methods, have been adjusted to ensure healthy and resilient forests for a drying climate.

Planned burns are conducted in rehabilitated areas to manage fuel loads and fire risk.

# **Returning value**

The shallow, mosaic nature of bauxite mining means a constantly moving footprint and progressive rehabilitation.

After mining, the earth is landscaped to reshape landforms consistent with surrounding unmined forest, manage water runoff and create a stable base for rehabilitation.

Overburden and seed-rich topsoil removed prior to mining are returned along with selected logs and rocks to create fauna habitat.

Provenance-correct seed from about 40 species are sown and about 30 species of nursery-raised seedlings that do not naturally germinate from seed are planted.

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