

Alcoa Australia

Operating in water catchments



Alcoa recognises the privilege of operating in the jarrah forest and water catchment in Western Australia's south west.

It is where we mine the bauxite that is ultimately turned into aluminium, a product vital to our everyday lives and a decarbonised future.

We are committed to continuing to protect water catchments in the areas where we have operated for 60 years, ensuring the safety and sustainability of public drinking water supply.

When operating within and close to water catchments, we take our responsibilities very seriously. A broad range of measures are undertaken to ensure we continue to protect drinking water supply including minimising activities adjacent to water storage areas and managing risk.

Before mining starts, extensive surveys are undertaken to identify environmental, cultural and social values, and plan how potential impacts can be avoided, minimised or managed. That includes mapping waterways and run-off zones, and ensuring we have risk mitigation strategies in place for significant rainfall events.

We endeavour to follow the highest industry standards for bauxite mining and strive for continuous improvement including in protecting waterways and catchments.



KEY RECENT ACTIONS AND RESULTS:

80% reduction in drainage events in the 12 months to March 2023

Installed hundreds of additional bores to monitor water data across our mine sites

Increased water turbidity monitoring network to provide more detailed information on water quality surrounding our operations

Voluntarily increased reporting on water management

Enhanced rehabilitation processes to improve water run-off and drainage

Managing PFAS and hydrocarbons

We have stringent processes to ensure machinery and materials used on our mine sites do not impact the supply of public drinking water.

Hydrocarbons



Hydrocarbons, such as diesel fuel and hydraulic fluid, are used to run mining equipment. We are driving industry-leading reductions in hydrocarbon spillages.

Key factors that have led to spills at our mining operations being almost halved since 2019 include:

- 60% reduction in the time between hose replacements
- Visual inspections conducted on mobile equipment daily
- Ensuring technicians responsible for making hose assemblies have comprehensive training
- Working with contractors and hire equipment providers to apply the same rigorous requirements

If a spill does occur, we have strict containment and clean-up procedures, including removal of all impacted soil, followed by comprehensive testing procedures to ensure no remnants of hydrocarbons remain.

PFAS

PFAS chemicals were common in firefighting foams to enhance their effectiveness in protecting lives and property. However, concerns about potential risks resulted in them being phased out in WA from the mid-2000s. We do not allow fire suppressants containing PFAS at any of our operations.

In 2019, we discovered a fire suppressant we were using at our mine sites contained PFAS, although this was not indicated by the manufacturer. It was removed immediately.

As PFAS chemicals take a long time to break down, there is an ongoing risk of historical contamination. Investigations have been conducted in line with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's strict requirements with very small traces of PFAS discovered.

We continue to proactively mitigate associated risks through a range of current and planned actions including:

- Lined storage facilities on site to contain PFAS-affected water
- Licensed specialists carting PFAS-affected water offsite for disposal
- PFAS-affected water being treated on site using world-leading technology

The measures we have put in place are designed so any PFAS detections can be managed quickly and effectively, ensuring we maintain our record of not negatively impacting the supply of public drinking water.

