Alcoa and Victoria

A cornerstone of the regional economy



The Portland Aluminium Smelter has been central to economic life in the Shire of Glenelg in Victoria's far south-west for decades.

One of the Shire's largest and most technically sophisticated industrial employers, the Portland Aluminium Smelter directly and indirectly generates $767 million – approximately 17 per cent – of all economic activity in the region, according to an independent analysis commissioned by Alcoa.

Alcoa's economic contribution to the Shire of Glenelg

The smelter's economic contribution extends well beyond its direct output. Additional activity flows through purchases from local suppliers, as well as household spending funded by the wages and salaries of its workforce.

The smelter also plays a strategic role in Victoria's broader economy and energy infrastructure. As the single largest consumer of electricity in the state – and one of the largest in Australia – the smelter's stable baseload demand has supported the effective operation of the Victorian electricity grid for decades.

*The Portland Aluminium Smelter is a joint venture between Alcoa Australia (55 per cent), CITIC Nominees (22.5 per cent), and Marubeni Aluminium Australia (22.5 per cent). Alcoa manages the day-to-day operations at the smelter. The figures include the direct, indirect and induced activities for the Portland Aluminium Smelter and represent 100 per cent of the operations.

$767M
of economic output, representing 17 per cent of the Shire of Glenelg

$126M
in wages, representing approximately 18 per cent of total wages paid

1,111
jobs in the Shire of Glenelg, equivalent to approximately 13 per cent of total regional employment

$179M
in Gross Regional Product, accounting for approximately 12 per cent of the regional economy

Orizontas, Alcoa Australia: A valuable economic partnership

Working with Orizontas, Alcoa commissioned a study to model its broader economic contribution at the national, state and local level.

Using the REMPLAN Input–Output model, Orizontas analysed Alcoa's operational and financial data for 2023-24 to measure broader economic value created as these direct contributions flow through regional economies. While still operational at this time, in broad terms the Kwinana Refinery's economic contribution was excluded from the study to better represent Alcoa's current economic impact.

All figures are in AUD and are based on Alcoa's data from the 2023-24 financial year.

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