Alcoa Australia

Operating in water catchments

Alcoa has operated within the Northern Jarrah Forest of Western Australia for more than 60 years and conducted mining activities in proximity to drinking water catchment areas without any negative impacts over that time.

We are committed to maintaining our record of responsible operations, which includes ongoing management of risks to protect water catchments and environmentally sensitive areas.

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 have monitored and studied groundwater and surface water over five decades and that has helped refine the ways in which we design our mining areas and manage drainage.

Today, we have more than 1000 groundwater bores and dozens of monitoring stations in streams across our areas of operation to inform ongoing water management.

As part of our latest mining approvals, we have also committed to a range of additional guarantees and conditions to ensure we maintain our record of success and can continue to operate to provide solutions for a renewable future.

PROTECTING DRINKING WATER

- **$100 million guarantee** demonstrating our confidence that we will not impair drinking water supplies
- Immediately **ceasing clearing for mining within 1km** of public drinking water reservoirs and ceasing mining within 1km by mid-2024
- **No new clearing of slopes** in mine pits that average more than 16% within 2km of public drinking water reservoirs
- **Enhancing water monitoring and drainage controls** and contributing to catchment-wide risk management
- **Accelerating forest rehabilitation** with priority for areas within the water catchment

Alcoa Australia

Operating in water catchments

Forest Research Centre

Water Stewardship is one of the key research pillars of Alcoa's newly announced Forest Research Centre.

The centre aims to build on our 50 years of research and development and enhance collaborative research opportunities with institutions and individuals.

As we continue to provide the aluminium that's vital for everyday life and a decarbonised future, the ongoing protection of waterways and drinking water catchments, and furthering research of long-term trends in stream flow and climate impacts on surface and groundwater, are essential.

We are also embracing Indigenous-led science to further inform the ways that water resources and the things that impact them are managed into the future.

Managing contaminants

Hydrocarbons

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

We are driving industry-leading reductions in hydrocarbon spillages and measures put in place have resulted in a significant reduction in spills at our mine sites over the past five years.

This includes reducing the time between hose replacements, carrying out visual inspections daily on mobile equipment, and increasing training for technicians responsible for making hose assemblies.

PFAS

PFAS chemicals were commonly contained in firefighting materials, incuding those used at our minesites and in surrounding unmined forest, to protect the community and infrastructure. The use of such suppressants has been discontinued but PFAS chemicals take a long time to break down and therefore persist widely in Western Australia.

We have identified small traces of PFAS in some areas of our mine sites, typically well below drinking water standards.

We continue to work with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to ensure safe management. We are constructing world-class treatment facilities, and have licenced waste disposal contractors removing and disposing of waste materials.