Alcoa Australia
Forest restoration

About 25-year-old rehabilitation at our Huntly Bauxite Mine.

We understand the privilege of operating in Western Australia's jarrah forest and continue to evolve and improve how we firstly protect and then rehabilitate and restore this unique environment after bauxite mining.

We do not mine in old growth forest, gazetted national parks or areas of high conservation value.

For decades, we have worked collaboratively with government, research institutions and others on a leading rehabilitation program that strives to ensure optimal return of plants and animals to the areas we mine.

More than 75 per cent of the land we have cleared for mining has been rehabilitated to date and is at different stages of development. This work is ongoing.

Our leading expertise and commitment has resulted in healthy and resilient jarrah forest ecosystems being returned to where bauxite was once mined.

OUR COMMITMENT AND RECORD

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

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

+500 hectares – around 200 times the size of Optus Stadium oval - rehabilitated annually

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

First mining company to achieve **100% plant species richness return** in young rehabilitation.

First Australian miner to **successfully hand back** a significant parcel of rehabilitated land

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.

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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 gazetted national parks.

Disturbance to streamzones is minimised.

Critical Black-Cockatoo breeding 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 restoration.

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 have been adjusted to ensure healthy and resilient ecosystems in a drier 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 mining footprint and progressive rehabilitation.

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

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

Seed from about 40 local species are sown and about 30 species of nursery-raised seedlings that naturally produce little to no seeds are planted.