

# Huntly and Willowdale current mining operations

## Environmental assessment



## Social surroundings (amenity)



Alcoa has been operating in Western Australia since 1963. Our Huntly and Willowdale mines send mined bauxite to our Pinjarra and Wagerup refineries where it's refined into alumina, the material used to make aluminium.

Aluminium plays a key role in decarbonisation. It's found in solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicles, medical equipment and more. We continue to rely on it every day.

## The assessment

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is reviewing some of the current mining activities at the Huntly and Willowdale mines to ensure they meet State environmental standards and minimise impacts to the environment, cultural values and surrounding communities.

While the EPA completes its assessment, Alcoa will continue to operate under an exemption granted by the WA Government – maintaining bauxite supply and supporting thousands of local jobs.

## EPA environmental objective aims to

maintain community well-being by managing noise, visual impacts, and access to recreational areas.

## Key terms

**Social surroundings (amenity)** – Refers to the aesthetic, economic, and social qualities of an area that enhance community amenity. This includes factors such as noise levels, visual appeal, and access to recreational spaces.

## Proposed activities

Alcoa's proposed mining activities that could impact social surroundings – amenity include:

Clearing native vegetation.

Mining, and operational activities.

Physical presence of infrastructure.

Rehabilitation activities.

## Potential impacts

Mining activities may affect social surroundings – amenity in the following ways:

**Noise** – Construction and operations generate noise that may impact nearby residents and visitors to public spaces and recreational areas.

**Visual** – Clearing, infrastructure, lighting, and landscape changes may alter the area's visual character and sense of place.

**Recreational use** – Public access to trails and open spaces may be restricted due to noise, dust, traffic, or temporary closures.

## Managing impacts

Alcoa's focus is on preserving community enjoyment and experiences in the local area. We manage potential impacts on social surroundings (amenity) through the application of the mitigation hierarchy – avoidance, minimisation and rehabilitation. We conduct assessments to evaluate noise, dust, and visual impacts and have developed Recreational Trails and Facilities Management Plans in consultation with stakeholders to assess and manage public access impacts.

### Avoid

- No clearing or disturbance in mapped areas, including
  - Old growth forests.
  - National parks and conservation reserves.
  - Dwellingup and Jarrahdale townsites.
  - Hoffman Mill.
  - Bibbulmun Track.
  - Portions of Kingsbury Drive area and Lane Pool Recreation Reserve

### Minimise

- Maintain vegetation screening within proximity of public roads and recreational sites to minimise visual impacts.
- Blasting is delayed or avoided when wind or weather conditions mean this activity is likely to impact on amenity of nearby residents or recreational areas.

- Use an initial blast, which produces lower levels of noise than the main blast, to test against internal noise limits. These internal limits are exceeded the main blast is postponed
- Make blasting notifications available to the community and enforce internal noise limits of 110 dB at Dwellingup and Yamba, and 115 dB elsewhere to reduce noise impacts.

### Rehabilitate

Alcoa invests significantly to rehabilitate the areas where we operate, ensuring we are returning healthy, self-sustaining jarrah forest when mining ends.

For this proposal we will:

- Rehabilitate a minimum of 3,159 ha between 2024 and 2027.
- Rehabilitate cleared areas by reshaping excavated land to blend with the surrounding unmined forest.
- Prioritise rehabilitation near communities and recreational areas.

## How Alcoa monitors potential impacts on social surroundings (amenity)

### Noise monitoring

Implement real-time noise monitoring, predictive modelling, and mitigation measures through an Integrated Noise Management System to track and manage noise levels.

### Dust monitoring

Visual dust monitoring includes monitoring of dust areas such as bauxite stockpiles, blasting, crushing and haul roads as well as ambient air quality.

### Regulatory oversight

Monitoring reports demonstrating compliance with relevant environmental approvals.



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