

DRAYTON SOUTH COEXISTENCE AND ENVIRONMENT

Anglo American is committed to ensuring the Drayton South project has no adverse impacts on our surrounding environment and neighbouring properties.

Following extensive stakeholder consultation and environmental assessments, we have reduced the mine footprint by 25%, doubled the buffer between the mine and the neighbouring horse studs and will apply world class environmental management practices.

WATER MANAGEMENT

We are committed to ensuring there are no material impacts on any water resources as a result of the project. The revised project has been designed to ensure sufficient buffer zones are maintained to protect both the Hunter River and Saddlers Creek.

Water impact assessments and modelling carried out as part of the Drayton South Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) found:

- The project will have no significant impact on surface water or groundwater resources;
- There will be no mine affected water discharge from the project;
- Receiving waters in the region will not be affected, ensuring there is no significant impact on neighbouring agricultural and equine industries;
- There is a less than 10% chance water will need to be sourced from offsite and the project will not impact upon availability of water for agriculture from the Hunter Regulated River Water Source;



- If extended dry conditions continue, the existing Water Allocation Licences held by Anglo American should be sufficient to meet demand;
- The catchment draining the Hunter River at Liddell will reduce by a maximum of 0.04%, having an insignificant impact on Hunter River flows;
- Groundwater quality within the Saddlers Creek and Hunter River alluvium is not expected to measurably change;
- No private bores will be impacted.

Ongoing monitoring and reporting of water resources will be undertaken to ensure there is no change in these conclusions.

AIR QUALITY, DUST AND ACOUSTICS

We will implement a range of measures at Drayton South to ensure there are no negative environmental, horse or public health impacts from noise, dust, blasting or air quality, including:

- Significantly reducing the mine footprint and increasing the buffer between the mine and neighbouring horse studs;
- Road surface treatments to reduce dust, and progressive rehabilitation to minimise exposed areas;
- Minimised mining intensity in areas closest to the horse studs;
- Noise suppressing technology on mobile equipment;

- State of the art blasting technology;
- Keeping mining activities behind the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) nominated ridgeline and at least two kilometres away from the horse studs operating areas.

As a result of these measures, the detailed assessments in the Drayton South EIS found that:

- The project will have no negative environmental, public or horse health impacts from dust or air quality;
- No private properties will experience dust concentrations above the government's assessment criteria;
- Blasting is predicted to produce ground vibration and overpressure levels well below the relevant amenity criteria at all privately owned residences;
- Blast impacts will be effectively managed and significantly reduced;
- Mining noise will be within existing background noise levels and will not exceed the regulatory amenity noise criteria at any receivers in the vicinity of the Drayton South area.

Real-time monitoring will be conducted on air quality, noise and blasting.

REHABILITATION

Since 1983, Drayton has conducted rehabilitation activities to achieve a safe, sustainable and non-polluting landform. The primary objective of mine rehabilitation at Drayton is to create a stable landform compatible with the surrounding land use practices and capable of a productive post mining land use.

The Drayton area was traditionally used for beef cattle grazing, so maintaining grazing capacity in pasture areas, while preserving ecosystems and biodiversity, are the key objectives of the Drayton rehabilitation program.



In 2015, rehabilitation activities such as landform shaping and seeding will be conducted on 108 hectares (ha) of land at Drayton. The program also includes monitoring how previous rehabilitation activities are progressing. In addition to these activities, there are plans to supplement existing rehabilitation areas with tubestock planting of target species by the end of 2015.

As part of Drayton's rehabilitation program, independent expert ecologists also conduct regular flora and fauna monitoring to compare species diversity and cover in native woodland rehabilitation areas with analogue sites in the Wildlife Refuge and Northern Offset. Exotic species and weeds are also assessed to ensure they are effectively controlled.

The results of several trials conducted to improve rehabilitation outcomes have been integrated as part of the final landform design and rehabilitation planning in the Drayton South EIS application including:

- Leading practice geomorphic designs for the Drayton South landform using Geofluv™ software. The application of this software has already been trialled on 9 ha of land at Drayton;
- Examining variables and methodologies for recreating Endangered Ecological

Communities (EEC) noted as part the Drayton South EIS. Central Hunter Box Iron Bark Woodland and Narrabeen Slopes Slaty Box Woodland communities were investigated in 2012. The trial used a combination of tubestock planting and direct seeding for a wide range of native trees, shrubs and groundcovers, with and without application of fertiliser, to assess the relative merit of several methodologies and species commonly found in each EEC;

- In 2014 an organic growth medium was spread in three areas of the rehabilitation. Two of these areas were planted with native woodland species, and one with pasture species. Monitoring will be completed in 2015 to identify any improvements associated with the use of this material;
- An Equine Agistment Program launched in August 2014 on 40 acres of primarily pasture rehabilitated land at Drayton to monitor how the land would respond to livestock grazing. At the end of the reporting period there were four adult horses and two foals in the area. During the 2014 flora monitoring, two new sites were set up in this area to monitor pasture response to grazing.

Drayton mine

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