

# BIODIVERSITY

**Biodiversity describes the variety of life on earth. This diversity of different plants, animals and microorganisms is important for a healthy and productive environment.**

Biodiversity can be impacted through a range of activities such as land clearing, habitat fragmentation, disease, pests and fire. Therefore it is important that these impacts are minimised to ensure a healthy environment. Anglo American works hard to effectively manage and protect our surrounding environments and reduce the impacts of our operations on our local communities.

We are committed to managing biodiversity throughout the exploration, construction, operation and closure phases of our mines. We aim to reduce our impacts while preserving and enhancing the native characteristics of our local areas. At each of our operations we have Biodiversity Action Plans which help us identify the importance of local and regional biodiversity by:

- Assessing the ecological importance of the land on which the mine operates;
- Measuring those aspects that may be of high value; and
- Developing a management program to minimise the impacts our activities may have on the ecosystem.

In addition to our Biodiversity Action Plans, our mine sites facilitate research and restoration programs to actively promote biodiversity in our local communities.

At Dawson mine, located in the Central Queensland Bowen Basin, we recently partnered with the Queensland Government to undertake a study of Tecoma stans (commonly known as Yellow Bell). Yellow Bell is currently



listed as a Class 3 declared pest and has impacted upon native bushland throughout this region.

Our research program investigated the success of different weed treatments across various life stages. Ultimately, this research will enable Dawson mine to eradicate this weed population and encourage the re-colonisation of native species.

In the New South Wales Hunter Valley, Dartbrook, which is currently in care and maintenance, teamed with the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority to undertake the River Red Gum Restoration Project.

This project involved rehabilitating a 6.5 kilometre stretch of the Hunter River and Dartbrook (which totals 13 kilometres in length) protecting and enhancing 24 hectares of River Red Gum and White Box Woodland communities.

It also included fencing, planting, irrigation and weed control. River flow was also altered by installing woody debris and logs along the sides of the river to create current conditions suitable for local fish habitats and improve bed stability along the river. This project is currently in its tenth year and has delivered positive and lasting results to the Hunter River and Dartbrook.

Anglo American is committed to the highest standards of environmental performance. Our aim is to minimise environmental harm in exploration, construction, operation and closure of our mines in an environmentally responsible and sustainable way.



## BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS

Biodiversity offsets are required under Australian State and Commonwealth legislation. A number of our Coal projects or operations may be required to provide offsets to compensate for new mining sites or additional disturbance areas.

Anglo American is currently assessing existing land owned around our Australian operations to identify suitable land meeting our future offset obligations. For example, available land next to mining operations such as Capcoal or Dawson could potentially satisfy the offsets needed for any proposed new projects or mine expansions without having to acquire more land or expand our footprint.

Biodiversity offsets counterbalance negative environmental impacts that may result from onsite disturbances to endangered remnant ecosystems and individually listed plant and animal species.



Environmental Co-ordinator, Liz Smith, inspects Fitzroy River Turtle nests with conservation stakeholders

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