



Worsley Alumina

Worsley Mine Development

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

FACT SHEET – OVERVIEW

SEPTEMBER 2020

INTRODUCTION

South32 Worsley Alumina is an integrated bauxite mining and alumina refining operation in the South West of Western Australia with a proud track record spanning more than 35 years.

The Worsley Mine Development is the next phase of bauxite mining near Boddington, providing access to future reserves and resources to sustain production at our Worsley Alumina refinery near Collie.

The project is a key enabler for Worsley Alumina to continue to deliver benefits to the Peel and South West regions, and Western Australia more broadly, for many years to come.

The project is currently subject to a State and Commonwealth environmental approvals process, with a comprehensive environmental review undertaken and an eight-week public review period set to commence later this year.

BACKGROUND

Worsley Alumina has been operating the Boddington Bauxite Mine, an overland bauxite conveyor and the Worsley Alumina refinery since 1984 and we are well-established in the communities in which we operate.

We are one of the largest private sector employers in the Peel and South West regions, with approximately 1,600 permanent employees and more than 800 contractors. The operation injects more than \$1 million per day into the local economy through salaries, local business spend and community investment. Over the last five years, we have spent more than \$2 million on local community investment, supporting environmental projects, education and training opportunities, and projects that encourage economic diversification.

The project is seeking approval to continue operations and open up new mining areas, obtaining a whole of operations, consolidated environmental approval to ensure effective and efficient environmental management of operations. It will allow long-term development by sustaining the currently approved mining rate and refinery production rate. The project includes three main components, which together form the Primary Assessment Area (PAA):

- The Worsley Mining Development Envelope, within which the next phase of mining is proposed to take place in existing areas, as well as in new areas to the west and north of current operations, and these would continue to utilise existing crushing and conveying infrastructure;

- The Bauxite Transport Corridor, which would link current mining areas to new and future mining areas; and
- The Contingency Bauxite Mining Envelope, which would provide for an emergency supply of bauxite close to the refinery should it be required.

The project is also seeking the continuation of all other aspects of existing Worsley Alumina operations as currently approved, as well as minor works and the regional exploration program.

In July 2019, the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority (WA EPA) determined the level of assessment of the project as a Public Environmental Review with an eight-week public review for the Environmental Review Document (ERD). In October 2019 the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) announced that it will undertake an accredited assessment, allowing the WA EPA to conduct the assessment.

In February 2020 the WA EPA provided an Environmental Scoping Document (ESD), which defines the form, content, timing and procedure of the ERD. Worsley Alumina has developed the ERD in accordance with these guidelines. The ERD will be available for public review and comment later this year and we encourage all interested parties to participate in the public review period.



FORM AND CONTENT OF THE ERD

The purpose and scope of the ERD is to inform the public, support the WA EPA's and DAWE's assessments, and provide other decision-making authorities with a detailed review of the project and its potential environmental impacts.

KEY ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Environmental factors are those parts of the environment that may be impacted by an aspect of a project. The WA EPA has 14 environmental factors, which are organised into five themes: Sea, Land, Water, Air and People. The ESD approved by the WA EPA provides an outline of preliminary key factors that are relevant to this project and includes:

THEME	FACTOR	RELEVANCE TO THE PROJECT
Land	Flora and Vegetation	Continued operation of the mine within the PAA involves an increase of mine and infrastructure footprints, which will require clearing of native vegetation and fauna habitat.
	Terrestrial Fauna	
	Terrestrial Environmental Quality	Vegetation clearing and disturbance to soils from increased mine and infrastructure footprints may result in soil erosion, dryland salinity and/or soil contamination.
Water	Inland Waters	Clearing of native vegetation and the disturbance of river banks for the construction of river crossings may result in riverbank erosion, sedimentation, scouring of streams and decline in aquatic fauna due to changes in flow regime and water quality. The extended water use (including from groundwater sources) for mining activities and excavation for new mining areas may result in contamination of ground and/or surface water and a deterioration in the water quality, which may subsequently impact on ground and/or surface water values.
	Air Quality	The clearing of vegetation and mining and construction activities (including haul truck/light vehicle movements on unsealed roads) will generate dust and exhaust emissions.
People	Social Surroundings	Continued operation within the PAA involves clearing of vegetation and land disturbance within proximity of residences, recreation and heritage sites. These activities may result in indirect disturbance to these sites through changes in visual amenity or dust and noise emissions.

TIMING

The timing of the review process is outlined in the ESD and can be subject to update depending on the ongoing review of the application. Some key dates in the next few months include:

- Eight-week public review period expected to begin - November 2020 (TBC)
- WA EPA finalises its assessment report and gives the report to the Minister for Environment - May 2021 (TBC)

At the close of the public review period, the WA EPA will conduct its assessment, including consideration of Matters of National Environmental Significance and Worsley Alumina's response to submissions. The WA EPA will prepare an assessment report and recommendations which will be provided to the WA Minister for Environment and open to appeal. The Minister for Environment will then decide whether the project may be implemented, and if so, the conditions of approval.

PREDICTED OUTCOME

Worsley Alumina considers the project is in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act (1986) Environmental Principles and can be managed to meet the WA EPA's objective for all environmental factors through a revised and consolidated set of Ministerial conditions.

As such, this approval will support continued operations at Worsley Alumina for many years to come.