

OLYMPIC DAM EXPANSION EIS

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Environmental management

Olympic Dam operates in accordance with the internationally recognised environmental management system AS/NZS ISO14001:2004. BHP Billiton maintains a set of policies, procedures and practices detailing the overarching approach adopted at Olympic Dam to protect the environmental values at the site. Olympic Dam's environmental management program details the current controls and mitigation measures in place to prevent or minimise the potential environmental impact of those activities assessed as representing a significant environmental risk. It also outlines continuous improvement opportunities for each identified potential impact.

Monitoring is an important component of the environmental management program. There are currently seven primary monitoring programs at Olympic Dam:

- airborne emissions
- radiation dose to members of the public
- Great Artesian Basin
- groundwater
- flora
- fauna
- waste.

These monitoring programs would be reviewed and modified to meet the new requirements resulting from the proposed expansion and new programs would be developed including:

- marine flora and fauna – to monitor flora and fauna associated with marine activities including the desalination plant and landing facility. A species specific monitoring program for the Australian Giant Cuttlefish would also be developed
- marine water quality – to monitor marine water quality for activities at the desalination plant and landing facility
- dust – to monitor dust at the sensitive receptors of Arid Recovery, Roxby Downs and Hiltaba Village during the construction and operation of the mine and infrastructure components
- noise – to monitor noise due to the increased activity at Olympic Dam and construction activities in built-up areas.

Olympic Dam is subject to quarterly government inspections and provides quarterly environment reports. The annual Environment Management and Monitoring Report is submitted to the South Australian and Australian governments and is publicly available.

Environmental management framework for the proposed expansion

The Environmental Management Framework is an overarching strategy that will be used to translate the commitments contained in the Draft EIS into the planning documents, engineering designs, contract documents and the day-to-day operation of the expanded Olympic Dam.

It is proposed that the existing environmental management system would continue to be used to implement environmental management, monitoring and reporting for the proposed expansion.



A specific monitoring program for the ongoing protection of the Australian Giant Cuttlefish would be developed

Health, safety, environment and community management plans

Contractors appointed to build and/or operate project components will be required to develop a Health, Safety, Environment and Community (HSEC) management plan to define management strategies and controls specific to their contract works.

The contractor would be expected to review their performance against the HSEC management plan through internal checks and third party audits. BHP Billiton would also review and audit the contractor's plan.

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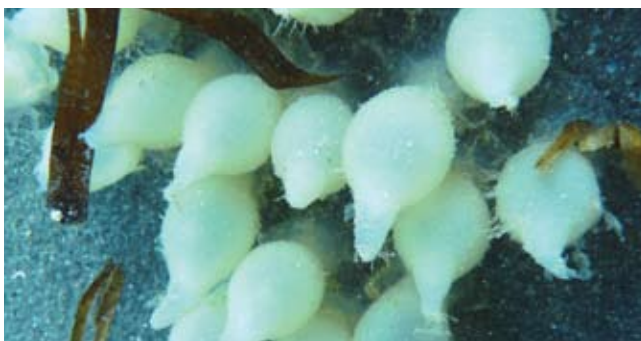


Green energy will be used for the desalination plant

BHP Billiton's major environmental commitments

BHP Billiton has made many specific commitments about the planning, construction and ongoing operation of the expanded project in the Draft EIS. The following is a high-level summary of some of the major environmental commitments:

- avoiding known locations of threatened species of plants and animals
- setting aside 128,278 ha of land for permanent conservation purposes, which is almost eight times more than the land disturbance necessary to construct the expanded project
- pre-emptive controls and a real-time response system to manage dust
- controlling radiation exposures to the workforce and members of the public to below recognised international limits
- mitigation measures to reduce noise impacts of the open pit operation
- improved use of process technology to keep emissions within regulated air quality criteria
- changes to processing and tailings management to increase acidic liquor recycling and ensure the long-term stability of the tailings storage facilities
- for the construction phase of the desalination plant intake and outfall pipes, avoiding work in rocky reef habitat during the annual breeding season of the Australian Giant Cuttlefish
- a major revision and annual update of the Environmental Management Programs to ensure the performance outcomes and risk management strategies documented in the Draft EIS are achieved during the construction and operation phases of the expansion
- use of green energy for the desalination plant
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions to an amount equivalent to at least a 60% reduction (to an amount equal to or less than 40%) of 1990 emissions, by 2050.



Australian Giant Cuttlefish eggs



The Greater Stick-nest Rat is a threatened species