

Media Release

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Joint research to help seeds thrive in revegetation

In a move that could improve landscape revegetation around the world, Alcoa scientists are joining forces with some of the best biodiversity minds in Western Australia to further develop precision technology to treat and sow seed mixes so they have the best chance of thriving.

Alcoa has contributed almost \$500,000 in a collaborative effort with the Cooperative Research Centre for Transformation in Mining Economies (CRC TiME), the University of Western Australia (UWA) and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Kings Park Science) for the Australian Seed Scaling Initiative (ASSI).

Already trialled in iron ore mining areas in the Pilbara, the project will apply precision-seeding technologies to Alcoa's bauxite mining operations in south-western WA.

Alcoa's Biodiversity Director Dr Andrew Grigg said the project had enormous potential to improve the efficiency of restoration efforts, increasing the establishment success of some seeded species by as much as 40 per cent.

"Managing our mining footprint and establishing high-quality rehabilitation are key aspects in Alcoa's pursuit of zero net loss in biodiversity for new mines or major extensions," Dr Grigg said.

"We know some plant species in the jarrah forest are difficult to germinate without special seed treatments, so this research will explore ways to achieve this on a large scale.

"For more than 50 years, research and innovation have been critical to the success of our rehabilitation program and this partnership is a significant step in our ongoing journey to restore a healthy and resilient jarrah forest in south-western WA."

Run over multiple years and seasons, the 10 to 50 hectare trials will evaluate aspects such as how to achieve optimal sowing depths for a range of jarrah forest species, seed enhancement technologies, seeding rates and mix of seeds and integrity of seedbed preparation and erosion control.

Technologies that improve seed performance have global implications across a range of commodities, companies and environmental contexts outside of mining.

Findings will be shared through peer-reviewed publications, demonstration days, workshops, conferences and annual project reports.

With a total cost of \$3 million, the ASSI is expected to run for 3.5 years.

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Editor's note:**About Alcoa in Australia**

Alcoa has a proud history in Australia which it aims to continue by adding value to the communities where it operates, providing jobs for future generations and protecting and preserving the environment via world-leading research and rehabilitation programs.

- Alcoa's Australian operations have been contributing to the nation's economy since 1963, investing more than \$14.5 billion over 59 years.
- Alcoa employs 4,500 people in Australia. Some 4,000 live in Western Australia.
- In our 59 years, Alcoa has taken on more than 2550 apprentices, trainees and graduates.
- In 2021, 75 per cent of Alcoa Australia's revenue stayed in Australia through wages, local purchasing, taxes, royalties and dividends to Australian shareholders.

Our Australian operations:

- Invested \$2.3 billion with 1518 Australian suppliers;
- Paid more than \$255 million in federal, state and local government taxes and royalties;
- Paid \$714 million in Australian wages, salaries and associated benefits; and
- Made \$4.8 million in community contributions.

About Alcoa Corporation

Alcoa (NYSE: AA) is a global industry leader in bauxite, alumina and aluminium products, and is built on a foundation of strong values and operating excellence dating back 135 years to the world-changing discovery that made aluminium an affordable and vital part of modern life. Since developing the aluminium industry, and throughout the company's history, talented employees have followed on with breakthrough innovations and best practices that have led to efficiency, safety, sustainability and stronger communities wherever we operate. Visit us online on www.alcoa.com, follow @Alcoa on Twitter and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Alcoa.