

ALCOA IS DESTROYING OUR FORESTS

End Mining the World's Only Jarrah Forest

154 SCIENTISTS VOICE THEIR CONCERN

We, the scientists of Australia urge the WA Government and community of WA to listen to the science and halt the destruction of one of the World's most important and biodiverse temperate forests – for future generations, for the sake of the planet and to avert an extinction catastrophe.

Each year Alcoa clear and mine up to 8 km² per year with the loss of 60,000 mature, centuries-old trees and all native animals in the Jarrah Forest of Western Australia.

As the most biodiverse temperate forest on earth it is home to 800 plant species and 10 endangered animal species. Over 280 km² have been cleared by Alcoa, impacting 910 km² of forest – an area visible from space to create the world's third largest mine and largest in any Biodiversity Hotspot.

Despite 60 years of operation and research by Alcoa, no rehabilitated areas have been accepted back by the Government of WA as 'restored'.

Plant species important for forest function are on average five-times less common, if present at all, in 'rehabilitated' areas with replanted Jarrah trees struggling to grow naturally. Five major plant families are missing or at alarmingly low levels, weeds are 25 times more common, with four measured key forest ecosystem health indicators shown to be failing.

Rare Black Cockatoos and many native mammals that depend upon old growth ecosystems show limited or no evidence of return.

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The natural ecosystems of the Darling Range, adapted as they are to a most unusual and harsh environment, have a scientific interest and constitute an irreplaceable genetic resource of great value, which is not calculable in purely economic terms. ”

Western Australian EPA
Technical Bulletin 44; 1978.

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This statement is endorsed by each signatory as an individual and not on behalf of their affiliated institution or organisation.

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