

# GREAT WHITE KAOLIN PROJECT ENVIRONMENT

*There will be no contamination of land nor soils as a result of mine construction or operations. Any loss of eco-system health will be minimised and where required, offset by protecting approved native vegetation.*

The Great White Kaolin Project is located predominantly within existing freehold agricultural land, used for dry land, broad acre farming and sheep grazing.

## FLORA AND FAUNA

Andromeda has completed an Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) and Biological Database of South Australia (BDBSA) desktop assessments of the Project area to determine the potential for threatened flora and fauna species.

Significant flora, known or likely to occur in the area include:

- West Coast Mintbush (*Prostanthera calycina*) (nationally and State Vulnerable)
- Greencomb Spider-orchid (*Caladenia tensa*) (nationally Endangered)
- Vickery's Spear-grass (*Austrostipa vickeryana*) (State Rare)
- Hairy-bristle Spear-grass (*A. plumigera*) (State Rare)
- Narrow-leaf Spear-grass (*Austrostipa tenuifolia*) (State Rare).

Significant fauna, known or likely to occur in the area include:

- Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) (nationally Vulnerable)
- Painted Buttonquail (*Turnix varius*) (State Rare)
- Purple-gaped Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus cratitius occidentalis*) (State Rare)
- Shy Heathwren (*Hylacola cautus cautus*) (State Rare)

- Major Mitchell's Cockatoo (*Lophochroa leadbeateri mollis*) (State Rare)
- Yellow-tailed Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus (Zanda) funereus whiteae*) (State Vulnerable)

No Threatened Ecological Communities listed under the EPBC Act were identified as being likely to occur within 10 km of the Project area.

Andromeda has undertaken several on-ground surveys of the Project area, over the past 18 months:

- Springtime flora and fauna surveys undertaken by BlackOak Environmental and EBS Ecology
- Native Vegetation Assessment (EBS Ecology)
- Springtime survey for Malleefowl, West Coast Mintbush and Dinosaur Ant (*Nothomymecia*) completed by Ecological Horizons.

Significant flora and fauna identified during on-ground surveys in the Project area includes:

- Gilbert's Whistler (*Pachycephala inornata*) (State Rare)
- Painted Buttonquail (*Turnix varius*) (State Rare)
- Purple-gaped Honeyeater
- Scarlet-chested Parrot
- Vickery's Spear-grass.

## OFFSETS

An environmental offset will be required for any native vegetation cleared as part of the Project. Offset strategies include:

- payment to the Native Vegetation Fund.
- protecting an area of land (separate from the Project) for conservation that provides environmental gains over and above any impact to native vegetation.
- engaging organisations, such as the Nature Foundation.

Andromeda is currently undertaking further studies to make a decision regarding environmental offsets, including:

- identification and detailed surveys of potential offset areas.
- Significant Environmental Offset (SEB) calculations to determine the offset value and suitability of proposed areas.

## LAND REHABILITATION

How the landscape is to be rehabilitated will be detailed in the Mining Proposal and the Program for Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation (PEPR). Preliminary investigations of the soil profile indicate it is naturally high in boron and may not be suitable for cropping following mining. Andromeda are committed to reinstating the land to a safe and stable condition which includes re-vegetation.

As the mine progresses and overburden is backfilled in the mined area, the rehabilitated landform surface may be lowered due to the removal of kaolin ore with changes to the resulting landform slopes.

## NATIVE VEGETATION AGREEMENT HA 511

The proposed access road utilises a portion of Crown land covered by Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement (HA 511) and degraded by historic quarrying. The road has been designed to minimise impacts on cropping land and native vegetation.

Andromeda has had discussions with Department of Environment and Water (DEW) which administers the land, and Department for Energy and Mining (DEM).

Any impact on HA 511 will require approval of the Minister for Environment and Water.



Scarlet-chested parrot.



Purple-gaped honeyeater.



Vickery's spear-grass