

LAND

The Smelter and Refinery Expansion (SRE) Project is a proposed expansion of Olympic Dam's existing smelter and refinery facilities. If approved, the project would increase copper production capacity and support Copper SA's ambition to grow South Australia into a globally significant mine-to-metal copper province.

The SRE Project has been designed to minimise impacts on land, vegetation and biodiversity wherever possible. Environmental assessments considered existing land uses, vegetation communities, habitats, conservation values and cultural considerations across both the project area and supporting infrastructure corridors.

The SRE Project is expected to disturb approximately 235 hectares of land (excluding existing disturbance), including areas required for processing facilities, supporting infrastructure, water infrastructure and maintaining electricity transmission clearances. A significant proportion of the project area is located within BHP's existing Special Mining Lease.

Ecological studies found that areas containing the highest ecological values and critical habitat have largely been avoided in project planning. The assessment found no State or Commonwealth-listed threatened ecological communities within the project footprint and no impacts to critical habitat for threatened species.

Potential impacts on fauna from habitat disturbance, vehicle movements, dust deposition and noise were also assessed. While some localised impacts may occur, studies concluded these are not expected to result in significant impacts at a regional or species population level.

The SRE Project also considered land quality and contamination risks. Soil and groundwater investigations found no significant contamination concerns associated with proposed project areas that would prevent development, and management measures have been identified to address potential environmental risks associated with construction and operations.

Visual assessments indicate views of the smelter and refinery infrastructure will generally be limited by distance, existing Olympic Dam mine facilities and local topography. Most surrounding areas are expected to experience partial or no views of the project.

Consultation with Traditional Owners and Indigenous groups forms an important part of the SRE Project assessment process. Engagement activities are being undertaken to ensure cultural values, land interests and stakeholder perspectives are appropriately considered throughout project planning and approvals.