

RZ Resources

The Copi Mine Project

Environmental Impact Statement

MAY 2024



The Copi Mine Project, located 75 km northwest of Wentworth, is a unique, world-class resource that has the potential to create hundreds of local jobs and economic benefits for the Far West Region of NSW.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

RZ Resources is a 100 per cent Australian-owned mining company focused on producing critical minerals and rare earths that are essential for the modern world while delivering long-term value to our communities in Wentworth, Broken Hill and beyond for more than two decades.

Australia has among the largest deposits of critical minerals, and the Copi Mine will produce globally significant volumes of titanium, zirconium, and rare earths. These minerals are vital for the renewable energy transition, electronics, telecommunications, manufacturing, defence, and advanced medical devices.

Locally, we are committed to working with and being part of the community as we progress this Project. We want to ensure we deliver social and economic benefits that will see this region continue to thrive including by contributing a 240-strong workforce and boosting local spending by up to \$97 million each year during operation.

Nationally, the Project will help to secure the critical minerals supply chain for Australia and our allies. It aligns with Australia's Critical Minerals Strategy 2023-2030 and is at the forefront of the NSW Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Strategy to secure supply chains for Australia.



COPI MINE PROJECT SITE



OUR EIS

Our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a comprehensive document that provides information on the economic, environmental, and social impacts of the Project. It is part of the approvals process to allow the Project to proceed.

The EIS outlines how we will manage the Project throughout its life, from construction to rehabilitation, to help the community and government agencies make informed decisions and submissions. It includes sections on rehabilitation, transport, surface and groundwater, matters of cultural heritage, and local social and economic benefits.

Since 2017, we've been talking to the local community to understand potential impacts of the Project and address any issues as we developed the EIS. **We are pleased to share the results and hear your feedback.**

LOCAL ECONOMY

The Project represents a rare opportunity for the region, driving investment, innovation, local employment, upskilling, road upgrades and active engagement with local Traditional Owners.

We are creating jobs today and into the future with Synergies Economic Consultants undertaking an independent assessment that determined the Project will deliver substantial benefits to Wentworth, Far West Region and NSW more broadly, including:

- Sustaining up to 480 direct full-time equivalent employment positions during construction and 240 positions during operations.
- Creating an additional 754 indirect jobs during construction and 580 indirect jobs during operations in the Wentworth LGA.
- Boosting spending in Wentworth by up to \$97 million each year during the 17-year operational phase.



SOCIAL BENEFITS

Our community engagement programs have already delivered benefits to local communities since RZ Resources has been operating in the region. Since 2017, we have established an exploration base in Wentworth, employed our local team from within the region, and a dedicated shop front on Darling Street, Wentworth, will boost community engagement and provide easy access to information.

An independent social impact assessment (SIA) determined the Project will result in substantial positive impacts in the wider community, including increased employment, workforce and supplier expenditure, investment, and cohesion.

To date, RZ Resources has provided a total contribution to the local community of \$140,000 including:

- Participation in and sponsorship of the annual Wentworth Show since 2017, including a donation to help construct a new pavilion.
- Financial contribution to help reconstruct the Junction Island pedestrian bridge.
- Employees provided clean-up assistance following the recent flooding event.



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT

Our mining process will enable us to undertake continuous rehabilitation of the site. At the end of the life of the Project the landform will have a higher agricultural land capability than the current landform through the rehabilitation process.

No threatened or nationally significant fauna species were recorded within the mine site, while the only affected grass species will receive significant biodiversity offsets. These include conservation of the species on non-mining areas of the site where it is found and a rehabilitation program developed with university assistance to ensure the species continues to thrive on the site.

We are committed to ensuring at least 30 per cent of the power to operate the Project is sourced from renewable sources.

ROADS AND TRANSPORT

Through voluntary planning agreements, RZ Resources will work in partnership with the Wentworth and Broken Hill councils to deliver the road upgrades and contribute to other local infrastructure projects.

About \$3.5 million will be committed to construct or upgrade roads and intersections that are publicly accessible, including:

- Anabranh Mail Road - A 6.1-kilometre section of Anabranh Mail Road between the Silver City Highway and the Site Access Road will be upgraded to an all-weather, unsealed road, and a small section of the road in the vicinity of the proposed Site Access Road will be realigned.
- The intersections of Site Access Road and Anabranh Mail Road, Anabranh Mail Road and the Silver City Highway, Patton and Comstock Streets (Broken Hill), Comstock and Eyre Streets (Broken Hill) and Holten Drive and the Rail Facility site entrance road (Broken Hill).

RZ Resources will apply to use BAB quad (type 2) road trains, which are the same size as those used by existing mining operations in the region, to reduce the number of vehicles travelling between the mine site and Broken Hill.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

An independent Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment was undertaken by OzArk and local Aboriginal people who conducted artefact surveys on the ground. The assessment identified numerous sites with Aboriginal objects, which will be managed proactively in partnership with the local Aboriginal community through a cultural heritage plan.



WATER MANAGEMENT

Three aquifers exist within the mine site, but water does not flow between them. The Project will only use the upper aquifer, which, at just under twice as salty as seawater, is neither potable nor of other productive use and will not affect the middle or lower aquifers.

RZ Resources will be able to effectively manage water onsite to ensure there is no loss of surface water to surrounding rivers, no impacts on surface water quality and no flooding-related impacts on surrounding properties.



LOCAL COMMITMENT

RZ Resources is committed to looking after the interests of local landholders and the community wherever possible and has addressed matters raised during consultation. Since 2017, a variety of formal and informal methods of engagement have been employed, including face-to-face meetings, telephone, mail and email, public displays, and roundtable discussions. A dedicated shop front in Wentworth will continue to encourage meaningful communication with community members and stakeholders for the life of the Project.

In addressing matters raised, we have designed the Project to ensure:

- It will not exceed the NSW Government criteria on dust emissions.
- It will not exceed the NSW Government criteria on noise, with the exception of road upgrade works on two intersections in Broken Hill, which will be managed in partnership with Broken Hill Council to minimise any disruption to local residents.
- Monazite product is handled in accordance with NSW Government guidelines with a dedicated officer in charge of its management.

The mine site is relatively isolated from surrounding residential locations and public vantage points.

PUBLIC EXHIBITION AND SUBMISSIONS

The EIS is open for public consultation from 22 May 2024 until 18 June 2024.

During this time, you can make a submission to the NSW Planning Department at:
www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-Projects/Projects/copi-mineral-sands-Project

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the RZ Resources, the Copi Mine Project and to read the full EIS, please visit:
www.rzresources.com
or contact us directly at: community@rzresources.com