

Fact sheet

# Water Management



RZ Resources is committed to ensuring that the Copi Project delivers long-term value to the communities of Wentworth, Broken Hill, and beyond for decades to come.

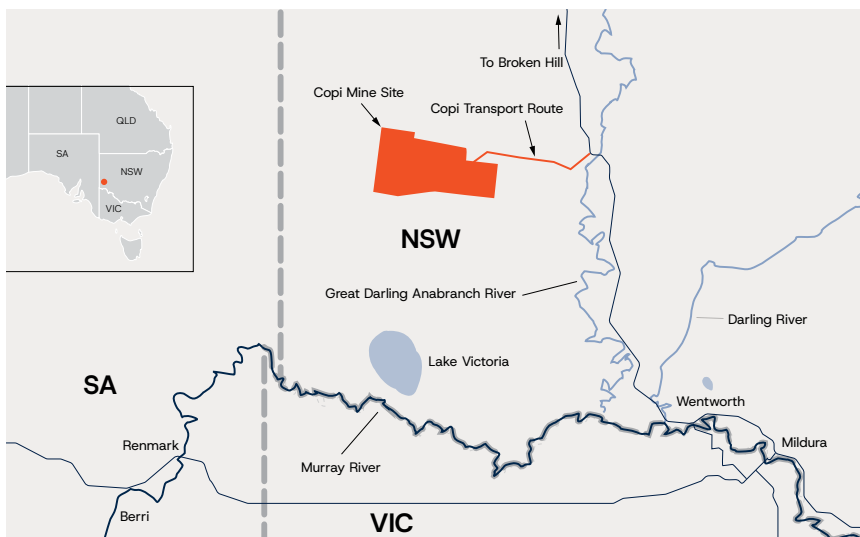
Our top priority is to mine responsibly and sustainably, while protecting the environment and our neighbours.

Some responses to our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) have raised questions about the project's impact on groundwater. The information below provides an overview of the existing groundwater environment on-site, its use during mining operations, and any anticipated changes.

## What is groundwater?

Groundwater refers to the water beneath the earth's surface, stored in the saturated zones within the cracks and crevices of soil, sand, and rock formations. It moves slowly through geological structures known as aquifers. Like surface water, groundwater can either be stagnant or flowing.

Although groundwater occurs everywhere below the ground, its quantity and quality vary. The ease of extracting this water (yield) and its suitability for use are influenced by the underlying geology and climate conditions. Some groundwater is fresh and suitable for drinking, whereas other sources can be salty or contaminated, making it unsuitable for some uses.



Copi Mine Project Site



Copi salt pan immediately following rainfall

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## Existing groundwater environment

Three aquifers exist within the Mine Site, an Upper, Middle and Lower Aquifer. These aquifers are not connected, and groundwater does not flow between them. The Project will only use the Upper Aquifer which, at twice as salty as seawater, is neither potable nor of other productive use. It will not affect the Middle or Lower Aquifers.

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## Groundwater use

The Project would commence with a starter pit. Groundwater would flow into the starter pit which would be expanded using dredges floating on the dredge pond. In addition, two production bores would be established during construction operations to provide water for mining purposes and the Reverse Osmosis plants. As a result, groundwater impacts would be limited to the following:

- Groundwater that would flow from the Upper Aquifer into the dredge pond.
- Groundwater that would be pumped from the Upper Aquifer by the production bores.
- Water that would seep back into the Upper Aquifer from the Off Path Storage Facility.

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## Anticipated groundwater impacts

During “routine” mining operations, groundwater drawdown would be limited to areas around the active dredge pond and the production bores. Following the completion of mining operations, groundwater levels are expected to rapidly return to pre-mining levels.

Groundwater quality in the Upper Aquifer is not expected to be reduced because the groundwater is hypersaline.

In addition, there are no users of the Upper Aquifer within 30 kilometres of the mine site. Lake Victoria is approximately 40 kilometres south of the Project. And at its closest point, the Murray River is approximately 50 kilometres south of the mine site.

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## Surface water management

The existing surface water environment consists of a series of internally draining surfaces, with watercourses that only flow immediately following rainfall. RZ would be able to effectively manage water onsite to ensure no loss of surface water to surrounding rivers, no impacts on surface water quality and no flooding-related impacts.

We will implement a surface water management strategy that excludes clean water runoff from undisturbed land and retains all runoff from disturbed areas for mining-related purposes.

## Stay informed

For more information about the RZ Resources Copi Mine Project and to read the full Environmental Impact Statement, please visit: [www.rzresources.com](http://www.rzresources.com)

Or contact us directly at: [community@rzresources.com](mailto:community@rzresources.com) or via: **1300 618 371**



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