

BALRANALD

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Balranald Mine?

Iluka is developing a critical minerals mine in Balranald, New South Wales. It includes construction, mining, primary processing and rehabilitation of a mineral sand deposit known as West Balranald, located approximately 12km north-west of the town of Balranald.

The development will extract rutile, ilmenite and zircon from the deposit, as well as material quantities of rare earth minerals. The mine life is estimated at 9.5 years.

When will Iluka start mining at Balranald?

The Balranald mine has a two-year construction period that commenced in mid-2023, with first production expected in H2 2025.

What is the proposed mining method?

The project will use novel, remotely-operated underground mining technology to access the mineral deposits, which are located approximately 60 metres below the surface.

How will product be transported from Balranald?

The product will be concentrated on site at Balranald and then transported to a port in Victoria, where it will then be shipped to Iluka's processing and refining assets in Western Australia. We anticipate approximately 35 trucks per day, and all vehicle movements will adhere to the approved management plans.

Will there be impacts to local roads and traffic?

A number of studies have been undertaken in the region and local areas to inform the options in relation to the use of existing road networks. These have helped inform the development of an approved Traffic Management Plan in consultation with the NSW Government and Balranald Shire Council. This includes working with the appropriate regulatory bodies for road intersection upgrades and road maintenance contributions, and managing impacts to the local community.

What will the operating hours/days be?

Mining industry standard is 24-hour operations, seven days per week. Impacts to the local community, including noise, light and dust, have been considered and ameliorated as part of the operational strategy for the mine. These factors will be, and are being, managed appropriately to ensure minimal disturbance to neighbours and the Balranald community.

Environmental

Will there be any environmental impacts?

As part of the government approvals process, Iluka conducted a range of studies addressing potential environmental impacts. Studies must show a detailed understanding of baseline, or pre-mining, conditions

and explain how potential impacts will be avoided, remedied or managed. The completed studies are publicly available on the Iluka website.

The regulatory obligations the mine is subject to include ongoing environmental monitoring, management plans, reporting and auditing throughout the life of mine and after its closure until rehabilitation is completed.

How will dust be managed?

Iluka has undertaken an air quality impact assessment which estimates the risk of particulate matter to be low to negligible. Air quality will be managed in accordance with Iluka's approved Air Quality Management Plan.

How will noise be managed?

Iluka has undertaken a noise impact assessment to assess construction and operational noise associated with underground mining. Noise will be managed in accordance with Iluka's approved Noise Management Plan. Noise modelling for 24/7 operations considered a number of factors, with the assessment concluding that predicted noise levels will satisfy the approved noise criteria.

What is naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM)?

Mineral sands, as with other minerals such as clay, soils, rocks and many ores, contain levels of naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) which can be concentrated through mining and processing activities. For this reason, Iluka applies stringent radiation management practices that align with international best practice as defined by the International Commission on Radiological Protection, the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as the relevant jurisdiction's legislation.

We identify, assess and control risks associated with NORM through all phases of our activities including exploration, project development, operations, rehabilitation and closure. Iluka's Group Radiation Management Standard and site-specific radiation management plans ensure exposure to radiation meets the prescribed statutory limits and is as low as reasonably achievable.

How will waste be managed?

Waste will be managed in accordance with the Waste Management Plan and disposed of appropriately.

How will you source water and power for the mine?

Water will be sourced from the Western Murray Porous Rock Groundwater aquifer for all mining and processing operations. Iluka holds the required Water Access Licences for the access of this water. Electricity will be generated from a combination of diesel-powered generators and a solar/battery plant.

How will Iluka rehabilitate the project area once mining is completed?

Iluka is proud of its strong track record in mine rehabilitation and closure, spanning more than 50 years across Australia including 17 years in the Murray Basin. This allows us to learn from our previous experience to continually improve and refine our rehabilitation techniques. We collaborate with relevant regulatory authorities, educational institutions and landowners to prepare comprehensive rehabilitation plans for our mines, which establish our legal obligations and completion criteria for rehabilitation.

Site rehabilitation and monitoring activities will occur progressively during operations. For further information on Iluka's rehabilitation approach, please visit our [Rehabilitation](#) webpage.

What will happen to Aboriginal cultural heritage sites?

Extensive cultural heritage surveys have been conducted across the project development envelope in close consultation with Traditional Owners of the area. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been produced in close consultation with Traditional Owners and outlines site-specific management measures necessary to protect known and unknown sites of significance across the project.

General

What are critical minerals used for?

Mineral sands, including zircon and titanium feedstocks (rutile and ilmenite), and rare earths are designated as critical minerals due to their essential role in advanced manufacturing and strategic industries.

Zircon is primarily used in ceramics, refractories and foundry applications and the production of zirconium chemicals. Titanium feedstocks are essential for the production of pigments and industrial metals. Rare earths are essential to produce the permanent magnets in electric motors, used most notably in electric vehicles, as well as wind turbines and defence applications.

What benefits will there be for my community?

Iluka has a long history of working collaboratively with local communities across Australia. We support and provide meaningful employment opportunities to the communities in which we operate, sourcing local contractors and employees where possible and utilising local businesses as much as we can. During 2024, more than \$6 million was invested in the regional economy around Balranald through supporting local businesses.

We are proud to support local projects, organisations and groups which in many cases are the epicentre of a community. We do this through sponsorships via our grants program, Iluka Lends a Hand, and by building relationships with many fantastic volunteers and leaders in the community. Iluka will also establish a Community Partnerships Fund for community initiatives in the Balranald region in 2025.

Economic benefits will also extend to local, state and national levels through royalty payments and export sales, and proposed road intersection upgrades and improvements will support objectives around maintaining local and regional road networks.

Will the project create jobs for locals?

Iluka expects the Balranald development to support up to 250 jobs during construction and 270 jobs during operations, including contractors. A portion of our workforce will be from the local region, and we invite applications for advertised jobs via our [Careers portal](#) where you can also set up a profile for job alerts.

An Australian Industry Participation plan was approved for the Balranald Project in 2023 to ensure full, fair and reasonable opportunity for Australian businesses to bid for the supply of key goods and services for the project, including local businesses in the Balranald region. A [Supplier and Procurement Expression of Interest](#) for the project is available on our website.

Where will Iluka’s workforce be accommodated?

Iluka is currently constructing a 165-person on-site accommodation facility with modern amenities. This is expected to accommodate the majority of workers during the operational phase of the mine. During the construction phase, most workers are accommodated in a separate camp in Balranald town while the on-site facility is built.

Are you talking to local council?

Iluka has been engaging with Balranald Shire Council and a range of local stakeholders about the mine for a number of years and will continue to receive feedback and work together as the project progresses. In 2024, a Voluntary Planning Agreement between Iluka and the Shire was entered into and this will support engagement and community benefit over years to come.

How can I get in touch with Iluka?

We value the relationships we have developed with stakeholders and the community and will continue to provide opportunities for engagement. You can reach us by email at balranald.community@iluka.com, online at www.iluka.com/contact-us, or by calling our 24-hour community line on 1800 305 993.