

Our Approach to Biodiversity

ASM seeks to sustainably process and produce rare earths, critical minerals and high-tech metals, which are vital inputs for high-tech manufacturing and clean technologies. Market forces require that the materials used in these technologies are responsibly sourced from manufacturers that adhere to the highest Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards. ASM has a history of responsible ESG practices and nature conservation, and nurtures a culture of innovation, inclusion, integrity and safety. ASM understands the importance of managing environmental impacts, respecting human rights, minimising greenhouse gas emissions and supporting local communities.

ASM will strive to ensure that its Environmental standards, processes and behaviours reflect an organisation with industry leading foundations of shared trust and knowledge flow, as well as one that promotes and embeds outstanding environmental practices and operational excellence.

Our Policies

ASM maintains an overarching [Safety, Health and Sustainability Policy](#), which is enhanced by our company-wide values. These values speak to how we run our business, how we express ourselves as a group, and how we engage with our people and stakeholders to inspire their trust.

Our Principles

We will:

- Always meet legal and regulatory requirements in the jurisdictions where we operate
- Strive to conserve biodiversity and natural resources, including water
- Work to prevent pollution, and reduce emissions and effluents
- Focus on innovative design, management systems and processes, and continuous improvement practices to reduce, reuse, or recycle waste
- Apply the mitigation hierarchy during planning, and where impact is unavoidable, rehabilitate where we have been

Our Management

ASM understands its role in undertaking responsible natural resource management, and takes a holistic approach to managing soils, biodiversity and water. We are developing a Health, Safety, Security and Environment Management System, which includes risk identification, management, governance, reporting and continuous improvement.

Biodiversity and nature-related risks will consider the impacts on business, environment and community.

We are committed to promoting biodiversity and protecting native species. To offset our Dubbo Project activities, we have designated large areas for the restoration and maintenance of native habitats, especially for species that are vulnerable.

ASM's Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) provides a framework for managing and monitoring biodiversity, including the designated biodiversity offset areas (1,021ha) associated with the Dubbo Project. These areas are managed by ASM's wholly owned subsidiary, Toongai Pastoral Company (TPC), and are protected in perpetuity under a Conservation Property Vegetation Plan negotiated with Local Land Services. TPC actively manages the biodiversity offset areas to preserve endangered grassy white box gum woodlands and other native habitats, as well as Wiradjuri cultural heritage sites.

Since 2016, TPC has managed the agricultural land and farm assets, in addition to the offset areas associated with the Dubbo Project – a total of approximately 3,715 hectares. TPC applies the latest farming technologies and practices to ensure sustainable land management, and increasing biodiversity, soil health and farm productivity. Together with TPC, ASM engages regularly in land management activities with the Rural Fire Service, Local Land Services, local indigenous people, local interest groups, Landcare groups, other expert consultants, and schools.

ASM has commenced registration of the TPC property as a carbon farming project under the Australian Government's Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF). Under the ERF, measured increases of in-soil carbon content earn Australian carbon credit units (ACCU), with one ACCU earned for each tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e) stored. Earned ACCUs have the potential to contribute to the carbon offsets for the Dubbo Project.

Protecting vulnerable species

The Pink-tailed Worm-lizard (PTWL) is a small, legless lizard found in fragmented populations along the western foothills of the Great Dividing Range in New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory and Victoria. Since this vulnerable species was discovered living on the Dubbo Project orebody in 2001, ASM has committed significant energy and resources to a multidisciplinary research program for monitoring and understanding the population, and developing an innovative solution for its conservation. The species will be protected in perpetuity under a Conservation Property Vegetation Plan (in Agreement with Local Land Services).

Reporting

Our progress and performance on biodiversity management and conservation will be reported annually. Specifically for the Dubbo Project, ASM prepares an annual review of environmental activities in accordance with the requirements of its Mining Lease (ML 1724) and Project Approval (SSD-5251), obtained in 2015. The annual environmental reports describe the environmental performance, baseline monitoring activities, rehabilitation activities and community engagement undertaken for the year. The annual environmental reports are available on [ASM's website](#) along with a comprehensive Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) and associated management plans.