

Our Approach to Water

Our Approach

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. Markets increasingly 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, equal opportunity, integrity and safety. ASM understands the importance of managing environmental impacts, respecting human rights, minimising greenhouse gas emissions and supporting local communities.

ASM strives to ensure that its Environmental standards, processes and behaviours reflect industry leading principles 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

Our Management

ASM is developing a Health, Safety, Security and Environment Management System, which will include risk identification, management, governance, reporting and continuous improvement. Water quantity and quality risks will take into account the impacts on business, environment and community.

ASM understands its role in undertaking responsible natural resource management. On the commencement of the Dubbo Project ASM will take a holistic approach to managing soils, biodiversity and water within its catchment. We appreciate the need for water in the catchment to be shared between the environment, towns, irrigators and industry. ASM engages with indigenous and numerous stakeholder groups, such as the Macquarie-Cudgong Customer Advisory Group, which provides a forum for community consultation.

ASM's Dubbo Project is within the Cockabroo Creek and Wambangalang Creek sub-catchments of the Macquarie River Catchment. The river water licences are in the Cudgegong-Macquarie Water Sharing Plan regulated by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) – Water. ASM holds sufficient river and groundwater licences (including some high security licences) to develop the Dubbo Project as a 1Mtpa operation at Toongi. A Stage 1 (construction phase) Water Management Plan, approved by the (then) NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) on 12 October 2016, is available on the ASM website.

The project has been designed to minimise water consumption and maximise water recycling. Extensive work since 2015 has significantly reduced the water required for the Dubbo Project from 4GL/annum to 1.5GL/annum. In an area where the climate is forecast to be drying, a reduction in water consumption is imperative for a climate-resilient operation.

Reporting

Our progress and performance on Water will be reported annually.