

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



NEW TAILINGS DAM

South Marionoak was added to MMG's mining lease in 2008 as a potential site for a Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) due to its proximity to the mine site and significant disturbance by previous activities, including historic logging and a power corridor.

Preliminary consultation with community and environment groups, including the Tarkine National Coalition in 2013 suggested South Marionoak could be a suitable future site for a new TSF.

The vegetation at South Marionoak is a mix of regrowth forest after logging operations, rainforest, eucalypt forest, tea tree scrub and button grass plains.

Preliminary studies have identified a low probability of impacts on threatened species, and MMG remains committed to carefully investigating and managing environmental impacts as part of the assessment and approval process.



WHY DOESN'T MMG REPROCESS OLD TAILINGS OR INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF EXISTING DAMS?

The only safe and environmentally responsible option to extend the life of the Rosebery Mine is to build a new TSF.

Over time, the capacity of Rosebery's existing tailings storage facilities have been progressively increased, with a final round of planned works in coming years. There are strict engineering limits on how high dam walls can be raised before their structural integrity is compromised.

As technology improves there is an opportunity to reprocess old tailings to extract more metals. However, there is still residue created from this process that must be stored in a TSF.

Our priority is to find the solution that best balances all impacts and benefits and secures the future of the 85-year-old Rosebery mine, its 500 employees, their families and the broader community.





ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES?

A tailings storage site needs to be close to current operations to avoid further significant disturbance and needs to be geologically stable and suitable for long term storage. Above all, it must be safe for people and the environment.

South Marionoak is currently the only known viable site for the construction of a new TSF.

MMG has conducted investigations into other potentially suitable sites in parallel with investigations at South Marionoak. A number have already been ruled out because they do not meet the criteria outlined above and have greater social and environmental impacts.

There is one alternative site at Natone Creek, just outside of Rosebery, where MMG is conducting further tests to determine if it could support a TSF, however, this site is yet to be proven suitable.



Above South Marionoak, an area previously disturbed by historic logging and a power corridor. It is predominantly made up of regrowth forest after logging operations, rainforest, eucalypt forest, tea tree scrub and button grass plains.





EPBC ASSESSMENT

MMG is committed to ensuring it seeks all required local, State and Federal approvals for a new tailings storage facility.

The South Marionoak proposal is being assessed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The Federal Environment Minister will consider the impacts of the project on listed threatened species and ecological communities, and other economic and social matters, ultimately deciding whether to approve the action either without or subject to conditions, or not approve the action.

The assessment process will include a public consultation phase to allow the community to have a say on the project.

Additional investigations on MMG's existing mining lease at South Marionoak are required to further inform the assessment process for both Federal and State governments.

During this phase, MMG will engage an independent ecologist to ensure investigative works do not impact on threatened species and appropriate buffer zones will be established to protect protected species. A new TSF will also require conditional approvals from the West Coast Council and State authorities.

CLOSURE PLANNING

By their very nature, mines have a finite lifespan. When the economic mineral resource is depleted, the mine will cease operations and close.

Regulatory requirements and industry standard practice require mines to plan for closure right from the beginning of operations and to regularly review and update these plans throughout the entire life of the mine. This includes future planning for the mine site, support infrastructure, surrounding environment, and the assessment of social and community impacts.

The earlier closure planning begins, the more time there is to collectively prepare for a realistic post-mining future that minimises impacts, explores economic diversification and enables a smooth transition for the community.

In the case of the Rosebery Mine, recent ore discoveries coupled with the construction of a new TSF have the potential to extend the life of the mine beyond 2028.

It is our aim to undertake regular closure planning in collaboration with the local community and other stakeholders to seek their feedback and influence over the future vision for Rosebery.

MMG has commenced this conversation with the community in partnership with experts in the areas of community relations, social impact, and mine closure from the University of Queensland's Sustainable Minerals Institute.

Initial discussions include establishing the mine's current contribution to community infrastructure, services, land use, and social well-being, along with how to potentially diversify the region's economy and help facilitate the creation of new jobs.

When mines do eventually close, there are set criteria and compliance objectives from State and Federal regulators that must be met before a mining lease is transferred back to the Government. This includes rehabilitation of disturbed areas, cleaning and demolition of infrastructure, and ensuring the site is safe and stable.



