Rio Tinto

Iron Ore Pilbara Environment Strategy



Contents

Acknowledgement of Country	3
Operating in the Pilbara	4
Partnering for an enduring Pilbara	7
Our environment journey	8
Pilbara Environment Strategy	10
Understand	13
Protect	15
Restore	17
Priority enablers	19
Our environment targets	21
How we'll deliver	22

Acknowledgement of Country

Our operations are located on land and waters that have belonged to Indigenous Peoples for thousands of years.

We respect their ongoing deep connection to Country and recognise the vast knowledge Indigenous Peoples have of the land, water and environment.

In Western Australia, Rio Tinto operates on the Country of:

Banjima, Gija, Kariyarra, Malgnin, Mardudhunera, Martu, Miriwoong and Gajerrong, Muntulgura Guruma, Nharnuwangga Wajarri & Ngarlawangga, Ngarlawangga, Ngarla, Ngarluma, Nyangumarta, Nyiyaparli, Puutu Kunti Kurrama & Pinikura, Robe River Kuruma, Wadandi Bibbulmun, Whadjuk (Noongar), Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo, Wularr, Yaburara, Yawuru, Yindjibarndi, and Yinhawangka.

We pay respects to Elders, both past and present, and further acknowledge the important role that Indigenous Peoples continue to play within our business and communities.

Operating in the Pilbara

Rio Tinto has been in the Pilbara for 60 years.

Our purpose, finding better ways™ to provide the material the world needs, has never been more relevant. The world needs mining – done in the right way.

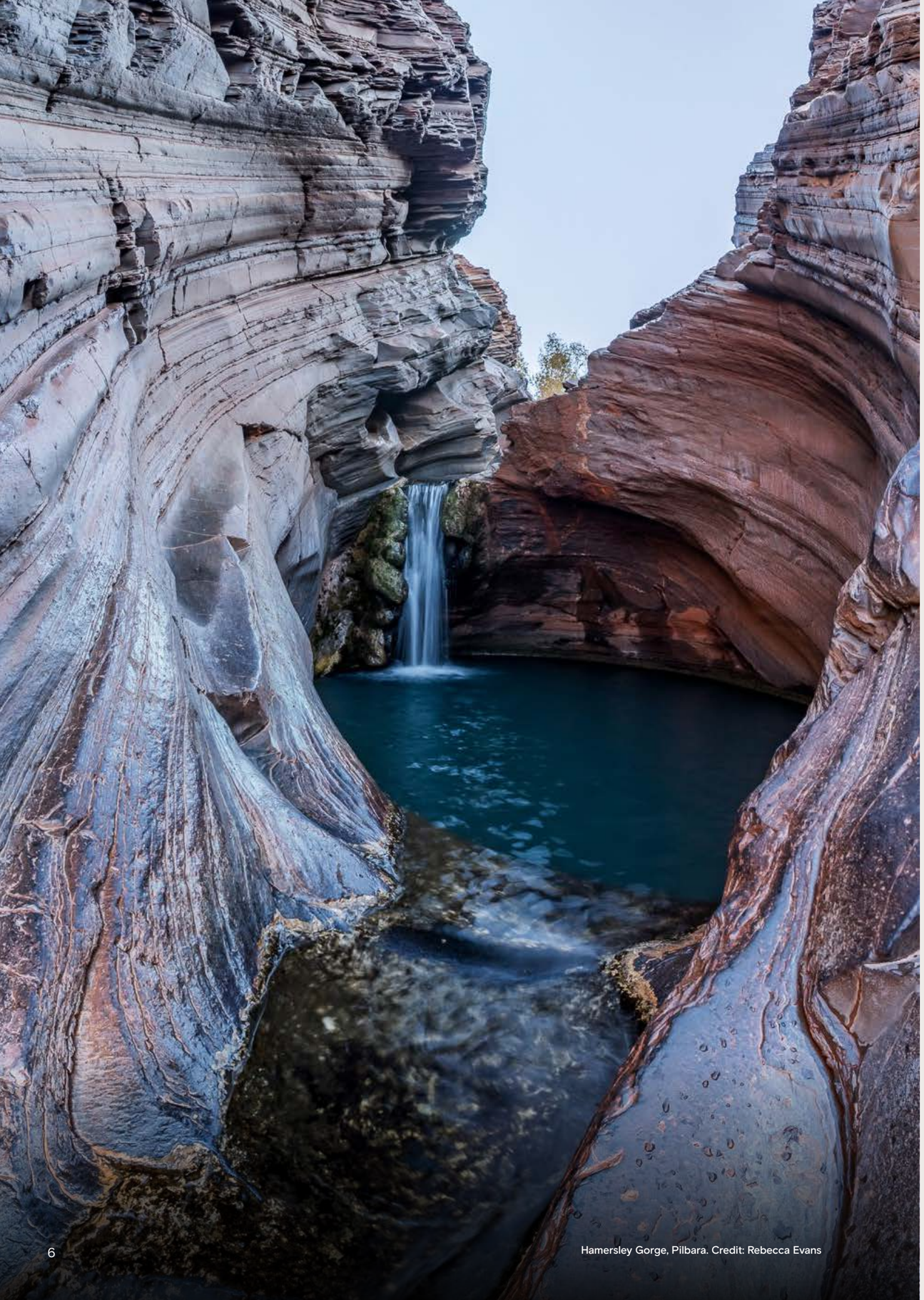
We're one of the world's leading producers of iron ore. Our iron ore operations in the Pilbara comprise a world-class, integrated network of 18 mines, 4 independent port terminals, a rail network spanning nearly 2,000 kilometres and related infrastructure.

The Pilbara boasts some of the best iron ore deposits in the world and we continue to find better ways to produce the materials the world needs. How we do this is very important.

As temporary stewards of the lands where we operate, we have a responsibility to access and develop the world's essential materials safely and sustainably.

We're committed to understanding, protecting, and restoring the natural environment so the region remains healthy and resilient for generations.

Our Pilbara Environment Strategy sets out how we are progressing this across our Pilbara Iron Ore business.



Hamersley Gorge, Pilbara. Credit: Rebecca Evans

Partnering for an enduring Pilbara

We're committed to being trusted stewards of the Pilbara, working with Traditional Owners, government and other partners.

The Pilbara is a nationally significant region for biodiversity[1] that is also under pressure from habitat loss, altered water flows, invasive species and changed fire regimes.

With operations across the Pilbara, we have a significant responsibility to work with our partners to manage impacts and support the region's long-term environmental, cultural and economic resilience.

We are forming deeper and closer partnerships with Traditional Owners to care for Country and culture together. This approach is called Co-Management. Built on early engagement, shared decision-making and mutual respect, it ensures Traditional Owner perspectives help shape decisions about activities on their lands.

We partner with the Pilbara Ranger Network, a collection of 10 Pilbara Traditional Owner Groups, who are keeping their Country, culture and people strong.

We partner with DBCA[2] to conserve and restore the unique biodiversity of the Pilbara, supporting improved management of more than 465,000 hectares of national parks through the Pilbara Conservation Project.

Our scientists walked 22,584 kilometres recording the natural environment in 2025, including recording over 280,000 individual significant plants.

38 Felixers™ are being installed across our operations to identify and target feral cats. Feral cats threaten over 200 nationally threatened species, and the program aims to reduce their impact and support biodiversity outcomes in the Pilbara.

Footnotes:

1. The Pilbara is recognised as one of Australia's 15 biodiversity hotspots, areas that are rich in biodiversity, but also under threat.
2. DBCA - The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, WA Government.

Our environment journey

We're taking a regional, long-term and partnership-led approach.



Our strategy

In a rapidly changing environmental context, shaped by global trends such as climate change and biodiversity loss, the strategy provides a clear framework for managing risk and strengthening environmental performance.

Grounded in a clear purpose - to provide the iron ore the world needs by understanding, protecting and restoring the natural environment - the strategy sets out how we'll help support a healthy, balanced Pilbara.

In doing so, it supports our commitment to increase transparency and work with our partners to improve environmental outcomes.

Our commitment

We'll consider environmental impacts in all our business decisions – from planning and construction through to how we operate and close our assets. Every team across our Iron Ore Pilbara business has a role to play in implementing the strategy.

Delivering on our strategy means we will:

- **Understand.** Building knowledge and regional understanding to enable sustainable development while reducing our impact.
- **Protect.** Applying the mitigation hierarchy - avoid, minimise, rehabilitate then offset – we'll prioritise avoidance across all stages of the mining lifecycle.
- **Restore.** Contributing to nature positive outcomes[1] and restoring health of Country to deliver a positive legacy and a healthy, balanced Pilbara.

Footnote:

1. Nature positive – A global societal goal to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 on a 2020 baseline, and achieve full recovery by 2050, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. How we'll contribute to nature positive outcomes is defined through our nature framework and the ICMM Nature Position Statement.

Work is underway

We have a strong foundation to grow from and are sharpening our focus with key initiatives already underway.

These include:

- The Pilbara Environment and Cultural Knowledge (PECK) Program, where we're partnering with Traditional Owners, industry and academia to build knowledge of the region.
- The East Pilbara Strategic Proposal, helping us to investigate, understand and assess environmental impacts, cultural values and future land use at a regional scale.
- Key internal governance forums, where we provide strategic oversight and decision-making to manage environmental risks, safeguard land access and guide responsible land-use across our operations.

Enduring Pilbara

We support the Enduring Pilbara initiative, an independent, long-term vision aimed at protecting the Pilbara's unique natural and cultural heritage while supporting sustainable economic development.

Scan the QR code to find out more

Pilbara Environment Strategy

Purpose:

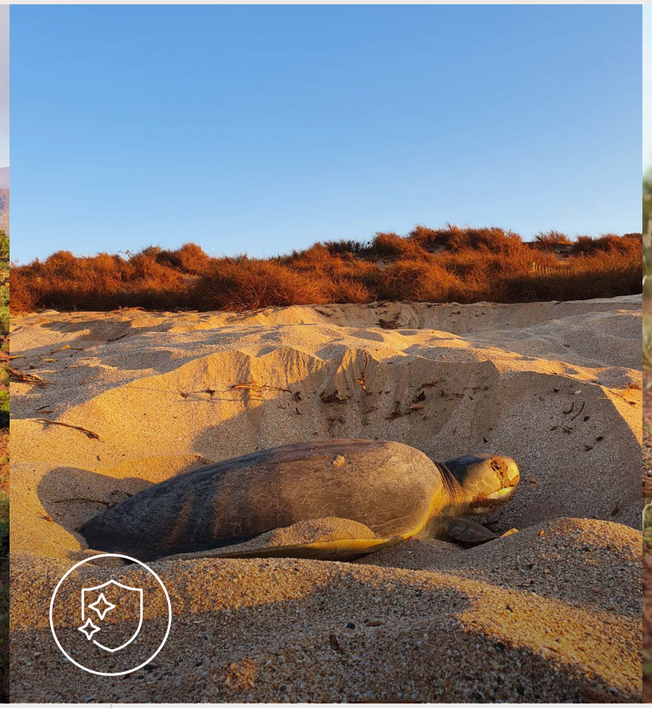
Enable land access by *understanding*, *protecting* and *restoring* the natural environment

Strategy pillars:



1. Understand

Building knowledge and regional understanding to enable sustainable development while reducing our impact.



2. Protect

Applying the mitigation hierarchy – avoid, minimise, rehabilitate then offset – we'll prioritise avoidance across all stages of the mining lifecycle.



3. Restore

Contributing to nature positive outcomes[1] and restoring health of Country to deliver a positive legacy and a healthy, balanced Pilbara.



Priority enablers

Environmental data, embedding environment in our business, and communication and collaboration.

Footnote:

1. Nature positive – A global societal goal to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 on a 2020 baseline, and achieve full recovery by 2050, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. How we'll contribute to nature positive outcomes is defined through our nature framework and the ICMM Nature Position Statement.

1. Understand

Building knowledge and regional understanding to enable sustainable development while reducing our impact.

Understand Pilbara bioregion

Using the best available science and knowledge to understand the Pilbara, through strong partnerships with Traditional Owners, government, academia and other stakeholders.

Understand cumulative impact

Taking a regional approach to research, monitoring and partnerships to build a deeper understanding of Pilbara environmental and cultural values and how impacts can accumulate over time.

Environmental monitoring in the Pilbara. Credit: Steve Martin

2. Protect

Applying the mitigation hierarchy – avoid, minimise, rehabilitate then offset – we'll prioritise avoidance across all stages of the mining lifecycle.

Protect environmental values

Ensuring robust application and documentation of the mitigation hierarchy and embedding consideration of environmental values through the full asset lifecycle, from mine planning through to closure.

Reduce disturbance

Through progressive rehabilitation and careful closure planning, we'll reduce the land we disturb and improve how we rehabilitate it — changing the way we design, operate and close our sites.

Execution excellence

Delivering consistent environmental performance by getting the basics right, delivering on commitments, managing risk across the asset lifecycle and maintaining strong systems and processes.

Reduce water footprint

Water is a shared resource and we acknowledge the cultural importance of water to Traditional Owners and how it is deeply connected to the health and wellbeing of their Country. We are committed to working with all stakeholders to be good environmental stewards of this important resource.

Utilise digital and technology

Improving use of digital tools and technology, including artificial intelligence and new technologies, to deliver solutions for environmental performance, enhancing our ability to manage the environment now and into the future.

Monitoring a nesting flatback turtle near Cape Lambert Port. Credit: Lucas Cary

3. Restore

Contributing to nature positive outcomes[1] and restoring health of Country to deliver a positive legacy and a healthy, balanced Pilbara.

Address legacy impacts

Working together with Traditional Owners, local communities and regulators we listen and learn to better understand our legacy impacts. This helps to inform how we take actions that support improved environmental outcomes.

Deliver rehabilitation ambition

Delivering more hectares of rehabilitation to minimise our disturbance footprint, including in partnership with Traditional Owner businesses. We're also investigating better ways to deliver higher quality rehabilitation through research and trials.

Deliver tangible nature outcomes

Delivering real, on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects, working with partners to improve environmental outcomes in the Pilbara.

Footnote:

1. Nature positive – A global societal goal to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 on a 2020 baseline, and achieve full recovery by 2050, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. How we'll contribute to nature positive outcomes is defined through our nature framework and the ICMM Nature Position Statement.

Priority enablers

Progressing foundational building blocks critical to delivering our strategy.

Environment data

Improving the way we collect, manage and use environmental data so we can drive better informed decisions and outcomes. We're investing in data collection, maintenance, governance, analysis and sharing.

Embed environment in our business

Building an environmental performance culture and valuing nature by better integrating the environment into business planning and everyday decision-making.

Communicate and collaborate

Communicating what we do and working closely with Traditional Owners, regulators, partners and other stakeholders to shape solutions, share knowledge and deliver better outcomes for the Pilbara.



Our environment targets

Our Pilbara-wide targets[1] are a critical part of the strategy, setting a pathway to deliver meaningful, measurable outcomes by 2030.

Target 1	**Equivalent of 30% of the land we steward under conservation or restoration actions by 2030[2,3,4]** Working with partners, we'll establish and maintain conservation and restoration actions across the Pilbara so that, by 2030, we protect or restore more than five hectares for every one hectare we have disturbed.
Target 2	**Backfill 60% of waste rock material annually by 2030[5,6]** We'll backfill more waste rock material in-pit to reduce our future disturbance footprint and improve closure outcomes.
Target 3	**Reduce surface water discharge by more than 80% by 2030[7]** We'll investigate and prioritise aquifer management, storage, transfers and reuse to reduce surface water discharge from mine dewatering, protecting ecosystems and respecting cultural values.
Target 4	**Rehabilitation of 4,000 hectares by 2030[8]** We'll deliver more hectares of rehabilitation across mine, rail, port and projects, supported by improved mine planning.

Our targets are ambitious. If we fall behind in delivering a target, we'll learn from it, and work with our partners to adjust our plans and keep improving.

These actions will help to protect cultural and biodiversity values and will contribute to nature-positive outcomes.

Footnotes:

1. Pilbara-wide targets - Targets are set and measured at a Pilbara-wide level, rather than at an individual asset level. Each asset's contribution to achieving these targets will vary based on its specific operating context. Target baselines are referenced to the end of 2025, see Rio Tinto website for further information.
2. Equivalent of - Actions may be delivered on or off Iron Ore Pilbara land holdings (e.g. on third-party tenure), such as our Pilbara Conservation Project partnership with DBCA which supports activities within national parks.
3. Land we steward - The land for which Iron Ore Pilbara holds underlying tenure in the Pilbara, inclusive of inland waters within those tenure boundaries.
4. Under conservation or restoration actions - Areas where Iron Ore Pilbara is delivering or funding mandatory or voluntary conservation and/or restoration activities. Formal legal protections (e.g., conservation covenants) are not required for activities to be included.
5. Backfill - Placement of waste rock material into mined voids (e.g. pits).
6. Waste rock material - Non-ore material generated through mining activities that is removed to access ore.
7. Surface water discharge – discharge to the surface attributable to mine dewatering activities. Water discharged for environmental or emergency needs is not included.
8. Rehabilitation - Process of re-establishment of disturbed areas to achieve safe, stable, non-polluting landforms capable of supporting self-sustaining native vegetation consistent with the post-mining land use. Rehabilitation includes earthworks, surface treatments, soil preparation and revegetation. For the purposes of footprint measurement, areas are considered rehabilitated at the beginning of re-establishment once they have earthworks and surface treatments completed.

How we'll deliver

Taking action

We're implementing the strategy through a five-year plan, embedded in our business planning processes. For the first two years we're focused on getting the basics right, delivering our priority projects, and investing in solutions for the future.

Measuring performance

We'll measure progress using clear key performance indicators to ensure we deliver on our commitments and make progress towards delivering our targets.

Governing delivery

Strategy delivery is managed through a cross-functional governance model, with clear accountabilities, decision-making rights and performance tracking to drive outcomes.

Sharing progress

We'll regularly share progress with Traditional Owners, communities, investors, regulators, partners and other stakeholders, including publishing key performance data to support transparency, learning and continuous improvement.

Learning and improving

We'll drive continuous improvement by actively seeking and applying feedback from employees, Traditional Owners, regulators and other stakeholders to improve delivery over time.



The Pilbara Environment Strategy is our commitment to be a trusted partner and environmental steward.

We'll review and refresh the strategy to respond to new challenges and opportunities, helping strengthen environmental performance in the Pilbara and beyond.



Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto
Central Park
152–158 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA, 6000
Australia

+61 8 9327 2000

riotinto.com