

Exploration in the Julimar State Forest

Chalice recently commenced low-impact exploration drilling within a small section of the Julimar State Forest. This area has never been explored for minerals before, but there is potential it could host green metals – metals which are required to decarbonise the world and address climate change.

What does exploration in the Julimar State Forest look like?

Chalice's exploration in the Julimar State Forest sets a new standard as one of the lowest impact exploration campaigns in WA.

This exploration is strictly governed by a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) which was approved by the WA Government and developed in conjunction with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

Chalice's exploration in the area does not involve any mechanised clearing of vegetation, or the use of bulldozers or graders.

Some of the measures to minimise our impact include the use of low-impact, compact drill rigs; comprehensive flora and fauna, dieback and cultural heritage monitoring.

The track-mounted drill rigs have a small footprint and can easily navigate around trees. Because these drill rigs have caterpillar tracks rather than standard tyres, they exert very low pressure on the ground, allowing them to roll over vegetation with minimal impact to roots, soil and the seed bank. This exploration method also helps with successful rehabilitation.

Amazingly, these rigs are likely to exert less ground pressure than a person walking the same path!

They also have self-contained drilling fluids systems, which means all fluids and rock cuttings generated are captured in above ground tanks and removed from the Forest area. No excavation of a drilling sump to contain drill fluids is required.

Where possible, drill sites have occurred on access tracks in the Forest. There is an extensive network of existing tracks frequently used by recreational users as well as emergency services.

The total operational footprint of this exploration drilling program in Julimar State Forest is a maximum of 4.4 hectares (inclusive of a 'buffer', meaning the disturbance to vegetation could be considerably less). This 4.4 hectares includes ~70 drill sites and associated access routes across a ~2,000ha area. The total area of Julimar State Forest is approximately 28,000 hectares.

An existing access track in the Julimar State Forest, used for recreation and fire breaks. Drill sites are located on existing tracks where possible.

A video demonstrating the compact drill rigs is available here:
<https://youtu.be/JVBqWUHjA4A>



Chalice's compact drill rig operating on existing access track in the Julimar State Forest. Note: ground fluid is water, not waste fluids.



Tracked rigs and vehicles will roll over low-lying vegetation exerting minimal ground pressure, removing the need for mechanised clearing.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why does Chalice need a Clearing Permit if no mechanised clearing is required?

A: Chalice was required to apply for a Native Vegetation Clearing Permit for off-track drilling, as disturbance to vegetation, including driving a vehicle over vegetation, is classified as 'clearing' under the WA Environmental Protection Act 1986. This may be confusing, however it is important to note that the Permit does not allow Chalice to clear any trees.

The Permit allows the small rigs to roll over low-lying vegetation and conduct minor manual pruning of branches only where required for safety reasons. All activity is in accordance with the CMP.

Q: How long will the drilling program be?

A: Each drill hole is expected to take 2-4 weeks to complete and the entire drill program will take 6-12 months to complete utilising multiple rigs. Once the drill holes are complete at each site, the affected area will be rehabilitated and restored, meaning that the long term impact to the Forest is negligible.



Before: Drill site on existing track before Chalice exploration.



After: Rehabilitated drill site on existing track after Chalice exploration.

Q: How is Chalice ensuring wildlife is not affected?

A: Chalice has conducted flora and fauna surveys covering an area of over 6,000 hectares in the Julimar region. This allows us to plan a drill program to avoid any areas of significant habitat.

In addition, before drilling can commence at each new site, the area must be monitored by a zoologist to check for wildlife. This monitoring includes threatened species, such as the Chuditch and Black Cockatoo.

Flora and vegetation surveys have been undertaken twice across the planned drilling area. Firstly broad surveys were done to describe vegetation types and identify the presence of conservation significant plant species. This was followed by surveys in Spring to map in detail the occurrence of any conservation significant plants. This was an important step in our planning that allowed Chalice to design the exploration program to avoid impact to any threatened plants.

Chalice also follows a comprehensive dieback management plan to ensure our exploration activity does not contribute to the spread of dieback in the Julimar region.

Q: Does this exploration automatically lead to a mine?

A: No, this exploration drilling is a first step to understanding the mineral potential of the area in a responsible manner. Chalice has confirmed a significant deposit of green metals like nickel, copper, cobalt, platinum and palladium on company-owned farmland (known as the Gonville Deposit), for which early-stage development studies have begun.

To date, no discovery has been made in Julimar State Forest and, as such, it is unclear at this point whether any mining will ever take place in the Forest.

Q: How is Chalice protecting Cultural Heritage?

A: Another way Chalice is minimising our impact in the Forest is ongoing monitoring conducted by Yued and Whadjuk Traditional Owners. The role of the monitors is to confirm that all drilling activities are taking place within areas that do not contain any cultural heritage sites .

Chalice has engaged Yued and Whadjuk representatives to ensure their community is represented and culture is respected, and forms part of Chalice's cultural heritage management plan for the exploration program. The monitoring of each drill site is in addition to broader cultural heritage surveys conducted across the exploration areas in 2021.

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www.chalicemining.com/community-julimar-project

Zoologist Claire checking for Black Cockatoos before the drill rig can enter the area.

