

## Case study

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### **Watching our birds**

Birdwatching is one way to view the biodiversity around us, and both Kestrel Mine and Bengalla have worked with local birdwatching groups, Birds Capricornia and Hunter Bird Observers Club respectively, to conduct bird surveys which raise awareness of the broad range of bird life and deliver an improved understanding of birds in the region.

Both sites recently held Birdwatch events with their local communities, and the results will feature in an international report on bird species, which is being compiled by Birdlife International for Rio Tinto.

This report will include the results of bird watch events conducted at 24 Rio Tinto operations, in 11 countries around the world.

Employees from Bengalla teamed up with the Hunter Bird Observers Club and members of the public to sight and record local species of birds seen on the Hunter River near Keys Bridge, and Birds Capricornia assisted Rio Tinto Coal Australia to host the first ever Birdwatch event at the Kestrel Mine as part of the annual Rio Tinto Birdwatch programme.

The event also collected data on the Gordon Downs property which will assist in monitoring the bird species, and consequently improvement in biodiversity, over time.

For the past nine years, Birdlife International has been running Birdwatch events at Rio Tinto operations to provide both local community members and employees the opportunity to learn more about the local environment and the fauna within it.

“Adopting a regional approach to managing biodiversity risks and opportunities has enabled us to both manage site-specific issues as well as implement programmes that have the ability to deliver conservation outcomes across the Hunter Valley,” Sharon Green, Bengalla Environmental Specialist said.

“We pride ourselves on the fact we set very high environmental targets for ourselves, and through working together with Birdlife International and hosting the Birdwatch event we were able to learn more about our local environment and the fauna within it,” Ms Green said.

These activities are among a range of initiatives that are part of Rio Tinto Coal Australia’s Hunter Valley and Bowen Basin Biodiversity Action Plans.