

AGRICULTURE

Key Facts about the Project's Impact on Agricultural Land

Savannah is aware that agriculture is a key part of life for many living in the Barroso area and it is one of the important elements of the region's identity. Every effort will be made to minimise impacts, protect and enhance this important local resource for the future.



1. How will the Project impact the region's special agricultural status?

The Barroso region has been designated as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

This reflects FAO's intention to promote and preserve the agricultural heritage present here, as well as the relations between the various elements that compose and sustain it.

Traditional farming systems, largely based on livestock farming and cereal production, have given rise to a mosaic in which ancient pastures, cultivated areas and forests interrelate and become co-dependent in landscape transformation.

▶ The Project does not put at risk the GIAHS classification. However, Savannah recognises that there is a risk of indirect impacts, such as perceptions of the region's reputation as a unique agricultural ecosystem. Savannah will work closely with stakeholders to mitigate and minimise such risks.

▶ The GIAHS status was awarded in 2018 with the understanding that it would not compromise the integrity of existing economic activities in the area such as mineral production.

▶ The total area impacted on the Lease area, including temporarily impacted land, will be less than 0.25% of the GIAHS.

▶ Savannah will minimise the Project's potential impacts on the GIAHS area by:

- Supporting Barroso as a GIAHS territory;
- Supporting the training of agricultural or traditional producers and enterprises;
- Promoting the economic and social benefits of agroforestry and pastoral systems in the Barroso region;
- Supporting the valorization of cultural and natural heritage;
- Negotiating compensation with those experiencing a loss of income as a result of the Project's development.

▶ Maintaining water quality in the area through the 'closed' design of the Project's water system and on-site water treatment facilities.

▶ Maintaining water availability by meeting the Project's water needs by on-site collection and storage only.

▶ Maintaining soil quality: By preserving and reusing topsoil removed from impacted areas; using biodegradable reagents; making inert products and waste; having rigorous operating and waste management systems.



2. How will agriculture on the Project lease area be affected?

Savannah understands that stakeholders have concerns on the direct and indirect impact the Project may have on agricultural land on the Lease area itself and in the wider area. Savannah is committed to minimising these impacts as much as possible through the Project's design and operation. Relevant features include:

- ▶ **Site layout:** limiting the impact on agricultural land and meadows on the Lease area to approximately 14 hectares, equating to 2.4% of the Lease area, or 0.012% of GIAHS area.
- ▶ **Rehabilitation program:** Savannah will store and protect topsoil removed from working areas and use it in the rehabilitation of impacted land for alternative use once the Project has been closed (see Fact Sheet #9 for more information).
- ▶ **Water management system:** The Project will operate as a closed system, and the water treatment and sediment removal systems will ensure water quality on and off site is maintained (See Fact Sheet #3 for more information).
- ▶ **Waste management:** The waste rock and tailings are both inert materials and have trace elements consistent with the existing environment. Hence, they are not expected to have a significant impact on the soils in the region, but will be closely monitored by Savannah to ensure that this is the case.
- ▶ **Dust suppression:** Savannah regards dust from the site as potentially the largest risk to local agriculture. Hence, Savannah has implemented a program of progressive rehabilitation (re-vegetation), together with the use of water carts and biodegradable geopolymers on all roads to suppress dust emissions (see Fact Sheet #10 for more information).
- ▶ **Real time monitoring:** Savannah will closely monitor on a real time basis all the key environmental indicators to ensure that any potential impacts are minimised.



If you would like more information or have any questions or comments, please visit or contact the Barroso Lithium Project Information Centres

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