



MEET JAKE

Environmental Officer



PEMBROKE

Bachelor of Environmental Science

Tell us about your journey

I started out studying physiotherapy, but eventually shifted into a broad discipline degree in the environmental sciences. I didn't expect to be in mining and am glad to have found my way here. Since starting in the industry, I've been excited by the variation in my role and a chance to use a larger variety of my skills.

What drives you to do this work?

As the first mine approved under the Strong and Sustainable Communities Act, Pembroke's position as a 21st-century modern mining company is demonstrating how world class environmental activities and sustainable mining practices can co-exist. We're working on improving our water monitoring process which will be instrumental in ensuring the health of the Isaac River and the waterways that flow out to the Great Barrier Reef. Being from North Qld, knowing that we are looking after the water that will flow into the Great Barrier Reef is really important and rewarding for me.

What's the best thing about your team and workplace?

We're a small team, which means I get to work across lots of projects and disciplines. Pembroke is small enough to see the impact of your decisions and being a part of a new mine is an amazing opportunity – mines have a lifespan of decades and not many people get to be there at the start. It's not just people flying in and out of Brisbane – we have people on the ground and Pembroke is investing in the Isaac Region and Barada Barna communities.

What has this career made possible for you?

A career in mining not only provides financial stability, but more importantly grants an opportunity to travel and learn about an industry that has formed the backbone of Australia's development. Personally, it's fulfilling to be a part of a mining company that's actively reshaping traditional values – a company of the future.

What excites you about the future?

The emergence of the environmental industry in mining has paved the way for a far more sustainable approach. I saw this role as an opportunity to contribute to an industry with progressive environmental values. From day one, I felt a genuine connection between the people of Pembroke and the work that we carry out both in the office and on site, to restore and improve the condition of the environment at and around Olive Downs. We have a great program that protects the species that inhabit the ecosystems around Olive Downs and I'm looking forward to being a part of that project.

How do you define a future-shaping career?

We're shaping the future of mining in Australia, which is a privilege and exciting to be a part of. For me, a future-shaping career is about innovation - and innovation is at the heart of what we're doing: continuously learning and improving.

What does 'Shape Our Future' mean to you?

To 'shape our future' means reflecting on the world we live in now and challenging ourselves to forge a better path for the generations that follow. My work allows me to have a direct hand in that - by setting a new standard for sustainable practice across the mining industry.

Your message to future students

Environmental roles are essential to modern mining. They lay the foundation, from approvals before first dirt is moved, to rehabilitation that ensures land remains liveable for generations to come. This job is fantastic – I've brought years of study to life in a brand-new mining facility, working in the incredible Queensland landscape. Steel is critical to our built environment, and environmental roles are critical to the future of our industry.

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