



A Greener Future: NSWMC Policy on Rehabilitation

NSW Minerals Council members are committed to contributing to the sustained growth and prosperity of current and future generations. Consequently, investments in minerals projects should be technically appropriate, environmentally sound, socially responsible and financially profitable. The industry has been a pioneer of sustainable development not only as a concept but in its demonstrably successful environmental performance in rehabilitation and mine closure.

Mining is a temporary land use. Following mining, the land is returned to a stable and self-sustaining condition in accordance with agreed land use planning. Rehabilitation is an integral component of mine site operations, from exploration to mine closure, and is critical to sustainable mining. In order to maintain the industry's social licence to operate we will continue to operate in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner.

The minerals industry will continually innovate with advanced and specific improvements delivered at individual mining operations being a leading indicator that rehabilitation processes are a means of contributing to sustainable development.

In order to foster this continual improvement and important innovation, the NSW Minerals Council has identified objectives and activities to guide leading practice in rehabilitation as follows:

- Industry will consult and engage with relevant stakeholders, including government and the community, in an open process at the outset of rehabilitation through to mine closure.
- Consultation will identify both environmental and social objectives and concerns to ensure they are effectively managed through rehabilitation processes and the post closure land use plan.
- Wherever possible, rehabilitation will be undertaken progressively with mining activity.
- Mining activity will minimise the area of land that is disturbed.
- Collaborative partnerships will be established to further develop knowledge, expertise and technologies in relation to rehabilitation practices to continually improve site rehabilitation techniques.
- Environmental risks and opportunities will be identified and appropriate management plans be developed for incorporation within mine closure plans.
- Rehabilitation plans will be integrated into land use planning and biodiversity conservation.
- Adequate financial and human resources for implementation of rehabilitation and mine closure plans will be provided.
- Mine closure plans and associated financial and resource estimates will be regularly updated during the operating life of the project.
- Rehabilitation works will be monitored and maintained against mutually agreed completion and successful rehabilitation criteria.