



**MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
MINISTER FOR MINERAL RESOURCES**

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW REHABILITATION WORKS SET FOR THREE OLD MINES IN NSW

The Lemna Government today announced three new mine site rehabilitation projects in NSW, with a combined value of nearly \$475,000. Two of the projects are happening in the Central West.

NSW Minister for Mineral Resources Ian Macdonald said the three projects are part of this year's \$1.7 million Derelict Mines Program, which is administered by the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

"The Lemna Labor Government is spending \$165,000 on rehabilitation works in the historic gold fields of Hill End, near Bathurst in the State's Central West," Mr Macdonald said.

"The famous Holtermann Nugget was Discovered at Hill End in 1872 and remains the largest single mass of gold ever discovered in the world, measuring 1.5 metres long and weighing almost 290 kg.

"The remediation works at the old Hill End mine will include filling and securing up to 20 old mine shafts.

"This week rehabilitation work also began on the old Ophir gold mine, located 22 km from Orange – which is the home of the State's very first gold discovery back in 1851.

"Work at this old mine site includes \$55,000 to fill about one-dozen old shafts, install new grates to improve safety at the site, and stabilise erosion in the area."

Mr Macdonald said gold mining continues to play an important role in the Central West and could soon expand even further.

The Hill End-Tambaroora Gold Field was one of the richest gold mining areas in NSW, and the discovery of gold in Ophir generated the first true gold rush in Australia. The world's largest gold producer (U.S.-based Newmont Mining Corporation) has recently begun exploration works in the Central West.

Mr Macdonald said that if exploration works uncover significant gold reserves, they may deliver a further boon for the Central West Communities and the State's gold industry.

In addition to the Central West projects, an old silver mine located near Emmaville in Northern NSW will also be remediated at a cost of more than \$250,000.

This project involves filling old mine shafts and rebuilding a heritage mining structure," Mr Macdonald said. "

"Work will be carried out by the Department of Land's Soil Conservation Service starting later this month and is expected to be completed by July."

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