

Mined Land Rehabilitation Policy

The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring land disturbed by mining activities is rehabilitated to a safe and stable landform that does not cause environmental harm and is able to sustain an approved post-mining land use.

Land disturbed by mining activities will be rehabilitated progressively as it becomes available, to minimise the risks of environmental impacts and reduce cumulative areas of disturbed land.

The progress and outcomes of progressive rehabilitation activities will be monitored and reported on to demonstrate how successful they have been in achieving progress towards the approved post-mining landform, and to inform corrective action where required.

To provide certainty about the outcomes and timing of rehabilitation, all site-specific mines will prepare a Progressive Rehabilitation and Closure Plan (PRCP). The plan will include binding, time-based milestones for actions that achieve progressive rehabilitation and will ultimately support the transition to the mine site's future use.

Disturbed land associated with mining activities is considered available for rehabilitation unless it is:

- being actively mined, or
- being used for operating mining infrastructure, or
- overlaying a probable or proven resource reserve identified for extraction in the approved PRCP within 10 years, or
- the site of built infrastructure that will be retained as a beneficial asset in the approved PRCP.

Land disturbed by mining activities is considered to be rehabilitated when it can be demonstrated it is safe, stable, does not cause environmental harm, and is able to sustain the post-mining land use approved in the PRCP.





When preparing a PRCP, the mining company will identify suitable post-mining land uses having regard to the surrounding landscape, community views and the objectives of any local and regional planning strategies. The PRCP must be approved by the administering authority.

For all sites, the administering authority will not approve a PRCP that includes an area that does not sustain a post-mining land use, unless the authority holder can demonstrate the proposed treatment of the land meets current best practice management, and:

- rehabilitating the area would pose a greater environmental risk than not rehabilitating, or
- the environmental risks from the area are localised, and the cost of rehabilitation would be so excessive as to not be in the public interest.

This applies to existing site-specific mines where rehabilitation outcomes are not clear in an environmental authority, and they need to be developed and clarified. Public consultation will be required where the rehabilitation outcomes proposed are different to those approved in the environmental authority or consulted on through an EIS.

However, where there are clear requirements for rehabilitation outcomes in the approved environmental authority the above criteria do not apply. The approved rehabilitation outcomes can be translated into the PRCP and will not require public consultation.

In addition to the above, for all new site-specific mines, the administering authority will not approve a PRCP that includes a void situated wholly or partially in a floodplain unless the void will be rehabilitated to a safe and stable landform that is able to sustain an approved post-mining land use that does not cause environmental harm.

For new site-specific mines, the community must be consulted during the development of a PRCP, as part of the consultation process associated with an application for environmental authority.

Areas that are not rehabilitated to sustain a post-mining land use may require additional on-going management. In these cases any residual risk payment to the administering authority will include provision for this ongoing management.

Information about a company's rehabilitation performance, including measured progress towards the approved post-mining land use and monitoring data about the success of rehabilitation activities, will be communicated to the public throughout the life of a mine. This includes data on progressive rehabilitation activities and any progressive rehabilitation certification.