

Mine rehabilitation framework



Development assessment process for mines

Mining company seeks approval for new mine or change to existing mine

Proposal includes a plan for how land will be rehabilitated for a specific final land use.

Mine proposal is assessed through planning framework

This includes an assessment of the proposed final land use and rehabilitation approach and consultation with local communities. If approved, development consent is granted, which includes approval of the final land use.



Mining lease and conditions

Mining lease application is submitted to NSW Resources

The mining company pays the fees and submits all information required. NSW Resources considers the application and determines whether it is appropriate to grant the mining lease.

Mining company granted mining lease subject to conditions

Mining company prepares rehabilitation risk assessment and management plan and seeks approval for how rehabilitation will meet the approved final land use. The company pays a security deposit to the government for costs of completing rehabilitation.



Undertaking rehabilitation

Mining begins

Mining company progressively rehabilitates land and water, starting as soon as possible after mining begins and reports annually on rehabilitation progress and future plans. Resources Regulator annually reviews the adequacy of the security deposit and regularly inspects the mine to ensure rehabilitation is on track.

Mining ends

Rehabilitation and monitoring continues after mining ends, often for many years. When ready, mining company submits detailed evidence that rehabilitation is complete. Resources Regulator assesses whether rehabilitation has been completed and returns the security deposit on 'sign-off'.



Rehabilitation completion

Rehabilitation completion assessment

Resources Regulator assesses whether rehabilitation has been completed and returns the security deposit on 'sign-off'.

Mining title relinquished

Mining company remains liable for unforeseen rehabilitation issues.