



**NSW  
Resources  
Regulator**

**FORM AND WAY**

# **REHABILITATION OBJECTIVES AND REHABILITATION COMPLETION CRITERIA FOR SMALL MINES**



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## Purpose

This document sets out the prescribed form and way for rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria for small mines, in accordance with Clauses 9 and 12 of Schedule 8A to the Mining Regulation 2016.

## Mandatory requirements

The lease holder must submit rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria in accordance with mining lease conditions, in the form and way specified in this document.

The rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria must be submitted using the online form accessible at <https://nswresourcesregulator.service-now.com/regulator> and include the following columns:

- a. final land use domain
- b. mining domain
- c. rehabilitation objectives
- d. indicator(s)
- e. rehabilitation completion criteria
- f. validation method.

### **Explanatory note 1: Rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria**

Examples of rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria for small mines are included in guidelines.

## Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
Domain	An area (or areas) of the land that has been disturbed by mining and has a specific operational use (mining domain) or specific final land use (final land use domain). Land within a domain typically has similar geochemical and/or geophysical characteristics and therefore requires specific rehabilitation activities to achieve the associated final land use.
Final land use	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Final land use domain	A land management unit with a final land use. A mining lease may have one final land use (e.g. returning the entire mining lease to native vegetation) or several final land use units (e.g. a mix of pasture areas and native ecosystems). Each final land use unit represents a separate final land use domain.
Form and way	Means the form and way approved by the Secretary. Approved form and way documents are available on the Department's website.
Indicator	An attribute of the biophysical environment (e.g. pH, topsoil depth, biomass) that can be used to approximate the progression of a biophysical process. It can be measured and audited to demonstrate (and track) the progress of an aspect of rehabilitation towards a desired completion criterion (defined end point). It may be aligned to an established protocol and used to evaluate changes in a system.
Land	As defined in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> .
Lease holder	The holder of a mining lease.
Mining area	As defined in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> .
Mining domain	A land management unit with a discrete operational function (for example, overburden emplacement), and therefore similar geophysical characteristics, that will require specific rehabilitation treatments to achieve the final land use(s).
Mining lease	As defined in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> .
Rehabilitation	As defined in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> .
Rehabilitation completion	The final phase of rehabilitation when a rehabilitation area has achieved the final land use for the mining area:

TERM	DEFINITION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ as stated in the approved rehabilitation objectives and the approved rehabilitation completion criteria</li> <li>■ for large mines – as spatially depicted in the approved final landform and rehabilitation plan.</li> </ul> <p>Rehabilitation areas may be classified as complete when the NSW Resources Regulator has determined in writing that rehabilitation has achieved the final land use following submission of the relevant application by the lease holder.</p>
Rehabilitation completion criteria	Rehabilitation completion criteria set out the criteria the achievement of which will demonstrate the achievement of the rehabilitation objectives.
Rehabilitation objectives	Means the rehabilitation objectives required to achieve the final land use for the mining area.