

FORM AND WAY

# REHABILITATION OBJECTIVES, REHABILITATION COMPLETION CRITERIA AND FINAL LANDFORM AND REHABILITATION PLAN FOR LARGE MINES



## FORM AND WAY

Rehabilitation objectives, rehabilitation completion criteria and final landform and rehabilitation plan for large mines

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## Purpose

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

## Mandatory requirements

Lease holders must submit rehabilitation objectives, rehabilitation completion criteria and a final landform and rehabilitation plan in accordance with mining lease conditions, in the form and way specified in this document.

### 1.1. Rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria

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. spatial reference (see explanatory note 2)
- d. rehabilitation objectives
- e. indicator(s)
- f. rehabilitation completion criteria
- g. validation method.

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

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

The submission of the rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria table will occur via the NSW Resources Regulator's online portal. Electronic submission via the portal will:

- enable streamlined submission, assessment and determination processes
- enable linking of rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria with spatial data submitted as part of the final landform and rehabilitation plan
- improve the ability to monitor and track progress of rehabilitation performance against rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria.

### **Explanatory note 2: Spatial reference (final land use and mining domain)**

Rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria will be linked with spatial data submitted as part of the final landform and rehabilitation plan. This will include an additional field called "spatial reference" within the final land use theme. The spatial reference will be an alphanumeric code given to each polygon within the final land use theme. This unique reference is created in the spatial data to link rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria to the corresponding spatial data. Additional information regarding the spatial reference field is available in guidelines.

## 1.2. Final landform and rehabilitation plan

Lease holders must submit all spatial data themes listed in Table 1 below to the [mine rehabilitation portal](https://www.minerehabilitationportal.nsw.gov.au/) accessible at <http://www.minerehabilitationportal.nsw.gov.au/>.

*Table 1: Spatial data themes to be submitted to support the final landform and rehabilitation plan*

### SPATIAL DATA THEMES

- Final land use
- Final landform features
- Project approval boundary
- Final landform contours

### **Explanatory note 3: Final landform and rehabilitation plan**

Information regarding how to access the mine rehabilitation portal and lodge the spatial themes associated with the final landform and rehabilitation plan is available 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 landform and rehabilitation plan	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
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> .
Large mine	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Lease holder	The holder of a mining lease.
Mine rehabilitation portal	Means the NSW Resources Regulator's online portal that lease holders must use (via a registered account) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ upload rehabilitation geographical information system (GIS) spatial data</li> <li>■ develop rehabilitation GIS spatial data (using online tracing functions)</li> </ul>

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TERM	DEFINITION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ generate rehabilitation plans and rehabilitation statistics using the map viewer and Rehabilitation Key Performance Indicator functionalities.</li></ul> <p>Data submitted to the mine rehabilitation portal is collated in a centralised geodatabase for use by the NSW Resources Regulator to regulate rehabilitation performance of lease holders.</p>
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	<p>The final phase of rehabilitation when a rehabilitation area has achieved the final land use for the mining area:</p> <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.