



# ***DRG Rehabilitation Reform Project***

## ***Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue***

***Dr David Blackmore, Director Environmental Sustainability Unit – Division of Resources & Geoscience***  
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## • *What is the problem DRG is solving?*

- Ensure progressive rehabilitation occurs
- Ensure sustainable rehabilitation outcomes are achieved
- Community trust in regards to government's regulatory processes
- Industry's social license to operate

# Fixes to the current DRG regulatory operational framework

## Standard ML Conditions – specific rehabilitation conditions

- A bit broad in description
  - some are neither time bound nor specific
  - arguably not reasonably certain of meaning and application
  - may be hard to enforce
- Need to increase specificity
  - On what grounds could government be satisfied?
  - At what point in time is the Government to be satisfied?

## Fixes to the current DRG regulatory framework

- Having an approval role indicates that the Department endorses everything in the MOP (Plan)
  - not just rehabilitation (endorsement of entire plan)
- The MOP could be viewed to be both an operational and management plan as well as an approval (confusion of purpose)
- Critically, the MOP is not sufficiently flexible to allow for continuous improvement and adaptive management
  - static and not easily updated
  - too prescriptive and do not allow for innovation.

## *What are the principles being implemented?*

- Integration of closure and rehabilitation planning into design
- Outcomes focused and risk-based regulation
- Appropriate allocation of government resources to activities that represent greatest risk to regulatory outcome
- Fostering industry innovation to achieve best practice rehabilitation

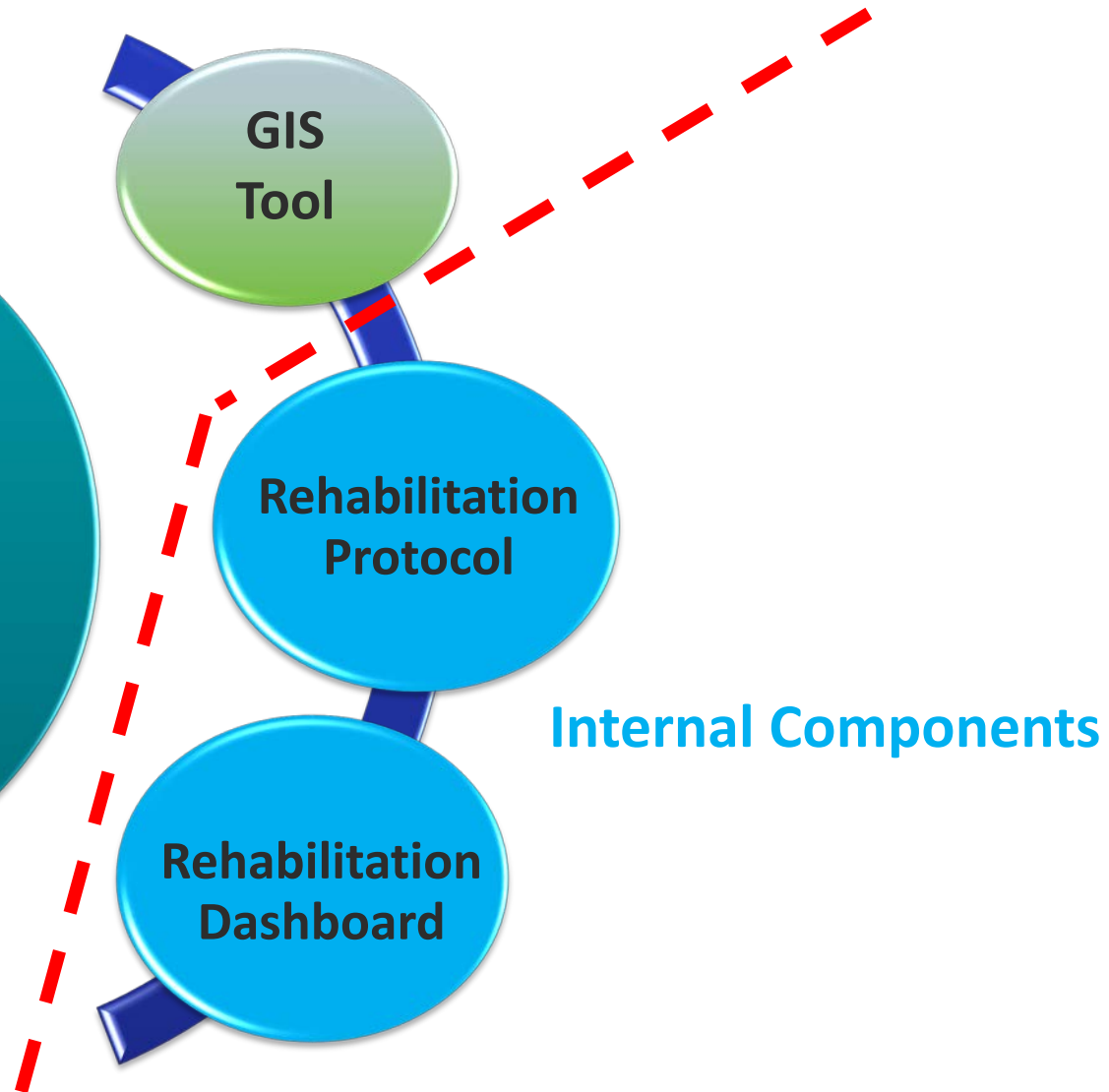
## *Direct benefits*

- Improved regulatory effectiveness of DRG
- Red tape reduction
- Uniformity of ML conditions
- Clarity of uniform approach
- Transparency/opticality of rehab.
- More certainty for industry

## *Preliminary Industry Feedback*

# Components of Rehabilitation Reform Project

## External Components





## What are the key changes to Mining Leases?

| Existing Condition  | Proposed Condition   |
|---|--|
| <p><b>MOP</b> prepared in accordance with DRG Guidelines.</p> <p><b>MOP</b> to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Rehabilitation Objectives &amp; Completion Criteria</b></li> <li>- <b>Final Landform &amp; Rehabilitation Plan</b></li> </ul> <p><b>MOP</b> approved &amp; implemented.</p> | <p><b>RMP</b> prepared in accordance with DRG Code. RMP approved &amp; implemented.</p> <p>Prepared in accordance with DRG Code:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Rehabilitation Objectives &amp; Completion Criteria</b></li> <li>- <b>Final Landform &amp; Rehabilitation Plan</b></li> </ul> <p>Both approved &amp; implemented.</p> |
| <p><b>Annual Rehabilitation Report (ARR)</b> prepared to satisfaction of Minister in accordance with DRG Guidelines.</p>  | <p><b>ARR &amp; Program</b> prepared in accordance with DRG Code. Program (of progressive rehabilitation) approved &amp; implemented annually.</p>   |
| <p><b>Rehabilitation</b> to satisfaction of the Minister.</p>   | <p><b>Progressively rehabilitate</b> surface disturbance (in accordance with approved Program).</p>  |

# What are the key changes to DRG Guidelines?

| Existing Guidelines  | Replaced by one proposed Code  |
|--|--|
| <i>ESG3: Mining Operations Plan (MOP) Guidelines, September 2013.</i>  | <i>Code of Practice: Rehabilitation of Mining, 2018</i><br><br>Includes templates and requirements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rehabilitation Objectives and Completion Criteria</li><li>• Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plan</li><li>• RMP For Small Mines</li><li>• RMP For Large Mines</li><li>• Annual Rehabilitation Report &amp; Program (consistent reporting for small and large mines)</li></ul> |
| <i>Guidelines and Format for Preparation of an Annual Environmental Management Report (ver.3, January 2006).</i>               |  |
| <i>EDG12: Format and Guideline for the Preparation of an Annual Environmental Management Report: Small Mine Version, 2012.</i> |  |

## Implementation Strategy

- Grant, renewal, transfer
- Opt in
- Replacing/updating current Mining Operations Plan (MOP) / Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR) guidelines with new Code / Introduction of guidelines to move old titles to new process – will support transitional arrangements

## *Implementation Schedule*

- Finalise legal review of Rehab Reform Project (RRP) in September
- Agency consultation in October/November 2017
- consultation with key stakeholders to follow
- Update and finalise RRP as a result of consultation
- Further consultation with agencies and key stakeholders
  - implementation schedule and transitional arrangement
- Implement across industry for July 2018
  - subject to transitional arrangements

# *Rehabilitation GIS Portal Project Overview and progress*

## Overview

- Enable collection rehabilitation GIS data via a Portal (web application)
- Key component:
  - Rehabilitation Reform Program (RRP) and
  - key response to the Audit Office review of mine rehabilitation security.
- The project has progressed, including:
  - Proof of Concept
  - Initial industry consultation
  - Further development commencing.

## Features

- Secure login and system to allow submission of data in correct format
  - Department predetermined datasets or schemas
- Facilitates data submission from small mines
  - online tracing function
- Online map viewer to monitor the progress of rehabilitation,
  - per mine or group of mines (for instance, within a regional area)
- Calculates Rehabilitation KPIs associated with Rehabilitation Reform Project (RRP)
- Correlates spatial data to the Department's Rehabilitation Cost Estimates (RCE) line items.

## Features

Data:

- accessible to officers using mobile devices (iPads)
  - site verification inspections (in field data utilisation)
- will be filtered and exported to SEED (*Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data*)
- Can be exported for other purposes (separate projects)
  - i.e. terrain mapping of final landform of all mines in the Hunter Valley.





**Dr David Blackmore, Director  
Environmental Sustainability Unit**

**For assistance contact ESU:**

**Ph (02) 4931 6605**

**Email: [minres.environment@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:minres.environment@industry.nsw.gov.au)**

