



Mining's Hidden Face

Rehabilitation could be described as the hidden face of mining in the Upper Hunter.

The aim of good rehabilitation is to make the formerly mined land look as “natural” as possible – to return the land disturbed by mining to a condition that meets the NSW Government’s strict standards.

Thousands of hectares of rehabilitated land are spread across the Upper Hunter and much of it is indistinguishable from surrounding areas of land that has never been mined.

That’s because the mine’s rehabilitation experts take great care in selecting species of native trees and grasses that suit the Upper Hunter’s ecosystem.

In some cases, mature rehabilitated land is actually in better shape than neighbouring unmined land due to the scientific decisions made by mining rehabilitation experts in terms of land shape, addition of fertile topsoils, minerals, fertilisers, plant species and ongoing monitoring.

Rehabilitation techniques vary from mine to mine depending on the individual site’s



needs and depending on what is planned for the rehabilitated land’s end use such as natural bush land or grazing paddocks.

As of 2016 , according to data collected by the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue, the Upper Hunter contained 11,653 hectares of rehabilitated mined land.

That means 55 per cent of all the land that has been mined in the Upper Hunter has been rehabilitated and the number grows every year as rehabilitation progressively follows the mining operations.