



## Rules of Rehabilitation

**All mines follow a cycle beginning with exploration and moving on to government approval, production and closure.**

Rehabilitation is an integral component of mine site operations, from the very start of exploration through to mine closure and relinquishment of the site.

Long before mining even occurs, mining companies make a commitment to both the NSW Government and the community that they will progressively rehabilitate the land disturbed during operations to a specified state suited to its agreed end land use.

Mining companies have a commitment to rehabilitate the land and leave the site in the best condition possible.

Companies do not decide how to achieve these outcomes alone. There is a detailed series of legal and regulatory frameworks that guide good practice rehabilitation and take into consideration community views.

Before mining can start at any site, the project must pass a series of assessments and approvals before gaining development consent from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

Development applications, which must be approved before mining begins, include details of the rehabilitation strategy and post mining landform.

### **Development consent conditions commonly include requirements for:**

- Progressive rehabilitation of land disturbed by the project to a good condition, and ensure it is safe, stable and non-polluting (rehabilitation occurs as mining occurs)
- Reporting against agreed rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria
- Preparation and implementation of a rehabilitation strategy and/or rehabilitation management plan
- Provision of an annual review of all operations (including mining operations and rehabilitation)
- Independent audits of adherence to conditions of consent and other major approvals such as the environmental protection licence and the mining lease