

Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

Final and Temporary Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments

2020 Results and Commentary

REPORT BY MOUNT PLEASANT OPERATION
APRIL 2021



Final and Temporary Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments

Introduction

The nine coal producing companies of the Upper Hunter, through the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (the Dialogue), have agreed to this set of principles and commitments regarding final and temporary rehabilitation. The Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments have been developed with advice and guidance from the Dialogue's Joint Environment Working Group, which comprises industry, local and state government, interest groups, and community stakeholders.

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue has two goals regarding land management:

- *Goal 1 - To decrease the time that disturbed areas are left without final or temporary cover, recognising that different mining operations are at different points in rehabilitation.*
- *Goal 2 - To achieve a consistent level of best practice, quality, integrated rehabilitation – both within the industry and with future land uses - across the Upper Hunter and to be a responsible steward of the land.*

The primary focus of the Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments is to contribute to Goal 1. Several other projects are underway to progress Goal 1. The industry participants in the UHMD acknowledge the importance of clear goals for rehabilitation developed through consultation with community and regulators, continuing to improve rehabilitation techniques and sharing innovative and successful rehabilitation techniques within the industry. Projects under Goal 2 focus on continuous improvement of rehabilitation practices.

Principles and Commitments

The Upper Hunter coal producers will publicly report against the Principles and Commitments on an annual basis. The reporting will be aggregated by the NSW Minerals Council and shared with the community. Table 1 sets out the six principles and provides a description of how each will be reported against. Contextual information is also sought from industry regarding variations in their annual reporting, as well as an opportunity to provide commentary on their future rehabilitation targets for the years ahead.

Table 1 – Principles and Commitments

Principle	Reporting
Principle 1 – Include rehabilitation planning in mine planning	<i>Narrative</i> – how has this been done in the last period
<i>Planning for rehabilitation should be integrated into the mine planning process and should include allocating adequate and dedicated resources to achieve the planned rehabilitation outcomes.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation monitoring programs • Trials and research with University of Newcastle and ACARP • Rehabilitation Management Plan within the Mining Operations Plan • Provision of rehabilitation budgets for operations • LOM planning including progressive rehabilitation
Principle 2 – Undertake progressive rehabilitation	<i>Narrative</i> – how has this been implemented in the last twelve months
<i>Companies should undertake rehabilitation progressively, with the objective of ensuring that rehabilitation is as close as possible to active mining.</i>	Progressive rehabilitation has been undertaken throughout 2020, including finalisation of the natural landform design to match mine progression, bulk shaping to natural landform, and progress the completion of other rehabilitation stages.
Principle 3 – Minimise time that disturbed areas are left without vegetation	<i>Narrative</i> – how has this been implemented in the last twelve months
<p><i>Companies should actively seek to minimise the time that land is left without cover during mining. This should include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Taking steps to ensure that rehabilitation is commenced within 12 months of land becoming available for rehabilitation</i> ▪ <i>Utilising methods of temporary rehabilitation¹, such as aerial seeding of over burden and other disturbed areas where permanent rehabilitation has not commenced.</i> 	Progressive rehabilitation has been undertaken throughout 2020, including finalisation of the natural landform design to match mine progression, bulk shaping to natural landform, and progress the completion of other rehabilitation stages. Temporary rehabilitation undertaken includes seeding of topsoil stockpiles, ripping and seeding of finalised construction areas, trialled use of dust suppressants on exposed areas such as drill patters.
Principle 4 – Prioritise areas of rehabilitation and temporary cover to reduce impacts	<i>Narrative</i> – how has this been implemented in the last twelve months
<p><i>Companies should prioritise rehabilitation and temporary cover in those areas where leaving land exposed will have the most impact. The following areas should be considered to have priority:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Areas that have the greatest impact on visual amenity, such as areas that face townships,</i> 	Rehabilitation focus remains on the eastern side of the overburden emplacement toe, which is most visible from town, to reduce visual impact as quickly as possible. In addition, rehabilitation and visual tree screen planting has been undertaken within the eastern edge of the site, and within the visual tree screen areas.

¹ Temporary rehabilitation describes reshaping, revegetation and other rehabilitation techniques that are used for purposes other than final rehabilitation. This includes such initiatives as seeding overburden emplacement areas to reduce erosion, which are only temporary.

Principle	Reporting
<p><i>residences, or the highway</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Areas that have the potential to generate dust leaving the site</i> ▪ <i>Areas that are important for biodiversity, such as rehabilitation adjoining or providing connectivity to remnant vegetation.</i> 	<p>Areas with high potential to generate dust are also rehabilitated and/or temporary covered, including topsoil stockpiles, and batter areas.</p>
<p>Principle 5 – Meet target for rehabilitation progress identified in the Mining Operations Plan</p>	
<p><i>Each company should meet the annual target for rehabilitation quantity (area) set in the Mining Operations Plans for each of its mines.</i></p>	<p>The MOP targeted a total of 85 ha of rehabilitation for the initial 12 month period (1 July 2020 through 30 June 2021). This target is on track to be met by 30 June 2021, with significant areas bulk shaped and topsoil placement, ripping, and seeding underway.</p>
<p>Principle 6 – Set quality targets for rehabilitation in the Mining Operations Plan and implement a monitoring program to measure performance</p>	
<p><i>Each company should include quality targets for the various types of rehabilitation in the Mining Operations Plan for each of its mines. A monitoring program to measure the performance of rehabilitation areas against the quality targets should be implemented at each of its mines.</i></p>	<p>The MOP includes the site Rehabilitation Management Plan, which includes details of the rehabilitation monitoring program undertaken at MPO, including monitoring of rehabilitation sites and analogue sites.</p>

Contextual information

<p><i>This section provides an opportunity for each company to provide some commentary or contextual information regarding their reported results. Such information could include advice on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Any material changes to the site (i.e., expansions, acquisitions, or divested assets); or</i> - <i>Why any figures may have changed since the last reporting period?</i> 	
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Future rehabilitation priorities

<p><i>This section provides an opportunity for each company to provide details on rehabilitation activities at their site/s for the upcoming year.</i></p>	<p>Rehabilitation within 2021 will continue to focus on the eastern overburden emplacement toe, in order to reduce visual impact on town as much as possible, and rehabilitation of MOD4 once areas become available.</p>
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