

Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

Final and Temporary Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments

2021 Results and Commentary

REPORT BY MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY
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**Upper Hunter
Mining Dialogue**



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>	Monthly rehabilitation progress meetings are held by management to discuss rehabilitation planning, scheduling, and constraints
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 in line with MOP commitments
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 overburden and other disturbed areas where permanent rehabilitation has not commenced.</i> 	No new temporary stabilisation was undertaken during the reporting period. MCC commenced permanent rehabilitation shaping on all areas in OC2 available for rehabilitation during the reporting period.
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, residences, or the highway</i> ▪ <i>Areas that have the potential to generate dust leaving the site</i> 	There is an 18Ha area in OC1 that will be disturbed to achieve the final landform. This area was previously rehabilitated but does not count towards the current total rehabilitation area. MCC classify this area as temporary stabilisation. It will only be disturbed when necessary as the location and terrain make it visible from neighbouring properties.

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas that are important for biodiversity, such as rehabilitation adjoining or providing connectivity to remnant vegetation. 	
<p>Principle 5 – Meet target for rehabilitation progress identified in the Mining Operations Plan</p>	<p><i>Quantitative</i> – report MOP target and actual rehabilitation</p> <p><i>Narrative</i> – explanation of performance</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>MOP target for 2021 has been met.</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>Narrative</i> – summary of quality targets for the various rehabilitation types; and summary of monitoring program scope and status.</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>Annual monitoring program is in place to track performance against MOP criteria.</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> 	<p>No material changes to site. Disturbed area was expanded by 2.9 Ha to cover an area of existing disturbance that had previously not been accounted for.</p> <p>Rehabilitation area reduced by 20.3Ha – due to areas being disturbed for vegetation maintenance and temporary stabilisation area being increased based on a minor final landform change. The temporary stabilisation area is rehabilitated but will be disturbed to achieve the final landform and is therefore not counted in the rehabilitated area.</p> <p>Biodiversity offset area had a covenant registered on the title during the reporting period. Digital files were updated to cover only the area relating to the covenant which is approximately 20Ha. Management of this area has not changed.</p>
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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 of OC2 is the priority for the next reporting period.</p>
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