

# Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

Final and Temporary Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments

2022 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 Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue secretariat 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
<b>Principle 1 – Include rehabilitation planning in mine planning</b>	<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>	Planning has been undertaken to finalise the plans to complete the final rehabilitation of the site following the end of mining in November 2022. This includes demolition of infrastructure that is no longer required.
<b>Principle 2 – Undertake progressive rehabilitation</b>	<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>	Work undertaken in the last twelve months includes shaping of overburden, installation of water control structures, contamination studies, detailed mine closure studies and planning for demolition of the CHPP.
<b>Principle 3 – Minimise time that disturbed areas are left without vegetation</b>	<i>Narrative</i> – how has this been implemented in the last twelve months
<i>Companies should actively seek to minimise the time that land is left without cover during mining. This should include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Taking steps to ensure that rehabilitation is commenced within 12 months of land becoming available for rehabilitation</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Utilising methods of temporary rehabilitation<sup>1</sup>, such as aerial seeding of overburden and other disturbed areas where permanent rehabilitation has not commenced.</i></li> </ul>	All areas that all available for rehabilitation have been rehabilitated. Temporary rehabilitation has been undertaken at the base of the inactive mining void. Planning is occurring to finish the final rehabilitation of the site in a timely manner.
<b>Principle 4 – Prioritise areas of rehabilitation and temporary cover to reduce impacts</b>	<i>Narrative</i> – how has this been implemented in the last twelve months
<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Areas that have the greatest impact on visual amenity, such as areas that face townships, residences, or the highway</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Areas that have the potential to generate dust leaving the site</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Areas that are important for biodiversity, such as rehabilitation adjoining or providing</i></li> </ul>	All areas that all available for rehabilitation have been rehabilitated. Temporary rehabilitation has been undertaken at the base of the inactive mining void.

<sup>1</sup> 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
<i>connectivity to remnant vegetation.</i>	
<b>Principle 5 – Meet target for rehabilitation progress identified in the Forward Program</b>	<p><i>Quantitative</i> – report MOP target and actual rehabilitation</p> <p><i>Narrative</i> – explanation of performance</p>
<i>Each company should meet the annual target for rehabilitation quantity (area) set in the Forward Program for each of its mines.</i>	MCC did not meet the rehabilitation targets in the Forward Program due to the sustained wet weather experienced in the first half of 2022. This delayed the shaping of the rehabilitation areas proposed to be completed in 2022. In addition, Covid infections affected the availability of personnel to complete the work when the area was dry enough to access.
<b>Principle 6 – Set quality targets for rehabilitation in the Rehabilitation Management Plan and Forward Program and implement a monitoring program to measure performance</b>	<i>Narrative</i> – summary of quality targets for the various rehabilitation types; and summary of monitoring program scope and status.
<i>Each company should include quality targets for the various types of rehabilitation in the Rehabilitation Management Plan and/or Forward Program 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>	MCC undertake a Rehabilitation Monitoring Program on an annual basis to assess the performance of the rehabilitation against our completion criteria.

### 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"> <li>- <i>Any material changes to the site (i.e., expansions, acquisitions, or divested assets); or</i></li> <li>- <i>Why any figures may have changed since the last reporting period?</i></li> </ul>	<p>Mining ceased at MCC in November 2022. Towards the end of mining there was very little land that was available to be rehabilitated due to the constrained mining operations. Now that mining has ceased a program is being developed to complete the rehabilitation of the site.</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 or sites for the upcoming year.</i></p>	<p>Finalising the bulk rehabilitation activities over the next 3-4 years including the removal of infrastructure. Mine closure studies are being undertaken to confirm any additional work required to relinquish the development consent and mining leases. Options for alternate final land uses are being considered by our parent company.</p>
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