

UPPER HUNTER REHABILITATION 2025



Rehabilitation Principles - Analysis and Trends

Since 2012, the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue has been collating and reporting on annual rehabilitation data from mining operations in the Upper Hunter. This information is shared with the community each year to improve transparency and awareness of the aggregated amount of progressive rehabilitation and disturbance across the region.

Mining operators report on a set of common rehabilitation principles and commitments designed to drive continuous improvements to rehabilitation. These principles aim to reduce the periods of time that disturbed areas are left without temporary or final cover to minimise the impacts on the surrounding landscape and air quality.

Since to 2023, the rehabilitation data has been compiled from the Rehabilitation Annual Reports which are provided each year by industry to the NSW Resources Regulator.

In 2025, an addition 800 hectares of previously disturbed land was newly rehabilitated, taking the total amount of land under rehabilitation to 16,880 hectares. This equates to over 38 % of all land disturbed by mining in the Upper Hunter having commenced rehabilitation.

There was an significant decrease of land newly disturbed during the period. In 2025, 410 hectares was newly disturbed compared to the 5 year average of 993 hectares.

The annual rehabilitation to disturbance ratio for 2025 was 1.95, meaning that for every hectare of land disturbed in 2025, 1.95 hectares of rehabilitation was undertaken. This is higher than the 5 year average ratio of 1.03, and is the highest rehabilitation to disturbance ration reported since the project commenced in 2012.

At the end of the reporting period, a total of 27,221 hectares of disturbed land is awaiting rehabilitation.

For more information:

miningdialogue.com.au

2025 Rehabilitation Snapshot

New rehabilitation

800 ha

Last Year (2024)

749 ha

Five-year average

748 ha

New disturbance

410 ha

Last Year (2024)

1,765 ha

Five-year average

993 ha

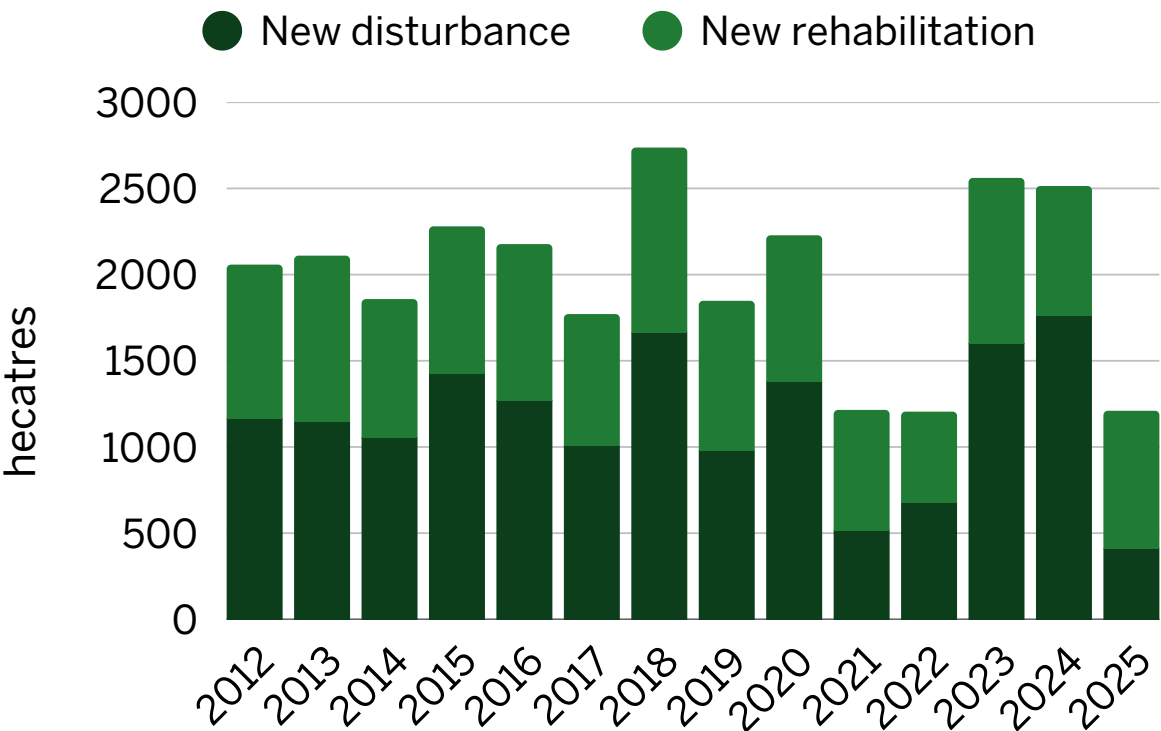


Figure 1: Comparison of annual new rehabilitation and disturbance

Total disturbed land under rehabilitation*

16,880 ha

Total disturbed land awaiting rehabilitation*

27,221 ha

*at the end of the reporting period



Over 38% of land disturbed by mining in the Upper Hunter is under active rehabilitation

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Figure 2: Comparison of annual new disturbance to new rehabilitation, with trendlines (2012 to 2025)

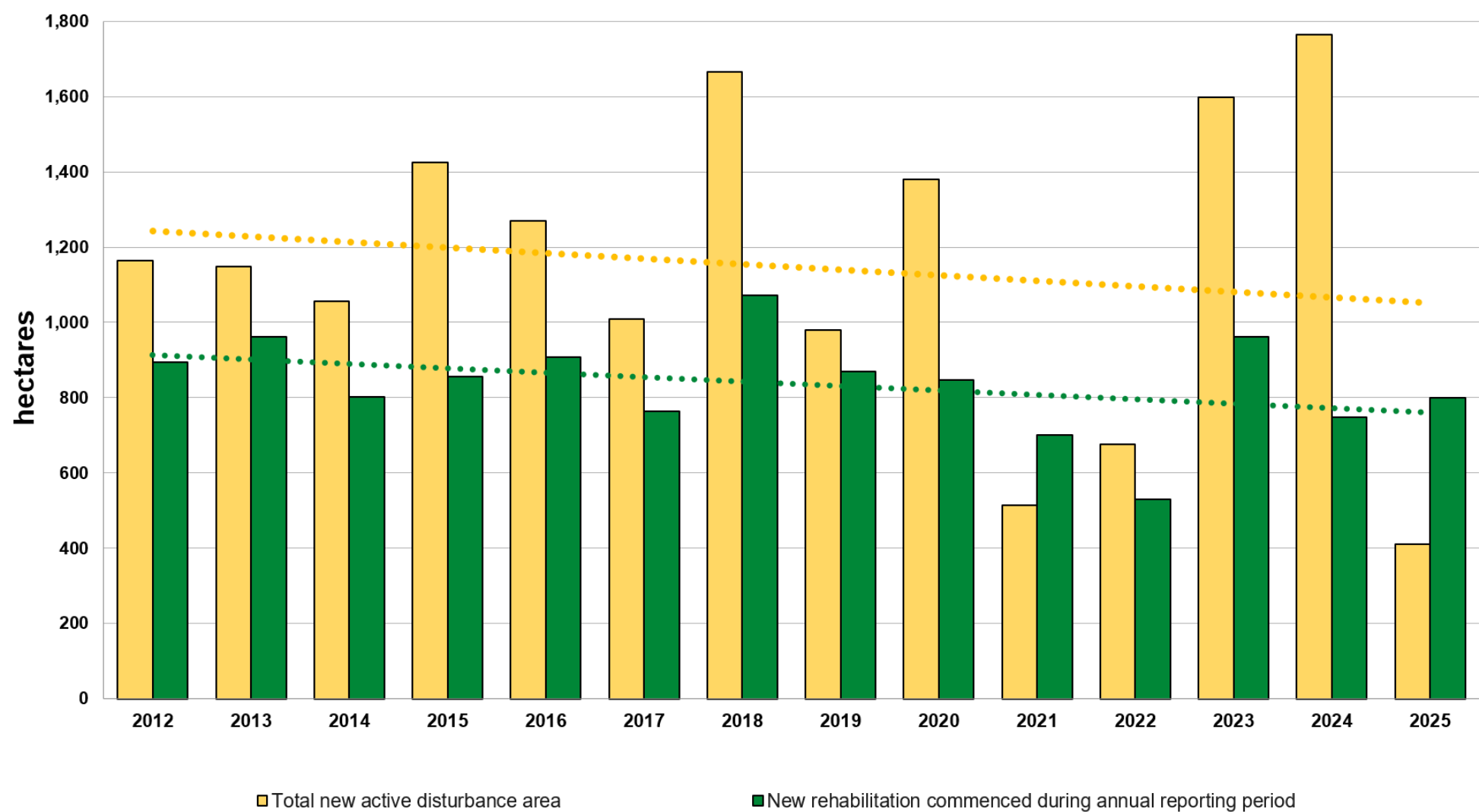
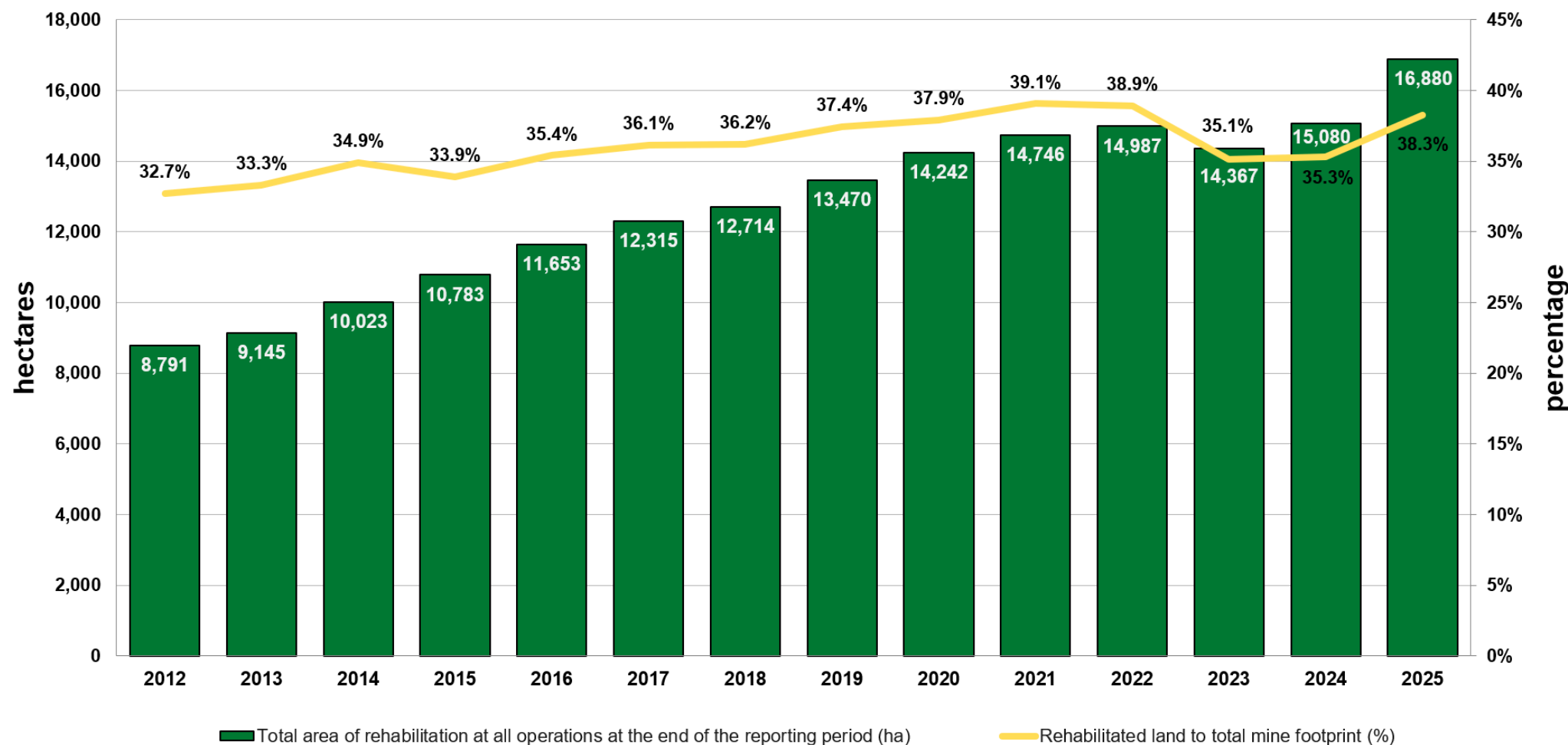


Figure 3: Total area of land under rehabilitation and percentage of disturbed land under rehabilitation (2012 to 2025)



Rehabilitation Principles - Progress Table

Rehabilitation Progress Table	Opening Figure	Five-Year Average	Last Five Years				
Rehabilitation [1]	2012	2021-2025 [8]	2021 [9]	2022 [10]	2023 [11]	2024 [12]	2025 [13]
A: Disturbed land awaiting rehabilitation - Start amount (ha) [2]	17,830	25,195	23,245	23,425	25,882	26,609	26,832
B: Total land newly disturbed within the reporting period (ha)	1,163	993	514	676	1,599	1,749	410
C: Total land newly rehabilitated within the reporting period (ha)	782	748	701	529	962	749	800
D: Disturbed land awaiting rehabilitation - End amount (ha) (D=A+B-C)	18,098	25,596	23,061	23,572	26,519	27,609	27,221
E: Total land under rehabilitation at all operations (ha) [3]	8,791	15,212	14,746	14,987	14,367	15,080	16,880
F: Annual ratio of rehabilitation to disturbance (C:B) [4]	0.77	1.03	1.36	0.78	0.66	0.42	1.95
G: Overall proportion of disturbed land rehabilitated	32.7%	37.3%	39.1%	38.9%	35.1%	35.3%	38.3%
H: Land certified as rehabilitated by the NSW Resources Regulator (ha) [5]	0	21	0	0	0	52	52
Other Managed Land [6]	2012	2021-2025	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Estimate of total biodiversity offset land (ha)	10,973	44,117	41,034	44,109	46,073	44,681	44,689
Estimate of total managed agricultural land (ha)	57,533	40,380	39,542	38,158	38,265	42,958	42,979
Estimate of total buffer land (ha) [7]	N/A	23,968	21,629	24,898	23,550	25,122	24,642

Note: Please see over the page for Contextual Notes that provide further information to the table and figures presented. Thanks to the NSW Resources Regulator and all Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue industry members for supplying rehabilitation and disturbance data for this project.

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Rehabilitation Principles - Notes

Contextual Information to the Rehabilitation Progress Table

1	Rehabilitation is defined by the Mining Act 1992 as the treatment or management of disturbed land or water for the purpose of establishing a safe and stable environment.
2	Row 'A' (Year) may not necessarily equal Row 'D' (Year - 1) as several companies reconcile their previously reported figures and have provided corrections over time which are incorporated into the subsequent year's reporting.
3	Row 'E' figures for the current reporting year are generally calculated by adding the new rehabilitation 'C' amount from the current reporting year to the total land under rehabilitation 'E' amount from the previous reporting year. This is not always a straightforward calculation, as several companies may report re-disturbance to areas previously rehabilitated (rather than creating new disturbance). Previously rehabilitated land is excluded from the total area under rehabilitation of all operations at the end of the reporting period.
4	Row 'F' is the annual rehabilitation to disturbance ratio which indicates how many hectares of land is rehabilitated for each hectare of land disturbed during the year. A ratio of 1 would indicate that the total area of new rehabilitation and new disturbance in that year are the same.
5	Row 'H' was newly introduced as a reporting category as part of the 2025 results. This is the land that has been formally approved by the NSW Resources Regulator as having achieved the approved rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria, and the final landform plan. Achieving this approval requires the mine site to demonstrate rehabilitation has been established and maintained which can take significant time. In some cases prolonged monitoring (>15 years) is required to demonstrate rehabilitation that is eligible for consideration by the Resources Regulator.
6	The Dialogue collects and reports on a number of 'other managed land' including biodiversity offsets, and total managed agricultural land. It should be noted that land reported in this category is located across NSW and not just within the Upper Hunter region.
7	The Dialogue introduced a new reporting category as part of the 2018 results, where the total amount of buffer land owned by the mining companies operating in the Upper Hunter is now being reported. The total amount is also broken down into various categories (e.g. agricultural, residential, commercial, recreational, or vacant land not suitable for use). There will be a doubling up between some managed land and the buffer land results in most years due to some managed agricultural land being included in the buffer land figure.
8	The reporting table has been condensed and does not show each year from the projects inception in 2012. A number of previous contextual notes have been removed as they relate to data no longer shown in the table, however are important to note in other graphs produced by the Dialogue in association with this project. In 2015, there was an increase in newly disturbed land, which was predominantly due to the establishment of the Bulga Optimisation project. In 2017, Mount Pleasant Operation commenced operation, and a larger amount of new disturbance was recorded that year due to this project's initial stages. As the mine develops, progressive rehabilitation is conducted and much of the initial disturbance is rehabilitated.
9	2021 result notes: The total figure for biodiversity offset land decreased slightly in 2021, due to a revision and correction of this data from Mount Pleasant Operation following an internal review for accuracy. Further, the figures for managed agricultural land and buffer land both decreased by a significant amount in the 2021 reporting year with Glencore advising they no longer include offset lands in this figure, and BHP advising of an increase in active mining area and the construction of the new Edderton Rd.
10	2022 result notes: As per note [2], differences in the opening 2022 'A' and closing 2021 'D' figures between years were recorded due to sites amending their figures between reporting years following internal accuracy reviews.
11	2023 result notes: Rehabilitation data for 2023 was sourced from the Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program which are submitted by mining companies directly to the NSW Resources Regulator annually. This is a change in the data source compared to previous years where data was obtained directly from industry. Comparisons of the data previously reported by the Dialogue and data provided to the NSW Resources Regulator has been undertaken and showed minimal variance. The increase in total land newly disturbed is attributed to the continued construction of the Maxwell Underground Mine and construction and further development of open cut mining operations at Mount Pleasant. The data source for the Other Managed Land section remains the same and was sourced directly from industry.
12	2024 result notes: Similar to 2023, the data for 2024 was sourced from the Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program which are submitted by mining companies directly to the NSW Resources Regulator annually. The 2024 data includes rehabilitation and disturbance data for one additional site which has re-commenced operations following a period in care and maintenance. A correction has been applied to the 2020–2024 estimate of land managed for agricultural use to account for overlap with land designated as biodiversity offsets. The increase in total land newly disturbed is correlated with further development at both the Mount Pleasant and Hunter Valley Operation sites.
13	2025 result notes: The 2025 data was sourced from the Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program which are submitted by mining companies directly to the NSW Resources Regulator annually. The 2025 results show a significant reduction in the area of land newly disturbed compared to previous years. At the same time, the area of land under rehabilitation reached its highest level since the commencement of this project. The Other Managed Land remains relatively similar to previous years.