

ARR0001468

REWARD GOLD MINE ANNUAL REHABILITATION REPORT

Thursday 15 February 2024 to Friday 14 February 2025



Summary table

| DETAIL | |
|--|--|
| Mine | Reward Gold Mine |
| Reference | ARR0001468 |
| Annual report period commencement date | Thursday 15 February 2024 |
| Annual report period end date | Friday 14 February 2025 |
| Forward program | FWP0001315 |
| Mining leases | GL 5846 (1906), ML 315 (1973), ML 317 (1973), ML 914 (1973), ML 316 (1973), ML 915 (1973), ML 1541 (1992), ML 913 (1973), ML 1116 (1973), ML 50 (1973), ML 49 (1973) |
| Lease holder(s) | Vertex Minerals Limited |
| Contact | Casey Robinson |
| Date of submission | Wednesday 16 April 2025 |

Important

The department may make the information in your report and any supporting information available for inspection by members of the public, including by publication on its website or by displaying the information at any of its offices. If you consider any part of your report to be confidential, please communicate this to the department via the message function on this submission within the NSW Resources Regulator Portal.

Mine details

Project description

The Reward Gold Mine is located immediately adjacent to and surrounding the town of Hill End in the eastern Lachlan Fold Belt. Hill End is approximately 80 km north of Bathurst and 70 km south of Mudgee in central western New South Wales at an elevation of approximately 850 m above sea level (m ASL). The Reward Gold Mine is an underground mining project, the primary objectives for which are to: - Rehabilitate old mine workings on Hawkins Hill to recover gold remaining in the old stopes; and - Develop new drives in a northerly direction to exploit potential high grade gold bearing veins indicated in the exploration drilling program. Operations have now commenced to commission the newly constructed gravity plant, using existing waste material stockpiles. Underground works to commence early to mid-2025. The forward program for the 2025-2028 includes recommencement of production for the Reward Gold Mine.

Life of mine

10 years

Current development consents, leases and licences

Development consents granted under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

DA147/2000
EDA2000/0147 (MOD1)

Authorisations covering the mining area granted under the *Mining Act 1992*

GL 5846 (1906), ML 315 (1973), ML 317 (1973), ML 914 (1973), ML 316 (1973), ML 915 (1973), ML 1541 (1992), ML 913 (1973), ML 1116 (1973), ML 50 (1973), ML 49 (1973)

Any other approvals, licences, or authorities issued by government agencies that are relevant to the progress of mining operation and rehabilitation activities

EPL12008

Summary of the scope and/or purpose of the new applications or modifications to existing approvals (if applicable)

N/A

Changes to land ownership and land use

Land Ownership: No changes to land ownership during annual reporting period. Land Use: Reward Gold Mine is no longer under care and maintenance, with operations commencing late 2024.

Surface disturbance and rehabilitation activities during the reporting period

Surface disturbance and rehabilitation activities that were conducted and an analysis of the progress against the rehabilitation schedule

The Reward Gold Mine was taken out of care and maintenance in 2024. Relevant Development Consent Surface Disturbance Activities: - Existing surface waste rock piles have been used to commission Vertex's new gravity processing plant. These waste rock piles are located within the mines existing disturbance footprint, thus no change will be reflected in submitted spatial data. - Exploration drill holes have been completed within the existing disturbance footprint, with relevant activity approvals acknowledged by the NSW Resources Regulator.

Rehabilitation Activities: - Completion of seed trials in TSF material. *Rytidosperma caespitosum* – Evans Wallaby grass and *Microlaena stipoides* – Burra Weeping grass introduced to TSF material and left to natural conditions. Growth recorded at points throughout the reporting period. Program completed on 6 Feb 2025, as per previous FWP/ARR. - Flora and Fauna monitoring to assist with weed management and pest management programs. - Ongoing access track monitoring completed, ensuring appropriate actions taken to minimize erosion and manage water flows. - Monitoring of Amalgamated Waste Rock emplacement to ensure erosion and water flow management appropriate. Sampling of water outflow from Amalgamated Adit as per EPL12008. - Pest animal control programs undertaken with liaison of local bodies, LLS, NPWS (trapping programs) and collaboration with Hill End Tambaroora Pest Management Group/neighbours (1080 set and collect baiting).

Rehabilitation planning activities that were conducted, including any specialist studies

Rehabilitation planning activities: No new planning activities were conducted over annual reporting period, as was outlined in 24-25 Forward Program rehabilitation planning schedule "Formal research trials are currently not proposed. Rather, attention will be focused on the progress of the establishment of revegetation works planned for the TSF and Amalgamated Pad to gather learnings relevant to future rehabilitation campaigns" Seed trials continued using TSF material, *Rytidosperma caespitosum* – Evans Wallaby grass and *Microlaena stipoides* – Burra Weeping grass. Continued monitoring of soils test trial at TSF north end. Continued Flora and Fauna monitoring to assist with baiting and trapping programs and weed spraying efforts. Collaboration with Hill End Pest Management Group on the Hill End Tambaroora Pest Management Plan 2024-25.

Overview of subsidence repair and/or remediation works undertaken

No subsidence repair was completed during annual reporting period. Previous subsidence management effective. With underground operations to commence early 2025, underground works assessed. No subsidence is expected, as good ground conditions are evident. Historic works exist and have strong hanging and foot wall conditions. These historic voids are narrow. No subsidence remediation need occur before commencement of works. New voids created by Vertex will be back filled with Rockfill or Cemented Rockfill (CRF). Stability assessments will be undertaken as necessary over the course of underground works to ensure no subsidence remediation need occur.

Overview of rehabilitation management and maintenance activities

Pest Control - Vertex has worked with various local entities to undertake pest control measures. Liaison with the Hargraves and Hill End Pest Group to complete 1080 set and collect target baiting programs onsite, consultation with neighbouring land holders, completed in July, August and May 2024. Results for target baiting programs were recorded and kept in data base. Liaison with LLS and NPWS surrounding trapping programs to target feral goats and pigs in the Hill End area. **Seed Trails** - Seed trails were continued and were concluded in February 2025, entailing the use of TSF material seeded with *Rytidosperma caespitosum* – Evans Wallaby grass and *Microlaena stipoides* – Burra Weeping grass, left to natural conditions only. **Monitoring of vegetation** in previous rehab trial areas. **Weed Management** - Monitoring of weed populations for liaison with local land holders and local contractors. Engaging suitable contractor to undertake weed spraying around site at appropriate times of year to ensure optimal results from spraying efforts. Spraying mainly targeted, Serrated Tussock, Tiger Pear and Common Pear. **Amalgamated Waste Rock Emplacement** - Monitoring of WRE slope, erosion and water controls utilised as required. Water outflow from Amalgamated Adit rerouted with pipelines to flow into creek, reducing potential erosion and water quality issues. Ongoing water quality testing completed quarterly as per EPL12008. **Track maintenance**: Access tracks assessed and maintained as required.

Details of any rehabilitation actions taken as required by any letters, notices or directions issued by government agencies, including the NSW Resources Regulator

N/A - No rehabilitation actions required by any letters, notices or directions issued by government agencies, including the NSW Resources Regulator.

Details of any rehabilitation areas that have achieved the final land use

N/A - No areas have achieved the final land use (as set out in clause 6 of Schedule 8A to the Mining Regulation 2016), in the reporting period.

Key production milestones

| MATERIAL | UNIT | FWP0001315 YEAR 1 | | THIS REPORT |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|-------------|
| Stripped topsoil (if applicable) | (m ³) | 0 | | 0 |
| Rock/overburden | (m ³) | 10,259 | | 1,384.5 |
| Ore | (Mt) | 0 | | 0 |
| Reject material ¹ | (Mt) | 0 | | 0 |
| Product | (Mt) | 0 | | 0 |

¹ This includes coarse rejects, tailings and any other wastes resulting from beneficiation.

Disturbance and rehabilitation statistics

Current disturbance and rehabilitation progression

| ELEMENT | | UNIT | THIS REPORT |
|---------|---|------|-------------|
| A1 | Total disturbance footprint – surface disturbance | (ha) | 7.08 |
| B | Total active disturbance | (ha) | 5.88 |
| C | Rehabilitation – land preparation | (ha) | 0 |
| D | Ecosystem and land use establishment | (ha) | 1.2 |
| E | Ecosystem and land use development | (ha) | 0 |
| F | Rehabilitation completion | (ha) | 0 |

Rehabilitation key performance indicators (KPIs)

| ELEMENT | | UNIT | THIS REPORT |
|---------|---|------|-------------|
| G | New disturbance area | (ha) | 1.31 |
| H | New rehabilitation commenced during annual reporting period | (ha) | -1.36 |
| I | Established rehabilitation | (ha) | 0 |
| J | Annual rehabilitation to disturbance ratio | % | -1.04 |
| K | Rehabilitated land to total mine footprint | % | 0 |

Progressive achievement of established rehabilitation

| ELEMENT | | UNIT | THIS REPORT |
|---------|--|------|-------------|
| L | Established rehabilitation for agricultural final land uses | % | 0 |
| M | Established rehabilitation for native ecosystem final land uses | % | 0 |
| N | Established rehabilitation for other/non-vegetated final land uses | % | 0 |

Variation to the rehabilitation schedule

Identify the components of the most recent forward program that were not achieved

The majority of components of the previous Forward Program were achieved. No new research trials were proposed for the last annual reporting period, only continuation of existing rehabilitation trials.

Key factors that delayed progressive rehabilitation

As outlined within previous ARR, the majority of the proposed activities had been completed, with no new formal research trials proposed. Attention was focused on progress of the establishment of revegetation works planned for TSF and Amalgamated pad to gather learnings for future rehabilitation campaigns. The Reward Gold Mine was taken out of care and maintenance in XXXXX 2024, to commence operations. As such, this will alter rehabilitation efforts and timelines, which will be outlined within the upcoming FWP.

Outline actions that will be included in the forward program and carried out to minimise disturbance and undertake progressive rehabilitation as far as reasonably practical

Operations will be conducted within existing disturbance footprint. Any proposed exploration drilling will aim to have minimal clearing of vegetation required for establishing each drill site, but may include site levelling, removal of re-growth scrub or branches etc. TSF batter slope rehabilitation areas continually monitored. Further seed germination trials to be undertaken to progress knowledge around rehabilitation efforts. Limited space a Reward Gold Mine means all operational areas will be in use for lifecycle of mine, no new rehabilitation areas expected through active life of mine.

Rehabilitation monitoring and research findings

Rehabilitation monitoring

The rehabilitation monitoring carried out in the annual reporting period

Track work: Continued track work over annual reporting period ensured optimal water flow management and reduced potential erosion around access track. Weed spraying: Weed spraying ongoing, with efforts continuing to eradicate weeds at during most optimal conditions. Subsidence: Previously completed subsidence works can be considered effective, as minimal evidence of erosion apparent at Amalgamated pad. Pest control: Successful collaboration efforts with LLS, NPWS and Hargraves and Hill End Pest group in set and collect baiting program and feral pig and goat trapping programs. Water monitoring: Water quality has remained fairly consistent at sample locations over the annual reporting period, with parameters all falling within desired range outlined by the EPA.

Status of performance against rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria

The monitoring program that has been implemented

Care and maintenance activities completed from Feb 2023 - Feb 2024 have transitioned with Reward Gold Mine as operations begin again. All reasonably applicable rehabilitation efforts and environmental monitoring have continued and/or been furthered as operations continually change around Reward Gold Mine during early operations. Ongoing surface water testing at several points continues to meet the approved rehabilitation objective of no water pollution onsite. Ongoing weed control measures undertaken, involving liaison with neighbours and engaging local contractors to undertake weed spraying to meet approved rehabilitation objective of no weed infestations. Over annual reporting period Cornelian Dam was kept stable and safe as per approved rehabilitation objective. Monitoring of TSF disturbance area continued over reporting period, assessing stability, erosion and drainage. Monitoring of vegetation previously introduced with adequate soil depth as per approved rehabilitation objective continued. Access tracks continually monitored and improved over annual reporting period, to manage water flow and erosion. Rehabilitation objectives are currently under review with an updated Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP), to better reflect the Reward Gold Mines operational status and actions needed to achieve rehabilitation goals in a reasonable timeframe.

Are all rehabilitation areas in Landform Establishment phase or higher represented in the monitoring program to assess performance against the rehabilitation objectives and approved or, if not yet approved rehabilitation completion criteria and final landform and rehabilitation plan?

Yes

Year rehabilitation areas will be included as part of the monitoring program

An appraisal of whether rehabilitation is moving towards achieving the proposed rehabilitation objectives, approved or, if not yet approved, rehabilitation completion criteria and final landform and rehabilitation plan as soon as reasonably practicable.

Rehabilitation is moving towards achieving the final land use as soon as reasonably practicable. Tailings Facility Monitoring: ongoing regular monitoring of facility, assessing water flow management and erosion as per PIRMP. Quarterly water monitoring completed as outlined in EPL12008. Other Monitoring: Quarterly water monitoring completed and data records maintained for numerous locations around site and the surrounding area. Weather records maintained, along with monitoring of fauna. Water bore depths measured quarterly, records maintained. Amalgamated: previous subsidence management works completed at Amalgamated pad have been effective, as little evidence of subsidence or erosion in targeted areas. Pest Animal Control: Ongoing collaboration with LLS, NPWS and Hargraves and Hill End Pest group in set and collect baiting program and feral pig and goat trapping programs. Continued support and collaborations with these groups efforts to continue into the future, due to successful previous efforts. Access Track Maintenance: Ongoing regular inspections, water flow management and erosion control measures continually assessed and appropriate actions taken as required. Organic track obstacles removed as required. Efforts successful thus far, little erosion present and water flow management successful.

Appraisal description

Rehabilitation is moving towards achieving the final land use as soon as reasonably practicable.

Rehabilitation monitoring program findings

Tailings Facility Management - Regular inspections of facility to assess the water flow management and erosion control measures that have been utilised. Inspections completed as outlined in Pollution Incident Management Procedure associated with EPL12008. Monitoring of previous rehabilitation efforts at northern end of facility. Access Track Maintenance - Regular inspections conducted to assess water flow management and erosion control measures. Improvement works completed to ensure optimal management and control of erosion and water flows. Works also increased safety with improved bunding. Organic obstacles removed as needed. Weed Control Measures - Inspection and assessment of weed populations. Engaging local contractors to undertake weed spraying at optimal times and conditions to ensure best result. Primarily targeting Serrated Tussock, Tiger Pear and Common Pear. Pest Control - Liaison with and support of local entities; neighboring land holders, Local Land Services, NPWS, and Hargraves and Hill End Pest Group. Set and collect target baiting programs on site, trapping programs in local area. Amalgamated Waste Rock Emplacement - Monitoring of slope, water flow and erosion management.

Performance issues and their causes including identification of any knowledge gaps that must be addressed

Performance issues surrounding the seed trials conducted in the TSF material, have been noted by Vertex. This allows for a basis of knowledge for further seed germination trials to be conducted. Opportunities exist to assess alternate seeding methods and introduction of different growth media, to address any knowledge gaps surrounding these rehabilitation efforts.

Outcomes of rehabilitation research and trials

| RRT NUMBER | PROJECT/TRIAL NAME | OBJECTIVE OF TRIAL/PROJECT | METHODOLOGY | EXPECTED DATE OF COMPLETION | STATUS | ON TRACK? |
|------------|---|--|---|-----------------------------|----------|-----------|
| RRT0001117 | TSF material - seeds trial 2024 | Testing Microlaena stipoides – Burra Weeping grass and Rytidosperma caespitosum – Evans Wallaby grass in TSF material removed from location. | Pot up TSF material and plant Microlaena stipoides – Burra Weeping grass and Rytidosperma caespitosum – Evans Wallaby grass in that material with no growth material and receiving only natural rainfall. | 6 Feb 2025 | Complete | Yes |
| RRT0001118 | Camera monitoring of feral and native fauna | Create a database documenting sightings of feral and native fauna on site to inform future decisions related to baiting programs and rehabilitation enhancements like nesting boxes. | Review security footage. Keep images of feral and native fauna recorded and track information of location and times etc. | 6 Feb 2027 | Ongoing | Yes |

Outcomes of completed trials and research

After witnessing the completion of the TSF material seed trials, ending in February 2025, Vertex has furthered its understanding of rehabilitation potential of the TSF material. The native *Rytidosperma caespitosum* (Evans Wallaby Grass) and *Microlaena stipoides* (Burra Weeping Grass), was observed initially growing well in the cooler, wetter months before dying off towards the end of the year during the drier, hotter months. Vertex has noted that some vegetation growth can be achieved without additional action taken after seeding directly into TSF material, however more success may be had with the introduction of top soils and different seeding techniques.

Attachment 1 – Reporting Definitions

| REPORTING CATEGORY | | DEFINITION |
|--------------------|---|--|
| A1 | Total disturbance footprint – surface disturbance | <p>All areas within a mining lease that either have at some point in time or continue to pose a rehabilitation liability due to surface disturbance activities.</p> <p>The total disturbance footprint is the sum of the total active disturbance, decommissioning, landform establishment, growth medium development, ecosystem and land use establishment, ecosystem and land use development and rehabilitation completion (see definitions below).</p> <p>Underground mining operations should not include the footprint of underground mining areas/subsidence management areas in the total disturbance footprint.</p> |
| A2 | Underground Mining Area | Underground mining operations areas/subsidence management areas. |
| B | Total active disturbance | Includes on-lease exploration areas, stripped areas ahead of mining, infrastructure areas, water management infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities, topsoil stockpile areas, access tracks and haul roads, active mining areas, waste rock emplacements (active/unshaped/in or out-of-pit), tailings dams (active/unshaped/uncapped) and temporary stabilised areas (e.g. areas sown with temporary cover crops for dust mitigation and temporary rehabilitation). |
| C | Rehabilitation – land preparation | <p>Includes the sum of all disturbed land within a mining lease that have commenced any, or all, of the following phases of rehabilitation – decommissioning, landform establishment and growth medium development.</p> <p>Refer to the glossary of terms in this document for the definition of these phases of rehabilitation.</p> |

| REPORTING CATEGORY | DEFINITION |
|--|--|
| D Ecosystem and land use establishment | <p>Includes the area which has been seeded/planted with the target vegetation species for the intended final land use. However, vegetation has not matured to a stage where it can be demonstrated that it will be sustainable for the long term and or require only a maintenance regime consistent with target reference/analogue sites.</p> <p>Typically, rehabilitation areas would be in this phase for at least two years (and usually more) before rehabilitation can be classified as being in the ecosystem and land use development phase. This phase does not apply to infrastructure areas that are being retained as part of final land use for the site.</p> |
| E Ecosystem and Land Use Development | <p>Rehabilitation has matured to a level where target revegetation outcomes are on a trajectory towards meeting the final rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria (as verified by monitoring).</p> <p>This phase includes infrastructure areas that are to be retained for an approved post mining land use, following completion of all necessary measures to render the infrastructure fit for this purpose (for example structural integrity).</p> |
| F Rehabilitation Completion | <p>The NSW Resources Regulator has determined in writing that the mining area has achieved the approved rehabilitation objectives and approved rehabilitation completion criteria and final landform and rehabilitation plan following the submission of <i>Form: ESF2 Rehabilitation completion and/or review of rehabilitation cost estimate and/or notification of mine or petroleum site closure</i>.</p> |
| G New active disturbance area | <p>The area of any new active disturbance that has been created during the annual reporting period (definition A1 in Table 5).</p> |
| H New rehabilitation commenced during annual reporting period | <p>The sum of any new rehabilitation commenced in the annual reporting period. These areas may be in the rehabilitation land preparation phase or the ecosystem & land use establishment phase (definitions C and D in Table 5).</p> |
| I Established rehabilitation (hectares) | <p>The total area of land that is verified to be within either the ecosystem and land use development phase or the rehabilitation completion phase (definitions E & F in Table 5).</p> |

| REPORTING CATEGORY | | DEFINITION |
|--------------------|---|---|
| J | Annual rehabilitation to disturbance ratio | The rehabilitation to disturbance ratio (H/G) indicates how many hectares of new rehabilitation are undertaken for each hectare of land disturbed during the year. A ratio of 1/1 indicates that the area of new rehabilitation and disturbance in that year are the same. |
| K | % Rehabilitated land to total mine footprint | The proportion of the total mine footprint (area of land that has been disturbed by past or present surface disturbance activities) that has established rehabilitation ($I/A1 \times 100$). For open cut mining, the proportion of the total mine footprint verified to be “established rehabilitation” should substantially increase as an operation progresses towards mine closure. |
| L | Established rehabilitation for agricultural final land uses (hectares) | The percentage of total area of land that is verified to be within either the ecosystem and land use development phase or the rehabilitation completion phase (definitions E & F in Table 5) that have been returned to an agricultural final land use. |
| M | Established rehabilitation for native ecosystem final land uses (hectares) | The percentage of total area of land that is verified to be within either the ecosystem and land use development phase or rehabilitation completion phase (definitions E & F in Table 5) that have been returned to native ecosystem final land use. |
| N | Established rehabilitation for other/non-vegetated final land uses (hectares) | The percentage of total area of land that is verified to be within either the ecosystem and land use development phase or the rehabilitation completion phase (definitions E & F in Table 5) that have been returned to other/non-vegetated final land use. |

Attachment 2 – Definitions

| WORD | DEFINITION |
|---|---|
| Active | In the context of rehabilitation, land associated with mining domains is considered 'active' for the period following disturbance until the commencement of rehabilitation. |
| Active mining phase of rehabilitation | In the context of rehabilitation, the active mining phase of rehabilitation constitutes the rehabilitation activities undertaken during mining operations such as salvaging and managing soil resources, salvaging habitat resources, and native seed collection. This phase also includes management actions taken during operations to manage risks to rehabilitation and enhance rehabilitation outcomes such as selective handling of waste rock and management of tailings emplacements. |
| Analogue site | In the context of rehabilitation, an analogue site is a 'reference site' that represents an example of the defining characteristics (such as vegetation composition and structure or agricultural productivity) of the final land use. Characteristics of analogue sites can be assessed to develop the rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria for final land use domains. |
| Annual rehabilitation report and forward program | As described in the Mining Regulation 2016. |
| Annual reporting period | As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016. |
| Closure | A whole-of-mine-life process, which typically culminates in the relinquishment of the mining lease. It includes decommissioning and rehabilitation to achieve the approved final land use(s). |
| Decommissioning | The process of removing mining infrastructure and removing contaminants and hazardous materials. |
| Decommissioning Phase of Rehabilitation | Activities associated with the removal of mining infrastructure and removal and/or remediation of contaminants and hazardous materials. In the context of the rehabilitation management plan this phase of rehabilitation may also include studies and assessments associated with decommissioning and demolition of infrastructure or works carried out to make safe or 'fit for purpose' built infrastructure to be retained for future use(s) following lease relinquishment. |

| WORD | DEFINITION |
|---|---|
| Department | The Department of Regional NSW. |
| Disturbance | See Surface Disturbance. |
| Disturbance area | <p>An area that has been disturbed and that requires rehabilitation.</p> <p>This may include areas such as on-licence exploration areas, stripped areas ahead of mining, infrastructure areas, water management infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities, topsoil stockpile areas, access tracks and haul roads, active mining areas, waste emplacements (active/unshaped/in or out-of-pit), tailings dams (active/unshaped/uncapped), and areas requiring rehabilitation that are temporarily stabilised (i.e. managed to minimise dust generation and/or erosion).</p> |
| Domain | <p>An area (or areas) of the land that has been disturbed by mining and has a specific operational use (mining domain) or specific final land use (final land use domain). Land within a domain typically has similar geochemical and/or geophysical characteristics and therefore requires specific rehabilitation activities to achieve the associated final land use.</p> |
| Ecosystem and Land Use Development | <p>This phase of rehabilitation consists of the activities to manage maturing rehabilitation areas on a trajectory to achieving the approved rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria.</p> <p>For vegetated land uses this phase may include processes to develop characteristics of functional self-sustaining ecosystems, such as nutrient recycling, vegetation flowering and reproduction, and increasing habitat complexity, and development of a productive, self-sustaining soil profile.</p> <p>This phase of rehabilitation may include specific vegetation management strategies and maintenance such as tree thinning, supplementary plantings and weed management.</p> |
| Ecosystem and Land Use Establishment | <p>This phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes to establish the approved final land use following construction of the final landform.</p> <p>For vegetated land uses this rehabilitation phase includes establishing the desired vegetation community and implementing land management activities such as weed control. This phase of rehabilitation may also include habitat augmentation such as installation of nest boxes.</p> |
| Exploration | Has the same meaning as that term under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007. |

| WORD | DEFINITION |
|---|--|
| Final landform and rehabilitation plan | As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016. |
| Final land use | As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016. |
| Form and way | Means the form and way approved by the Secretary. Approved form and way documents are available on the Department's website. |
| Growth Medium Development | <p>This phase of rehabilitation consists of activities required to establish the physical, chemical and biological components of the substrate required to establish the desired vegetation community (including short lived pioneer species).</p> <p>This phase may include spreading the prepared landform with topsoil and/or subsoil and/or soil substitutes, applying soil ameliorants to enhance the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the growth media, and actions to minimise loss of growth media due to erosion.</p> |
| Habitat | Has the same meaning as that term under the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> and the <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> (as relevant). |
| Indicator | An attribute of the biophysical environment (e.g. pH, topsoil depth, biomass) that can be used to approximate the progression of a biophysical process. It can be measured and audited to demonstrate (and track) the progress of an aspect of rehabilitation towards a desired completion criterion (i.e. defined end point). It may be aligned to an established protocol and used to evaluate changes in a system. |
| Land | As defined in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> . |
| Landform Establishment | <p>This phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes and activities required to construct the final landform.</p> <p>In addition to profiling the surface of rehabilitation areas to the approved final landform profile this phase may include works to construct surface water drainage features, encapsulate problematic materials such as tailings, and prepare a substrate with the desired physical and chemical characteristics (e.g. rock raking or ameliorating sodic materials).</p> |
| Large mine | As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016. |
| Lease holder | The holder of a mining lease. |

| WORD | DEFINITION |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Life of mine | The timeframe of how long a mine is approved to mine, from commencement to closure. |
| Mine rehabilitation portal | <p>Means the NSW Resources Regulator’s online portal that lease holders must use (via a registered account) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ upload rehabilitation geographical information system (GIS) spatial data ■ develop rehabilitation GIS spatial data (using online tracing functions) ■ generate rehabilitation plans and rehabilitation statistics using the map viewer and Rehabilitation Key Performance Indicator functionalities. <p>Data submitted to the mine rehabilitation portal is collated in a centralised geodatabase for use by the NSW Resources Regulator to regulate rehabilitation performance of lease holders.</p> |
| Mining area | As defined in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> . |
| Mining domain | A land management unit with a discrete operational function (e.g. overburden emplacement), and therefore similar geophysical characteristics, that will require specific rehabilitation treatments to achieve the final land use(s). |
| Mining land | As defined in the <i>Mining Act 1992</i> . |
| Native vegetation | Has the same meaning as that term under section 60B of the <i>Local Land Services Act 2013</i> . |
| Overburden | Material overlying coal or a mineral deposit. |
| Performance indicator | An attribute of the biophysical environment (for example pH, slope, topsoil depth, biomass) that can be used to demonstrate achievement of a rehabilitation objective. It can be measured and audited to demonstrate (and track) the progress of an aspect of rehabilitation towards a desired completion criterion, that is, a defined end point. It may be aligned to an established protocol and used to evaluate changes in a system. |

| WORD | DEFINITION |
|---|---|
| Phases of rehabilitation | <p>The stages and sequences of actions required to rehabilitate disturbed land to achieve the final land use. The phases of rehabilitation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ active mining ■ decommissioning ■ landform Establishment ■ growth medium development ■ ecosystem and land use establishment ■ ecosystem and land use development. |
| Progressive rehabilitation | The progress of rehabilitation towards achieving the approved rehabilitation completion criteria. This may be described in terms of domains, phases, performance indicators and rehabilitation completion criteria. |
| Rehabilitation Completion | <p>The final phase of rehabilitation when a rehabilitation area has achieved the approved rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria for the final land use. Rehabilitation areas may be classified as complete when the NSW Resources Regulator has determined in writing that the relevant rehabilitation obligations have been fulfilled following submission of <i>Form ESF2 Rehabilitation completion and/or review of rehabilitation cost estimate</i> application by the lease holder.</p> |
| Rehabilitation Completion criteria | As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016. |
| Rehabilitation cost estimate | As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016. |
| Rehabilitation management plan | As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016. |
| Rehabilitation objectives | As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016. |
| Rehabilitation risk assessment | As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016. |
| Rehabilitation schedule | The defined timeframes for progressive rehabilitation set out in the forward program. |

| WORD | DEFINITION |
|------------------------------|--|
| Relevant stakeholders | Means any persons or bodies who may be affected by the mining operations, including rehabilitation, carried out on the lease land, and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the relevant development consent authority ■ the local council ■ the relevant landholder(s) ■ community consultative committee (if required under the development consent) or equivalent consultative group ■ affected land holder(s) ■ government agencies relevant to the final land use ■ affected infrastructure authorities (electricity, telecommunications, water, pipeline, road, rail authorities) ■ local Aboriginal communities, and ■ any other person or body determined by the Minister to be a relevant stakeholder in relation to a mining lease. |
| Risk | The effect of uncertainty on objectives. It is measured in terms of consequences and likelihood (AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009). |
| Secretary | The Secretary of the Department. |
| Security deposit | An amount that a mining lease holder is required to provide and maintain under a mining lease condition, to secure funding for the fulfilment of obligations under the lease (including obligations that may arise in the future). |
| Surface disturbance | Includes activities that disturb the surface of the mining area, including mining operations, ancillary mining activities and exploration. |
| Tailings | A combination of the fine-grained solid material remaining after the recoverable metals and minerals have been extracted from the mined ore, and any process water ² . |
| Waste | Has the same meaning as that term under the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> . |

² Commonwealth of Australia (DITR), 2007. *Tailings Management*.

Attachment 3 – Rehabilitation Complaints

| DATE | COMPLAINANT | COMPLAINT DETAILS | RESPONSE DETAILS | STATUS OF RESPONSE | DATE RESPONSE COMPLETED (IF APPLICABLE) |
|------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|--|
|------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|--|

Attachment 4 – Stakeholder consultation

| DATE | STAKEHOLDER | CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES AND FORMS | MATTERS SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION | ACTIONS TAKEN |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|
| 2 Feb 2024 | NPWS - stakeholders network | Emails regarding VTX participation in the pest program with LLS and NPWS running from 6-8 Feb 2024. | Emails regarding VTX participation in the pest program with LLS and NPWS running from 6-8 Feb 2024. | Emails regarding VTX participation in the pest program with LLS and NPWS running from 6-8 Feb 2024. |
| 26 Apr 2023 | NPWS BRC HEGG and other Hill End Groups RFS etc | 1080 Baiting Notices via email - ask NPWS to distribute to stakeholder network - includes BRC | 1080 Baiting Notices via email - ask NPWS to distribute to stakeholder network - includes BRC | 1080 Baiting Notices via email - ask NPWS to distribute to stakeholder network - includes BRC |
| 2 May 2023 | NPWS LLS | Emails to/from Lisa Menke - VTX to contribute financially to the Pig Control program | Emails to/from Lisa Menke - VTX to contribute financially to the Pig Control program | Emails to/from Lisa Menke - VTX to contribute financially to the Pig Control program |
| 19 Jul 2023 | Hill End Common Trust, Hill End Police, NPWS, multiple neighbours | 1080 Baiting Notices via email | 1080 Baiting Notices | 1080 Baiting Notices |
| 24 Apr 2023 | Local Police | 1080 Baiting Notices | 1080 Baiting Notices | 1080 Baiting Notices |
| 26 May 2023 | NPWS | Emails - Public notification of LLS, NPWS, VTX Pig control program 1-30 June 2023 | Public notification of LLS, NPWS, VTX Pig control program 1-30 June 2023 | Public notification of LLS, NPWS, VTX Pig control program 1-30 June 2023 |
| 13 Oct 2022 | NPWS, BRC Community groups | Round table local stakeholder meeting - | Updates on VTX, Hill End 150 etc | Ongoing support and engagement |

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ARR0001468 | Thursday 15 February 2024 to Friday 14 February 2025

| DATE | STAKEHOLDER | CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES AND FORMS | MATTERS SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION | ACTIONS TAKEN |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|
| | | Technical Director Tully Richards | | |
| 22 Jul 2022 | Hargraves Hill End Pest Control Group (HHEPG), LLS | Participate in the winter fox and wild dog baiting program, emails liaise with HHEPG and LLS | Participate in the winter fox and wild dog baiting program, emails liaise with HHEPG and LLS | Participate in the winter fox and wild dog baiting program, emails liaise with HHEPG and LLS, VTX provides \$200 donation for winter program |
| 4 May 2023 | LLS | Site visit to VTX with LLS and baiting program trapper. | Site visit to VTX with LLS and baiting program trapper. | Site visit to VTX with LLS and baiting program trapper. |
| 6 Jul 2023 | Royal Hotel, Hill End General Store, Hill End Mail Centre, multiple neighbours | 1080 Baiting Notices via public notice at the Royal Hotel, Hill End General Store, Hill End Mail Centre, leaflet drop at residences | 1080 Baiting Notices via public notice at the Royal Hotel, Hill End General Store, Hill End Mail Centre, leaflet drop at residences | 1080 Baiting Notices via public notice at the Royal Hotel, Hill End General Store, Hill End Mail Centre, leaflet drop at residences |
| 24 Apr 2023 | Hill End Royal Hotel, Hill End General Store, Hill End Lodge, Mail Centre, local neighbours | 1080 Baiting Notices via public notice at the Royal Hotel, Hill End General Store, Hill End Mail Centre, leaflet drops | 1080 Baiting Notices via public notice at the Royal Hotel, Hill End General Store, Hill End Mail Centre, leaflet drops | 1080 Baiting Notices via public notice at the Royal Hotel, Hill End General Store, Hill End Mail Centre, leaflet drops |
| 28 May 2023 | HHEPG | VTX Donation to HHEPG receipt and correspondence | Assistance to help baiting program continue - VTX Donation to HHEPG receipt and correspondence | Assistance to help baiting program continue - VTX Donation to HHEPG receipt and correspondence |
| 1 Feb 2024 | NPWS stakeholder network | Community Meeting at the Royal Hall in Hill End - via email and ask NPWS to | Community Meeting at the Royal Hall in Hill End - via email and ask NPWS to distribute to stakeholders on their mailing list. 09 Feb 2024 - purchase of new plant | Community Meeting at the Royal Hall in Hill End - via email and ask NPWS to distribute to stakeholders on their mailing list. 09 Feb 2024 - purchase of new plant |

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|-------------|--|---|---|---|
| | | distribute to stakeholders on their mailing list. 09 Feb 2024 - purchase of new plant | | |
| 23 Feb 2023 | NPWS | Emails - Save the date schedule for stakeholder meetings 14 Mar 13 June 12 Sept 2023 | Save the date schedule for stakeholder meetings 14 Mar 13 June 12 Sept 2023 | Save the date schedule for stakeholder meetings 14 Mar 13 June 12 Sept 2023 - attend meetings |
| 1 May 2022 | NPWS | Emails asking about feral pig baiting program | Emails asking about feral pig baiting program | Emails asking about feral pig baiting program - Offer to participate |
| 2 Feb 2024 | Hill End General Store, Hill End Lodge, Hill End Pub | Community Meeting Notices at the Royal Hotel, Hill End General Store, Hill End Mail Centre, The Lodge - 09 Feb 2024 at Royal Hall | Community Meeting Notices at the Royal Hotel, Hill End General Store, Hill End Mail Centre, The Lodge - 09 Feb 2024 at Royal Hall | Community Meeting Notices at the Royal Hotel, Hill End General Store, Hill End Mail Centre, The Lodge - 09 Feb 2024 at Royal Hall |
| 23 Nov 2023 | Hill End & Tambaroora Common Trust | Email correspondence invitation from VTX for a meeting with the new HETCT President Kathy George | Email correspondence invitation from VTX for a meeting with the new HETCT President Kathy George - meet new president - discuss proposed drilling | Email correspondence invitation from VTX for a meeting with the new HETCT President Kathy George - meet new president - discuss proposed drilling |
| 4 Jul 2023 | HHEPG | Wild Dog & Fox baiting program correspondence | Wild Dog & Fox baiting program correspondence | Wild Dog & Fox baiting program correspondence |
| 6 Mar 2023 | NPWS, RFS | Email update from NPWS and RFS regarding wildfire | Email update from NPWS and RFS regarding wildfire burning to the north of Hill End | Email update from NPWS and RFS regarding wildfire burning to the north of Hill End |

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|-------------|---|--|--|--|
| | | burning to the north of Hill End | | |
| 12 May 2023 | HHEPG - Hargraves - Hill End Pest Group | VTX staff attends Annual General Meeting 6pm Hargraves Hall with LLS and community | VTX staff attends Annual General Meeting 6pm Hargraves Hall with LLS and community | VTX staff attends Annual General Meeting 6pm Hargraves Hall with LLS and community |
| 12 Sep 2023 | NPWS BRC other stakeholders | NPWS Stakeholder Quarterly Meetings - VTX Technical Director attends meeting at Hosies in Hill End convened by NPWS 4pm | VTX Technical Director attends meeting at Hosies in Hill End convened by NPWS 4pm | VTX Technical Director attends meeting at Hosies in Hill End convened by NPWS 4pm |
| 13 Jun 2023 | NPWS | NPWS Stakeholder Quarterly Meetings - VTX Technical Director attends meeting at Hosies in Hill End convened by NPWS 4pm - includes local community groups such as RFS, HEGG, and BRC representatives | NPWS Stakeholder Quarterly Meetings - VTX Technical Director attends meeting at Hosies in Hill End convened by NPWS 4pm - includes local community groups such as RFS, HEGG, and BRC representatives | NPWS Stakeholder Quarterly Meetings - VTX Technical Director attends meeting at Hosies in Hill End convened by NPWS 4pm - includes local community groups such as RFS, HEGG, and BRC representatives Follow up any public enquiries - address at next meetings |
| 1 Dec 2023 | HETCT | Meeting with VTX Technical Director, HETCT Kathy George new President of committee and Keith Roser Treasurer to discuss proposed drilling | Meeting with VTX Technical Director, HETCT Kathy George new President of committee and Keith Roser Treasurer to discuss proposed drilling | Meeting with VTX Technical Director, HETCT Kathy George new President of committee and Keith Roser Treasurer to discuss proposed drilling |

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| 21 Jul 2022 | NPWS, BRC, Community Groups | Roundtable emails and meetings attended by Technical Director Tully Richards | Community updates from VTX, support for upcoming 150 Anniversary celebrations of the Holtermann Nugget | Ongoing support and engagement, financial assistance provided to the Hill End 150 group |
| 20 Feb 2022 | Hargraves Hill End Pest Control Group (HHEPG), LLS | Annual General Meeting and Fox and Wild Dog Autumn Baiting Program participation | Attended AGM for HHEPG, VTX made donation to HHEPG for the baiting program, participated in the baiting program at ML1541 | Attended AGM for HHEPG, VTX made donation to HHEPG for the baiting program, participated in the baiting program at ML1541 |
| 15 May 2023 | HHEPG | Meat and membership fees correspondence baiting program | Meat and membership fees correspondence baiting program | Meat and membership fees correspondence baiting program - pay fees and costs |
| 30 Sep 2023 | HHEPG | VTX donation to HHEPG receipt and correspondence | VTX donation to HHEPG receipt and correspondence | VTX donation to HHEPG receipt and correspondence |
| 6 Feb 2024 | HETCT | Email notification/invitation to HETCT committee to attend public consultation meeting at Royal Hall Hill End 09 February 2024 | Email notification/invitation to HETCT committee to attend public consultation meeting at Royal Hall Hill End 09 February 2024 | Email notification/invitation to HETCT committee to attend public consultation meeting at Royal Hall Hill End 09 February 2024 |
| 16 Feb 2023 | BRC | All VTX Directors meet with senior Bathurst Regional Council (BRC)Department of Planning representatives | Introductions, Development Consent Activities | All VTX Directors meet with senior Bathurst Regional Council (BRC)Department of Planning representatives |
| 1 May 2023 | NPWS | Emails to NPWS to ask about pig program and | Emails to NPWS to ask about pig program and extend offer of VTX involvement | NA |

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|-------------|---|--|---|---|
| | | extend offer of VTX involvement | | |
| 10 Jul 2023 | LLS | Meeting with LLS at VTX site office - liaise regarding joint baiting program | Meeting with LLS at VTX site office - liaise regarding joint baiting program | NA |
| 24 Apr 2023 | LLS | Liaise LLS via email - baiting program | Liaise LLS via email - baiting program | Liaise LLS via email - baiting program |
| 20 May 2022 | NPWS, BRC | Meetings, emails with Technical Director | Developing appropriate changes to maps being provided through NPWS and BRC regarding landholder arrangements and access for fossickers and tourists | Ongoing support |
| 6 Jul 2022 | NPWS | Emails advising sightings of feral pigs | Emails advising sightings of feral pigs | Offering potential participation in feral pig programs |
| 14 Apr 2022 | NPWS, BRC, RFS, HEAC, HEATGG and local business owners, local community members | Roundtable meeting - Technical Director attends | VTX Update, community engagement, Hill End 150, RFS update, public school and other groups provide community updates | Ongoing support and engagement with HEATGG, NPWS, RFS etc |

Attachment 5 – Plans

Plan 1A attachment not provided.

Plan 1B attachment not provided.

Annual Report (LARGE MINE) v1.11