



**Resources
Regulator**

FWP0001836

REWARD GOLD MINE FORWARD PROGRAM

Sunday 15 February 2026 to Wednesday 14 February 2029



Summary

Detail	
Mine	Reward Gold Mine
Reference	FWP0001836
Forward program commencement date	Sunday 15 February 2026
Forward program end date	Wednesday 14 February 2029
Forward program revision (if applicable)	
Contact	Casey Robinson
Mining leases	GL 5846 (1906), ML 315 (1973), ML 317 (1973), ML 914 (1973), ML 1116 (1973), ML 316 (1973), ML 915 (1973), ML 1541 (1992), ML 913 (1973), ML 50 (1973), ML 49 (1973)
Project location	Vertex Minerals Limited
Date of submission	Monday 13 April 2026
Document URL	https://vertexminerals.com/
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Important

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Three-year forecast - surface disturbance activities

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. Processing operations have commenced with the refurbished gravity processing plant, using underground ore and existing waste material stockpiles. Underground works commenced mid-2025.

Description of surface disturbance activities

Exploration activities

Exploration activities that are likely to be proposed to be carried out within the mining leases in the next three years include exploration drilling. Any proposed surface drilling will aim to have minimal clearing of vegetation required to establish each drill site, but may include site levelling, removal of re-growth scrub or branches etc. Appropriate activity approvals shall be sought for all proposed exploration activities.

Construction activities

All construction activities will be completed under existing development consents DA147/2000 and EDA2000/0147 (MOD 1). Emplacement activities will continue at the Sand Storage Facility (formerly TSF), as per engineered design completed by suitably qualified engineering firm. Waste rock emplacement will occur at the existing Amalgamated WRE, for waste that is not used as Rockfill or Cemented Rockfill. This emplacement will occur within the existing defined disturbance area. A safe and stable landform design for the WRE shall be completed by suitably qualified design engineers. As outlined in Vertex's Rehabilitation Management Plan, the emplacement of waste has involved minor covering of the landscape and areas of existing vegetation, though much of the proposed waste stockpile area has been heavily disturbed by previous

waste rock emplacements.

Mining schedule

Mining development method and sequencing and general mine features.

Underground development is being conducted by a combination of mechanised mining methods with trackless equipment and handheld mining methods. Underground stoping is conducted by a combination of conventional longhole open stoping with rockfill used for backfilling voids and handheld mining techniques. Access to the ore body will be maintained through the 640RL Adit, with 11kV power run to a 1MVA Substation. The proposed extraction levels will align with the existing development intervals, with a floor-to-floor level interval ranging from 10m to 20m. All new capital development will adopt a 3.5mH x 3.0mW drive profile and new Ore Development may reduce down to 3.5mH x 2.5mW drive profile. The development work will be conducted using a Epiroc T1D and Atlas Copco H104 single boom jumbos. The primary ventilation intake and the secondary means of egress will be facilitated through the Reward shaft, which links to all existing levels. Ventilation return will be through historic workings venting to surface. Below the 640RL, additional ventilation infrastructures will be required to connect with the primary ventilation circuit. Working areas will receive secondary ventilation through the deployment of axial fans. Material from underground stockpiles will be hauled to the surface with 10t Bird Truck

Areas identified for emplacements, the sequencing of emplacements, construction, and management.

All emplacements are to occur within existing mine disturbance areas. The Amalgamated Waste Rock Emplacement shall be utilised over the life of the mine, to the maximum extent outlined within submitted spatial data. The emplacement shall hold oversize and reject material from the processing plant's crushing circuit, that is not utilised underground to fill voids as rockfill or cemented rockfill. The area shall be dynamic through the life of the mine. Vertex is seeking final landform, and working designs to be completed by a qualified geotechnical engineer, as directed by the NSW Resources Regulator following the landform TAP. Once the final landform design has been completed, opportunities for revegetation trials etc. can be explored. Both the working design and final design shall aim to align with rehabilitation objective of a safe, stable and non-polluting landform. The Sand Storage Facility (SSF) receives the quartz sand by-product from the processing gravity circuit. The sand is solar dried at the facility and dry stacked in a bunded area. ATCWilliams has completed a detailed, engineered design for the final landform to be constructed at the SSF. The detailed design document outlines the necessary emplacement mythology and requirements to construct a safe, stable and non-polluting final landform. The Sand Stack Final

Landform Construction Management Plan governs the emplacement and construction of the landform on site, and includes Quality Assurance and Quality Control

Processing infrastructure activities and the location of tailings facilities and schedule for emplacement.

Processing operations commenced with the upgraded processing plant in January 2025 and have continued with processing both underground ore and existing surface stockpiles. The Reward deposit, first mined in 2010, is accessed through the Amalgamated Adit at the 640RL. It is planned to dispose of waste rock into the stope voids, along with storage of waste rock on the surface planned within the existing footprint of the operation. The coarse nature of the tailing material, which is classified as a fine sand, is free draining. Once drained of excess water, the material is loaded onto a truck and transported to final storage as a dry stack. The Tailing Storage Facility (Now Sand Storage Facility or SSF) is located within the southern part of the Reward Mine and is situated on a ridgeline, with Hill End Creek located to the west and downslope of the SSF, on Mining Lease ML1541. Material will be progressively solar dried and dry stacked. The completion of the dry stacking operations in line with the engineered landform design is approximately 7 years, assuming 30,000 tonnes of sand produced per annum.

Waste disposal and materials handling operations.

The Reward Gold Mine operates under a Waste Management Plan, and an EPA mandated PIRMP. Hydrocarbon Contamination: Limited number of hazardous substances are utilized during operations at the Reward Gold Mine. These substances include oils and diesel fuels, which shall be banded and contained appropriately. Any activities involving potential pollutants will be subject to the relevant contractor's and/or Vertex's Safety Management Plan. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) will be available for any chemicals and hazardous materials used on site. Any drilling fluids used shall be biodegradable. Contaminated Polluted land and soils: The unexpected escape of fuels or oils is considered to have the potential to cause land contamination. Any such escape would be quickly contained and subsequently recovered and disposed of appropriately. A spill management procedure is in place, and an environmental spill kit will be available at all times. The soils in the area have been significantly degraded by past mining operations with most timber within economic hauling distance from the mining areas having been cleared with mostly secondary regrowth evident. The consequent thin forest soils were exposed and subsequently eroded in some areas. Should excavation works be required then topsoil will be pushed up in a small stockpile. On completion of drilling, the topsoil will then be reintroduced across the "footprint" and sown with a groundcover species to deter erosion and weed infestation.

Key production milestones

MATERIAL	UNIT	YEAR1	YEAR2	YEAR3
Stripped topsoil (if applicable)	(m ³)	0	0	0
Rock/overburden	(m ³)	8,250	8,250	8,250
Ore	(Mt)	0.03	0.03	0.03
Reject material¹	(Mt)	0.01	0.01	0.01
Product	(Mt)	0	0	0

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

Three-year rehabilitation forecast

Rehabilitation maintenance and corrective actions

Within the latest annual rehabilitation report, the main knowledge gap identified was around seed trials conducted within sands material. Seed germination trials shall be continued to address these knowledge gaps, when progressive landform construction allows. Rehabilitation maintenance that shall occur: Ongoing water sampling, weather measurement recording, fauna monitoring, seed trials, pest control programs, weed control programs, access track maintenance, water management and erosion controls and rehabilitation risk assessment reviews for the whole site will continue for the life of the Reward Gold Mine, to align with the rehabilitation objectives outlined within the Reward Gold Mine Rehabilitation Management Plan. Inspection of previously rehabilitated areas, identified as 'Ecosystem and Land Use Development' within submitted spatial data, will be continually monitored within Sands Storage Facility inspections occurring monthly; and within 72 hours of the cessation of a rainfall event of greater than 50 mm.

Rehabilitation schedule

Progressive rehabilitation shall occur as soon as reasonably practicable at the SSF. The rehabilitation schedule will be dependent on the progressive final landform construction occurring with the dry stacked sands material. It is unlikely that the construction, occurring in 300 mm lifts, shall reach a point in the next three years where progressive rehabilitation can occur. This is due to the emplacement and construction methodology governed by the ATCWilliams Detail Design document and the Sand Stack Final Landform Construction Management Plan. As outlined within the Reward Gold Mine Rehabilitation Management Plan, all designated infrastructure areas are to remain after mine closure, including all access tracks. All other areas shall be required to be utilised throughout the life of the mine, due to the small footprint of the site. Thus, progressive rehabilitation in these areas is unlikely to occur until end of mine life.

Completion of rehabilitation

Progressive mining and rehabilitation statistics

Three-yearly forecast cumulative disturbance and rehabilitation progression

Forecast	UNIT	YEAR1	YEAR2	YEAR3
A1 Total disturbance footprint - surface disturbance	(ha)	7.08	7.08	7.08
B Total active disturbance	(ha)	5.96	5.96	5.96
P Total new area of land proposed for active rehabilitation	(ha)	0	0	0

Attachment 1 - Reporting Definitions

REPORTING CATEGORY	DEFINITION
<p>A Total disturbance footprint - surface disturbance</p>	<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>
<p>B Total active disturbance</p>	<p>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).</p>
<p>C Rehabilitation - land preparation</p>	<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>
<p>D Ecosystem and land use establishment</p>	<p>Includes the area which has been seeded/planted with the target vegetation species for the intended final</p>

REPORTING CATEGORY	DEFINITION
	<p>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>

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

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	<p>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.</p>
Department	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.
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>

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	<p>This phase of rehabilitation may include specific vegetation management strategies and maintenance such as tree thinning, supplementary plantings and weed management.</p>
<p>Ecosystem and Land Use Establishment</p>	<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>
<p>Exploration</p>	<p>Has the same meaning as that term under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007.</p>
<p>Final landform and rehabilitation plan</p>	<p>As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.</p>
<p>Final land use</p>	<p>As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.</p>
<p>Form and way</p>	<p>Means the form and way approved by the Secretary. Approved form and way documents are available on the department's website.</p>
<p>Growth Medium Development</p>	<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>
<p>Habitat</p>	<p>Has the same meaning as that term under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and the Fisheries Management Act 1994 (as</p>

WORD	DEFINITION
	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 Mining Act 1992.
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.
Life of mine	The timeframe of how long a mine is approved to mine, from commencement to closure.
Mine rehabilitation portal	<p>Means the 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

WORD	DEFINITION
	<p>Indicator functionalities.</p> <p>Data submitted to the mine rehabilitation portal is collated in a centralised geodatabase for use by the Resources Regulator to regulate rehabilitation performance of lease holders.</p>
Mining area	As defined in the Mining Act 1992.
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 Mining Act 1992.
Native vegetation	Has the same meaning as that term under section 60B of the Local Land Services Act 2013.
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.
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 ▪ landform Establishment ▪ ecosystem and land use establishment

WORD	DEFINITION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	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 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 application</i> by the lease holder.
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.
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:

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	<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> .

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