Annual Rehabilitation Report

Cowal Gold Operations

Version	Date	Description	Prepared By	Approved By	Position
1.0	202308	First Issue	G. Derrick	J. Mammen	General Manager
2.0	202408	Second Issue	M. Thomas	J. Mammen	General Manager
3.0	202508	Third Issue	J. Hocking	J.Mammen	General Manager

SUMMARY TABLE

Requirement	Response
Name of mine	Cowal Gold Mine (Referred to as Cowal Gold Operations throughout)
Annual rehabilitation report: reporting period commencement and end dates	FY24: 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025
Annual rehabilitation report: revision dates and version numbers	V3: 30 August 2025
Forward program commencement date	1 July 2024
Forward program revision dates and version numbers	V4: 30 August 2024
Mining leases (lease number(s)) and expiry date(s)	ML 1535: 12 June 2045 ML 1791: 20 June 2040
Name of lease holder(s)	EVOLUTION MINING (COWAL) PTY LIMITED
Date of submission	29 August 2025

Cowal

CONTENTS

1 ANNUAL REHABILITATION REPORT

1.1 Applicant Details

Evolution Mining (Cowal) Pty Limited is the lease holder for the Cowal Gold Mine (referred to as the Cowal Gold Operations throughout).

1.2 Mine Details

1.2.1 Project Description

The Cowal Gold Operations (CGO) is an open cut and underground gold mining operation located approximately 38 kilometres (km) north-east of West Wyalong in New South Wales (NSW). Evolution Mining (Cowal) Pty Limited (Evolution) is the owner and operator of the CGO. Mining operations for the CGO are conducted within Mining Lease (ML) 1535, while additional ancillary mining operations are conducted within ML 1791. Mining of the open pit will continue using existing drill, blast, load, and haul mining methods, 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Underground production commenced March 2023, utilising long hole open stope mining methods. Major components of the current CGO include the following:

- an open pit (E42, E46 & GR) and underground mine;
- perimeter (PWRE), northern (NWRE) and southern (SWRE) waste rock emplacements;
- northern and southern tailings storage facilities (TSFs), encompassed by an Integrated Waste Landform (IWL);
- a lake protection bund (LPB) and isolation system;
- a processing plant and paste plant precinct;
- mineralised waste and low grade ore stockpiles;
- hard and soft oxide ore stockpiles;
- run-of-mine (ROM) pads;
- soil (including clay) stockpiles;
- an Internal Catchment Drainage System (ICDS) (including contained water storages);
- an Up-Catchment Diversion System (UCDS);
- buried water supply pipelines and associated borefields and pump stations; and
- an electricity transmission line (ETL).

Mining within the E42 open pit is proposed to occur up to ~FY2028 and mining of the underground until 2038. Ore processing is proposed to be undertaken until 2042, at a maximum rate of 9.8 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa).

1.2.2 Current Development Consents, Leases and Licences

Relevant approvals, including development consents, leases and licences for the mining area have been summarised in Table 1. Latest versions of statutory approvals can be found on the Evolution Mining (Cowal) website (https://evolutionmining.com.au/cowal/).

- Renewal of ML 1535 was approved on 14 September 2023, extending the lease term to 12 June 2045.
- The application for the proposed Open Pit Continuation (OPC) Project covering an extension of the existing E42 pit and development of three new open cut pits, extension

of mine life to 2042 and continuation of ore processing at a rate of 9.8 Mtpa has been approved.

Table 1: Summary of current relevant development consents, leases and licences

INSTRUMENT	RELEVANT AUTHORITY	DATE OF GRANT	DURATION OF APPROVAL
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC) Approval EPBC 2017/7989	DAWE	25/01/2019	This approval is in effect until 31/12/2032.
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC) Approval EPBC 2022/09223	DAWE	28/02/2025	This approval is in effect until 28/02/2050
DA 14/98	DPHI	26/02/1999	Mining operations may take place until 31 December 2040. "Mining operations" includes the removal and emplacement of waste rock; the processing, handling and storage of ore on site; and the transport of ore concentrate offsite. The development consent then continues to be in force until Evolution rehabilitates the site in accordance with the conditions of the development consent.
SSD 10367	DPHI	30/09/2021	Underground mining and related infrastructure to 2040.
SSD 42917792	DPHI	10/12/2024	Cowal Gold Operations Open Pit Continuation (OPC) project approved.
DA 2011/64	FSC	22/12/2010	Valid for the construction and operation of the Eastern Saline Borefield.
ML 1535	DRG	13/06/2003	Renewal granted for licence extension for 21 years (i.e. 12 June 2045). Extension effective from 13 June 2024
ML 1791	DRG	20/06/2019	Expires 20 June 2040.
EPL No. 11912	EPA	23/12/2003	Until the licence is surrendered, suspended or revoked. The licence is subject to review every three years, and was last varied on 25 June 2025.

DAWE: Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
DPHI: Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure.
DRG: Department of Planning and Environment – Division of Resources and Geoscience.
EPA: Environment Protection Authority.
EPL: Environment Protection Licence.
FSC: Forbes Shire Council.

1.2.3 Land Ownership and Land Use

During the period CGO and Crown Lands completed the land swap of Lot 6 for Lot 3 of DP1309192, to realign the travelling stock route around ML1791. Title registration of the lots remains in progress. Figure 1 below shows the two parcels in relation to mining activities.

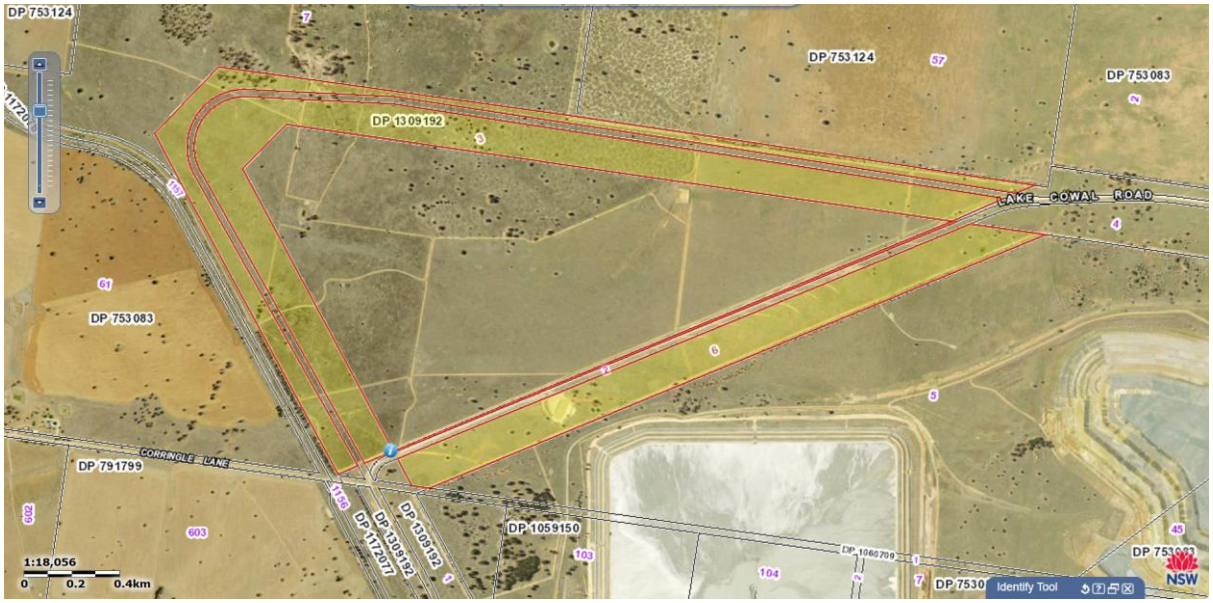


Figure 1. Location of Lot 3 and Lot 6 of DP 1309192.

1.3 Complaints Register

The CGO received no complaints relating to rehabilitation during FY25.

1.4 Stakeholder Consultation

A summary of relevant stakeholder consultation activities relating to rehabilitation, during the FY25 reporting period is outlined in Table 2. The consultation below only represents that which is under the current approval.

Table 2: Summary of stakeholder consultation activities relating to rehabilitation conducted during the reporting period (FY25)

STAKEHOLDER	ACTIVITY	MATTERS	ACTIONS
Community Environmental Monitoring and Consultative Committee (CEMCC), including: • Forbes Shire Council • Bland Shire Council • Lachlan Shire Council • Lake Cowal Landholders Association • Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation • Community members	Quarterly meetings scheduled with CEMCC.	• Consultation as part of the preparation of the Rehabilitation Strategy.	• No actions recorded

1.5 Surface Disturbance and Rehabilitation Activities During the Annual Reporting Period

1.5.1 Surface Disturbance and Rehabilitation Activities Overview

Surface disturbance, exploration drilling, construction and rehabilitation activities have been undertaken during FY25 generally in accordance with the 2024 Forward Program (FWP0001462), submitted 30 August 2024. Disturbance and rehabilitation activities have been conducted as per the relevant site management plans. Significant activities completed during FY24 include the following:

- Mining of primary material within Stage H of the E42 open pit.
- Continuation of underground production stoping.
- Commencement of lifts as part of the Stage 3 footprint of the IWL.
- Finalisation of shaping and Landform Establishment activities along the southern and western batters of the IWL (Plan 1A).
- Monitoring of capping trials on the STSF beach with varied depths of rock and growth medium.
- Commencement of the recovery of topsoil from previously designated land use establishment areas of PWRE and the NWRE.
- Monitoring of infill planting was undertaken on the northern face of the SWRE to meet floristic targets.

1.5.2 Rehabilitation Planning Activities and Specialist Studies

There were no changes to rehabilitation planning activities for the current approved operations during FY25. Planning efforts during the period focused on supporting the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Feasibility Study for the proposed Open Pit Continuation (OPC) Project, including specialist studies. Preliminary rehabilitation of the IWL western batter was undertaken with batter shaping completed in accordance with the approved design. A detailed design for topsoil placement was also finalised.

1.5.3 Subsidence Repair and/or Remediation Works Undertaken

No subsidence repair and/or remediation works were required to be undertaken during FY25.

1.5.4 Rehabilitation Management and Maintenance Activities

Rehabilitation management and maintenance activities for FY25 focused on routine weed control, supplemented by targeted feral animal management on ML 1535 and adjacent properties. No re-seeding or infill planting was undertaken. The recovery of topsoil from previously designated land use establishment areas occurred as part of the approved Open Pit Continuation (OPC) Project.

1.5.5 Rehabilitation Actions Taken in Response to Regulatory Advice

There was no regulatory notices received during the period. CGO continue to progress the recommendations made by the Resources Regulator on 28 May 2021 (ASMT0014550 / LETT0005977) & 19 November 2024 (ASMT0036429 / LETT0009718)

1.5.6 Achievement of Final Land Use

No rehabilitation areas at the CGO have achieved the final land use, as set out in clause 6 of Schedule 8A to the Mining Regulation 2016, in the reporting period.

1.5.7 Key Production Milestones

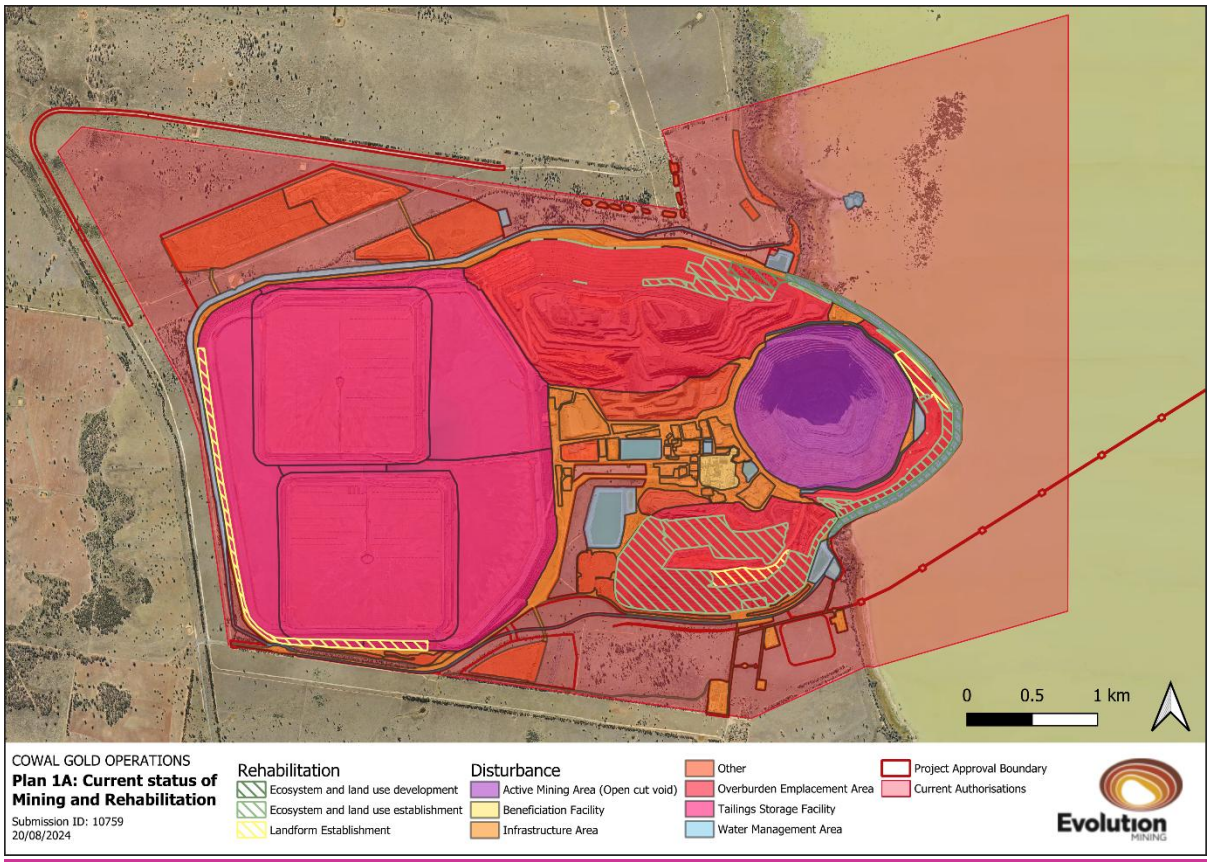
Key production milestones / material production statistics recorded during the FY25 reporting period are outlined in Table 3.

Table 3: Key production milestones / material production during previous reporting period (FY25)

MATERIAL	UNIT	QUANTITY
Stripped topsoil / subsoil	(Mt)	1.41 / 0
Recovered Rehabilitated Material	(Mt)	2.19
Open Pit - Rock/overburden	(Mt)	2.19
Open Pit - Ore	(Mt)	7.86
Underground - Rock/overburden	(Mt)	0.70
Underground - Ore	(Mt)	2.032
Reject material – tailings	(Mt)	9.70
Product	(Au koz)	313.66

1.6 Plan 1 – Status of mining and rehabilitation at completion of annual reporting period

Plan 1A: Current status of mining and rehabilitation.



Plan 1B: Current landform contours

1.7 Disturbance and Rehabilitation Statistics

1.7.1 Current Disturbance and Rehabilitation Progression

Table 4: Status of disturbance and rehabilitation at end of reporting period

	REPORTING CATEGORIES	FY25
A1	Total disturbance footprint – surface disturbance	1,597.70
B	Total active disturbance (Ha)	1,376.31
C	Rehabilitation – land preparation (Ha)	21.88
D	Ecosystem and land use establishment (Ha)	99.74
E	Ecosystem and land use development (Ha)	21.18
F	Rehabilitation completion (Ha)	0.0

1.7.2 Rehabilitation Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Table 5: Rehabilitation key performance indicators (KPIs)

	ANNUAL REPORTING PERIOD	FY25
G	New active disturbance area (Ha).	0.0
H	New rehabilitation commenced during annual reporting period (Ha)	0.0
I	Established rehabilitation (Ha)	21.18
J	Annual rehabilitation to disturbance ratio	65:1
K	% Rehabilitation land to total mine footprint	1.33

1.7.3 Progressive Achievement of Established Rehabilitation

Table 6: Proportion of established rehabilitation for final land use classifications at the end of FY24

	ANNUAL REPORTING PERIOD	FY25
L	Established rehabilitation for agricultural final Land uses (%)	0

M	Established rehabilitation for native ecosystem Final land uses (%)	100
N	Established rehabilitation for other/non-vegetated final land uses (%)	0

1.7.4 Variation to the Rehabilitation Schedule

Surface disturbance, exploration drilling, construction and preparation for the Open pit Continuation activities have been undertaken during FY25 and were generally in accordance with the 2024 Forward Program (FWP0001462). Variations to the rehabilitation schedule have been summarised below:

- Rehabilitation of the western batter of the IWL was originally scheduled for Autumn 2025, however, following completion of batter shaping in February works were deferred to align with the planned IWL lifts. Landform preparation was completed and the batter surfaces have remained stable and free from scouring. Importantly, topsoil stockpiles were ameliorated and will be reserved for allocation to the batter.
- NWRE – the northern batter and has been partially 'dehabed' with topsoil recovered and awaiting transport to the topsoil storage area.
- PWRE – The western facing batter was partially 'dehabed' to allow for the expansion of D3, with topsoil recovered and stockpiled for future.

CGO will revise and submit a revised Forward Program for the Resource Regulators review.

1.8 Rehabilitation Monitoring and Research Findings

1.8.1 Rehabilitation Monitoring

In accordance with the RMP, annual monitoring of established rehabilitation areas and analogue sites was undertaken by DnA Environmental from 21th-27th November 2024 and the 9th – 11th January 2025. Variation between monitoring years continues to have a significant effect on ground cover composition and ecological function in both rehabilitation and reference sites. During FY24, monitoring sites continued to be inaccessible due to inundation around Lake Cowal. Therefore, changes in ecological recovery should be considered with a degree of flexibility as per previous years noting the dehabing occurred for PWRE and the NWRE emplacement.

Floristic diversity continues fluctuate with changes in seasonal conditions notable for this reporting period the conditions were and continue to be drier. As expected, some sites had a slightly higher diversity of species during FY25 due to their proximity to the lake foreshore. Overall many sites experienced increased levels of browsing by native animals due to less than favourable rainfall conditions leading to increased foraging. As previously reported much of the diversity was through increased exotic species diversity, there was a decrease in the diversity of native species recorded at majority of monitoring sites during FY25.

Extreme seasonal conditions have been experienced since rehabilitation first commenced at CGO and has had a significant influence on the diversity, abundance and composition of the range of monitoring sites. These have often been compounded by increasing levels of

browsing and disturbances by animals during dry conditions. Sites situated within Lake Cowal and lake foreshore have also been significantly influenced by several major flooding and drying cycles.

The SWRE trials indicated that applying a protective soil cover treatment (rock, topsoil, wood chip, or hay such as lucerne, pasture hay, or straw), regardless of the type or combination used, can support improved rehabilitation outcomes for native perennial ground covers. The treatments assessed in these trials demonstrated that good outcomes can be achieved using topsoil, with or without a rock mulch underlay. These findings are provided for information only and should not be interpreted as a commitment to specific rehabilitation methods as future approaches may be adjusted given the nature of trial. The NWRE trials indicated that there was no apparent difference in the effects of topsoil depth or mulching type however, mulching with either straw or Native Pasture Hay (NPH) tended to enhance the ecological function of the sites and assisted in the development of the sites compared to those without a mulch treatment in early developmental stages.

The results of the WRE seeding trials demonstrated that higher establishment rates were achieved when seed was sown onto freshly topsoiled rehabilitation areas, compared to areas where established grassland had been ripped, where less plant competition occurred. The results also indicated that successful seedling establishment can also be obtained in areas where exotic grasslands have already become established however, deep ripping prior to seeding is likely to be critical in order to reduce plant competition and provide suitable microsites.

Along the lake foreshore, there have been large variations in ground cover, diversity and seedling densities largely as a result of the fluctuating water levels. Since flooding in 2020, the temporary bund has continued to provide additional habitat especially when it is inundated. A range of riparian species especially Lignum have continued to proliferate along the water's edge between the bunds, as seed has been washed up along the shoreline. In the absence of these flood events additional tree planting activities or revegetation intervention may have been required. The range of ecological data has indicated satisfactory ground cover except there was a slightly higher diversity and abundance of exotic species, and there has been an increasing abundance of *Phyla canescens* (Lippia).

Ecological monitoring data to date indicates there have been significant ecological and chemical changes occurring within WRE rehabilitation areas, largely as a result of volunteer colonisation of Lolium rigidum (Wimmera Ryegrass). While the abundance of annual plants can limit the establishment of tree and shrub seedlings, they have been vital to the stability, infiltration and successional development of the unstable and nutrient poor soils.

Despite drier conditions in 2023 and 2024 causing a decline in floristic diversity, most sites maintained relatively high ecological function and integrity. Exceptions included some areas of the NWRE and SWRE where dry conditions combined with suspected adverse soil chemistry has resulted in a decline in ground covers and low ecological function was recorded this reporting period.

Presently there is a deficiency of tree and shrub cover over most of the WRE rehabilitation areas, therefore rehabilitation areas are not anticipated to meet completion criteria targets without additional management intervention. Seeding trials have demonstrated improved seedling establishment can be obtained when seeding is undertaken onto rehabilitation areas prior to the establishment of the weed seed bank. While seedling establishment is possible

after the development of a grassy understorey, deep ripping (and spraying) is first required to provide a suitable weed-free seed bed.

1.8.2 Status of Performance Against Rehabilitation Objectives and Rehabilitation Completion Criteria

The current annual rehabilitation monitoring program commenced in 2010 and has continued to be updated as regulatory guidance changes. Monitoring methodologies are generally consistent with regulatory guidance and CGO standards, including Landscape Function Analyses (LFA), accredited soil analyses, and an adapted Biometric Assessment Method (BAM). However, the program is yet to be overhauled to align with updates to Rehabilitation Objectives (and future changes to associated Completion Criteria) currently under assessment by the Resources Regulator.

All WRE rehabilitation areas in the Ecosystem and Land Use Establishment phase, or higher, are currently represented in the monitoring program to assess performance against the proposed rehabilitation objectives, rehabilitation completion criteria and final landform and rehabilitation plan (not yet approved). Areas categorised as 'Land Preparation' or the New Lake Foreshore area, situated between the Lake Protection Bund and Temporary Isolation Bund, are not captured in the current program.

Based on the annual rehabilitation monitoring reports results, CGO is trending towards the approved objectives and completion criteria.

A summary of the findings of the rehabilitation monitoring program has been included in Section 1.8.1.

A summary of any performance issues and their causes, including identification of any knowledge gaps that must be addressed to rectify identified performance issues, has been included in Section 1.8.1.

1.8.3 Outcomes of Rehabilitation Research and Trials

No research projects or rehabilitation trials were undertaken during FY25. Since commencement of CGO construction in 2005, a range of investigations and trials have been conducted to identify suitable rehabilitation methods, materials, and revegetation species to support achievement of the rehabilitation objectives for the final landforms. The results of rehabilitation studies and trials undertaken to date have informed the rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria for the CGO, as outlined in the RMP. Rehabilitation trial designs and annual rehabilitation monitoring reports are continually reviewed by the CGO Sustainability Department. Trial designs and/or rehabilitation methods and practices at the CGO are modified where necessary to incorporate relevant findings and recommendations.

Rehabilitation at the CGO will continue to be an iterative process, whereby the results of rehabilitation trials and annual monitoring would continue to be used to inform and refine the rehabilitation programme in consultation with relevant regulatory agencies.

2 GLOSSARY

TERM	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 land clearing, 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	An area of land and/or water that is a 'reference site' that represents an example of the defining values and characteristics (such as vegetation composition and structure or agricultural productivity) of the final land use. An analogue site is a selected location surrounding or within a proposed/existing mine site. The location is usually an undisturbed area or a self-sustaining vegetation community that demonstrates the existing environment without any impact of disturbance (i.e. acts as a baseline for the surrounding undisturbed environment). Characteristics of analogue sites can be assessed to develop the rehabilitation objectives and rehabilitation completion criteria for final land use domains.
Annual rehabilitation report	As defined 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 (for large mines only) 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.

Dehabed / Dehabing / Dehab	Recovery of topsoil material from previously rehabilitated areas.
Department	Department of Regional NSW.
Disturbance	See Surface Disturbance.
Disturbance area	An area that has been disturbed and that requires rehabilitation. This may include areas such as 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 (e.g. managed to minimise dust generation and/or erosion).
Domain	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.
Ecosystem and land use development	This phase of rehabilitation consists of the activities to manage maturing rehabilitation areas on a trajectory to achieving the approved or, if not yet approved, the proposed: ✓ rehabilitation objectives, and ✓ rehabilitation completion criteria, and ✓ for large mines – final landform and rehabilitation plan 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, increasing habitat complexity, and the development of a productive, self-sustaining soil profile. This phase of rehabilitation may include specific vegetation management strategies and maintenance such as tree thinning, supplementary plantings and weed management.
Ecosystem and land use establishment	This phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes to establish the approved final land use following construction of the final

	landform (as per the approved final landform and rehabilitation plan for large mines). 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.
Exploration	Has the same meaning as that term under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007.
Final landform and rehabilitation plan	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Final land use	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Final land use domain	A land management unit with a final land use. A mining lease may have one final land use (e.g. returning the entire mining lease to native vegetation) or several final land use units (e.g. a mix of pasture areas and native ecosystems). Each final land use unit represents a separate final land use domain.
Form and way	Means the form and way approved by the Secretary. Approved form and way documents are available on the Department's website.
Forward program	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Growth medium development	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) to ensure achievement of the approved or, if not yet approved, the proposed: ✓ rehabilitation objectives ✓ rehabilitation completion criteria ✓ for large mines – final landform and rehabilitation plan. 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.
Habitat	Has the same meaning as that term under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and the Fisheries Management Act 1994 (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 (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	This phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes and activities required to construct the approved final landform (as per the development consent and, for large mines, the approved final landform and rehabilitation plan). 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).
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	Means the NSW Resources Regulator's online portal that lease holders must use (via a registered account) to: ✓ 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. 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.
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 lease	As defined in the Mining Act 1992.
Native vegetation	Has the same meaning as that term under the Local Land Services Act 2013.
Overburden	Material overlying coal or a mineral deposit.
Performance indicator	An attribute of the biophysical environment (e.g. 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	The stages and sequences of actions required to rehabilitate disturbed land to achieve the final land use. The phases of rehabilitation are: ✓ active mining ✓ decommissioning ✓ landform establishment ✓ growth medium development ✓ ecosystem and land use establishment ✓ ecosystem and land use development ✓ rehabilitation completion (sign-off).
Progressive rehabilitation	The progress of rehabilitation towards achieving the approved or, if not yet approved, the proposed: ✓ rehabilitation objectives ✓ rehabilitation completion criteria ✓ for large mines – final landform and rehabilitation plan. This may be described in terms of domains, phases, performance indicators and rehabilitation completion criteria.
Rehabilitation	As defined in the *Mining Act 1992*.

Rehabilitation completion	The final phase of rehabilitation when a rehabilitation area has achieved the final land use for the mining area: ✓ as stated in the approved rehabilitation objectives and the approved rehabilitation completion criteria ✓ for large mines – as spatially depicted in the approved final landform and rehabilitation plan. Rehabilitation areas may be classified as complete when the NSW Resources Regulator has determined, in writing, that rehabilitation has achieved the final land use following submission of the relevant application by the lease holder.
Rehabilitation completion criteria	Rehabilitation completion criteria set out the criteria the achievement of which will demonstrate the achievement of the rehabilitation objectives.
Rehabilitation cost estimate	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Rehabilitation management plan	As defined in the Mining Regulation 2016.
Rehabilitation objectives	Means the rehabilitation objectives required to achieve the final land use for the mining area.
Rehabilitation outcomes	Means the final land use for the mining area as stated in the approved rehabilitation objectives, the approved rehabilitation completion criteria and (for large mines) the approved final landform and rehabilitation plan.
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: a. the relevant development consent authority b. the local council c. the relevant landholder(s) d. community consultative committee (if required under the development consent) or equivalent consultative group

	e. affected landholder(s) f. government agencies relevant to the final land use g. affected infrastructure authorities (electricity, telecommunications, water, pipeline, road, rail authorities) h. local Aboriginal communities i. 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 31000:2018).
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 (typically silt-sized, in the range from 0.001 to 0.6 mm) solid materials remaining after the recoverable metals and minerals have been extracted from mined ore, together with the water used in the recovery process.
Waste	Has the same meaning as that term under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.*