

# Resources Regulator

FWP0001716

# **NORTHPARKES MINES FORWARD PROGRAM**

Wednesday 1 January 2025 to Friday 31 December 2027

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# **Summary**

Detail	
Mine	Northparkes Mines
Reference	FWP0001716
Forward program commencement date	Wednesday 1 January 2025
Forward program end date	Friday 31 December 2027
Forward program revision (if applicable)	
Contact	Chris Higgins
Mining leases	ML 1247 (1973), ML 1367 (1992), ML 1641 (1992), ML 1743 (1992)
Project location	Evolution Mining (Northparkes) Pty Ltd
Date of submission	Tuesday 30 September 2025
Document URL  Security reminder: Please exercise caution before opening external links. If a link appears suspicious, avoid clicking it and report it to the Resources Regulator.	https://evolutionmining.com.au/compliance/#Northparkes

## **Important**

The department may make the information in your program 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 program to be confidential, please communicate this to the department via the message function on this submission within the Resources Regulator Portal.

## Three-year forecast - surface disturbance activities

### **Project description**

Evolution Mining Northparkes Operations (Northparkes) is a copper-gold mine located 27 kilometres northwest of the town of Parkes in central west New South Wales, Australia. The Northparkes business continues to run under a joint venture arrangement with 80% interest with Evolution Mining (Northparkes) Pty Ltd and the remaining 20% share owned by the Sumitomo Group. Development consent was originally issued to North Mining Limited, as DA 504/90 in 1992. This approval was based on open cut mining of locations E22 and E27 and underground mining of E26. In 2019 MP11\_0060 was gazetted as a State Significant Development (SSD) under section Part 4 of the EP&A Act and expires on 31 December 2032. Northparkes currently operate E48 and E26 underground mine utilising the block cave method and sub-level methods. Northparkes also undertakes campaign open cut mining to supplement underground ore supply.

### Description of surface disturbance activities

#### **Exploration activities**

Exploration activities will continue to focus on existing resource and grade definition, as well as exploration for potential new deposits. A component of sterilization drilling shall also be conducted to test areas proposed for tailings disposal and other mine infrastructure (if required).

#### Construction activities

There are no planned construction activities during the Forward Program, apart from the haul roads associated with the E28NE open cut operations

#### Mining schedule

Mining development method and sequencing and general mine features.

2025-2026: Continuation of existing underground mining at E26 and E48, Carry out pre-mining works related to the E28NE open-cut. 2026 - 2027: Continuation of existing underground mining at E26 and E48. Open-cut mining of E28NE scheduled to begin. 2027-2028: Continuation of mining at the E28NE open-cut. Continuance of underground mining of E26 and E48. Development and mining of E22 block-cave scheduled to begin

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

The E31 and E31N open cut mines resulted in the development of new waste rock emplacements. This waste rock will be used for future tailings facility construction. The emplacement for E28NE is likely to start in the 2026/27 period. From commencement in the 2027/28 period, the waste rock from the E22 block cave will be placed within the current waste rock emplacement W4, which is adjacent to the current E22 open-cut.

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

The following infrastructure activities are scheduled during the Forward Program. 2025-2026: • Tailings deposition to continue in Rosedale TSF. • Begin construction of Infill TSF Extension South Embankment. • Rosedale TSF will start the process of continuous construction utilising cyclone. • TSF dewatering storage locations is under review. Northparkes is looking to review the- E22 surface water layout to prevent water ingress to the void whilst dewatering is occurring in preparation for the block cave. Construction of the Altona Water Storage Facility is not intended at this time. In pit water from the E22 void will be transferred to Caloola North and South. Additionally, Northparkes are also seeking approval to transfer in-pit water from the E22 Void to E31 and E31N. 2026 - 2027: Estimated commencement of tailings deposition into the Infill TSF Extension (following completion of construction). Ongoing continuous construction and deposition for the Rosedale TSF. 2027-2028: • Ongoing continuous construction for the Rosedale TSF and deposition into both Rosedale and Infill TSFs.

Waste disposal and materials handling operations.

Putrescible, hydrocarbons, tyres and other waste streams are removed from site by a contractor and disposed, recycled or treated at licenced facilities. Bunded temporary storage/transfer locations are used onsite to minimise risks. Bulk hydrocarbon contaminated material (including soil) are bioremediated onsite within a clay lined storage and placed on the waste rock emplacement once treatment has been successful.

#### **Key production milestones**

MATERIAL	UNIT	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Stripped topsoil (if applicable)	(m <sup>3</sup> )	0	63,402	0
Rock/overburden	(m <sup>3</sup> )	0	5.36	0.3
Ore	(Mt)	5.59	8.01	9.83
Reject material <sup>1</sup>	(Mt)	7.36	7.27	7.36
Product	(Mt)	0.14	0.13	0.13

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>This includes coarse rejects, tailings and any other wastes resulting from beneficiation.

## Three-year rehabilitation forecast

### Rehabilitation planning schedule

#### Rehabilitation planning schedule

The approved life of mine is currently 2032. Over the next three years, an application is planned to be submitted to extend the life of mine which will require a range of investigative studies to fill knowledge gaps and improve rehabilitation outcomes. The TSFs will be assessed for their potential to be raised higher than the current approved height which would combine TSF1, TSF2, Estcourt and Infill TSFs into one or two facilities. If approved, this change would reduce future disturbance and alter the current final landform. The assessment will include tailings beach settlement (particularly the E27 portion of Estcourt TSF), batter erosion and landform modelling. Technical studies and regulator engagement will continue in 2025-26 as part of the approvals process to fill E31 and E31N voids with tailings. Opportunities will also be investigated to maximise the use of waste rock for TSF construction and to reduce closure emplacements risk. This will include geochemical assessments of current and future materials.

#### Stakeholder consultation

The scheduled rehabilitation planning activities identified above require extensive engagement and consultation. Due to potential changes to the final landform, consultation will be undertaken with government agencies, neighbours, Community Consultative Committee (CCC) and the Wiradjuri Executive Committee (WEC). Planning activities involving potential changes to TSF closure designs will also include consultation with the Tailings Engineer of Record and Dam Safety NSW. As these activities are in early stages, it is possible that some components won't be progressed if the assessments don't indicate a benefit.

Rehabilitation studies, risk assessments and/or design work

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Northparkes has identified locations for a new water storage to prevent water ingress to the void whilst dewatering is occurring in preparation for the block cave. With the construction of Infill TSF extension started in 2025, an integrated tailings footprint will exist from TSF1, TSF2, Estcourt, Infill and Rosedale. With the potential for increasing throughput rates later in the life of mine, larger TSFs may be required. Instead of creating new TSFs in the future, the consolidation and combined increased height of some or all of these TSFs is being investigated. A range of design options are being considered. To deposit into a consolidated TSF, the final approved height may need be raised and the final landform altered. During the next reporting period, regulatory approval for E31 and E31N in-pit water storage and tailings deposition will be sought through Modification 13. Research is continuing in partnership with universities to further understand options for tailings cover designs. The focus is on utilisation of tailings material as a growth medium and is based on the natural succession of native species across TSF2. A PHD student from Federation University has commenced research in this area.

## Rehabilitation research and trials

RRT NUMBER	PROJECT/TRIAL NAME	OBJECTIVE OF TRIAL/PROJECT	METHODOLOGY	EXPECTED DATE OF COMPLETION	STATUS
RRT0001014	TSF1 Trial Plots	Establish tailings cover trial plots directly on representative Northparkes tailings to guide the effective closure design for the TSFs	Four plots were established in 2014 in the SW corner of TSF1. All plots have 100mm of topsoil, however they each have varying depths of waste rock. A range of tests have been carried out over the years. Recent years the assessments have been focused on species contribution to cover. All the plots have adequate groundcover however the species composition is different and has continued to change with the seasons. The plots are located in a corner that should be maintained till 2027.	31 Dec 2027	Ongoing
RRT0001015	TSF2 tailings growth medium	Provide data to support the progression of tailings into growth medium.  Visually, the vegetation on TSF2, in drought and recent wet years, indicate tailings is sustaining native groundcover easily.	Partnered with Uni of Queensland and Federation Uni to research the biological and chemical changes in tailings composition. Samples of the tailings material have been taken below established vegetation and within adjacent bare areas to assess the change. TSF2 was a dust issue in the past until barley crops were sown within the tailings. With time, natives have established	31 Dec 2025	Ongoing

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			across the tailings beach directly in the tailings. This research ensures the progression is captured and recorded.		
RRT0001158	TSF2 Biosolids Plant Trial	To provide data on biosolids to support tailings as a growth medium.	On the 23 May 2025 a Biosolids Plant Trial was established on the eastern side of TSF2. Five north south rows of 100m x 4m were pegged out with 4 m gaps in between. There were five different seed mixes used across the trial plot strips. The species were chosen based on their salt tolerance. Promising outcomes have been observed to date and it is intended for trial areas to increase over time.	31 Dec 2032	Ongoing

#### Rehabilitation maintenance and corrective actions

The maintenance and corrective actions scheduled for the term of the Forward Program include: - A continuation of the E22 batter rehabilitation maintenance program. - In November 2023, as part of Modification 10, Northparkes was approved to use biosolids on the surface of TSF2 to enhance the established vegetation. Biosolids were applied in the last reporting period to provide both a nutrient improvement, but equally important, a boost in microbes to the tailings profile. During the next reporting period, a combination of both agricultural fertilisers and chicken manure pellets will be applied to the surface of TSF2 while approval for more biosolids is sought.

#### Rehabilitation schedule

Scheduled rehabilitation activities include: • Infill TSF South Embankment construction to complete landform establishment phase. • The ongoing monitoring of the established tailings cover trial plots on TSF1 and TSF2 will continue: - Continued research into the vegetation established directly into the tailings. - Research into various opportunities to modify the final tailings landforms will continue. - Work with the Resources Regulator regarding feedback to Northparkes response to the directions within Notice NTCE0013371)

### Completion of rehabilitation

n/a

### Subsidence remediation for underground operations

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There are no subsidence remediation works planned for the next three years. Subsidence monitoring will be in accordance with the Rehabilitation Management Plan, including continual automated monitoring by piezometers and displacement beacons, along with monthly visual inspection of the TSF embankment outer surface, noting cracking or ground subsidence.

## Progressive mining and rehabilitation statistics

### Three-yearly forecast cumulative disturbance and rehabilitation progression

	Forecast	UNIT	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
<b>A</b> 1	Total disturbance footprint - surface disturbance	(ha)	1,389.75	1,420.65	1,420.65
0	Total active disturbance	(ha)	1,180.35	1,211.25	1,211.25
Р	Total new area of land proposed for active rehabilitation	(ha)	0	0	0

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## Rehabilitation key performance indicators (KPIs)

	Forecast	UNIT	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
0	Total new disturbance area during reporting period	(ha)	25.3	30.9	
Р	Total new area of land proposed for rehabilitation during the reporting period	(ha)			

Q Annual rehabilitation to disturbance ratio

# **Attachment 1 - Reporting Definitions**

REPOR	RTING CATEGORY	DEFINITION
Α	Total disturbance footprint - surface disturbance	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.
		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).
		Underground mining operations should not include the footprint of underground mining areas/subsidence management areas in the total disturbance footprint.
В	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).
С	Rehabilitation - land preparation	Includes the sum of all disturbed land within a mining lease that have commenced

REPOR	TING CATEGORY	DEFINITION
		any, or all, of the following phases of rehabilitation - decommissioning, landform establishment and growth medium development.
		Refer to the glossary of terms in this document for the definition of these phases of rehabilitation.
D	Ecosystem and land use establishment	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.
		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.
0		The area of any new active disturbance that will be created during the next three years, as defined under definition A1 (definition A1 Table 5).
Р		The sum of any new rehabilitation to be commenced in the next three years. These areas may be in the phases "Rehabilitation - Land Preparation" or the "Ecosystem & Land Use Establishment" (definitions C & D in Table 5).

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REPORTING CATEGORY	DEFINITION
Q	The rehabilitation to disturbance ratio (S / R) indicates how many hectares of new rehabilitation are undertaken for each hectare of land disturbed during the three years. A ratio of 1/1 indicates that the area of new rehabilitation and disturbance in that period are the same.

## **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.

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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.
Department	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.
Disturbance	See Surface Disturbance.
Disturbance area	An area that has been disturbed and that requires rehabilitation.  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).

WORD	DEFINITION
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 rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria.  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.  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.  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,

WORD	DEFINITION
	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.
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	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.
	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

WORD	DEFINITION
	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	This phase of rehabilitation consists of the processes and activities required to construct the final landform.
	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 Resources Regulator's online portal that lease holders must use (via a registered account) to:

WORD	DEFINITION
	<ul> <li>upload rehabilitation geographical information system (GIS) spatial data</li> <li>develop rehabilitation GIS spatial data (using online tracing functions)</li> <li>generate rehabilitation plans and rehabilitation statistics using the map viewer and Rehabilitation Key Performance Indicator functionalities.</li> </ul> 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.
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

WORD	DEFINITION
	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 • landform Establishment • 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	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



WORD	DEFINITION
	rehabilitation obligations have been fulfilled following submission of Form ESF2 Rehabilitation completion and/or review of rehabilitation cost estimate application 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:  • the relevant development consent authority • the local council • the relevant landholder(s) • community consultative committee (if required under the development consent) or equivalent

WORD	DEFINITION
	<ul> <li>consultative group</li> <li>affected land holder(s)</li> <li>government agencies relevant to the final land use</li> <li>affected infrastructure authorities (electricity, telecommunications, water, pipeline, road, rail authorities)</li> <li>local Aboriginal communities, and</li> <li>any other person or body determined by the Minister to be a relevant stakeholder in relation to a mining lease.</li> </ul>
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.

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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 <sup>2</sup> .
Waste	Has the same meaning as that term under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Commonwealth of Australia (DITR), 2007. Tailings Management.

## Attachment 3 - Plans

Plan 2A attachment not provided.

Plan 2B attachment not provided.

Plan 2C attachment not provided.



#### **Open Cut and Underground Summary Rehabilitation Cost Estimation**

Note: Sections of this pag	ge are automatically filled in from the re	gistration page			
Mine Name:	Northparkes Operations				
Lease(s):	ML1247, ML1367, ML1641, M	_1743			
Title Holder:	Evolution Mining (Northparkes	) PTY LTD, SC Mineral Reso	uces Pty Ltd, Sumitomo Meta	al Mining Ocea	
Term of RCE:	Closure liability as of 31 June	2025			
Current Security:	\$80,680,000	Date of Last Security D	eposit Review:	4/11/2024	
Mine Contact:	Chris Higgins & Lachlan West	cott			
	Domain		Security Dep	posit	
Domain 1: Infrastructu	ire			19,634,745.31	
	Domain 2: Tailings & Rejects			18,898,948.07	
Domain 3: Overburder				1,976,704.96	
Domain 4: Active Mine Domain 5: Subsidence				695,608.00 1,055,000.00	
Domain 5. Subsiderio	e d Management			1,033,000.00	
Subtotal (Domains a	nd Sundry Items)		\$	42,261,006.34	
Contingency		10%	\$4,226,100.	63	
Post Closure Environr	nental Monitoring	10%	\$4,226,100.	\$4,226,100.63	
Project Management a	and Surveying	10%	\$4,226,100.	63	
Total Security De	posit for the Mining Proje	ct (excl. of GST)	\$54	,939,308.24	
Note: GST is not include	ed in the above calculation or as pa	t of rehabilitation security depo	osits required by the Departmer	nt	
Alterations have be	en made to unit prices within this spre	adsheet. (Attach a separate she	et providing details of changes).		
✓ The proposed rehal	pilitation design is generally consistent	with the development consent for	or the project.		
•	ation has been estimated using the been effection of the total rehabilitation liabil				
Thomas Lethbridge Company Represe			29 Septem Date	ber 2025	
General Manager			Signed by	: s Lethbrid	