



### What is Mine Rehabilitation?

Mines in Victoria are required to undertake mine rehabilitation which leaves mined land “safe, stable and sustainable”, and available for ongoing land uses.

Mine closure is the process to achieve mine rehabilitation. This process commences before mining starts, continues over the operational life of the mine and through into rehabilitation.

Mines are inherently risky landscapes due to the physical and chemical characteristics and their interactions with the environment and humans. Rehabilitation needs to address these risks, while minimizing burdens on future generations.



Loy Yang A mine, Image courtesy Earth Resources Victoria

### What does safe, stable and sustainable mean?

Safe, stable and sustainable is defined in the [relevant regulations](#) as meaning:

- (a) is not likely to cause injury or illness; and
- (b) structurally, geotechnically and hydrogeologically sound; and
- (c) non-polluting; and
- (d) aligns with the principles of sustainable development

## What does Mine Rehabilitation involve?

Declared mine rehabilitation in Victoria involves developing and implementing a Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan for assessment and approval by government. The Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan is a live document that is updated and varied as more information becomes available. Mine rehabilitation can be divided into distinct stages, although there is overlap:

### The Planning Phase

The planning phase commences before mining starts and continues during mining operations. This phase incorporates technical studies from environmental, engineering, social studies to financial modelling and engineering designs. The mine operators are responsible for this work

### Progressive Rehabilitation

Progressive rehabilitation is undertaken during mine operations. It includes the planning work listed above, and physical construction of the

final landform, in accordance with the Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan. The Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan can be varied at any time and submitted for assessment by government. The mine operators are responsible for this work.

### Mine Rehabilitation & Monitoring and Maintenance Phase

This phase includes the construction of the final landform design in accordance with the approved Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan. Monitoring of key aspects of the landform to achieve a safe, stable and sustainable landform. Once achieved the rehabilitation is complete. The mine operators are responsible for this work.

### Post Closure Monitoring and Maintenance Phase

Once the mine licence has been surrendered, in Victoria, the new landowners are responsible for ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the historic mine land. The MLRA is responsible for overseeing this work on declared mine land.

## Mine rehabilitation legislation

Mine licensees have regulatory responsibilities regarding mine rehabilitation. You can read about mine rehabilitation legislation at [this link](#).

You can access the full Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act, Regulations, guidelines and codes of practice at [this link](#).

### How does this affect you?

You may have a vision for these rehabilitated mines in the future. Learning more about the technical, environmental and social issues around mine rehabilitation can help inform this vision. An informed community is an empowered community.

One way of staying informed about the technical, environmental and social issues around mine rehabilitation is by watching our videos and following us on social media.

### Want to get involved?

Want to join the conversation or meet with us? Contact us at 1800 571 966 or [contactus@mineland.vic.gov.au](mailto:contactus@mineland.vic.gov.au)

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