

Why should the community care about mine rehabilitation?

Mining and mine rehabilitation have been a part of the Victorian community for many decades. You might wonder – why should the community care about mine rehabilitation?

Here at the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority, we've heard a lot about the community's views on mine rehabilitation through our conversations with the public. Victorian communities want to be confident that mines will be rehabilitated in a way that ensures positive outcomes.

When mines are rehabilitated well, mined land is left safe, stable, sustainable and available for ongoing land uses. Well rehabilitated mines minimise legacy problems for future governments, companies and communities.

Rehabilitating mined land and establishing usable landscapes most directly affects communities situated close to mines. There are a number of reasons why these communities should care about mine rehabilitation. These include:

- Community safety and well-being,
- Creating social and economic opportunity and
- Creating workforce and industry opportunities.



Community safety and wellbeing

While mine licensees have regulatory responsibilities to leave mined land safe, stable and sustainable, the community has also told us that they want something attractive that is usable and enjoyable. Victorian communities want to ensure that potential risks to the environment and public safety, (for example from fire or ground movement) are minimised. Where social, economic and workforce opportunities exist around mine rehabilitation, neighbouring communities want to participate and thrive. They want to see rehabilitated landscapes that protect people, land, infrastructure and the environment.

Social and economic opportunity

Mine rehabilitation can provide an economic boost for local communities through job opportunities and new investment. Opportunities exist for partnerships with First Nations people and

businesses. In addition to maximising potential opportunities, sustainable mine rehabilitation means minimising the ongoing costs of long-term management and maintenance of mined land.

Potential workforce and industry opportunities during rehabilitation

For workers, mine rehabilitation can include a number of careers, from project managers to environmental experts, landscapers, plant operators, planners, administrative workers, engineers and economists which can directly support regional communities. A mine rehabilitation workforce requires training and education, graduate programs, retraining for older workers, and the ability to equip employees with the skills they need. This can mean various opportunities for individuals, businesses and communities.

Opportunities to be involved

Community members can have their voices heard about mine rehabilitation. The community can have different levels of influence at different times.

Legislation requires that mine licensees consult with the community on a variety of matters at different times. This includes sharing information about mining activities that may affect the community and giving community members reasonable opportunity to express their views about these activities.

Mine licensees must consult with the community about:

- proposed land uses for affected land after it has been rehabilitated,
- declared mine rehabilitation plans when they are in draft form, and
- work plans. A work plan is a document that describes the nature and scale of the proposed mining activities and identifies and assesses risks involved.

Different community members and community groups will want different things and have various opinions. That's why consultation processes are important.

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

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