



MLRA Vocabulary

Version 01

20th June 2024

Approval for Use

Title & ID	MLRA Vocabulary 20240620_REP001			
Classification	Website publication			
Version	Date	Prepared By	Recommended By	Approved For Use
01	22 nd Aug, 2023	Nathan Gardiner	A. Scrase	J. Brereton
01.1	20 th June, 2024	Nathan Gardiner	A. Scrase	J. Brereton

Current version authorised
(signatures)

Nathan Gardiner

Antonia Scrase



This document is approved for use only when all signatures are present and dated.

Purpose

The purpose of this MLRA Vocabulary is to provide a consistent, shared baseline of terms relevant to declared mine rehabilitation in Victoria.

Language employed around mine rehabilitation and closure is evolving and varies from region to region. A shared vocabulary is a simple and effective way to facilitate better discussions, decision making and, ultimately, better outcomes.

This vocabulary aims to:

- Be a concise, curated reference of terms relevant to declared mines
- Remain a living document, updated as terms evolve and expand
- Serve as a reference for community, industry and government stakeholders

The vocabulary will be maintained by the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority (MLRA) and publicly available at www.mineland.vic.gov.au. The vocabulary is not an exhaustive list of technical mining and related terms. Neither is it a definitive list of declared mine or related terms, nor does it replace statutory definitions in any context.

Usage

The MLRA Vocabulary aims to provide a list of terms and their definitions as a guide only, using accessible language, for use in conversations between stakeholders within community, industry and the public sector.

The Vocabulary is not a statutory document and terms contained within do not replace those defined within respective legislative instruments, for example the Water Act, 1989; Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act, 1990; Environment Protection Act, 2017, that govern various aspects of declared mine rehabilitation and closure.

Development

The MLRA Vocabulary was developed in collaboration with subject matter experts across industry and government in Victoria. An initial draft list of terms for review was derived from reputable, publicly available sources. Terms were adapted or formulated to be consistent with Victorian declared mines, or retained in full where appropriate and sources cited. Terms annotated with (Victoria) indicate terms that have definitions specific to Victoria.

The MLRA wishes to thank participants from the following organisations for their time and contributions:

AGL, Loy Yang	Federation University
Alinta, Loy Yang	Gippsland Water
DEECA – Water and Catchments	Latrobe Valley Authority
Earth Resources Regulation	Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy
Energy Australia, Yallourn	Southern Rural Water
Engie, Hazelwood	

Review and comment

The MLRA Vocabulary is available on www.mineland.vic.gov.au. Terms will be reviewed periodically and updated online if required.

If you have any comments, including suggested terms for inclusion, please contact: contactus@mineland.vic.gov.au

Sources

Where definitions were adopted verbatim from a source, locations are cited via hyperlinks with the definition. All other definitions were adapted from a reputable industry or standard source. These sources include:

- [Environment Protection Act 2017 \(legislation.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au)
- [Mineral Resources \(Sustainable Development\) Act 1990 \(MRSDA\)](#)
- [Gippsland Groundwater Atlas, Southern Rural Water](#)
- [Water dictionary, Victorian Water Register](#)
- [Glossary, Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy](#)
- [Mine closure and reclamation - Vocabulary, ISO: \(Australian Standards, 2021\)](#)
- [Definitions | Victorian Government \(www.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.vic.gov.au)
- [IAP2 Consultation Spectrum](#)

Note:

Definitions marked with (*) indicate where text has been re-phrased from the MRSDA

Unique reference numbers (Ref.) are provided for each definition. These are either of the form;

- 1) **Gen001** = A term used in a general context, typically a term in common usage or from legislation,

or;

- 2) **Tech001** = A technical term used explicitly in a scientific or engineering context

Ref.	Term	Definition (July 2023)
Gen001	Advice (MLRA provided)	As the statutory authority for declared mine rehabilitation, the MLRA must provide formal advice to the Minister under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act . Advice is either provided to inform the Minister on rehabilitation, requested by the Minister to facilitate decision making, or as findings of an investigation
Gen002	Beneficial uses	A use to the environment, or a segment of the environment, that leads to public benefit, welfare, safety, health or aesthetic enjoyment and which requires protection from the effects of waste discharges, emissions or deposits. A beneficial use may be an existing or potential use. A resource may have more than one beneficial use
Gen003	Care and maintenance/ temporary mine closure	Phase following a temporary cessation of operations, when infrastructure, plant and equipment remain intact and are maintained in anticipation of production recommencing. Such a site may be referred to as “inactive”
Gen004	Climate extreme (extreme weather)	<p>When a particular climate or weather event, like a flash flood or a heat wave, is significantly different from the average weather pattern for an area. These extremes can either be weather related or climate related.</p> <p>Weather related extreme events are shorter incidents - like deep freezes or heat waves. Climate related extreme weather events last longer or are caused by a build-up of weather-related events over time. Examples include droughts caused by prolonged dry spells or wildfires caused by an extended drought. Extreme weather events can be caused by natural cycles like La Niña or more immediate influences like high pressure systems</p> <p>(EcoWatch & IPCC Report)</p>
Gen005	Climate change	Climate change refers to any long-term trends or shifts in climate over many decades. These changes may be due to natural variations (such as changes in the Earth’s orbit) or caused by human activities changing the composition

		of the atmosphere. Climate variability overlays, and sometimes hides, longer-term climate change (CSIRO)
Gen006	Climate variability	Climate variability refers to the year-to-year variations around the average conditions. This means that consecutive summers will not all be the same, with some cooler and some warmer than the long-term average (CSIRO)
Gen007	Closure (mine)	The process of planning and managing the decommissioning of a mine, mitigating mining impacts, undertaking environmental rehabilitation and relinquishing the mining license/lease(s). For recent and new mines this is envisioned as a 'whole of mine life' process
Gen008	Closure criteria (Victoria)	Site specific measures or metrics developed during mine rehabilitation planning against which successful mine closure is determined
Gen009	Closure plan	Documentation that details mine closure strategies, design, planning and implementation activities, and performance evaluation to meet approved closure criteria. See also Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan (or DMRP) for declared mines in Victoria
Gen010	Closure planning	A process spanning the whole of mine life that addresses any social, economic and biophysical aspects of undertaking mine closure. Closure planning typically culminates in tenement relinquishment.
Gen011	Coal mine land	As defined under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act , the land covered by any of the following licences (whether or not those licences are in force) – (a) mining licence No. 5003; (b) mining licence No. 5004;

		(c) mining licence No. 5189; (d) mining licence No. 5216; (e) mining licence No. 5304;
Gen012	Community	A group of people who live in the same geographical area or have a shared background, interest, affiliation or membership (www.vic.gov.au)
Gen013	Community engagement plan	A plan for consulting with the community that demonstrates that the licence holder will use appropriate and effective measures to consult with the community throughout the period of the licence, and is prepared in accordance with the regulations and any guidelines issued by the Minister (Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act)
Gen014	Consultation	A process of public or stakeholder engagement. It consists of five levels of engagement; inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower. Each of the five levels is defined by a different level of participation
Gen015	Crown land	Land belonging to the State of Victoria (the Crown) (Earth Resources Victoria)
Gen016	Declared Mine Rehabilitation Plan (DMRP) (Victoria)*	The closure plan prepared by declared mine licensees in Victoria, in accordance with the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act and supporting regulations. DMRPs are required to include proposed closure criteria and a post-closure plan to gain statutory approvals. See also Closure Plan
Gen017	Declared Mine (DM) (Victoria)*	A mine or quarry in Victoria declared by the Minister to have geotechnical or hydrogeological factors within that pose a significant risk to public safety, the environment or infrastructure

Gen018	Declared Mine Fund (DMF) (Victoria)*	An account established under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act , as part of the Public Account trust fund. The Declared Mine Fund is used to pay for the post-closure monitoring, maintenance and rehabilitation of land in the declared mine land register, including costs incurred by unforeseen events
Gen019	Declared Mine Land (DML) (Victoria)	Per part 1, section 7 of the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act ; (a) the land covered by a mining licence that includes a declared mine (whether or not the licence is in force). (b) the land covered by any of the following licences (whether or not the licence is in force) - (i) the mining licence No. 5216; (ii) the mining licence No. 5304; (Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act)
Gen020	Declared Mine Land Register (Victoria)*	A land register established under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act to manage declared mine land. Land is registered under the direction of the Minister and may be removed from the Register once the Minister is satisfied that significant risk factors are no longer present
Gen021	Declared Mine Licensee (Victoria)*	The holder or the former holder of a licence that covers declared mine land
Gen022	Domain (Rehabilitation)	Defined areas within a mine that have similar rehabilitation requirements or that adopt a common closure strategy
Gen023	Engagement	A planned process of communicating with communities and stakeholders with a specific purpose
Gen024	Environment	Environment includes: (a) ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; and

		<p>(b) natural and physical resources; and</p> <p>(c) the qualities and characteristics of locations, places and areas; and</p> <p>(d) heritage values of places; and</p> <p>(e) the social, economic and cultural aspects of a thing mentioned in paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d).</p>
Gen025	Environment Effects Statement (EES) (Victoria)	<p>An environment assessment of the potential environmental impacts or effects of a proposed development deemed by the Minister for Planning in Victoria to be required under the Environment Effects Act 1978.</p> <p>The EES is not an approval process itself, rather it enables statutory decision-makers (Ministers, local government and statutory authorities) to make decisions about whether a project with potentially significant environmental effects should proceed</p>
Gen026	Financial assurance/ financial security	A financial instrument, such as a bond, bank guarantee or levy, imposed on the mine licensee. It is held by Government and used in the event that the licensee fails to perform required mine closure activities
Gen027	Infrastructure	The basic physical and organizational structures and facilities (e.g. buildings, roads, power supplies) needed for the operation of a society or enterprise
Gen028	Inherent risk	The level of risk of a particular event or threat, in the absence of controls
Gen029	Landholder / landowner	An owner, occupier, person or body responsible for the management of the land
Gen030	Latrobe Valley region*	The region constituted by the municipal districts of the Latrobe City Council, Baw Baw Shire Council and Wellington Shire Council
Gen031	Licensee	<p>A licensee is the person or entity who holds the licence and may be represented by a company delegate, agent or contractor</p> <p>(Earth Resources Victoria)</p>

Gen032	Mine rehabilitation (Victoria)	Returning land disturbed by mining to a safe, stable, productive and self-sustaining condition that enables beneficial uses of the site and surrounding land. Rehabilitation is considered as complete once closure criteria have been achieved and the mine license is surrendered. See Closure
Gen033	Mining licence	A permit for the licensee to explore for minerals, construct facilities related to the mining operation and undertake mining within a specified area
Gen034	MLRA	Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority or the Rehabilitation Authority, per the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act
Gen035	Monitoring & Evaluation Framework (MEF)*	A monitoring framework that helps assess the implementation (and effectiveness) of rehabilitation planning activities and the rehabilitation strategy (LVRRS). The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework details outcomes to be achieved and allows for the undertaking of strategic audits
Gen036	No regrets (rehabilitation)	Rehabilitation works that are undertaken without approval and which may require changing
Gen037	Non-polluting	Having no adverse impacts upon the receiving environment (Law Insider)
Gen038	Objective	Objectives are specific targets towards achieving an intended outcome
Gen039	Outcome	Something that follows as a result of or consequence. In rehabilitation this can include the results of implementing a planned design
Gen040	Pit lake	A body of water established within a mine void that has been intentionally or unintentionally flooded, or that penetrates below the local water table and has been allowed to flood

Gen041	Pollution, pollutant (environmental)	The presence or introduction into the environment of a substance which has harmful or poisonous effects
Gen042	Post-closure (Victoria)	<p>Period following the Minister's determination that Closure Criteria have been met. The license is surrendered and the landowner becomes responsible for ongoing monitoring, maintenance and management activities in accordance with the post-closure plan (or PCP).</p> <p>NB. the MLRA is responsible for ensuring implementation of the PCP, either as the independent authority or as the landowner</p> <p>See Post Closure Plan</p>
Gen043	Post Closure Plan (PCP, Victoria)	<p>A document produced by the declared mine licensee and submitted for approval with the DMRP.</p> <p>Per the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act, section 84AZU(3)(c), the PCP sets out the monitoring and maintenance to be carried out post-closure</p>
Gen044	Post-mining landform treatment	Works, measures and methods used to mitigate risks during mine closure and/or help achieve mine closure objectives
Gen045	Progressive rehabilitation (Victoria)	Staged and ongoing implementation of mine closure strategies for mine features during the operating life of a mine. These works are often termed as progressive mine closure
Gen046	Public sector body	<p>Per the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act, section 84AB, one of the following;</p> <p>(a) the Department Head of the Department of Transport;</p> <p>(ab) the Department Head of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions;</p> <p>(b) the Department Head of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning;</p>

		<p>(c) the Environment Protection Authority under the Environment Protection Act 2017;</p> <p>(d) the Victorian Work Cover Authority under the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013;</p> <p>(e) a responsible authority within the meaning of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 that performs functions under that Act in the Latrobe Valley region;</p> <p>(f) an Authority within the meaning of the Water Act 1989 that performs functions under that Act in the Latrobe Valley region;</p> <p>(g) the Aboriginal Heritage Council under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006;</p> <p>(h) the Victorian Rail Track under the Transport Integration Act 2010;</p> <p>(i) the V/Line Corporation under the Transport Integration Act 2010;</p> <p>(j) the Head, Transport for Victoria;</p> <p>(k) a public sector body (within the meaning of the Public Administration Act 2004) that is prescribed.</p>
Gen047	Reasonably practicable	<p>To put in proportionate controls to eliminate or minimise risks of harm. Proportionate means the greater the risk of potential harm, the greater the expectation for you to manage it</p> <p>(EPA Victoria)</p>
Gen048	Referral investigation (Victoria)	<p>Under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act section 84AQ; The Minister may refer an investigation of any matter to the Rehabilitation Authority that relates to the rehabilitation of declared mine land, the regional rehabilitation strategy or a rehabilitation planning activity</p>
Gen049	Relinquishment	See Surrender
Gen050	Regional rehabilitation strategy (Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy, or LVRRS)*	<p>The document prepared by the Minister setting out a strategy for the safe, stable and sustainable rehabilitation of coal mine land in the Latrobe Valley. The strategy must consider adjacent land and relationships between mines, and a plan for managing land after rehabilitation is complete</p>

Gen051	Rehabilitation and closure planning activities	Activities undertaken to implement the DMRP/closure plan and to effect rehabilitation, in order to achieve closure criteria and facilitate license surrender/relinquishment
Gen052	Repurpose	Beneficial reuse of a closed mining operation, whether through value-added reuse of the land (e.g. energy generation or residential), reuse of infrastructure at another site, or derivative business opportunities to create positive economic activity (ICCM Mine Closure GPG)
Gen053	Research plans	The MLRA has defined a research plan in consideration of the requirements of the MRSDA as: all documentation associated with the development and implementation of the DMRP and requirements of any other Act
Gen054	Residual liability (Victoria)	Any liability that exists after the determination by the Minister that closure criteria have been met and the mining licence surrendered (post-closure)
Gen055	Residual risk	Risks remaining after control measures have been implemented
Gen056	Safe	Is not likely to cause harm to people or the environment
Gen057	Stable	The rehabilitated post-closure site should remain sufficiently robust and secure in the long-term to require a minimum of management and intervention; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • landscapes should suffer minimal erosion and physical degradation, and landforms should be free from excessive ground movements • chemical degradation should be minimised to prevent chemical migration and contamination of the environment • ecosystems should be self-sustaining with minimal need for intervention
Gen058	Sustainable	Practices that support ecological, human and economic health and vitality. Sustainability presumes that resources are finite and should be used wisely

		<p>with a view to meeting the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs</p> <p>See also Sustainable Development)</p>
Gen059	Stakeholder	<p>Any individual or organization that may affect, or be affected by a company's actions and decisions.</p> <p>(UN Guiding Principles)</p>
Gen060	Sustainable development	<p>Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs</p>
Gen061	Strategic audit	<p>The MLRA's definition of a strategic audit is:</p> <p>A formal examination of any aspect of rehabilitation and closure planning, and implementation by public sector bodies or declared mine licensees, against relevant standard(s), such as legislation, policy and/or guidance</p>
Gen062	Strategy	<p>A long-range plan for achieving something or reaching a goal</p>
Gen063	Surrender	<p>Closed mine or mine feature for which management and monitoring has been completed and tenure has been surrendered, with responsibility transferred to the next landowner, relevant regulating authority or third party</p>
Gen064	Toxic	<p>Containing or being poisonous material, especially when capable of causing death or serious debilitation. Extremely harsh, malicious, or harmful</p> <p>(Merriam-Webster)</p>

* rephrased for clarity

Tecn001	Allocation (water, Victoria)	After the Water Act (1989), water allocations define the volume of water that can be accessed under and environmental or bulk water entitlement. Allocations are made on seasonal determinations, or from the water available under the terms of the entitlement in any water season.
Tecn002	Aquifer	A layer of rock or unconsolidated sediments below ground that is porous enough to store groundwater and permeable enough to permit large volumes of groundwater to flow
Tecn003	Aquitard	A low permeability layer of rock or sediment below ground that acts as a barrier to groundwater, impeding flow (Southern Rural Water)
Tecn004	Batter	A wall of an open cut mine or quarry void, which can be in overburden, waste, ore or coal. Batters can have varying slope angles, bench profiles and factors of safety depending on a range of input design considerations
Tecn005	Bench	The flat part of the steps dug at an angle into a mine wall to prevent wall collapse See also Batter
Tecn006	Berm	Dirt and rock piled alongside a haulage road or along the edge of a dump point to clearly define safe limits of vehicle passage and dumping
Tecn007	Bulk entitlement	A right to use and supply water in a waterway, water in storage facilities of a water corporation, and groundwater. The bulk entitlement sets out the amount of water that can be taken or stored up to a maximum volume, and any specific conditions
Tecn008	Block slide	A type of landslide in which the moving mass, or block, travels downslope relatively coherently. The block moves along a roughly planar surface, with little rotation or backward tilting.

		See Mass-movement
Tecn009	Boreholes	<p>A hole bored into the ground to extract water or other fluids, such as oil and gas, or for monitoring subsurface conditions, or releasing pressure from behind pit walls.</p> <p>Boreholes can be vertical or horizontal.</p>
Tecn010	Buttress	A mass of earthen fill placed at the base of a mine slope to improve slope stability by providing lateral support.
Tecn011	Coal	A sedimentary deposit composed predominantly of carbon that is readily combustible. Coal grade, or rank, is dependent on carbon content and ranges from lignite (brownish black) up to anthracite (glossy black). Coal forms over geologic time when plant remains have been compacted, hardened, chemically altered then modified by heat and pressure
Tecn012	Coal seam	Coal occurs in beds, called seams, which are blanket-like coal deposits a few centimetres to metres or hundreds of metres thick.
Tecn013	Confined aquifer	An aquifer that is confined by a layers of impermeable rock or sediment, that cannot equilibrate with regional water pressure. Groundwater in a bore drilled into a confined aquifer, may rise above the top of the aquifer due to increased pressures.
Tecn014	Engineered Cover	Engineered layers of synthetic material or (non-reactive) mine material, often clay-rich, placed over (reactive) mine waste or tailings to control infiltration and precipitation runoff. A cover can be designed and engineered for multiple

		purposes, including to support vegetation establishment, prevent fire or to absorb and release precipitation (via evaporation/transpiration)
Tecn015	Creep (geology)	Slow mass-movement of soil or rock material down slope, driven primarily by gravity or hydrostatic stresses, but facilitated by water saturation or by alternate freezing and thawing.
Tecn016	Depressurisation	To release or reduce pressure within confined aquifers or behind the coal batters. In the Latrobe Valley mines this is to prevent floor heave a batter collapse
Tecn017	Erosion	The removal of materials, including rock fragments, soil, or dissolved matter (sediments) by wind, water, ice, detachment or dissolution. The eventual transport and deposition of these materials is called sedimentation.
Tecn018	Floor heave	When the upwards acting confined aquifer pressures, below the mine floor are larger than the weight / pressure of coal and sediments remaining above. If unmanaged this imbalance can result in the mine floor lifting upwards, or heaving, batters becoming unstable and aquifer waters breaking through into the mine.
Tecn019	Factor of Safety (slope stability)	<p>Slope stability is controlled by two factors: driving and the resisting forces.</p> <p>The driving forces tend to destabilize a slope, leading to landslide phenomena, and are typically associated with the triggering causes of the landslides (the weight of the ground and the additional loads).</p> <p>Resisting forces depend on the shear strength of the soil/rock materials, as well as any additional forces to increase stability of the slope (e.g., buttressing).</p>

		The Factor of Safety (FoS) is defined as the ratio between the aforementioned two components. The FoS is used as design criteria for batter stability, final landforms and other ground engineering designs.
Tecn020	Fractures / joints	A break in a rock in response to stress with no offset is a fracture. Many fractures of the same orientation are called a joints. If rocks on one side of a fracture are offset relative to the other side, then the fracture is called a fault.
Tecn021	Groundwater	Groundwater is water that is found below the ground surface. (Southern Rural Water)
Tecn022	Groundwater basin	Analogous to a river basin, a groundwater basin is made up of one or more aquifers hosted within geological layers below the land surface. They are often defined for administrative purposes and may extend offshore or across state boundaries
Tecn023	Horizontal bores	Near-horizontal drains (~1-5°) drilled to decrease the elevation of the water table surface and reduce pore pressures within the effected soil/rock units (dewatering)
Tecn024	Hydrogeology	A branch of geology concerned with the occurrence, use and functions of groundwater
Tecn025	Interseam	Sedimentary layers, typically comprising sand, silt and clay layers, separating coal seams that vary in thickness and lateral extent. Interseams in the Latrobe Valley are predominantly clay, with sand and gravel lenses
Tecn026	Leachate	The solution (or suspension) that forms when liquid travels through a permeable medium and removes some components of the medium with it. Those components may be dissolved or suspended within the liquid.

Tecn027	Mass movement (geology)	Mass movements (also mass wasting) are abrupt bulk movements of soil and rock downslope in response to gravity, due to sediment loading or in response to an external trigger (e.g. earthquake, flash-flooding). Examples include landslides or slumps, debris flows, and subaqueous sediment flows in lakes or oceans.
Tecn028	Mine dewatering	The action of removing water (including surface and ground water) from a mine
Tecn029	Mine void (mine pit/ open cut)	Excavation made for the purpose of extracting ore
Tecn030	Monitoring	To observe and check the progress or quality (of something) over a period of time, to keep under systematic review. This includes the periodic tracking of any activity's progress by systematically gathering and analysing data and information
Tecn031	Overburden	Near surface materials lying above the ore body that are removed for the mining process
Tecn032	Post mining landform	Constructed topographic feature for which reclamation has been completed to support long term stability and post mining land use. It can incorporate one or more mine features or domains.
Tecn033	Reshaping/ re-sloping/ regrading	Modifying the shape, slope or profile of the ground surface during mine rehabilitation to improve long term safety and surface stability.
Tecn034	Revegetation	Establishment of vegetation upon a post mining landform or other disturbed area

Tecn035	Salinity	The amount, or concentration, of salts dissolved in water or soil. Changes in salinity can be naturally occurring, or induced by external factors
Tecn036	Seepage	The slow discharge of a fluid or gas through a permeable material
Tecn037	Sinkhole	A depression or cavity in the ground formed when underlying support is removed and the ground surface collapses. Collapses mostly occur naturally due to erosion or dissolution (e.g. limestone karstification), but can arise from human activities such as groundwater extraction
Tecn038	Spill	When water is released from the storage when there the supply of water exceeds the current demand. At worksites, a spill informally describes a loss of containment (including leaks) of any liquid or other substance, irrespective of the substances' potential to cause harm
Tecn039	Spillway	Structure designed and constructed to facilitate release of excess water from a water management or storage facility (e.g. weir or dam)
Tecn040	Subsidence	Sinking of the ground surface over large areas. Subsidence can be natural, driven by geologic processes, or caused by the removal of water, oil, natural gas, or mineral resources out of the ground by pumping, fracking, or mining activities.
Tecn041	Surcharge	A vertical load acting on the ground surface. A surcharge load placed adjacent to a slope can also apply a lateral load, depending on the slope design and ground surface conditions.

Tecn042	Unconfined aquifer	An aquifer whose upper groundwater surface is able to equilibrate (rise and fall) with atmospheric pressure. Groundwater in a bore drilled into an unconfined aquifer will remain at the same level as the top of the aquifer
Tecn043	Water Act 1989 (Victoria)	The legislation that governs the way surface water and groundwater entitlements are issued and allocated in Victoria. It defines water entitlements, establishes the mechanisms for managing Victoria's water resources and relates to the governance and operation of rural and urban water corporations.
Tecn044	Water way	A river, creek, stream, watercourse or natural channel where water regularly flows, whether or not the flow is continuous
Tecn045	Water entitlement	A right to access water through bulk entitlements, environmental entitlements, water shares and water licenses. Water may also be supplied by agreement, from an entitlement holder to a third party

* rephrased for clarity

Page left intentionally blank.