Managing Mining Legacies Forum
Sustainable Minerals Institute
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MCA Derelict(Abandoned) Mines Policy

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MCA ‘Enduring Value’
Commitment:

• Implement EMS aimed at the continual improvement to prevent, mitigate or ameliorate adverse environmental impacts;

• Safe storage of residual wastes and process residues

• Design and plan operations so that adequate resources available to meet closure requirements

• Engage with affected parties: manage social impacts during and post operation.
Minerals Industry Recognition:

Concern of stakeholders and the variety of risks derelict (abandoned) mines can present, specifically:

- Potential risks to public health and safety;
- The long-term stability of the site in relation to the potential impact of erosion and mass movement to adjoining properties and catchments;
- The potential sources of site contamination and off-site contaminant migration (residual AMD impacts etc).
- Public and Community Concern
- Their presence undermines public confidence in the ability of the industry to manage its environmental impacts in the long term.
Industry Position:

• Work cooperatively with governments to manage or minimise the environmental, social and economic impacts of derelict mines

• The Challenge: Without accepting liability for their creation or long-term management.
MCA Proposed Approach

- National inventory of derelict mines and prioritisation.
- A percentage of existing royalties made available for management of: safety risks; environmental impacts; rehabilitation.
- Clarification of Legal Liability to open up potential exploration and mining and industry led rehabilitation.
- Develop models for collaboration between Industry/Govt/Volunteer/Community Organisations
Opportunities for Collaboration

Opportunities

• The use of Industry expertise to advise on rehabilitation techniques.

• Linkage of rehabilitation of abandoned mines within a mining lease to offset requirements.

• Bundling of rehabilitation into existing earthmoving contracts to reduce costs.

• Local Partnerships between Industry/Govt on rehabilitation as part of social license

• Practical Partnerships (Industry/Govt/Community) for regional training and education.
Opportunities for Collaboration

At the Policy Level

- MCA has previously Engaged in the development of the Strategic Framework
- Potential for ongoing engagement and contribution to implementation material.
- Co-ordination of input into the development of National approaches, including inventory development and prioritisation