ABANDONED MINES WORKING GROUP - AUSTRALIA

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BEGINNINGS

• The Abandoned Mines Working Group (AMWG) was established in 2005

• The Ministerial Council for Mineral and Petroleum Resources (MCMPR)
  • established a working group to consult with ACMER and the Minerals Council of Australia (MCA)
  • to develop a scoping paper outlining issues relating to the rehabilitation and management of abandoned / derelict / orphaned mine sites within Australia.
MCMPR’s objectives included:

- Progressing constructive and compatible changes to legislative and policy framework;
- Facilitating economically competitive development of the minerals and petroleum industries;
- Improving coordination and, where appropriate, the consistency of policy regimes;
- Encouraging new and expanded investment in competitive minerals and petroleum development opportunities; and
- Providing an opportunity for information and policy exchange.

The Ministerial Council consisted of:

- the Commonwealth Minister for Resources
- State and Territory Ministers with responsibility for minerals and petroleum
- the New Zealand Minister of Energy and the Papuan New Guinean Minister for Mining and the Minister for Petroleum and Energy have observer status.
AMWG MEMBERS / CONTRIBUTORS

• New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australian, Tasmanian, South Australian governments

• Victorian and the Northern Territory governments did not provide a representative for the AMWG
  • Being re-invited for current initiatives

• Commonwealth Government
  • Through the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism

• The Minerals Council of Australia (MCA)

• The Sustainable Minerals Institute (SMI) Knowledge Transfer
  – (formerly the Australian Centre for Minerals Extension and Research (ACMER))
ACHIEVEMENTS

• A scoping paper –
  – Published in April 2008

• A recommendation that a national asbestos mine register was not required at that time (2010)

• “The Strategic Framework for Managing Abandoned Mines in the Minerals Industry”
  – Jointly produced in December 2010 by the MCMPR and MCA

• Sharing of knowledge and approaches to managing abandoned mines
CURRENT STATUS

• The MCMPR Standing Committee of Officials agreed in June 2010 on a new vision, mission and strategies, and reviewed its working groups

  – The Abandoned Mines Working Group was not included in the revised structure.
  – It was supported that the AMWG can continue to remain in place outside of the MCMPR.

• The Abandoned Mines Working Group now continues outside of the Standing Council on Energy and Resources (replaced MCMPR in 2011)
CURRENT / NEXT STEPS

• Reviewing the Terms of Reference of the group

• Next project - the development of a Technical Manual for the management of abandoned mines

• Also review options to develop a leading practice manual in the mid term.

• AMWG Support and Funding - anticipate similar cost sharing as for the development of the Strategic Framework

• Formal support to be confirmed - from Commonwealth, State and Territory jurisdictions, and the Mineral Council of Australia.