

## Exploration Methods Explained: Costeaming

*Costeaming is a form of geochemical sampling where a shallow trench is dug then the exposed rock mapped, analysed and sampled. Costeaming is only used in exploration for some minerals, including gold and lead, and rarely used in NSW. Strict regulations apply to costeaming and environmental safeguards ensure all sites are rehabilitated.*

### Costeaming or Trench Sampling

Costeaming (also called trench sampling) involves digging a costean or trench using a backhoe or similar equipment. The costean or trench may range from 20cm wide to more than a metre wide and from a few centimetres deep (where hard rock is near the surface) to metres deep. The edges of the trench are typically geologically mapped and channel samples collected for laboratory analysis.

### Regulation of Costeaming

Costeaming in NSW is strictly regulated by Government and environmental safeguards ensure that all costeaming is fully rehabilitated. Costeaming requires additional Government approval. The application for approval requires a description of the local environment, proposed activity and environmental mitigation and management procedures. On private land, this work must be included in an access agreement before it is undertaken.



Costeaming or trenching requires additional government approvals

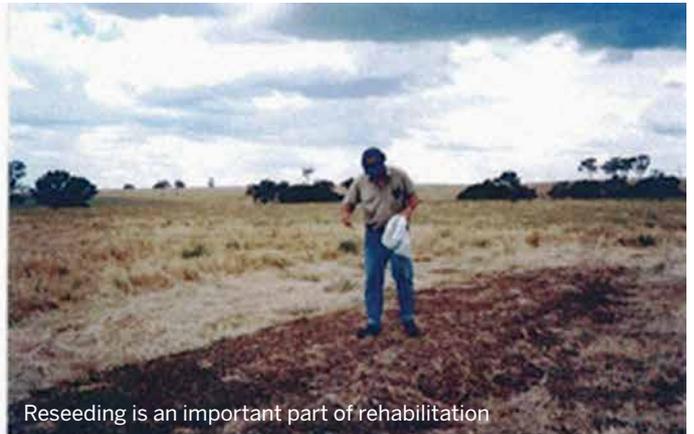
### Rehabilitation of Costeaming

Rehabilitation is a condition of every exploration licence and undertaken as soon as practical following surface disturbance. Planning for rehabilitation is undertaken before surface disturbance and in consultation with the landholder.

The soil and rock is returned to the hole before the topsoil is replaced. The surface is left slightly mounded to allow for subsidence, then reseeded and fertilised as appropriate to the surrounding area.



Measures are taken to minimise interference with the land surface and rehabilitation is undertaken as soon as practical



Reseeding is an important part of rehabilitation

## Further information

NSW Trade & Investment – Division of Resources and Energy [www.resources.nsw.gov.au](http://www.resources.nsw.gov.au)

NSW Minerals Industry Exploration Handbook [www.nswmining.com.au/menu/media/publications](http://www.nswmining.com.au/menu/media/publications)

NSW Minerals Council Fact Sheets on mineral exploration methods and guideline on the template *Land Access Arrangement for Mineral Exploration* [www.nswmining.com.au/menu/media/fact-sheets](http://www.nswmining.com.au/menu/media/fact-sheets)

*These descriptions are primarily provided for those who may not be familiar with exploration operations. As a result they are, by their nature, general. The descriptions have been written in consultation with the NSW Trade and Investment - Division of Resources and Energy. Our thanks to Malachite Resources Limited for contributing photos to this fact sheet.*

*Disclaimer:* This fact sheet is intended to provide general information only. It does not intend to be comprehensive or to provide specific legal advice. Given the changing nature of legislation, regulations, program rules and guidelines, there is a potential for inherent inaccuracies and potential omissions in information contained in this fact sheet. All information in this case study is provided 'as is' with no guarantee of completeness or accuracy and without warranty of any kind, express or implied. In no event will New South Wales Minerals Council Limited, any related members, consultants or employees thereof be liable to anyone for any decision made or action taken in reliance on the information in this paper or for any consequential damages.