

Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

Final and Temporary Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments

REPORT BY PEABODY ENERGY
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Final and Temporary Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments

Introduction

The nine coal producers of the Upper Hunter, through the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue have agreed to this set of principles and commitments with regard to final and temporary rehabilitation. The Principles and Commitments have been developed with advice and guidance from the UHMD Joint Working Group – Land Management which is a stakeholder and industry group.

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue has two five-year goals with regard to land management:

- *Goal 1 To decrease the time that disturbed areas are left without final or temporary cover, recognising that different mining operations are at different points in rehabilitation.*
- *Goal 2 To achieve a consistent level of best practice, quality, integrated rehabilitation – both within the industry and with future land uses - across the Upper Hunter and to be a responsible steward of the land.*

The primary focus of the Rehabilitation Principles and Commitments is to contribute to Goal 1. A number of other projects are underway to progress Goal 1. The industry participants in the UHMD acknowledge the importance of clear goals for rehabilitation developed through consultation with community and regulators, continuing to improve rehabilitation techniques and sharing innovative and successful rehabilitation techniques within the industry. Projects under Goal 2 focus on continuous improvement of rehabilitation practices.

Principles and Commitments

The Upper Hunter coal producers will publicly report against the Principles and Commitments on an annual basis. The reporting will be aggregated by the NSW Minerals Council and shared with the community. Table 1 sets out the six principles and provides a description of how each will be reported against.

Table 1 – Principles and Commitments

Principle	Reporting
<p>Principle 1 – Include rehabilitation planning in mine planning</p> <p><i>Planning for rehabilitation should be integrated into the mine planning process and should include allocating adequate and dedicated resources to achieve the planned rehabilitation outcomes.</i></p>	<p>Short and medium-term planning is undertaken with Mine Planners on a weekly basis which includes the discussion of future areas to be rehabilitated in accordance with the MOP.</p> <p>Wambo Coal utilises a specialist rehabilitation contractor.</p>
<p>Principle 2 – Undertake progressive rehabilitation</p> <p><i>Companies should undertake rehabilitation progressively, with the objective of ensuring that rehabilitation is as close as possible to active mining.</i></p>	<p>Rehabilitation is undertaken in accordance with the MOP. Areas rehabilitated during the 2017 reporting period included Montrose East and the Rug Dump which are located adjacent to active mining areas.</p>
<p>Principle 3 – Minimise time that disturbed areas are left without vegetation</p> <p><i>Companies should actively seek to minimise the time that land is left without cover during mining. This should include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Taking steps to ensure that rehabilitation is commenced within 12 months of land becoming available for rehabilitation</i> ▪ <i>Utilising methods of temporary rehabilitation¹, such as aerial seeding of over burden and other disturbed areas where permanent rehabilitation has not commenced.</i> 	<p>Medium and long-term rehabilitation planning has been integrated in the MOP process to allow rehabilitation to commence at the earliest possibility operational time.</p>
<p>Principle 4 – Prioritise areas of rehabilitation and temporary cover to reduce impacts</p> <p><i>Companies should prioritise rehabilitation and temporary cover in those areas where leaving land exposed will have the most impact. The following areas should be considered to have priority:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Areas that have the greatest impact on visual amenity, such as areas that face townships, residences, or the highway</i> ▪ <i>Areas that have the potential to generate dust leaving the site</i> ▪ <i>Areas that are important for biodiversity, such as rehabilitation adjoining or providing connectivity to remnant vegetation.</i> 	<p>The Montrose East waste dump was rehabilitated during the 2016 and 2017 reporting period which is highly visible to the public from the Golden Highway between Jerrys Plains and Warkworth.</p>

¹ Temporary rehabilitation describes reshaping, revegetation and other rehabilitation techniques that are used for purposes other than final rehabilitation. This includes such initiatives as seeding overburden emplacement areas to reduce erosion, which are only temporary.

<p>Principle 5 – Meet target for rehabilitation progress identified in the Mining Operations Plan</p>	<p>MOP target - 52.9 hectares Rehabilitation achieved - 53 hectares</p>
<p><i>Each company should meet the annual target for rehabilitation quantity (area) set in the Mining Operations Plans for each of its mines.</i></p>	<p>Rehabilitation activities focused on three areas during the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montrose East • Rug Dump • Le Baron.
<p>Principle 6 – Set quality targets for rehabilitation in the Mining Operations Plan and implement a monitoring program to measure performance</p>	
<p><i>Each company should include quality targets for the various types of rehabilitation in the Mining Operations Plan for each of its mines. A monitoring program to measure the performance of rehabilitation areas against the quality targets should be implemented at each of its mines.</i></p>	<p>Biodiversity Monitoring is undertaken on an annual basis during spring which includes LFA monitoring of pasture, riparian and woodland rehabilitation.</p>

Contextual information

<p><i>This section provides an opportunity for each company to provide some commentary or contextual information regarding their reported results. Such information could include advice on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any material changes to the site (i.e. expansions, acquisitions or divested assets); - Why any figures may have changed since the last reporting period 	<p>N/A</p>
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Future rehabilitation priorities

<p><i>This section provides an opportunity for each company to provide details on rehabilitation activities at their site/s for the upcoming year.</i></p>	<p>Wambo is proposing to rehabilitate 44.1 hectares during the 2018 reporting period.</p>
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