CHAPTER 9

Rehabilitation Objectives

1. Introduction

Rehabilitation objectives set the goals for closure which need to be achieved in order for the licensee to relinquish their mining licence, by demonstrating that the land has been successfully rehabilitated. Hence, rehabilitation objectives are fundamental to shaping how to measure whether the agreed post mining landform has been achieved. The objectives also help maintain a high level of accountability and transparency with stakeholders throughout the process and at time of relinquishment.

Rehabilitation objectives differ from closure criteria. Measurable closure criteria (which are addressed in *Chapter 10 - Framework for Closure Criteria*) will demonstrate the point at which the rehabilitation objectives set out in this chapter are achieved.

ENGIE Hazelwood's vision:

"Our vision for Hazelwood maximises the value of future land uses, to deliver real community and economic benefits for the Latrobe Valley."

Shannon Hyde, CEO ENGIE ANZ, June 2025

This vision has been refined over several years and is underpinned by a robust base of technical evidence. This vision has been informed by the work of the Latrobe City Council and State Government to articulate a shared aspiration for the site that supports the region's development of new economic and employment opportunities, while providing beneficial future land uses beyond mining.
To achieve this goal, ENGIE Hazelwood has carefully considered the areas of growth in the Latrobe Valley which align with the potential sustainable land uses post relinquishment. While the vision will continue to evolve, it provides clear direction, guides the development of closure objectives, and reflects what ENGIE Hazelwood and stakeholders expect to achieve through implementation of the DMRP.

2. Principles

The core principles of the DMRP are to achieve a safe, stable, sustainable, and non-polluting landform. Informed by these principles, this DMRP has been developed to meet specific rehabilitation objectives for each discrete domain identified in *Chapter 8 - Defining Site Domains*. This DMRP articulates the activities that will be executed to achieve the rehabilitation objectives.

The MRSD Regulations defines "*safe, stable and sustainable*" to mean:

a. is not likely to cause injury or illness; and
b. structurally, geotechnically and hydrogeologically sound; and
c. non-polluting; and
d. aligns with the principles of sustainable development.

Informed by this definition, the closure principles for the rehabilitation of the MIN5004 area can be defined as:

- **Safe:** To ensure that the rehabilitated mine land does not pose a greater risk of harm to humans and the environment than comparable non-mining land uses.
- **Stable:** To rehabilitate the mine land such that final landforms are enduring in the long-term, with the potential for land movement minimised ensuring the viability of its proposed post-mining land uses.
- **Sustainable:** To ensure that rehabilitated mine land will remain in a condition that requires no or minimal intervention consistent with the post-mining land uses, create a positive legacy, enhance environmental values and provide a timely benefit to current and future generations.
- **Non-Polluting:** To deliver rehabilitated mine land and adjoining waterbodies which minimise the potential for the release of contaminants into surface water, groundwater, soil or air, that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, and residual contamination at the site will be effectively managed.
- **Community Values:** To actively engage with key stakeholders and consider their interests throughout the rehabilitation and closure process and look for opportunities to enhance Traditional Owners' perspectives and cultural values.

3. Hazelwood Objectives

The objectives of the DMRP reflect a requirement to adequately mitigate the risk to people, property, the environment, and infrastructure as a result of the rehabilitation activities and intended use of the post mining landform.

The following objectives have been established for the Hazelwood DMRP.

3.1 SAFE
Is not likely to cause injury or illness

a. The landforms are safe for the intended land use and not likely to cause injury to humans or animals;
b. The site does not pose an unacceptable risk from the perspective of the future land uses ultimately adopted;
c. Pit lake water quality is suitable for discharge to the external environment;
d. The quality of water in the pit lake does not have an unacceptable impact on human health or existing environmental values;
e. The quality of surface water runoff does not have an unacceptable impact on human health or existing environmental values;
f. The rehabilitated landform doesn't present a fire risk greater than the surrounding environment;
g. The rehabilitated landform materially reduces fire risk, through passive measures post relinquishment;
h. Rehabilitation activities comply with a plan to mitigate unacceptable impacts on amenity, environment and human health (all domains); and
i. The DMRP sets out the actions and milestones required to achieve the agreed rehabilitated landform concept (all domains).

3.2 STABLE
Structurally, geotechnically and hydrogeologically sound

a. The rehabilitated landform is designed and constructed to achieve the agreed design acceptance criteria that achieves an acceptable level of risk to people, property, the environment and/or infrastructure in the post relinquishment phase;
b. The hydrologic regime of the mine void accounts for natural fluctuation without compromise to stability of the rehabilitated landform;

c. The DMRP includes a plan for monitoring and maintenance of the rehabilitated landform in the post relinquishment phase (all domains);
d. The rehabilitated landform minimises to the extent reasonably practicable post relinquishment monitoring and maintenance;
e. Rehabilitated landforms and waterways are stable and resilient to erosional forces and fluctuations in climatic conditions, and minimise erosion of batters and slopes;
f. Mine void filled to design height and level maintained to manage the risk of floor heave over a 200-year recovery horizon with agreed protocols for managing evaporation (with as minimal ongoing depressurisation as possible);
g. Batter movements and hydraulic rebound remain consistent with the modelled ranges for the duration of mine lake fill and five years thereafter;
h. Surface water inlet control structures are designed and constructed to support modelled scenarios;
i. Intended future land uses of the rehabilitated site to be compatible with the provisions of the Latrobe planning scheme;
j. The natural alignment of Eel Hole Creek is re-established and all watercourse diversion structures are constructed to approved designs;
k. The hydrologic regime of the surrounding/external catchment accounts for natural fluctuation without compromise to stability of the external waterways; and
l. Integrity of foreshore remains in place at shoreline.

3.3 SUSTAINABLE
Aligns with the principles of sustainable development, including through the responsible and efficient use of water from a combination of water resources

a. Pit water quality is compatible with targeted parameters, and is capable of supporting relevant post relinquishment land uses;
b. The quality of water in any interconnected waterways does not have an unacceptable impact on existing environmental values;
c. The hydrologic regime of the pit lake minimises adverse effects on the flow or water quality of interconnected systems within the surrounding catchment or within adjacent groundwater systems;
d. Final landform minimises adverse effects on the regional surface water regime;
e. Landform design will accommodate the modelled regional drainage function and will minimise adverse effects on the surrounding natural environment (including in the event of flood conditions);
f. Final landform is compatible with a range of potential future land uses (as informed by community, and local stakeholder perspectives at the relevant time);
g. Terrestrial and aquatic landforms to be designed to support ecological benefit (to the extent reasonably practicable), and sustain under current and future climatic conditions and/or are trending towards becoming self-sustaining (all domains);
h. Landforms are assessed for repurposing land use capability and future limitations are published in the DMRP;
i. The rehabilitated site has similar ecological function and resilience to the surrounding ecosystem;
j. Rehabilitation landform design protects remnant vegetation and any relevant European and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage features within the mine surrounds;
k. Soil properties are appropriate to support the target vegetation type;
l. The soil profile will be suitable for the development and maintenance of nominated vegetation cover into the post-relinquishment phase;
m. Presence of weeds does not limit the sustainability of the rehabilitated landform or its potential to sustain any agreed post mining land uses;
n. Minimise the use of natural resources in execution of the rehabilitation activity to the extent reasonably practicable;
o. Where possible, proposed land tenure arrangements for the post-closure phase will be documented prior to relinquishment (all domains);
p. Post closure monitoring and maintenance of rehabilitated areas is appropriately resourced and implemented;
q. Accountability for post-closure management actions is clearly documented and agreed by responsible parties;
r. Rehabilitated landforms are visually compatible with the surrounding natural landscape to the extent practicable;
s. To maximise the opportunities for establishment of a self-sustaining ecosystem; and
t. Minimise the potential for impacts on the potential use of groundwater resource (shallow aquifer) by Groundwater Dependant Ecosystems.

3.4 NON-POLLUTION To air, land or water

a. So far as is reasonably practicable, no contaminating sources left in an exposed or unstable state that could cause adverse impacts to humans or the environment;
b. All plant, equipment and waste materials have been removed, repurposed, recycled or disposed of, unless retained under formal agreement with relevant future land manager(s) (all domains);
c. Hazardous materials with potential for environmental impact are appropriately removed or contained to the extent reasonably practicable;
d. Rehabilitation of EPA licenced structures (e.g. landfills) to comply with the requirements of the relevant Clean Up Plans, and Operating Licence(s) to minimise the potential for pollution to air, land or water in the active works and/or post relinquishment phases respectively; and
e. Take active steps to reduce the potential for unacceptable impacts to aquifers or other regional water users (e.g. through regional bore network).

3.5 COMMUNITY VALUES Aligns with the principles of sustainable development and considers the interests of stakeholders

a. Post closure landforms are visually compatible with surrounding landscape to the extent reasonably practicable;
b. Post closure land capability/land use to be informed by consultation with relevant stakeholders (to be pursued in future following the successful completion of the relevant works);
c. Post closure risk management, monitoring and maintenance is appropriately resourced, and documented in approved management plans (to be the subject of regulatory oversight);
d. The rehabilitation works are to be implemented in a manner which minimises any amenity impacts on surrounding communities and prioritises local economic opportunities;
e. Traditional Owner perspectives and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values are respected (and wherever reasonably practicable, enhanced);
f. Engage with traditional owners on opportunities to repurpose landforms to enhance cultural values; and
g. Traditional owner and stakeholder feedback will be actively sought, and wherever reasonably practicable incorporated into the DMRP.

A series of SMART closure criteria has been established to reflect the objectives for each domain and are presented in *Chapter 10 - Framework for Closure Criteria*.

The objectives of the Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project will be updated to reflect the evolving technical knowledge base and stakeholder expectations periodically throughout the active and passive rehabilitation phases of the project.