

# RIAWA Revegetation Planning Workshop

## Mine Closure Planning



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# Closure Plan Guidelines



- DoIR aim to release Draft Closure Plan Guidelines by July 07 for general comment
- Aim of guidelines
  - Assist Industry in preparing acceptable closure plans
  - Highlight best practice methods for closure planning
  - Link practices and principles to national guidelines
- Content of guidelines
  - Information required in closure plans and recommended format
  - References for national guidelines
  - General information on how to submit a closure plan to DoIR

# Closure Plan Requirements



- Under section 84 Mining Act 1978, minister can impose conditions on mining tenements at any time to “prevent injury to the surface of the land”
- DoIR require mining operations to submit a mine closure plan for assessment
- New mine closure plan conditions may be added upon Mining Proposal approval or imposed during annual environmental review by Environmental Inspectors
- Mine closure plan to be submitted with next Mining Proposal or Annual Environmental Report, whichever occurs first

# Importance of closure planning



- Aids environmentally beneficial mine planning and design
- Promotes progressive rehabilitation
- Constantly working towards closure objectives: proactive vs reactive
- Ever changing nature of closure plans ensures operations can be modified to reduce risks to closure objectives
- Plan in place in case of unexpected closure
- Financial provisioning available
- Stakeholder involvement is proactive not reactive in establishment of closure criteria, objectives and standards
- Reduces closure timeframes and environmental performance bonds

## Closure Criteria and Objectives - AIMS



- Define approved post mining land use
- Reduce total amount of disturbance by adopting best practice planning principles in mine design
- Aim to reflect characteristics of aesthetics, ecosystem function, landform function, erosion levels and hydrological patterns representative of the existing environment in all rehabilitated areas
- Create realistic and measurable standards by which rehabilitation success can be evaluated

## Closure criteria and objectives - STANDARDS



- All closure standards aiming for best possible outcomes for the environment
- Standards to be realistic and achievable
- Standards to be representative of existing and/or pre-mining environmental parameters
- Standards and criteria to allow for advancement in environmental science and management
- Standards to meet with the approval of Stakeholders
- Standards to be measurable

# National Guidelines on Mine Closure



- DoIR endorse principles and processes contained in national publications and encourage proponents to adopt best practice values and methods
- Leading Practice in Sustainable Development in the Mining Industry series of Handbooks, published by the Australian Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, 2006.
- “Strategic Framework for Mine Closure” developed by the Australia and New Zealand Minerals and Energy Council (ANZMEC) and Australian Minerals Council, 2000
- Enduring Value 10 principles of sustainable development

## Conclusion



- Mine Closure Plan guidelines are being developed to assist industry in producing and submitting acceptable closure plans
- DoIR Draft Mine Closure Plan Guidelines aim to be released for comment in July 2007
- Closure plans add more certainty for Industry and more clarity for stakeholders
- Effective closure planning contributes to sustainable development