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Normal Response

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**1. Please provide the following contact information**

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**1. Are cleanup goals used when remediating contaminated mining sites?**

Yes

Site specific depending upon viable responsible party or otherwise most cost-effective if orphaned site.

**2. Is site-specific risk assessment used to clean up mining sites?**

Yes

Aust Guidance within enHealth and National Environment Protection Measure

<http://www.ephc.gov.au/contam><http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/nphp/enhealth/council/pubs/pdf/envhazards.pdf>**1. Are any Best Management Practices (BMP) or Best Available Technologies (BAT) implemented when treating mining waste, mine tailings and/or mine influenced waters?**

Yes

As above. Site specific when undertaken by responsible party, cost-efficiency when orphaned site

**1. Is mining waste being reused for beneficial purposes?**

Yes

road base. engineering fill. mine stabilisation and capping

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<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/waste/RRecoveryExemptions.htm>

**2. Are there any initiatives or practices to encourage locating alternative energy facilities at contaminated or active mining sites?**

Yes

Current initiative. Modern landfills and related waste processing facilities have been established at abandoned contaminated minesites. Windpower farms, landfill gas power in place. Energy from waste (thermal treatment) currently under discussion.

<http://elementalpower.com.au/news/?tag=woodlawn->

[http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view\\_job&job\\_id=4226](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=4226)nd-farm

**3. Are reuse practices (such as carbon sequestration) and/or ecological revitalization activities implemented at contaminated mining sites (e.g., education centers, historical landmarks, commercial or industrial parks, wildlife refuge, etc.)?**

Yes

education centres, alternative waste technologies eg composting/processing, aquaculture and phyto-remediation.

**1. Do you have a regulatory framework(s) or other programs in your country that addresses the cleanup of properties impacted by mining contamination?**

Yes

In NSW state, the polluter or operator is responsible for cleanup/remediation. Mineral Resources agency (DII) regulates operating minesites to achieve remediation outcomes. The environment agency (DECCW) regulates significantly contaminated land, and also major orphan contaminated minesites in consultation with other agencies.

**2. What types of enforcement measures and/or programs are available to recover costs from mining companies that caused the contamination?**

Financial Assurances are applied to current lessees. These have been progressively upgraded to avoid abandonment and/or inadequate funds available. The Government funds a Derelict Minesite program which is grossly underfunded for extensive backlog of unremediated sites. DECCW runs a small orphan/innocent owner scheme funded in part by levies applied to waste disposal.

**3. Is cleanup and reclamation of mined land part of the mine permitting process?**

Yes

Yes, has been progressively toughened up.

**4. Is “designing for closure and post-closure” actively practiced?**

Yes

Yes for all new mines, although this works poorly for existing or marginal operations. Problem actually getting companies to commence remediations as they want to keep options open or would prefer to use engineering resources applied to extraction activities.

**5. Is an Environmental Impact Analysis/Statement (EIA/EIS) performed for proposed mining operations?**

Yes

Must be included in proposal documents eg EIS.

**1. What are the funding mechanisms used to cleanup abandoned mine/mining impacted areas?**

Treasury allocation of fixed amount per annum. Other options under consideration Waste Levy of disposal to landfill funds a modest scheme for innocent owners or orphan sites.

**2. How are these mechanisms funded (e.g., public or mining industry contributions)?**

Public funding.

**3. Are there any laws, regulations, and policies and practices setting the approach for environmental financial assurance for mine closure?**

Yes

Dealing with existing mines that are marginal or have made no allowance for closure works. Ensuring the FA is commensurate with the scale of works required, as mineplan changes. Getting companies to actually do the works, even if funds put aside.

**1. How does the local community participate in mine permitting, design/construction, financial responsibility calculations and the mine closure process?**

Input into landuse planning consultation prior to approval Little role for community directly in setting bonds or FAs. Community has input to FA policies. Many newer mines have community consultation forums for ongoing liaison.

**2. Are there any regulations/programs that address/manage social impacts of mining and mine reclamation?**

See above Community Consultation Fora often a permit condition. Common issues are dust control, noise, vehicle movements, saline discharges, groundwater extraction, landuse conflict eg mine/agriculture