

INQUIRY INTO BENEFICIAL AND PRODUCTIVE POST- MINING LAND USE

Organisation: Glencore
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GLENCORE

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Chair
Standing Committee on State Development
Inquiry into Beneficial and Productive Post Mining Land Use
New South Wales Parliament
Email: state.development@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair,

Submission: NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Beneficial and Productive Post-Mining Land Use

Glencore welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into beneficial and productive post-mining land use.

Glencore is one of Australia's most diversified mining companies and has been investing in Australia for more than 25 years. In New South Wales, Glencore's coal business last year employed 5,850 people and contributed \$10.6 billion to the economy, including over \$5 billion in spend on goods and services with almost 3,000 suppliers.

Our coal business in NSW also paid \$4.5 billion in taxes and royalties to government.

Background

Glencore is a responsible operator. We place significant importance on protecting our people, respect the environment, and being valued by the communities where we operate.

We work closely with community stakeholders and other commercial activities like mixed farms, dairies, vineyards, horse studs, graziers on a range of issues including sustainable land-use management.

Every mine comes to an end, which is why rehabilitation and closure activities form a critical part of Glencore's mine planning processes.

The final landform, post-mining land use and rehabilitation plans are developed, reviewed, and embedded into our regulatory conditions as part of the mine approval process. This also informs our financial provisioning for rehabilitation and closure for the mine.

For the majority of Glencore mining land in the Hunter Valley, the existing approved final land use is predominantly to re-establishment ecological communities or other native vegetation communities with lesser areas intended for agriculture purposes.

Our overriding regulatory priority is to ensure that post mining land use or final landform is safe, stable, and non-polluting.

Once mining begins, rehabilitation is included in a mine's ongoing planning process to provide for progressive rehabilitation in accordance with closure provisions and the overall approved final landform.

Performance

Our performance in rehabilitation practices has evolved and improved over time in line with scientific and technological developments, industry leading practice, community expectations and government regulations.

To date, across our Australian coal operations, more than 24,000 hectares of mined land has been rehabilitated to native forest, woodland, grassland, or grazing pastures. That's equivalent to an area the size of the City of Newcastle.

In 2023, our Australian coal operations completed 1,558ha of rehabilitation, invested more than \$239 million in rehabilitation work and planted almost 56,000 of tube stock and seedlings. This is now the eighth year in a row, we have rehabilitated more than 1,000ha.

Around 266ha of Glencore mine rehabilitation has been approved by the NSW Resources Regulator as having reached the final rehabilitation objectives at Westside, Ulan, and Baal Bone.

Regulatory Principles

The current regulatory approach in terms of post mining land use provides mine operators with certainty. The intended final post mining land use is agreed early in the life of the mine and is supported by the necessary operational planning and financial provisioning.

Glencore is open to considering greater flexibility in relation to alternative post mining land uses. However, the timing and sequencing of this process is critical to enable mine operators to assess the implications of any proposed alternative land uses and accommodate the necessary amendments to planning and closure provisioning.

Where third parties are seeking to develop or utilize post mining land, they must demonstrate that they have the appropriate credentials and undergo a thorough due diligence process approved by the State Government. We would also urge a greater alignment of local and state government regulatory regimes to enable realization of post mining land use objectives.

Glencore believes that any proposed change to existing post mining land use regulatory requirements should be part of a collaborative discussion between the state government, local council, community, and the mining sector and should continue to align with the following key elements:

1. Regulatory certainty over the post mining land use or end of mine life use, to be delivered by the mine operator.
2. Certainty in relation to planning so we can realistically achieve the post mining land use.
3. Certainty in relation to economic and environmental feasibility to achieve the post mining land use.
4. Regulatory certainty in relation to the process for achieving licence obligations under state and commonwealth approvals.

We hope the Committee will consider these points as part of their deliberations.