

DIAGRAM

Project 1.3: Simple representations of mining life cycles in Australia

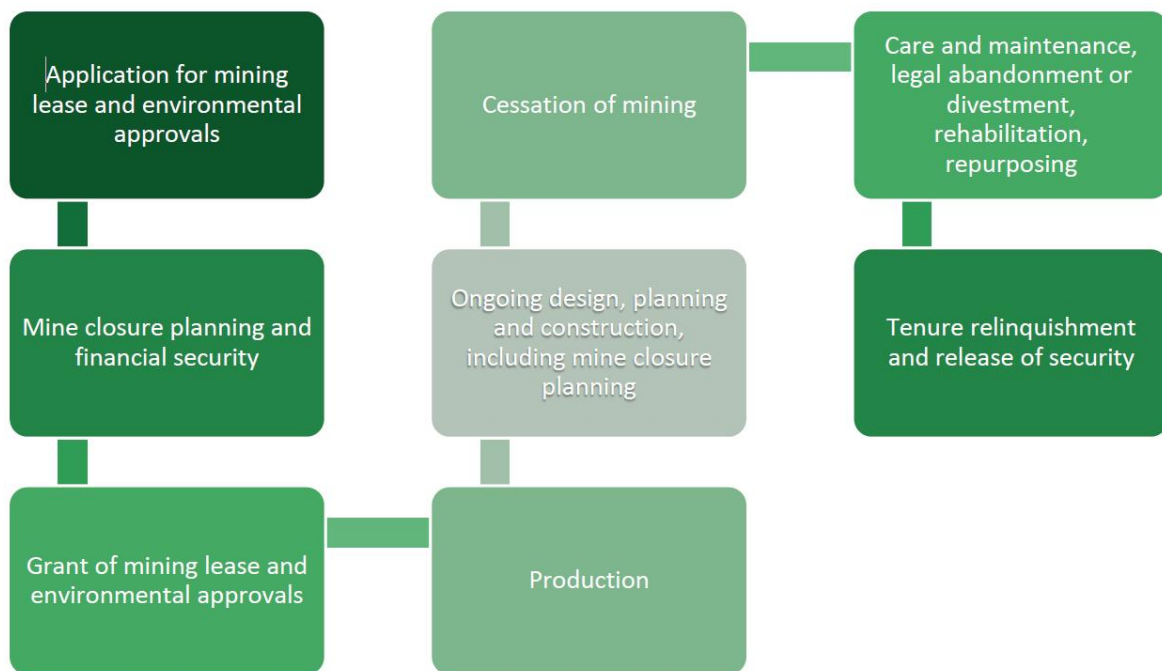
CRC TiME
Transformations in Mining Economies

Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Science and Resources | AusIndustry
Cooperative Research
Centres Program

Extracted from: Hamblin, L., Gardner, A and Haigh, Y (2022). [Mapping the Regulatory Framework of Mine Closure](#). CRC TiME Limited, Perth, Australia.

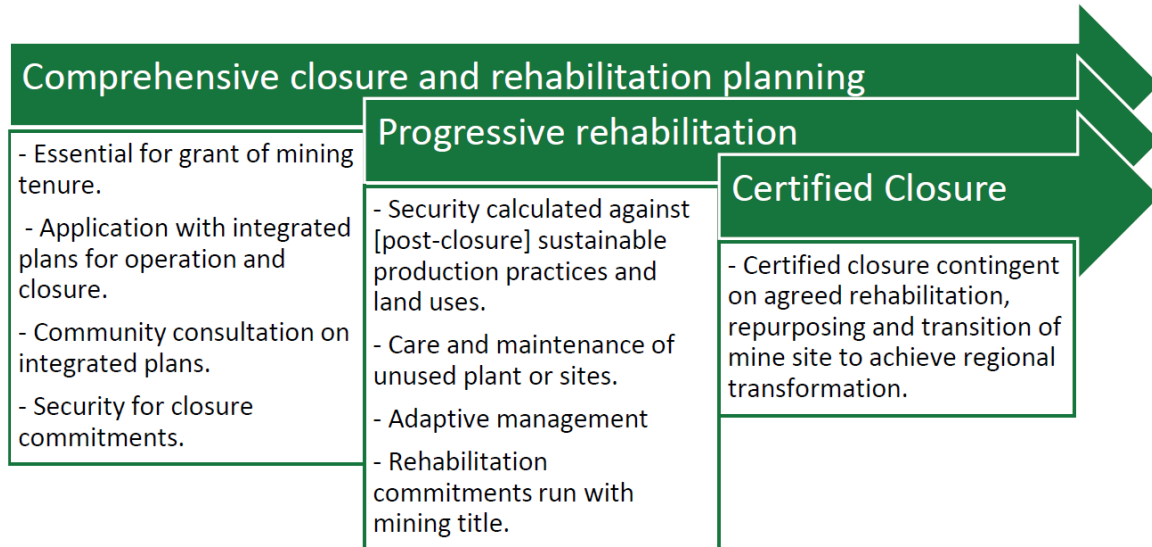
These are extracts only. Each should be read in context of the full final report. Please refer to the full report for more information.

Simple representation of the traditional mining life cycle in Australia¹



¹ Minerals Council of Australia. (February 2016). *Mine rehabilitation in the Australian minerals industry*. Industry Report. Appendix A, 5.

Simple representation of the current aspirational mining life cycle in Australia



Summary

The definition of mine closure is continually evolving. It is unsettled, dependent on the circumstances and often disputed. It is used in various ways to describe a range of situations.

Traditionally, the term 'mine closure' has been used to refer to the point at which mining operations have ceased and the mine is being decommissioned, often because the asset is no longer considered profitable for the operator.² The contemporary meaning may be broader, encompassing relinquishment (refer "**traditional mining life cycle**" diagram above).

The **current aspirational mining life cycle in Australia** (as summarised in the second diagram above) introduces a few evolving concepts including co-regulation; environmental, social and governance frameworks; adaptive management; financial assurance; and Transformation and Transition.

REFERENCES

Hamblin, L., Gardner, A and Haigh, Y (2022). [Mapping the Regulatory Framework of Mine Closure](#). CRC TiME Limited, Perth, Australia.

² Ibid. See also Government of Western Australia, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety. (November 2021). *Mine Closure Completion Guideline*. Figure 1, 'Mine Closure Processes', 4.

ABOUT US

The Cooperative Research Centre for Transformations in Mining Economies is part of Australia's national innovation ecosystem. Our diverse partnership brings scale, collaboration and coordinated investment to tackle the most complex mine closure and post-mine transition challenges. Together we're rethinking what's possible to improve outcomes for people, communities, the environment and industry.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians across all the lands on which we live and work, and we pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

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