

ABANDONED MINES PROGRAM

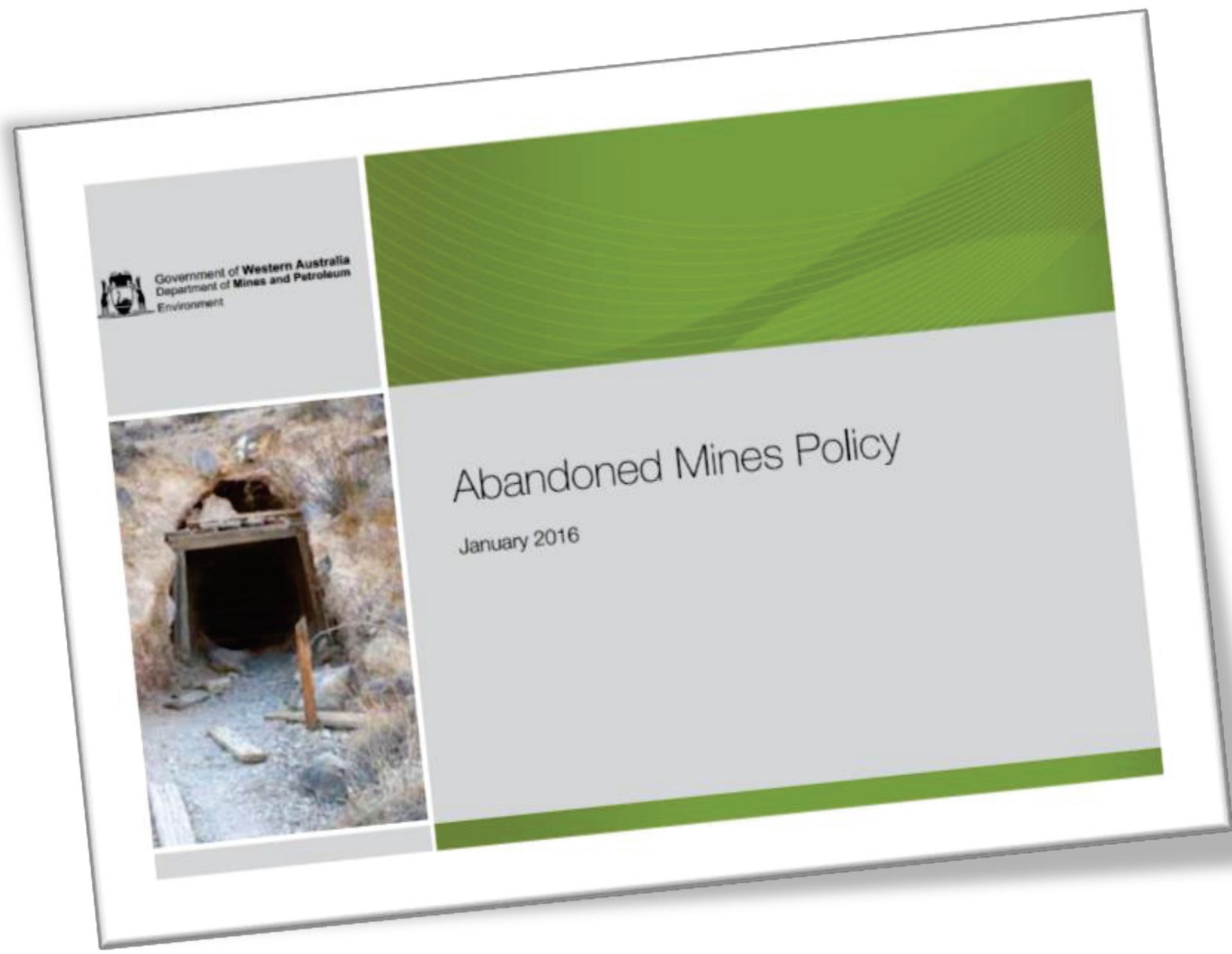


ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Mining has occurred in Western Australia (WA) for more than 150 years resulting in thousands of abandoned mine features across the State, such as shafts, costeans, pit voids and waste rock landforms.

The Abandoned Mines Program was made possible following the enactment of the *Mining Rehabilitation Fund Act 2012* (MRF Act), which provides a source of funding to address abandoned mine features in WA.

The Program was formally established following the release of the WA Government's Abandoned Mines Policy in January 2016.



Former Pro-Force plant site prior to the removal of processing infrastructure

Site prioritisation

The department is developing a framework to actively identify and prioritise high risk abandoned mine features so that associated safety and environmental risks can be addressed through suitable management practices and/or site rehabilitation, while protecting the residual mineral value for potential future extraction. The health, safety or environmental risks plus the potential historical, cultural, social, environmental, educational or economic value of these sites inform decisions about risk and future investment.

Mining Rehabilitation Advisory Panel

The Mining Rehabilitation Advisory Panel, provides expert and independent advice on project development and expenditure. The panel comprises individuals with extensive experience within industry and environmental fields.

Abandoned mine projects

The program currently consists of four pilot projects which will test the program's approach and inform continuous improvement activities across all processes: Black Diamond, Pro-Force, Bulong and Elverdton.



Pilot project locations

PILOT PROJECT: Black Diamond

Background

The historical abandoned mine site Black Diamond is located within the town boundary of Allanson approximately 5 km west of Collie. Black Diamond was mined between the late 1940s and early 1950s by Amalgamated Collieries Pty Ltd. The discontinuation of mining resulted in the pit filling with water creating a pit lake of around 700 m in length.

Black Diamond was the first pilot project under the Abandoned Mines Program and was selected in response to community concerns regarding safety at the site which had become a popular unmanaged recreation area.

Project works

Following stakeholder consultation and endorsement of the engineering design by land owners and the Black Diamond Working Group, earthworks to batter down the southern pit wall were completed in October 2016.

Additional site management of heavily eroded areas at the western and northern end of the pit lake was also completed at this time. Revegetation works were undertaken in 2017.

As the primary safety risk associated with the site has been mitigated, DMIRS' involvement with the Black Diamond pilot project is now complete.



Black Diamond community engagement



BEFORE



AFTER

WHAT IS AN ABANDONED MINE FEATURE?

Abandoned mine features are disturbances to the land caused by mining and/or exploration such as mine shafts, waste landforms, buildings and abandoned infrastructure for which no individual, company or organisation can be held responsible for rehabilitation. An abandoned mine site may comprise multiple features.



Shafts



Costean



Tailings dump



Dam



Open shaft



Abandoned buildings and infrastructure

REPORT AN ABANDONED MINE

The department maintains an inventory of abandoned mine features available to the public via MINEDEX and GeoVIEW.WA. The inventory was previously developed by the Geological Survey of Western Australia and comprises records collected between 1999 and 2011. Records have not been added or updated since this time.

The department encourages industry and the community to report abandoned mine features so that it can build on the existing inventory. Information provided will assist DMIRS to identify risks and prioritise programs.

To report an abandoned mine, please visit our website or contact the team:

Email: abandonedmines@dmirs.wa.gov.au Phone: +61 8 9222 3402

