

ABANDONED MINES MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Queensland Government protects public health and safety, property and the environment by minimising the risks and impacts of abandoned mines. We do this by undertaking prioritised works through the Abandoned Mine Lands Program (AMLPL) to make abandoned mines safe, secure, durable and, where possible, productive.

For over 150 years, mining has played a significant role in the history of Queensland and during that time mines have been abandoned. These mines can create potential risks to community health and safety and to the environment.

To mitigate the risks associated with abandoned mines, the Queensland Government has established and will progressively enhance the AMLPL.

Under Queensland law, a mine is considered as abandoned when there is no longer a current mining tenement nor environmental authority in place. In 2018 DNRME identified approximately 120 priority abandoned mines with a combined area of disturbance of about 10 300 hectares as well as a further estimated 15 000 small scale historic mining disturbances.

The purpose of the AMLPL is to undertake works to make abandoned mines safe, secure, durable, and productive by:

- preventing potential exposure of the surrounding community to hazards on an abandoned mine site by removing or mitigating hazards (**Safe**).
- implementing control measures to limit the level of adverse impacts to the surrounding and downstream environments (**Secure**).
- minimising the ongoing maintenance and monitoring requirements for a site—this includes geotechnical and geochemical stability (**Durable**).
- investigating opportunities to commercialise abandoned mines and/or repurpose the land for a future appropriate use, considering the economic, community, cultural, and conservation values and constraints of the site (**Productive**).

In determining the allocation of resources to remediate abandoned mines, work will be prioritised based on risk to community health and safety, the environment and property.

To deliver a transparent and accountable AMLPL, the Queensland Government will publish information on processes for prioritising remediation works and planning activities as well as regularly reporting on progress on specific works and activities.

A cornerstone of the AMLPL will be that communities and stakeholders affected by abandoned mines are consulted on abandoned mines impacts, site risks and management activities.

The Queensland Government will introduce amendments into the Queensland Parliament to enhance the AMLPL and give effect to this policy.

These principles will also guide the Queensland Government's approach to managing abandoned operating plant under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*.