



GSWA Open Day 2019 Abandoned Mines Program

Presented by
Kate Hryczyszyn



Abandoned Mines Program

- Program began in 2015
- Funds generated by the Mining Rehabilitation Fund (MRF) used for rehabilitation:
 - **Principal fund** for sites that have contributed to the fund
 - **Interest fund** for sites abandoned prior to MRF levy introduction
- Extends on work undertaken by GSWA
- Four (4) pilot projects to establish and test processes and procedures

Pilot projects



Black Diamond

- Mined for coal in the 1940s and 50s
- Popular unmanaged recreational area
- Community concern
- Safety risks associated with steep southern pit wall



Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines and Petroleum

Improving Community Safety at the Black Diamond Pit Lake

Steep unstable pit wall around Black Diamond Pit Lake. Source: DMP 2015

History

The historical abandoned mine site Black Diamond is located within the Allanson town site boundary in the Shire of Collie, approximately 5 kms west of Collie in Western Australia (WA).

Black Diamond is adjacent to a number of private land lots to the north east, as well as the crown reserves to the west.

One public road provides access to Black Diamond, Ferguson Road.

Black Diamond was mined for coal between the late 1940s and early 1950s by Amalgamated Collieries Pty Ltd. Since mining ceased, the pit has filled with water creating a pit lake.

Black Diamond has been selected as a pilot site for the Abandoned Mines Program, using funds from the WA Government's Mining Rehabilitation Fund (MRF). More information on the Abandoned Mines Program can be found via the following link: <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Environment/Abandoned-Mines-Project-15518.aspx>.

Community Concerns at Black Diamond

The community has raised a number of safety concerns in relation to Black Diamond which has become an unmanaged recreation area.

A number of environmental issues have also been highlighted by the community, including illegal dumping and poor water quality in the pit.

Signage warning of the dangers associated with recreating on the site has previously been installed. A cyclone fence was also installed along the edge of Ferguson Road to restrict public access to the lake. Vandals have destroyed the fence and it does not currently prevent public access to the site.

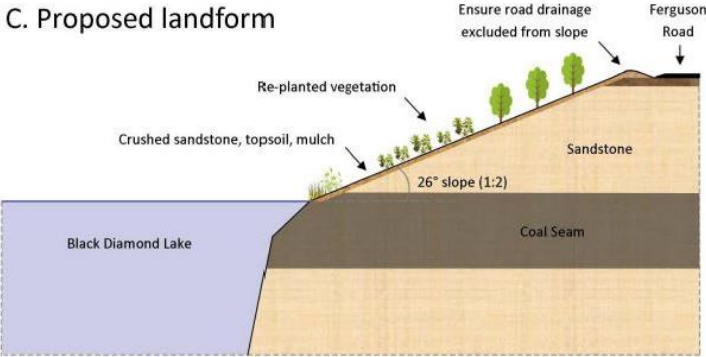
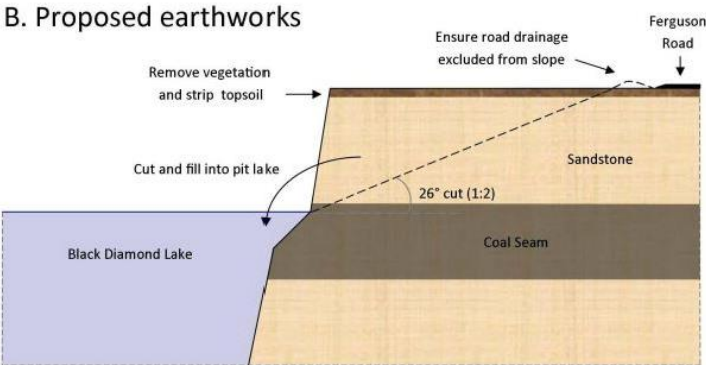
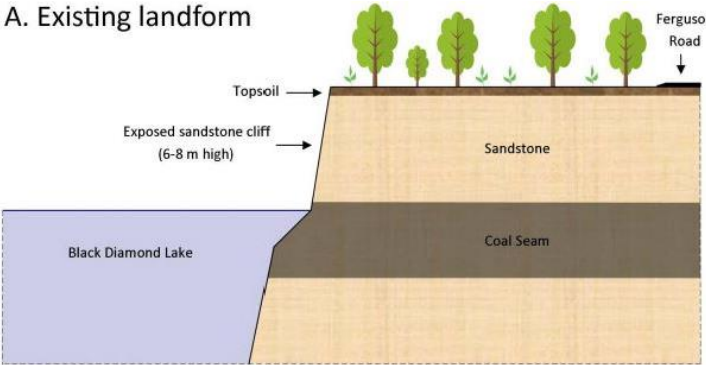
Recent water tests undertaken by the Shire of Collie also indicated evidence of potential dangerous amoeba in the pit lake.

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Black Diamond



Before



Black Diamond



After – May 2017

Pro-Force

- Former gold processing plant
- Operated between 1996 and 2004
- Located adjacent to the Gorge public use area
- Community concern
- Safety risks associated with old processing plant



Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines and Petroleum

Improving Community Safety at the Pro-Force Plant Site

Derelict processing plant at Pro-Force. Source DMP: 2016

Background

The abandoned mine site, Pro-Force, is located approximately two kilometres south-east of the Coolgardie town-site in Western Australia (WA).

The Pro-Force site is adjacent to the Gorge, which is a public use area and water reserve that is regularly visited by tourists and the local community, particular when full of water.

The former gold processing plant site was previously operated by Pro-Force Mining Contractor Pty Ltd from 1996 to 2004.

The Pro-Force site as been selected as a pilot site for the Abandoned Mines Program, using funds from the WA Government's Mining Rehabilitation Fund (MRF). More information on the Abandoned Mines Program can be found via the following link: <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Environment/Abandoned-Mines-Project-15518.aspx>.

A map illustrating the site layout and proposed works for the Pro-Force site is provided on page 4 of this factsheet.

Community concerns at Pro-Force

The derelict processing plant and other site features have been in site for more than a decade and have been an ongoing public safety concern for the local community.

There have also been other concerns raised regarding anti-social behaviour, illegal dumping and the quantity of scrap material at the site.

From a safety perspective, the most prominent hazards associated with the project site are the derelict processing plant, an unsealed vertical shaft and a five metre deep excavated trench adjacent to the Coolgardie-Esperance Highway.

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Pro-Force

Before



After



Bulong

- Located adjacent to Lake Yindarlgooda
- Nickel tailings storage facility and evaporation ponds
- Community concern
- Risks associated with release of material and potential pollution
- Preliminary investigations being finalised to inform Stage 2



Bulong



Elverdton

- Located at the headwaters of the Steere River
- Historically mined for copper and gold
- 700,000 tonnes of uncontained tailings
- Risks associated with release of material to surrounding environment



Elverdton



How you can help


Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

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 Online Systems 

Mining and mineral exploration has occurred in Western Australia for more than 150 years resulting in thousands of historic mining features becoming the responsibility of the State.

The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) maintains an inventory of abandoned mine features available to the public via [MINEDEX](#) and [GeoVIEW](#). The inventory was previously developed by the Geological Survey of Western Australia (GSWA) and comprises records collected between 1999 and 2011. Records have not been added or updated since this time.

DMIRS encourages industry and the community to report abandoned mine features so that the department can build on the existing inventory. Information provided will assist the department to identify risks and prioritise programs in line with the [Abandoned Mine Policy \(2016\)](#).

If you know of or locate what you believe to be an abandoned mine feature please complete the [Report an abandoned mine form](#) and email to AbandonedMines@dmirs.wa.gov.au. Photographs or a map may be included as attachments.

If you would like to discuss reporting features in an alternative format please contact the Abandoned Mines team on 9222 3402.

Warning: Abandoned mines are dangerous places and any recording of information should be done at a safe distance. Do not enter abandoned mines. Some of the [hazards](#) associated with these features have been outlined by DMIRS's Safety Regulation Group.

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 equipment for which no individual, company or organisation can be held responsible for rehabilitation. An abandoned mine site may comprise multiple features.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Report an abandoned mine

Use this form to report an [abandoned mine feature](#).

Mining and mineral exploration has occurred in Western Australia for more than 150 years resulting in many historic workings being abandoned. Many of these features remain undocumented.

The Department Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety encourages industry and the community to report abandoned mine features. Information provided will assist the Department to identify risks and prioritise programs in line with the [Abandoned Mine Policy \(2016\)](#).

Please complete this form and email to AbandonedMines@dmirs.wa.gov.au. Photographs or a map (e.g. location capture from Google Earth) may be included as attachments to the email (10 MB size limit).

Required fields are marked with an asterisk (*).

Your contact details

Given name* Family name*
Company name (if applicable)
Postal address
Phone number* Preferred contact
 Telephone
Email* Email

Site / feature details

Date observed*

Description of feature/s observed*

Please indicate whether you have included attachments to this form

Photograph/s Map Other

Thank you

AbandonedMines@dmirs.wa.gov.au