



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>.

A map illustrating the site layout and proposed works for Black Diamond is provided on page 4 of this factsheet.

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.

Addressing community concerns

The *Mining Rehabilitation Fund Act 2012* (the MRF Act) was passed by the WA parliament and the MRF became operational in 2013. The MRF requires all Mining Act tenement holders to annually report areas of disturbance on their tenements and pay a levy based on the area of disturbance.

Funds from the MRF will be used to rehabilitate future abandoned mine sites, when all other avenues to ensure rehabilitation have been exhausted.

Interest generated from the MRF can be used to rehabilitate legacy abandoned mine sites (sites that have not had an MRF reporting obligation), through the Abandoned Mines Program.

The Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) has identified the need to reduce the safety and environmental risks associated with Black Diamond as part of the Abandoned Mines Program.

The focus of the proposed works will be on addressing the safety risks associated with the steep pit wall on the southern side of the pit. Other works to make the site safe and stable may be undertaken and will be based on the outcomes from the site assessment and stakeholder consultation.

Approach

In September 2015, a stakeholder identification workshop was undertaken, which highlighted potential representatives from regulatory bodies, interest groups and members of the public who could form a Working Group for the site. The intent of the Working Group is to provide advice on works in order to reduce safety and environmental risks, and discuss future land use options.

Stages for the project are detailed below and also correspond to the map on page 4 of this publication.

Alternative Recreation Areas

There are a number of alternate public recreation areas in the region that are available for outdoor activities. Details can be found via the following links:

Collie Visitors Centre

<http://www.collierivervalley.com.au/collie-visitor-centre/>

Department of Parks and Wildlife Parks WA Geographer Tourism Information

<https://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/tourism-region/geographer>

Stage 1

Involves forming the Working Group and commencing consultation.

Stage 1 is due to be completed by the end of March 2016.

Stage 2

Involves DMP in conjunction with the Shire of Collie and other key Stakeholders:

1. Undertaking a detailed site assessment to identify the type and degree of safety and environmental issues and possible solutions. This stage may also include temporary road closures to ensure public safety while the assessment is being undertaken.
2. Facilitating intensive consultation with the Working Group and the general public via a range of community events, to ensure that the associated works will achieve a long term solution which is supported by the community. Opportunities will be provided for members of the community to provide feedback to the Working Group prior to the work commencing.

Stage 2 is due to be completed by the end of June 2016.

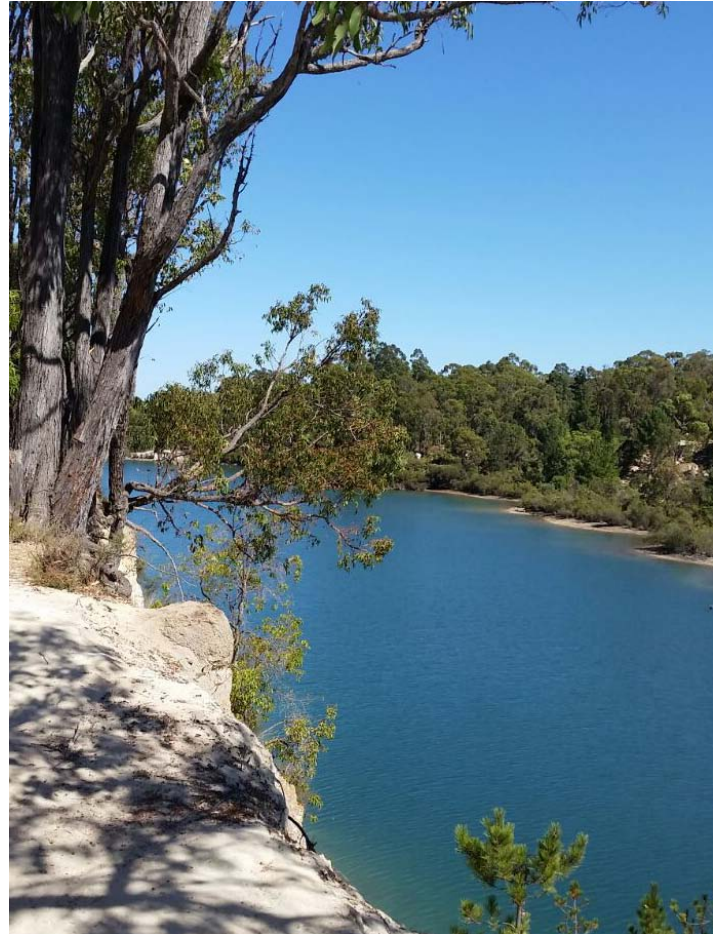
How to find out more

DMP will be providing regular updates regarding Black Diamond on the Abandoned Mines Website. <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Environment/Abandoned-Mines-Project-15518.aspx>.

Further information on the Black Diamond project is available from the Abandoned Mines project team who can be contacted on:

Ph: (08) 9222 3162

Email: abandonedmines@dmp.wa.gov.au



Looking over southern pit wall at Black Diamond. Source DMP 2015

Stage 3

Involves undertaking works to make the site safe and stable. A layout of Black Diamond and the proposed works for consultation is provided on page 4 of this publication.

This stage is also likely to result in temporarily restricting public access to the site, by installing a locked gate across the main entry to Black Diamond on Ferguson Road. Private land owners will be consulted prior to road restrictions.

Temporarily blocking access to the site will ensure public safety while works are being carried out.

Stage 3 is due to be completed by the end of December 2016.

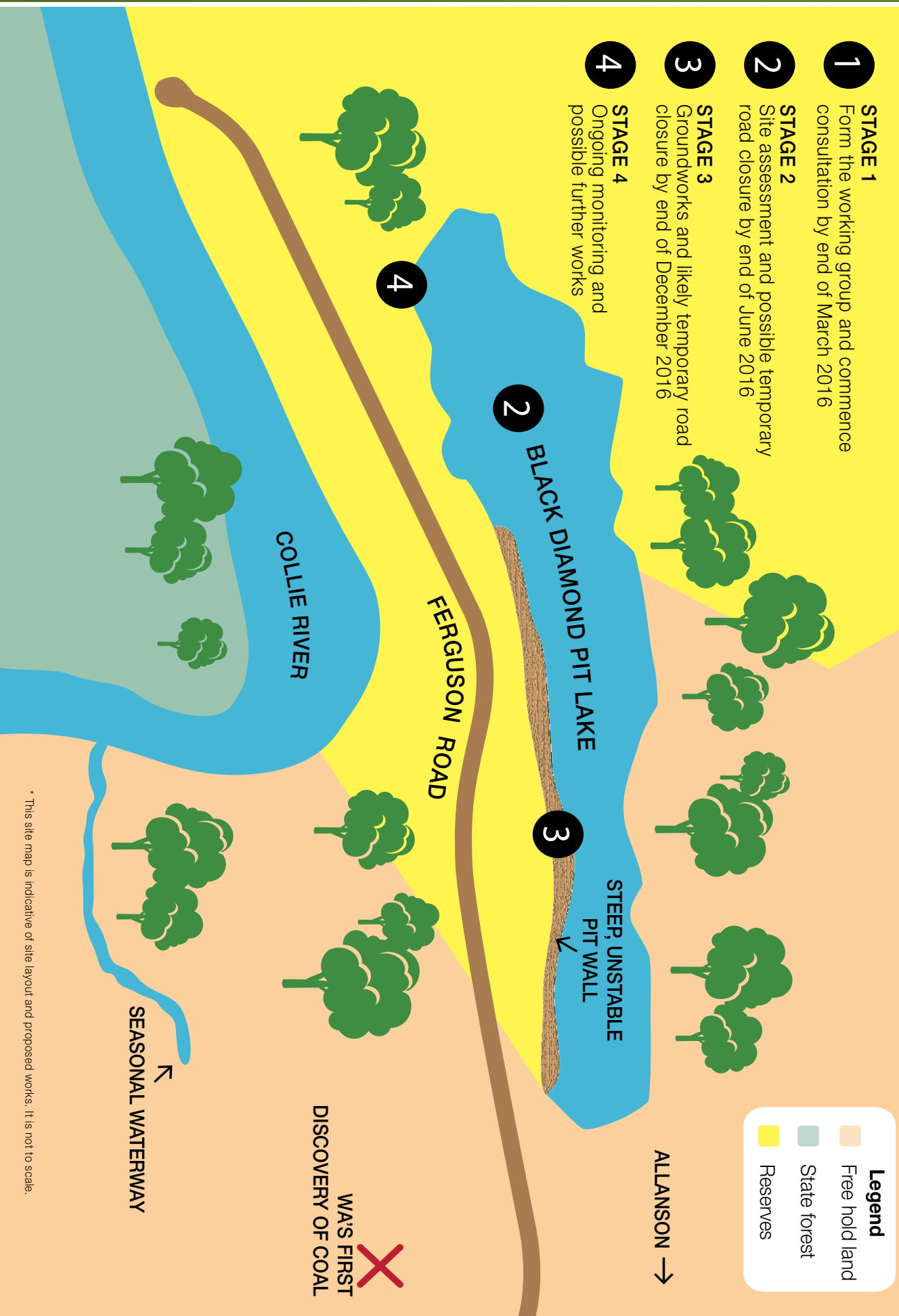
Stage 4

Involves DMP in conjunction with the Shire of Collie and other key stakeholders:

1. Monitoring of site works implemented in Stage 3.
2. Undertaking further consultation regarding the longer term safety and environmental solutions of the site.

MAP OF PROPOSED WORKS FOR BLACK DIAMOND

- 1** **STAGE 1**
Form the working group and commence consultation by end of March 2016
- 2** **STAGE 2**
Site assessment and possible temporary road closure by end of June 2016
- 3** **STAGE 3**
Groundworks and likely temporary road closure by end of December 2016
- 4** **STAGE 4**
Ongoing monitoring and possible further works



* This site map is indicative of site layout and proposed works. It is not to scale.