



E9 processing plant at the Ellendale abandoned mine site. Source DMP 2015

PURPOSE

The Department of Mines and Petroleum's (DMP) Abandoned Mines Policy published in January 2016 sets out the framework for the prioritisation, management and/or rehabilitation of abandoned mine sites within Western Australia (WA).

One of the principles of the Abandoned Mines Policy is to encourage management and/or rehabilitation partnerships with other government bodies, community groups and businesses.

DMP aims to seek partnerships based on shared investment; contracting or in-kind support principles in the management and/or rehabilitation of abandoned mine sites. Accordingly, this Partnership Guideline has been developed for use in DMP's Abandoned Mines Program.

DEFINITIONS

"Abandoned mine sites" for the purpose of this guideline, are areas of land impacted by former mining activities for which no individual, company or organisation can be held responsible for rehabilitation.

An abandoned mine site may comprise of multiple areas of land or site features (eg. mine shafts, waste dumps, abandoned equipment) that may or may not be adjacent to each other.

"Contracting" or commercial arrangements, is a fee for service arrangement; where an external entity provides services or resources towards management and/or rehabilitation of an abandoned mine site. A financial payment is received in return.

"In-kind support" refers to when an external entity or individual may make non-financial contributions to the project through services or voluntary work. No financial payment is received by the contributor in return for the support. Examples of in-kind support include local schools holding a tree planting day or a community group removing rubbish from an old pit.

"Partnership" is an arrangement between DMP and one or more external entities to achieve a shared, mutually beneficial outcome.

"Shared investment" refers to a joint investment, where DMP and one or more external entities provide a resource commitment in the management and/or rehabilitation of an abandoned mine site. This may include: a financial input or in-kind, education or research contribution or any other arrangement agreed upon by DMP. No financial payment is received in return for the contribution. Examples of shared investment include working with universities to monitor pit lake water quality changes over time or working with a recycling company to remove all scrap metal from a site.

GUIDELINE STATEMENT

Partnerships play an important role in the management and/or rehabilitation of abandoned mine sites by assisting to ensure project stages are fulfilled and stakeholders remain engaged with the site beyond DMP's involvement.

Partnerships will ultimately contribute to the successful closure of abandoned mine sites and the establishment of agreed end land uses that the community values.

The aim of this guideline is to outline the principles supporting the selection and management of partnerships involved in the management and/or rehabilitation of abandoned mine sites in WA. The principles are consistent with DMP's role to ensure the State's resource sector is developed and managed responsibly for the long-term benefit of the WA public.

GUIDELINE PRINCIPLES

The following principles provide guidance to stakeholders with regard to the process DMP will undertake in the selection and management of partnerships.

Aim, identification and selection

1. In line with the Abandoned Mines Policy, DMP will seek partnerships that produce outcomes which minimise environmental and community safety risks and aim to realise potential value within each site through efficient, sustainable and innovative solutions.
2. Potential partners will be identified within the early stages of an Abandoned Mine Project. DMP will seek to provide opportunities for local businesses and stakeholders to participate in partnerships for an Abandoned Mine Project.

Administration

3. All partnerships formed under an Abandoned Mines Project will require partners to be in good standing and deemed acceptable; including taking into account solvency, insurance cover and duty of care and Occupational Health and Safety standards and requirements.
4. Where appropriate, legal agreements for partnerships in Abandoned Mine Projects will clearly outline the type of partnership to be established, roles and responsibilities of each party, the period of the Abandoned Mine Project and the approach to communication and branding for the project.

6. DMP will remain involved with an abandoned mine site for the term of the Abandoned Mine Project.
7. The selection process for contracting partnerships will follow the standard WA State Government procurement process, taking into account merit-based and cost-efficiency measures and buy local policies.
8. The selection process for in-kind support or shared investment under this guideline will be determined on a case by case basis, considering the appropriate scope of contribution for the specific Abandoned Mine Project and partnership arrangement.
9. Market value will be assigned to all in-kind contributions. Determining market value will assist in the calculation of the overall cost of the Abandoned Mine Project and increase transparency.
10. All partnership contributions are to be expended by DMP within the Abandoned Mine Project's timeframe, unless otherwise agreed, and unused contributions will be returned as appropriate.
11. Partnership contributions must have relevance to the objectives of the specific Abandoned Mine Project.
12. Partnership contributions will be allocated within the defined work area of the abandoned mine site or within a scope agreed upon through consultation with the project's stakeholders.



Abandoned Mine Shaft near Coolgardie. Source DMP 2016

Review and evaluation

- Partnerships will be reviewed and evaluated by DMP during the project closure stage, or as required during the project.
- Partnership evaluation outcomes may be shared with partners and will be taken into consideration when planning future projects.

MORE INFORMATION

The Abandoned Mines Policy can be downloaded from DMP's website.

For further information about the Abandoned Mines Program see:

<http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Environment/Abandoned-Mines-15518.aspx>

or contact the Abandoned Mines Team on:

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Steep pit wall at the abandoned Black Diamond Pit Lake. Source DMP 2016